

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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March 11, 2009  
Start: 01:30 pm  
Recess: 02:29 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Tony Avella  
Maria Baez  
Gale A. Brewer  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Bill de Blasio  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Mathieu Eugene  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Alan J. Gerson

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Eric N. Gioia  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
Vincent Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Melinda R. Katz  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Jessica S. Lappin  
John C. Liu  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Miguel Martinez  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Michael C. Nelson  
James S. Oddo  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
Joel Rivera  
James Sanders Jr.  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Helen Sears  
Kendall Stewart  
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)

Betsy Gotbaum  
Public Advocate  
City of New York

Dr. Edison O. Jackson  
President  
Medgar Evers College

Father James Hayes  
St. Andrew's Church

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: We have one  
3 ceremonial today, but the fact we only have one  
4 should not decrease the importance of this  
5 ceremonial. It should underscore how important  
6 this ceremonial is today. So if I could ask folks  
7 to come up. I'm going to give the mike to Tish to  
8 kick us off.

9                   COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.  
10 May all members please join me, all members who  
11 believe in education, who believe that education  
12 is the great equalizer, who believe in higher  
13 education. Medgar Evers, as most of you know, is  
14 situated in my district. But this young man does  
15 not belong to me. In fact, he belongs to all of  
16 us. He has improved the Medgar Evers campus and  
17 the quality of education not only in Central  
18 Brooklyn but I can dare say that every single City  
19 Council Member has a Medgar Evers graduate in  
20 their district or a current student. So this  
21 honor is not mine alone. It's a bittersweet  
22 moment because this great man, this giant amongst  
23 giants has announced his retirement. So it's very  
24 sad for me because he's transformed Medgar Evers  
25 and just made it into a destination college where

1  
2 they come from abroad and beyond. So I stand here  
3 today, Dr. Jackson, with my colleagues because we  
4 are first humbled to be in your presence and two,  
5 want to thank you for all that you have done  
6 educating students, not only in this city but in  
7 this nation and in this world. You will be sorely  
8 missed. No one can fill your shoes. I understand  
9 that the applications now are up to thousands.  
10 But if you want to reconsider? Dr. Jackson, I  
11 just want to thank you for providing a liberal  
12 education. Thank you for improving the standards.  
13 Thank you for increasing the amount of individuals  
14 who seek to enter the doors at Medgar Evers  
15 College. On behalf of my constituents and the  
16 members here, I just wanted to say congratulations  
17 for your years of service.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Hand over the  
19 proclamation. Before we ask the clerk to read the  
20 proclamation, I just want to personally thank you,  
21 Dr. Jackson. There is such a long list of times  
22 when we've called on Medgar Evers to give us a  
23 breakfast space on our Day Out Against Hate, to  
24 give us an auditorium when we were doing education  
25 and outreach for MWBE companies. I mean just so

1  
2 many things. We call, and I'm not going to name  
3 them, but other institutions in the city and they  
4 don't always say yes. You call Medgar Evers for  
5 research help, for support, for space, you and  
6 your staff don't just say yes, you say our college  
7 is your college. We are the Council's campus. So  
8 I just want to thank you so much for giving us  
9 resources, help and space where we could be in  
10 Brooklyn when we needed to gather with folks.  
11 That is invaluable. Not only are your generous  
12 but you and your staff are so gracious. Really I  
13 would say one of the most gracious staffs we've  
14 ever worked with and that type of attitude starts  
15 from the top. So thank you so very much. And I  
16 wish you, your wife and your family a wonderful  
17 retirement. Ma'am, I know that every hour he was  
18 with us, every hour he was helping us is an hour  
19 he wasn't with you and your family, so you deserve  
20 a tremendous thank you too for being so selfless  
21 with Dr. Jackson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:

23 Unfortunately the chair of Higher Ed could not be  
24 with us, and I know one of the founders of Medgar  
25 Evers College, our own Council Member Al Vann will

1  
2 be up shortly. He was one of the original Medgar  
3 Evers College and I know he wanted to say a few  
4 words as well. But again, on their behalf, I  
5 wanted to say thank you. Madame Speaker.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. If we  
7 could ask the clerk to read the proclamation and  
8 then we'll get to hear from Dr. Jackson.

9 CLERK: Council City of New York  
10 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
11 New York is proud to honor Dr. Edison O. Jackson  
12 for his outstanding service to Medgar Evers  
13 College and the community. And whereas, since  
14 1989, Dr. Jackson has provided stellar service as  
15 the president of Medgar Evers College of the City  
16 University of New York. During his distinguished  
17 tenure, he has reaffirmed the beliefs of the  
18 school's founder, Medgar Wiley Evers, the Civil  
19 Rights activist who was committed to educational  
20 access, excellence in education, public service  
21 and to creating success one student at a time. He  
22 has spearheaded the construction of the college's  
23 \$243 million Academic Complex One, the future home  
24 of the School of Science, Health and Technology.  
25 And whereas, in addition to being an active member

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2 of many educational, civic, political, and  
3 economic organizations, Dr. Jackson is an  
4 acclaimed author. In numerous published works he  
5 has shared his singular insights into education  
6 issues with a particular focus on minority  
7 students. And whereas, Dr. Jackson is not only an  
8 educational leader, but an ordained minister who  
9 serves on the staff of Bridge Street African  
10 Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church in Bedford  
11 Stuyvesant, upon his retirement he can be proud of  
12 his service, as we are, for the legacy he has  
13 built to continue to resonate in the minds of  
14 countless New Yorkers. Now therefore be it known  
15 that we the Council Members most gratefully honor  
16 Dr. Edison O. Jackson for more than two decades of  
17 tremendous contributions and achievements in  
18 higher education. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for  
19 the entire Council; Letitia James, Council Member  
20 35th District Brooklyn; Albert Vann, Council  
21 Member 36th District Brooklyn; David I. Weprin,  
22 Council Member 23rd District Queens; Larry B.  
23 Seabrook, Council Member 12th District the Bronx.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much  
25 Mike. Dr. Jackson.



