

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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December 9, 2008
Start: 1:30pm
Recess: N/A

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN
JOEL RIVERA
Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Anthony Como
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Bill de Blasio
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Mathieu Eugene
Simcha Felder

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Sara M. Gonzalez
Vincent M. Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melinda R. Katz
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Michael E. McMahon
Hiram Monserrate
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia
Diana Reyna
Larry B. Seabrook
Helen Sears
Kendall B. Stewart
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Albert Vann
David I. Weprin
Thomas White, Jr.
David Yassky

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

Martin Jacobsen
Soccer Coach
Martin Luther King High School Soccer Team

Emilio Houghton
Captain
Martin Luther King High School Soccer Team

Colonel Stephanie Dawson
Brigade Commander
369th-Harlem Hellfighters

Reverend Cecilia B. Loving
Spiritual Leader
The Sacred Center

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: We're going--whoa.
3 That's really on the very loud today. We're going
4 to start with our ceremonials. We have two; the
5 first one by Council Member Brewer, and she has
6 some young people here. If we could ask them to
7 come up, the folks from the Martin Luther King
8 High School boy's soccer team. Yay.

9 [Applause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Hi, how are you?
11 Nice to see you. Hi, how are you doing? Good.
12 Let me give the mic to Gale.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: You're
14 going to talk, by the way. You are going to talk.

15 [Crosstalk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And you
17 need to talk because you need to impress people.
18 Just tell them about the team and what it meant to
19 you and do a really--don't just say thank you. No
20 you're good. I'm here with you. Gale. I'm right
21 with you. I'm right with you. I promise you.

22 MALE VOICE: I'm not very good at
23 speaking in front of the public.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Just
25 pretend they're not the public here.

1

MALE VOICE: They are though.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

3

[Crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I've got to
get in front. I've got to get in front.

5

6

[Crosstalk]

7

SPEAKER QUINN: Let's let Gale out.
Okay. It's Free Gale.

8

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Are we
ready?

11

12

SPEAKER QUINN: It's on Gale.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Hi.

14

Everybody be quiet. Quiet, quiet, quiet, please.
I'm delighted to be here. This is the MLK
Knights, who have won 11 public high school
championships out of 13. And they are from the
MLK Junior High School on the west side of
Manhattan. And we have Martin Jacobsen
[phonetic], who is the coach, and we have Miriam
Nightingale, who is the Principal of Law and
Advocacy and we have also Mickey Cohen [phonetic],
who is a coach. And we have an amazing team. The
Coach also makes sure that the academics are as

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1
2 good as the soccer. And I want you to know that
3 I'm a little, you know, kind of conflicted because
4 the beat Beacon High School, right? And Beacon is
5 also the place where some of our colleagues have
6 kids that go to school, and is also in my
7 District, but congratulations to the Knights of
8 MLK Junior High School.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: So given--if we
10 could ask the Clerk to please read the
11 proclamation and then we will hear from some folks
12 from the team. And it's interesting--I'll just
13 say Miguel Martinez is not here, whose daughter
14 goes to Beacon--I'm not saying--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER:
16 [Interposing] Bill de Blasio.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, Bill De Blasio-
18 -there's clearly a deep rivalry. Okay. Go ahead,
19 Clerk.

20 THE CLERK: Council City Of New
21 York Proclamation. The Council of The City of New
22 York is proud and pleased to honor the Martin
23 Luther King High School Varsity Soccer Team in
24 recognition of its 11th win of the New York City
25 Public High School Championship in the past 13

1
2 years, and whereas since the Martin Luther King
3 soccer team came under the guidance of coach
4 Martin Jacobsen in 1994, it has won over 95% of
5 all games played and has been nationally ranked,
6 and whereas the Martin Luther King soccer team
7 finished the season with an overall record of 19-
8 4-1. Over the past 15 years the teams that have
9 represented King have amassed a 296 to 18 to 10
10 record and have been nationally ranked over the
11 last ten years, and whereas the Martin Luther King
12 soccer team has one of the highest graduation
13 rates of any team in the New York City public
14 schools, with over 80% of players completing their
15 high school education.

16 [Applause]

17 THE CLERK: Now therefore be it
18 known that the Council of the City of New York
19 honors the Martin Luther King High School soccer
20 team for its 11th New York City Public School
21 Championship, and its exemplary work in fostering
22 educational success through team sports.
23 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
24 Council, Gale Brewer, Council Member 6th District,
25 Manhattan.

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2

SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

3

Congratulations to all of you on all of your

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championships, but also on your very, very

5

impressive academic record. It's really the two

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together that make you such all stars for our City

7

public schools, so thank you very much and Gale,

8

if we can hear from the team?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

10

Coach Jacobsen.

11

MARTIN JACOBSEN: Thank you. I'd

12

like to thank Councilwoman Brewer, Speaker Quinn

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and of course the City Council for this honor, and

14

thank my boys for making the City of New York

15

proud, the school proud. And we are a diverse

16

group that represents the public schools. We're a

17

diverse group of young men, mostly new immigrants

18

to this country who have excelled in athletics and

19

academics and we're really--and I am, Coach

20

Mickey, Principal Nightingale and other principals

21

in the building, are proud of you for all you've

22

accomplished, and we are honored to be here today.

23

And thank you very much.

24

[Applause]

25

MARTIN JACOBSEN: Does anybody want

1

2 to speak? One person. Emilio?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Emilio,

4 come on. Emilio, come over here.

5 MARTIN JACOBSEN: We have a shy

6 group. We didn't take public speaking.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Just talk

8 about what it means to you. Just talk. Go ahead,

9 put it right up to you. Introduce yourself, where
10 you're from.

11 MARTIN JACOBSEN: This is Emilio

12 Houghton [phonetic] one of my captains--three

13 captains on the team--senior, graduating as all

14 four seniors are graduating this year. We only

15 had four seniors.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Talk loud.

17 EMILIO HOUGHTON: My name is Emilio

18 Houghton and I'm really proud of my friends.

19 They're not just teammates, they're friends.

20 We've come a long way. I'd just like to thank

21 everybody.

