

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED COUNCIL MEETING

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October 28, 2009
Start: 1:43 pm
Recess: 3:08 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Majority Leader

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

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

Robert Nolan

James P. Molinaro
Staten Island Borough President

Mercedes Qualls

Adele Armstrong

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we are going to start our first of three ceremonials and the first one is going to be--shh, going to be conducted by Council Member Vacca and it goes to an individual who I believe has served our city and the Bronx Borough President's office, so I'd ask everyone to come up, but certainly the Bronx members, for over 30 years, is that right, Jimmy? So why don't--

[Off mic]

SPEAKER QUINN: If Robert Nolan would come on up for the ceremonial. Where's Mr. Nolan? Oh there--hey, how you doing?

ROBERT NOLAN: It's good to see you, again.

SPEAKER QUINN: Good to see you.

ROBERT NOLAN: Thank you so much.

SPEAKER QUINN: I had no idea you'd been at the office so long.

ROBERT NOLAN: Yes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Well let me give the mic to Jimmy and give you the Proc and here we go.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,

1
2 thank you, Madam Speaker. And it's my honor today
3 on behalf of the City Council Members from the
4 Bronx to all join in honoring a very special
5 public servant.

6 First, you should know that he
7 comes from a family of public servants. His
8 father was the Honorable Judge Benjamin Nolan, who
9 served our borough for years with distinction and
10 his wife is also a long-time employee at Community
11 Board 11, which takes in my district. So we have
12 a long line of public servants in the Nolan
13 family, but today I'm honoring Bob Nolan.

14 Bob Nolan has really become an
15 institution in the Bronx. His knowledge of
16 government, him serving the borough as he did for
17 more than 30 years in the Bronx Borough
18 President's office in both the intergovernmental
19 area, in the economic development area, and later
20 on and most recently as Budget Director for the
21 Borough President's office really made a mark in
22 our borough. He was the go-to person for
23 countless Community Boards and civic associations
24 over the course of many, many years. A person,
25 not only with the knowledge of how to cut through

1
2 the tape of city bureaucracy, but also someone who
3 is very committed to making sure that our borough
4 worked.

5 Bob Nolan worked hard, worked
6 sincerely, and now I know, even in retirement, he
7 will continue to work for the residents of our
8 borough, lending us his knowledge and expertise,
9 as well as his dedication.

10 So, Bob, on behalf of the borough
11 delegation to the New York City Council, it's my
12 honor to call you a friend and a constituent, but
13 it's also our honor today to honor you upon your
14 retirement, to wish you the best of health, and to
15 ask that you continue to help us. Thank you very
16 much.

17 ROBERT NOLAN: Thank you.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: And just before I
19 ask the Clerk to read the Proclamation, I just
20 want to add one thing to Council Member Vacca's
21 list of service that you've rendered. You've been
22 a tremendous supporter and active member and
23 tremendous public service to the Irish-American
24 community in New York City, many of whom call the
25 Bronx their home, but you're a leading New Yorker

1
2 in that area, so I want to thank you for that as
3 well.

4 And call on our Clerk to please
5 read the Proclamation.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
7 New York Proclamation.

8 WHEREAS, the Council of the City of
9 New York is proud to celebrate the career and
10 retirement of Robert F. Nolan, for his
11 distinguished service to the Borough of the Bronx,
12 and to his community.

13 Mr. Nolan joined the Office of the
14 Bronx Borough President in 1979 and served under
15 three consecutive borough presidents until his
16 retirement on November 14th, 2008; and

17 WHEREAS, as Director of Budget for
18 nearly 20 years, Mr. Nolan has left an indelible
19 mark on his home borough by recommending vital
20 capital improvements and supporting enrichment
21 programs for seniors and youth. Early in his
22 tenure, Mr. Nolan played a key role in creating
23 the Bronx Overall Economic Development
24 Corporation, which continues to lead the
25 redevelopment of the borough; and

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2 WHEREAS, Mr. Nolan, a lifelong
3 resident of the Bronx, was educated at local
4 parochial schools and has been active in the
5 community and political organizations since 1973.
6 He has been honored by countless civic
7 organizations, including being named Grand Marshal
8 of the Throgs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade on
9 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, the son of a noted
11 attorney and jurist, Judge Benjamin F. Nolan, and
12 Agnes Win Nolan, Bob Nolan created his own loving
13 and active family with his wife Susan Gannascoli
14 and their two adult children, Christopher and
15 Vivian.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that
17 the Council of the City of New York is proud to
18 honor Robert F. Nolan for his outstanding
19 contributions to the Bronx and to all of New York
20 City.

21 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
22 entire Council; James Vacca, Council Member 13th
23 District, the Bronx; and all the Members of the
24 Bronx delegation.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

1
2 ROBERT NOLAN: Thank you very much,
3 Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Rivera, the
4 Bronx delegation, all the Council Members who are
5 here, especially my friend of several decades,
6 Jimmy Vacca.

7 I've enjoyed my 30 years working
8 for the Bronx Borough President in a number of
9 different capacities, as was mentioned, but
10 primarily as Budget Director for the past 15
11 years.

12 When I sat over in that corner
13 there, just behind the press and just in front of
14 the Mayor's office and watched the Council fight
15 for good legislation, battling it on a regular
16 basis through several mayoralities, and of course,
17 I was here always during May and June when you
18 were on call on a regular basis and that meant we
19 were hopping down on the subway to make sure that
20 our Bronx interests were taken care of. And I
21 want to thank the Bronx delegation for listening
22 to our messages.

23 And especially I want to make note
24 of the fact that, among your Finance Committee
25 staff people, and I worked very closely on the

1
2 capital budget with the Finance Committee Capital
3 Unit, is a very dear friend of mine who you
4 acknowledge every year when you adopt a budget,
5 every one of you stand up and you talk about the
6 job that he does. And I want you to know that
7 we've worked together probably on 50 or 60
8 projects that were partnered with the Borough
9 President's money and the Council money so that
10 both offices save capital money. And that's my
11 friend who's kissing that woman back there, the
12 Council Member, my friend Jeff Rodus. And I want
13 to just want to mention that Jeff is probably one
14 of the finest persons who's ever worked for the
15 City of New York, he's done really a great job.

16 I want to bring up my wife Susan
17 who's here who spent 25 years working for
18 Community Board 11, and she's here primarily to
19 find out if you're going to cut Community Boards
20 this year, but I've told her that the Council
21 saved the Boards last June and it's in the hands
22 of the Mayor, and we'll see.

23 My brother James who is here who
24 works for HPD. Jimmy has 26 years working for
25 Housing Preservation and Development.

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2 And our son Chris Nolan, who is an
3 eighth year associate of Holland & Knight, the law
4 firm just down the block, and if I don't get him
5 out of here, he's going to bill us and nobody can
6 afford to really pay for that.

7 But once again, thank you very much
8 for this honor that you've bestowed upon me. I
9 wish all of you well, you've got your hands and
10 your job, a great job in front of you this year,
11 especially with this very difficult budget, but I
12 know in the end that you'll do the best for your
13 districts and for the entire city. Thank you very
14 much.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations,
16 Bob. Thank you very much, best of luck, there you
17 go, congratulations.

18 [Off mic]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
20 much. All right, congratulations.