1  
2 DR. EDISON O. JACKSON: Madame  
3 Speaker, my beloved Councilwoman Letitia James and  
4 to all of you who have done so much in helping us  
5 to rebuild Medgar Evers College, you have been so  
6 generous, not only in spirit but your resources  
7 because we could not be where we are today with  
8 this \$243 million academic complex that will open  
9 in a year. And when we open it, it will be one of  
10 the finest science facilities, not only in this  
11 city but in this state and the nation. We're  
12 going to invite all of you to come. I won't be  
13 here but I will come back for the opening. You  
14 also play a significant role in the construction  
15 of what we call the School of Business and the  
16 Student Service building right there on Bedford.  
17 Were it not for your generosity and your belief in  
18 my leadership and belief in education, we could  
19 not have that building and all the other smaller  
20 projects that you have supported. So I wanted to  
21 say to all of you to just remind us of the power  
22 of education to transform individuals and our  
23 young people and not so young thirst for  
24 knowledge. What Medgar has been about is  
25 providing opportunities and to reach out in areas

1  
2 and communities that somehow they say high  
3 education is not for me or for my child. So we  
4 have become the college of choice. There was a  
5 time we were not the college of choice. But I can  
6 honestly say that with my team, they're all over  
7 there, we have created a place, a sense of  
8 community, an ability to affirm that students are  
9 valued, that our community is valued. You can see  
10 students when they come at Medgar and see there's  
11 no gleam in their eyes, they're just there and  
12 then when they walk across the stage in  
13 commencement and you see the pride and their  
14 family members shouting, you know go girl or  
15 hallelujah or whatever. What we have done is  
16 transform the lives of the graduates and  
17 oftentimes the family members because we are  
18 educating both. So at Medgar because we generally  
19 have an older population, we're not only affecting  
20 that student who is graduating but the family  
21 members in that family. That's what's so  
22 marvelous about Medgar Evers it seems to me. I'll  
23 conclude by saying that I just hope that you would  
24 ensure that Medgar is protected to do the work it  
25 was created to do because it's so easy to get off

1  
2 track and to go on to another agenda. I have  
3 tried in my 20 years at Medgar to be true to the  
4 founders, Councilman Vann and others, their vision  
5 about what a college of higher education ought to  
6 be about in Central Brooklyn. I've tried to do  
7 that to the best of my ability. It's been a  
8 wonderful journey. I'm not saying easy, but a  
9 wonderful journey. And when you can see the  
10 transformation that we have witnessed, it's good.  
11 I thank God and my wife for this wonderful  
12 journey. So we're going to, not ride into the  
13 sunset, we have a home in Virginia, but I'm going  
14 to hang out in D.C. in terms of whatever that may  
15 be in terms of hanging out. Because there are  
16 wonderful opportunities in D.C. I don't know what  
17 all that might mean, but I'm going to hang out in  
18 D.C. My position is when one door closes, God  
19 opens another. He can't open the new door until  
20 he can close the old one. So I'm just happy. I  
21 could dance and do a hula dance because I've done  
22 the work that I was called here to do and to  
23 understand that there is a point in time when you  
24 are to give up and allow others to secede you.  
25 That's what I've done. Thank you so much all of

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2 you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: We were worried Al that you weren't going to get here in time. So I'm so glad you were able to make it up before we ended the recognition and thanks to Dr. Jackson. So if I could give you the mike.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yes. I'll be very, very brief. I am fortunate enough to have been around in Bed-Stuy and was one of the founders. It was a very unique experience. It's the first time a community in the City of New York challenged a high university and said you need to have a college in Bed-Stuy Central Brooklyn specifically for "the black community or minority community" as it were. So it broke precedent. We negotiated and we told them the kind of college we wanted and so on and so forth. It wasn't easy but we worked it out. College number seven as it was called, which became Medgar Evers College. The founders, there were 36 community-based organizations which made up this coalition on education needs and services and we laid out what we wanted this college to be, how this college should impact upon this community. We laid it out

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2 in a book, if you will. Several presidents have  
3 come before this gentleman arrive. Everybody did  
4 a little something towards it. But I can say  
5 without fear of contradiction, Dr. Jackson, you  
6 have made the founders very happy, those that are  
7 with us and those who are not with us at the  
8 moment. You have fulfilled the dream and we wish  
9 you Godspeed as you go through that second door.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's make sure we  
11 get a picture with Al.

12 [Pause]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all and  
14 that concludes our ceremonies.

15 [Pause]

16 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentleman,  
17 can I have your attention please? At this time,  
18 can you place all pagers and cell phones to  
19 vibrate and will all lobbyists and non-Council  
20 employees please leave the main floor of the  
21 chambers. Thank you.