22 [Applause]

23 MARTIN JACOBSEN: I have one mic

24 here. We have a shy--you know, you wouldn't

25 believe we had such a shy team, because on the

1
2 field these gentlemen were not shy. Anybody like
3 to say anything?

4 [crosstalk]

5 MARTIN JACOBSEN: Okay, gentlemen.
6 Again, we do have a thing--I thank you. I thank
7 the New York City folks up there.

8 [Applause]

9 MARTIN JACOBSEN: Be well.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And thank
11 you Shula Warren [phonetic], from our office.
12 Thank you. Thank you, Christine.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you guys very
14 much. Congratulations. Best of luck next season
15 too. Bye.

16 [Pause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: The next ceremonial
18 is being led by Council Members Dickens and Katz.

19 [Pause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Ladies and
21 gentlemen, I would like to present to you Colonel
22 Stephanie Dawson, the one and only woman commander
23 of--Brigade Commander--of the New York Army
24 National Guard. Colonel Dawson, on behalf of
25 Councilman Jim Gennaro, who I know you are a

1
2 longtime personal friend of, and Jim was called
3 away on a family item, so he asked Council Member
4 Dickens and I to also stand in for him. Colonel
5 Dawson lives in my District and we are proud of
6 that, and she is the commander of the Harlem
7 Hellfighters in Councilwoman Dickens's district.
8 You should all know that Colonel Dawson is a
9 product of New York City also. She was a systems
10 analyst for the City of New York. She now works
11 for the Port Authority as an Assistant Director
12 for the Port Authority. But she is being honored
13 here today by the New York City Council, because
14 she is the first and only female brigade commander
15 of the New York Army National Guard

16 [Applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: She has a
18 long, long list of awards that to go through would
19 be absolutely crazy. We wouldn't start session
20 until 5:00. But you should all know that Colonel
21 Dawson is the proud receiver of the Bronze Star,
22 the Meritorious Service Medal and an Army
23 Commendation Medal. SO she has been honored
24 several times by the New York Army National Guard.
25 And you should also know that her brigade, Colonel

1
2 Dawson's brigade, was one of the first to go in
3 support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in February of
4 2003, where she served her country well. So we
5 honor you here, Colonel Dawson. And we are very
6 proud of the work that you do. Council Member
7 Dickens?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.
9 Colonel Dawson, I am so proud that you command the
10 369th Regiment, Harlem Hellfighters.

11 [Applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: This
13 brigade has served this country over the years and
14 now for it to be led by a woman of color, a strong
15 woman of color, is a great accomplishment, not
16 only for you but for this country as well. So
17 Colonel, this is just a small thank you on behalf
18 of the Citizens of New York City and all of us
19 here as we celebrate your life and what you have
20 done to represent all people in the service of our
21 country. Thank you.

22 [Applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: We'd like-
24 -may the proclamation please be read?

25 The CLERK: Council City of New

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2 York Proclamation. The Council of The City of New
3 York is proud to honor Colonel Stephanie Dawson,
4 for her outstanding service to our state and our
5 nation in the Army National Guard, and whereas on
6 November 16th, 2008, Colonel Dawson became the
7 first female brigade commander in the history of
8 the New York Army National Guard, as she took
9 command of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, also
10 known as the legendary Harlem Hellfighters, and
11 whereas a native of Forest Hills, Queens, Colonel
12 Dawson recently completed two years as deputy
13 commander of the 369th Sustainment Brigade, and
14 whereas Colonel Dawson's stellar service in the
15 military has been recognized with numerous awards
16 including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service
17 medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement
18 Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Global
19 War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; and whereas
20 Colonel Stephanie Dawson is to be commended for
21 her military leadership and for ensuring that no
22 ceilings will prevent women from rising as far and
23 as fast as their talents will take them. Now
24 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
25 of New York most gratefully honors Colonel

1
2 Stephanie Dawson for her outstanding service in
3 the New York Army National Guard. Christine C.
4 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council, Inez E.
5 Dickens, Council Member 9th District, Manhattan,
6 James F. Gennaro, Council Member 24th District,
7 Queens, Melinda R. Katz, Council Member 29th
8 District, Queens.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
10 Colonel Dawson, just before I give you the
11 microphone I just want to, as Council Members Katz
12 and Dickens said, just thank you so much for your
13 service, for your bravery and for your tremendous,
14 tremendous power of example as an African American
15 woman rising to this rank with so many
16 commendations. You clearly send a message as loud
17 as is possible--and New Yorkers are loud, so even
18 louder than that, that all of us are capable to
19 living our dreams, excelling to the highest ranks.
20 But that really--that dream only becomes a
21 reality, in my opinion, when somebody goes through
22 the door and opens it for those who want to come
23 behind. And thank you for opening so many doors
24 for women and people of color in our country.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Can I also

1
2 acknowledge Carol Everett [phonetic], who is
3 Colonel Dawson's sister, here to join her for this
4 honor. Do you want to come up with us? Come on,
5 Carol. Colonel Dawson.

6 COL. STEPHANIE DAWSON: Thank you.
7 I'm very honored to receive this recognition. And
8 I can only say that as far as I'm concerned,
9 having recently become the Brigade Commander, I
10 recognize that the work has really just begun.
11 And so what my commitment is, is to lead from the
12 front, make sure that the vision of what my unit
13 and subordinates to that unit do, make sure that
14 it's clear what that vision is and then clear the
15 brush so that people can achieve all that they
16 can. And at the end of the day, what my
17 commitment to the unit is, is that they will train
18 as the fight, and that not only will the unit be
19 strong, it will be Army Strong. Thank you.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you.

22 [Pause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: And that concludes
24 our ceremonials. Thank you.

25 [Pause]

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2 THE CLERK: Ladies and Gentlemen,
3 at this time can you please turn all cell phones
4 and pagers to vibrate, and will all non-Council
5 employees and lobbyists please leave the main
6 floor of the Chambers? Thank you.

