

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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April 22, 2020
Start: 1:40 p.m.
Recess: 4:45 p.m.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Costa Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Barry Grodenchik
Robert Holden

Ben Kallos
Andy King
Peter Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Farah Louis
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Francisco Moya
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Carlina Rivera
Ydanis Rodriguez
Deborah Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
Paul Vallone
Jimmy Van Bramer
Kalman Yeger

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

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon
3 and welcome back to the Stated Meeting of April 22,
4 2020. We will now have the adoption of minutes by
5 Council Member Powers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I
7 now, thank you, Majority Leader, I now move the
8 minutes of the Stated Meeting of February 11, 2020,
9 and February 27.

10 LANCE POLIVY: Council Member Powers.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes?

12 LANCE POLIVY: Can you please pause?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes.

14 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes?

16 LANCE POLIVY: I ask that you please state
17 that meeting will stand at ease.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: The meeting will
19 stand at ease at this time.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I believe we're having
21 some technical issues with the feed, which is why
22 we're standing at ease. We want to just make sure
23 that all council members have access as well as that
24 it is live streaming appropriately. So that is what
25

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2 the staff is working on right now. That is why we
3 are standing at ease.

4 LANCE POLIVY: Mr. Parliamentarian? Madam
5 Majority Leader?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes?

7 LANCE POLIVY: The technical issues are
8 resolved. You can now recognize Council Member
9 Powers.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now have
11 the adoption of minutes by Council Member Powers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Right, second
13 time. I now move the Stated Meetings of February 11,
14 2020, and February 27, 2020, be adopted as printed.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
16 Messages and papers from the mayor.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Communication from the
18 mayor, M230 through M236, mayor's executive budget,
19 expense, capital, and CD budgets with supporting
20 schedules.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: M237, city debt and
23 reserves.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,
25 printed, and filed.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: M238, withdrawing the
3 name Amisha K. Butler for appointment to the New York
4 City Tax Commission.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,
6 printed, and filed.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
8 from city, county, and borough offices.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: M239, communication
10 from the chancellor submitting the proposed amendment
11 to the fiscal year 2020 to 2024, five-year capital
12 plan.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Referred to Finance.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
15 communications.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-
18 ups.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: M240. I will now ask
20 the clerk to call the role for today's land use call-
21 up. This is just a vote on the land use call-up
22 calendar right now.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.
3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.
5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.
7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.
9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.
11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.
17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
19 aye.
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj.
COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik.
COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden.
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: King.
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote aye.
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mattel.
23 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Aye.
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.
25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Today's land use call-
5 ups vote is 50 in the affirmative and zero in the
6 negative.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Today's land use
8 call-up is adopted. We will now have communication
9 from Speaker Corey Johnson, and I would like to thank
10 him for his incredible work in keeping this body
11 together and organizing this unprecedented meeting
12 today. Speaker Corey Johnson.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
14 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, everyone. I am so
15 proud of the work that we are doing together despite
16 these physical challenges that we are facing right
17 now, and I want to thank each council staff member
18 who has put in countless hours to make this happen.
19 This is an extraordinary Stated Meeting because it
20 shows the council's commitment to public service. We
21 were elected to serve our constituents in all 51
22 council districts, and our mission is to come
23 together to create and pass legislation to help all
24 New Yorkers in our diverse city, and that is needed
25 now more than ever. This crisis has exposed so many

2 of the structural racial and income inequities that
3 plague New York City, inequities in our healthcare
4 system, in our governance, and in our schools. And
5 it is my sincerest hope that through this tragedy we
6 will find opportunities to address these long-
7 standing inequities to build a better New York City.
8 This is what we owe to more than 14,000 New Yorkers
9 who have died from this terrible virus, and that work
10 begins with this Stated Meeting today. I mentioned
11 earlier the enormous losses of life that we have
12 suffered as a city in the last money or so and I'd
13 like to take a moment to acknowledge two former
14 council members who we lost in this pandemic. Arlene
15 Stringer Cuevas, who represented Washington Heights
16 and is the mother of City Comptroller Scott Stringer,
17 and Noach Dear, who represented Midwood, Borough
18 Park, and Bensonhurst. We extend our condolences to
19 their families. I also want to express condolences
20 on the passing of Council Member Salamanca's father.
21 Rafael Salamanca Sr. died of coronavirus on April 3,
22 and we are sending you, Rafael, and your family our
23 love. In addition, I want to acknowledge that
24 Council Members Torres, Barron, Levin,
25 Constantinides, Vallone, and Grodenchik, and I

2 believe Ayala, have all been sickened by COVID-19. I
3 am grateful that they are with us today and back to
4 serving their constituents. As we do during each
5 stated, I would also like to acknowledge those who
6 have died from 9/11-related illnesses since our last
7 meeting. Retired FDNY firefight Steve Brickman died
8 on April 12 of 9/11-related illnesses. He was 57
9 years old. Sergeant Sean Cameron, a retired member
10 of the department, recently lost his battle with
11 9/11-related cancer on April 8. He was 52 years old.
12 I want to take a moment of silence for former Council
13 Member Arlene Stringer Cuevas, Council Member Noach
14 Dear, Rafael Salamanca Sr., Firefighter Brickman,
15 Sergeant Sean Cameron, as well as all of those who we
16 have lost in our city and state and all over the
17 world who have succumbed to this terrible virus. May
18 we please now have a moment of silence. [moment of
19 silence] Thank you. Today is Earth Day and it marks
20 the 50th anniversary of the celebration of our planet
21 and the fight for environmental protections. We are
22 experiencing a terrible public health crisis right
23 now, but we can't forget about the other work, the
24 other important work we have to do to protect our
25 plant and New York City has some of the strongest

2 policies in the country to protect the environment
3 and the council will continue to push for bold change
4 in this area in order to make sure our city and
5 planet are strong for decades to come. This Friday
6 we usher in the holy month of Ramadan. I want to
7 wish all of those celebrating a very generous
8 Ramadan. New York City's Muslim community has
9 contributed so much to our cultural fabric. So let
10 us all take this month to remember the contributions
11 of Muslim New Yorkers who weren't able to meet, but I
12 hope everyone had a good Passover and a nice Easter
13 during this really important time in our city. And
14 my last item before we get to our legislative agenda,
15 I said it before, but I want to wish a happy birthday
16 to Council Member Ruben Diaz, Sr. OK, let's dive
17 into our legislative agenda. As New York City's
18 affordable housing crisis deepens urgent action must
19 be taken. The council is voting on a number of items
20 that will preserve and establish affordable housing.
21 I detailed most of those items just a few moments ago
22 during the Committee of the Whole Meeting. So in the
23 interest of time I will not repeat those descriptions
24 now. But in addition to voting to those items as a
25 full council we will also vote on several other

2 measures and they are as follows - a rezoning at 271
3 Seabreeze Avenue to allow commercial use, in Council
4 Member Deutsch's district; a rezoning at 8118 13th
5 Avenue, in Council Member Brannan's district to
6 legalize an existing office; the Queens Boulevard MIH
7 text amendment in Council Members Holden's and Van
8 Bramer's districts to facilitate two new residential
9 developments, including mandatory inclusionary
10 housing; a Health and Hospitals lease at the Seaview
11 campus for a residential substance program in
12 Minority Leader Steven Matteo's district; a
13 rescission of a landmark in Chair Salamanca's
14 district; and the landmark designations of Tin Pan
15 Alley buildings at 47 through 55 West 28th Street in
16 the district that I represent. Also, an amendment to
17 a previously approved tax exemption at Cooper Square
18 MHA for property in Council Member Rivera's district
19 to allow community facility use for 327 affordable
20 cooperative units in a community land trust. With
21 that, I turn it back over to you, Madam Majority
22 Leader.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
24 Speaker Johnson. We will now move into discussion of
25 general orders. We will first recognize council

2 members who signed up by email, and then recognize
3 members who wish to speak by using the raise hand
4 function in Zoom. I just want to remind all members
5 to raise your hand and please wait for remarks for
6 our Sergeant at Arms to announce he has begun the
7 countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms will alert you
8 when your time has expired.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And just to remind
10 folks, this is to speak on the items that we are
11 voting on today.

12 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

14 LANCE POLIVY: Council members Rodriguez,
15 Ampry-Samuel, and Van Bramer are the first to sign
16 up.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will begin in
18 the order that was just spoken of.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
20 Rodriguez, your time is starting now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:
22 Yes, [inaudible] lead by Speaker Johnson and Council
23 Member Carlina Rivera on the 75 mile history that we
24 should be dedicated more for, to pedestrian and
25 cyclist. I would like for all, all of us to join

2 into that effort. Other city had done it. New York
3 City should do it, too. This is the opportunity that
4 as we are celebrating Earth Day we should show our
5 commitment to dedicate more streets to pedestrian and
6 cyclist. Second, I would like to also say thank you
7 to Council Member Constantinides for allowing me to
8 be a co-prime in the resolution that we are calling
9 to support Council Member, I mean, Senator Gennaro
10 and Senator Gustavo Rivera, who are looking to get
11 the state legislature to pass a bill and for the
12 governor to sign that will provide free rents for
13 three months to tenants and, and tenants and small
14 business owner. Eh [speaking in Spanish]...

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [speaking in
17 Spanish] Thank you.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,
19 I just want to, thank you, Council Member Rodriguez,
20 I just want to remind members we are discussing now,
21 this is a, a discussion of the things that we are
22 voting on, ah, today. For other items of bills that
23 are being introduced if folks can hold that until
24 general discussion at the end of the meeting, as we
25 always do, ah, at the Stated Meeting of the Council,

2 that would be the best time to discuss bills that are
3 being introduced or other items. I turn it back to
4 you, Madam Majority Leader.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
6 our next Council Member that was identified to speak.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,
8 everyone.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member...