21 And today I think three ceremonies
22 all have in common they're people who in different
23 ways are public servants and serving the city. So
24 let me next ask if the members and anyone else who
25 would like to of the Staten Island delegation and

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2 our Staten Island Borough President, who's
3 visiting with us today, and, Fred, come on up, and
4 Julie. Fred, I don't want to mispronounce your
5 last name, it's--

6 [Off mic]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Ariemma, okay.

8 Come on up.

9 [Off mic]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Okay. Well we got
11 Vinnie and Jimmy--where's Vinnie?

12 [Off mic]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, okay. Well,
14 Fred, we've never met, but I have seen your work
15 and your commitment to Staten Island, and I've
16 seen it almost every time I'm on Staten Island,
17 but let me explain to you what Fred has done. If
18 we can get a little quiet.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: For anyone who's
21 been to Staten Island, but some of you may not
22 know this, the Staten Island Borough President on
23 September 11th went down to where the ferries, he
24 thought would be coming in bringing the wounded to
25 help triage, but as we all know, no wounded came

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2 in, and he stood there and watched the Towers fall
3 and made a promise to himself and to Staten Island
4 that if he was elected--if we could get some
5 quiet, I'm sorry, Council Members--he would make
6 sure there was a memorial, a monument to those
7 Staten Islanders who were lost at the spot where
8 he was standing. And 10% of all of the people who
9 died on September 11th were from Staten Island.
10 They were from many, many countries, but think of
11 that, 10% from our smallest borough.

12 It's a beautiful monument, if you
13 haven't seen it, memorial, you should go see it,
14 but it is made even more special by the plantings
15 and the flowers that are there year-round.

16 And one of the last times I was
17 there, the Borough President made a point of
18 telling me that all of the flowers, all the
19 gardening, all of the upkeep is donated. Fred is
20 the person who donates it, who does the planting,
21 does the work, buys the flowers. As I understand
22 it, it's \$30,000 or more of time and labor, 10,000
23 flowers over a period of 15 hours in the rain one
24 time for children who lost their fathers in the
25 terror attack. And, you know, this is one of

1
2 those things, there's a lot of other New Yorkers
3 like Fred too, who do great things and we never
4 take the time to thank them.

5 And that memorial is such an
6 important place to the families who've lost loved
7 ones, they can go there, it's even more beautiful
8 'cause of your generosity. I'm touched every time
9 I go there, so I really just wanted to take a
10 moment to thank you for doing something no one
11 asked you to do, for doing something you don't ask
12 for any credit for.

13 So just really to say thank you so
14 much and to hope you know how much myself and all
15 of my colleagues, and I think everyone on the
16 borough of Staten Island appreciates it. So thank
17 you very, very much, Fred.

18 Let me give the mic to our Minority
19 Leader, Jimmy Oddo, and then to our great Borough
20 President, and then anyone else from the
21 delegation.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
23 Madam Speaker. There are two amazing memorials to
24 9/11 on Staten Island, you referenced the
25 Postcards Memorial.

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2 There's another one that's even
3 more organic than that, it was actually a traffic
4 triangle that a lady by the name of Wendy
5 Pellegrino put a candle and then a flag and it has
6 evolved into one of the most amazing memorials for
7 any event and that's Angels' Circle. And Fred
8 donates all of the flowers at that location as
9 well and, in some ways, it eclipses all of the
10 work he does at Postcards. It's truly a place of
11 comfort for relatives of those lost on 9/11 and
12 for Staten Islanders who just want to go to a
13 place and remember that day and remember people
14 they knew.

15 He's just a good, good human being
16 who is a wonderful Staten Islander, wonderful New
17 Yorker and we're just proud to know him and we
18 thank him.

19 [Off mic]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: I didn't even know
21 that part too, wow.

22 PRESIDENT MOLINARO: As the Speaker
23 has said, I was standing at that location when the
24 Twin Towers collapsed and I made a commitment to
25 myself that I would build something there if I was

1
2 fortunate enough to be elected. Well I was
3 fortunate enough to get elected and we built this
4 beautiful, beautiful memorial and it's something
5 you can't possibly imagine. It's almost four
6 stories high and it's got the profile of 268
7 individuals, men and women, who lost their lives
8 that day. It's a perfect profile of them in
9 marble, and you could actually go there and
10 distinguish the individual without reading the
11 name.

12 And to the left of it, to the right
13 of it, to the front, there's beautiful plantings
14 all year-round from the holidays, from the
15 holidays to different occasions, and Fred is the
16 man that's responsible for that.

17 And the first time I asked him to
18 do it for me, I said send me a bill and he didn't
19 send me a bill, so we called him, he says no, and
20 I says, well, Freddy, if I don't pay you, I says
21 you can't do it, he said, well then, I won't do
22 it, he says if I can't do it without getting paid,
23 he says I won't do it. So that's the way it's
24 been for years and years.

25 And to give you an idea what kind

1
2 of an attraction it is, last 9/11, we all recall
3 it was a dreadful day, much worse than today and
4 raining, and you couldn't barely stand, even with
5 an umbrella, and there was hundreds and hundreds
6 and hundreds of people there that night for the
7 memorial services.

8 So it's a great, great tribute that
9 this man takes of his time and his money to do
10 that, year after year, this is what makes Staten
11 Island and this is what makes New York City what
12 it is. Thank you, Fred.

13 [Off mic]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: If the Clerk could
15 read the Proclamation, please.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
17 New York Proclamation.

18 WHEREAS, the Council of the City of
19 New York is proud to honor Fred Ariemma for his
20 extraordinary service and contributions to the
21 community; and

22 WHEREAS, Fred Ariemma is the widely
23 respected owner of Ariemma's Garden Center in
24 Dongan Hills, Staten Island and the caretaker of
25 Angels' Circle and the Postcards Memorials.

1
2 Many Staten Islanders call Fred by
3 the nickname the Earth Angel because, with great
4 modesty and no thought of personal reward, he
5 helped Wendy Pellegrino transform a prominent
6 traffic median into Angels' Circle, a wonderful
7 memorial garden dedicated to those who perished on
8 September 11, 2001. To enhance the site, he not
9 only donated plants, hedges, trees, and a
10 waterfall, but also the time and energy to tend
11 them; and

12 WHEREAS, even after the Angels'
13 Circle site took root, Fred donated two enormous
14 Angel figures for a Christmas display. On the
15 first Father's Day after 9/11, he worked with his
16 crew in the rain for 15 hours and planted 10,000
17 flowers because he knew children would be visiting
18 Angels' Circle for solace and reflection; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2004, the September
20 11th memorial called Postcards, designed by
21 Masayuki Sono, has been a jewel of the St. George
22 waterfront offering visitors comfort and hope.

23 Fred declined compensation for
24 maintaining the plants and flowers at the
25 Postcards Memorial and instead donates \$30,000 a

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year worth of landscaping and labor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that the Council of the City of New York most gratefully honors Fred Ariemma for his outstanding service to the Staten Island community and all of New York City.

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council; James S. Oddo, Minority Leader, 50th District, Staten Island; Kenneth C. Mitchell, Council Member, 49th District, Staten Island; Vincent Ignizio, Council Member, 51st District, Staten Island.

SPEAKER QUINN: Now, Fred, I was told you don't want to say anything--well that speaks volumes. And I just really--you've done more for the Staten Island than I even knew, so I just really want to, from the bottom of my heart, say thank you. You clearly are, as Jimmy said, just a good, good person and we are lucky that you are a New Yorker. So thank you very much.

MALE VOICE: Thank you guys.

[Pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Our last ceremonial is going to be led by Council Member Leroy Comrie,

1
2 continuing the theme today of service, Leroy is
3 going to salute two retired principals, correct?
4 Thank you very much. And if those individuals
5 want to make their way up, that would be great.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Good
7 afternoon, my colleagues and everyone else. I'm
8 honored today to have two young ladies that have
9 served in the Department of Education, Board of
10 Education, they both have 30 plus years of
11 service. One is recently retired as the principal
12 of Campus Magnet High School in Cambria Heights,
13 Queens, and the other just retired as the
14 principal from the Lorraine Hansberry School in
15 St. Albans, Queens. We have Mercedes Qualls and
16 Adele Armstrong and these are two young ladies,
17 you know the truest service is to give and to
18 teach others and to make sure that other children
19 have an opportunity to learn, and these two young
20 ladies who are still vibrant and dynamic, but have
21 retired because they're tired of putting up with
22 all of the changes that--I'm not supposed to go
23 there.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Stay positive.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yeah, let's

1
2 stay positive. But I'm just so upset that we're
3 losing two brilliant young ladies that have done
4 so much to reform their schools, both of them left
5 the schools in a much better standing than they
6 had when they arrived. They're both A schools,
7 they're both teaching children and taking children
8 to another level of development. And also they
9 both have mentored so many other people to become
10 assistant principals and principals as well, that
11 we'd have to make sure that whatever they do in
12 their future, that they continue to mentor and
13 guide others because they have truly been a
14 blessing to my district, to so many children in my
15 community that I wanted to honor them by having
16 them come here today at City Hall.

17 You know, when you start a school
18 year, you run around to the schools and you find
19 out that your senior principals have left and it's
20 not a good thing, so I have to make sure that I
21 support the schools and their new principals so
22 that we can continue to have a continuity of
23 education.

24 But Mercedes Qualls and Adele
25 Armstrong, who I've practically grown up with and

1
2 through my opportunities in the community, but two
3 jewels of the community that I wanted to have come
4 to the Council today so that we could all respect
5 you for your service. And thank you very much for
6 being here.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Ask the Clerk to
8 read--

9 [Off mic]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And if we
11 can have the Clerk read the Proclamation.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
13 New York Proclamation.

14 WHEREAS, educators deserve our
15 deepest gratitude for their sacrifice, wisdom, and
16 selfless devotion to their students. Mercedes
17 Raphaela Qualls and Adele Armstrong are such
18 individuals. Together, they provided or both
19 provided over 30 years of outstanding service to
20 New York City public schools; and

21 WHEREAS, Mercedes Qualls, the
22 recently retired principal of the Humanity and
23 Arts High School, Cambria Heights, has
24 demonstrated that a highly motivated administrator
25 working together with an inspired staff can have a

1
2 tremendous impact on the lives of their students;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Principal Qualls
5 cultivated a true sense of purpose and reliance in
6 her students by having them focus on their future.
7 As a result, graduation rates under her tenure
8 rose from 20% to 97%;

9 FEMALE VOICE: Oh my gosh.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: --and WHEREAS, by
11 encouraging students to work--

12 [Applause]

13 COUNCIL CLERK: --from one strength
14 to the next and utilizing such mentors as the
15 United Black Men of Queens to increase male
16 student achievements at Humanities and Arts,
17 Principal Qualls has offered every students an
18 opportunity to succeed; and

19 WHEREAS, Adele Armstrong began her
20 professional career with the New York City
21 Department of Education in 1971 as an elementary
22 school teacher at P.S. 46 in Community School
23 District 29, Queens. There she honed her skills
24 as a teacher, trainer, and curriculum specialist,
25 and later as assistant principal of P.S. 116,

1
2 William C. Hughley School; and

3 WHEREAS, in her most recent
4 position as Principal of Queens Public School 118
5 in Hollis, she proved herself to be a dynamic
6 leader who encouraged staff, parents, and students
7 to work together to embrace the challenge and to
8 succeed; and

9 WHEREAS, Principal Armstrong's
10 innovative programs, visionary leadership, strong
11 community involvement, and initiatives, addressed
12 the academic and social needs of her students. As
13 a result, the Lorraine Hansberry School has become
14 a true School of Excellence.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that
16 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors
17 Mercedes Raphaela Qualls and Adele Armstrong for
18 their outstanding contributions to educational
19 excellence in the New York City public schools.

20 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
21 entire Council; Leroy Comrie, Deputy Majority
22 Leader, Council Member, 27th District, Queens.

23 MERCEDES QUALLS: I'd like to say
24 something.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: I'll hold that for

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you.

MERCEDES QUALLS: Thank you so much. First of all I want to thank all of you for giving me--

[Off mic]

MERCEDES QUALLS: --the opportunity to receive this honor, and I want to make a special thank you to Leroy Comrie because he is one of the strongest supporters in our community of our schools in southeast and Queens.

And, of course, it's easy to take all of the credit, but certainly when you have the support of the community, of Leroy Comrie, of the entire faculty, the students, and their parents, moving from 27 to over 90% isn't such an impossible task. I am a product of the public schools, as is my son William Qualls, who is a math teacher, as is my brother Detective Ramos, who is here with his wife Princess, and I am a firm believer in public education for our children. It gives all of our children choices. Again, I thank you for this honor.

ADELE ARMSTRONG: I would like to say a very special thank you also to Councilman

1
2 Comrie. He has been a friend, not only to 118,
3 but for 116.

4 It is very easy to do what I have
5 done when you have the kind of support that I have
6 had. I have been accomplished, not only because
7 of my efforts, but because of the efforts of so
8 many: my staff, my family, the community, the
9 parents, it has been a blessing.

10 This has not been a job for me, but
11 a mission. This was my mission to make a
12 difference for all of the students, and believe
13 me, when you take your position in that way, it
14 transforms you, it transforms you in a way that
15 you cannot believe. I am hopeful that we will
16 have administrators who can believe that this is a
17 mission for them and not a job.

18 Thank you, thank you very much.
19 And to my family and friends who have come out to
20 support me, thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you both very
22 much for your tremendous service and your
23 incredible accomplishments, thank you.

24 And that concludes today's
25 ceremonials, thank you.

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[Pause]

[Off mic]

COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please. Can you please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. All non-Council employees and lobbyists, please leave the main floor of the chambers, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Everyone please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise, all rise.

VOICES: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avella.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: [No response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

[Off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

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STATED COUNCIL MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: [No response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No

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response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No response]

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Well, Ms.
President, ladies and gentlemen, please rise for
the invocation that's being delivered by Bishop
Fernando Rodriguez, Pastor of the One Way to
Heaven Church.

PASTOR RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon
everyone. Let me just read a chapter from the
manual from my manual, which is the Bible, which I
teach many people that the Bible is basic
instructions before leaving Earth and in Psalms 1
it says: Blessed are those who walk, not in the
council of the wicked or stand in the way of
sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But they

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2 delight in the law of the Lord, and on his law
3 they meditate day and night. They are like a tree
4 planted by streams of waters, which yield its
5 fruits in season and whose leaves does not wither.
6 Wherever they may prosper. Not so the wicked.
7 They are like chaffs that the wind blow away.
8 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
9 judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the
10 righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of
11 the righteous, but the way of the wicked will
12 perish.

13 I just want to tell you, as I walk
14 down the neighborhoods in the City of New York, I
15 see that people are going through hard times in
16 these days, and it's been very difficult for many
17 families losing their homes, losing their jobs,
18 and we see that all those lines where they give
19 soup kitchens are getting bigger and bigger.