7 [Pause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Please rise
9 for the Pledge of Allegiance.

10 [Pause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I pledge
12 allegiance to the flag of the United States of
13 America, and to the republic for which it stands,
14 one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty
15 and justice for all. Please remain standing for
16 the roll call. Roll call first.

17 [Pause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yeah, we're
19 going to have a standing roll call. You can sit.

20 THE CLERK: Addabbo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADDABBO: Here.

22 THE CLERK: Arroyo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Avella.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Baez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

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THE CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

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THE CLERK: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

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THE CLERK: Como.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: Here.

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THE CLERK: Comrie.

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[Pause]

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THE CLERK: de Blasio.

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[Pause]

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THE CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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THE CLERK: Dilan.

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[Pause]

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THE CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here. Dilan

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here.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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Eugene here.

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THE CLERK: Felder.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here.

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THE CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

THE CLERK: Foster.

[Pause]

THE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

THE CLERK: Gennaro.

[Pause]

THE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

THE CLERK: Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

THE CLERK: Gioia.

[Pause]

THE CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

THE CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

THE CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

THE CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

THE CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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THE CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

5

THE CLERK: Liu.

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[Pause]

7

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

9

Here.

10

THE CLERK: Martinez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here.

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THE CLERK: McMahon.

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COUNCIL MEMBER McMAHON: Here.

14

THE CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

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THE CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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THE CLERK: Monserrate.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MONSERRATE: Here.

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THE CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

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THE CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Reyna.

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[Pause]

3

THE CLERK: Sanders.

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[Pause]

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THE CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

7

THE CLERK: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

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THE CLERK: Stewart.

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Stewart

11

here.

12

THE CLERK: Thank you. Vacca.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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THE CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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THE CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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THE CLERK: White.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

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THE CLERK: Yassky.

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[Pause]

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THE CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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THE CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

8

Quorum is present. Everyone please rise for the

9

invocation, which will be delivered by Reverend

10

Cecelia B. Loving.

11

REV. CECELIA B. LOVING: Let us

12

center ourselves in the spirit of truth,

13

regardless of our faith, our race, our ethnicity,

14

our culture or our creed. Regardless of what name

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we give spirit or what petition we use to seek

16

higher wisdom, let us open our hearts our minds

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and our souls this day to be guided, energized,

18

enlightened and blessed to serve the wellbeing of

19

this City in the best way possible. Oh, divine

20

source of infinite wisdom, bless this Council,

21

bless its speaker, Christine Quinn, bless each and

22

every one of its members, bless each and every

23

participant and visitor in this room to meet every

24

goal for this great city with triumph and victory.

25

May our diversity build unity. May our obstacles

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2 build bridges, may our struggles build hope. May
3 we embrace each other with this new fortitude,
4 knowing without a doubt that there is nothing that
5 we cannot do, nothing that we cannot accomplish,
6 nothing that we cannot achieve. May we see the
7 challenges that await us, may we see the hurdles
8 that we need to jump, may we see the darkness of
9 any despair as the light of opportunity, as the
10 wisdom of change and as the vision of our
11 leadership. And so it is and so be it. Amen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Speaker
13 Quinn.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes. I would like
15 to thank you very much, Reverend Loving, for being
16 here today and being a spiritual leader in my
17 district. And I make a motion to spread the
18 invocation in full upon the record.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
20 very much. Adoption of the minutes. Council
21 Member Gonzalez?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I make
23 the motion. The minutes of the Stated Meeting of
24 October 23rd, 2008 be adopted as printed.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

1

2 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

3 THE CLERK: None.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

5 Communications from City, County and Borough
6 Offices.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get a
8 little quiet in the chambers, please. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

10 Communications from City, County and Borough
11 Offices.

12 THE CLERK: M 1212 through M 1250
13 on page 6 Base Station License Applications.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

15 [Pause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions
17 and Communications.

18 THE CLERK: None.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use
20 call ups.

21 THE CLERK: M 1251.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could just as
23 before we do the land use call ups for my
24 colleagues to rise.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Please

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rise.

SPEAKER QUINN: There's a number of--sadly--individuals whose passing we need to mark today. First on November 23rd, 2008, New York Fire Department Lieutenant Robert Ryan, Jr., 46, who lived in Council Member McMahon's district on Staten Island, he was in Engine Company 155, was killed when a ceiling collapsed at a home in Staten Island as he led his squad into the burning blaze. A 17 year veteran, Lieutenant Ryan's mask and oxygen tank were knocked off by the fire's flaming debris. In October 2006, Lieutenant Ryan suffered third degree burns on his neck while battling a blaze. And although it seemed like he would have to retire and probably could have retired, he simply refused to give up the job he loved. He returned to the job last year. At his funeral on Staten Island, Commissioner Scoppetta called Robert Ryan a Fireman's Fireman, a term he called the highest compliment. Lieutenant Robert Ryan, Jr. is survived by his wife Kathleen and by four children. On December 1st, 2008, New York City Bus Driver Edwin Thomas, also 46, who lived in Council Member Fidler's district, was killed

1
2 while driving his B46 Route after being stabbed by
3 a fare beater on his bus. Mr. Thomas was a seven-
4 year veteran of the MTA and was assigned to the
5 Flatbush Depot. He is the first bus driver killed
6 on the job since 1981. Mr. Thomas was a dedicated
7 public servant. He leaves behind two teenage
8 children and three sisters. And as is our custom,
9 I want to note the passing of a former Council
10 Member, Council Member Ramon Velez, who was 75
11 years old. He was from the Bronx and he served in
12 the City Council in the 1970s. Council Member
13 Velez passed away after a long battle with
14 Alzheimer's Disease. Mr. Velez was the mentor of
15 many Bronx elected officials and politicians and
16 was active in Bronx politics for many years. He
17 was a longtime chairman of the Puerto Rican Day
18 Parade. He leaves behind his five children,
19 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I want to
20 send out on behalf of the entire City Council our
21 sympathies of all the victims of the terrible,
22 terrible and senseless terrorist attacks in
23 Mumbai, India. As we all know by now, over 175
24 innocent people lost their lives in these tragic
25 attacks. Our prayers go out to all the victims,

1
2 the entire Indian community both here, in New York
3 City, where we know it is a vibrant and thriving
4 and wonderful community that gives so much to our
5 city, and to all of the Indian community abroad.