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,
11 everyone.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member, your
13 time is starting now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Um, in the
15 interest of time I posted my statement to social
16 media and it was in reference to the vote that we
17 just took during the Committee of the Whole. Thank
18 you, everyone.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Next.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member, your
21 time is starting now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.

23 Ah, first I want to say that on this Earth Day there
24 are a few things that we can do as important as
25 ending car culture as we know it. So I wanted to

2 particularly praise, ah, Speaker Johnson and Council
3 Member Rivera for their, ah, bill, ah, and for their,
4 ah, legislation calling for 75 miles of car-free
5 roads in it city during the crisis. But I also want
6 to say that we should begin by closing the south
7 outer roadway of the Queensboro Bridge, which has
8 been an immediate crisis affecting so may people. We
9 can do that and we should do that, ah, already if
10 before that. Ah, and I just also want to say I am
11 calling in from the great borough of Queens, which
12 might be one of the hardest-hit places in the world,
13 but there's no place I'd rather be than in this
14 borough with the greatest people on the face of the
15 earth as we fight through this crisis in Queens, ah,
16 and, and lastly, before I joined call I joined a Zoom
17 funeral for Mayer Gomoras who was someone who helped
18 raise me. Ah, the first Zoom funeral I have ever had
19 to attend. Um, and he was my constituent, but he
20 also helped raise me, ah, the, the father of...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: ...my
23 childhood best friend. So, ah, he's being buried as
24 we speak, so I want to say on behalf of Mayer Gomoras
25 and all of those that we've lost, ah, you're in my

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2 heart forever and I am forever grateful for the role
3 that you played in my life. Thank you [inaudible].

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Jimmy.

5 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader. The
6 next three speakers are Council Members Miller,
7 Cabrera, and Menchaca.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Miller,
10 your time is starting now.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Did we unmute Council
12 Member Miller?

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: I have restarted the
14 clock. Whenever you're ready, Mr. Council Member
15 Miller.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, hold on one second.
17 I don't see, Council Member Miller, are you there?
18 Let's go to the next Council Member and then we can
19 get back to Council Member Miller.

20 LANCE POLIVY: Council Member Cabrera,
21 followed by Menchaca, followed by Miller.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
23 Menchaca, Council Member Cabrera, your time is
24 starting now.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Yes, for the
3 interest of time, ah, I'm gonna do a pass. Thank you
4 so much.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Council
6 Member.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
8 Menchaca.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
10 Menchaca, your time is starting now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you all
12 and, ah, I want to just go a little bit further in my
13 statements around the land use items. Ah, there are
14 16 land use actions. Ah, I was able to connect with
15 some of you about what those actions are doing in the
16 districts that you represent and really just offer
17 support. I think what's really important here that
18 the work that happened before each of these land use
19 actions were in pre-COVID times and, and I just want
20 to continue to ask that question, ah, community
21 boards made decisions in pre-COVID times and COVID
22 has transformed everything, and so I want to just
23 keep mindful of that. Um, the work that our
24 neighborhoods do every day to support that work, um,
25 at the neighborhood level is just so important, and

2 our work to connect to that is great and important as
3 well. Um, so you all know that ULURP is not my
4 favorite thing in the world. I think I have a lot of
5 issues with it in general. Um, so I would prefer
6 that we really spend time thinking about it, and want
7 to think about it with you on the ground. And so
8 with that, um, ah, I vote aye.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Council Member Menchaca. Do we now have Council
11 Member Miller available?

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: He's not available
13 yet.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: OK, who's next?

15 LANCE POLIVY: No other members have
16 signed up for discussion of general orders.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: If Council Member
18 Miller comes back he can of course, ah, make his
19 statement when it is the time to vote during his
20 voting time. Ah, thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and so
22 we will allow Council Member Miller to speak, um, at
23 a later time. We will now move on to the report of
24 special committees.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
3 standing committees.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Land Use, LU 617 and Reso 1290, Seaview Campus.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
7 orders.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 618 through 622 and
9 accompanying Resos, Tin Pan Alley.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 623 and Reso 1296,
13 landmark designation rescission, PS-31.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
15 orders.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 627, 271, Seabreeze
17 Avenue.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
19 modifications and referred to the City Planning
20 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
21 City Charter.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 630 and Reso 1297,
23 13th Avenue rezoning.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
25 orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 631, Queens
3 Boulevard text amendment.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
5 modifications and referred to the City Planning
6 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
7 City Charter.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 640 and Reso 1298,
9 Cooper Square.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
13 of the Whole, Intro 1854, downtown Flushing Transit
14 Hub bid.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 646
18 and Reso 1299, 1898 Harrison Avenue.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
20 orders.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 647
22 and Reso 1300, Grace Senior Housing.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
24 orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 648
3 and Reso 1301, HP Morningside Heights.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 649
7 and Reso 1302, Turn House.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
9 orders.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 650
11 and Reso 1303, Schreiber.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
13 orders.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 651
15 and Reso 1304, East 169th Street.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
17 orders.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 652
19 and Reso 1305, Amron House.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 653
23 and Reso 1306, Belmont [inaudible].

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
25 orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 654
3 and Reso 1307, Manhattan Avenue Apartments.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 616 and Reso 1308,
7 East Seventh Street.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
9 orders.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 626 and Reso 1309,
11 Gansevoort Street.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
13 orders.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 628 through 629,
15 Grant Avenue and Pacific Street rezoning.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
17 modifications and referred to the City Planning
18 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
19 City Charter.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 637 through 639,
21 and accompanying Resos, Rochester [inaudible].

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
23 orders.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 641 through 642,
25 52nd Street rezoning.

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
3 modifications and referred to the City Planning
4 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
5 City Charter.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: LUs 643 through 644 and
7 accompanying Resos, 90 Sand Street rezoning.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
9 orders.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 655
11 and Reso 1315, the 364 Avenue of the Americas
12 rezoning.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
14 orders.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 656
16 and Reso 1316, River Crossing.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
18 orders.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered LU 657
20 and Reso 1317, 461 Alabama Avenue.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
22 orders, on the general order calendar.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 627 and Reso 1318,
24 Seabreeze Avenue.

25

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
3 orders.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 631 and Reso 1319,
5 Queens Boulevard.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
7 orders. And at this time I'm asking the clerk to
8 please have a roll call vote on all of the items
9 coupled on the general order calendar, all the items
10 that we just went through. Mr. Clerk, I'm requesting
11 a roll call vote on all of those items.

12 LANCE POLIVY: Mr. Speaker.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams. Excuse me.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, Mr.
15 Parliamentarian.

16 LANCE POLIVY: Before we begin our role
17 call vote I believe Council Member Miller is now back
18 on the line. We may want to give him an opportunity
19 to speak before voting.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes. Yes, before we
21 vote I would like to recognize Council Member Daneek
22 Miller to speak.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Miller,
24 your time is starting now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Um, I'm sorry,
3 ah, could we, could we, ah, ah, put that to general
4 discussion?

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, sir.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I would greatly
7 appreciate it.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yep.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you so very
10 much.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Council
12 Member. I request a role call vote on all the items
13 on today's general order calendar, Mr. Clerk.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Adams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all
22 and I do request to be added to the general
23 discussion list. Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on
3 all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Can we please put your
8 phones to vibrate, please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye, aye on all,
10 and please add me to the discussion list. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
17 all, and please add me to the discussion list.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj.
COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik.
COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all.
I responded for the discussion list, so if I'm on it
good, if I'm not please add me to it. Thank you.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden.
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: King.
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye on
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya.

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

LANCE POLIVY: Bill?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Yeah.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Somebody call
me?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Perkins,
how do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I vote aye on
all.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all, and
4 Steven Levin, your child is adorable.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
7 all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards. Council
9 Member Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Rivera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all,
19 and Council Member Levin, your child is wonderfully
20 distracting. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Call Council Member
25 Torres again.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Torres,
4 thank you.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We got [inaudible].

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye, and
8 please add me to general orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye, and I
11 hope everybody stays safe and healthy.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thanks, Eric.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote aye on all,
19 with the exception of Intro 1854 on which I abstain,
20 and I vote no on land use items 618 through and
21 inclusive of 622, consistent with my position that I
22 stated before in the council that landmarkings
23 without the owner's consent constitute an
24 unconstitutional taking under the Fifth Amendment.
25 Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

3 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all. And
8 I ask the clerk to read the results on today's votes
9 on the items on the general order calendar.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote on all items
11 for today's general order calendar is 15 in the
12 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
13 abstentions, with the exception of Introduction 1854,
14 with a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the
15 negative, one abstention, and land use items 618
16 through 622 and their accompanying resolutions with a
17 vote of 49 in the affirmative, one in the negative,
18 and no abstentions. Land use call-ups remain
19 unchanged.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. The
21 items on today's general orders calendar are adopted.
22 Introduction and reading of bills.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
24 referred to committees as indicated on today's
25 agenda.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Speaker Johnson. There are no resolutions on today's
4 calender. So we will now move into general
5 discussion. As a reminder, please wait until the
6 Sergeant at Arms begins the countdown clock before
7 you begin your remarks.

