

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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July 29, 2009
Start: 02:25 pm
Recess: 04:30 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Christine C. Quinn
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Elizabeth Crowley
Bill de Blasio
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Mathieu Eugene
Simcha Felder
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Sara M. Gonzalez
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melinda R. Katz
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Kenneth Mitchell
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Helen Sears
Kendall Stewart
Eric Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
David I. Weprin
Thomas White, Jr.
David Yassky

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

Emily Torres
Community Activist

Mark
Cortez Family

Cadillac Man
Author

Reverend Anita Burson
Associate Minister
Holy Trinity Baptist Church

1
2 SPEAKER QUINN: Could I have
3 everybody's attention? We're going to start. If
4 I could get Jimmy and Leroy and Jim if you could
5 come up and Simcha. Charles, can you come up too?
6 This is an important ceremonial. Thank you. So
7 if I can ask all of my colleagues to come up and
8 join us. Some folks might remember a month or two
9 ago we did a ceremonial with a young man who was a
10 soldier that I had met at the St. Patrick's Day
11 parade in Staten Island. When I met the young
12 man, he was in uniform and he was going back for
13 his second or third tour. I said when you come
14 back, you'll come to City Hall and we'll give you
15 a ceremonial and we did. The Sunday before that
16 ceremonial, I was at the Pride Parade in Queen and
17 I met Emily Torres. We were chatting that day at
18 the Pride Parade and she had on her pin, which I
19 think you always wear, that says "In Loving Memory
20 of Private Isaac T. Cortez 5/21/81-11/27/07". And
21 I told Emily about the young man that I had met.
22 I asked her if she would come down to City Hall
23 when we honored him. She couldn't come, but I
24 hope you all remember the beautiful, beautiful
25 letter she sent and the Prayer to a Soldier that

1 she sent. He was speechless when I gave him the
2 proclamation. It's funny and one of those things,
3 you meet somebody and then you see them
4 everywhere. And Emily I think is one of those
5 people who is a real community activist, a real
6 New York neighborhood grassroots leader. So I
7 wanted to bring her down today and we have members
8 of her family here and also a support group for
9 soldiers and their families that we're going to
10 here from. I will ask the clerk to read the
11 proclamation and then ask Emily to introduce folks
12 and we'll hear from the representative. I just
13 wanted to ask her to come today because Emily has
14 suffered such a great loss for our country. I am
15 so inspired by you and that even in the face of
16 such a great loss, you keep working to try to make
17 our city a better place. That in the face of such
18 a great loss, you were able to give so much to
19 that young man and his family. So I just wanted
20 to thank you for being in the best of all possible
21 ways a New Yorker, somebody who rises above their
22 own losses, thinks more about other people than
23 themselves and just gives and gives. I also
24 wanted to thank you today for reminding all of us
25

1
2 to keep our military men and women, regardless of
3 what our position about this war is, in our hearts
4 and in our minds and that all of us should commit
5 to do everything to help them to make sure they
6 get home safe and that when they are back home
7 they get everything they need. So thank you so
8 much and thank you for coming today. Let me ask
9 the clerk to read the proclamation.

10 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: The Council of
11 the City of New York Proclamation. The Council of
12 the City of New York is proud to posthumously
13 honor Private Isaac Thomas Cortes for his
14 outstanding service to our nation. Whereas, Isaac
15 Thomas Cortes was born on May 29th, 1981 and grew
16 up in the Parkchester section of the Bronx. After
17 graduating from Christopher Columbus High School,
18 he worked in security at Yankee Stadium. He was
19 short in stature, but huge in heart. Wanting to
20 be the best father he could be to his daughter, he
21 originally planned to become a member of the NYPD
22 and hoped service in the military would prepare
23 him, but when he joined the United States Army,
24 the military itself became his central career
25 focus. Whereas, in January 2007, Mr. Cortes

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2 enlisted in the United States Army and completed
3 his combat training at Fort Benning, Georgia. He
4 was soon was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 71st
5 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th
6 Mountain Division Light Infantry, based out of
7 Fort Drum, New York. In September 2007, the
8 brigade was deployed to Iraq as one of 30,000
9 additional soldiers sent as a troop surge to quell
10 the violence. Whereas, on November 27th, 2007, in
11 Amerli, Iraq, a roadside bomb tore into a vehicle,
12 killing Private Cortes and a fellow soldier.
13 Private Cortes was only twenty-six. Whereas,
14 Private Cortes was awarded the Purple Heart,
15 National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign
16 Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and
17 Army Service Ribbon. Whereas, Private Cortes was
18 a dedicated soldier who dearly loved his family,
19 his city and his country. Even with our most
20 profound gratitude, we could never fully repay him
21 for his service and sacrifice. But Private Cortez
22 can be certain that we will never forget. Now
23 therefore, be it known that the Council of the
24 City of New York most gratefully honors the life
25 and memory of Private Isaac Thomas Cortes for his

1
2 extraordinary sacrifice and service to our nation.
3 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
4 Council, Annabel Palma, Council Member, 18th
5 District, the Bronx, Melinda R. Katz, Council
6 Member, 29th District, Queens.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Annabel or Melinda,
8 did you want to speak?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Sure. Thank
10 you. Emily, I just want to add that I'm grateful
11 for the work that you continue to do although you
12 don't live in my district anymore. Soon, when we
13 vote again, I'm pretty sure we'll be successful at
14 renaming one of the streets in Parkchester after
15 Private Cortez. I know that that has been one of
16 your missions and the community has embraced it.
17 I know the Council will be more than happy to make
18 that happen. Like I said, you're not in the
19 district anymore, but you continue to work on
20 behalf of my community and my community board and
21 I forever will be grateful for that. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Well, Council
23 Member Palma's loss I guess is my gain. I don't
24 think any of us can imagine burying a child,
25 nevertheless a son who fought for his country,

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2 fought for his city and died protecting all of us.
3 So I am particularly honored, not only on behalf
4 of the constituents of the 29th Council District,
5 but on behalf I think of all the Council Members
6 that you have given us the honor of at least
7 sharing his memory with you for just these few
8 minutes and we will not forget. We thank you for
9 allowing that. Thank you.

10 EMILY TORRES: Thank you, Melinda.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Mark is going to
12 speak on behalf of the family.

13 MARK: Good afternoon, everyone.
14 It's an honor to be here today. On behalf of the
15 Cortez family and Emily Torres, thank you for
16 paying tribute to a true hero from the Bronx. I
17 didn't know Isaac, but through his family I've
18 gotten to know the man who was strong and
19 dedicated, a loving son to his parents, a loving
20 brother, a loving brother-in-law, niece and nephew
21 and father. It is truly an honor that Isaac is
22 being honored here today. We hope that we never
23 forget what he did. He was a distinguished
24 soldier who served his country with honor,
25 courage, bravery and lastly made the ultimate

1
2 sacrifice for his country. Thank you so much.
3 God bless you, Isaac. God bless Emily Torres,
4 your family and God bless the United States.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Emily,
6 I just want to say, at the beginning of every
7 Stated Council meeting, we read the name and a
8 little bit about any member of the military who
9 has died since our last Stated meeting. So I just
10 want to also thank you because I'm sure it's hard
11 for you and your family to be here today. Thank
12 you for being here because you help remind us why
13 that's important and about the real people behind
14 those words. Thank you very, very much.

15 [Pause]

16 SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to move
17 to the next and final ceremonial which is being
18 led by Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Can I call
20 up the Cadillac Man and everyone who is with him?
21 Come one up quickly please. I'm going to start
22 telling the story while you're on the way up
23 because it's a very interesting story. Everybody,
24 this is the Cadillac Man and he's going to tell
25 you the story of his life. It's an amazing story.

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2 The way it affected me is when we were all elected
3 not too long ago, there was a homeless guy living
4 a block away from my office. He had a sign on his
5 cart that said you've found the Cadillac Man,
6 recycling engineer, deposit cans here. So one day
7 I stopped by, I said hello, asked him if he needed
8 anything and you'll hear soon why he did not need
9 anything from me or anyone else. After that we
10 struck up a friendship. He actually wound up
11 being a much bigger help to me than I could ever
12 be to him. He was my advisor on homeless issues,
13 told me about homelessness in general and what
14 would help, specifically which homeless in my
15 community needed help, which homeless were
16 problems. We really worked together and became
17 friends. I didn't really know too much else about
18 what was going on. One day I'm watching Inside
19 City Hall and low and behold, there's the Cadillac
20 Man on Inside City Hall. He had just become a
21 critically acclaimed author of this book, "Land of
22 the Lost Souls". I'm sitting there eating my
23 dinner on the couch and I was yelling go Cadillac
24 Man, this is great. I was so impressed that he
25 had done this. Then Domenic Carter asked him why

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2 he thanked Peter Vallone at the end of the book
3 and I almost spit my food out. I knew he had made
4 a huge impression on my life and I was just so
5 touched to know that I had in some way affected
6 his. He's being honored today not just for being
7 a critically acclaimed author now but because of
8 the message that he sends to everyone, the message
9 of hope he sends that you can struggle through
10 adversity and become a success and you can
11 overcome obstacles and be where he is today. But
12 maybe more importantly to us, as public servants,
13 that every member of our community is valuable.
14 That every one of them deserves our representation
15 and our respect and can contribute. He is a
16 shining example of that. I think Speaker Quinn
17 would like to say some words on behalf of the
18 Cadillac Man.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Being
20 homeless and then you had to bear being friends
21 with Peter Vallone. You're a man of steel. I
22 just couldn't resist. I just want to thank you
23 very much for being here today, for writing this
24 book and doing really what Peter said, reminding
25 us that every New Yorker is a New Yorker and that

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2 every New Yorker needs to be respected and given
3 thought and care and help and that every New
4 Yorker is different. So that the way you might do
5 it for one might not be the way you do it for
6 some. I think it was interesting hearing about
7 the conversations you and Peter had. They were
8 specific, homeless person by homeless person. And
9 some people you could help and some people you
10 couldn't. But you stopped and you talked about
11 each one because each one deserved the attempt for
12 help. So thank you very much because those are
13 sometimes lessons that in a city as big as ours,
14 with as many challenges as it has, that get a
15 little lost. So thank you for reminding us today
16 and reminding us by writing this book. If we
17 could ask the clerk to read the proclamation and
18 then we'll hear from the Cadillac Man himself. If
19 we could also get a little quiet.