6 I want to especially acknowledge the tragic loss
7 of three New Yorkers in the attack; Rabbi

8 Holtzberg, his pregnant wife Rivkah, and Rabbi

9 Leibish Teitelbaum. As I think we've all heard in

10 a real show of tremendous bravery on the part of

11 the family's nanny, Rabbi and Mrs. Holtzberg's

12 two-year-old son was rescued during the attacks

13 and it was really just miraculous that that

14 happened. Lastly I want to mention some tragic

15 news that early Sunday morning, an Ecuadorian

16 immigrant was viciously beaten in a hate crime

17 attack in Bushwick. He and his brother--was

18 attacked, he now stands on life support in one of

19 our City hospitals and, quite frankly, probably

20 won't make it through the next couple of days.

21 He's the father of two. He was attacked by four

22 individuals because he was believed to be gay. It

23 was both an anti-gay and an anti-Latino attack.

24 Anti-gay and anti-Latino slurs were yelled at him

25 when a bottle was smacked over his head. He was

1
2 also beaten with a baseball bat. Many of us stood
3 yesterday in response to this attack, and I just
4 want to thank everyone for doing that and ask
5 everyone to keep him and his family--he has three
6 brothers, one who was also hurt in the attack--and
7 keep their parents, who are coming now from
8 Ecuador, on their way from Ecuador to New York, to
9 keep all of them in our prayers. Thank you.

10 [Pause]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Majority
12 Leader Rivera. And if we can go back to the Land
13 Use call up.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.

15 THE CLERK: Addabbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADDABBO: Aye.

17 THE CLERK: Arroyo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

19 THE CLERK: Avella.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye, and I
21 ask unanimous consent to vote on all general
22 orders and resolutions. I have a BSA hearing to
23 go to.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye. Aye

1

2 on all.

3

THE CLERK: Baez.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

5

THE CLERK: Barron.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye

7

on all and I ask for the general consent,

8

unanimous consent, to vote aye on all general

9

order items.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,

12

sir.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: No problem.

14

Any time.

15

THE CLERK: Brewer.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

17

THE CLERK: Como.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: I vote aye on

19

all and I also ask for unanimous consent to vote

20

aye on all general orders.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: Thank you. I

23

vote Aye on all general orders.

24

THE CLERK: Comrie.

25

[Pause]

1

THE CLERK: De Blasio.

2

3

[Pause]

4

THE CLERK: Dickens.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

6

THE CLERK: Dilan.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

8

THE CLERK: Eugene.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

10

THE CLERK: Felder.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye.

12

THE CLERK: Fidler.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

14

THE CLERK: Foster.

15

[Pause]

16

THE CLERK: Garodnick.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

18

THE CLERK: Gennaro.

19

[Pause]

20

THE CLERK: Gentile.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

22

THE CLERK: Gerson.

23

[Pause]

24

THE CLERK: Gioia.

25

[Pause]

1

THE CLERK: Gonzalez.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

3

THE CLERK: Ignizio.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

5

THE CLERK: Jackson.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

7

all.

8

THE CLERK: James.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

10

THE CLERK: Katz.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.

12

THE CLERK: Koppell.

13

[Pause]

14

THE CLERK: Lappin.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye. And I

16

would like to request unanimous consent to vote

17

Aye on the general order calendar as well.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

19

THE CLERK: Liu.

20

[Pause]

21

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

23

THE CLERK: Martinez.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

25

1

THE CLERK: McMahon.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER McMAHON: Aye.

3

THE CLERK: Mealy.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. I

5

would like to ask to call on all Land Use and all
coupled general orders. Permission?

6

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.

9

THE CLERK: Mendez.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

11

THE CLERK: Monserrate.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER MONSERRATE: Aye.

13

THE CLERK: Nelson.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Request

15

unanimous permission to vote aye on all Land Use
call ups and all coupled general orders.

16

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

18

THE CLERK: Palma.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

20

THE CLERK: Recchia.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

22

THE CLERK: Reyna.

23

[Pause]

24

THE CLERK: Sanders.

25

1

[Pause]

2

THE CLERK: Seabrook.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

4

Aye on all.

5

THE CLERK: Sears.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

7

THE CLERK: Stewart.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

9

THE CLERK: Vacca.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

11

THE CLERK: Vallone.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

13

THE CLERK: Vann.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

15

THE CLERK: Weprin.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye. And

17

I'd like to request unanimous consent to vote on

18

all coupled general orders and resolutions.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.

21

I vote Aye.

22

THE CLERK: White.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote Aye.

24

THE CLERK: Yassky.

25

1

[Pause]

2

THE CLERK: de Blasio.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye.

4

THE CLERK: Koppell.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

6

THE CLERK: Oddo.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

8

THE CLERK: Rivera.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

10

THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

12

[Pause]

13

THE CLERK: Gerson.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye. And

15

with permission from my colleagues I'd like to
vote Aye on all matters before the Council today.

16

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: That's

18

approved.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you.

20

THE CLERK: Gioia.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

22

And with the permission of my colleagues, I'd like
to vote yes on all matters before us today.

23

24

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

25

1

[Pause]

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's

4

Land Use Call Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in

5

the affirmative with zero in the negative.

6

Communications from the Speaker?

7

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First

8

let me make a few comments on Intro 888 that we

9

will be voting on today. I want to thank the

10

folks associated with our economic development

11

committee who worked on this, Lisette Camillo,

12

John Smith and Jeff Haberman. Then I want to also

13

thank Chairperson Tom White, who is both the

14

sponsor of this bill and also the person who

15

shepherded it through the economic development

16

committee, which he chairs. This piece of

17

legislation is relevant to our Industrial

18

Commercial Assistance Program, the ICAP program.