8 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

10 LANCE POLIVY: Council Members Miller,
11 Adams, and Chin are the first to have signed up.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK, we will begin
13 with Council Member Miller.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Miller,
15 your time is starting now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,
17 Majority Leader, and it is so great to see all my
18 colleagues out here and, and out in the struggle
19 continuing to work. As we know, COVID-19 has taken
20 an awful toll, an unmeasurable, ah, a toll on our
21 city, state, and our country. Yet despite this
22 devastation and disarray that we have suffered the
23 one constant throughout this ordeal has been how
24 cities' work force, how municipal and essential
25 workers have once again stepped up. As I often say,

2 ah, as the Chair of Civil Service and Labor, it is
3 the men and women of our work force, city's work
4 force, that give the city value. It is the reason
5 why 65 million tourists, Amazon, Google, and so many
6 others want to come to New York City. These brave,
7 ah, public and, and private employers, employees,
8 have braved this disease with remarkable courage to
9 preserve our health, safety, and our way of life, and
10 have done so with great prowess and costs, personal
11 costs of their own. Whether in times of prosperity
12 or crisis the inherent value of these workers has
13 always been defined, has always defined our city's
14 greatness. The majority of them are, ah, among the
15 five million men and women of color who represent the
16 council's, New York City's Committee on Civil Service
17 and Labor and the committee, ah, the, the council's
18 Black, Latino and Asian Caucus. The sad commentary
19 is that for all that they have given to our city that
20 we have received far less in return. And our, and
21 continue to, they continue to bear the brunt of the
22 COVID-19.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So once again we
25 emerge from under the, once, once we emerge from this

2 side of the pandemic we must commit to addressing and
3 resolving these racial and social economic
4 disparities in the health care, transportation,
5 finance, and education infrastructures within the
6 communities of color, which are not reflections of
7 inner city poverty or generational and structural
8 racism that persist and government neglect...

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: And so I'd like
11 to, everyone thank you and, ah, Ramadan Mubarak.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
13 Council Member Miller. Next speaker.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam
15 Majority Leader.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Adams,
17 your time will start now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you so much.
19 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. And hello to all
20 of my colleagues. I miss being in the same room with
21 all of you. I am so pleased to introduce today, ah,
22 and be a part of the package that encompasses, ah,
23 small business COVID-19 bill, which I encourage my
24 colleagues to sign on to. This bill would make
25 threatening a commercial tenant based on their status

2 as a COVID-19 impacted business or person a form of
3 harassment, punishable by a civil penalty of \$10,000
4 to \$50,000. Unfortunately, thousands of businesses
5 in our city are suffering as they have been forced to
6 close due to COVID-19. As availability of federal
7 loans is limited, many businesses are unable to pay
8 their rent and this leaves them vulnerable to
9 harassment from landlords looking to find ways to
10 collect or get the tenant to voluntarily abandon the
11 property so they can find tenants willing and able to
12 pay higher rents. The threat of harassment will
13 particularly impact the city's small, independently
14 owned, and immigrant-owned businesses, many of which
15 were operating on thin margins and struggling to pay
16 rent even before this crisis. Today also along with
17 Council Member Cornegy we're introducing a deed fraud
18 bill, which would require reporting on complaints
19 received and investigations regarding reported
20 document fraud. Home ownership is a part of the
21 American dream, but in times of financial uncertainty
22 home owners can become targets for deed fraud.
23 Unfortunately, state law prevents us from doing more
24 rigorous checks before a deed is...

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Until there is a
3 shift of the state law the City Council must demand
4 updates in accountability from the Office of the
5 Sheriff, on the outcomes and strategies of their
6 investigations. I ask my colleagues to support both
7 of these very important pieces of legislation. Thank
8 you so much, Madam Majority Leader.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Council Member Adams. Next speaker.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Chin,
12 your time will start now.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Ah,
14 thank you, Majority Leader, and glad to see all my
15 colleagues. Um, I want to take this opportunity to
16 thank you, Speaker, ah, to Jason, all the central
17 staff, and all my colleague join, ah, for your
18 support during this pandemic, and also to my team for
19 all their hard work in serving our constituents. And
20 to all of the frontline workers, ah, the healthcare
21 workers, the first responder, all the essential
22 workers, delivery workers, grocery workers. They're
23 working so hard, um, to keep us healthy and strong.
24 And that's why as City Council we have to do more to
25 protect them, protect their family, and make sure

2 they come out of this crisis also healthier and
3 stronger. And finally I wanted to give a big thank
4 you to all the service provider, all the volunteers
5 and donors who have stepped up during this crisis to
6 deliver food and supplies, um, to our healthcare
7 workers, to our seniors, and to our families in need.
8 And I pray that all of us will come out of this
9 pandemic more united and stronger together. Thank
10 you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
12 Council Member. The next three speakers will be.

13 LANCE POLIVY: The next three speakers are
14 Council Members Gibson, Vallone, followed by Louis.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Gibson,
16 your time is starting now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so
18 much, and good afternoon to all of my colleagues.
19 Thank you, Speaker, thank you, Majority Leader, and
20 every one of you. Um, I join with all of you and
21 first and foremost expressing our thoughts and
22 prayers and condolences to everyone across our city
23 who has lost a loved one, a relative, a family
24 member, a neighbor, to this COVID-19 pandemic. Those
25 that remain in the hospital that are struggling to

2 survive we pray for healing. Um, I am reminded that
3 this, too, shall pass and we are New Yorkers, we're
4 tough, we're resilient, and I know we will get
5 through this. We will survive. We will thrive, and
6 we will be stronger than ever. It has been
7 overwhelming, emotionally draining for all of us as
8 we continue to do this work. We take care of our
9 families, our children. We serve our districts.
10 There's so much going on. There's a lot of
11 information that's being shared for coordination of
12 services. But I join with all of you in saluting
13 every first responder, essential worker, frontline
14 worker, all of our public servants, men and women,
15 that go to work every day to serve the public and
16 risk their lives to protect us and save New Yorkers.
17 I'm reminded that many of our public servants are
18 hardworking men and women of color, predominantly
19 women in women of color and we salute you every day
20 for everything you're doing. The cafeteria workers
21 in our schools, the crossing guards, small
22 businesses, grocery workers, everyone, we thank you.
23 I think as we move forward and we learn about some of
24 the deficiencies and gaps in services...

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And challenges
3 that we face I am reminded that a borough like mine
4 of the Bronx has had a higher rate of hospitalization
5 and deaths because of underlying health disparities,
6 so I look forward to working with all of you, my
7 colleagues, as we not only address a COVID post world
8 but also some of the challenges we faced prior to
9 COVID. Again, my prayers to everyone. I thank you,
10 colleagues, for introducing a comprehensive package
11 today and I look forward to our continued work. God
12 bless us all.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
15 Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
17 Council Member Gibson. We will now move to Council
18 Member Vallone.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
20 Vallone, your time is starting now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: First off I want
22 to thank our speaker, Corey Johnson, and his staff
23 for really putting this unprecedented hearing
24 together and giving us a chance to see our fellow
25 colleagues. Thank you, Corey, for all of that and

2 being our rock for all of us, to myself and the
3 fellow council members who have been struck with this
4 unbelievable disease. Ah, the rest of you have
5 really given us the, the prayers and the health and
6 the love that we needed for our families to get
7 through this very scary times, and it really
8 humanized what every person had to do during this
9 crisis from the moment you decided you needed to get
10 help, where to get help, and the realization of how
11 dependent we were and are on our first-line workers,
12 our responders, our healthcare workers, our delivery
13 workers. My life is completely dependent on everyone
14 who has helped us. So I wanted to say thank you from
15 my family and for everyone who has really just from
16 dropping things to the door, to send us messages.
17 Um, my heart is to everyone who is suffering and has
18 lost someone. Um, today there is so much, ah, that
19 we need to thank and I just wanted to congratulate
20 our fellow members for all the pieces of legislation
21 [inaudible] today and those who signed on to our
22 resolution calling on the federal government to not
23 continue to forget our co-ops and condos. It's
24 really our last passage of affordable housing and
25 it's not in any of the relief packings or the PPP

2 loans or the CARE Act. So we're asking, um, fellow
3 council members to join in on it. Almost half of you
4 are now.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [inaudible]
7 financing will include co-ops and condos. That's the
8 reso that's on today. And my only caveat for the day
9 would be that we tread lightly when we're talking
10 about so many miles of our streets. Um, yes,
11 Manhattan is different than the rest of the boroughs
12 and we need to have some space. But what we do we do
13 temporarily and that we look to full hearings to talk
14 about impacts from everyone if we were to do anything
15 beyond, ah, temporary emergency acts, because we are
16 dependent on those very streets, all of us, not just
17 certain routes.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, God
20 bless everyone.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
22 much, and so glad to see you in good health.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
25 Louis.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Louis,
3 your time will start now.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Good afternoon,
5 everyone. I'm very, very grateful to see everyone,
6 um, and to see everyone well, happy, and healthy.

7 Ah, I want to thank all of our first responders and
8 everyone that's just been doing a great work on the
9 grounds, um, in all of our districts and all of our
10 communities. I want to thank you, Speaker Corey
11 Johnson, for your leadership, and I want to thank the
12 legislative division for helping me push these two
13 pieces of legislation forward. Um, in the interest
14 of time I'll be really quick. Um, today I'll be
15 introducing two pieces, ah, Intro 1929, which would
16 create a public alert system to be used in missing
17 persons cases, where the person is believed to be in
18 imminent danger, and Intro 1928, which would require
19 the NYPD to compile, send, and post a yearly missing
20 persons report disaggregated by race, age, gender,
21 police precinct, person, ah, sorry, percent of cases
22 solved and proportion of which cases involved of
23 human trafficking. Um, I urge my colleagues to sign
24 onto 1928 and 1929. These two public safety bills
25 can help increase awareness and save more lives. And

2 I also want to thank Council Member Gjonaj for
3 allowing me to co-prime on 1921. I don't know if he
4 is speaking about it today, but it is a very good
5 bill and I want to encourage everyone to sign on.
6 And thank you so much, Majority Leader.