22 [Pause]

23 BETSY GOTBAUM: All rise.

24 GROUP: I pledge allegiance to the  
25 flag of the United States of America and to the

1  
2 republic for which it stands, one nation under  
3 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for  
4 all. Roll call.

5 CLERK: Arroyo?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

7 CLERK: Avella?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

9 CLERK: Baez?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

11 CLERK: Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [no  
13 response].

14 CLERK: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

16 CLERK: Comrie?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no  
18 response].

19 CLERK: Crowley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

21 CLERK: De Blasio?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: [no  
23 response].

24 CLERK: Dickens?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

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CLERK: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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CLERK: Felder?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

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CLERK: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

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CLERK: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

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CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [no

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response]

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CLERK: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: [no

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response]

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CLERK: Gioia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [no

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response]

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CLERK: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

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CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I'm here.

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CLERK: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Katz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

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CLERK: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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CLERK: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Liu?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

23

Here.

24

CLERK: Martinez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: [no



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2 response].

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CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

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CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

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CLERK: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

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CLERK: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Seabrook?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Sears?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Stewart?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Oh sorry,

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Sears is here.

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CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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CLERK: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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CLERK: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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CLERK: White?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: [no

15

response].

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CLERK: Yassky?

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Here.

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CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no

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response].

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CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

25

BETSY GOTBAUM: We have a quorum.

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2 All rise for the invocation. By Father James  
3 Hayes.

4 MALE VOICE: Please rise.

5 FATHER JAMES HAYES: We gather this  
6 day in this most historic chamber as members of  
7 this City Council. We assemble in collaboration,  
8 harmony and peace for the good of all who live and  
9 work in this great city. Strengthen each of us  
10 with an inner wisdom and inner vision. We draw  
11 together this day on this collaboration as we  
12 dialogue, discuss and vote on issues that will  
13 enhance the quality of life for all. We as that  
14 our exchange of views be tempered by a spirit of  
15 unity. This spirit of collaboration will enable  
16 us to become more proactive in our planning,  
17 create new plans and paths for our future, discern  
18 new directions and continue to revitalize our  
19 great city. We gather here also in the spirit of  
20 gratitude, our gratitude for our giftedness. We  
21 stand in thanksgiving for all the gifts of person,  
22 time and talent that have been bestowed upon each  
23 one here this day. Let us use our giftedness of  
24 time and talent for the common cause. Let this  
25 gratitude also be tempered by a subtle spirit of

1  
2 compassion. We gather in the spirit of courage.  
3 As we meet, discuss and vote, we ask for guidance  
4 in all of our deliberations as courage can guide  
5 our deliberations, our collaborative decisions.  
6 Continually let a sense of justice and peace lead  
7 the way. Let our collaborative efforts be of  
8 benefit for all of the city. As we administer our  
9 office, let a spirit of correct judgment speak to  
10 the heart. In courage do respect for all life and  
11 diversity and foster within us a sense of value of  
12 community. Let us be mindful that we can foster a  
13 sense of community so that all can have a place at  
14 one table. Let our discussions, voting, committee  
15 meetings and deliberations become the standard for  
16 rule, order and good government. Guide us by  
17 light and wisdom during these most difficult times  
18 and let our collective spirits of collaboration,  
19 gratitude and courage be with us today. Finally,  
20 as we stand shoulder to shoulder, let us respond  
21 in one voice as public servants, stewards and  
22 guardians of this great city by saying amen.

23 Betsy Gotbaum: Motion to spread  
24 the invocation, Council Member Gerson? I'm sorry?  
25 Council Member Reyna?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I'd like to  
3 make a motion to spread the Invocation by Father  
4 Hayes in full upon the record.

5 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.  
6 Adoption of the minutes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I move the  
8 minutes be adopted.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: Messages and papers  
10 from the Mayor.

11 CLERK: None.

12 BETSY GOTBAUM: Communication from  
13 City, County and Borough offices.

14 CLERK: None.

15 BETSY GOTBAUM: Petitions and  
16 Communications.

17 CLERK: None.

18 BETSY GOTBAUM: Land Use call-ups.

19 CLERK: None.

20 BETSY GOTBAUM: Communication from  
21 the Speaker.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are  
23 voting today on a number of important pieces of  
24 legislation.

25 BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please. I

1

2 cannot hear her. Please be quiet.

3

4 SPEAKER QUINN: First, Intro 57-A  
5 which creates a bed bug advisory board. I want to  
6 of course thank Chairperson Leroy Comrie who  
7 shepherded this through the Consumer Affairs  
8 Committee. I think we all want to thank Council  
9 Member Gale Brewer for really raising an important  
10 cry in this city about the problem of bed bugs and  
11 focusing all of us in government on the need for  
12 us to respond to this problem. So thank you so  
13 much, Gale. I also want to thank Lacy Clarke,  
14 Alex Pustilnik and Darren Butvick of our staff for  
15 all of their work on the legislation.

16

BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please.

17

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Intro 57-A is our  
19 first step towards dealing with and controlling  
20 the problem of bed bugs in the City of New York.  
21 In recent years we've seen the number of calls to  
22 311 of bed bug complaints skyrocket. We've all  
23 heard stories from our constituents who have bed  
24 bugs in their apartment and they don't know how to  
25 deal with them. One thing we know is bed bugs  
don't discriminate. They exist in every  
neighborhood, in every borough, everywhere in our

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city. What we also know is that we don't have a comprehensive response or a comprehensive education program to deal with the problem. Creating a bed bug advisory board with representatives from city agencies with an exterminator, with a public health professional and scientists on the board will compile a group of individuals who will be charged with reporting back in nine months. A group of individuals who will have the knowledge and the resources to come up with a comprehensive plan that will allow the City of New York to come up with a full service plan to deal with bed bugs in our city. I want to thank Gale again so much for her work on this issue. Let me first call on the chair of our Consumer Affairs Committee, Leroy Comrie, and then our leader in this effort Council Member Gale Brewer. Leroy?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you, Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Council Member, if we could get a little quiet in the chambers. If we could take conversations outside or into the committee room. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you.

