

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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November 16, 2009

Start: 2:14 pm

Recess: 3:56 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:

SPEAKER QUINN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Tony Avella
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth Crowley
Council Member Bill de Blasio
Council Member Inez Dickens
Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Simcha Felder
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

Lucile Singleton
Honoree
Senior Marathoner

John Perry
Honoree
Restoration of St. James Church

George Zapata
Honoree
Restoration of St. James Church

Father Walter Tonelotto
Pastor
St. James Church

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, a little
3 bit late, but better late than never. We're going
4 to start our ceremonials. I want to welcome some
5 of our new Council Members Elect, Dan Halloran and
6 Peter Koo who are with us. So I want to thank
7 them for joining us. [applause] And Council
8 Member Elect Mark Weprin, who is also here. I
9 heard that Steve Levin was here before, I'm not
10 sure if Steve is still around. But we have three
11 ceremonials today. The first one we're going to
12 do is by our majority whip, Inez Dickens, it's
13 honoring Lucille Singleton. And Inez, this says
14 Ms. Singleton is an 86 year old--87, no, no, be
15 quiet everybody, listen to this. Shhh. 87 year
16 old marathoner. [applause, cheers] Alright.
17 That is something worth proclaiming, so let me
18 give the mic to Inez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Hi.
20 Lucille, come on up. And would all of your guests
21 come on up; come on up, family, because this is
22 your family. Come on up family. Yes, this is Ms.
23 Singleton. I'm so pleased to be here with all of
24 my colleagues to honor an exceptional person, an
25 exceptional woman from my district, in the Village

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2 of Harlem, and that's Ms. Lucile Singleton. Like
3 so many of the New Yorkers that we honor here at
4 the Council for accomplishing exceptional feats,
5 and leading remarkable lives, Lucile has left an
6 indelible mark on Harlem and New York City. At 87
7 years young, Lucile has set an example for people
8 of all ages, that age is just a number, by running
9 full length marathons. [applause, cheers]

10 Starting with a love for running that began in the
11 1950s, Lucile did not take up full marathon
12 running until after the age of 70. Her story is
13 even more remarkable and groundbreaking, not only
14 for me, I don't think I could do it at 62. In
15 spite of being diagnosed with kidney ailment that
16 requires dialysis three times a week, she still
17 runs a minimum of four days a week, and does
18 aerobics two days a week at the Kennedy Center in
19 Central Harlem. [applause] And last year, last
20 year, Lucile won three medals in distance running
21 at the Courtland New York Senior Games, and for
22 her longevity, endurance and passion, was featured
23 in the New York City Marathon edition of Runners
24 World Magazine. She has won a total of 15 medals
25 and six plaques for running. Before and during

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2 her illustrious running career, Lucile worked in
3 the construction industry, on crews which
4 constructed 15 establishments citywide, and she
5 continued working construction well into her 70s.
6 She truly lives her motto, "If I didn't stop
7 before, I'm not going to stop now, when I'm
8 sitting on top of the world." And as our
9 President Obama might say, "Yes, she can." 87
10 years young and still running marathons.
11 [applause, cheers] I'm going to ask the Clerk to
12 please read the proclamation.

13 CLERK: Council, City of New York
14 Proclamation: Whereas, the Council of the City of
15 New York is proud to honor Lucile Singleton for
16 her extraordinary dedication to running, and for
17 inspiring countless New Yorkers with her
18 perseverance and zest for life. And whereas Mrs.
19 Single, a native of South Carolina and a New
20 Yorker since 1950, discovered her passion for
21 running while in high school, and she has
22 continued running ever since. Today at the age of
23 87, she usually runs four days each week, goes to
24 aerobic classes twice each week, and is devoted to
25 line dancing. Forever faithful to her motto, "If

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2 I didn't stop before, I'm not going to stop now,"
3 Mrs. Singleton has continued all these activities
4 despite knee surgery and a kidney ailment that
5 requires dialysis three times each week. And
6 whereas, in 1980 she joined the New York Road
7 Runners Club and has volunteered to help the New
8 York City Marathon for 28 years. In 1998, at the
9 age of 75, she took a year off from volunteering
10 and ran the race herself, finishing in eight hours
11 and two minutes. And whereas, in a book by Dennis
12 Kimbrough titled, "What Keeps Me Standing:
13 Letters from Black Grandmothers on Peace, Hope and
14 Inspiration," Mrs. Singleton offered this sage
15 advice, "As anyone who has ever achieved the
16 impossible can tell you, to move forward you've
17 got to step out and do or say something that may
18 make zero sense to anyone but you." And whereas,
19 after nearly three decades of volunteering at the
20 New York City Marathon, Mrs. Singleton considers
21 the event her home away from home, but her own
22 specialty is track. Over the years, she has won
23 15 medals and received six plaques honoring her
24 achievements, and she continues to compete today.
25 In the 2009 Empire State Games, she placed first

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2 in her age group, taking home gold medals in the
3 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, and the 400 meter
4 run. Now therefore be it known, that the Council
5 of the City of New York most gratefully honors
6 Lucile Singleton for enriching New York City with
7 her outstanding dedication. Christine C. Quinn,
8 Speaker for the entire Council; Inez E. Dickens,
9 Council Member, Ninth District, Manhattan.

10 [applause, cheers]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, let me--let
12 me just say, wow. That is impressive, and
13 inspiring. So--Yeah, Inez mentioned you were a
14 construction worker. We did not leave that out.
15 I would be afraid, Ms. Singleton, to leave
16 anything out you wanted mentioned, 'cause--But
17 thank you for sharing your inspiration with us
18 today, and we'd love it if you'd say a few words.

19 LUCILE SINGLETON: Well, this, this
20 is one thing I would like to share. I'm a early
21 morning runner, 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock in the
22 morning I'm out there. But what I do, when I run
23 early in the morning like this, it be dark. On my
24 way coming home, it light up. So what I do, I go
25 into Central Park and I fight the limb. If a limb

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hanging across the road, I give 'em a left and then I give 'em a right. [laughter, applause] That's what I do.

SPEAKER QUINN: Alrighty, thank you and congratulations.

LUCILE SINGLETON: Thank you very much.

[pause, background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: Alright, thank you all very much. We're going to move on to our second ceremonial. And if we could call Alan Gerson to come up. [pause] Alan, great, and I could ask John Perry and George Zapata and any of the other folks from St. James Church to come on up. Just let everybody exit. Hey! How you doing? Good to see you. Hi. Nice to see you, hi, how you doing? [background noise] Oh, great, double--Why don't you give 'em the--So we could just get a little quiet while folks are exiting. So, the guy standing to my right might look a little familiar to some folks in City Hall. He is John Perry who is a retired New York City detective who was assigned to City Hall for quite some time. And a couple of, I don't know, maybe

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2 months ago now, I was--shhhh--was reading the
3 newspaper, flipping through it, and a picture
4 caught my eye, it was a picture of John Perry and
5 of George Zapata. And they were standing on a
6 stairwell, if I recall, at St. James Church, which
7 is across from Police Plaza. And so, you know,
8 recognizing the person in the picture I stopped
9 and read the story. And--Oh, we actually have the
10 picture right here, it's actually in a column by
11 Lisa Colangelo. Okay. That makes perfect sense,
12 'cause everybody'll remember Lisa was for a long
13 time a part of Room Nine, so she and John were
14 buddies, and she now writes the Civil Service
15 column for Daily News. But the story talks about--
16 -you got it Alan--talks about how John sadly
17 returned to his childhood church for his sister's
18 funeral. And as well as that obviously being a
19 very sad and tragic event, it was made worse by
20 the fact that his childhood church was in a state
21 of terrible disrepair. Now, what then happened,
22 led by John and George Zapata, another
23 parishioner, was that John and George too it upon
24 themselves, with volunteerism, sweat equity and
25 their own leadership, to begin repairing St. James

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2 Church. And that does deserve a round of
3 applause. [applause] And when I saw that story,
4 it, it's a lovely and inspiring story, if you read
5 it about anybody. But knowing John and how
6 seriously he takes all of his service to the City
7 of New York, I really wanted to have him back down
8 here, and George as well, to just take a moment to
9 thank you so much for giving something else back
10 to the City of New York. And why don't I ask the
11 Clerk to read the proclamation, and then we'll
12 turn the mic over to John and George. But if we
13 could get--shhhh--so if the conversations could go
14 outside. I have a nun over there, don't make me
15 use her, people. Alright.