7 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader, the
8 next three members who have signed up are Grodenchik,
9 Rivera, and Powers.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
11 Grodenchik, your time will start now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you
13 very much. Um, I want to thank everybody for, ah,
14 their personal concern for myself and my family. Um,
15 this disease is nothing to be trifled with as many of
16 us have found out. So thank you. I want to thank
17 the Speaker and the entire council time for putting
18 this together today. Um, it's critical that
19 government function in New York City and we have
20 shown that that is possible, ah, despite what we're
21 going through. I want to thank my own team, led by
22 my chief of staff, Ari Gershman, ah, for keeping up
23 and, ah, helping out, ah, many, many people in my
24 district and elsewhere, um, when I was flat on my
25 back. Um, I want to thank our first responders and

2 everybody, ah, who is fighting this terrible
3 disaster. I know that we have lost over 10,000 New
4 Yorkers, many of them city workers who have given
5 their lives in performance of their duty, and our
6 thoughts and our prayers are with them and their
7 families at this time. I want to echo the concerns
8 of my colleague and my dear friend, Paul Vallone, and
9 we must remember that New York City spreads out over
10 300 square miles. Ah, traveling in my district is
11 very difficult by mass transit, even more so these
12 days. Ah, I delivered food today on behalf of Common
13 Point in eastern Queens. None of the people that I
14 delivered today would be able to get around without a
15 car. Some of them lived almost a mile from the
16 nearest grocery store. So, ah, it's a very large
17 city, ah...

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

20 In sum, ah, growing up when I was a little boy we
21 used to drive along the Cross Bronx Expressway
22 visiting family and vast stretches of our city were
23 burned out in the early '70s. New York City came
24 back because we worked hard and we were smart, and we
25 will get over this, I assure you. Ah, New York City

2 is always going to be a place where people are going
3 to want to come to live, to work, to raise their
4 families, and to retire as well. So let's stay...

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Keep your
7 foot on the accelerator. Thank you very much.

8 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader,
9 Council Members Rivera, Powers, and Levine.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
11 Rivera.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Rivera,
13 your time will start now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
15 much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to everyone
16 out there who made this happen, especially the staff
17 and to all the first responders and, and workers who
18 are keeping us safe, healthy, and comfortable. I
19 want to just highlight two bills I'm introducing
20 today. First, legislation that would temporarily
21 require the city to open approximately 75 miles of
22 city streets to pedestrians and cyclists during the
23 COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide New Yorkers
24 with more room for social distancing. Cities across
25 the country from Boston to Oakland have taken similar

2 measures, but if passed we would be the first
3 legislative body to pursue an innovative program such
4 as this. We have seen just this week in reports from
5 urban planners that almost all of our city sidewalks
6 are not safe for social distancing. Our Open Streets
7 bill will increase space for essential workers to
8 commute safely. It will supplement our already
9 crowded parks, which will only become more cramped
10 this summer, and it will bring equity to communities
11 of color that for decades have lacked the open spaces
12 that we are fortunate to have in other neighborhoods.
13 As the chair of the Committee on Hospitals I
14 encourage all of you, my colleagues in the council,
15 to support the passage of this bill as quickly as
16 possible in order to prevent further infections and
17 further strain on our heroic hospitals and their
18 staff. An open streets program just like washing
19 hands and face coverings will save lives, plain and
20 simple. The Speaker and I are also introducing
21 legislation as part of the council's coronavirus
22 relief package, which will temporarily suspend
23 personal liability [inaudible] ...

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: ...and related
3 rental agreements of businesses impacted by COVID-19.
4 This will ensure city business owners don't face the
5 loss of their businesses and personal financial ruin
6 or bankruptcy as a result of this state of emergency.
7 These businesses are closing and losing weeks of
8 income through no fault of their own and allowing
9 small business owners to keep their spaces will be
10 integral to the city's ability to recovery after the
11 virus. I hope you will join us in cosponsoring the
12 bills and its coronavirus relief package before us
13 today.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
16 much.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
18 much, Council Member Rivera. Now we'll hear from
19 Council Member Powers.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, thank
21 you.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Powers,
23 your time will start now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: OK, thank you for
25 the opportunity, and it's good to see everybody

2 again, even in a virtual setting. I have missed
3 everybody here and thank you for all the good work
4 you're all doing. And I wanted to offer some
5 condolences and some prayers today for those who
6 unfortunately we have lost along the way in this
7 difficult moment, and I wanted to offer my deepest
8 condolences to our colleague, Rafael Salamanca, for
9 the passing of his father, ah, as well to Comptroller
10 Scott Stringer for the passing of his mother, and
11 also remember the lives of many who couldn't be here,
12 including Council Member Noach Dear who I know passed
13 last week. Many members of the NYPD, many members of
14 the Corrections Department, ah, and two folks in city
15 custody who passed away, and countless many more.
16 Um, they've been devastating to our city and, of
17 course, to their families as well. And I also wanted
18 to send my thoughts and prayers to the family of NYPD
19 Transportation Chair, Transportation Chief, rather,
20 William Morris, who I know his family is struggling
21 and he is struggling as well today. We have so much
22 work to do ahead of us to honor the lives of those
23 who have been lost, but also to save lives and to
24 protect New Yorkers' health and prosperity going
25 forward, and health is our top priority, we all must,

2 ah, follow official guidance. But as we think past
3 the stages, ah, past this stage of the COVID crisis
4 that means making tough decisions in our city budget.
5 It means making tough decisions about what our
6 priorities will be and, but it means being proactive
7 in helping those. Um, for me that's meant helping...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yep. Helping
10 renters immediately, providing rental assistance,
11 finding creative ways to help people be able to pay
12 the next month's rent. It means that we have to have
13 a [inaudible] for our small businesses who really
14 need our help, particularly those in the hospitality
15 industry right now, who are being hit the hardest,
16 and it means we need [inaudible] in our city jails
17 where there have been the highest rate of infections.
18 We've lost officers and, ah, people that are
19 incarcerated. So I know we have a lot of work to do.
20 I'll stop, I see my time is up, and I want to thank
21 everybody for their continued leadership here and I
22 know that we'll be working together in the weeks
23 ahead to make sure New York [inaudible] very
24 difficult time. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much. We'll hear now from Council Member Levine.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
5 Majority Leader.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Levine,
7 your time is starting now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority Leader. Ah, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for
10 your leadership, which has been outstanding
11 throughout this crisis. Thanks to all, my
12 colleagues, for what you're doing in your district
13 and all around the, all around the city. It's really
14 quite inspiring. As all of you know, we are about to
15 build an entirely new public health system to prepare
16 us for the next phase of this virus and our fight
17 against it. We are gonna have to build a system of
18 mass testing and contact tracing, quarantining,
19 hoteling, isolating, transporting patients,
20 telemedicine, IT, it's almost the equivalent of
21 starting an entirely new city agency, um, as big as
22 ACS, maybe FDNY. We've never done anything like this
23 in city history. Thousands of employees. Um, it's
24 going to be an extraordinarily challenging
25 undertaking, but it's what we need to do to restart

2 our economy and to get back to something remotely
3 like normal. This is gonna touch every one of our
4 districts, especially communities of color, which
5 have been disproportionately hard hit in this crisis,
6 and every one of us needs to have a role in shaping
7 this and delivering it. Our communities need to be
8 engaged in, engaged in designing this, this new
9 public health system. Ah, CBOs need to be engaged in
10 delivering these services. Ah, so my call to all of
11 you is let's work together on this to make sure that
12 the failures of the early stage in this crisis
13 nationally are not repeated here in New York City
14 when we have one more...

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: ...shot at
17 containing this horrible virus. Thank you very much.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
19 much, Council Member Levine. I'm so glad to see you
20 as well as your family doing better. Next three
21 speakers.

22 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader, the
23 next three speakers are Council Members Menchaca,
24 King, and Eugene.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
3 MENCHACA.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
5 MENCHACA, your time will start now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Hi colleagues,
7 and hi again. Um, the coronavirus continues to be,
8 ah, incredibly impactful, widespread across the
9 economic. We just heard about the health stuff, um,
10 from, ah, Council Member Levine, and immigrant New
11 Yorkers, particularly those who are undocumented,
12 they have incredible vulnerability in this
13 conversation, and yet these undocumented workers and
14 immigrant families are largely excluded from state
15 programs like unemployment insurance and the federal
16 relief cash payments that are and were supposed to
17 help workers who lost their jobs or got their hours
18 cut. And so my question to us here and to everyone
19 at home, what will the state and the city do to help
20 our immigrant friends and families and neighbors and
21 colleagues? And so the governor and the mayor have
22 already said that they're not interested in using
23 government funding for this. Um, but I'm sure that
24 they know that the undocumented immigrant communities
25 contribute 40 billion dollars a year to New York

2 State's gross domestic product. That's according to
3 the Fiscal Policy Institute report. And, further,
4 they pay more than a billion dollars a year in state
5 and local taxes. So, again, I gotta ask, what are we
6 gonna do? And where are we, what are we gonna do as
7 a council? Meanwhile, the ICE is, ICE is still, ah,
8 terrorizing our communities. They're holding people,
9 including pregnant women, in detention facilities, as
10 we, um, ah, told to stay at home...