20 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Council of the
21 City of New York proclamation. The Council of the
22 City of New York is proud to honor Cadillac Man
23 for fostering a greater understanding of
24 homelessness in New York City. Whereas, Cadillac
25 Man, who earned his nickname after being hit by

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2 several different Cadillacs in the mid-1990s,
3 began living on the streets in 1994. After being
4 laid off and unable to find work, Cadillac Man
5 found additional challenges with depression and
6 alcohol. Believing the street to be safer than
7 New York City homeless shelters, he began living
8 in an alcove at the corner of 50th Street and Park
9 Avenue, just across the street from the Waldorf-
10 Astoria. Whereas, over the years, Cadillac Man
11 has lived in four of our City's boroughs, but he
12 found his favorite places in Astoria, Queens. For
13 years, he slept in mausoleums in St. Michael's
14 Cemetery, but most recently, he lived under the
15 33rd Street viaduct of the Hell Gate Bridge.
16 Cadillac Man not only endured daily hardships
17 throughout the year and in every kind of weather,
18 but also chronicled his life in a series of
19 spiral-bound journals. These vivid stories about
20 his own life and the lives of others were later
21 excerpted in "Esquire" magazine, which led to a
22 documentary and, this year, culminated into his
23 widely acclaimed book "Land of Lost Souls: My Life
24 on the Streets". Whereas, a few years ago,
25 Cadillac Man's life turned around dramatically

1
2 once again when he met and fell in love with
3 Carol. Today, Cadillac Man lives indoors with
4 Carol, but he still considers himself a semi-
5 retired homeless person and remains committed to
6 supporting his friends on the street. Whereas,
7 while many people living on the streets remain
8 vague images of outstretched hands in the
9 periphery of our daily life, Cadillac Man's
10 harrowing story is a stark reminder that such
11 individuals are also fathers and mothers, brothers
12 and sisters, veterans and children and they are
13 all worthy of our respect and attention. Now
14 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
15 of New York hereby honors Cadillac Man for his
16 distinguished contributions to New York City.
17 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
18 Council, Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Council Member,
19 22nd District, Queens.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: All yours.

21 CADILLAC MAN: Wow. You've
22 probably never heard this before, but especially
23 in this place, I'm speechless. I want to thank my
24 good friend here, Councilman Peter Vallone. I'm
25 not going to go to everybody. I'm deeply honored

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2 to be here. The issue about homeless, I just
3 wanted to give you just one thought. We're all
4 people too. Even though we look different and act
5 different, we still feel the same like you do. We
6 do have love in our hearts. We do have our
7 problems and all I can say is please help us.
8 Please help us. Peter here on many occasions
9 tried to help me. Oh my gosh, how many times?
10 Many and I told him, "that's okay, help somebody
11 else," which he did, many others. There were many
12 others that tried to do the same for me to get off
13 the streets and it took a wonderful that I love
14 right now that got me off the streets. So many
15 people tried and one day she came over to me and
16 she says, "Why don't you get off the streets?
17 Come be with me." And I said, "Okay." Just like
18 that. After all those years, 12 plus years out
19 there, because I saw something in this woman. She
20 was so full of love and compassion. I had the
21 same towards others. I will not judge anyone. I
22 love everyone here. I wouldn't mind giving
23 everybody here a hug. I think people should do
24 that more often. When you greet a friend or a
25 family member, give them a great big hug. Really

1
2 show that you really care for that person. Peter,
3 Council Members, Mayor Bloomberg, the City of New
4 York, Astoria, Queens, I love all of you. Thank
5 you for this honor.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
7 much. Thank you. And that concludes our
8 ceremonials.

9 [Pause]

10 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentleman,
11 can I have your attention please? At this time
12 can you please place all cell phones and pagers to
13 vibrate? Will all non-Council employees please
14 leave the main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

15 [Pause]

16 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: I'd like to
17 call the recessed meeting of June 30th, followed
18 today July 20th, to order. Roll call.

19 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

21 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Avella?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

23 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Baez?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

25 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Barron?

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response]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Brewer?
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Comrie?
CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Crowley?
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: DeBlasio?
COUNCIL MEMBER DEBLASIO: [no
response]
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dickens?
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dilan?
COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Eugene?
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Felder?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Fidler?
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Foster?
COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gioia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Katz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Liu?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mitchell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Seabrook?

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response]

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sears?
COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Stewart?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vacca?
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vallone?
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vann?
COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no response]
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Weprin?
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no
response]
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: White?
COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Yassky?
COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Here.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sanders?
COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.
MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Oddo?
COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: We have a

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quorum.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: We have a

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quorum. We will now adjourn the recessed meeting

11

that was held on June 30th, 2009. We will now

12

have the roll call for the Stated Meeting for

13

today, July 29th, 2009. Roll call.

14

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Still here.

16

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Avella?

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Baez?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

20

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Barron?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

22

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

24

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Comrie?

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: DeBlasio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DEBLASIO: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

11

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

13

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Felder?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [no

15

response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Foster?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

22

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gioia?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [no

7

response]

8

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ignizio?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

12

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Jackson?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

14

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: James?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

16

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Katz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

20

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Lappin?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

22

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Liu?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

24

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [no

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response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mendez?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

8

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mitchell?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

10

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Nelson?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

12

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

14

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Recchia?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

16

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Reyna?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sanders?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Drenched,

20

but present.

21

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Seabrook?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

23

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sears?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

25

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Stewart?

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

3

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

5

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vacca?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

7

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vallone?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

9

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vann?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no response]

11

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Weprin?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

13

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: White?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

15

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Yassky?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [no

17

response]

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Oddo?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

20

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Rivera?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [no

22

response]

23

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn?

24

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: We have a

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quorum. The Pledge of Allegiance please.

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GROUP: 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.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So we'll now have the invocation, which we have the honor of being delivered by Reverend Anita Burson, the Associate Minister, Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

REVEREND ANITA BURSON: Let us prepare ourselves. Will everyone under the sound of my voice please breathe in and breathe out slowly? Oh Holy Creator of all things seen and unseen, we ask you to bless this day as we pause in gratitude. Will you give those who have been entrusted with leadership concern enough to be informed, wisdom enough to be leaders of integrity and ability, American enough to rise above party loyalty and responsible enough to vote for the sake of justice as we know it under you as Creator? Save us from misuse of freedom without restraint. Help us to seek not the good of any faction but of all citizens. Ever sustained with

1
2 a high vision of righteousness, guide these city
3 officers to develop our communities and this city
4 in your ways. For your namesake, Amen.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Motion to
6 spread the record by Council Member Mealy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I make
8 motion to spread the Invocation in full upon the
9 Record. Amen.

10 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Mr. Majority
12 Leader, if we could ask our colleagues to rise
13 again please.

14 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Please rise.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: On July 26th, 2009,
16 Fran Berman, the wife of former Council Member and
17 former Finance Committee Chair Herb Berman passed
18 away after a very long illness. Born in the East
19 Village, she moved to Brooklyn after her marriage
20 and only recently returned to Manhattan for
21 medical treatment. Fran Berman was an educator
22 who served until her retirement as assistant
23 principal of P.S. 101 in Brooklyn. Besides Herb,
24 Fran is survived by her children and
25 grandchildren. I just want to say myself and a

1
2 number of my Council colleagues, Domenic and Liu
3 and others were at Fran's funeral this morning. I
4 certainly think if folks have the time to stop by
5 the Shiva this week which goes until Saturday on
6 the Upper East Side or on Sunday there is one in
7 East Hills out on Long Island. Herbie I think
8 would definitely like to see some friendly faces.
9 If you can't go, I would just urge you to leave
10 Herb a message because he certainly seemed like he
11 was very, very sad and struggling this morning. I
12 know all of us in the Council, whether you served
13 with him or not, were a member or on staff, he
14 holds all of us very close to his heart. So if
15 folks could please remember to reach out to him I
16 would personally appreciate it. Also, I think all
17 of us heard, saw, or read the reports of the
18 passing of Frank McCourt. His death was a loss to
19 New York City, a loss to Irish New Yorkers and
20 Irish Americans, a loss to the literary world, a
21 loss to the world and field of education. Now for
22 many of us this was just a loss of someone we knew
23 of, read his works, were inspired by, but to
24 others like our colleague Council Member Brewer,
25 this was the loss of a personal friend and I

1
2 though Gale might have a few words to say about
3 Frank.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
5 very much. He died on July 19th and he was 78
6 years old. He was perhaps the greatest teacher
7 who ever lived. I mean the students from
8 Stuyvesant High School, maybe some of you had him
9 who were students in his class, but people lined
10 up and felt that his gift was the best. If you
11 read some of the "Times" or the blog stories of
12 what it was like to be a student in Frank
13 McCourt's class, I think you'd feel that he was
14 the best teacher perhaps ever in our history. He
15 was somebody I got to know because he was the
16 moderator and hysterically funny at every single
17 opportunity. He would moderate the awards for the
18 best teachers on the West Side given by Manhattan
19 media. I still start laughing just thinking about
20 it. Every teacher, whether he knew them or not,
21 you'd end up laughing at his moderation. He kept
22 us laughing for years and years. He often visited
23 Michael O'Neil's enterprises and he would sit at
24 the bar with either his hysterical brother Malachy
25 or another one who's quieter who worked for a

1 while in Christine's district, Alphonse. So this is
2 a family of unbelievable talent. We all know
3 "Angela's Ashes" and he went on to write other
4 books. He was very involved in the community. So
5 one day Tom Allen, who was the head of the
6 Manhattan Media, about a year ago before he even
7 knew he was sick, we didn't know he was sick, he
8 said always at the Blackboard Awards, darn it,
9 there is no school named after a teacher in the
10 City of New York. We would say oh, okay, yeah,
11 yeah, and we didn't pay much attention. Then we
12 were given the opportunity to start a new high
13 school on the West Side, which we are doing. A
14 year ago we said it's going to be name Frank
15 McCourt School of Writing. DOE said you can't
16 name a school after somebody's who living. We
17 said, DOE, we're not paying any attention to you.
18 We are naming this school after a teacher and the
19 teacher is Frank McCourt. He knew about it. He
20 said to Isaiah Sheffer when he was ill but still
21 had his sense of humor, Isaiah said why am I going
22 to look and support a school named after you? He
23 said darn it, there's Teddy Roosevelt, there's
24 John Kennedy and there certainly can be a Frank
25

1
2 McCourt High School. He knew about it before he
3 died, but the good news is we are working now on
4 the Frank McCourt School of Writing. It will
5 exist. It will be fabulous. There will never be
6 a teacher like him. I thank you for the
7 opportunity because I think he will be missed.
8 You should just know that to have a teacher like
9 that is a gift for anybody who had one and
10 obviously he'll be missed by all of us. Thank
11 you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
13 Member Brewer.