19

It very clearly, once this is passed in to law,

20

will add requirements, requirements to those

21

companies who are getting tax abatements through

22

the ICAP program that they act more aggressively

23

and diligently as it relates to engaging minority

24

or women-owned businesses as subcontractors in

25

their work. It also particularly for contracts in

1
2 excess of \$1 million sets four standards for what
3 those companies have to do as it relates to
4 soliciting and coordinating with MWBE companies in
5 the City of New York. The most important piece of
6 this legislation and soon to be law, is that if
7 the companies do not follow those requirements and
8 do not follow those mandates they will lose their
9 ICAP benefits. I think this is an appropriate
10 connection between the City Council's desire to
11 foster and stimulate economic development and our
12 commitment to MWBEs. And I want to thank
13 Chairperson White for making this important
14 connection through Intro 888 and call on him for
15 comments.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Thank you
17 very much, Madam Speaker. It is a milestone and
18 in order to implement this new requirement, a
19 three-tiered system based on project size will be
20 established for ICAP recipients, requiring them to
21 conduct and certify that they perform outreach
22 activities with MWBE firms. And the City will be
23 required to provide and assist all tiers of ICAP
24 applications to access the MWBE directory
25 maintained by SBS. For projects between the

1
2 \$750,000 and \$1.5 million applicant dollars,
3 applicants must be required to certify as well as
4 submit a detailed report on this outreach effort.
5 Applicants will construct projects exceeding \$1.5
6 million would be required to work with SBS and
7 publicize contracting and subcontracting
8 opportunities to solicit at least three bids from
9 MWBE firms in the SBS directory for construction
10 work and certify as to all other not--any of those
11 firms who were awarded with contracts. Thank you
12 very much, Madam Speaker.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, Chairperson White. I also want to thank
15 Chairperson Reyna of the Rules Committee and Chuck
16 Davis for his work on the--Julie Dent's
17 appointment to the Board of Elections from King's
18 County. I also want to thank the Land Use staff
19 for their work on various UDAAPs and other items
20 that we are voting on today. And although we'll
21 speak of it later in resolutions, I just want to
22 take a moment to congratulate Gale Brewer on her
23 resolution today relating to the rights of
24 domestic workers in all five of our boroughs from
25 Staten Island to the Bronx and just recognize

1

2 we're joined today by representatives of Domestic
3 Workers United. And thank you, Council Member
4 Brewer. And that concludes Communications from
5 the Speaker.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing as
7 nobody signed up for discussion on General Orders,
8 we'll move on.

9

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to
speak.

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.
Council Member Vacca.

13

14

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes. Thank
you, Mr. Majority Leader. You called General
Order, right? Is it General Order?

16

[Pause]

17

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Is that all
right?

19

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yeah,
discussion of General Orders.

21

22

23

SPEAKER QUINN: This is the
discussion on any item upon which we are voting on
today, not items that are being introduced.
That's later.

24

25

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Seeing no
3 one is going to speak on discussion of general
4 orders, we'll move forward on reports of special
5 committees.

6 THE CLERK: None.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of
8 standing committees.

9 THE CLERK: Report on the Committee
10 on Economic Development preconsidered Intro 888,
11 Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Again, if we could
13 just get a little quiet in the chambers. Coupled
14 on General Orders.

15 THE CLERK: Report on the Committee
16 on Finance preconsidered LU 935 and Reso 1726 and
17 LU 936 and Reso 1727.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 THE CLERK: Report on the Committee
21 on Land Use LU 889, Reso 1728, ULURP Manhattan.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24 THE CLERK: LU 1918 and Reso 1729
25 through LU 934 and Reso 1733, various

1

2 applications.

3

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

5

6

7

8

THE CLERK: Report of the Committee of Rule, Privileges and Elections, M 1211 and Reso 1734 approving the reappointment of Julie Dent, Commissioner of Elections.

9

10

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

11

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General order calendar.

13

14

THE CLERK: Resolution appointing various person Commissioner of Deeds.

15

16

17

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. And at this point I ask for a roll call on all items that have been coupled on the general order calendar, please.

19

THE CLERK: Addabbo.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ADDABBO: Aye.

21

THE CLERK: Arroyo.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

23

THE CLERK: Baez.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

25

THE CLERK: Brewer.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

2

3

THE CLERK: Comrie.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

5

Permission to vote on Land Use call ups, present.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

8

THE CLERK: de Blasio.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye on

10

all.

11

THE CLERK: Dickens.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

13

THE CLERK: Dilan.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

15

THE CLERK: Eugene.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

17

THE CLERK: Felder.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

19

THE CLERK: Fidler.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

21

THE CLERK: Foster.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to

23

be marked present. Aye on all Land Use call ups

24

and Aye on all general orders calendars, please.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

1

2 THE CLERK: Garodnick.

2

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3

4 THE CLERK: Gentile.

4

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

5

6 THE CLERK: Gonzalez.

6

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

7

8 THE CLERK: Ignizio.

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

9

10 THE CLERK: Jackson.

10

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

11

12 all.

12

13 THE CLERK: James.

13

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

14

15 THE CLERK: Katz.

15

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.

16

17 THE CLERK: Koppell.

17

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

18

19 THE CLERK: Liu.

19

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes on all

20

21 items on the general order calendar and I request
22 unanimous consent to vote yes on all Land Use call
23 up items.

21

22

23

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Approved.

24

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you. I

25

1

2 vote yes on all Land Use items.

3

THE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

5

on all.

6

THE CLERK: Martinez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye on

8

all.

9

THE CLERK: McMahon.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER McMAHON: Aye on

11

all.

12

THE CLERK: Mendez.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

14

THE CLERK: Monserrate.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER MONSERRATE: Aye on

16

all.

17

THE CLERK: Palma.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

19

THE CLERK: Recchia.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

21

all.

22

THE CLERK: Reyna.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote Aye

24

on all and permission to vote on all Land Use call

25

ups.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote Aye

4

on all Land Use call ups. Thank you.