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: And, and
13 practice social distancing. So with all this I just
14 want to keep asking ourselves what are we gonna do,
15 um, and let us not, um, forget that democracy, ah,
16 cannot assume democracy, even in this time, and that,
17 that democracy is about participation and I'm hoping
18 that everyone stays engaged, re-engages, whether
19 you're a community board member, a student, an
20 immigrant, a day laborer, no matter what language you
21 speak or sexual indication or gender expression,
22 whatever, we need your help...

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: ...to maintain
25 this, the democracy. Thank you again.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much, Council Member Menchaca. Now we will hear from
4 Council Member King.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Majority
6 Leader.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member King,
8 your time is starting now.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Majority
10 Leader and Speaker. Thank you for leading today's
11 conversation and your leadership through all this
12 craziness that we're trying to manage. I just want
13 to offer prayers to all the families who are
14 suffering from this pandemic. More importantly, to
15 all of my colleagues, all of us here, who are dealing
16 with this in our neighborhoods and in our hearts and
17 in our households and outside of our households, and
18 praying for strength and, and health for everyone.
19 Um, I just want to add my voice to Peter Vallone, I
20 mean Paul Vallone. I want to thank you for allowing
21 me to, ah, be a co-prime with you and with the
22 resolution making sure that our condos and our co-ops
23 are not forgotten in this, all these fiscal
24 stimuluses that are coming down and making sure that
25 we take care of those residents. Co-op City, which

2 is the largest [inaudible] in this country, they're
3 suffering right now. So even as we're talking about
4 a COVID package that will make sure essential workers
5 get raises, they're gonna have challenges meeting
6 those financial burdens. So I want us to continue to
7 have these conversations and make sure that we can
8 protect everybody, small businesses, big businesses,
9 housing, and so forth. But I also want to lend my
10 voice. Debbie Rosen, our Council Member [inaudible]
11 well the challenge of making sure that summer youth
12 this summer have something to do. Um, we know that
13 the Speaker, as you mentioned, the conversation has
14 been about ending it. I'm asking us maybe we can
15 call on the federal government to do a summer youth
16 stimulus package and making sure children are funded
17 and they're doing something during summer, whether
18 it's a school project or something to keep them
19 engaged because of the fiscal responsibilities they
20 have to their own. I'm asking if we can look at
21 something like that and continue that conversation
22 with our youth. And finally I want to talk about
23 small businesses. Not only just small businesses,
24 but...

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: But our black and
3 brown small businesses for some reason sometimes get
4 left out of the pot, pot when it comes to giving that
5 funding to our neighborhood, whether it's capacity or
6 figuring out the rules, how to be streamlined that
7 this, this big [inaudible] come down, hits our
8 neighborhoods and hits them, hits them in real time.
9 So with that [inaudible] I want to wish everyone a
10 happy Ramadan. Council Member [inaudible] happy
11 birthday. And blessings and peace to everybody.
12 Thank you again for your leadership. God bless us
13 all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
15 much, Council Member King. Followed by Council
16 Member Eugene.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
18 much, Madam Majority Leader.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Eugene,
20 your time will start now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, ah,
22 Madam Majority Leader. Ah, we all know that we are
23 facing as a community, as a society, we are facing
24 the ongoing tragedy, the COVID-19 pandemic that has
25 claimed the life of so many people, it has caused so

2 many pain and suffering in our society. And also
3 that has shut down our economy, our school, our
4 churches, and, you know, that have affected us in so
5 many part of our life. But we can see that part of
6 the devastation is because we were not ready for this
7 type of viruses, these type of crisis, even after
8 such virus epidemic in 2002, and MERS in 2012. We
9 were still not ready. And we put so much stress and
10 challenges on our medical staff, doctors and nurses,
11 and what happened? The people who have been
12 suffering from critical disease before they couldn't
13 even receive the critical care that they need.
14 That's the reason why I have introduced two pieces of
15 resolution, two pieces of legislation, resolution 637
16 and 638, asking that the city and [inaudible]
17 government create [inaudible] medical centers and
18 hospital to [inaudible] crisis...

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...[inaudible]
21 infectious disease impediment, impediment, and to
22 create also a permanent commission to study the
23 effect of the previous crisis, health crisis, on the
24 society in order for us to be prepared. And this
25 commission will be staffed by medical staff, elected

2 official, and expert in medicine and virology to do
3 research on the impact of the previous medical
4 training.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And [inaudible]
7 people who are infected by a virus like COVID-19, so
8 pathogenic, we are going to expose the medical staff,
9 doctors, nurses, in the previous [inaudible].

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [inaudible]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I'm asking all my
12 colleagues to support this, ah, ah, two legislation.
13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
15 thank you for your important work. I'd like to have
16 the next three speakers.

17 LANCE POLIVY: Madam Majority Leader, with
18 your permission I'll read the full list. There have
19 been a number of council members who have been
20 raising their hand.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK.

22 LANCE POLIVY: And this way they'll know
23 that they have been recognized. The remaining list
24 is Council Members Rodriguez, Kallos, Barron,
25 Borelli, Constantinides, Treyger, Lander, Reynoso,

2 Van Bramer, Yeger, Levin, and Cabrera. The next
3 three up are Rodriguez, Kallos, and Barron.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
5 Council Member Rodriguez.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
7 Rodriguez, your time will start now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
9 Eh, I think that most of you guys know, you know what
10 I gonna say. But for all New Yorkers it's sad to be
11 in 2020, you know, showing the face of the City of
12 New York that we have reclaiming that we had the best
13 [inaudible] system in the whole nation, and yes when
14 we see the [inaudible] where people have access to
15 the base health services, at those [inaudible] of the
16 wealthy New Yorkers, where you look at the numbers
17 and the faces of people dying, you know, that
18 [inaudible] is the same system [inaudible] poverty
19 that we have in the poorest area. You can call it in
20 any elected official [inaudible]. But I can tell you
21 like Congressman Sarano district and Sarano is like
22 the first one poorest in the nation, Congressman
23 [inaudible] district is the eleven one poorest in the
24 nation, and you look at the faces of the Latinos and
25 the black and the Asian and yes coronavirus doesn't

2 discriminate, anyone can get it, and we feel, you
3 know, we really have our prayer for anyone, the 8.6
4 million New Yorkers. But they're faces of the
5 poorest one and the question is what can we do. We
6 have failed. The city has failed. We have been the
7 city of the poor...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...and the
10 rich. And until we address that situation we will be
11 in the same place 10, 20 year from now. [speaking in
12 Spanish] and I call on progressive New Yorkers stand
13 up. We need to do better. We can do better. We can
14 save life. And lastly I would like to show all our
15 support to the responders who they are putting their
16 life to save other people life.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

18 LANCE POLIVY: And Majority Leader,
19 Council Members Kallos, Barron, and Borelli.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm waiting for
21 the Sergeant at Arms.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: You have to be
23 recognized by the Majority Leader.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Kallos,
25 you're recognized to begin.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time will start now.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm proud of the
4 work that the council continues to do as the
5 legislative body in responding to the COVID-19
6 pandemic. Today I'm introducing two bills, one to
7 help essential workers now and one looking ahead in
8 hopes of bringing systemic change, improving access
9 to underrepresented communities to our city's best
10 schools and you may hear my daughter in the
11 background, as all of us adjust to the new normal.
12 My first introduction, 1923, that I authored with
13 Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Member Lander to
14 provide [inaudible] protections to all essential
15 workers, from those in healthcare to those in our
16 grocery markets or making deliveries, as we continue
17 to thank and praise all these workers, including
18 cheering them nightly. Many have faced retaliation
19 for speaking out against unsafe conditions and
20 demanding protective equipment to keep them safe in
21 order to better keep us safe. Under this
22 legislation, essential workers would be protected
23 from retaliation or termination without just cause.
24 Second introduction, 1924, that I authored with
25 Public Advocate Williams and Council Members Brannan

2 and Cornegy, aims to increase access to specialized
3 high schools in our city where black and Latino
4 students have lost seats over the last two decades.
5 The legislation would finally seat every student with
6 a specialized high school, ah, admissions testing,
7 [inaudible] SAT unless they opted out. Universal
8 test preparation would also be available. The
9 Education Equity Campaign provided a free seven-week
10 course to nearly 200 students of color. The results
11 have proved this intervention, combined with seating
12 every student, would improve access. If you're
13 watching online...

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: And you need help
16 during this pandemic please reach out and we will be
17 there for you to help. I want to thank the council
18 staff for working even harder from home, my staff,
19 Jeff Baker, Risau Chowdry, Malcolm Buterhorn, and
20 countless others. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you. I believe
22 we lost the Majority Leader. Lance, who's next?

23 LANCE POLIVY: Council Members Barron,
24 Borelli, and Constantinides.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Barron.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Barron,
3 your time will start now.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. It's
5 good to see all of my colleagues. You're looking
6 well. Glad to see you. I want to thank the Speaker
7 and all of those who worked to make this a reality.
8 This is my first big Zoom conference and I'm so glad
9 that we're doing something that's so significant. I
10 also want to add my prayers and condolences to all
11 who have been impacted by this, whether you were
12 diagnosed with it or you had someone else was
13 diagnosed. As you may know, Charles and I did have
14 it. We have recovered, although we have not been in
15 the house in about 45 days. We're still staying in.
16 And we want to thank all of who have been supportive
17 of is. Um, I also want to mention Minister Abdul
18 Hafice Mohammed who passed and Father Lawrence Lupus
19 who passed also. Ah, this COVID is colorblind, yes.
20 But the systems that operate in this city and this
21 nation are not colorblind. And the inherent racial
22 inequities that are manifested in our health
23 disparities, in our underfunding through the
24 educational system, through the low family wealth
25 that exists through the businesses that are so

2 greatly impact, and through the digital divide that
3 we see are a result of the systemic historic racism
4 on which this country has been founded. And we hear
5 people talking about that and we want to make sure
6 that when we come through this we don't have a worse
7 situation in the aftermath, such as what we saw in
8 Katrina.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So I encourage
11 everyone to be able to be mindful of making sure that
12 we come out at the other end we're at a more
13 equitable place, and I want to encourage you to
14 support the Higher Education Committee as we appeal
15 for CUNY to freeze tuition and to maintain the ASAP
16 program, which is nationally recognized, and to
17 implement the food program which the speaker had so
18 graciously started, and to continue...