14 [Pause]

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Majority
16 Leader Comrie.

17 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Adoption of
18 minutes, Council Member Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I move
20 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of May
21 20th, 2009 be adopted as printed.

22 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.
23 Messages and papers from the Mayor?

24 MALE VOICE: M1509 submitting
25 Ernest Cavallo for appointment to the

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Environmental Control Board.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Communication
from--

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SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Rules,
Privileges and Elections. Again, I think there's
nothing un-Irish about a moment after Frank
McCourt's moment of silence the skies opened up
and roared even louder to send a little Irish
message.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Communications
from county, city and borough offices?

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MALE VOICE: M1510 submitting Anna
Levin for appointment to the City Planning
Commission.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges
and Elections.

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MALE VOICE: M1511 through M1552 on
Page 7, base stations licenses.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Petitions and
communications?

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MALE VOICE: M1553.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,
printed and filed.

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2 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Land Use call-
3 ups?

4 MALE VOICE: M1554 through M1558 on
5 Page 8.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could please
7 have a call-up vote on all of the coupled Land Use
8 call-ups please.

9 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

11 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Avella?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

13 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Baez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Vote aye on
15 all Land Use call-ups and requesting permission to
16 vote aye on all general orders and resolutions.

17 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

19 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Barron?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

21 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Brewer?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

23 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Comrie?

24 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.

25 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: DeBlasio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DEBLASIO: [no

5

response]

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dilan?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

10

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Eugene?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

12

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Felder?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

14

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

16

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Fidler?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Foster?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

20

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Garodnick?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

22

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gennaro?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

24

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gentile?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

5

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ignizio?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

7

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Jackson?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

9

10 all.

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: James?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

12

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Katz?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

14

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Koppell?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

16

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Lappin?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Liu?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes. And Mr.

20

21 Chairman, I request unanimous consent to vote yes

21

22 on all items on the General Order calendar.

22

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Yes.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

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response]
response]

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [no
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Mendez?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [no
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Mitchell?
COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Nelson?
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Palma?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Recchia?
COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Reyna?
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Sanders?
COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Seabrook?
COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Sears?
COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Stewart?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.
MICHAEAL MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

3

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

5

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vacca?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

7

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vallone?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

9

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Weprin?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

11

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: White?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye on all

13

call-ups and request unanimous consent to vote on

14

all coupled General Orders.

15

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye.

17

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Yassky?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: [no

19

response]

20

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Oddo?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no response]

22

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn?

23

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes.

24

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Today's Land

25

Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 43

1
2 affirmative, zero negative. Communication from
3 the Speaker?

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much. This being the only Stated Meeting in July,
6 we have a large agenda today. Let me start first
7 with Intro 992-A which is our override of the
8 Mayor's veto regarding residency of City
9 employees. I want to thank Council Member
10 DeBlasio who is the sponsor of this legislation,
11 and also thank Chairperson Nelson for convening
12 the Civil Service and Labor Committee. I want to
13 thank Tracy Udell, Terzah Nasser, Lauren Axelrod
14 and Rob Newman who worked on this legislation.
15 Quite simply, this bill give the same residency
16 requirements to all city employees that were given
17 to those that are members of DC 37 a number of
18 months ago. What is says is that all city
19 employees after doing two years of service where
20 they lived in the five boroughs they are free to
21 then move to Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Putnam,
22 Rockland or Orange Counties. We think this is a
23 fair and appropriate way to treat all city
24 employees the same. We're also voting today on a
25 piece of legislation regarding licensing of

1
2 pedicabs, Intro 1031-A. I want to thank Lacy
3 Clarke, Alex Pustilnik, Jim Caras, Alvin Bragg and
4 Lauren Axelrod for their work on this. I want to
5 thank Council Member Garodnick for his work on
6 this legislation. And in particular, who we'll
7 hear from in a minute, Chairperson Comrie for his
8 long work on pedicabs in the City Council. This
9 bill quite simply will make the pedicab industry
10 in the City of New York one that is safe and
11 regulated. There is no industry in the city where
12 you are allowed to drive and transport New Yorkers
13 and make money on it that is not regulated. There
14 is no industry of that sort that does not have
15 insurance requirements, licensing requirements,
16 training requirements. We can say that today
17 because we are going to pass this bill. Before
18 that, pedicabs were the only vehicles that had the
19 privilege of using New York City streets to make
20 money but had no regulations whatsoever. After we
21 pass this bill, we can tell New Yorkers that we
22 have taken legal steps to make pedicab rides safe
23 in the City of New York. If anybody has been to
24 the theatre district, which I am lucky enough to
25 represent, you know how many pedicabs there are

1
2 and you know how confusing and at times dangerous
3 it can get because they are not regulated. I am
4 glad we will finally get to a place of regulation
5 where we can make greener travel safer travel in
6 the City of New York. Again, I really want to
7 thank Council Member Comrie for his work on this
8 legislation and call on him to speak for a moment.

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you,
10 Speaker Quinn for allowing me to speak on this
11 bill. As she stated, the pedicab industry is the
12 one vehicle industry in the city that had not been
13 regulated. The industry actually came to the
14 Council to request regulation because they
15 understood that regulation was needed for the
16 industry to continue to flourish and grow and not
17 have the issues of safety and the issues of who
18 would actually deal with making sure there was an
19 ability to put them under a specific structure
20 with rules and regulations that would make sense.
21 I want to thank the Commissioner for DCA, his
22 staff who are working on it. We've had almost
23 five hearings on this issue listening all
24 different parts of the industry. I want to thank
25 my Consumer Affairs staff, Damien Butvick, Alex

1
2 Pustilnick, Lacy Clarke, Rob Newman, the head of
3 Council Legislative Services for all of the work
4 that they did working with all the parties to try
5 to get where we are today. I think we have a good
6 start. What is also important is that this bill
7 will have an opportunity for review where we come
8 back and look at all of the aspects of the
9 industry once it is under regulation, once we know
10 exactly how many bikes are out there, once we
11 ensure that the people that are riding the bikes
12 have actual licenses and are actually behaving
13 with the rule and regulations of the road. This
14 will allow the Police Department and the
15 Department of Transportation and the Department of
16 Consumer Affairs to have a real template to bring
17 it under regulation. Did you want me to speak
18 about bike parking now, or we'll come back to that
19 later? Thank you, Madame Chair.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
21 much. The next two pieces of legislation keep
22 with the theme of greener transportation in the
23 City of New York. Intro 780-A is a piece of
24 legislation which was introduced by Council Member
25 Oliver Koppell and shepherded through the Consumer

1
2 Affairs Committee by Council Member Comrie. It is
3 a bill that when passed into law will require that
4 half of the parking garages and lots in the City
5 of New York to make spaces available so people can
6 park their bikes in them. For the first time in
7 the City of New York, this will make a requirement
8 that half of the parking lots and garages where
9 you can pay to park your car, you will now be able
10 to pay to park your bicycle. This is very
11 important because although we'll speak in a minute
12 about requiring bicycles in buildings, we're not
13 able to do that in every office building. Also,
14 we want to encourage New Yorkers to use their bike
15 as their main mode of transportation to go out for
16 the evening to visit friends. Not every block and
17 every street is every going to have bicycle
18 parking racks on them. And in theory, will all
19 this greening and biking they could all be filled
20 one day when you pulled up. So people need
21 options to park their bicycles. That's what this
22 piece of legislation is going to do. It builds on
23 the work of our City Planning Commission and we're
24 very proud because other actions we're doing to
25 today to be joined by our Chair of our City

1
2 Planning Commission Amanda Burden, this coupled
3 with steps she has taken that we've adopted are
4 really going to expand the ability for use and
5 parking of bicycles in our city. I want to thank
6 Lacy Clarke and Alex Pustilnik for their work on
7 this bill and call on Chairperson Comrie and then
8 the main sponsor of the bill Oliver Koppell.

9 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: I just want to
10 congratulate Oliver Koppell for moving this idea
11 forward and working with all of the industry and
12 all of the people that were concerned to make sure
13 that all parties had an opportunity to understand
14 the bill, understand the need for the bill and to
15 make all of the necessary conversations, meetings
16 and hearings so that we could get to today's point
17 where bicyclists will have an opportunity to park
18 their bikes in garages. You already mentioned
19 Alex and Damien and Lacy and Rob. I'd like to
20 thank them again for all of their work and I'm
21 just lucky to be able to work with people that are
22 focused on trying to bring a happy medium so that
23 people can move and we can move the city forward.
24 This cannot be truly a modern city without
25 adopting all means of transportation and creating

1
2 more opportunities for cyclists as other modern
3 cities are. I look forward to the passage of this
4 bill and actually the other bill dealing with the
5 opportunities for bicyclists and anything else
6 that we can do to make this city a little bit more
7 carbon neutral is a positive thing. Thank you,
8 Madame Speaker.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
10 much, Chairperson. Council Member Koppell, do you
11 have a comment?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,
13 Madame Speaker and thank you, Chair Comrie. Let
14 me say, today is bicycle day in the City Council.
15 There is no question about it. We cannot forget
16 that pedicabs are also really bicycles. We're
17 doing things to regulate pedicabs and have a
18 viable bicycle transportation system with
19 pedicabs. The bill that I'm the prime sponsor of
20 requires that garages in the City of New York that
21 accommodate more than 100 cars also accommodate
22 bicycles. It's obviously difficult for people to
23 use bicycles to get to work, to make visits, to
24 get to entertainment. Parking them on the street,
25 number one, there are not a sufficient number of

1
2 racks and number two, people are very nervous
3 about leaving their bicycle at a bike rack even
4 with a chain. So having the ability to park those
5 bicycles in a garage is very, very important.

6 This goes along with a proposal or a provision
7 actually of the zoning code that now requires that
8 new garages have parking spaces for bicycles. So
9 it's consistent. It's also consistent with a bill

10 that I assume we're going to discuss in a minute

11 that provides that office buildings that are

12 available for bicycles or that can accommodate

13 bicycles will allow people to go to work and park

14 their bicycles in those office buildings. So as I

15 say today is a bicycle day. In many cities around

16 the world, bicycles are used as a common means of

17 transportation. While many people in New York

18 City do use bicycles in that manner, it's still a

19 small minority of those who travel our streets.