5

THE CLERK: Seabrook.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

7

all.

8

THE CLERK: Sears.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

10

THE CLERK: Stewart.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye on

12

all.

13

THE CLERK: Vacca.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

15

THE CLERK: Vallone.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

17

all.

18

THE CLERK: Vann.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

20

THE CLERK: White.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

22

THE CLERK: Yassky.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I request

24

permission to vote on Land Use call ups.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I vote Aye
3 on all Land Use call ups and also Aye on all the
4 coupled general orders.

5 THE CLERK: Oddo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: Rivera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote Aye.

9 [Pause]

10 THE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

11 [Pause]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items
14 on today's general order calendar were adopted by
15 a vote of 49 in the affirmative with zero in the
16 negative and zero abstentions. And the revised
17 Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in
18 the affirmative with zero abstentions.
19 Introduction and reading of the bills.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
21 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.
22 I just want to remind folks that tonight is the
23 Council's holiday party. I just want to remind
24 folks also that unlike most years, this year it is
25 in the chambers. It's not in the surrogate's

1
2 courthouse in an effort to kind of cut back on
3 costs given the tough times we're in. It is going
4 to be in the chambers, not in the courthouse. And
5 we're also urging folks to bring a present, if
6 they can, for Toys for Tots. So again, it's
7 tonight. What time does it start?

8 [Off Mic]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: 5:30. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

11 Seeing no one for discussion of resolutions we'll
12 move on to the resolution voice vote, which is--

13 [Pause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Actually we
15 do have discussion. Council Member Gale Brewer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

17 I think we're talking about Reso 1078-A, which
18 talks about Domestic Workers and urges the City
19 Council to support state legislation. Some of you
20 know that back in 2003 we passed a bill on
21 consumers and domestic workers that just listed
22 some of their rights when one is employed through
23 an employment agency; but that doesn't help people
24 get rights. Domestic workers are between 100,000
25 and 600,000 just in our area. They are the

1

2 backbone of our city and I would say our country.
3 And because they have no rights through the
4 National Labor Relations Board to organize and
5 they need many more basic rights, just like
6 everybody else in the workforce in this City and
7 in this state. The good news is that Assembly
8 Member Keith Wright, Susan John, Brian Kavanaugh
9 and others are sponsoring legislation on the
10 assembly level and it has had a hearing, which I
11 testified at. And in the new change-orient
12 Albany, I hope it will pass through the State
13 senate. And I'm sure the Governor would sign it.
14 So again we're in the forefront of supporting
15 worker's rights for the great domestic workers,
16 some of whom are in the gallery and I appreciate
17 all the work that Domestic Workers United has done
18 for our City and our country. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Anyone else
20 for discussion of resolutions? Council Member
21 White?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: No.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

24 Seeing--

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER:

1
2 [Interposing] Also, I want to thank this great
3 Council Member Joe Addabbo too because we're going
4 to miss him. And this was one of his last, if not
5 his last hearing, and we're very honored that he
6 weighted our issue. Thank you very much Council
7 Member Addabbo.

8 [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
10 very much. Now the resolution 1078-A goes as
11 follows, an amended resolution supporting the New
12 York State Legislature's consideration of
13 Legislative Proposals intended to provide better
14 workplace protection for domestic workers and
15 urging the vigorous enforcement of all current
16 laws and regulations that provide such protection
17 to such workers. It's amended and adopted by the
18 Committee on Civil Service and Labor. We will now
19 take a voice vote. All in favor say Yea.

20 VOICES: Yea.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
22 say Nay.

23 MALE VOICE: Nay.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay, the
25 Yeas have it. General Discussion, we now have

1

2 Council Member Inez Dickens.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Recently
4 we lost one of the most quintessential
5 internationally renown--

6 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Can
7 we get a little quiet for the Council Member with
8 laryngitis, please?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --civil
10 and human rights activist and uncompromising
11 gifted voices in the fight for freedom for all
12 people of the 20th century. The African Diaspora
13 is in great mourning for we have lost two of our
14 most brilliant stars, powerful voices that never
15 failed to speak out against injustice and who
16 helped pave the path of freedom. Their lifelong
17 quest for dignity and equality opened doors, and
18 one of those doors helped an African American to
19 be elected president in our lifetime. I'm going
20 to ask my colleague, Council Member Comrie to
21 complete.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm honored
23 to finish. Maria Makeba was a spirited, gifted
24 singer, who never faltered in the face of
25 controversy. When she was banned from South

1
2 Africa she sang songs of freedom not only against
3 Apartheid in South Africa, but against racism
4 throughout the world. She was adored by fans all
5 over the world and her song, Pata Pata, was a
6 timeless international favorite of every
7 generation. Odetta worked in a button factory and
8 as a maid, but she was a trained opera singer.
9 Soon she found another calling. Once she heard
10 American folk musing, her powerful contralto voice
11 embraced it and folk music became synonymous with
12 Odetta. She was proclaimed by many as the
13 greatest American folk singer. As an African
14 American, she never left the frontlines of the
15 Civil Rights Movement. She was the keeper of our
16 oral history and told it proudly and regally in
17 song. Her voice soared against injustice and was
18 a perfectly pitched in tune instrument for
19 freedom. Odetta was looking forward to singing at
20 President-Elect Obama's inauguration, but she will
21 truly be missed--both women will truly be missed
22 and we want to honor them with a moment of silence
23 at this particular time.

24 [Pause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: If folks could

1

2 please stand for a moment of silence.

3 [Pause]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
6 Council Member.