16 CLERK: Council, City of New York
17 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
18 is proud to honor John Perry and George Zapata for
19 their outstanding service and contributions to New
20 York City. And whereas, John Perry was born in
21 Lower Manhattan on Monroe Street. As a kid,
22 Spanky, as he was affectionately called, often
23 played stickball in his favorite ball field, City
24 Hall Park. Occasionally, he would shine shoes,
25 and like the famous film character Spanky, he was

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2 often chased by the police. He went to school in
3 the area and like many of his friends was baptized
4 at St. James Church. And whereas, after
5 graduating from Seward Park High School and
6 attending New York Institute of Technology, Mr.
7 Perry worked on Wall Street for Goldman Sachs.
8 Later he served in the United States Navy and was
9 stationed in Vietnam and Scotland. Upon his
10 honorable discharge, Mr. Perry joined the New York
11 City Police Department, and was assigned to patrol
12 command before being transferred to the NYPD
13 Intelligence Division. And whereas, in 1972, John
14 Perry later married Tricia Lamonsella, who also
15 grew up on the Lower East Side. They were married
16 at St. James Church, the same church where their
17 son Dennis was baptized. Mr. Perry was later
18 assigned to City Hall where he provided 18 years
19 of exemplary service, and by the time he retired
20 from the NYPD in 1997, he was a highly decorated
21 detected. And whereas, when Mr. Perry returned to
22 St. James Church several years ago for his
23 sister's funeral, he was heartbroken by the
24 building's severe disrepair. This landmark church
25 was built in 1835, was the site of numerous

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2 historic events, and the second oldest Catholic
3 building in New York City, and the ceiling was
4 coming down. After contacting the Landmarks
5 Conservancy and the St. James Church
6 Administration for Guidance, Mr. Perry began to
7 work on the church himself. And whereas, born in
8 Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, George Zapata moved to New
9 York City at the age of seven with his family in
10 1950. When his family moved to the Al Smith
11 Houses in the Lower East Side in 1956, Mr. Zapata
12 developed a close bond with St. James Church. And
13 whereas, in the 1960s, Mr. Zapata served in the
14 U.S. Army. And when he was honorably discharged
15 and decorated in 1968, he continued to serve for
16 four years through reserve duty. And whereas, a
17 graduate of the prestigious leadership school at
18 Fort Knox, Kentucky, Mr. Zapata had built, had put
19 the golden torch on one of New York City's
20 original houses of worship, St. James Church.
21 With man years of experience in the construction
22 business as a carpenter, and a special passion for
23 restoring beautiful word work, Mr. Zapata had
24 worked tirelessly with retired NYPD detective,
25 John Perry, to restore St. James to its original

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2 glory. And whereas, starting with \$3,000 of Mr.
3 Perry's own money and tireless help of longtime
4 help of longtime parishioner George Zapata, St.
5 James church is slowly but steadily restored. Mr.
6 Zapata, Mr. Perry and Mr. Zapata have devoted many
7 weekends to scraping paint and stripping plaster,
8 refinishing walls and refurbishing doors. With
9 selfless generosity, energy and vision, this
10 hardworking duo have spearheaded efforts to
11 restore one of New York City's most cherished
12 houses of worship. Now therefore be it known that
13 the Council of the City of New York most
14 gratefully honors John Perry and George Zapata for
15 their outstanding service to St. James Church and
16 to the community at large. Christine C. Quinn,
17 Speaker for the entire Council; Alan J. Gerson,
18 Council Member, First District, Manhattan.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
20 [applause] I'm just going to give the mic to
21 Council Member Gerson for one second. I also want
22 to record, recognize, excuse me, Father Walter
23 Tonelotto who is with us today from St. James
24 Church, who is also going to do the invocation.
25 So a bit of double duty. But let me give the mic

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2 over to Council Member Gerson first.

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4 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,
5 Madam Speaker, I just want to thank our Speaker
6 for bringing these two New York heroes and this
7 great endeavor of the restoration of St. James
8 Church to our attention. You know, it's always an
9 inspiration when you meet two individuals who
10 throughout all their lives in the police and the
11 military, and all their other endeavors, have
12 contributed so much to our City, and then when
13 they have every reason and justification to retire
14 and rest on their laurels, they contribute even
15 more. And so but, that's what we come to expect
16 from kids from the Lower East Side. So, we thank
17 you very much. We know our City's strength is
18 really fundamentally our spiritual strength, but
19 we require the brick and mortar to manifest our
20 spirit, so we thank you for restoring one of the
21 great jewels of the spirit of the City of New
22 York. Congratulations.

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23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And
24 before I turn the mic over to John and George and
25 the Father, Father this counts for Sunday, right?
[laughs]

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2 JOHN PERRY: Well, I want to say,
3 thank the members of City Council, Christine
4 Queen, Councilman Gerson, and I think we have
5 another project on us, George. [laughter] The
6 restoration of City Hall.

7 GEORGE ZAPATA: I'm very glad you
8 gave John this award, because I had almost given
9 up finding somebody to help me, and he didn't know
10 that I had been doing this, and he came over, he
11 says, "Would you like to do a little painting with
12 me?" And we've gone over a year already with
13 this, I'm very happy 'cause I have two great
14 passions. One is St. James and the other is
15 carpentry, and I can use both for the City of New
16 York. And I also will say one more thing.
17 Without my wife [applause, cheers] wouldn't a done
18 it.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: John forgot
20 something.

21 JOHN PERRY: Yeah, I forgot my
22 wife, giving up all those Saturday. [laughter,
23 applause]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Father.

25 FATHER TONELOTTO: I just like to

1
2 say that St. James now is open for worship and for
3 many years has been somehow forgotten. But I
4 think it's one of the most beautiful churches we
5 have her in Lower East Side, and the organ, Opus
6 40, - - Opus 4021 [phonetic], is the fourth oldest
7 organ in the City of New York. And there is a lot
8 of money, about \$800,000 to restore it. But we
9 started and slowly we hope to bring it back to our
10 future generations.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, thank you all
12 very much for your tremendous labor of love. We
13 are in your debt, so thank you guys. Alright our
14 next and final ceremonial is going to be led by
15 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Good
17 afternoon, colleagues. I mean, I'm asking my
18 colleagues to join me up here as well. And we
19 have Teresa Santiago and Suleka Cabrera.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's just wait,
21 yeah, I thought they were done. Just give us one
22 second - - , no-no-no, come-come-come-come-come.
23 [pause] Hey. Alright, thank you guys very much.
24 If we could get a little quiet and if we could
25 just kind of clear this space up front here. Go

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ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: So, I want to thank Teresa Santiago and Suleka Cabrera for joining us. If people are not aware, November is always every year Puerto Rican, celebration of Puerto Rican History Month. And Comite Noviembre is an organization that has been around since 1987, which is actually the year I came to New York City. So it's quite a few years. That it's been around to celebrate--

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get some quiet, please.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please!

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so much. So, Comite Noviembre has been around in 1987 to really celebrate the contributions of Puerto Ricans in the United States in New York City, obviously on the island as well, to really celebrate the contributions we've made to the United States, and also to highlight a lot of the accomplishments of our leaders, and people who continue to make, to really to, to promote our culture and the politics, and all aspects of civil society. So

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2 it's really an honor to have Teresa Santiago and
3 Suleka representing Comite Noviembre. They just
4 celebrated their gala which they had last Friday.
5 They organized cultural events. There was a
6 wonderful event at Ostos [phonetic] on Saturday.
7 And they also highlight, and I think everybody
8 should have received a program on their desk,
9 which really gives you a sense of what it is that
10 this organization does, of what it is that it
11 seeks to celebrate, to really also promote young
12 people and leadership that, young people to really
13 continue on the path towards making the most of
14 their education, and giving back to the community.
15 So as people know, Puerto Ricans in this country
16 have been in mass migration since the 1950s, but
17 since 1898 when the United States basically came
18 to Puerto Rico and we continue to still be a
19 territory, that thee have been many, many, many
20 contributions that we've made and helped to open
21 the doors for many others that come after us. So,
22 having said that, I don't want to belabor the
23 point. I think the program and the calendar that
24 you're getting really highlights all the
25 activities that are being conducted this month in

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2 November. But also to give you a sense of the
3 contributions made by Sonia Sotomayor, Richie
4 Perez from the National Congress for Puerto Rican
5 Rights, many of our, many of those that have come
6 before us, and many of those that are coming in
7 front of us, meaning the young people that are
8 being nurtured and that are also being encouraged
9 to continue to contribute to the community. So,
10 having said that, we have a proclamation that we
11 are presenting to Comite Noviembre for all of its
12 years of work and service here in New York City.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] And ask
14 the Clerk to read it.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: If,
16 Clerk, if you could read the proclamation.