20 I just want to pray today that God
21 may give you the wisdom, the knowledge, and the
22 ability to legislate and do what you have to do,
23 and the work that you have to do, and that might
24 God grant you the wisdom and the knowledge to help
25 these people in our communities. Let us pray.

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2 Father God, Creator of heaven and
3 earth, our journey is not complete if you are not
4 among us. Thank you for walking, waking us up
5 this morning and bringing us on our way.

6 I ask you, dear Lord, that you may
7 bless each and every one of us that are here
8 today. Bless the City Council, bless the
9 personnel, and leaders in this chamber. Give them
10 the wisdom and the knowledge to govern this great
11 city.

12 And, Lord, in these difficult times
13 that we are living in, grant us the favor to help
14 our communities that are hurting so much.

15 Lord, bless us our city, bless our
16 elected officials. We pray this in your name.
17 Amen.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council
19 Member Arroyo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you,
21 Majority Leader. First, before I motion, I want
22 to thank Bishop Rodriguez for his leadership in
23 our community, for the work of One Way to Heaven
24 Church, and his leadership with the Latin-American
25 Chaplain Association, and the work that that

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2 incredible organization does to prepare our city
3 to respond when we need them most. Thank you very
4 much. And I motion to spread the invocation full
5 upon the record.

6 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Adoption
7 of the Minutes.

8 FEMALE VOICE: Motion that the
9 Minutes of the Stated meeting of September 17th,
10 2009 be adopted as printed.

11 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Messages
12 and Papers from the Mayor.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:
15 Communications from City, County and Borough
16 Offices.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: M1629 through M1649
18 Base Station License applications.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Petitions
21 and Communications.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Land Use
24 Call-Ups.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: M1650 through 1654.

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[Pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: These items should be coupled on the Land Use Call-Up vote and if we could please have a roll call on the Land Use Call-Ups.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avella.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: [No response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.
COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No
COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.
COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No
COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No
COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [No
COUNCIL CLERK: Gerson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.
COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: James.
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [No
response].
COUNCIL CLERK: Katz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [No
response].
COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.
COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.
Aye.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Yes.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Present and
aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye
on all Land Use Call-Ups, ask unanimous consent to
vote on all coupled General Orders.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye
on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Present.
Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Today's Land Use Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative.

Communications from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. First let me note Intro 1070-A that we're voting on today. It's a piece of legislation that deals with the unfortunate phenomenon of distress property consultants in the city of New York. Let me thank Alix Pustilnik, Lacy Clarke, and Damien Butvick, all who worked very long and hard on this legislation. I want to thank Council Member Leroy Comrie, who--

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

SPEAKER QUINN: --Chairs Consumer Affairs and they moved on this legislation very quickly-- [clears throat] excuse me--also Council Member James Sanders who is the sponsor of this bill. I want you to take note that both the Chair and the sponsor come from southeast Queens, which is the part of the city that, unfortunately, has

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2 been hardest hit by our foreclosure crisis, though
3 it is a problem in all our boroughs.

4 We all know the impact the
5 foreclosure crisis has had on the country and
6 particularly our city. Many of us see in
7 neighborhoods, in all boroughs, signs out there
8 that said, Need Mortgage Relief, Call and there's
9 a phone number. Well, what many New Yorkers who
10 are in desperation don't know is that when they
11 call that number, on the end of the phone is
12 somebody who is not going to help them. Somebody
13 who is often going to take their money, walk away,
14 and never do anything for them.

15 Now if we could make this practice
16 illegal in the city of New York, I would urge us
17 to do it, we don't have that authority. The state
18 could do it on the state level and they are
19 considering it. The federal government could do
20 it on the federal level, and I would urge both the
21 state and the federal government to take that
22 action.

23 Now, last year the state passed
24 legislation requiring that distressed property
25 consultants disclose upfront that they are not

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2 allowed to take money and don't take money before
3 they do any work, that they also must engage in a
4 written contract with their clients.

5 We're passing a bill today that
6 requires that both of those requirements under the
7 state law be disclosed on all advertisements by
8 distressed property consultants. We're also
9 making the fine for violating the law either 2,500
10 or \$5,000. The Department of Consumer Affairs
11 will implement this law, but we are also going to
12 work in coordination with Attorney General Cuomo.
13 He is bringing many legal actions against these
14 unscrupulous consultants, and violation of this
15 law is another tool he can use to try to crack
16 down on this bad behavior.

17 I wish we could put them out
18 business, we can't, but we're doing what we can to
19 try to help empower New Yorkers, let them know
20 what their rights are, and put an end to this
21 unscrupulous practice.

22 And the most important thing we
23 should tell our constituents is if they are in
24 foreclosure distress, the only number they should
25 call is 311, that will get them in touch with the

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2 Center for NYC Neighborhoods, which this Council,
3 in particular Lew Fidler, led to the creation of
4 an organization that will put you in touch with
5 free counselors or free lawyers who can help you.

6 So, again, I want to thank everyone
7 who is part of 1070-A. Let me first call on the
8 Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, Leroy
9 Comrie, to speak on this legislation.

10 [Pause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
12 Speaker Quinn. I would urge everyone to pass this
13 bill. This is just one of our continued attempts
14 to make sure that people that are now being moved
15 into an opportunity to again be in further
16 trouble.

17 These are people that are leeches,
18 these are people that used to do the subprime
19 lending and the predatory lending, have now
20 morphed themselves into people that claim to be
21 counselors and they'll help you out of your home,
22 but 99 times out of a hundred, you wind up further
23 in debt, you wind up losing more money to these
24 unscrupulous people and they should be put--I wish
25 we could as a Council ban them altogether. And I

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2 hope that this will send a message to the state
3 and to the federal government that we need to ban
4 these people altogether from re-morphing
5 themselves into people that continually rip off
6 homeowners.

7 As a member of the Southeast Queens
8 district, the three districts between myself and
9 Council Member Sanders and Council Member White,
10 we have pretty much the highest amount of
11 predatory loans and predatory problems. We are
12 pushing to do whatever we can working with the
13 Speaker's office.

14 And I want to thank, before I go
15 any further, the legislative staff, my Consumer
16 Affairs staff, and everyone that was involved in
17 putting this legislation together. It's just
18 another step to ensure that we make sure that
19 homeowners understand that, even in crisis, you
20 need to understand that there is a free
21 alternative--call 311. Do not call anyone that is
22 going to try to charge you money before they
23 render a service. Do not call anyone that is
24 taking an upfront fee from you when you're in
25 danger of losing your home. There is another way,

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2 there's a free alternative way, do not use any of
3 these services. This is just to check, again, I
4 wish we could eradicate these people altogether
5 because they're ripping off homeowners.

6 Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
8 much, Chairperson Comrie, and, again, I want to
9 thank Council Member Sanders for his work on this
10 legislation.

11 Let me make note of Intro 874-A,
12 which is a piece of legislation coming out of
13 Housing and Buildings.

14 I want to thank Jeff Haberman,
15 Baaba Halm, and Ben Goodman for their work on this
16 legislation. I want to thank Council Member
17 Dickens for her leadership, she is the sponsor of
18 the bill, and Chairperson Dilan for moving this
19 legislation quickly through a very, very busy
20 committee.