20 These bills that we're considering today will

21 bring a form of healthy transportation, it's good

22 for people to ride bicycles and get that exercise.

23 It's also extremely positive for the quality of

24 our air to get people out of their cars and onto

25 bicycles and pedicabs and so on. So I think today

1
2 is a landmark day. I want to say that I
3 appreciate the work of the Speaker's Office and
4 all of the staff. Also, I might say that in
5 contrast to some other experiences that we've all
6 had, the industry, that is the garage and parking
7 lot industry was in this instance quite
8 cooperative and helpful in getting this
9 legislation through. I'm looking forward to
10 working with them to see to it that countless
11 thousands of people will now use their bicycles to
12 get around New York City. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much. And keeping on the bicycle theme, the next
15 piece of legislation we're voting on is a bill
16 that comes out of our Transportation Committee. I
17 want to thank Chairperson John Liu for his work on
18 this, as well as Council Member David Yassky who
19 was the main sponsor of the bill. It is bill 871-
20 A. It's a bill that requires that commercial
21 office buildings that have freight elevators, and
22 we believe that's about a quarter of all of the
23 commercial office buildings in the City of New
24 York, that if you have freight elevators, you will
25 now be required to allow employees to use those

1
2 freight elevators to bring their bicycles up to
3 their offices if they've biked to work. This is
4 going to be a very important way of opening up
5 commuting to bicycles for lots of New Yorkers who
6 work in commercial office buildings. Again, not
7 every street has a place where you can park your
8 bike, not everybody feels safe or confident doing
9 that. this is going to really expand people's
10 ability to commute to and from work. I want thank
11 in addition to Council Member Liu and Council
12 Member Yassky, Phil Hom and Terzah Nasser for
13 their work on this piece of legislation. This
14 builds for existing on work the City Planning
15 Commission has done for future buildings to really
16 try to make sure we're affording everyone
17 regardless of whether they work in a little older
18 building or work in a new one, the ability to ride
19 their bike to work. Again, I want to thank
20 everyone who has been a part of this effort and
21 call on Chairperson Liu who put a lot of work into
22 making sure this bill was exactly correct in its
23 wording and its intent and then the sponsor of the
24 bill, Council Member Yassky.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you,

1
2 Madame Speaker. A couple of years ago when I
3 participated in the Bike to Work day, I brought my
4 bike and tried to get into 250 Broadway where of
5 course our offices are and they would not let me
6 bring my bike in and thus started the struggle for
7 increasing bicycle access to buildings. There has
8 been a lot of work along the way, many iterations
9 of the legislation. Nonetheless, it's been a long
10 road, a little bit of fun along the way in recent
11 weeks. Nonetheless, it's been done and I want to
12 congratulate Councilman Yassky and Council Member
13 Brewer on this bill. They were really leading the
14 charge on this. I want to thank all of the staff,
15 as you mentioned Madame Speaker. I do also want
16 to thank Chairman Erik Dilan of the Buildings
17 Committee for his input, it was important input.
18 Finally, I want to thank Transportation
19 Alternatives. They are a group that is a true
20 advocate of alternative modes of transportation in
21 New York City. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member
23 Yassky.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you.
25 We've really seen with bicycles it's field of

1
2 dreams territory. If you build it, they will
3 come. There are 200 miles of new bike lanes and
4 people are using them. Now if we open up access
5 to the workplace, they will come, they will ride
6 to work. There are subways, at least in my
7 district, that are already at capacity. We know
8 that there is no room for more cars on the road.
9 For New York City to remain the world's capital
10 we've got to encourage other modes of
11 transportation, ferries and bicycles. This bill
12 is an important step in that direction. I want to
13 thank the Speaker for making sure that it becomes
14 law. I want to thank Chairman Liu for all of his
15 work and input to make this a better bill. Thank
16 you.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
18 much. I just want to share with my colleagues and
19 we will of course have an appropriate moment of
20 silence at the next Stated Meeting, but we've just
21 received word that former State Senator Olga
22 Mendez has passed away. I just wanted to make
23 sure that everyone is aware of that fact and also
24 aware of the fact that we will make sure we
25 commemorate her service to the city and the state

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2 at our next Stated Meeting. Thank you. Next, let
3 me address Intro 642-A. It's a piece of
4 legislation that got passed out of our Health
5 Committee. I want to thank Chairperson Rivera and
6 a piece of legislation that was very wisely
7 sponsored by Council Member Inez Dickens. I want
8 to thank Adira Siman, Joe Mancino and Terzah
9 Nasser for their work on this piece of
10 legislation. I think as most folks know, this
11 Council has really been a bold leader in the area
12 of trying to reduce smoking in the five boroughs.
13 Through legislation we've passed, we've seen other
14 city, states and countries follow our lead in
15 banning smoking in workplaces and things of that
16 nature. One of the things we didn't think about
17 when we passed those pieces of legislation was how
18 exactly this ban might play out at health care
19 facilities. What we've found is that, like is
20 true in a lot of different jobs, people sometimes
21 stand outside the entrance and the exit to their
22 workplaces smoking. Now that isn't good anywhere,
23 but at a health care facility when you might be
24 coming in and out of a hospital to get treatment,
25 you might be going there to a program to stop

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2 smoking, you might have just had a surgery and
3 have to walk around the hospital grounds as part
4 of your recuperation. If you have employees or
5 even patients or visitors on those grounds and at
6 those entrances and exits smoking, it is going to
7 have a direct effect on your health and your
8 ability to recuperate quickly and well. So I want
9 to thank Council Member Dickens for drafting this
10 legislation which prohibits smoking on or around
11 hospital grounds in our five boroughs. It's
12 another piece of legislation that's going to help
13 get New York better and keep New York well and
14 healthier. I want to thank her very much and I
15 want to call on our Majority Whip Inez Dickens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
17 Madame Speaker for allowing me to make brief
18 remarks in support of Intro 642-A which bans
19 smoking around entrances to hospitals. When
20 people are on their way to treatments,
21 appointments, visits or other businesses at a New
22 York City hospital, they must not be forced to
23 walk through a cloud of smoke of smoke to get into
24 the building. This does not promote good health
25 or wellness. This ban is a commonsense measure

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2 that will prevent bad habits from impacting on the
3 health of those who are entering a hospital to
4 improve their own well being. You would not hold
5 an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in the back room
6 of a bar. In the same way, people on their way to
7 a smoking cessation program or any other medical
8 appointment should be in a smoke-free environment.
9 It just makes sense. I want to thank all of the
10 advocates, Harlem Hospital, the American Lung
11 Association, the American Heart Association, the
12 Coalition for a Smoke-Free New York. I want to
13 thank the Speaker and her staff. I want to thank
14 the chair of the Health Committee, Chair Joel
15 Rivera and the staff who worked so hard on this
16 legislation, Adira Siman and the committee's
17 counsel, Joe Mancino the policy analyst, Rob
18 Newman the director. I urge all of my colleagues
19 to vote in favor of 642-A. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
21 much, Council Member Dickens. I also want to
22 thank Council Member Reyna and Chuck Davis and the
23 Rules Committee staff for moving forward today on
24 the re-appointment of Michael Regan to the New
25 York City Board of Corrections. Lastly, but

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2 certainly not least, I want to say a few comments
3 about the Coney Island rezoning plan. Let me
4 first start by thanking Gail Benjamin and all of
5 the members of the Council Land Use staff who put
6 a tremendous amount of work into this project. I
7 also want to thank Chuck Meara in my office and
8 really, really thank Ramon Martinez in my office
9 who did just a tremendous amount of work on this,
10 as well as Karen and the rest of Domenic's staff
11 for their tremendous work. I want to thank the
12 chair of our Land Use Committee, Council Member
13 Melinda Katz and thank no one more than Council
14 Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. who puts his heart
15 and soul into everything he does, but I think we
16 saw that in the most significant way as it relates
17 to his very dear Coney Island and this rezoning
18 project. What we've done or tried to do here is
19 help move Coney Island back to the days when it
20 was one of the most significant and most exciting
21 destinations in our city. I think anyone would be
22 hard pressed not to admit that Coney Island has
23 lost a little bit of her luster, that she isn't
24 what she once was. And what we're doing today is
25 hopefully preserving what was great about Coney

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2 Island but also enabling it to move forward and
3 expand and again become a true recreation
4 destination. In doing that we've preserved
5 amusements, we've brought parkland. We've also
6 brought thousands and thousands of units of
7 housing, 35% of which will be affordable housing
8 targeting low and moderate income area residents.
9 We've also created important jobs, good jobs with
10 prevailing wages which will offer opportunity to
11 area residents at a time when it is critically,
12 critically needed. Now the list of good things
13 that have been part of this plan really go on and
14 on, too long to list. But most importantly, what
15 we have done here is I hope move Coney Island down
16 a path where we'll think about and be able to not
17 just think about but see thousands of people from
18 the city, thousands of people from the area
19 packing onto that boardwalk to go and have fun
20 with their families and enjoy one of Brooklyn and
21 New York's gems, the amusements of Coney Island.
22 Before I call on our Land Use chair to speak, I
23 just want to again thank her and really thank
24 Council Member Recchia. He fought this long and
25 hard fight until it got to a place that he really

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2 believed it was supporting and benefiting his
3 district in Brooklyn. We all often see all of our
4 colleagues fight hard in the Land Use process, but
5 we'd be hard pressed to find anybody who has
6 fought as long and hard as Domenic. So
7 congratulations Domenic. Let me call on
8 Chairperson Katz and then Council Member Recchia.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you,
10 Madame Chair and thank you to you and your staff
11 for all the hard work on the Coney Island
12 rezoning. There are very few people that grew up
13 in the City of New York or whose parents or
14 grandparents don't talk about and tell stories
15 about the wonder and magic of Coney Island. Many
16 of you have heard me talk about that in 20 years
17 what I want to be able to do as the former chair
18 of the Land Use Committee of the City Council is
19 walk through the projects and look at them and
20 take pride in the fact that we passed them here at
21 the Council, that we worked with the
22 Administration to get a better project at the end.
23 To make sure that we walk past a project that
24 shows that this city is on the verge of
25 revitalization that we are investing, we are

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2 creating jobs, we are creating affordable housing
3 in our city and with Coney Island it is of
4 significant value, not only to the residents that
5 are there who will benefit and Domenic Recchia has
6 been an unbelievable supporter for his community,
7 but this is a project that will benefit and show
8 the stature of the entire City of New York. So I
9 am very proud of the hard work that all of the
10 coalitions involved in this have done. This
11 project will create over 6,000 permanent jobs,
12 25,000 construction jobs. It'll be 35% affordable
13 housing, 4,500 new housing units, half of them
14 home ownership. It'll create 500,000 square feet
15 of new retail and services to service the Coney
16 Island community. It will create 900 hotel rooms
17 and \$14 billion of new economic activity in Coney
18 Island will be over the next 30 years. This is a
19 project that had every single community
20 organization in the area work together with this
21 Council, with the Administration and especially
22 with Domenic Recchia who I feel like we're going
23 to have to speak every day for the next few days
24 just because we've been speaking so often I'll
25 feel left out of his life. He has been an avid

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2 fighter for his community and for this project. I
3 am proud that the Land Use Committee has approved
4 it and ask my colleagues to support it. I also by
5 the way ask for unanimous consent to vote on the
6 General Order calendar and resolutions if I may,
7 Madame Speaker.