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I just want to thank Gale Brewer for introducing

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this legislation and keeping all of us under a

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clear watch and pushing hard with her diligence in

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keeping this issue on the front burner. Bed bugs

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have alarmingly become a serious health threat in

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our community and we need to do everything in our

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power to raise awareness and address this crisis,

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particularly in this climate where many city

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residents are not able to afford extermination

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services. No one should live in conditions like

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this and be exposed to people that are only taking

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advantage of them. This legislation will go a

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long way to create the proper means to alleviate

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this current situation. The Speaker already

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thanked Alex Pustilnik and Lacy Clarke and Damien

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Butvick for all of the work that they've been

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doing. We've been an active committee. We look

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to continue to stay active to protect consumers in

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every way possible. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member

23

Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you,

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Madame Speaker, Chair Comrie and your staff. I



1  
2 also want to thank the City Administration because  
3 they've been helpful on this and in our office  
4 Shula Warren, Rosalba Rodriguez and Kunal Malhotra  
5 for all their work. Certainly the advocates,  
6 residents and professionals who will be working on  
7 this for some time. Chair Comrie had a hearing  
8 about a year ago which I think got us going in the  
9 right direction. You know bed bugs are personal  
10 and financial nightmare. And I think this  
11 legislation, which will be a combination of  
12 coordination of the many government agencies,  
13 because it's not just a city. People are  
14 concerned about exterminators and pest control  
15 managers and they are actually licensed by the New  
16 York State Department of Environmental  
17 Conservation. So that agency also needs to be  
18 involved. There are other city agencies that need  
19 to come together. I think what we can offer is a  
20 fight back. The fight back is education.  
21 Education of what to do if you get bed bugs.  
22 Education as to what to do if you neighbor does.  
23 Education that it's not a stigma. Education that  
24 you talk to your neighbors about this issue, that  
25 you don't panic and that you feel the government

1  
2 is providing a qualified exterminator, information  
3 about what you should do in your own home,  
4 figuring out who has rights and knowing that it is  
5 not that your apartment is clean or dirty. Just  
6 as the Speaker said, bed bugs impact everyone. I  
7 think the message has gotten across that this can  
8 be a mental health issue and we need to address  
9 it. So I look forward to working with everyone.  
10 I thank the Council Members who have had forms in  
11 their neighborhoods for their support and I look  
12 forward to getting the problem at least mitigated.  
13 Thank you very much Madame Speaker.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
15 much. We are also voting today on another piece  
16 of legislation that came through the Consumer  
17 Affairs Committee. I want to thank Chairperson  
18 Comrie for that, Intro 660-A. I also want to  
19 thank the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Dan  
20 Garodnick. This piece of legislation will create  
21 a license and registration process for all  
22 individuals who sell or try to collect debt in the  
23 City of New York. We right now have a situation  
24 where people, organizations and companies are  
25 buying debt then selling the debt to someone else

1  
2 for them to collect it. These individuals then  
3 call New Yorkers, often misinform them, harass  
4 them and try to collect debts which in fact have  
5 already been settled. This is the leading call of  
6 complaint by consumers to our Department of  
7 Consumer Affairs. Right now there is a loophole  
8 in the law that doesn't require these individuals  
9 who are actually collecting debt or attempting to  
10 collect debt to have the same license that debt  
11 collectors do in our city. I want to thank  
12 Chairperson Comrie and Council Member Garodnick  
13 for coming up with this piece of legislation that  
14 will close that loophole and give consumers in New  
15 York particularly at this tough economic time the  
16 protection and recourse they need if they're being  
17 harassed by these individuals. Let me call again  
18 on Chairperson Comrie and then on Council Member  
19 Garodnick.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,  
21 Speaker Quinn. I want to thank Council Member  
22 Garodnick and the Urban Justice Center and all of  
23 the people that identified this issue. Clearly  
24 our nation's troubling economic climate has  
25 created hardships, but this is an industry that