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

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Thank you
10 very much. I would like to bring to the attention
11 of my colleagues that today I'm introducing
12 legislation Intro 889 in response to the
13 foreclosure crisis that is occurring within the
14 City of New York and the effect that it's having
15 on the residential neighborhoods throughout the
16 five boroughs as it pertains to the property
17 value, crime, safety and other secondary efforts
18 associated with foreclosure. After looking at the
19 alarming statistics from the organizations like
20 NEDAP, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy
21 Project, the Center for Responsible Lending Real
22 Estate website, like Reality Track, which tracks
23 foreclosures and data from New York State Banking
24 Department as well as the row upon row of homes
25 that are going through the foreclosure process

1
2 throughout the outer boroughs and specifically
3 southeast Queens, the time has come to address the
4 impact of this crisis in our neighborhoods. The
5 legislation will allow the lenders of other
6 municipalities from around the country, like
7 Boston and Chula Vista, which have passed similar
8 legislations dealing with issues of vacant, or
9 foreclosure's property. Specifically, this bill
10 would require the lender or the equity commencing
11 a foreclosure against the--to register within the
12 City of New York within ten days and provide
13 relevant information for enforcement purposes as
14 well as maintain and upkeep the property
15 throughout the foreclosure process according to
16 City law. Failure to register with the City would
17 potentially entail a fine of up to \$1,000 a day.
18 The registration data collected by the City would
19 then be placed on the appropriate agency website.
20 Collectively this bill will allow the City to keep
21 better tabs on the foreclosure crisis as it
22 affects neighborhoods throughout the City,
23 mitigate the secondary efforts associated with
24 foreclosures like crime safety and decreased
25 property value. Even though Queens and Brooklyn

1

2 top the list of the most foreclosure filings among
3 all the counties in the New York State, the other
4 three boroughs are in the top 20 most affected as
5 well. And given the citywide nature of this
6 issue, we must address this issue as a Council.
7 Although we lack the legislative jurisdiction to
8 pass a moratorium on foreclosures or financial
9 resources, we save every homeowner--we can prevent
10 the precipitous affect of foreclosures upon our
11 communities in terms of declining property values,
12 crime, the safety to our children and the way we
13 would urge our colleagues to sign on to this bill.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. Council Member Vacca?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes. Mr.
17 Majority Leader, I'd like to bring to the
18 Council's attention Intro number 886, which would
19 require traffic agents to photograph all
20 ticketable offenses in the City of New York with a
21 notice of violation that they file. I'm
22 introducing this bill and urge my colleagues to
23 sign on. This bill would require that because we
24 have over \$660 million a year being raised in
25 traffic tickets, and many times residents say that

1
2 those tickets are not justified. When they fight
3 those tickets they must take a day off from work.
4 These tickets are not \$30, \$40 and \$50 anymore.
5 They are expensive tickets. I think it's only
6 fair that we require that the agents take pictures
7 of every offense for the record so that when a
8 judge decides the case the issue is before them
9 clearly. This will benefit from the City, because
10 they will be safeguarded against frivolous
11 defenses and it will safeguard residents who
12 maintain that they were ticketed unjustifiably. I
13 also want to speak to the issue of concern in my
14 district, which I feel concerns the entire borough
15 of the Bronx and the City of New York, and that is
16 namely a budget cut that would take away or remove
17 the ladder company from City Island, Bronx, New
18 York. That ladder company would be removed
19 starting at 6:00 in the evening until 9:00 next
20 morning. And any of you who know City Island in
21 the Bronx knows that for a ladder company to get
22 to City Island, they must traverse two bridges,
23 the City Island Bridge and the Pelham Parkway
24 Bridge, which is a drawbridge. The nearest ladder
25 company--if we remove the one on City Island, is

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2 ten minutes away. With traffic generated by City
3 Island and Orchard Beach, the increase in both
4 communities that occurs over the summer months, we
5 are talking of life and limb for the residents of
6 City Island and residents from off the island who
7 utilize the many restaurants we have. I ask the
8 Mayor to intervene in this matter for public
9 safety and to leave the company on the island so
10 that they have access at all times as required by
11 the uniqueness of the situation we confront.

12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
14 Council Member James? Okay. Council Member
15 Seabrook.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
17 very much, Mr. Majority Leader. I rise here on
18 behalf of--and congratulate the council members
19 for talking about two great women who inspired our
20 movement. And certainly a part of our movement
21 has always been in our song. And as Dr. Martin
22 Luther King, Jr. said that Odetta was his favorite
23 person and his favorite singer and she inspired
24 him in the Civil Rights Movement in our song that
25 carried us on; because all movements have a song,

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2 and Odetta was a part of inspiring that movement
3 for human rights and social justice. And so she
4 inspired many others as she moved on a song so
5 gracefully, such as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and many,
6 many others. And so she has lived a long life;
7 born in Mississippi and raised in LA, but she
8 certainly understood what took place in
9 Mississippi, and she sung in those songs. And
10 Maria Makeba certainly is one who inspired us to
11 talk about South Africa and kept South Africa
12 alive and in the forefront, and what that movement
13 meant. And when we didn't know Nelson Mandela, we
14 knew Maria Makeba, who talked to us about Nelson
15 Mandela and again inspired us that a lady who
16 never--said I'd never quit. And she was there
17 when she was barred from her own place that she
18 was born and raised. And thank god she had the
19 opportunity to go back to a free South Africa,
20 that she was able to be there. And I was there
21 with her former husband--well two of them, Hugh
22 Masekela, who she was married to, and that Hugh
23 was barred from there as well. And we were there
24 together when he was actually allowed because he
25 was refused to be considered an honorary white man

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2 coming back into his country. And so she was
3 later married to Stokely Carmichael, who was a
4 dear friend as well. So these are two ladies who
5 have inspired us so much in what song meant to our
6 movement, and that one day we will be able to name
7 something after them in this City, because they
8 performed in this City so gracefully and so well.
9 Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much. Council Member James?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Publicly
13 funded childcare in New York City is a historic
14 critical pillar of support for working families.
15 It cannot be eroded or replaced and cannot be
16 destroyed and we should end the practice of
17 privatizing public works in the City of New York.
18 So I join my friends in the Labor Movement and
19 urge that we not close any daycares in the City of
20 New York. The financial crisis was caused by the
21 Private sector and should not be borne by the
22 Public sector in the City of New York. Let me
23 also go on to say that whenever there is a hate
24 crime in the City of New York we should all come
25 together. We cannot tolerate hate; but there is