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...the Link
21 program 'cause are children are going to be
22 devastated when they come back to school in
23 September. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Inez. I'm
25 glad you and Charles are better.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, we're
3 better, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Borelli.
6 Oh, sorry, the Majority Leader is back.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
8 Council Member Borelli.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
10 Borelli, your time will start now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. I
12 think there was a misunderstanding. I didn't put
13 myself in to speak. But while I have the conch I
14 just want to say, ah, that I hope the council
15 continues to take a very direct and deliberate action
16 in supporting line of duty death benefits for all
17 essential workers, um, whom we had asked to go to
18 work during this crisis. The MTA took a very
19 positive step in being the first sort of organization
20 to guarantee these for their members. Ah, but there
21 are a lot of, um, you know, correction employees,
22 teachers, nurses, ah, ah, and all sorts of people.
23 EMTs, there were two more EMTs that died in the last
24 24 hours. So please let's take some definitive steps
25 towards easing the mental burden, ah, that, that

2 potentially leaving one's family destitute must be,
3 ah, on the shoulders of some of our essential
4 workers. Thank you.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I agree, Joe. Thank
6 you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
8 Council Member Costa Constantinides.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
10 Constantinides, your time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: First I
12 want to thank all of my colleagues for all the good
13 wishes, my family and, ah, to really thank all of the
14 frontline workers, essential workers, healthcare
15 workers. They have been doing an amazing job under
16 unbelievable circumstances every single day. Ah, you
17 know, this is Earth Day today, as the Speaker talked
18 about, and, you know, last year we passed some very
19 big legislation. And it wasn't about the goals. It
20 was about what those goals mean. We're seeing the
21 impacts of environmental racism and pollution in our
22 environmental justice communities every single day,
23 exasperated. The asthma rates are the breeding
24 ground for COVID and we're losing lives in those
25 communities. We need to act more boldly. We need to

2 continue to move our agenda forward. We need to move
3 our city forward in a way that protects our
4 environmental justice communities in the long haul
5 because it is literally life and death. Those
6 communities are the ones that are the most impacted.
7 They are the ones that have been bearing the brunt of
8 COVID and we must continue to do more. So I, I agree
9 with the Speaker as he talked about in his opening
10 about needing to double down on our efforts around
11 environmental justice, around environmental work, and
12 ensuring the health...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: ...of New
15 Yorkers in the long term. And lastly I'm glad to
16 work with Council Member Rodriguez in introducing the
17 resolution in support of Senator Gennaro's bill to
18 cancel rent in this critical time. We need to make
19 sure that with all of this that's going on that no
20 one is losing their homes, no one is being put into
21 debt, and we need to protect all of our New Yorkers,
22 ah, from the consequences of what is going on. Thank
23 you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much. I'm so glad to see you doing better. Council
4 Member Treyger.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
6 Treyger, your time will start now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. Thank you to the Speaker, ah, to
9 the staff, to all my colleagues. Ah, I extended best
10 wishes and speedy recoveries to all of us, ah, and
11 all of our communities that have been greatly
12 impacted. And thank you to our staff, both central
13 and all of our member office staff, who have
14 literally signed thousands of seniors up for
15 deliveries, meals, ah, for helping with unemployment
16 insurance. Ah, our staff is doing amazing work. I
17 want to thank them all and thank you to [inaudible]
18 staff are keeping democracy going in this crisis. Of
19 course, I want to extend our heartfelt appreciation
20 and thanks to our healthcare heroes, our emergency
21 first responders. I want to note for the record that
22 there are hospital executives, ah, hiding out in
23 mansions in Florida or in the Hamptons while EMTs in
24 New York City who are dying from their lives on the
25 line still making \$35,000 a year, seeing great pay

2 disparity. We must address that once and for all.
3 And I want to just clarify something for the record.
4 We keep hearing city, state, federal leaders keep
5 referring to schools as being closed. I want to
6 clarify that the work of our educators continue. I
7 speak not just as the education chair, but as a
8 former public school teacher who speaks to my
9 colleagues. It would take me a long time to map
10 curriculum for the year ahead. The work of our
11 educators has been nothing short of extraordinary.
12 To those educators who have lost colleagues, who are
13 grieving...

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...and their
16 families and their school communities, we see you.
17 The fact that our educators have put together
18 curriculum maps online in this new era of remote
19 learning in under a week or two weeks, we see you.
20 The fact that you're still teaching and educating
21 while taking care of your families and grieving
22 losses, we see you. The fact you're doing wellness
23 calls to your students, checking in on them, their
24 wellness at home. We see you. The fact that

2 educators are raising money from their own pockets to
3 feed their kids...

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...to feed their
6 students, and to buy them clothes, we see you, and I
7 hope my colleagues will see them and we hear them in
8 the budget process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your
9 time.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
11 Council Member Treyger, and thank you for your
12 passion and your persistence. I'd now like to call
13 on Council Member Lander, followed by Council Member
14 Van Bramer.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Lander,
16 your time is starting now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
18 Majority Leader, and thank you, Speaker Johnson, and
19 a big thanks to the staff who made this possible.
20 And I also want to echo to my own staff, who are just
21 working extraordinarily hard. Colleagues, it is
22 unbelievably powerful to be with you right now.
23 These are some of the darkest times that we will live
24 through, some of the darkest times of any generation
25 and we're seeing extraordinary pain and anguish in

2 the families who are suffering, in the workers who
3 have to be out there, and people who have lost their
4 jobs, are afraid of losing their homes, but we are
5 also seeing some incredible courage, some of the most
6 courageous action we've ever seen, obviously in our
7 emergencies and in our hospitals, but by so many of
8 our essential workers as well. And I'm glad that we
9 are back in business today trying to do our part,
10 inspired by those workers to honor it and to make
11 sure we live up to what we're saying. So I know that
12 many of you, like me, love going out at 7:00 p.m.
13 every night and banging pots and pans and screaming
14 as loudly as we can to say thank you to the people
15 who are stocking the shelves in our grocery stores,
16 delivering food and supplies, driving people to work
17 and appointments, and caring for sick New Yorkers in
18 our hospitals and our nursing homes. But let's
19 remember so many of those people are low-income New
20 Yorkers, they're working in low-wage jobs. They're
21 women. They're people of color. And we might be
22 banging pots and pans but we haven't done enough to
23 make sure that they've got the pay and the sick leave
24 and the workplace protections and the dignity that
25 they so deeply deserve.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: So I'm proud
4 today along with the Speaker, Council Member Kallos,
5 and Council Member Cumbo to be introducing the New
6 York City Essential Worker Bill of Rights, which will
7 go beyond cheering to make sure that our [inaudible]
8 workers have paid sick leave, that workers can't be
9 fired for speaking about health and safety
10 conditions, and making sure people get some extra pay
11 if they are working for large companies and having
12 the courage to go out and work in this period of
13 time. It's a powerful piece of legislation, ah, a
14 package of legislation. I really hope people join
15 us.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time's up.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
18 much.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
20 much, Council Member Lander, and I stand corrected.
21 We have Council Member Reynoso followed by Council
22 Member Van Bramer, and then followed by Council
23 Member Cabrera.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
25 Reynoso, your time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you. I
3 also want to make sure that I thank the Sergeant at
4 Arms for all the work they're doing and participating
5 and keeping everything in order. To Lance, um, we're
6 big process geeks so love the parliamentary role.
7 Um, and again, to all the staff, including my staff,
8 that is working hard during this, ah, this pandemic.
9 Um, I want to make sure that I state, um, while this
10 virus, ah, sees us all the same, the inequities in
11 our communities, um, have made it very clear that
12 there are certain types of groups of people, um, and
13 folks of socioeconomic status that are being treated,
14 um, unfairly or inequitably in our system. And I
15 think, ah, it's going to be extremely important
16 moving forward that business is not done as usual.
17 We are able to start righting the ship of inequality
18 after this crisis and I hope that, ah, many of our
19 colleagues start, ah, drawing a line as to how
20 exactly we're going to do that. It is very clear.
21 There are neighborhoods in South Bronx, North
22 Brooklyn, and Southeast Queens have the highest rates
23 of asthma in all of the city and it is no, ah,
24 because of that it is why they're dying at a higher
25 rate than anywhere else in the city. Um, so I think

2 it's very important that we start having these
3 conversations and not concede or compromise in making
4 sure we drive ourselves out of this equitable, ah,
5 this inequity. Ah, I also note that the budget is
6 something we're talking about right now. There are
7 some agencies...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: ...like NYPD
10 that has not taken the same steps as, as other
11 agencies, like the Department of Education, when it
12 comes to cuts that need to happen so that we can
13 start talking about equity again. And then we also
14 have, um, initiatives like Thrive that don't
15 necessarily do the job that we thought they should be
16 doing that have also not taken enough cuts. So we
17 should really have a conversation about where these
18 cuts are coming from and stop, ah, [inaudible] for
19 the initiatives that are supposed to bring about
20 equity, um, to continue to get [inaudible].