1  
2 took advantage of a loophole, created firms and  
3 legal firms that wanted to try to take advantage  
4 of people that were unaware that their debt was  
5 reassigned to other people. That their debt,  
6 oftentimes which it even had been resolved on one  
7 level had been sold to a debt collector that they  
8 did not recognize and then wind up putting them in  
9 court. The things that we're doing to close this  
10 loophole is critical. The things that we're doing  
11 to make sure that this is no longer the number one  
12 complaint to the Department of Consumer Affairs  
13 where they were primarily picking on minority  
14 communities and new and immigrant communities.  
15 It's a major opportunity to protect consumers  
16 today. I want to especially thank Council Member  
17 Garodnick for the way that he took on four lawyers  
18 by himself during the hearing. He did an  
19 excellent job of making sure that the primary  
20 reason for this legislation would be voted out  
21 today and I urge my colleagues to vote for Intro  
22 660.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
24 much, Chairperson Comrie. Council Member  
25 Garodnick.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
3 you, Madame Speaker and thank you to Chairman  
4 Comrie for his patience, his leadership and for  
5 those very nice words. I wanted to just add one  
6 thought about the Department of Consumer Affairs  
7 and the number of complaints that they have seen.  
8 It is true that this is the number one complaint  
9 that they get about practices of debt collectors  
10 that are unfair or illegal or unscrupulous. But  
11 what is interesting is that the number of  
12 complaints have gone up significantly. From 2004  
13 to 2006, there was a 70% increase in these  
14 complaints. And then from 2006 to 2008, they went  
15 up again another 70%. So what we are trying to do  
16 here is close the loophole that the Speaker  
17 mentioned to make sure that those who are pursuing  
18 New Yorkers are playing by the rules that we set  
19 here in New York. There are 300,000 cases brought  
20 against New Yorkers every year for consumer debt.  
21 That's an extraordinarily high number of cases.  
22 Just to put that in perspective, there are only  
23 320,000 cases filed in all of America in federal  
24 district courts in the civil and criminal areas in  
25 the whole country. The judgments against New

1  
2 Yorkers total around \$800 million every year. And  
3 unfortunately, too many people simply default  
4 because they don't know that they're supposed to  
5 show up in court. They don't recognize the  
6 notices that they're getting. They don't know who  
7 they're getting the notices from because it's not  
8 the name of the person from whom they've incurred  
9 the debt. They don't recognize the amount because  
10 it's not any amount that they recognize after late  
11 fees and interest payments and all of the rest of  
12 it. The effect of course is devastating  
13 particularly on the working poor in this city who  
14 sometimes don't know that they're being pursued  
15 until the moment that their bank accounts are  
16 frozen or their wages are garnished. Now we're  
17 not saying that people shouldn't be paying their  
18 debts, they should. But what we want is an  
19 orderly system of debt collection and not a system  
20 of menacing harassment, something we have seen too  
21 often in this city. A situation where collectors  
22 are calling people at all hours of the day,  
23 tracking them down at work, against the law. What  
24 we want to make sure is that the additional rules  
25 that we're putting forth today allows the

1  
2 Department of Consumer Affairs to keep watch over  
3 bad actors and to make sure they have leverage  
4 over them and to bring it within the nexus of the  
5 city's regulatory scheme. And to make sure that  
6 all of those notices when people get them that  
7 they include some basic information like who was  
8 the original creditor here, where do we call back  
9 if we have a problem and to make sure that there  
10 is a human being to answer the phone. The  
11 background information, a confirmation in writing  
12 within five days once a debt has been paid so that  
13 debts can't be resold and then re-pursued. That's  
14 something that happens frequently. This is  
15 something which is extremely important  
16 particularly now and the Speaker noted that  
17 because too many people are falling behind. We  
18 have difficult economic times. We want to make  
19 sure that there is an orderly system. Again, I  
20 want to thank the Speaker and the Chair of the  
21 Consumer Affairs Committee and particularly the  
22 Urban Justice Center which came out with a report  
23 called "The Debt Crisis and the Impact on the  
24 City's Working Poor" in 2007 which is what gave  
25 rise to this legislation once I read that report.

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And of course to Lacy Clarke from the Consumer Affairs Committee and Lucy Jaffee [phonetic] from my office. I want to thank them for their support and all of their help. Thank you, Madame Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Dan. I also want to underscore your and Leroy's thanks to the Urban Justice Center, to Lacy Clarke, to Alex Pustilnik, Darren Butvick who also worked on Intro 660-A as well as 57-A. We're also passing 867-A today, a bill which reinvigorates and slightly reformulates the Waterfront Management Advisory Board. I want to thank Jeff Haberman, Jeff Daker [phonetic] and Patrick Mulvihill who all worked on this legislation. This Waterfront Management Advisory Board is a Charter mandated advisory board but it has not met or existed with members since the Dinkins administration. We are a river city, a city composed mostly of islands. Yet literally and figuratively in many ways we've turned out back on our river and our waterfront and not seen it as perhaps our greatest natural resource though it really is the natural resource that helped us begin and grow into the greatest richest city in the world. By reconvening this



1  
2 Waterfront Advisory Board, coupled with the  
3 legislation we've passed that requires a  
4 waterfront plan be promulgated every ten years, we  
5 will help return our city's focus to the river as  
6 a tremendous natural resource. I also want to  
7 note that in 867-A we add to the Waterfront  
8 Management Advisory Board the requirement that the  
9 board create plans for recreational activity on  
10 our waterfront. We want to make sure that  
11 although our waterfront is an appropriate place  
12 for commerce and when appropriate could be used  
13 for residential development, but we also need to  
14 see it as a tremendous resource to develop and  
15 expand recreational activities in our city. And  
16 as more and more New Yorkers over this recession  
17 decide to stay home for vacation, having  
18 recreation on our waterfront is even more  
19 important. I want to thank Chairperson Nelson for  
20 his work on this bill and for taking it through  
21 his Waterfronts Committee. I want to call on  
22 Chairperson Nelson please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you,  
24 Madame Speaker. There is economical opportunity  
25 here which of course is extremely important to