17 CLERK: Council, City of New York
18 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of
19 New York joins all New Yorkers in observing
20 November as Puerto Rican heritage month, in
21 recognition of the profound impact that the people
22 of Puerto Rican ancestry have had on the social,
23 cultural and economic growth of our City for
24 generations. Since Comite Noviembre was founded
25 in 1987, it has celebrated all aspects of Puerto

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2 Rican life, from social and cultural, to the
3 educational economic and political. And whereas,
4 23 years after it was established, Comite
5 Noviembre remains the only collaboration of its
6 kind in the United States that brings together the
7 collective talents and resources of the oldest and
8 most prestigious Puerto Rican organizations,
9 including the Institute for Puerto Rican Hispanic
10 Elderly, Aspira of New York, El Museo del Barrio,
11 Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College, El
12 Centro de Studios Puertorriquenos, Latino Justice
13 PRLDEF, National Institute for Latino PRLDEF [off
14 mic comment] Thank you. [off mic: You're
15 welcome] [laughter] National Institute for Latino
16 Policy, the National Congress for Puerto Rican
17 Rights, Justice Committee, Promesa, and the Puerto
18 Rico Federal Affairs Administration. And whereas,
19 each November Comite Noviembre also develops a
20 theme for Puerto Rican heritage month with the
21 understanding that in addition to acknowledging a
22 rich heritage, Puerto Ricans must prepare for the
23 future, by motivating, mobilizing and empowering
24 the community to address critical concerns. This
25 year's theme, Puertorriqueno di no Estres Racas

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2 Nacas un Pueblo [phonetic] reflects the enduring
3 character of the Puerto Rican people, from their
4 perseverance and ingenuity to their achievements.
5 The Puerto Rican community is an integral part of
6 New York City's great mosaic, and we commend
7 Comite Noviembre for celebrating their many
8 contributions. Now therefore be it known, that
9 the Council of the City of New York honors Comite
10 Noviembre for its exceptional service in promoting
11 all things Puertorriqueno. Christine C. Quinn,
12 Speaker for the entire Council; Melissa Mark-
13 Viverito, Eighth District, Manhattan; and many
14 other Council Members.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

16 Okay, so we [cheers] Teresa?

17 TERESA SANTIAGO: First of all,
18 thank you very much, Speaker Quinn.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] You're
20 very welcome. Congratulations.

21 TERESA SANTIAGO: Council Woman
22 Viverito. And all our friends up here. It's been
23 23 years, and what's important about Comite
24 Noviembre, that it is a volunteer organization.
25 And we're very proud of the work that we do,

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specifically for our young people. And we're going to continue to do our work. And being here today, it just makes us stronger. Your commitment to us is wonderful, and I appreciate it. Suleka appreciates it. And now we're going to a presentation to Melissa, but all of you could get one [laughs] on behalf--go ahead.

SULEKA CABRERA: We'll be sending posters on behalf of Comite [cheers]

TERESA SANTIAGO: On behalf of Comite Noviembre, Melissa, please accept this from us.

SULEKA CABRERA: As Vice Chair of Comite Noviembre, and with Teresa, we really would like to present to you Restorencia Puertorriqueno [phonetic] poster, you like it?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, I [laughs] thank you very much. Thank you. [cheers, background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very much. Thank you. And that concludes our ceremonials.

[long pause]

[background noise]

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2 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 can I have your attention, please. [gavel] At
4 this time, can you please place all cell phones
5 and pagers to vibrate? Will all non-Council
6 employees and lobbyists please leave the main
7 floor of the chambers? Thank you.

8 MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen,
9 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. [Pledge
10 of Allegiance by assembled] Roll call.

11 CLERK: Arroyo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
13 Here.

14 CLERK: Avella.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: [off mic]
16 Here.

17 CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]
19 Here.

20 CLERK: Brewer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

22 CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic]
24 Here.

25 CLERK: De Blasio. Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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CLERK: Felder. Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

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mic] Here.

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CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Gentile. Gerson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Gioia. Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Ignizio. Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Katz. Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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CLERK: Liu.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [off

18

mic] Here.

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CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Mitchell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

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2 Here.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Present.

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CLERK: Sanders. Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

10

Here.

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CLERK: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

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CLERK: Stewart.

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Present.

15

CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: White. Yassky. Oddo.

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[gavel] White.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: [off mic]

Here.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

Here.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

Here.

CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Quorum is present, ladies and gentlemen, please rise for the invocation being delivered today by Reverend Walter Tonelotto, Pastor of St. James Church, 23 Oliver Street.

WALTER TONELOTTO: Oh mighty God, lord of all nations and peoples, I ask you today to bless our country and our City of New York. Send your wisdom upon our Mayor, our leaders, and

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2 especially upon the City Council Members, so that
3 with their legislation they may continue to
4 provide our great City of New York with
5 leadership, laws and regulations that respect the
6 common good of all people. Make our City an
7 example of solidarity for the less fortunate,
8 hospitality for our migrants coming to our shores
9 from all over the world, as our grandfathers have
10 taught us and our American History have shown us.
11 Protect our City and our country, so that we may
12 live in peace, health and good will for all.
13 Amen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
15 Member Gerson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Mr. Leader,
17 my colleagues, the Lower East Side and Lower
18 Manhattan communities and the entire City is
19 better and blessed due to the spiritual leadership
20 of Father Walter Tonelotto, who has benefited the
21 community and the City in countless ways, and
22 provides vital spiritual guidance to countless
23 individuals. It is only befitting that he is the
24 leader, the spiritual leader, of one of our City's
25 great historic churches, whom we honored earlier

1
2 today. Therefore, it's my pleasure to move to
3 spread this invocation in full upon the record of
4 this Stated Council Meeting.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. If I
6 could ask my colleagues to please stand again. On
7 October 27, 2009, Army Sergeant Louise Gonzalez,
8 Louis Gonzalez, 'scuze me, who was 27, of Corona,
9 in Council Member Ferreras's district, died along
10 with six soldiers when enemy forces attacked their
11 patrol vehicle with an improvised explosive device
12 in Southern Afghanistan. They were all assigned
13 to the First Battalion, Second Infantry Division,
14 based out of Fort Louis, Washington. Staff
15 Sergeant Gonzalez graduated from Flushing High
16 School, before enlisting in the Army. During his
17 eight years of service, he earned 23 medals and
18 citations, including the Bronze Star. He had
19 served two tours in Iraq before deploying to
20 Afghanistan in July. While in the Army, Sergeant
21 Gonzalez met his wife Jessica, who is also in the
22 Army, and they had a five-month old son. His
23 mother said, "I'm so very sad, he was so very
24 humble, a very good son." Staff Sergeant
25 Gonzalez, a lifelong Yankee fan, was excited that

1
2 his team was going to the World Series, but did
3 not live to see them win the World Series. He is
4 survived by his wife, his infant son, his mother,
5 his brother, sisters and many relatives and
6 friends. All of our thoughts and prayers also go
7 out to all of the families and soldiers who were
8 killed and wounded at the terrible attack at Ford
9 Hood, Texas, those who the families of those who
10 were lost, and those who were injured and still
11 struggling will remain in our thoughts and prayers
12 for months and years to come. On a last note, I
13 want to ask all of us to keep one of our Council
14 colleagues in our thoughts and prayers, Council
15 Member Maria Baez. She's not with us today, and
16 we may not see much of her for the couple of weeks
17 ahead. She is undergoing some very serious
18 surgery today, and asked that I notify all of you
19 of that and also ask that you please keep her in
20 your thoughts and prayers. Thank you. [pause]
21 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council
23 Member Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Motion, a
25 motion that the minutes from the Stated Meeting of

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September 30, 2009 be adopted as printed.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

Messages and papers from the Mayor.

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

Communications from the City, County and Borough offices.

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions and communications?

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use call ups.

CLERK: M1655.

SPEAKER QUINN: And I'm going to call for a, that's going to be coupled on a Land Use call up vote. But before I do that, having just announced some sad news, I'm happy to be able to follow it up slightly out of order, but what the heck I'm the Speaker [laughter] with some good news. One is let me just again announce some of our new colleagues who were with us, and some are still with us, I saw Council Members Elect Weprin, Council Member Elect Levin, Council Member Elect

1
2 Halloran and Council Member Elect Koo; but, one of
3 our present Council Members, Eric Ulrich, is
4 getting married this weekend. [cheers, applause]
5 So Eric, congratulations. I--I mean, the pressure
6 you were putting on Jimmy Oddo, if you get married
7 this week, and gay marriage passes, it is over for
8 Jimmy Oddo, over in the State of New York as he
9 knows it. But Eric, is your fiancée here? Okay,
10 well as soon as she gets here, make sure we
11 recognize her. But congratulations, this is the
12 best post-election day present you could get, I
13 assume, so congratulations on that as well. But
14 best wishes and make sure when she's here we give
15 her a big shout out. [applause] And Steve and
16 Dan have joined us, so nice to see you guys. And
17 let's do the roll call on the Land Use call ups,
18 until the fiancée gets here.

19 CLERK: Arroyo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
21 Aye.

22 CLERK: Avella.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes
24 on Land Use call ups, and I ask unanimous consent
25 to vote on all general orders and resolutions.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote yes
on all items, except for Land Use number 1240 and
Reso 2266, and Intro 907, I vote no.

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

Aye.

CLERK: De Blasio. Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

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CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

12

CLERK: Gerson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: [off mic]

14

Yes.

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CLERK: Gioia. Gonzalez.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

17

CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

19

CLERK: Jackson. James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

21

Yes.

22

CLERK: Katz.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: [off mic]

24

Aye.

25

CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Liu.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

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CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

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CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

17

CLERK: Mitchell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

22

CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

CLERK: Sanders. Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, Mr. Majority Leader, with your permission, and I'd like to request unanimous consent to vote aye on all Land Use call up and coupling general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on all.