8 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member
11 Recchia.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,
13 Melinda Katz and thank you Speaker Quinn. For too
14 long, New York's most historic and exciting
15 neighborhood has been a shadow of the glory and
16 glamour it once held. While New Yorkers and
17 tourists would flock to Coney Island during the
18 summer, the winter months are harsh. Today is
19 truly a historic day. By working together with
20 Mayor Bloomberg, his Administration and the
21 community, we are able to develop a rezoning plan
22 that will usher in a new era for this iconic
23 neighborhood, guaranteeing that it will thrive
24 every single day of the year. This will mean year
25 round jobs that pay livable wages as well as

1 programs to place local residents in those jobs.
2 Of the new housing, 35% will be affordable, with
3 50% of that dedicated to Coney Island residents.
4 This will include low income senior housing,
5 workforce housing and most importantly, a home
6 ownership program that will assist families with
7 down payments, giving them the opportunity to
8 purchase homes they can call their own. We're
9 building a community center in Coney Island. It's
10 something that the community has wanted for years.
11 Coney Island Commons, which will be run by the
12 YMCA and it will have included in it 100% of
13 affordable housing above it. Tourists will come
14 from all over the world to visit but not just for
15 three months of the year. Coney Island will
16 continue to have exciting world class amusements
17 and the New York Aquarium will become an even
18 bigger draw with a brand new shark exhibit.
19 Students at P.S. 188 will have a gym instead of
20 having to play in the cafeteria. Land is being
21 set aside to build a new school in the future.
22 The Abe Stark Ice Skating Rink will remain open
23 until a new replacement rink is built nearby and a
24 commitment has been made to renovate the world
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1 famous Boardwalk. We have secured \$30 million for
2 Coney Island Hospital to renovate the emergency
3 room and make other improvements to handle the
4 capacity of current and future residents and
5 visitors. There is more than \$137 million
6 allocated for much-needed to the peninsula's
7 infrastructure to alleviate sewage and drainage
8 problems that have been affecting Coney Island for
9 years. In the course of the new construction, we
10 are ensuring there will be no big box stores. We
11 will begin the process of landmarking the Shore
12 Theater, one of Coney Island's historic buildings.
13 Let me be clear, any single one of these things
14 would be a huge benefit to Coney Island. The fact
15 that the commitment has been made to provide all
16 of these is truly remarkable. This has been a
17 long process filled with ours of meetings and
18 public testimony. While I believe that it's
19 impossible to make everyone happy and anyone who
20 tries to do so is doomed to failure, with this
21 plan, we have managed to apply our strongest ideas
22 and move forward. I have been working on this
23 redevelopment for eight years and today is the day
24 I can proudly say that the City Council has made
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2 the commitment to restoring the glory and the
3 glamour of Coney Island's past and guaranteed a
4 bright future that maintains the character of the
5 community. This plan took a lot of meetings, a
6 lot of passion and a lot of dedication. I
7 couldn't have done it alone. Everyone involved
8 was committed and determined to seeing this
9 project through its completion and I thank them
10 for all of their hard work. First I'd like to
11 thank Speaker Quinn, Chief of Staff Chuck Meara
12 and a Deputy Chief of Staff Ramon who has been
13 there with me in and out, day in and day out and
14 especially the closer who could not have done it
15 without Jeff Rodus. Thank you, Jeff. To our
16 wonderful Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the first mayor
17 to truly invest resources into Coney Island.
18 Deputy Mayor Bob Lieber, Nina Lynch and Felix
19 Ciampa for their determination to redevelop Coney
20 Island. Our amazing Land Use division, to Gail
21 Benjamin who was there for me all the time, on
22 weekends, during the week, in the wee hours of the
23 morning, I cannot say thank you so much to Gail.
24 Your staff was remarkable, Alonzo Carr and
25 Christian Hylton, thank you because my community

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2 appreciates all that you have done. To Melinda
3 Katz, the chair of the Land Use Committee and Tony
4 Avella, the chair of the Zoning and Franchise
5 Committee, thank you. To my colleagues in
6 government who worked very closely with me, to our
7 Borough President Marty Markowitz, to our
8 Congressman Jerry Nadler and his Chief of Staff
9 Rob Gottheim, State Senator Diane Savino and
10 Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny, thank you for being
11 a great partner throughout this all. I look
12 forward to working with you once we have to go up
13 to Albany to alienate the parkland. To Community
14 Board 13, including its Chair Marion Cleaver and
15 District Manager Reichenthal who did a fantastic
16 job with the community public hearing, thank you
17 for all you have done in working with me and being
18 also a partner. To the CIDC, to Lynn Kelly,
19 Nicole Robinson and Nathan Blitz, thank you for
20 being at the forefront of this and thank you. I
21 know times were tough at times but we bonded
22 together to make it happen. To my friends at EDC,
23 to its President Pinsky and its Vice President
24 Madelyn Wills, thank you and I cannot say work
25 with you has been a pleasure. Yes, we had our ups

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2 and downs, but we kept focus on the final outcome.
3 To HPD, to its Commissioner Cestero and Holly
4 Leicht who I cannot say is a great deputy
5 commissioner, thank you and I look forward to
6 continuing our work, especially on Lunar Park. To
7 all my good friends at City Planning, to Amanda
8 Burden, I have to say it was wonderful. I learned
9 lot from you and I understand a lot more about
10 City Planning today. I know times were tough
11 because during the process Regina Myers left but
12 she was replaced with an outstanding leader
13 Purnima Kapur. I know she's not here today but I
14 just have to say to Purnima, thank you for putting
15 up with me, and to her staff, Sarah and Cecilia.
16 And to my own staff, to my district staff, to Joe
17 Pacca [phonetic], to my communications director
18 Rob Hart and especially to my outstanding chief of
19 staff who was with me from the very beginning of
20 this, who kept light, who calmed me down, who
21 stayed focused, who puts up with me and words
22 can't say how much you mean to me, but to Karen
23 Becker, thank you. To all of the local community
24 groups, all the ministers in Coney Island, the
25 Ministers Alliance, the community-based

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2 organizations, thank you for all your input. To
3 the coalitions, ACORN, 32BJ, RWDSU, UFCW, Jobs
4 with Justice and the hotel trades, your input was
5 great appreciated and I enjoyed working with you.
6 To Coney Island USA and Dick Zigun, we will
7 continue to grow together. We might have
8 differences but we care a lot about Coney Island
9 and we look and we care about the growth and to
10 see that the amusements say amusements and that we
11 could work together for a better Coney Island in
12 the future. To Coney Island Clear and to the
13 Central Labor Council, its President Gary
14 LaBarbera and all the unions, thank you for your
15 input and working with me and my staff, it has
16 been a pleasure and we will continue to work
17 together. To all of the amusement operators who
18 when we first started this were extremely
19 skeptical, they didn't know what to expect. To
20 Carol Albert, to Dennis Vouderis, Dreamland and of
21 course Murray, we appreciate all that you have
22 done for us and your input will continue and we
23 will all work together to see that we get the
24 right rides and the amusement industry will stay
25 there forever. And to Gargiulo's, one of the

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2 largest employers in Coney Island, their dream
3 will come true to expand their restaurant to make
4 a catering hall for over 1,000 people. But most
5 of all, to continue to grow and hire the people
6 with jobs for the people of Coney Island. I would
7 like to thank all my colleagues here today and ask
8 you to vote yes on this rezoning. I truly want to
9 thank all the residents of the 47th District for
10 their passion and for the trust they put in me to
11 see through that this happened. Coney Island will
12 live on and it's just the beginning. Everyone
13 come down, we need your support. Fireworks every
14 Friday night. Thank you. I just forgot to
15 mention my other partner, to Kate Levin, the
16 commissioner of Cultural Affairs and Tahada
17 Mulhatis [phonetic], I have to thank the both of
18 them.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

20 Domenic, thank you for remembering the closer who
21 I had forgotten, Jeff Rodus. I just want to
22 underscore all of your thanks to the
23 Administration, in particular our City Planning
24 chair and to the EDC. Thank you all. That
25 concludes what may have been the longest

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communications from the Speaker ever.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Discussion and
General Orders. Council Member Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
very much. I hate to break up the party, but
there are some people in Coney Island that are not
satisfied with this plan.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I've gotten
calls to my office from grassroots activists who
feel that Coney Island may be turned into cozy
island for the elite. When we talk about four
hotels being built, I guarantee you those hotels
will either not be built or not be filled if they
are built. That's a flawed economic plan. When
we're talking about affordable housing, to their
own admission, 35% and only 50% of the 35% of the
people who live in Coney Island, so that means
15%. When you look at some of the income
requirements, they're talking about the top elite,
those who are making \$60,000-\$100,000 and more.
That is not affordable if you're talking about
moving blacks and Latinos, low income people out
of the projects into housing. To me that is not

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2 affordable and the number is not high enough. I
3 feel what we're doing here and all of the
4 wonderful things that you mentioned will happen.
5 There will be people that benefit with the
6 permanent jobs and the temporary construction
7 jobs. But this is a plan to make Coney Island
8 more feasible for the business community, more
9 attractive to the business community and not for
10 the local grassroots, indigenous people there that
11 are struggling each and every day. So I just
12 wanted to say that I'm encouraging my colleagues
13 to do what I know you're not going to do, vote no
14 and let them take the plan back. As hard as they
15 worked, they need to be like Avis and work harder
16 so that we can get a plan that will be truly for
17 the grassroots people, the low income people of
18 Coney Island and not turn it into an elitist
19 venture for profits and capital and not for
20 people. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
22 Robert Jackson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
24 Good afternoon my colleagues. I rise to you to
25 speak about Intro 992-A, the residency requirement

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2 bill. As you know, we accepted recently the
3 Mayor's veto of Intro 992-A. And 992-A is the
4 clean up bill from the original residency bill
5 that was introduced by DC 37. Knowing that there
6 were several thousand employees that were left out
7 in the cold, this was the cleanup bill introduced
8 by our colleague, Council Member Bill de Blasio.
9 The Mayor, knowing that we in the City Council
10 approved the previous bill and overrode his veto,
11 as I said yesterday, I didn't understand the logic
12 of him vetoing this bill knowing this was a
13 cleanup bill for thousands of employees that were
14 left out. So I ask all of you to support Intro
15 992-A, which requires that city employees, if you
16 come to work in New York, you have to live in New
17 York City for at least two years before you can
18 decide to move anywhere in the six counties by
19 covered employees. But also I ask you to support
20 some resolutions that are coming up and I'll speak
21 on that under the appropriate time for
22 resolutions. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
24 Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.