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 Council Member Van Bramer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
3 very much.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Van
5 Bramer, your time will start now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you. I
7 want to thank the Speaker and the entire staff for
8 making this possible. Ah, I, too, want to begin by
9 thanking the members of my staff who have been
10 working nonstop at home since this all begin. I also
11 want to recognize the public housing residents, ah,
12 the good folks of Queensbridge, Ravenswood, Woodside
13 Houses, Astoria Houses, um, ah, just now we're
14 hearing all of these plans from the governor and the
15 mayor to talk about how we're going to help people in
16 public housing, but that's about eight weeks later
17 than we should have had a plan to talk about how we
18 were going to help folks in public housing, um, get
19 through this crisis. Um, I also want to talk about
20 the fact that, ah, when we talk about essential
21 workers and I'm proud of the work this council is
22 doing in expanding the definition, but, ah, I was
23 raised by a woman who worked in a supermarket, ah,
24 and my stepfather was a janitor who cleaned, ah, the
25 floors and the bathrooms at Junior High School 10 in

2 Astoria. Ah, grocery store workers and janitors are
3 essential workers and so many of them have put their
4 lives on the line during this crisis. Ah, every time
5 I go to a supermarket, ah, I thank profusely, ah, the
6 men and women who are working there, risking their
7 lives so that other people can eat. Um, and I just
8 want to say, again, thank you to all of the first
9 responders, all of the people who gather together...

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: ...and I'm
12 wearing this tie, as you can see. I mentioned Mayer
13 Gomoras, ah, who helped raise me, who was a huge Met
14 fan, and this tie, I wore it in his honor. It is a
15 red and blue tie. It is the colors of the Mets. And
16 finally I want to recognize because we will rename
17 the street [inaudible] who was a great Irish LGBT
18 activist who died of COVID-19 and I want to recognize
19 him. There will be plenty of more time to talk about
20 his legacy going forward. But thank you to him as
21 well.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you so
24 much.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
3 will now hear from Council Members, and I'm also
4 making a correction, Yeger, Levin, and then Cabrera.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member, your
6 time will start now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
8 President. Um, I, I also want to add my thanks, as
9 has been mentioned before on this floor, ah, to, ah,
10 the members of the staff of the City Council,
11 particularly Jason, members of the general counsel
12 team, and the folks who worked very hard to, ah, get
13 this meeting off and to get our operations complete.
14 I also want to thank my own staff, who have been
15 working incredibly hard to keep our office
16 operational, um, and to, ah, ah, keep serving the
17 people who, that needs us at the City Council. Um,
18 I, I think I would be remiss if I don't take a few
19 seconds at least to honor, um, in more time, ah, than
20 I have available he deserves, my predecessor,
21 Councilman Noach Dear, justice of the Supreme Court,
22 um, who was taken at the prime of his life, somebody
23 who had given so much to his community, ah, somebody
24 who was a friend of mine, um, and a friend of so
25 many, and who was leader in our body for 18 years,

2 was elected to the City Council when I was still in
3 my single digits and I have known him practically my
4 entire life, and it was a shocking and tremendous
5 loss. Um, and this is not to belittle the losses
6 that all communities in this city have seen. Ah, we
7 have all lost so many. Ah, my grandmother passed
8 away last week, Monday. Ah, the [inaudible] who is,
9 was a giant in Torah Jewry who gave so much of his
10 life to help build our community here in America, was
11 taken from us prior to his time in a tragic way.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Ah, my own
14 rashishiva of [inaudible] and of course this needs to
15 be mentioned, ah, the dozens and dozens of names that
16 I know, ah, people who were able to escape the
17 brutality of Hitler and the Nazis, and who were
18 survivors of the Holocaust, and whose numbers I
19 touched on their arms who have lost their lives in
20 the last several days at least, and I honor their
21 memory, and I will continue doing that. Thank you,
22 Madam President.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
24 Council Member Yeger. And we will now hear from
25 Council Member Levin and then Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam.

3 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Levin,
4 your time will start now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
6 Majority Leader. Um, I just want to echo my
7 colleagues' sentiments. I am extending our
8 condolences to everybody that has lost a loved one,
9 um, everybody who has, um, ah, who has gone through,
10 um, a painful illness, um, this has been, um, one of
11 the darkest hours that our city has ever known and,
12 ah, it is devastating and heartbreaking, ah, for all
13 of us and we extend our love to, to everybody in New
14 York City who is suffering today. We want to
15 acknowledge all of the tremendous work that our
16 healthcare workers, our first responders, everybody
17 that's going to work in every essential capacity,
18 grocery stores, pharmacies, delivery workers, ah,
19 people at, working at an auto body shop or, um, tire
20 changing place, ah, everybody that's doing a
21 tremendous amount of, putting themselves out on the
22 line, um, in the service of your fellow New Yorker,
23 um, we express our gratitude. Um, colleagues, I, I'm
24 introducing...

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: 30 seconds.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...a piece of
3 legislation today as well, Intro 1927, which would
4 extend to individuals in shelter, in a congregate
5 setting, or in, ah, unsheltered environment, um, the
6 right to a hotel room during this crisis. The fact
7 of the matter is there are still thousands upon
8 thousands of New Yorkers who are in congregate
9 shelters, um, is a very dangerous and risky place to
10 be, um, and we owe it to them...

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's up.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...to be able to
13 put them, um, in appropriate setting so that we can
14 avoid an outbreak, um, on our watch in our shelter
15 system. So I ask my colleagues to sign onto Intro
16 1927. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
18 Council Member Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
20 much.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member
22 Cabrera, your time will start now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
24 much, and I can see the time clock, so, ah, no need
25 for the reminder at 30 seconds. But I want to take,

2 I give a, ah, take a moment to thank the Speaker, ah,
3 to all my colleagues, ah, very early one, as you
4 know, my son came down with coronavirus, um, I was
5 probably the first elected official to have a family
6 member go through this. I had all kinds of, ah,
7 feelings. I was scared. I was, ah, upset. I was,
8 um, I think I felt all the feelings that a father
9 could feel. And then my daughter came down with it,
10 their spouses, their, my grandchildren, and, ah, the
11 reason I'm mentioning, ah, this right now, I don't
12 want us to go through what we could have done before.
13 We could have done the quarantine before. We, we
14 should have done the testing, the appropriate testing
15 and we were not prepared. And so we're talking about
16 inequities, ah, inequities right now. Let me just
17 say that I'm hopeful that we're not waiting until
18 this is over, ah, for the inequities to be taken care
19 of. We need to address them now. Now that we're
20 going to have antibody tests. They're already
21 starting. This should be in our, in the deepest,
22 hardest hit, ah, area should be taking place and
23 areas that was most affected, the help needs to come
24 now. This recession is gonna last. Ah, it's not
25 gonna be gone in a year. It's gonna take years for

2 us to recover. So we need to be wise. We need to,
3 ah, appropriate all the funding that we need, and we
4 need to do it now as we go through this budget and to
5 be able to, ah, stand proud in June to make sure that
6 we have, ah, a good budget for all. Thank you so
7 much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
9 Council Member Rose.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Rose,
11 your time will start now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. Um,
13 like all of my colleagues I want to say thank you to
14 the speaker, our colleagues in government, for all of
15 their efforts on behalf of, of the citizens of New
16 York City. But I want to thank more especially the
17 first responders and the essential workers for all
18 that they have done and their selfless efforts to
19 keep all of us safe and healthy. Um, you know, there
20 were some inequities in terms of treatment, um,
21 within the categories of first responders and
22 essential workers, and I hope that we are going to
23 make sure that that doesn't happen, that the workers
24 who are working in the nursing homes and the group
25 homes, um, and in the shelters are equally as

2 protected as the workers in, um, in other areas that,
3 you know, none of our civil servants should have to
4 put their lives in jeopardy. So I, I want us to
5 continue the fight for them. And I want to say to,
6 um, Teens in Charge take charge, that of course we're
7 gonna fight for SYEP and, um, that my colleagues are,
8 are behind us and we're going to make sure that there
9 is some kind of programming for young people this
10 summer. So you don't have to waste your efforts on
11 us, go talk to the administration about saving, um,
12 SYEP. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
14 much, Council Member Rose, and thank you so much for
15 your leadership and your fight for our young people.
16 Now Council Member Holden.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Hi, thank you
18 everyone, and certainly...

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Holden,
20 your time will start now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you again.
22 Ah, I want to thank Corey Johnson, Speaker, done a
23 great job during the pandemic, along with Jason
24 Goldman, to set up this historic, um, meeting, which
25 is, ah, I love being part of the City Council, but

2 doing this is such a, a task, I can imagine, and I
3 want to thank him again. I want to thank my great
4 staff who are working really hard during this
5 pandemic and it puts, it's a lot of stress on
6 everyone. But also I want to just mention about the
7 people who have lost loved ones and right now, I
8 have a lot of cemeteries in my district, and we're
9 seeing a lot of funerals. But the cemeteries have
10 cut back, ah, on their burials because of the lack of
11 staff. So they need help. I wrote to the mayor,
12 wrote to the governor a number of times, tried to get
13 the out-of-work construction workers to help out, ah,
14 in, in the cemeteries, and get paid for it. Um,
15 because we're waiting now, families are calling me,
16 they're waiting two and three weeks for funerals.
17 And it, and it really puts more stress on them,
18 obviously. So we really need to step up as a city
19 and help out the cemeteries. So thank you again,
20 everyone, and really stay safe. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thanks, Bob, to you and
22 Amy and your kids and grandkids.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thanks so much.
24
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Are
3 there any other members who are on the list to speak,
4 Parliamentarian?