1  
2 this city at this time. Although the Waterfront  
3 Management Advisory Board has existed in the City  
4 Charter, it was incredibly underutilized since its  
5 inception. Intro 867-A gives the Advisory Board a  
6 fresh start in the little tweaking that we did in  
7 its mission of bettering approximately 578 miles  
8 of New York City's waterfront property. The  
9 Waterfront Management Advisory Board will increase  
10 public participation in the development of  
11 waterfront policy and contains a strong potential  
12 to create more jobs and substantial recreational  
13 activities as well as it will also we believe  
14 bring in more revenue for the city. So I want to  
15 thank Speaker Quinn. I want to thank my  
16 colleagues, Lou Fidler, Gale Brewer, Oliver  
17 Koppell, Alan Gerson and Tom White and also Jeff  
18 Baker, counsel to the committee and Colleen Pagter  
19 and Steve Zolts [phonetic] from my staff and all  
20 of the staff of the Speaker for putting this  
21 through. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
23 much. We're also voting today on Intro 840. It's  
24 increasing fees for permits issued to operators of  
25 dumps, non-putrescible waste transfer stations and

1  
2 putrescible solid waste transfer stations and  
3 establishing registration fees for intermodal  
4 solid waste container facilities. I want to thank  
5 the Mayor's Office and also Chairperson Comrie as  
6 well as Jarret Hova and Jeff Haberman for their  
7 work on this legislation. That concludes  
8 Communications from the Speaker.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: Discussion of  
10 General Orders. Seeing no one, we'll move right  
11 on. Report of Special Committees. Quiet please.

12 CLERK: None.

13 BETSY GOTBAUM: Report of Standing  
14 Committees.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
16 Consumer Affairs Intro 57-A, Bed Bug Advisory  
17 Board.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
19 on General Orders.

20 CLERK: Intro 660-A, practices of  
21 debt collectors.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
23 on General Orders.

24 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
25 Finance, Intro 850-A.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
3 on General Orders.

4                   CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1854,  
5 designation of organizations to receive funding.

6                   BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please.

7                   SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
8 Orders.

9                   CLERK: Preconsidered LU 1023 and  
10 Reso 856, Haven Plaza.

11                  SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
12 Orders.

13                  CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
14 Land Use. LU 931 and Reso 1857 through LU 982 and  
15 Reso 1858, various ULURPS.

16                  SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
17 Orders.

18                  CLERK: LU 984 and Reso 1859, UDAP  
19 Bronx.

20                  SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
21 Orders.

22                  CLERK: LU 991 and LU 992, various  
23 applications.

24                  SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with  
25 modifications and referred to the City Planning

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Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of the Council and Section 197(d) of the New York City Charter.

CLERK: LU 998 and Reso 1860 through LU 1022 and Reso 1870, various applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 1024 and Reso 1871, mixed use develop.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management. Intro 840, fees for solid waste transfer stations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Waterfronts. Intro 867-, Waterfront Management Advisory Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

BETSY GOTBAUM: General Order Calendar.

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2 CLERK: Resolution appointing  
3 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
5 Orders. And at this point I'd ask for a roll call  
6 on all items that have been coupled on the General  
7 Order Calendar please.

8 CLERK: Arroyo?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

10 CLERK: Avella?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes  
12 on all items except the Toll Brothers project,  
13 Land Use 1003, 1005 and Preconsidered Land Use  
14 1024 as well as the Battery Maritime Bill project,  
15 Land Use numbers 1000 and 1002, 1006, on those two  
16 items with the three Land Use specific items I  
17 vote no.

18 CLERK: Baez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

20 CLERK: Brewer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Comrie?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

24 And congratulations to Council Member Gale Brewer,  
25 Dan Gardonick for introducing and passing these

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2 bills today.

3

CLERK: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Madame

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Public Advocate, may I have a moment to explain my

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vote?

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Just a point

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of information, are we on Land Use call-ups or are

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we on General Order Calendar. No Land Use call-

16

ups? Okay, I'd like to explain my vote on Intro

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57-A. I'll start by saying I'm going to vote aye

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on all items on today's agenda. But I

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particularly want to compliment Council Member

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Gale Brewer on her leadership in this issue. I

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think the constituents that I represent jointly

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with Council Member Reyna, the people of Bushwick,

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stand to gain the most benefit from the creation

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of this advisory board. I have constantly come

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into contact with families who have bed bugs in

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their homes. She's absolutely right on the mental stress that they face, the mental damage it does to the children who are affected and the lack of education on how to properly dispose of bed bugs. I just want to thank her for this creation of this advisory board. I wholeheartedly look forward to working with this advisory board to make sure that it has the greatest amount of impact so that we can rid not only Bushwick but this entire city of this problem. With that, Madame Public Advocate, I vote aye on all.

CLERK: De Blasio?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO:

Permission to explain my vote?

BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank you. Two important Land Use items that we're voting on today in my district. I want to thank the Speaker and Chair Katz, and Chair Avella for all of their support and hard work on these issues. I want to thank the City Planning Commission, especially Amanda Burden and Purnima Kapur. These are both I think very good news stories. The East Windsor Terrace/Stable Brooklyn



1 rezoning, an incredible example of a community  
2 getting together and deciding on a positive path  
3 for the future of their community. The City  
4 Planning Commission was really impressed by the  
5 work community folks did to come up with their  
6 plan and then work with them to perfect it. So  
7 that's a great story. The Toll Brothers site in  
8 Carroll Gardens, a very substantial amount of  
9 affordable housing, new open space and  
10 environmental cleanup and a good community process  
11 that led to that. So these are I think two very  
12 important steps forward for our communities in  
13 Brooklyn and I urge everyone to support them. I  
14 vote aye on all.