CLERK: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Yes.

CLERK: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: [off mic] Yes.

CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic] Yes.

CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye
on all Land Use call ups and ask unanimous consent
to vote on all coupled general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye
on all.

CLERK: Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I ask
unanimous consent to vote on the general order
calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: I vote aye
on the Land Use call ups and aye on the general
order calendar, as well.

CLERK: Gioia.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.
I vote yes and ask unanimous consent to vote yes
on all matters before us today.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Aye, I do.

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2 See, I can say it. [laughter] I do. I do, I
3 just choose to say it here. [laughter] Leroy,
4 help me, Leroy.

5 CLERK: Rivera.

6 MALE VOICE: The City Clerk is
7 right there, Jimmy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye,
9 and Councilman Oddo, that, a City Hall marriage
10 definitely doable. So I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Speaker Quinn. [pause]
12 Ulrich.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I do.

14 FEMALE VOICE: Practice.
15 [applause, laughter]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Maybe.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's
18 Land Use call ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in
19 the affirmative, with zero in the negative, and
20 two "I dos". Communication from the Speaker.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
22 much. First let me start with the four packets
23 of--four pieces of legislation, a package of
24 parking, parking ticket fairness legislation that
25 we are voting on today. I want to thank first and

1
2 foremost the Chair of the Transportation
3 Committee, John Liu, who helped shepherd all of
4 these through. Laura Popa, Turna Nazur
5 [phonetic], Phil Hom, and Rob Newman, who worked
6 on the these pieces of legislation. Council
7 Members Jackson, Felder and Gentile, all of whom
8 were the prime sponsors of these four pieces of
9 legislation. And I believe these four bills, when
10 we pass them into law today, will do a couple of
11 important things. One, it will, they will change
12 the rules, regulations and laws, as they govern
13 parking privileges for the clergy in the City of
14 New York, and bring those regulations into the 21st
15 Century. We in the City of New York have not
16 periodically gone back and looked at those laws.
17 We've not looked at the reality that some clergy
18 serve New York City congregations but live in New
19 Jersey. We've not looked at the reality that many
20 small congregations and synagogues nowadays don't
21 have clergy who work full time for those
22 establishments, but yet work full time. They just
23 may not get the financial benefit of working full
24 time. So, they've had a regulation that said you
25 can only get, for example, a clergy parking permit

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2 if a majority of your income comes from that
3 religious institution, was keeping people of faith
4 who were serving our City, from getting a small
5 but important benefit, which eases their day and
6 actually allows them to be present for New Yorkers
7 in their time of deepest need. So I want to thank
8 Council Member Jackson in particular for leading
9 that legislation forward. Our other three pieces
10 of legislation deal with parking as it relates to
11 all New Yorkers. First, a piece of legislation
12 introduced by Council Member Simcha Felder, that
13 deals with giving people a little break, a five
14 minute grace period. If your MUNI meter, or your
15 alternate side of the street parking is supposed
16 to go off at 11:00, well your watch and the
17 traffic enforcement's watch may not be set at the
18 same time. You may in good faith think you got
19 there at 11:00 o'clock, but the traffic
20 enforcement agent may say you got there at 11:03.
21 If we give everybody a five minute grace period,
22 it won't save everybody a ticket, but it will save
23 some people a ticket, and it'll also send a
24 message that tickets are not about "gotcha" in the
25 City of New York. They're not about funding our

1
2 budget. Tickets and fines are there to bring
3 compliance to the rules. I think we've lost our
4 way on that, and this grace period will help bring
5 us back. Intros 1017-A and 1076-A introduced by
6 Council Member Felder and Council Member Gentile,
7 will do some other very common sense things. They
8 will require that when there are changes in
9 parking rules or changes in how much meters cost,
10 we notify people in advance. This notification
11 will make sure you don't park on a street where
12 you may have been parking for years, not know the
13 rules were being changed 'cause nobody told you,
14 and then on Tuesday get a ticket when on Monday it
15 was legal. It'll also allow you to use that as a
16 defense for five days. It'll also say for 30 days
17 in advance if we're going to change meter parking.
18 And take it from a quarter for a half an hour to a
19 quarter for 20 minutes, there has to be 30 days
20 notice to the community board, and to the Council
21 Member. This is a way where if people want to
22 fight that, they can, but also where merchants can
23 notify their customers in advance. I got crazed
24 pleas from store owners in Staten Island whose
25 customers were getting tickets. They were waiting

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2 on line the ravioli store more than 20 minutes,
3 coming outside, they just bought the most
4 expensive ravioli of their life, 'cause there was
5 a big ticket on their windshield. Maybe we
6 couldn't have stopped the change, but at least
7 this merchant and others could've told their
8 customers in advance, they could've planned
9 accordingly. Nobody likes to pay tickets, nobody
10 likes higher fees and fines, but nobody likes it--
11 what people like least of all, is feeling like
12 things were a trick and came in behind their back.
13 This law will stop that feeling in the City of New
14 York. So, again, I want to thank the staff who
15 worked on this, and all of the different Council
16 Members. Let me call on first, the Chair of the
17 Committee, Council Member John Liu; then on
18 Council Member Jackson, Council Member Felder and
19 Council Member Gentile.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Well, thank
21 you very much, Madam Speaker. These four bills
22 that are before us today make a great deal of
23 sense. They enjoy broad support from our
24 constituents, and certainly the respective of
25 members who introduced the bills can speak for

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2 themselves. The fact of the matter is, as you
3 mentioned, that we are in a difficult time, in
4 fiscal terms. And there could be a tendency or
5 more of an inclination towards generating revenue
6 from the, from parking tickets. Now we want
7 people to follow the rules. New Yorkers are going
8 to follow the rules. And these bills will in no
9 way detract from our safety measures, they will
10 not detract from our measures to keep traffic
11 moving. But instead, they will introduce a level
12 of civility that is sorely needed with regard to
13 the way we enforce our parking regulations. These
14 rules, rule changes, make sense, and they should
15 be passed immediately. I urge everybody to vote
16 on these in the affirmative. Thank you. And also
17 I do want to thank once again, as you did, Madam
18 Speaker, the staff to the Committees, and also
19 with regard to the clergy parking bill, Carrie
20 Mobley who was able to mobilize many of the clergy
21 leaders across the City. Thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council
23 Member Jackson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
25 Madam Speaker. My colleagues, I rise today to

1
2 just briefly tell you, as the Speaker indicated,
3 this clergy bill has been a long time coming.
4 There are many, many members of the clergy that
5 have been ticketed because a funeral that they
6 were pastoring over, the limit was not long
7 enough. That limit for them in front of funeral
8 homes is going to be extended to I believe five
9 hours, or four hours. When they go visit the sick
10 and infirm in the hospital, there was a certain
11 limit of time; that time is going to be extended
12 under this bill. I think that the clergy has only
13 asked for a reasonable accommodation for them to
14 carry out their duties and responsibilities as the
15 clergy in the City of New York. And at these
16 tough economic times, we need the clergy more so
17 than any other time, especially when the people
18 that we serve are in desperate need. I say to all
19 of our members, and when I added up the total
20 number of members that have signed onto this bill,
21 we have approximately 38 members, 37 members that
22 have signed onto the bill, and what that clearly
23 indicates to all parties, especially when we heard
24 that the Mayor may veto this bill, what is shows
25 is that we have enough members if we stick

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2 together, to override a Mayoral veto on this, for
3 all of the religious leaders in the City of New
4 York. So, I ask all my colleagues, if you have
5 not signed on, please do so. Because clearly this
6 is a bill that is right and just, and in fact we
7 had clergy there this morning, in front of the
8 Transportation Committee with John Liu, and in
9 fact this afternoon we had members of the clergy
10 here, witnessing this bill being passed into the
11 law by the City Council. And I thank them for
12 coming out, and I thank you Madam Speaker, along
13 with all of the staff, that you mentioned, of
14 course, Carrie Mobley, of course Phil Hom, of
15 course Robert Newman, and all the other staff that
16 were involved in bringing us to where we are
17 today. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council
19 Member Felder.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you
21 very much. Thank you, thank you, Speaker Quinn
22 for your leadership on this issue, and Councilman
23 Liu who's the chair of this, the Transportation
24 Committee. My colleagues, one of my colleagues
25 mentioned earlier today that you can't legislate

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2 decency and common sense. And I agree. And there
3 was a policy in New York City, not that long ago,
4 by the agency that issued the summonses, not to
5 issue tickets for people within the first five
6 minutes. That was an informal policy, it wasn't a
7 law. And it wasn't necessary to pass a law. And
8 I don't think it should be necessary to pass a law
9 that is so clear. But obviously, it's not that
10 clear to everybody. And I don't think it's
11 necessarily a question of legislating common sense
12 or decency, it's right or wrong. We know that in
13 2007, 300,000 summonses were issued for alternate
14 side of the street parking violations within the
15 first five minutes, out of 1.4 million. It's
16 almost a quarter, it's almost a quarter of all the
17 summonses that could be issued at that time, were
18 issued within the first five minutes. That would
19 mean that agents were waiting at 9:00 o'clock, if
20 that's when it started, to issue 300,000 summonses
21 within the next five minutes. Forget about
22 decency, forget about common sense, right and
23 wrong. And the people of the City are sick and
24 tired of being bombarded with nuisance tickets. I
25 say openly, somebody if--somebody parked in a bus