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2 I rise in support of Intro 598, which I'm
3 sponsoring. It seems to be a housekeeping item,
4 but it's an important housekeeping item for an
5 important industry, which is the coin-operated
6 amusement industry. There was a tax that was in
7 effect and was repealed in 1997. The tax was
8 imposed for the privilege of maintaining coin-
9 operated amusement devices such as jukeboxes,
10 pinball machines, or mechanical rides placed
11 outside of stores in the city. While this law was
12 repealed, there still is a law on the books to
13 require the maintaining of those tax stamps and
14 there has been a recent trend of tickets to the
15 owners of these amusements which has resulted in
16 significant harassment. It's obviously absurd to
17 get a ticket for not having a stamp for a law
18 which has not been in effect for over ten years.
19 So bill will clean that up and will help an
20 industry that is struggling right now, the coin-
21 operated amusement industry. I urge support of
22 598.

23 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
24 Gerson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you.

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2 As we all know, Coney Island occupies a very
3 special place in the culture and sentiment of New
4 York and New Yorkers. It remains our collective
5 responsibility to assure its rejuvenation
6 consistent with its historic and affordable
7 character. Accordingly, I will vote yes on the
8 proposal in recognition of the progress made under
9 the leadership of Council Member Recchia with the
10 Administration and all acknowledged. However, I
11 do so in recognition and in insistence that the
12 progress is not complete. That this is a major
13 step forward but additional steps must be taken to
14 which I commit myself and I hope this Council and
15 expect with the Administration will fulfill and
16 move forward on. Specifically, the landmarking of
17 many historic structures in that district should
18 proceed expeditiously. Specifically, this Council
19 should aggressively fulfill the responsibility and
20 the authority given to us by our ability to review
21 plans for the proposed administration which
22 Council Member Recchia I know played a major role
23 in negotiating and I'm sure that we will all
24 insist that it be a real and significant outdoor
25 amusement area which is affordable to the

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2 recreation of all New Yorkers. We hope and expect
3 that the Administration will conclude negotiations
4 with Thor to acquire the maximum amount of space
5 to enhance the amusement district and that those
6 negotiations will be followed by a step two to
7 acquire other properties south of Surf Avenue and
8 we will do everything to make sure that hotel and
9 other development does not dwarf the area. And
10 also that we will move forward to expand
11 affordability. Actually, we must do better not
12 only in Coney Island but citywide and we must do
13 so there. So with that, I will vote yes. Thank
14 you, Mr. Chair.

15 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.
16 Thank you, Council Member. Council Member
17 Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
19 you. I would just like to ask permission to vote
20 on today's General Order calendar and I'd like to
21 vote aye on all.

22 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.
23 Council Member Avella.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you.
25 In the few minutes that I have to speak, I'd like

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2 to talk about two different items. One on the
3 agenda today is an item to relocate five
4 businesses from Willets Point into the College
5 Point Corporate Park which is in my district.
6 These are businesses that the mayor had the
7 audacity to call blighted, yet somehow he is now
8 moving them into my district and somehow they're
9 okay. Now I know the committee has voted for
10 this. I am still against it. I will ask, even
11 though the Council I know is going to vote for it,
12 these matters will be going before the borough
13 board and I will be asking my Queens colleagues to
14 vote no when these individual applications come
15 before them. I just happen to think it's a
16 disgrace that the mayor can call businesses
17 blighted and then put that blight on residential
18 neighborhoods. The other issue I want to talk
19 about is the Coney Island development proposal. I
20 do want to compliment Council Member Recchia
21 because I think he's gotten a lot of amenities for
22 his district and his community. I know he fought
23 very hard to amend the plan. The problem is it
24 was the city's plan. As we have fought very hard
25 over rezoning applications, we wind up tweaking

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2 the application as much as possible, but it's
3 never really a cooperative relationship. I have
4 to tell you that as chair of the Zoning Committee,
5 after sitting through eight hours of public
6 testimony, the overwhelming concern I had from
7 residents of Coney Island was get rid of the
8 hotels on the south side of Shore Road and expand
9 the amusement area. Expanding the amusement area
10 is the key to preserving what is Coney Island.
11 Reducing the amusement area is unfortunately going
12 to kill what is historically Coney Island. This
13 is something that's not only a city landmark--

14 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: --a
16 national landmark, but a worldwide landmark. I
17 have to vote no. We could do better.

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.
19 Seeing no others, any others on General
20 Discussion? Reports of special committees.

21 MALE VOICE: None.

22 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Reports of
23 Standing Committees?

24 MALE VOICE: Report of the
25 Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Intro 992-A,

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residency requirements for city employees.

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SPEAKER QUINN: It's going to be coupled on General Orders.

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MALE VOICE: M1466, mayor's veto of Introductory 992-A.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be filed.

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MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 1031-A, licensing of pedicabs.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

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MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 598, coin-operated amusement devices.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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MALE VOICE: Preconsidered LU 1161 and Reso 2097 and 1163 and Reso 2098.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

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MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Health, Intro 642-A, prohibiting smoking on hospital grounds.

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

4 MALE VOICE: Report of the
5 Committee on Land Use, LU 1071 and Reso 2099.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
7 Orders.

8 MALE VOICE: LU 1089 and Reso 2100
9 through LU 1133 and Reso 2107 on Page 10, various
10 applications.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 MALE VOICE: LU 1136 through LU
14 1142 on page 12, Coney Island redevelopment.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with
16 modifications and referred to the City Planning
17 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70b of the rules of
18 the Council in Section 197(d) of the New York City
19 Charter.

20 MALE VOICE: LU 1143 and Reso 2108
21 through LU 1145 and Reso 2110, various ULURPS.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24 MALE VOICE: LU 1146 and Reso 2111
25 through LU 1153 and Reso 2117, various

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2 applications.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
4 Orders.5 MALE VOICE: LU 1156 and Reso 2118
6 through LU 1160 and Reso 2122, various
7 applications.8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
9 Orders.10 MALE VOICE: Preconsidered LU 1164
11 and Reso 2123 through Preconsidered LU 1171 and
12 Reso 2130.13 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
14 Orders.15 MALE VOICE: Report of the
16 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections,
17 Preconsidered M1559 and Reso 2131 approving the
18 reappointment of Michael J. Regan, New York City
19 Board of Correction.20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
21 Orders.22 MALE VOICE: Report of the
23 Committee on Transportation, Intro 871-A, bicycle
24 access to office buildings.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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2 on General Orders.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: General Order
Calendar.

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MALE VOICE: Intro 780-A.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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MALE VOICE: LU 1136 and Reso 2132
through LU 1142 and Reso 2138.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing
various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders and at this point I was for a roll call on
all items that have been coupled on the General
Order calendar please.

18

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gerson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on all.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Avella?

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes
on all items except Preconsidered Land Use 1165,
Reso 2124, Land Use 1166, Reso 2125, the College

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2 Point application, Land Use 1147 and Reso 2122 and
3 I vote no on the Coney Island applications, Land
4 Use numbers 1136 through 1142 and Resos 2132
5 through Reso 2138. I vote yes on everything else.

6 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
8 on LU 1136 to 1142 and accompanying Resos, the
9 Coney Island project. I vote no on LU 1147 and
10 accompanying Reso 2112 and I vote aye on all the
11 rest.

12 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I want to
14 congratulate the folks, certainly David Yassky,
15 John Liu and Oliver Koppell for the incredible
16 work on the bicycle legislation and certainly Inez
17 Dickens on really trying to make us healthier.
18 All of those bills do that. I know Domenic
19 Recchia has worked night and day. I can't quite
20 imagine the pressure. I have done something
21 similar with smaller projects. The scale of his
22 is much larger. For those who don't agree with
23 him, I want to say that you certainly have your
24 right to your opinion. I can tell you that nobody
25 cares more, not just about Coney Island but about

1
2 our city because he's shown quietly over and over
3 again his capacity for implementing programs that
4 really do help all kids, all families and I'm sure
5 he's doing the same as best he can in Coney
6 Island. I vote aye.

7 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Comrie?

8 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: I vote aye on
9 all. I want to congratulate Council Member
10 Recchia for all of the work that he's done over
11 the past eight years to come to this point today
12 to make sure that Coney Island is still a premier
13 destination for all city residents. I want to
14 congratulate Council Member Oliver Koppell and
15 Council Member de Blasio for their Resolutions and
16 Intros that they passed also. And I also want to
17 congratulate Council Member Yassky on the bike
18 bills as today is bike day. Aye on all.

19 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Crowley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
21 all.

22 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: De Blasio?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEBLASIO: May I be
24 excused to explain my vote? Thank you. First of
25 all I'd like to thank all my colleagues who are

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2 joining us in supporting the override of the veto
3 on the residency bill, Intro 992. And on Coney
4 Island, I'd like to congratulate the Speaker and
5 all her staff. I'd like to especially
6 congratulate Council Member Recchia, Senator
7 Savino, Assemblyman Brook-Krasny. I think Domenic
8 you did amazing work on this project and your
9 colleagues in government did as well. This was a
10 long struggle but there was lots of community
11 involvement, lots of debate trying to make sure
12 that there's the best outcome for the community.
13 I'm very impressed by the amount of affordable
14 housing that was achieved and development and
15 amenities. I think we really have to be careful
16 going forward to preserve the amusement areas,
17 trying to expand upon them, particularly open air
18 elements in the amusement areas. And of course, I
19 believe there are opportunities for preservation
20 that have to be focused on going forward in Coney
21 Island. But this plan is extraordinary and the
22 result of an intense labor, I think one of the
23 hardest land use efforts in this entire eight
24 years a lot of us have spent together, but with an
25 extraordinary result. So I congratulate everyone

1
2 who was involved, particular Council Member
3 Recchia. I vote aye on all items on the General
4 Order calendar. I'd also like to vote aye on all
5 the Land Use call-ups.