21 874-A is a piece of legislation
22 that relates to methane and radon gas venting and
23 making sure then when that venting and piping is
24 needing to be installed or dealt with, that it is
25 only addressed by licensed plumbers in the city of

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2 New York. This is an area where we are updating
3 the plumbing code to deal with an omission that
4 wasn't in there when we passed the updated
5 plumbing code and to make sure we're keeping up to
6 date with other problems and issues that come up.

7 Obviously, how we deal with piping
8 and venting around methane and radon gases is a
9 very important thing, and we want to make sure
10 that the most highly qualified individuals, people
11 who are licensed to do this work are the ones who
12 are doing it.

13 So I want to thank the Chair and
14 the sponsor of this bill. Let me first call on
15 the Chair of the Committee, Council Member Dilan,
16 and then the sponsor of the bill, Council Member
17 Dickens.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Well I just
19 would like to just briefly thank Council Member
20 Inez Dickens for bringing the bill to the
21 Committee.

22 The bill is one of the few bills
23 that has the support of all the industries and the
24 Administration as well, and it was a pleasure to
25 work with her on the bill, and the plumbers union,

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2 because obviously these gases, if they're not
3 extracted right, can be a danger to the buildings
4 that they are released in and there are no
5 standards right now as to how to deal with that.
6 So I would like to thank Council Member Dickens
7 for coming up with this idea so that when a
8 building needs to extract these gases, and not all
9 buildings need to do so, that there is now
10 standards in place to allow for that to happen.

11 Thank you, Madam Speaker.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you again,
13 Chairperson Dilan. Council Member Dickens.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
15 Madam Speaker. This is so important because both
16 methane and radon are so extremely dangerous, and
17 in the case of radon, is almost completely
18 undetectable by anyone without the proper
19 equipment, and this legislation will put in place
20 the requirements for the installation of these
21 systems.

22 I join with my colleague Council
23 Member Dilan in thanking Speaker Quinn and, of
24 course, I want to extend my thanks to the
25 Chairperson of Housing and Buildings, Erik Dilan,

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2 for his help in shaping this legislation that is
3 so critical to all of us, Legislative Director Rob
4 Newman, as well as the Housing and Building staff:
5 Jeff Haberman, Baaba Halm, and Ben Goodman for
6 their work on this issue, as well as my staff,
7 Lynette Velasco and Matt Bits [phonetic] for their
8 diligent work in helping to move this legislation
9 along.

10 Thank you so much, Madam Speaker.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
12 much, Council Member Dickens.

13 We're also voting today on Intro
14 947-A, a piece of legislation that was sponsored
15 by Council Member Liz Crowley and shepherded
16 through the Transportation Committee by its Chair
17 John Liu. I want to thank Terzah Nasser, Phil
18 Hom, and Rachel Cordero for their work on this
19 bill.

20 947-A is a bill, unfortunately,
21 that was introduced in response to a number of
22 tragedies: one in Chinatown, one in Council Member
23 Crowley's district. This bill makes changes to
24 the law as it relates to leaving a idling car with
25 the keys in the ignition. Presently, you are

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2 allowed to leave a car idling with keys in the
3 ignition for three minutes in the city, and if you
4 violate that you get a whopping \$5 fine.

5 We have seen people actually get
6 into cars that are left with the keys in the
7 ignition and actually go out and commit terrible
8 tragedies as a result of stealing these cars. The
9 law will now say you are not allowed to leave an
10 idling car with the keys in the ignition for any
11 amount of time and significantly increase the
12 fine. We hope this will send a message that what
13 may seem like not such a big thing to do is
14 actually something that is dangerous.

15 So I want to thank Council Member
16 Liu and Council Member Crowley. Let me first call
17 on Chairperson Liu and then the bill's sponsor,
18 Liz Crowley.

19 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Well thank you
20 very much, Madam Speaker. I want to thank you for
21 your support of these bills and also thank, as you
22 did, the staff to the Committee. These are two
23 important bills that will make New Yorkers both
24 safer and also give them a more convenient time.

25 With regard to Council Member

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2 Crowley's bill, this is a commonsense measure that
3 really should have been enacted long ago and, as
4 you mentioned, a whopping \$5 fine is not any kind
5 of deterrent to bad behavior.

6 Council Member Stewart's bill will
7 allow people who ride commuter vans to better
8 understand what their rights are.

9 And so I urge passage of both of
10 these bills. And thank you very much, Madam
11 Speaker.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you,
13 Chairperson Liu. And let me call on the author of
14 the first piece of legislation, Council Member
15 Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker, for your help on this bill and also
18 Chairman John Liu and the Transportation
19 Committee.

20 Leaving your car running and
21 unattended may seem like a careless mistake, but
22 as we've seen in recent months, especially in
23 light of what happened in the district that I
24 represent in Middle Village where two young men
25 were tragically killed when somebody stole a car

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2 that was left running and unattended. We need to
3 make sure that New Yorkers are aware of how
4 dangerous and tragic leaving your car running and
5 unattended would be.

6 So I urge my colleagues to support
7 this piece of legislation. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
9 Transportation has been a busy committee. As the
10 Chair indicated, we're also passing 1023-A, piece
11 of legislation introduced by Council Member
12 Stewart.

13 I want to thank Terzah Nasser, Phil
14 Hom, and Rachel Cordero for their work on this as
15 well.

16 That piece of legislation continues
17 our efforts to make sure that New Yorkers who pay
18 for transportation are very aware of what their
19 rights are and that those Bill of Rights are
20 actually posted in the vehicles they're traveling
21 in. This piece of legislation will require
22 displaying a passenger's Bill of Rights in all
23 commuter vans. Commuter vans are a very important
24 form of transportation for individuals in our
25 city, particularly outside of the borough of

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Manhattan.

So I want to thank Chairperson Liu, who's already made mention of the bill, and call on the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Commuter vans of residents of my district in Brooklyn and I believe residents of all five boroughs, vans of the transportation needs of the many people who rely on them to get back and forth from work place, school, visiting friends and family and the [off mic] social interaction and obligations that make this city run and hum.

Today, we seek to amend the City Code so as to ensure that these commuter vans adhere to the same standards of comfort, safety, and service that the taxis and livery cabs are already held to under the Code. Intro number 1023 provides, among other things, that vans be in good condition, that they have properly licensed drivers who are courteous, obey the traffic laws, and are knowledgeable about their routes. Under this amendment, commuter vans must now have

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2 working seat belts, drivers must refrain from cell
3 phone use while driving, and passengers may now
4 insist on good and courteous service, and may
5 decline to tip if it is not forthcoming. Drivers
6 must provide air conditioning or heat upon request
7 and the driver's license information must be
8 displayed prominently at all times. Henceforth,
9 trips will be free of smoke and unwanted music or
10 other radio playing.

11 This amendment will go a long way
12 to what's making the daily commute a safer and
13 more pleasant experience for thousands of city
14 residents who deserve, expect, and finally will be
15 getting safe, reliable transportation. It is our
16 hope that more residents will be encouraged to use
17 this improved transportation to take full
18 advantage of all the wonderful offerings and
19 opportunities of our great city, and that they
20 will do so in greater comfort, empowered by the
21 right to demand a safe, efficient, and reliable
22 ride.

23 Thanks to my fellow bill sponsors
24 and thanks to the fellow Council Members for
25 voting in support of improved transportation for

1
2 all of the New York City residents. Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much, Council Member Stewart. We're also voting
6 on an important rezoning of Carroll Gardens,
7 Brooklyn, as well as a Land Use action in
8 Manhattan that will allow the Museum of Modern Art
9 to expand, as well as bring a new iconic piece of
10 architecture to the city skyline.