5 LANCE POLIVY: No, Madam Majority Leader.
6 There are no other members.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to
8 close out by thanking again Speaker Corey Johnson and
9 all my colleagues here today. Um, this is historic
10 and it's unprecedented, and there's nothing harder, I
11 would say, that all of us has experienced as being
12 leaders to have to lead from inside. We naturally
13 want to be up front. We naturally want to be at the
14 forefront, and for me as a mom of a 2-year-old with
15 two parents that are both over the age of 80 it has
16 been the hardest thing as a leader to have to stay
17 indoors and to have to lead my community at the same
18 time. But I want to thank this council because you
19 all have led the efforts from everything from
20 fighting to close our schools, to alternate side of
21 the street parking suspensions, to closing our
22 playgrounds, for the fight for our small businesses,
23 for the fight for PPE. Because we know that we sent
24 many people, many black and brown people, many women
25 of color, onto the frontlines without protective

2 gear. And it's a tragedy that they were sent out in
3 that way. And we're going to do everything that we
4 can in our council to fight for them, to make sure
5 that we right these wrongs and that we continue to
6 fight for them. Because they have made it so that
7 many of us could lead from inside. So I want to thank
8 everybody, especially on the council, for what we
9 did, to get emergency food aid to many of our shut-
10 ins, for many of our seniors who could not go out and
11 get food, who could not go out and get the packages
12 of food from the food pantries and the deliveries
13 that have been made. I want to lift up Mutual Aid in
14 one community in my district who have been working
15 with our NYCHA tenant leaders, many of them who are
16 senior citizens, who are out on the frontlines
17 getting the food for the seniors, and they themselves
18 can't be out there. And should not be out there.
19 And I, I just want to thank my staff. It's so hard
20 to call staff to give them an assignment and you find
21 out that they're on their way to the hospital, or
22 they have to get tested, or their kids are sick, or
23 their parents are sick. This has been really a very
24 challenging time. And I just want to lift up while
25 there have been so many passings in my district, I

2 want to lift up Dr. Roy Hastick who is the founder of
3 the Chamber of the, the Caribbean American Chamber of
4 Commerce, who is a king of Brooklyn, who has done so
5 much to advance local businesses in the Caribbean
6 community, as well as Pastor Gwen Dingle who has been
7 a fighter and a champion on the front lines of the
8 HIV movement. She is a powerful leader and we are so
9 sorry that we have lost her as well. And, and we're
10 gonna continue to look forward and, and to continue
11 to lead, and thank you so much, and I beg of you,
12 please stay home. This is not over. While the
13 numbers are leveling this is far from over, and we
14 have to continue to stay at home, practice social
15 distancing, to wear our masks, and to take this very
16 seriously. So with that, Speaker Corey Johnson, I
17 turn it over to you to close out this meeting. Thank
18 you for your leadership. Thank you for bringing this
19 body together, and thank you for hosting this
20 unprecedented meeting that has kept us all at home
21 today and is a thankful wish to Earth Day that we
22 were not out there and gave the earth a break. Thank
23 you so much.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
25 Majority Leader, for those incredibly moving, ah,

2 closing remarks. I'm really grateful for your
3 leadership and I just want to wrap up by thanking all
4 of you, all of the members of this body who have been
5 working around the clock to serve your constituents
6 and to look out for the future of New York City. I
7 want to echo and reiterate some of the, I think, very
8 poignant and, ah, smart and helpful remarks that the
9 Majority Leader just gave, especially as it relates
10 to how we are all in this together. Ah, we need to
11 continue to practice social distancing. You know,
12 three weeks ago we were losing 900 New Yorkers a day.
13 Now the number is down to about 450, half of the
14 that. But that is still an astounding number of
15 people who are dying every single day of COVID-19 in
16 New York City. And as painful and difficult as it is
17 for New Yorkers to be social distanced right now and
18 physically isolated, it is so important for us to do
19 that because we need to relieve and keep that
20 pressure off of our healthcare system. We need to
21 think about these healthcare heroes, making their
22 jobs easier. These folks that are scared every
23 single day leaving their homes, leaving their loved
24 ones and their children, going into work to save
25 other people. We need to think about these grocery

2 store workers who are getting on the subway, every
3 single day, leaving their homes that New Yorkers can
4 still get food. We have to think about the NYPD
5 officers and the firefighters and the correction
6 officers, the subway conductors and the bus drivers,
7 the postal workers and the pharmacists. All of these
8 workers that are keeping our city going right now.
9 They are our heroes and we are immensely, immensely
10 grateful for what they have done during this time.
11 We need to lift them up by making sure they are
12 protected and paid better, but also to keep them safe
13 by continuing the social distancing that's in place.
14 We're gonna have to start to have the conversation
15 about what mass testing looks like, about what
16 contact tracing looks like, about what surveillance
17 looks like, so that we can actually go at this virus
18 and take it, ah, and do our best to make sure that we
19 are able to safely at some point reopen and do it in
20 the right way, not in a rushed way or a rash way, but
21 in a smart way, by looking at what other cities and
22 countries around the world have been doing. This
23 City Council I want New Yorkers to know, all of the
24 members have been working every single day to serve
25 their communities and to look at these broader issues

2 that are affecting our great city. I think it's
3 important to level with New Yorkers about how
4 difficult this is and how the days ahead are gonna be
5 difficult, but also talk about the hope that I have.
6 It's gonna be difficult because there's going to be a
7 shared sacrifice involved. A shared sacrifice as it
8 relates to making painful budget decisions we would
9 never want to contemplate. Ah, difficult because
10 we're gonna have to continue, even when we start to
11 try to, ah, reopen in a small way with mandatory mask
12 wearing and social distancing and the things that are
13 going to be required of us. These things are gonna
14 change our way of life. But I am hopeful. And I am
15 hopeful because our city is the greatest city in the
16 world, and it's greatest city in the world not
17 because of our geography, but because of the 8.6
18 million New Yorkers who live here. They are the
19 beating heart of New York City. They are the soul of
20 New York City. We are the most diverse city in the
21 United States of America. Queens County is the most
22 diverse county in the United States of America. And
23 we have seen incredible sacrifice and solidarity
24 during the last five to six weeks. We have seen
25 neighbors take care of neighbors. We have seen

2 people do food deliveries. We have seen these
3 essential workers put their lives on the line. We
4 have seen young people delivering groceries to older
5 people. We have seen all of this in one of the most
6 painful moments in our history. And I have hope that
7 we can get through this. We will be a changed city.
8 Our city will not be the same. But we can still come
9 back if we remain united, if we are compassionate and
10 kind and strategic and thoughtful about how to get
11 through this. And that is going to require us
12 looking at some of the hard and glaring truths that
13 exist, the truths on disparities, the truths on, ah,
14 structural racism that exist in our society. And I
15 hope that we can take this moment as a transformation
16 point. In the 1940s after the war the UK decided to
17 set up the NHS, their national healthcare service,
18 knowing they needed to do something transformational.
19 It is my hope that we'll be able to do something
20 transformational here. Healthcare needs to be a
21 basic civil right, not tied to employment and not
22 tied to profit. We need to make sure that all New
23 Yorkers are being protected and you have seen these
24 frontline workers, most of them black and brown
25 people, most of them black and brown women, who have

2 continued to step up day after day. We need to
3 recognize that. We need to honor them and protect
4 them and make decisions that are going to help them
5 and their families moving forward. That is the best
6 way to actually honor the lives of all the New
7 Yorkers that we have lost. Our north star in this
8 budget process and moving forward is to take care and
9 protect the most vulnerable, to ensure that we are
10 doing right by all these families that have lost
11 loved ones and the families that continue to
12 sacrifice every single day. These glaring holes in
13 our social safety net, when it comes to housing and
14 food and healthcare and wages are more glaring than
15 ever right now in the midst of this pandemic. But if
16 we stay united, if we stay one New York, just like we
17 got through the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, just like
18 we got through 9/11 together, just like we got
19 through the Great Recession together, and just like
20 we got Thursday Hurricane Sandy together. We can get
21 through this. But we need to look out for our young
22 people and our seniors and our public housing
23 residents and our healthcare workers and our essential
24 workers and all of these folks that are counting on
25 us. That needs to be our north star. So I am

2 incredibly grateful for the staff that made today
3 possible. I'm grateful to all of you for being part
4 of this historic meeting today. We have committee
5 hearings coming up tomorrow and Friday and next week,
6 and I want to thank you all for your solidarity and
7 for your continued support and working together to
8 help our city get out of one of the biggest crises
9 that we've ever faced. So I want to thank you, Madam
10 Majority Leader, for doing a wonderful job today and
11 being the presiding officer of this meeting. I want
12 to thank Lance Polivy for being our parliamentarian
13 and doing a great job. I want to thank all of the
14 sergeants who have been on the call, led by Carl
15 D'Alba, our director of security. I want to thank Jason
16 Goldman, my chief of staff, and all of the, ah, all
17 of the, ah, central staff members of the council and
18 district office members who have been working
19 remotely, serving constituents, getting us up and
20 going, drafting bills, working on the city's budget.
21 We have been working around the clock and we will
22 continue to do that. So with that, Madam Majority
23 Leader, I want to sign off and tell New York City I
24 love you. We love this great city and we will get
25 through this together. So with that, the Stated

1 STATED MEETING

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2 Meeting of April 22, 2020, is now adjourned.

3 Godspeed. Be safe, New York City. We're here for
4 you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 24, 2020