16 CLERK: Eugene?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Fidler?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

20 CLERK: Foster?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Garodnick?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

24 CLERK: Gennaro?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: May I be

7

excused to briefly explain my vote?

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I just want

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to first thank Chair Katz and the entire Land Use

11

team for their work and their support for the

12

zoning changes involving the Battery Maritime

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Building. As we approve this application my

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colleagues you should know that we are continuing

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our efforts to open up the waterfront, to make the

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New York Harbor accessible to all New Yorkers and

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we are creating on the harbor what will be a

18

wonderful, magnificent new cultural and community

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space. I want to thank Speaker Quinn for her

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leadership is making this happen. Immediately

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before coming to this meeting I left a meeting

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with owners of a single room occupancy building in

23

my district dealing with the bed bug problem in

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efforts to clean up and remove that scourge from

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that particular building. So I want to

1  
2 acknowledge Gale Brewer for her role in keeping  
3 all of our beds and bedrooms and units safe and  
4 healthy but seriously free from this terrible  
5 epidemic which is affecting so many New Yorkers.  
6 I vote yes on all. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Gioia?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.  
9 Madame Public Advocate, may I have a second to  
10 explain my vote?

11 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I just want  
13 to congratulate Council Member Gale Brewer and  
14 Council Member Dan Garodnick who have both done  
15 fine jobs fighting for people who need somebody on  
16 their side, both bed bugs and debt collectors are  
17 pervasive in this city and unfortunately take a  
18 huge out of those who can least afford it. So I'm  
19 proud to vote yes on all today. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Gonzalez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on  
22 all.

23 CLERK: Ignizio?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. If I  
25 could briefly explain my vote.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get some quiet please?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I was seeking a no vote so I can go up on Charlie Barron in my no's from Courtney Gross' story but I don't have any today. But did want to point out my gratitude towards the Council, the Speaker and Inez Dickens for helping us achieve a grant for diabetes for Staten Island University Hospital which is in today. For those of you who don't know, my wife has had juvenile diabetes since she was five years old and we deal with it on a day in and day out basis. It's a very difficult situation that we deal, both her as a mother and while she was giving birth. It is an epidemic that is attacking our kids. It is an epidemic that is attacking our younger people who are getting older and it's attacking children at a very early age. For this Council to be leading the way in trying to educate and work on services for children with diabetes and preventive services so that they never come down with the disease I think is something that should be applauded. So I wanted to thank both the Speaker, Inez Dickens and

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1

2 my Council colleagues for fighting hard for this  
3 important initiative.

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CLERK: Jackson?

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6 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I'd like  
7 to congratulate Gale Brewer, our leader on the bed  
8 bugs epidemic in the City of New York and Dan  
9 Garodnick, I'd like to thank you on behalf of all  
10 of the consumers in my district that will benefit  
11 from your legislation. I vote aye on all.

11

CLERK: James?

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13 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I am present  
14 and I vote yes on all Land Use call-ups and  
15 General Orders and I vote aye. Thank you.

15

CLERK: Katz?

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17 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Madame Public  
18 Advocate to explain my vote?

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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20 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Never mind.  
21 I vote aye on all.

21

CLERK: Koppell?

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23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on  
24 all.

24

CLERK: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I would

1  
2 request permission on the Land Use call-ups. I  
3 vote aye on the General Order Calendar although  
4 with a congratulations to Gale Brewer. I have to  
5 say I will never sit on those benches in the  
6 subway again. And I will hate you for that  
7 forever.

8 Betsy Gotbaum: Quiet please.

9 Clerk: Liu?

10 Council Member Liu: Yes.

11 Clerk: Mark-Viverito?

12 Council Member Mark-Viverito: Aye

13 on all.

14 Clerk: Martinez?

15 Council Member Martinez: Aye.

16 Clerk: Mealy?

17 Council Member Mealy: I pass.

18 Clerk: Mendez?

19 Council Member Mendez: Aye.

20 Clerk: Nelson?

21 Council Member Nelson: Aye.

22 Clerk: Palma?

23 Council Member Palma: [no

24 response].

25 Clerk: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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CLERK: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS:

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Congratulations to Council Member Garodnick and

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Brewer. I vote yes to all.

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CLERK: Seabrook?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Sears?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

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CLERK: Stewart?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Yes and

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present.

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CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

22

all.

23

CLERK: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: White?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Yassky?

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I vote aye

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on all. I just want to thank the sponsors of the

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two bills here for pushing these issues forward.

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We too have had increased reports of bed bugs in

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my district as well. Gale, I very much hope that

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this task force will produce some relief. I also

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want to thank Council Member Garodnick. I think

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that we are now getting out ahead of the curve

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just as we did with Council Member Fidler's

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initiatives on foreclosures years ago. The coming

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crisis in consumer debt, this will help us get out

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in front of. Plainly these folks need to be

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licensed. So thank you, Council Member Garodnick.

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CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Could I

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explain my vote?

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to

24

thank my colleagues, Dan Garodnick, Gale Brewer

25

and Mike Nelson. I vote aye on all.



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CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye

7

on all.