11 Let me first call on the chair of
12 the Land Use Committee, Council Member Katz, and
13 then Council Member de Blasio to speak about the
14 Carroll Gardens rezoning. Melinda?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you
16 very much, Madam Speaker. We're voting on two
17 very important rezonings today, actually one is a
18 rezoning, the other is applications for special
19 permits.

20 I will call upon Council Member de
21 Blasio to talk in more detail, but I'm very happy
22 about Carroll Gardens, I think it's a good
23 addition that the community and the Council Member
24 have been fighting for, for many years in order to
25 make that area more contextual for the district

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2 that it's in. And I know that there is a large
3 amount of support in the area and that the Council
4 Member has been working very hard on it, and it's
5 one of the additions that the Land Use Committee
6 is proud to have supported.

7 The other one, though, however, is
8 special applications for the Museum of Modern Art
9 in Manhattan, and I really want to congratulate
10 everyone that worked so diligently to make that
11 project a success.

12 You know, we are the city of New
13 York and the world has come to expect excellence
14 from our cultural institutions, and I think that
15 this application by the Museum of Modern Art and
16 Hines will add to the excellence that New York
17 City is known for throughout the world. This will
18 allow the Museum of Modern Art to expand their
19 gallery about 50,000 square feet for a gallery
20 exhibition; it will provide for a hotel that's
21 under 100,000 square feet; it will allow for about
22 480,000 square feet of residential area and
23 lowering the height from 1,250 to 1,050, it will
24 still add to the skyline of the City of New York
25 by an architect that is world renowned, named Jean

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Nouvel.

So I am proud of this application, it is one of those things that you're going to be walking down the street in 10 years and looking at the skyline and know that you had a small part of it.

I would like to note for the record that there are some modifications from the Council that went to the City Planning Commission, which was voted to be within scope, which was a modification to limit the hotel to less than 100,000 square feet, to eliminate the loading dock and the curb cut, to modify to enliven the 54th Street's sculpture garden wall, basically to take care of that and make the gates more open, and also to modify and maintain the property in good order until the project can be commenced.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, I thank the staff for all the work that they did on this application and I know that it would be a great addition to the cultural institutions of the city of New York. Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Chairperson Katz. Let me call on Council

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Member de Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to thank, first of all, you and your staff, Madam Speaker, because this has been a long time coming getting this downzoning for Carroll Gardens. This is a historic neighborhood that has been threatened by overdevelopment throughout this decade and before. And many times in the last few years, the residents of the neighborhood organized together to try and get this done, and they really needed the support of the City Council because there was often hesitation at the City Planning Commission.

And so I want to thank you, I want to thank your staff, Chair Katz, Chair Avella, everyone who helped make this possible because I think it was clear to the residents of the neighborhood that the City Council very much had their interest in mind, it was going to stay focused on this agenda until we got this rezoning done. Ultimately, I think City Planning did play a very constructive role, listened to the concerns of the neighborhood. I want to thank them and Borough President Markowitz, Community Board 6,

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2 and many community organizations that
3 participated.

4 The bottom line here is that we had
5 a neighborhood that was threatened that now is
6 protected. It's a tremendous part of our city and
7 a very special part of our city, it will now be
8 protected permanently. And this is an example of
9 our city government appropriately responding to
10 where our economy has taken us and making sure
11 we're preserving the quality of life in our
12 neighborhoods. Thank you very much.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, Council Member de Blasio. And that
15 concludes Communications from the Speaker.

16 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Discussion
17 of General Orders. Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
19 very much, Mr. Chair. I am encouraging my
20 colleagues, the MoMA project, while we mentioned
21 square footage, we mentioned the increasing of the
22 space for MoMA, what was not mentioned that this
23 building will be almost 60, 70, 80 stories high,
24 it's matching almost the Chrysler Building. What
25 was not mentioned is that this is a Michael

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2 Bloomberg-type project because there is no
3 affordable rentals, it's all luxury, it's 100%
4 market, 150 market units above a hotel that is
5 totally a luxurious hotel, this is certainly not
6 for any people of color in this city unless they
7 are in a certain class.

8 We should not promote projects that
9 are exclusive for the elite class in this city,
10 that's the problem in this city, that's the
11 problem with the Bloomberg Administration, and
12 this City Council should check that.

13 How could we sit here and vote on
14 something? I voted on it in the Land Use
15 Committee, not having all of this information, so
16 I'm correcting my vote today and I want to
17 encourage all of us to do the same thing. If we
18 didn't know this information, I don't see how we,
19 one of the most progressive City Councils in the
20 history of the City Council, can support a project
21 that's trying to go through the sky and is for the
22 upper class in this city. One hundred and fifty
23 units, 100% market and over 100 hotel rooms that
24 none of us in our neighborhoods, in most of our
25 neighborhoods will be afforded a chance to even go

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into.

This is not the kind of development we need in this city and this Council should be the check and balance to the Mayor, not going along to get along and have such an elitist project for those who are in a certain class. I urge you to vote no.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Seeing no others, we're going to move on to Reports of Special Committees.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Reports of Standing Committees.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 1070-A, distressed property consultants.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 2240, organization funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1243 and Reso

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2241.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 874-A, methane and radon gas venting.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LU 1225 and Reso 2242 through LU 1241 and Reso 2247.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1242 and Reso 2248 through Preconsidered LU 1249 and Reso 2253, various applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation, Intro 947-A, unattended vehicles.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 1023-A,

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passengers' bill of rights.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled
on General Orders.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: General
Order Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 1219 and Reso
2254 and LU 1220 and Reso 2255.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution
appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Acting
Public Advocate, I wish the opportunity to vote on
all Land Use Call-Ups also?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So

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ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote yes on those Call-Ups, and I vote yes on all items on the General Order Calendar. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL CLERK: Avella.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on all items, except I vote no on the MoMA applications, Land Use number 1219 and Reso 2254, and Land Use number 1220 and Reso 2255, on those two applications, I vote no.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all items, except Land Use 1219 and Reso 2254 and 1220 and Reso 2255, the MoMA application, I vote no.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye on all, I just want to make one comment about LU 1243, Reso 2241, which is a wonderful project whereby TIL residents are going to become co-op under Article 11, HDFC. And I say all this is positive, I certainly have several HDFCs in our

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2 neighborhood, but I want to emphasize that HPD has
3 got to do a lot more monitoring of these buildings
4 that are becoming HDFC so that they remain
5 affordable in a city that is desperate for
6 affordable units. With that, I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on--

9 [Pause]

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
12 all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: De Blasio.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: I vote
15 aye on all, and I also vote aye on all Land Use
16 Call-Ups, thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
19 ordered.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I'd like to
23 vote aye on all, except for Intro 947-A, which I
24 vote no.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority

Leader, may I be excused to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.

First, I'm voting for the commuter van bill of rights, but I just want to say that I would appreciate it if the city would do better job of policing those vans that are operating illegally and, most particularly, dangerously without insurance.

Regarding Intro 1070-A, I want to also extend my thanks to the Speaker and staff, Council Member Sanders and, in particular, to my identical twin brother Leroy Comrie.

I represent Canarsie, these foreclosure consultants are predators. I think this legislation once again shows the Council is in the cutting edge on the foreclosure crisis in

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this city.