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2 stop, you parked in a hydrant, you double parked,
3 you're endangering people's lives, and endangering
4 people, pedestrians, whether people in the car
5 pedestrians. No tolerance! Zero tolerance.
6 You're in essence putting somebody else's life in
7 jeopardy, parking on an alternative side day, with
8 300,000 tickets? There are some people in the
9 world that are perfect. I haven't met anyone yet.
10 But most of just happen to get that phone call
11 just when you're running out the door, or perhaps
12 even have to run to the bathroom the last minute.
13 Or something else. And you come outside to find,
14 whether it's a \$45 ticket in the outer boroughs,
15 or \$65 ticket in Manhattan, unconscionable,
16 unacceptable. And I would just say, again, that
17 it should not have to be legislated. Most of the
18 things we're discussing today should not have to
19 be legislated. I'm talking about the parking
20 bills. Common sense and decency, the
21 administration should do that on their own. But
22 if they're not going to do it, we're going to help
23 them do it. And in terms of notification, it's
24 the same thing, you walk outside one day and
25 suddenly they change the signs on the street. And

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2 you should've known that they would change the
3 signs, I guess. But you walk outside and they
4 towed your car, you have no idea where they towed
5 it to, and when the signs changed. Well, I want
6 to thank the City, they don't issue you a summons
7 for, or bill you for towing your car. But they
8 tow your car. Five days notice, very reasonable,
9 to let people in the community know that the
10 ticket, that the signs have been changed, and the
11 buzz gets around, so that you don't park in places
12 that you used to park in, because the City needed
13 to change the signs. I don't think any of this
14 is, any of these pieces of legislation are
15 brilliant, even though I'm the sponsor of them,
16 they're not brilliant at all. I think they're
17 very simple, and should be done without
18 legislation. But until the City decides that it
19 is going to be decent and have common sense and do
20 the right thing, we will help the City do it.
21 Thank you.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member
23 Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
25 Madam Speaker. I join my colleagues in saying

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2 that my bill, like the others in this package is
3 about two things: courtesy and civility. My bill
4 just says, "Notify us." As the Speaker said in a
5 recent example when DOT changed parking meter
6 rates, so that quarter brought drivers just 20
7 minutes of parking time, instead of 30 minutes,
8 the only notification residents received was in
9 the form of an orange parking ticket on their
10 windshield when they got back to their car. And I
11 can't tell you how many residents around the City
12 felt like they had been the victim of a sneak
13 attack by the City of New York. This bill will
14 put an end to parking tickets being the primary
15 way that residents are notified of parking meter
16 changes. This bill, like the others, mandates
17 courtesy, and encourages partnership between the
18 agencies, community boards, and residents. So I
19 want to thank Speaker Quinn and Chairman Liu for
20 their support of this bill, and their recognition
21 of what local communities deserve, and the
22 important role they play as a conduit of
23 information by notifying the community board and
24 the Council Member of any rate changes in parking
25 meters. Residents will be kept in the loop,

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2 empowered with some information about parking
3 meter changes, so they're able to abide by the
4 rules, avoid these punitive fines, and this
5 "gotcha" mentality. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
7 much, all the members who worked on that and the
8 staff, and I was remiss in forgetting Carrie
9 Mobley on the list of staff I just listed, the
10 legislative staff. But thank you, Carrie. And
11 lastly, we are voting today on siting a new and
12 state-of-the-art training facility for the New
13 York City Police Department. I think anybody who
14 has spent any time on the East 20th, at the East
15 20th Street Police Academy, it may have a lot of
16 heart, but it doesn't have a lot of space. And
17 certainly isn't a facility that is up to the
18 dedication or bravery of New York City's finest.
19 This new facility will allow both recruits to
20 train there, as many as 1,900 at a time; as well
21 as have facilities for in-service training for
22 existing members of the Police Department. Let me
23 call on the chair of our Land Use Committee,
24 Melinda Katz, and thank her and her staff for
25 their work on this item.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker, and thank you to the Subcommittee
4 Chair, Council Member Lappin for the work that her
5 Subcommittee did on this public siting. This is
6 a, the Police Academy for the New York City Police
7 Department to train our police officers, this is
8 about a 35 acre site, and it will integrate all of
9 the training facilities throughout the City, which
10 encompasses about four boroughs into one
11 consolidated campus. It is intended to improve
12 the quality of the police training and of course
13 to maximize the Police Department's facility,
14 their staff and their recruiting resources. It
15 will train about 1,980 recruits every year, per
16 class. And we are excited about the prospects of
17 that in College Point. And 2.4 million square
18 feet is the site size. It will have accessory
19 garage as well, for 1,800 cars, to house the
20 facility, an additional 200 accessory parking
21 spaces. Madam Speaker, the vote on the Land Use
22 Committee was 19 votes for this project, it was a
23 long time coming, there was a lot of discussion
24 about this public siting for many years. And I
25 recommend a yes vote by the body. Thank you.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
3 much, Chairperson Katz, and I'm forgetting
4 everybody I should thank today. Let me also thank
5 Subcommittee Chair Lappin for her work on this, as
6 well. And we mentioned before that Council Member
7 Ulrich is getting married on Friday, and we're all
8 very excited about that, and even more excited to
9 get to meet his fiancée, Adira [phonetic]
10 [applause] who is with us today, who's wondering
11 why she decided to come to City Hall. But--
12 congratulations. We wish you all the best, and if
13 there's any troubles, just call us and we'll take
14 care of it.

15 ADIRA: Thank you.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
17 much, have a wonderful time on Friday. [applause]
18 And that concludes communications and
19 embarrassments from the Speaker.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Discussion
21 of general orders, Council Member Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
23 very much, Mr. Chair.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Shhh!

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Keep it

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2 down, please. I rise to say that I warn this body
3 that we should never try to restrict God's work or
4 God's workers. And while this bill goes far, it
5 doesn't go far enough. Because clergy members
6 also have to go to schools, they have to go to
7 police stations, they have to go to private homes,
8 and if the Mayor vetoes it and he needs prayer in
9 his home, they may not be able to come to give the
10 Mayor the much prayer that he certainly needs. So
11 I'm suggesting, as we pass this legislation, it
12 doesn't go far enough. I am one of the supporters
13 of it, I think we're up to 41, and I think we do
14 have the override to his veto, but we got to make
15 it so clergy are not restricted for no hours, the
16 car in front of their place of worship, and
17 certainly not restricted for no hours in front of
18 a hospital, and certainly shouldn't be restricted
19 for no hours in front of a funeral. So I think
20 that these restrictions still are binding, binding
21 clergy that have to do God's work. And I just
22 hope that there come a time where we just free it
23 up, 'cause there are people who are less holy that
24 get more privileges to go throughout the City and
25 are honored with parking privileges. Secondly, on

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2 this new Police Academy, I urge you to vote it
3 down, they don't have enough required parking
4 spaces, it's going to be a logistical nightmare
5 for parking. A lot of people in that community
6 are not for it. And then secondly, I don't know
7 what they're training these police, but we need to
8 look at the program, because by the time they get
9 to East New York and Harlem and Bedford-
10 Stuyvesant, they've learned how to racially
11 profile, brutalize us, disrespect us. So I don't
12 want just a brand new facility, state-of-the-art
13 facility, and we got people coming out of that
14 Academy that don't know how to respect the
15 decency, the constitutional rights and the human
16 rights of Black and Latino citizens. Thank you
17 very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much. Council Member Jackson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chair. Let me just update my colleagues.
22 With respects to the clergy parking bill, we have,
23 as of now, 44 sponsors of the bill, and 47 members
24 in total said they would vote yes, if in fact the
25 Mayor overrode the veto. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
3 very much. Council Member Vacca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, thank
5 you, and I rise to support the parking bills that
6 are before us today and am proud to be cosponsor
7 of two of them. I hope that these parking bills
8 are the beginning of a discussion in this chamber
9 about traffic enforcement fairness in the City of
10 New York. I have a bill pending that will require
11 that traffic enforcement agents take pictures of
12 the tickets that--pictures of the offense and
13 place them on the tickets they issue, because
14 what's happened in the City of New York [single
15 applause] Thank you, Simcha. [laughs] What has
16 happened in the City of New York is that people
17 feel that the City is the judge and jury. People
18 are given a ticket, then they go plead not guilty,
19 and then they have another City employee finding
20 them guilty or innocent. So are we guilty until
21 we are found innocent. That's the system that's
22 employed. I do want to state that many of you
23 hear stories about people giving tickets for
24 outrageous reasons. These stories are no longer
25 becoming the exception, these stories are becoming