8

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

10

[Pause]

11

BETSY GOTBAUM: All items on

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today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a

13

vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero negative and

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zero abstentions with the exception of LU 1000 and

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Reso 1862 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the

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affirmative, one negative and zero abstentions;

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and LU 1001 and Reso 1863 which was adopted by a

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vote of 45 in the affirmative, one negative and

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zero abstentions; and LU 1003 and Reso 1865 which

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was adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative,

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one negative and zero abstentions; and LU 1005 and

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Reso 1866 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the

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affirmative, one negative and zero abstentions;

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and LU 1006 and Reso 1867 which was adopted by a

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1  
2 vote of 45 in the affirmative, one negative and  
3 zero abstentions; and Preconsidered LU 1024 and  
4 Reso 1871 which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
5 affirmative, one in the negative and zero  
6 abstentions. Introduction and reading of bills.

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

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: There is no  
10 resolutions and no discussions of resolutions.  
11 Let's go to General Discussion. Council Member  
12 Gennaro.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,  
14 Madame Public Advocate.

15 BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please, it's  
16 hard to hear him.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I'd like  
18 to talk about Resolution 1850 that is being  
19 introduced today. It has to do with natural gas  
20 drilling in New York City's water supply or the  
21 prospect of that happening. This is a very  
22 dangerous situation for the water quality and  
23 would almost certainly require the city to have to  
24 build a costly filtration plant at a cost of \$10-  
25 \$20 billion or more. This is the type of activity

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2 that is completely inconsistent to our unfiltered  
3 water supply and Reso 1850 speaks to that. It  
4 calls upon the State Legislature and calls upon  
5 the Governor. There's a whole kind of movement  
6 that we're doing on this that would greatly be  
7 pushed forward by people signing on to Reso 1850.  
8 Thank you Madame Public Advocate.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member  
10 Brewer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I just want  
12 to introduce two interns, Ali Swadwick [phonetic]  
13 who is a New York University student and Merika  
14 Balocturin [phonetic] who is also an NYU student.  
15 I think we all know that we have great interns and  
16 these are two of the best. Would you two please  
17 stand up.

18 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member  
19 James.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I'm urging  
21 all of my colleagues to sign on to Reso 1851 which  
22 calls upon the Bloomberg Administration to  
23 discontinue the practice of de-funding child care  
24 centers midyear and thus closing desperately  
25 needed childcare services throughout the city.

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2                   BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please. It's  
3 very hard to hear the Councilwoman.

4                   COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: It's  
5 consistent with his proposal to transfer 3,500 ACS  
6 low income children to the Department of Education  
7 to discontinue kindergarten at ACS centers all  
8 throughout the City of New York. It again  
9 reflects his indifference to low income people and  
10 to moderate income people, particularly at a time  
11 when there are no cost savings associated with  
12 this proposal and it appears that it will cost  
13 more than it is worth. It also indicates that in  
14 fact there is no plan for these children at 3:00.  
15 Most of these childcare centers are open from 9:00  
16 to 6:00. The Department of Education, as everyone  
17 knows, closes its doors at 3:00. There is no  
18 program at this point in time for children after  
19 3:00. So my question to the administration is  
20 what is the plan for these children after 3:00?  
21 What will be the safe passage to after school  
22 programs for low income children all throughout  
23 the City of New York? Why are we fixing that  
24 which is not broken and why do you continue to  
25 show such indifference to low income and moderate

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2 income people in the City of New York? I would  
3 urge the administration to reconsider and  
4 discontinue this practice of again closing down  
5 desperately needed childcare centers which are  
6 economic engines in low income communities. Thank  
7 you.

8                   BETSY GOTBAUM: Anybody else.  
9 Council Member Avella. Excuse me, I didn't see  
10 you.

11                   COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: That's all  
12 right. I want to bring my colleague's attention  
13 to Intro 942, Intro 943 and Reso 1848 which are  
14 basically a number of reforms regarding the City  
15 Council, making the position fulltime and trying to  
16 make the City Council more transparent and  
17 reducing the power of the Speaker and enabling  
18 committee chairs and individual Council Members to  
19 have more of a say in what happens in this body.  
20 I know these bills and reso will be controversial  
21 but I think we owe it to the people of this city  
22 to make this body more ethical and more  
23 transparent. When we leave it and some of us will  
24 be leaving for other offices, or leaving the  
25 Council in general in the next couple of years,

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2 why not make it a more ethical body, a more  
3 transparent body, and leave it better than what we  
4 found it. I hope you'll take a serious look at  
5 these reforms. I expect a big controversy on  
6 them. But I have to tell you I think if we do  
7 this, we leave our mark on the City Council,  
8 making it a better place than what we found. I  
9 hope you'll give it serious consideration.

10 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member  
11 Fidler.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I had not  
13 intended to speak and was actually with the rest  
14 of you please to see that we're actually going to  
15 have a meeting that was going to end by classroom  
16 dismissal time. But I cannot let the comment that  
17 Mr. Avella just made go unanswered on the record.  
18 I don't believe this is an unethical body and I  
19 object strenuously to the characterization that  
20 the business that we do here is done unethically.  
21 If Mr. Avella has something on his conscience he  
22 needs to clear, then he ought to clear it. But I  
23 have no problem with the job I do here. I don't  
24 have a problem with the job my colleagues do here  
25 and I don't believe that the characterization of

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2 unethcal belongs in this chamber coming from his  
3 mouth. I'm a little tired of the high and mighty  
4 holier than thou attitude because quite frankly  
5 I'm proud of the job that most of us do here.

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BETSY GOTBAUM: Anybody else?

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Comments, questions? The Council meeting of March

8

11th is over.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 18, 2009