1 something that we tolerate in the City of New
2 York, something that is hiding in plain sight.
3 Despite articles that talk about the diversity of
4 our City, New York City remains one of the most
5 residentially segregated cities in one of the most
6 residentially segregated metropolitan areas in the
7 entire country. And residential segregation has
8 more of an impact on differences in earnings and
9 high school graduation rates and employment and
10 health status than any other factor. The City
11 should be acknowledging the existence of
12 residential segregation and reporting regularly on
13 its scope. An attempt to combat residential
14 segregation should be embedded in the evaluation
15 of City programs, policy, law and regulations and
16 it is not. The failure to enforce and demand
17 inclusionary zoning in our rezonings in the City
18 of New York has been ignored, and it is
19 particularly noteworthy in parts of Brooklyn where
20 there are basically two Brooklyns. The report
21 that came out today on City services does not even
22 mention the phrase segregation or housing
23 discrimination, despite the overwhelming evidence
24 that people still in the City of New York still,
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2 unfortunately, are victims of discrimination. I
3 urge all of you to sign on to Intro 685, which
4 would amend the City Human Rights Law to
5 officially reflect the City's moral and legal
6 obligation to affirmatively further fair housing.
7 And I would hope that the next administration, the
8 Obama Administration, will pay some attention to
9 fair housing laws in this country and in this
10 city. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
12 very much. Council Member Felder?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you
14 very much. I just wanted to acknowledge that we
15 have in our presence two interns that have been
16 working in our office for a while. Ellen Martino,
17 if you can stand up I'd like to embarrass you, who
18 is standing right here, who has been an intern
19 with us for quite a while, whose last day is
20 Thursday. We appreciated all the work. And I
21 have another minute and 30 seconds to embarrass
22 you. Can you stand up again? Who really has done
23 phenomenal work and always been a pleasure to work
24 with. We really appreciate all that you've done
25 and look forward to your coming back to visit us

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2 with goodies. Also--that's it. Also, we have
3 Jason Yee [phonetic], and now it's your turn to be
4 embarrassed, who is an intern our office who will
5 remain in our office, so I will say nothing nice
6 about him until he leaves.

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

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you Mr.
10 Majority Leader. I'd like to commend Council
11 Member Inez Dickens for bringing to our attention
12 and bringing respect from this Council to two
13 really outstanding human beings. We tend to honor
14 a lot of people in this chamber, most of whom are
15 worth of the recommendation, the recognition we
16 give them, but there are on the planet some very,
17 very special people who's intangible impact will
18 probably never be known and fully understood. And
19 Inez has raised two such individuals, two very
20 powerful, revolutionary spirits, one happened to
21 have been an African Princess, another an African
22 American Princess if you will. One could say that
23 Odetta was to African Americans in the United
24 States as Maria Makeba was to South Africa. And I
25 think that would be a good comparison. They both

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2 were talent. Their talent was awesome, but they
3 didn't use their talent for money or for
4 popularity. They used their talent to struggle
5 against injustice and they inspired entire nations
6 and people around the world. And it's--I can't
7 imagine being abandoned, banned from your own
8 native land for 20, 30 years, not to be able to go
9 home. You are always supposed to be able to go
10 home. And she could not go home, but she
11 continued her struggled. And for her to be able
12 to come back home to die, after having Nelson
13 Mandela is president, is just beyond belief and
14 joy. So I commend you, Inez, for this, but I
15 commend this Chamber for recognizing in these two
16 women we have two extraordinary women. They made
17 tremendous impact on justice in this country and
18 in South Africa. It will never be fully
19 understood, never be fully recognized, but we
20 recognize that today. Thank you for the
21 opportunity.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
23 very much. Council Member Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.
25 I ask my colleagues here and everyone in the

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2 Chamber to keep in your thoughts and prayers the
3 young Bay Ridge woman, Laura Garza, who has been
4 missing since she left a nightclub in Chelsea some
5 days ago. Obviously there's a concern in the
6 community and throughout this City. We certainly
7 fear the worst but hope for the best, and we
8 really want her to be home in Bay Ridge. So we
9 ask everyone to keep her in their prayers. Thank
10 you so much.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

12 Council Member Garodnick.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
14 you, Mr. Majority Leader. I just want to draw my
15 colleagues' attention to two pieces of legislation
16 that I'm introducing today, Intro 880, which is
17 legislation that will help to protect passengers
18 of for-hire vehicles. Currently the Taxi and
19 Limousine Commission requires that all Yellow Cabs
20 have a Taxi Rider Bill of Rights in the backseat
21 of their cabs as everybody knows. Among other
22 things it informs passengers of their rights to be
23 driven to a destination of their choice by the
24 most direct route possible, a safe, courteous and
25 geographically sound trip, as well as a right to

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2 decline a tip for poor service. There is no such
3 parallel for for-hire vehicles. Those vehicles
4 are under the jurisdiction of the Taxi and
5 Limousine Commission and they too should be
6 required to post a Taxi Rider Bill of Rights. The
7 passengers of those vehicles are entitled to the
8 same level of courtesy and the same level of
9 comfort and also the ability to report complaints.
10 So that is Intro 880. I also draw your attention
11 to Intro 881, which deals with the problem of
12 idling. Idling of vehicles in New York City
13 creates a problem in a City that has a very, very
14 high asthma rate and a law of permissibility of
15 three minutes for idling, which is extremely
16 difficult to enforce. Only a handful of tickets
17 are written each year. And this law would make it
18 a little easier by making sure that the technology
19 is available for traffic enforcement agents to
20 issue idling tickets using handheld computers.
21 This is one which we need to move to help for
22 environmental purposes. I also point out to
23 Council Member Vacca that this is not one that I
24 suspect would be subject to a photograph because
25 you really can't take a picture of it in any

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2 event. And I hope to have his support as well as
3 all of my colleagues. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

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Seeing no others, I'm going to call this meeting

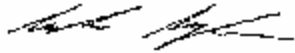
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to adjourn.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature _____

Date September 14, 2009