1
2 more the rule. I think we have to ask ourselves
3 in this City right now, traffic enforcement agents
4 and their supervisors admit that they have goals.
5 Do they have quotes? Are they being asked to give
6 out so many tickets within a given week or a given
7 month? I think people are owed answers because if
8 that quota exists, then the summonses being given
9 are often frivolous and ridiculous, and people
10 cannot afford to take days off from work to fight
11 summonses and often pay them in frustration
12 because they do not have faith in the appeals
13 system. The same question can be asked of judges
14 who hear the cases, the adjudication judges. Do
15 they have goals as to how many guilty verdicts
16 they should issue within a week or a month? And
17 if so, how does that affect their decision making
18 process? I'm concerned about people being
19 ambushed and being ambushed with tickets for no
20 good reason. I think that what we're doing today,
21 I hope, begins more than a discussion, but action
22 on these critical issues facing people every day.
23 Businesses and people are upset about what they
24 deem to be unacceptable and excessive traffic
25 enforcement that does not relate to safety, but

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has become a cash cow. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you, Mr. Leader. My colleagues, I rise to address the issue of the relocation of the Police Academy. I need to point out and note for the record that the plans proposed by the--presented by the Police Department involve two phases. Only phase one is funded; however, phase two, again unfunded, allows for the possibility of the relocation of the Police Museum from its historic home in Lower Manhattan, to the confines of the new Police Academy. There has been no discussion whatsoever, no information provided to the Lower Manhattan community, to any of its elected officials, as to this possible relocation. While it may be appropriate to create a museum within the confines of the Academy, both for instructional purposes and for visitors, it would be most inappropriate to do away with the Police Museum from its historic home, and from the area which is the historic home of the headquarters of the NYPD. In good times and in bad times, I would add. I have

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2 been in communication with the Police Department,
3 and they assured me and promised me, and by
4 extension this Council, that before they would
5 seek funding for phase two, involving the
6 relocation of the museum, they would engage in
7 conversation and discussions with the Council,
8 with the local community, and all of its elected
9 officials, as to the appropriate location, as to
10 the possibility of continuing the Police Museum,
11 at its current site or an alternative site, within
12 Lower Manhattan. I will predicate my vote in
13 favor of the presentation only on the assurances
14 so provided by the Police Department. And I'm
15 confident that in the end, we will find a way to
16 continue the Police Museum within the Lower
17 Manhattan community. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much. Council Member Foster.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.
21 It is, as the daughter of a minister, I know
22 firsthand when they get the first phone call, when
23 someone has passed in the night, or someone has
24 been arrested, or someone is in the hospital, and
25 I think it's a shame that we even have to have

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2 this type of bill, because common courtesy and
3 common sense dictate, especially in the black
4 community, that the black clergy is where you go
5 to first. And there've been many a nights that my
6 mother or my sister or myself have driven and
7 waited in the car while he's gone into the
8 hospital, or gone to see a family and waited if a
9 loved one died in the house. And I think that as
10 Council Member Barron said, this doesn't go far
11 enough, but it is, it is a step in the right
12 direction. And I would urge the Administration to
13 understand that when you say or proposed or
14 hearsay, whatever it is, about vetoing a bill like
15 this, you are sending a message to the clergy that
16 what you do is not important. And unlike the
17 Mayor, the clergy doesn't have caravans to drive
18 them when the press is there to go visit a family
19 that loved one has been murdered. They've been
20 there. They were there when you weren't there,
21 they were there making the arrangements, they were
22 with the funeral home, with the family. And so, I
23 totally support this bill. I vote, I ask that
24 everybody vote for it, and understand that one day
25 it may be you that needs to call on the clergy to

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come sit and hold your hand, while you are dealing with the loss of a loved one. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you. If you want a better police force, you need a better training facility, so I urge everyone to pass that measure. Also want to commend Simcha Felder and all, everyone else involved in theses parking bills. This is not a bill we wanted to pass, it's a bill that we had to pass. We're sending a message that we will not tolerate these overaggressive traffic agents targeting our hardworking citizens who are just trying to patronize stores for the most part. The biggest source of complaints to my office now is overaggressive traffic agents. They are ticketing people who are just stopping to drop someone off, ticketing people waiting for a parking space. And ticketing people who are one minute over. And surrounding these people with SWAT teams, with phaser guns, and all sorts of devices that they now get immediately give you a ticket with. It's just outrageous what's happening to our taxpayers.

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2 So, this is just the beginning. Simcha and I are
3 working on new legislation which will provide a
4 grace period to drop someone off in a no parking
5 zone; a grace period to actually wait for a
6 parking space while someone else is pulling out.
7 You may think I'm making that up, but that
8 happens. Someone's pulling into a parking space
9 and they get surrounded by these SWAT teams, it's
10 out of control. And we are sending a message
11 today. If we have to attempt to legislate common
12 sense, that's what we'll do. So, I'd like to
13 commend Simcha and everyone else involved.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
15 Council Member James.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.
17 [laughter] God's work is not controlled and/or
18 dictated by traffic rules. And when God calls,
19 men and women of faith answer. And they should be
20 respected and this bill is long overdue. During
21 this last Mayoral campaign, New Yorkers often
22 cited as a basis for their vote traffic tickets.
23 They voted against this Administration as a
24 protect to the increased number of parking tickets
25 without notification and/or consideration and/or

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2 basic common sense. It is unfortunate that these
3 bills were not brought to the floor prior to the
4 election. It is anticipated that this, these
5 bills will be vetoed by this Administration, which
6 to me represents, which best represents and/or
7 demonstrates the Mayor's disconnect to the average
8 New Yorker. It is for this reason that I am, I
9 should remind the Mayor of the City of New York
10 that his 4.7 election was not a victory, was not a
11 win, was not a landslide. And it wasn't even a
12 mandate, but it was a call from average New
13 Yorkers that they are requesting and demanding
14 some relief from these draconian, arbitrary, and
15 capricious fines that they are experiencing in the
16 City of New York. Provide New Yorkers a relief,
17 Mr. Mayor, and pass this bill.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
19 very much. Council Member Fidler.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: On the
21 parking bills, as well, I want to be associated
22 with the comments of many of my colleagues,
23 particular Council Members Felder and Vacca. And
24 I would say to Councilman Vacca, do you have any
25 doubt whatsoever that there are de facto quotas

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2 for enforcement agents in this City? Can you just
3 imagine if the average enforcement agent is
4 issuing 100 tickets a day, and one enforcement
5 agent was coming in with 25 tickets a day, what
6 would happen to that enforcement agent? Is that
7 not a de fact quota? So, there's just no
8 question. And every one of these bills can stand
9 on the merits and the substance of the individual
10 bill, but I agree with Council Member James. I
11 think the people of the City of New York are sick
12 and tired of being sick and tired of getting
13 ticketed to death. And I think that was a message
14 that was sent about ten days ago. And needs to be
15 heard that tickets are designed to enforce quality
16 of life issues, and not raise revenue. And that
17 doesn't just apply to the traffic enforcement
18 agents, it also applies to those agents that are
19 giving out tickets for the horrific dilemma of
20 people who move their garbage cans out too early
21 in the day, and things like that. This has just
22 gotten totally out of control, every year at
23 budget time, when we do the final budget mod, we
24 are recognizing additional revenue over and above
25 what was in the budget for ticket revenue.

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There's a policy here that's got to be changed, a culture that needs to be altered, and I hope that these bills send the message that this body is going to insist on that change in culture, because we are tired, tired, tired of the tickets.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, we'll now move on. Reports of special committees.

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro 1057, Times Square Business Improvement District.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 2262, organization funding.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Resos 2263 through 2265.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Land Use, LU1240 and Reso 2266.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
7 Transportation, Intro 662-A, Clergy Parking
8 Permit.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
10 on general orders.

11 CLERK: Intro 907, Grace Period for
12 Parking Violations.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended--I'm sorry,
14 coupled on general orders.

15 CLERK: Intro 1017-A, Changes in
16 Parking Restrictions.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
18 on general orders.

19 CLERK: Intro 1076-A, Changes
20 Involving Parking Meters.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
22 under general orders.

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
24 Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered
25 M1656 and Reso 2267, Approving the Recommendation

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of Kimberley A. Hayes, New York City Youth Board.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General Order Calendar.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: At this, coupled on general orders, and at this point I'd like to ask for a roll call on all the items that have been coupled on the general order calendar, please.

CLERK: Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I'd like to vote aye on the general order calendar and any resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you.

CLERK: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you, may I be excused to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, you may.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I vote aye on everything, and I thank this body for

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2 addressing these overzealous parking violations.
3 My dad actually got a ticket for backing the car
4 out of the garage and double parking to let a car
5 go by, before he could pull back into the garage.
6 And when he went to fight it, he was told, "But
7 you were double parking." And car was in drive,
8 ready to turn back into the garage. And these are
9 the type of thing--Like, his own house, his own
10 garage, he's trying to pull in and gets a parking
11 ticket. So, I really applaud us for addressing
12 this, and hope that we can continue to provide
13 some relief to the working class that are, that's
14 bearing the brunt of all these fines. I vote aye
15 on all. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]
18 Aye.