And I would just take this opportunity to point out that people ought to call 311 and connect with the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, which this Council helped to create, which provides these exact services for free. If you're in danger of losing your house, you don't have money to throw away, and you shouldn't be calling someone who's got a profit motive, call the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, they are the people who are going to do this because they believe in it and they're skilled in it.

So I would say that and I just want to also congratulate Councilwoman Crowley on her first bill. And with that, I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you, I vote no on Land Use 1219 and Reso 2254, and no on Land Use 1220 and Reso 2255, aye on the rest.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye
3 on all and ask permission to vote aye on all Land
4 Use items?

5 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
6 ordered.

7 [Pause]

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
9 ordered.

10 [Pause]

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Gerson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Gioia.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on
17 all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No
22 response].

23 COUNCIL CLERK: James.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I'd like to
25 vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups, and yes on the

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rest of the agenda, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
ordered.

COUNCIL CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I'd like
permission to vote aye on the Land Use Call-Ups,
vote aye on the General Order Calendar, and
congratulate Councilwoman Crowley on her first
piece of legislation.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
ordered.

COUNCIL CLERK: Liu.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

MALE VOICE: Aye on all.

FEMALE VOICE: Aye.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all,
sorry.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

[Off mic]

FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No
response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye [off
mic].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I request
permission to vote on Land Use Call-Ups.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you
for that. I vote aye on all the Land Use Call-
Ups, and aye on the General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote yes on
all, and like to thank Council Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote aye
on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero abstentions, with the exception of Land Use item 1219, Reso 2254, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, three in the negative, with zero abstentions; and Land Use item 1220 and Reso 2255, which was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, three in the negative, and zero abstentions; and Intro 947-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, one in the negative, and zero abstentions; and the revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 47 in the affirmative with zero in the negative.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

Introduction and Reading of the Bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda, please.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Discussion

1 of Resolutions. Seeing none--Council Member Vann.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Not on this
3 one, thank you.
4

5 [Pause]

6 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: At this
7 point in time, we're going to call for a voice
8 vote on Resolution 2166-A, an amended resolution
9 calling upon the federal government to enact both
10 H.R. 22, the United States Postal Service
11 Financial Relief Act, and H.R. 658, the Access to
12 Postal Services Act. All in favor say aye.

13 VOICES: Aye.

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: All
15 opposed say nay.

16 VOICES: Aye.

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: The ayes
18 have it. General Discussion, Council Member
19 Comrie.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Today I'm
21 introducing a legislation, Intro 1093, that will
22 allow any candidate for firefighter that possesses
23 a high school diploma or its educational
24 equivalent from a New York City high school to
25 become eligible for an additional five point

1 credit on the Open Competitive Firefighter Exam.

2 Although the population of New York
3 City includes more than 65% minority, the racial
4 composition of the fire department is made up only
5 of 5% minorities, thus making the fire department
6 the least diverse fire department of any major
7 city in the United States. In a city as widely
8 diverse as ours, this trend is unacceptable, and
9 we must do all that we can to ensure that our most
10 noble institutions reflect our great city.
11

12 Numerous cases have been presented
13 that shows that the NYC Competitive Fire Exam was
14 designed in such a way that it indirectly
15 discriminated against minority groups. Often, the
16 information needed to perform well on the exams
17 had no relation to the job expected to be actually
18 performed. In July of this year, the United
19 States District Court ruled that the FDNY
20 examination violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964
21 and engaged in discriminatory practices.

22 By allowing this additional credit
23 to applicants, we're not only recognizing that the
24 skills learned in our high school, which are
25 already deficient, and the young people that go to

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2 our high schools are a valuable asset to our city
3 and they need to be able to reverse the disparate
4 effects that the fire department examination has
5 had on minority applicants.

6 I hope you will join me in
7 supporting this legislation. This is just an
8 effort to make sure that New York City residents
9 can compete with all of the people that are trying
10 to become firefighters that are actually not New
11 York City residents and this will give them a leg
12 up. I would ask you to please support Intro 1093.
13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.
15 Council Member Jackson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair. My colleagues, I rise to ask you to
18 support our colleague from the Bronx, Helen Diane
19 Foster, who has submitted a resolution which calls
20 upon the New York State Legislature, the New York
21 State Board of Elections, and the United States
22 Senators of the congressional delegation, and the
23 Governor to take all appropriate action that may
24 be necessary to enable New York counties--

25 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing]

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Council Member Jackson, I'm sorry--

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Sure.

SPEAKER QUINN: --just if we can get a little quiet, add some time back on for Robert onto the clock, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To continue using lever voting machines supplemented by accessible voting technology for people with disabilities.

Now understanding that there's been a lot of discussion around the state and around the city about electronic voting machines, and I say that these lever machines have worked well over the decades in New York City, I've taught my children how to use them when they were growing up. And, until we have electronic voting systems where every vote can be counted, verified, that's auditable, and has the integrity of everyone involved, I say we should continue using these lever voting machines.

So I ask you to sign on to Helen Diane Foster, our colleague's resolution regarding this particular matter.

And finally, our colleagues, on

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2 Sunday is the New York City Marathon, and as you
3 know, I am running my third New York City Marathon
4 and I ask you to come out and support me, and when
5 you support me, you support Team for Kids. And
6 this is the Marathon Road Runners Club basically
7 helps young children, teach them the spirit of
8 running, of good health and nutrition, and helps
9 them to focus. And also, in our Public Relations
10 Department, Maria is running the New York City
11 Marathon.

12 [Off mic]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And who?

14 [Off mic]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And our
16 former colleague, State Senator Bill Perkins.
17 We're hoping to do 330 or under, so I ask you to
18 come out and support Team for Kids, you can also
19 write a check if you want, or do anything you
20 want, just come out and wave your hand and say
21 hello. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.

23 Council Member Vann.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, thank
25 you, Majority Leader. I'm introducing a

1
2 resolution to deal with, as we all know, the City
3 of New York through DHS is compel by law and
4 humanity to provide housing for the homeless, and
5 I think we all agree with that. However, what we
6 find is there's an over-saturation of siting of
7 shelters and such in some boroughs and in some
8 neighborhoods and not in others. And so while we
9 welcome this mandate on behalf of the city, we
10 think there needs to be more of a equitable or a
11 fair system of dealing with it. For instance, in
12 my district there is an abundance of city shelters
13 and halfway houses and, you know, when you have
14 such a saturation, it has the tendency to decrease
15 property values, tends to increase crime, and
16 affects the quality of life. And so we think
17 there needs to be a different way of distributing
18 and providing for the siting for homeless
19 shelters.

20 So what this resolution does, it
21 would establish a rotation schedule for the
22 placement of transitional housing among all the
23 city's neighborhoods, in other words, of same
24 capacity. If, say, a shelter is for a 10 to 20,
25 that within that range, if the first one goes into

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2 Brooklyn, the second one may go into Queens, the
3 third may go in the Bronx, and so on, and so on,
4 and so on. This will a way to try and impact on
5 the disproportionate saturation that has already
6 occurred. I'm not looking to redo all of that,
7 but going forward, there has to be a system that
8 every borough, every neighborhood has an
9 opportunity to share in the benefit, and indeed,
10 things that are not considered beneficial.