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

7 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Council Member
8 Dickens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission
10 to explain my vote.

11 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.
13 It is very difficult when these rezonings come up
14 that are so huge and so difficult. Council Member
15 Recchia and the Land Use staff struggled through
16 literally hours, hours, hours, days, weeks,
17 months. It is imperative that we also listen to
18 our communities. That is what democracy is about.
19 That is what this house of the people is about,
20 listening and then making decisions that sometimes
21 are difficult because we cannot be all things to
22 each individual. But I am confident that Council
23 Member Recchia worked very diligently, very hard
24 to make the best decision possible. He has shown
25 his love, his commitment for his community and I

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2 believe in what is being done. I vote aye.

3 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ulrich?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

5 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Dilan?

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Your mike's
7 not on Council Member, but so ordered.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I'd like to
9 vote no on Intro 780-A, Intro 871-A and Intro 992-
10 A. On Intro 780 and 871, I just have concerns
11 about regulating these industries because a lot of
12 it, whether it be buildings or parking garages are
13 private properties. I just have some concerns
14 about it. I could be proven to be wrong in the
15 future. In fact, I hope I'm proven to be wrong in
16 the future. Energy efficiency, whether it be in
17 buildings, in motor vehicles is the wave of the
18 future and it's going to have to happen. I think
19 that we are going to be making major decisions,
20 not only in this Council but in every legislature
21 across the country in this regard. I think the
22 manor in which we do it is very imperative. I
23 would hope that with the parking garages that this
24 would turn out to be a profitable endeavor for the
25 parking garages. It may be, it may not be. I'm

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2 not certain. I would feel a lot more comfortable
3 if demand dictated that decision. That's
4 something that a business owner can do except the
5 Council is making that decision for a business.
6 Again, I hope I'm wrong. I hope this turns out to
7 be profitable. I'm not against cyclists. In
8 fact, I ride bikes myself. In fact, I used to
9 race bikes. So those are not my reasons for the
10 objections. But I think in fairness to these
11 buildings and these businesses, we need to be
12 careful in how we go forward with legislation to
13 make these industries more energy efficient.
14 Because one, we have to, but we don't want to put
15 people out of business in the process. So for
16 that I will vote no on those items and aye on all
17 others.

18 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Eugene?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

20 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Felder?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

22 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ferreras?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote
24 aye on all.

25 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Fidler?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Deputy
3 Majority Leader, may I briefly be excused to
4 explain my vote?

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you.
7 First, I would like to be associated with the
8 comments of Council Members Brewer and Dickens
9 regarding my good friend Councilman Recchia who
10 does put his all. There is no neighborhood he
11 cares about more in the world than Coney Island.
12 I just want to point out to folks that I consider
13 myself a preservationist but it is inherent in the
14 term improvement that something has to change. I
15 do believe that the package that the Councilman
16 has worked out will eventually bring Coney Island
17 back to its glory days for everybody, so I
18 enthusiastically support it. I also want to thank
19 Council Member Weprin for Intro 598. You have to
20 be in the twilight zone to believe that the City
21 of New York is fining businesses and people for
22 not having a tax stamp on an item that no longer
23 is taxed. I mean think about that for a second.
24 It is literally absurd and not only that, it's
25 utterly wasteful. I mean someone goes in to

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2 contest that and a Corp Counsel or an ADA has to
3 stand there and defend it. It's just ridiculous.
4 Only in Bloomberg world, our own little amusement
5 area, we're fined to use to raise revenue as
6 opposed to police quality of life could such a
7 thing be happening. That it should actually be
8 necessary to pass a law as opposed to having
9 someone who prides himself on being a manager tell
10 his agency not to issue tickets like that because
11 it's ridiculous. So I am very happy that
12 Councilman Weprin has brought this bill to the
13 floor. I happily vote aye on all.

14 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Foster?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to
16 vote aye on all and all the resolutions,
17 especially Preconsidered 2090 in support of the
18 union workers and keeping Stella D'Oro open.
19 Thank you.

20 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gennaro?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

22 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gentile?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With
24 congratulates to Domenic and all my other Brooklyn
25 colleagues, I vote aye on all.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gioia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I'd like to vote yes on all, including Land Use call-ups. I too would like to congratulate Council Member Recchia.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on all.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like to vote aye on all and applaud our Deputy Majority Leader for the fine job he's doing today as our presiding officer. Congratulations.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you.

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Thank you.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye on all. Congratulations, Domenic, we've been there and done that. Thank you.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be excused to explain my vote? It's thundering outside because we just lost former State Senator Olga Mendez who has gone on to glory. We should

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1
2 recess this session in honor of her memory. This
3 is really to Council Member Recchia, who my heart
4 is heavy right now because I have seen the results
5 of a rezoning in downtown Brooklyn which has
6 resulted in a significant loss of poor people and
7 people of color in downtown Brooklyn. I'm
8 concerned about Coney Island. As a child of a
9 working class family who spent their summers in
10 Coney Island, as a child who remembers being
11 shocked by the bizarre and the weirdos and the
12 zanies and yes, the haunted house in Coney Island.
13 I remember Coney Island. I am concerned about the
14 Wonder Wheel. I am concerned about the roller
15 coaster. I'm concerned about the residents of
16 NYCHA who often live within the shadow of Coney
17 Island. I'm concerned about their future. But
18 Domenic, I know you love Coney Island. I know you
19 fought hard. You gave a lot of credit to the
20 Mayor of the City of New York but I know that this
21 plan started out with only 20% of affordable
22 housing and you fought, Domenic, to get 35%. We
23 all fight to increase affordable housing despite
24 the rhetoric of the mayor of this city. You
25 fought Domenic to get union jobs. You fought,

1
2 Domenic, to increase opportunities for local
3 residents. So I'm supporting this project because
4 of you, Domenic, not because of this
5 administration because I have seen what they have
6 done in downtown Brooklyn. The only shining light
7 is this recession which is why most of the
8 buildings in downtown Brooklyn are now empty and
9 developers who are fighting bankruptcy. They
10 stand as relics to the rich and the excess and the
11 gilded age that has gone past. I support this
12 Domenic because I believe in you. I would hope
13 that you would fight to expand the amusement area
14 so that children who look like me can continue to
15 be spooked by the haunted houses and ride on the
16 Wonder Wheels and on the roller coasters of the
17 Coney Island that I remember. I vote aye on all.

18 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Koppell?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: May I
20 briefly explain my vote?

21 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.
23 While I understand the concern about over
24 regulation in connection with requiring facilities
25 for bicycles, the fact is that we unfortunately

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2 have to regulate because without regulation we
3 destroy the environment. We make it difficult if
4 not impossible for people to live successful
5 lives. A good example relevant to the bicycle
6 issue is Beijing. Some of us remember back in the
7 days when Beijing had very few cars and most
8 people commuted by bicycle. That's changed to
9 such a degree that now the air is so bad in
10 Beijing that people refuse to go there. During
11 the Olympics they had to shut down facilities and
12 control traffic and people go around Beijing
13 wearing face masks to keep the pollution out. We
14 don't want to have that in New York City. We've
15 got to encourage clean air and we have to
16 encourage people to use alternative means of
17 transportation rather than internal combustion
18 engines. So while it may be regrettable to have
19 to regulate, we have no alternative. The
20 alternative is illness, the alternative is a
21 society that's simply not healthy and that's why
22 we regulate in other areas and we now have to
23 regulate transportation as well. I'm delighted
24 that today is bicycle day. We're doing some other
25 important things. I withdraw my request and I

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2 vote aye on all.

3 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Lappin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Domenic,

5 congratulations. I vote aye on all.

6 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mealy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

8 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mendez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission
10 to explain my vote? Peter?

11 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Domenic, I
13 know how hard you've worked on this, but I can't
14 find my way to vote for it.

15 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: But, for
17 all the reasons Council Member James stated and
18 because I know how hard you worked on it, I
19 abstain on LU 1136-1142 and Reso 2132-2138. I
20 vote no on 1147 and accompanying Reso 2122. And I
21 vote yes on everything else.

22 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Mitchell?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on
24 all.

25 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: On behalf

7

of all my Coney Island residents and behalf of New

8

York City it's a great pleasure after eight years

9

of working on this project, I proudly vote aye,

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yes to pass this.

11

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Telephones

12

off, please. Quiet please.

13

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Reyna?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission

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to explain my vote.

16

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I'd like to

18

congratulate Council Member Domenic Recchia. I'd

19

like to just say a few words as far as the

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Preconsidered Land Use items 1167, accompany

21

Resolution 2126 and Preconsidered Land Use 1168

22

and accompanying Resolution 2127. These are the

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two follow-up action land use items which will now

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extend an inclusionary housing program to be

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enacted, a down-zoning that has forever been

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2 waiting on behalf of the residents of Greenpoint-
3 Williamsburg. Finally the day has arrived so that
4 our homeowners and residents of Greenpoint-
5 Williamsburg will seek some peace and tranquility
6 with the over development that had occurred for
7 years. We are going to find these particular
8 actions to be protection to the homeowners and its
9 residents. We just wanted to thank the Department
10 of City Planning for their diligent work on 175
11 blocks, assessed thereafter 2005, their expediency
12 in making sure that this no longer prolonged to be
13 voted in favor of. Thank you so much. I vote aye
14 on all.

15 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Telephones off
16 please. That's the third phone I've heard in two
17 minutes.

18 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sanders?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS:
20 Congratulations to all who deserve. I vote aye on
21 all.

22 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Seabrook?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
24 very much.

25 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: For an
3 individual who has worked so long and hard,
4 Domenic Recchia should be commended for what he
5 has actually done. He has talked about this
6 project for many, many years and in discussion and
7 talked about how fair it was going to be, how just
8 it was going to be and that he took a stand
9 against the Administration because he wanted to
10 deal with what was fair and what was just. All of
11 the things that we had talked to Domenic about,
12 such as minority participation and community
13 participation, all of these things that we had
14 discussions for a number of years about and
15 Domenic, you have brought it home. You have dealt
16 with these issues and this is a place that we're
17 going to love and remember all of our experiences
18 at Coney Island. A job well done and I will say
19 to this Council that you will never be forgotten
20 for what you have done today in terms of boosting
21 up what has to happen and the hospital and
22 everything else with the emergency room. Domenic,
23 it's a job well done. I vote aye.