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
21 on LU1240 and accompanying Reso 2266, and aye on
22 all the rest.

23 CLERK: Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye,
25 as I said in the Transportation Committee, I have

1
2 some concerns about Intro 907. I understand what
3 Simcha Felder is trying to do, but I don't know
4 why in alternative side of the street parking,
5 which is heavily in my district of course, people
6 will in fact be getting tickets at 9:06 or 7:06 or
7 11:06. And so I don't know that it's going to
8 make a big difference in people's lives, but I
9 understand the concept, and I think it is sad that
10 we have legislate common sense, because I agree
11 that double parking is a no-no, but when you're
12 just doing it while you're in the car to drop your
13 kids off while you go park the car and you get a
14 ticket, and you're getting, or you're getting a
15 wheelchair from your car and you get a ticket,
16 while you're helping your mother out of the car,
17 that does not make sense. And so we do have to
18 hopefully send a message about common sense
19 ticketing. And if this does it, I appreciate it.
20 I just don't know if it's going to achieve the
21 goal. Thank you very much.

22 CLERK: Comrie.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye
24 on all. I want to congratulate all of the people
25 that worked on the bills today to deal with the

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2 parking issues and ticketing. I agree with all of
3 the speakers, it is one of the issues that I get
4 the most complaints about in my district, as well
5 as the fact that people are being, the ticket are
6 agents liking predators. They're acting like you
7 can't have an opportunity, it's choking off small
8 businesses and my district, and it's choking off
9 the ability of the business trips to maintain a
10 competitive edge. Because you already have people
11 that should not park all day, with permits that
12 they should not have, illegal permits all over my
13 downtown Jamaica district, all over the other
14 business strips. And then you have these predator
15 ticket agents swooping in on the people that are
16 trying to visit the local stores, trying to get
17 businesses to, trying to get products delivered,
18 so that they can maintain a competitive edge. I
19 hope that this does change the cycle, I hope that
20 this does send a message to, over on the other
21 side of City Hall, that we have to change this.
22 And to the clergy, I hope that we can push also to
23 make sure that you have the right to park wherever
24 you need to, whenever that is. Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
aye.

CLERK: De Blasio.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Vote aye
on all, and with consent vote aye on all Land Use
call ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank
you.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:
Congratulations to the clergy for being such
strong advocates. I agree with my colleague that
it doesn't go far enough, but this is the
beginning and this is the start. Aye on all.

CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye on all.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote
aye on all.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: One of the actions that we're taking today that we haven't commented on is the vote that we're taking to set the class share cap at zero, for real property taxes. And this is the day of the year that we've had, I think, six of the eight times in the years that we've been in session together, most of us, where up is down and down is up. And even though the Council is taking every step within its power under the law to reduce the tax burden, the property tax burden on Class I and II property owners, in January they're going to get a bill that's going to go up, because of the byzantine formula that's imposed upon us by State law. And you now, each one of us, I guarantee, will be called in our district offices when those next tax bills come out, asking for an explanation. I beg and pray that the media covering today's Council meeting will get it right, and point out that we

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2 did in fact take every step that the law permits
3 us to keep those taxes as low as they possibly
4 could be, particularly at this time of economic
5 duress in the midst of a foreclosure crisis. So,
6 I am glad that we're doing it, and I just hope
7 that everyone understands it. And with that, I
8 vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Garodnick.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote
11 on 907 and aye on the rest.

12 CLERK: Gennaro.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote
14 yes.

15 CLERK: Gentile.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Today is a
17 victory for the clergy and responsible taxpaying
18 motorists. I vote aye on all.

19 CLERK: Gerson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: May I be
21 briefly excused?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I am a
24 cosponsor of the parking reform bills for all of
25 the reasons articulated by my colleagues, and I

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2 agree that for the sake of New Yorkers we need to
3 do even more for the clergy. I just feel
4 compelled to add a note that while we send a
5 message against excessive enforcement, that should
6 not be misinterpreted as a message against
7 aggressive enforcement where enforcement is
8 needed. There remains, and I welcome, you know,
9 additional enforcement agents into parts of the
10 district I represent, but there remains plenty of
11 places where we need more aggressive enforcement
12 to prevent things like protracted double parking,
13 which creates traffic congestion, or dangerous
14 parking by fire hydrants and in crosswalks. We
15 need enforcement where it involves the safety of
16 New Yorkers and where it is imperative to allow
17 for the smooth flow of traffic. And that should
18 be the focus of the hardworking men and women who
19 comprise our traffic enforcement agents and the
20 other divisions of NYPD involved with parking and
21 traffic enforcement. So I urge for more
22 aggressive enforcement where needed, at the same
23 time as we oppose excessive enforcement in
24 violation of common sense as noted. Thank you
25 very much. And I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Gioia. Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye

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on all, and especially the bill in which I

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sponsored, along with many of my colleagues of 44

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sponsors. And let me just thank the staff that

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worked with me, Joanna Garcia, my legislative and

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budget director, Beth Schuler, and we have several

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interns that worked very hard today: Alexandra

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Herrera and Ben Eisenheimer. Let me thank all of

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them for their hard work today. And I vote aye on

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all.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:

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Congratulations to Carrie Mobley and all the staff

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who worked on these bills. Congratulations,

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hallelujah, god bless you, amen, and I vote aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I want to thank Councilwoman Mendez for her work on the Police Academy issue, particularly as it relates to the future use on 20th Street and vote aye on all.

CLERK: Liu.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye on all.

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: [off mic] Aye on all.

CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Yes to

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all, and with unanimous consent, I vote aye on all

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previous Land Use items.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Yes.

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CLERK: Sears. Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Good, oh,

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permission to explain my vote, please. I wish to

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echo the sentiments of our colleague, Simcha

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Felder, and congratulate everybody on those bills.

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But I also have a comment about--

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SPEAKER QUINN: Could we get a

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little quiet [gavel] if everybody could try to

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stay in their seats, we still have a very

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important resolution to vote on today, as a number

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of other actions, so the meeting is not done.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Thank you.

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Comment on the Police Academy, although I respect

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people objecting to it, I think it's an error in

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judgment because the Community Board, the City

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2 Planning Commission, the Borough President voted
3 for that site, and voted for the Academy to be
4 there. And with the recommendations of Board
5 Seven, which are very easy to follow, I see no
6 reason why they would not, it's a good choice, and
7 Queens is very proud to have it. I vote aye on
8 all.

9 CLERK: Stewart.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: May I be
11 excused to explain my vote?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: I want to
14 thank the sponsors of the Transportation bill,
15 especially the one that deals with these meter
16 maids who aggressively attacking folks. And I was
17 one of those victims, sitting in my car, at a taxi
18 site, taxi stand site, and because I wanted to use
19 my phone. And I was given a ticket because I was
20 sitting in the car at that site, with City Council
21 plates, and I think that they were very
22 aggressive, without even giving me a chance, they
23 didn't ask for you to move, they just came up and
24 used their scanner and give you the ticket. The
25 fact is I think this is something that we should

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have really dealt with before, making sure that these meter maids, not that, should not be that aggressive, and they please give people an opportunity to move if they want them to move. And so, with that, I vote aye on all these bills. Thank you.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to explain my vote.

SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member, I'm sorry, can we just get a little quiet in the chambers, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all. I think that the traffic issue, once again, I want to emphasize, and I want to thank the Speaker and her office for assisting relative to the Police Academy. I think it's going to be an asset to our City. And I particularly wish to single out the Speaker and her staff for their assistance relative to Rodman's Neck in my district, where the firing range will be

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2 significantly, significantly reduced, and
3 consolidated into the new facility. And I thanked
4 them originally when I went to the Land Use
5 hearing. I was not a happy camper, I did not
6 think the plan presented a type of facility that
7 we here in the City wanted and so much as
8 consolidation needs were concerned. And I am now
9 able to vote yes, and I thank all for their help.
10 And Jessica Lappin and the subcommittee members as
11 well. Thank you.

12 CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on
14 all.

15 CLERK: Vann. Weprin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Oddo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
19 temporarily excused to explain my vote?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I don't want
22 to belabor the point, I just want to kind of add
23 an exclamation point to what's been said about the
24 five minute bill. A year-and-a-half ago, two
25 years ago, Council Member Ignizio and I stood

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2 outside of Staten Island University hospital, and
3 we were there because it is the favorite fishing
4 hole of these parking attendants, or parking meter
5 maids, parking traffic agents. There you go. And
6 if you think about it for a second, it really
7 captures what this is about. You have Staten
8 Islanders, New Yorkers, visiting their sick loved
9 ones, and literally, as my colleagues have said, a
10 minute or two minutes after the time expired, they
11 were receiving tickets. And the situation plays
12 itself out on Staten Island on our commercial
13 strips, and the excuse that we were given or the
14 response that we were given, Council Member
15 Ignizio and I, and Council Member Mitchell, was
16 that was about moving traffic, which is so
17 ridiculous on places like New York Lane. This is
18 about generating revenue. But if you think about
19 it, if the mindset is, "I'm, we're going to go to
20 a hospital, outside a hospital, and issue New
21 Yorkers tickets for a minute or two or three or
22 four or five, that's just plain wrong. And I
23 think Council Member Fidler said it best, and
24 actually Council Brewer is right, this bill may
25 not do it. Clearly we need to change the mindset,

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2 and I'm not sure this gets it done, but this
3 highlights the issue, and this highlights the need
4 for change. With that, I vote yes on all.