11 It's a good resolution, it's
12 simple, but it's profound, and hopefully everyone
13 will see the wisdom and the fairness in supporting
14 it. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.
16 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
18 Thank you. Lou Dobbs is a peddler. He's a
19 peddler of hate, a peddler of lies, a peddler of
20 ignorance, a peddler of intolerance. And CNN,
21 quote, the most trusted name in news, should be
22 ashamed of itself. New York City has seen a rise
23 in hate crimes. Many of us in this Council under
24 the leadership of our Speaker have stood side-by-
25 side with our colleague Diana Reyna and the

1
2 families of José Sucuzhañay [phonetic] and most
3 recently Mario Vera, two of the most recent
4 victims of hate crimes in New York City.

5 José was brutally murdered at the
6 hands of ignorant and cowardly individuals because
7 they thought he was gay and because he was an
8 immigrant. And recently we stood vigil with the
9 wife of Mario Vera, our city's most recent hate
10 crime victim. And I cannot overlook also the
11 homophobic recent hate crime attack against Jack
12 Price in Queens, which took place several weeks
13 ago.

14 Hate crimes against Latinos has
15 seen a 40% rise in this country over the past four
16 years, according to FBI statistics and documented
17 by the Southern Poverty Law Center, which states
18 on its website, and I quote, "As anti-immigrant
19 propaganda has increased on both the margins and
20 in the mainstream of society -- where pundits and
21 politicians have routinely vilified undocumented
22 Latino immigrants with a series of defamatory
23 falsehoods -- hate violence has risen against
24 perceived 'illegal aliens.' Each year since 2003,
25 the number of FBI-reported anti-Latino hate crime

1 incidents has risen, even as a swelling nativist
2 movement has become larger and more vitriolic."

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4 Which brings me back to Lou Dobbs,
5 one of mainstream media's chief peddlers of this
6 anti-immigrant propaganda. CNN needs to take
7 responsibility for the [off mic] and the hate that
8 its network spews against immigrants an hour a
9 night, five days a week--and let me say that
10 again, an hour a night, five days a week.

11 And so to the executives at CNN,
12 you have to know that you're contributing to the
13 violent anti-immigrant sentiment that is growing
14 across this country and the question for you is
15 how will you respond to the growing call asking
16 that you take responsibility and end the lies, end
17 the hatred that you are nurturing across this
18 country. The bone you have thrown at us as the
19 Latinos in America series will not appease us and
20 we will not be fooled and we will not be silent.

21 I want to ask my colleagues to join
22 me in signing a letter to CNN expressing our
23 disgust and urging them to stand up and do the
24 responsible thing by ending the lies, and that Lou
25 Dobbs must go. [Foreign language] Enough with

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the hate.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.
Council Member Rosie Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.
I wanted to thank my Speaker and let everyone know that on November 12th, we will be having a memorial service right here in the chambers for Marian Freeland [phonetic], the Councilwoman who represented District 2 for 18 years, that the local paper called the "voice for the voiceless." And I hope to see many of my colleagues there at 5:30. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.
Council Member Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you, Mr. President Pro Tem. I'd just like to take a moment to bring to the attention to my colleagues a recent request for proposals that was issued by the Department of Buildings as it relates to construction trades.

As many of you know, DOB currently administers through DCAS the exams for construction trades. A new RFP that's actually due today is about to be completed and there is

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2 very little known about what exactly the role that
3 this new potentially private company will have in
4 administering these exams.

5 Some of the main concerns that I
6 have is, one, is this a form of privatization and
7 what happens to the individuals who currently
8 administer the exams over at DCAS, what happens to
9 those individuals, do they get laid off? What
10 happens to New Yorkers who are interested in
11 taking these exams?

12 And some of the titles that will be
13 now contracted out will be exams for the
14 Master/Special Rigger, for Tower Crane Rigger, and
15 we all know the problems we've had lately with
16 rigging in the City of New York with the Master
17 Plumbers license. So all these titles that used
18 to be done under DCAS that are so vital to us, I'd
19 just like to encourage the Department of Buildings
20 to reach out to this Council and have an honest
21 discussion and review as to how these titles are
22 now going to be examined.

23 And I understand that there's a lot
24 of things that they have to look at, I know there
25 were concerns in the past about the exams

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2 potentially being compromised. And I would
3 question that in exams, whether done by a public
4 administration or done privately, all have the
5 potential to be compromised, whether they're done
6 by the city or not.

7 So I look forward to a frank
8 discussion with the Department of Buildings in
9 regard to this, and I contacted the Buildings
10 Commissioner, Bob LiMandri, earlier today and he
11 is interested in this. But I would like to urge
12 my colleagues to take a closer look at this 'cause
13 I think the main concern is how do we keep access
14 to these trades available to New Yorkers and we
15 make sure that they don't have to go to places
16 like New Jersey and Connecticut to take the exam
17 or Suffolk County the way the firefighters do. So
18 I'm interested in working with them to make this
19 better on behalf of the trades and the people that
20 we mutually represent in the city of New York.
21 Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

22 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you
23 very much. Council Member Nelson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.
25 Okay. First of all, I vote aye on all. Secondly,

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2 I'd like to draw my colleagues attention to two
3 resolutions on today's calendar or upcoming.

4 One is 2237, which urges the State
5 Department to reverse the decision that it made to
6 no longer require foreign governments to pay
7 property taxes on non-exempt diplomatic
8 residences.

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

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: New York
12 City is the home to about 129 permanent missions
13 and 110 consulates--that's a lot of buildings and
14 a lot of money. A foreign government, as a member
15 of the UN, is exempt from paying property tax if
16 such property tax is used exclusively for
17 diplomatic offices or as housing for chief
18 diplomat, but, however, if only a portion of that
19 property is used for such taxes and purposes, only
20 that portion should be exempt from property taxes.

21 Recently, the U.S. State department
22 reversed that decision, as I mentioned, and the
23 result, the city is in to lose about \$260 million
24 in that property tax and untold millions in future
25 revenue, that's first resolution.

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2 The second one is it urges Congress
3 to pass the Caregivers Assistance and Resource
4 Enhancement Act to provide certain caregivers of
5 veterans with training, support, and medical
6 services. This act would give support to those
7 providing non-institutionalized extended care to
8 disabled veterans, both family and non-family.
9 Furthermore, it would provide caregivers with
10 educational sessions, teaching caring techniques
11 and skills, would offer them respite help, nursing
12 care, counseling and mental health services, and
13 of course, medical care. In doing so, it would
14 ensure essential and valuable support for our
15 nation's veterans.

16 According to the VA, there are
17 approximately 270,000 veterans living in New York
18 City of all ages. It is our obligation that we
19 ensure the best possible care for the brave men
20 and women who so bravely served our country.

21 So that's resolution 2238 and the
22 first was 2237. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you
24 very much. Seeing no others, okay, at this point,
25 all items, the revised Order Calendar vote for

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2 today was 48 in the affirmative, zero in the
3 negative, and zero abstentions, with the exception
4 of Land Use item 1219 and Reso 2254, which was
5 adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, three
6 in the negative, and zero abstentions; Land Use
7 item 1220 and Reso 2255, which was adopted by a
8 vote of 45 in the affirmative, three in the
9 negative, with zero abstentions; Intro 947-A, it
10 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,
11 one in the negative, zero abstentions; and revised
12 Land Use Call-Ups vote is 48 in the affirmative,
13 with zero in the negative. And that closes out
14 today's Stated. Thank you very much, ladies and
15 gentlemen.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature Tammy Wittman

Date November 9, 2009