24 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Sears?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Stewart?

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye and
Domenic thank you for doing a great job.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

7

MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'd like
to congratulate Domenic, although I think his
speech took almost as long as the whole land use
process. We feel like we lived through it now,
Dom, we all lived through it with you.

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MALE VOICE: Good line.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And David
Yassky, and vote aye on all, except I'm going to
abstain on Land Use 1147 and Resolution 2112
because of a potential conflict.

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Weprin?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all
with congratulations to Domenic Recchia.

20

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MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Yassky?

22

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay, all
right. Yassky had already voted?

23

24

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: No, he has
not voted, but aye on all. I just want to echo

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1
2 the comments of Gale Brewer about the work of
3 Domenic Recchia on Coney Island.

4 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Oddo?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I would just
6 point out that there was less phone ringing when
7 Betsy sat in that seat.

8 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thanks, Jimmy.
9 Thanks. I'll get them later.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: The humidity
11 is getting to all of us, folks. I vote yes with
12 congratulations to my friend, Council Member
13 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. for a job well done. Some
14 part time job, huh, Dom?

15 MICHAEL MCSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn?

16 SPEAKER QUINN: I vote aye.

17 [Pause]

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: All items on
19 today's General Order calendar were adopted by a
20 vote of 47 affirmatives, zero negative, and zero
21 abstentions, with the exception of LU 1136-1146
22 and accompanying Resolutions, which was adopted by
23 a vote of 44 affirmative, 2 negative and 1
24 abstention; and LU 1165 and Reso 2124 which was
25 adopted by a vote of 44 affirmative, 1 negative

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2 and zero abstentions; LU 1166 and accompanying
3 Reso 2125 which was adopted by a vote of 46
4 affirmative, 1 negative and zero abstentions; and
5 LU 1147 and accompanying Reso 2112 which was
6 adopted by a vote of 43 affirmative, 3 negative
7 and 1 abstention; and Intro 780-A which was
8 adopted by a vote of 46 affirmative, 1 negative
9 and zero abstentions; and Intro 871-A which was
10 adopted by a vote of 46 affirmative, 1 negative
11 and zero abstentions; Intro 992-A which was
12 adopted by a vote of 46 affirmative, 1 negative
13 and zero abstentions. The revised Land Use call-
14 ups vote is 47 affirmative and zero negatives.
15 Introduction and reading of bills.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
17 referred to committee as indicated on the agenda.

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Discussion of
19 Resolutions, Council Member Jackson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chair. I rise my colleagues to talk about the
22 Reso concerning the Stella D'Oro factory workers
23 and Crane's Insiders and let me read it to you.
24 Council cooks up Stella support.

25 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.

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2 If you must leave, leave quietly so that
3 Councilman Jackson can be heard.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: The
5 Resolution in support of efforts by 136 workers at
6 the Stella D'Oro factory in the Bronx is--

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Just one second.
8 Folks please exit not down the main aisle please.
9 Madelyn, can you exit down the side please. If we
10 could get quiet in the chambers, the meeting is
11 still going on. Let's reset the clock for Council
12 Member Jackson please.

13 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Quiet please.
14 Reset the clock for Councilman Jackson. If you
15 must leave, leave quietly.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: A
17 Resolution in support of efforts by 136 workers at
18 the Stella D'Oro factory in the Bronx stopped the
19 plant's pending shutdown. It's likely to pass the
20 City Council today. The worker's union is seeking
21 an injunction to prevent the closing which came on
22 the heels of a ten month strike. These
23 individuals testified yesterday and said not one
24 worker crossed the picket line. Let me just say
25 to the private equity group that owns it,

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2 corporate greed needs to be stamped out. Not
3 necessarily corporations, but the greed. These
4 workers are New Yorkers. They look like you and
5 I. They have families. They have rent to pay and
6 mortgages to pay. They don't earn \$150,000 a
7 year. Probably none of them earn even \$100,000 a
8 year. So I ask you my colleagues to support the
9 Stella D'Oro workers and vote aye on this
10 Resolution.

11 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
12 Seabrook on Resolutions.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
14 very much, I'm calling on my colleagues and asking
15 you to deal with two Resolutions; Resolution 1977
16 and Resolution 1773-A. This Resolution deals with
17 minority and women-owned business and contractors
18 in terms of their participation.

19 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Keep it down.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: As you
21 know, the City Council passed Local Law 129 to
22 talk about the levels of participation for
23 minority and women-owned business. We are urging
24 the state to allow the elimination of the
25 competitive bidding as it relates to minority and

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2 women-owned businesses and to deal with those 10%
3 in which the State of New York already has enacted
4 and would allow the City of New York to do some of
5 the same things for participation for minority and
6 women-owned business. What a better and fitting
7 time to do that after we've just passed this whole
8 developmental act for Coney Island so that those
9 minority and women-owned businesses will be
10 participants in this process as we move along for
11 jobs and for business. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
13 James.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I forgot to
15 thank Domenic for taking off the table eminent
16 domain. In regards to Reso 1773 and Reso 1977,
17 thank you. During these difficult economic times,
18 small and women and businesses of color are being
19 hardest hit. The following Resolutions seek to
20 increase procurement opportunities for small local
21 businesses and women-owned and minority-owned
22 businesses who competitively bid for city
23 contracts. In Fiscal Year 2008, New York City
24 procured over \$16 billion in goods and services.
25 Unfortunately, despite the rhetoric, only a small,

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2 small fraction of this amount was awarded to small
3 women and minority businesses in the City of New
4 York. The best way to go about doing this is by
5 allowing a small price preference to small local
6 businesses and to WMBEs that submit bids for
7 competitively bid contracts. Working with the
8 state legislature and members of the City Council,
9 specifically Council Member Larry Seabrook and
10 Robert Jackson and Inez Dickens, we are proud
11 today to put forth these resolutions and we urge
12 your support. We also say happy birthday to
13 Council Member Inez Dickens and birthday boy Larry
14 Seabrook. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
16 Koppell.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you
18 very much. The Stella D'Oro strike is one of the
19 most unbelievable labor actions that I have seen.
20 It really takes us back to the turn of the 20th
21 century, not the 21st century, when labor was
22 forced out of factories and workplaces around the
23 country. These workers, I doubt that they were
24 earning \$30,000. These are very modest workers
25 who were asked by Brynwood Partners to take a pay

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2 cut, \$1 an hour pay cut the first year, \$2 an hour
3 the third year and \$3 an hour the fourth year.
4 They were going to be deprived of their sick days.
5 They were going to be deprived of their holiday.
6 They were going to be deprived of their pensions.
7 When they tried to negotiate, there was no
8 negotiations and the National Labor Relations
9 Board found an unfair labor practice. So when
10 they were reinstated by the NLRB, the Brynwood
11 Partners announced that they're going to close the
12 plant. This is outrageous. I want to thank the
13 Speaker most sincerely for putting the Resolution
14 through with me and hopefully we can convince this
15 company that if they don't deal fairly with labor,
16 they shouldn't get any investment by pension
17 funds. They shouldn't be allowed to continue to
18 exist. Thank you very much for allowing this to
19 come to the floor, Madame Speaker. It's only
20 just. These are the most modest people who are
21 desperately trying to support their families and
22 we should do everything we can to see to it that
23 their jobs are maintained.

24 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Now we'll have
25 a vote on the Resolutions. I just want to speak

1
2 to support Council Member Seabrook and thank
3 Council Member James for passing the Resolutions
4 1773 and 1997 and also the Preconsidered Reso that
5 Council Member Koppel just spoke on. I think it's
6 very important that we send that message. With
7 that, we'll call for a voice vote on each
8 Resolution. Resolution 1773-A, a voice vote.

9 GROUP: Aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Resolution
11 1997, a voice vote.

12 GROUP: Aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Preconsidered
14 Resolution 2090, a voice vote.

15 GROUP: Aye.

16 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: General
17 discussion, Council Member Jackson? Pass.
18 Council Member Mealy, pass. Council Member Gale
19 Brewer?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I want to
21 say that there are three people who have been
22 working with us this summer, Benjamin Solotare
23 [phonetic] who is at Empire State, Lee Kappan
24 [phonetic] at NYU and Nick Eicher [phonetic] who
25 is at NYU. As usual, these wonderful people are

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2 helping us with policy and budget and other
3 issues. I want to thank them and we should all
4 thank them. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you.
6 Council Member Simcha Felder.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I'd like to
8 begin by wishing a happy birthday as well to
9 Council Member Inez Dickens and birthday boy,
10 Larry Seabrook. How was that?

11 FEMALE VOICE: Good.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: An addition
13 on Intro 1046 that's being introduced today to
14 abolish the position of the Public Advocate and
15 save the city some money, a few facts. First of
16 all, no other major city has an elected public
17 advocate. The office costs millions of dollars
18 every year and we've done a study that's available
19 online that details the additional costs that are
20 not so obvious. In addition, a lot of the
21 services that the Public Advocate's Office claims
22 that it's responsible for are redundant and those
23 services are provided already by a variety of
24 other offices and public service groups throughout
25 the city. New York is a special city but we don't

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2 have to be special in every way, especially in
3 wasting taxpayers' money. I ask you to join me on
4 this Intro. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you. I
6 want to thank all of my interns that have been
7 working with me. The ones that are here but they
8 left, Anika Rohn and Deshkevin Cameron William, I
9 want to thank. I want to just do some birthday
10 shout-outs since we're doing Leo birthday shout-
11 outs. They shouted out Council Members Dickens
12 and Seabrook, but they forgot to congratulate
13 Domenic Recchia and Speaker Christine Quinn for
14 their birthdays. So let's wish them happy
15 birthday as well. I just want to announce one
16 piece of good news that I just heard. This young
17 lady beaming next to me today is smiling more than
18 unusual because she just got engaged. So let's
19 give Lauren Axelrod a hand. I just wanted to end
20 on a piece of good news. She's being all shy, but
21 she's got a nice new shiny rock. So truly her
22 husband loves her. Speaker Quinn.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to add
24 the other good news, in addition to Lauren getting
25 engaged, Brennan Chenny [phonetic] a Housing

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Policy staff member. He's been with us about six months now. He won't be around for two weeks because he's down in Baltimore getting married and then going on his honeymoon, so another piece of good staff news.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: With that, I'd like to close the meeting of today, July 29th, Stated Meeting, adjourned. Thank you.

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 *Donna Hintze*

Date August 18, 2009