5 CLERK: Rivera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes on all.

7 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: I, yes on all, and
9 I just want to add my thanks to Council Members
10 Mendez and Vacca, who I forgot to mention earlier
11 for their focused work on the issues of the Police
12 Academy that relate to their district, but working
13 on them in a way that helped us move the whole
14 project forward for the good of the City. So,
15 Rosie and Jimmy, thank you. And I vote aye on
16 all.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items
18 on today's general order calendar were adopted by a
19 vote of 49 in the affirmative, with zero in the
20 negative and zero abstentions, with the exception
21 of Land Use item 1240 and Reso 2266, which was
22 adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, two in
23 the negative, and zero abstentions; and Intro 907,
24 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
25 affirmative, and two in the negative and zero

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2 abstentions; and revised Land Use call ups were
3 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, with
4 zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of
5 the bills.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
7 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.
8 I just want to make note that tomorrow's Land Use
9 Committee has, or Subcommittees, have two big
10 items and there's some hearing room challenges, so
11 people need to stay in touch with the offices as
12 one hearing is going to have to move across the
13 street. Is that right? In the middle of the
14 hearing, and it's very, very important that we
15 have quorum to start on time. So, please I just
16 want to put a plea in tomorrow, to stay in touch
17 with the office, and we really need quorum as
18 early as possible, and all bills are referred to
19 Committees as indicated on the agenda.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any
21 discussion of resolutions? Seeing no discussions,
22 we're--Oh, Council Member Gennaro, then Council
23 Member Nelson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.
25 Thank you, Mr. Acting Public Advocate. I call to

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everyone's attention--

[background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: Jim, hang on one
sec.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

SPEAKER QUINN: Again, just try to
keep the door in the back closed, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Sure,
thank you, thank you Madam Speaker. Talking about
Resolution 1850-A, that would seek to protect our
upstate precious drinking water supply from a
natural gas drilling technique known as fracking,
which has caused havoc around the country. We
were the first, this Council was, when the State
passed a very misguided bill in 2008, that
would've opened the door, that did open the door,
to this kind of activity. We've held three
hearings on this in the last 14 months. We were
the first to push back. Now there's a whole
citywide movement to make sure that we don't lose
our water supply in perpetuity, and have to build
a filtration plant that would cost the taxpayers
of New York City anywhere between \$10 and \$20
billion to build, and about a half billion dollars

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2 a year to operate. I'm running out of time here,
3 but suffice it to say the Council has poured much
4 of itself into this, and I would like to thank the
5 Speaker in a very special way for her leadership.
6 Also, Council Members Lappin and Dan Garodnick,
7 and the many sponsors of this Reso, all of the
8 staff that worked on it, and our partners in the
9 Bloomberg Administration, particularly the DEP and
10 the Mayor's Office, that are working with us to
11 make sure that we don't lose our precious water
12 supply. I would urge all of the Council Members
13 to support this very important Reso. Thank you,
14 Madam Speaker, thank you Mr. Acting Public
15 Advocate.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
17 very much. Seeing no others for discussion on
18 resolutions, I'm now going to call for a voice
19 vote on Resolution 1850-A, Resolution calling on
20 the United States Congress to pass HR2776 of 2009,
21 removing the exemption of hydraulic fracturing
22 from the Safe Drinking Water Act; and the United
23 States Environmental Protection Agency to reassess
24 its 2004 study of hydraulic fracturing with
25 respect to its risk to unfiltered drinking water

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2 systems, and to apply stringent regulations that
3 protect drinking water supplies from any residue
4 due to hydraulic fracturing; and the New York
5 State Department of Health to study the public
6 health and regulatory risks of hydraulic
7 fracturing in New York City water supply system,
8 and to propose any necessary actions to protect
9 public health; and the New York State Department
10 of Environmental Conservation; the New York State
11 Legislature; and the New York State Governor,
12 David Patterson, to prohibit drilling for natural
13 gas within the boundaries of the watershed. And
14 under New York State Department of Environmental
15 Conservation, to extend the public comment period
16 on its Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental
17 Impact Statement relating to high volume hydraulic
18 fracturing to February 28th of 2010. Resolution
19 1850-A all in favor say aye.

20 COUNCIL: Aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed
22 say nay. Any abstentions: The ayes have it.
23 Okay, general discussions, now we'll move on.
24 Council Member Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,

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2 Majority Leader Rivera. I rise to ask my
3 colleagues to support Intro 1101, which would
4 require the Department of Transportation to
5 establish control, install and maintain, physical
6 signs that indicate any location designated as a
7 suitable location, to leave a child pursuant to
8 the Abandoned Infant Protection Act. The New York
9 State Abandoned Infant Protection Act states, and
10 I quote, "That a safe haven in the State of New
11 York is any responsible person willing to receive
12 a newborn, unharmed within five days of birth, and
13 call the appropriate authority for medical
14 treatment and transportation to a hospital." In
15 keeping with the spirit of this law, this
16 legislation would require that the DOT promulgate
17 signs detailing that all police stations, fire
18 stations and hospitals are to considered safe
19 havens. If a young parent in these turbulent
20 economic times just can't afford to take care of a
21 child, that he or she should be able to relinquish
22 the child to the custody of the State without fear
23 of repercussions. While I'm not advocating the
24 reckless abandonment of children, god forbid, in
25 New York City, I believe that the importance of

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2 ensuring a child's safety is paramount. If
3 someone is unable to unwilling to care for a
4 child, but responsible enough to realize that they
5 are not able to care from that child, and
6 subsequently give the child over to the custody of
7 the State, then that's what matters. I urge you
8 to sign on to Intro 1101.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.
10 Council Member Comrie.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes, thank
12 you. I would like to encourage my colleagues to
13 sign on Resolution 2257, which is a Resolution to
14 call on the New York State Legislature to pass
15 tougher laws against drivers who drive under the
16 influence of alcohol and drugs, especially those
17 with child passengers. As you know, recently
18 there've been two horrific accidents with drivers
19 who were driving under the influence, that lost
20 not only the occupants of their car, but in the
21 case of the, running along the Hudson River
22 Parkway, wound up taking the lives of three
23 innocent passengers who were driving in the
24 opposite direction. It's high time that the New
25 York State Legislature finalizes their, finalizes

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2 the legislation necessary to pass on tougher laws
3 against these people, who are driving under the
4 influence of alcohol and drugs. We cannot allow
5 this horrific type of situation to continue
6 without sending a strong message that we want to
7 make sure that people that are operating a motor
8 vehicle operate them with full senses, and not be
9 continuing to feel that they can go out under the
10 influence of drugs and alcohol. So, I would
11 encourage the Members to sign this Resolution, so
12 that we can send that message, so that hopefully
13 Albany can sign this legislation before the end of
14 the year. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you
16 very much. Council Member Nelson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: My
18 colleagues, it's very difficult to ponder a
19 nuclear weapon being detonated in New York City.
20 Today, along with Peter Vallone, I'm introducing
21 Resolution 2268, which calls upon the United
22 States Congress to immediately allocate to New
23 York City, the necessary funding needed to
24 complete the anti-nuke screening system. The
25 recent foiled attempts to detonate dirty bombs

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2 throughout the City, serves as a reminder that our
3 great City is still a direct target for
4 terrorists. This security program consists of
5 sensors that are installed around the City, and
6 have the capability of detecting radioactive
7 materials. New York City has already spent \$300
8 million in City funds to combat terrorism, and we
9 are now asking for Congress to do its part. And
10 allocate the \$40 million to us so that we can
11 complete the program, in order to keep our City
12 safe. The defense funding that we are asking for
13 from Congress will allow the City to purchase
14 sensors, visual surveillance equipment, and a
15 wireless notification system, that would allow
16 regional law enforcement agencies to immediately
17 be notified upon detection of radioactive
18 material. It's been eight years since the
19 horrific effects just down the street. And
20 although the dust has settled, the possibility of
21 another attack upon our City is unfortunately too
22 possible. I urge all my colleagues to sponsor
23 this Resolution, and ask Congress to ensure New
24 York City has the resources to prevent any future
25 terrorist attacks. Every other issue pales by

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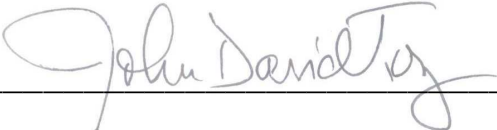
comparison to this, my friends. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, I now adjourn the meeting for today.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature  _____

Date November 25, 2009