

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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May 13, 2020
Start: 1:41 p.m.
Recess: 3:09 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Corey D. Johnson
Speaker

Laurie A. Cumbo
Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Margaret S. Chin
Carlina Rivera
Keith Powers
Ben Kallos
Helen Rosenthal
Mark Levine
Diana Ayala
Bill Perkins
Ydanis Rodriguez
Andrew Cohen
Andy King
Mark Gjonaj
Fernando Cabrera

Ritchie J. Torres
Vanessa L. Gibson
Rafael Salamanca Jr.
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Paul Vallone
Peter Koo
Francisco Moya
Costa Constantinides
Barry Grodenchik
Rory I. Lancman
Daniel Dromm
Jimmy Van Bramer
I. Daneek Miller
Adrienne E. Adams
Karen Koslowitz
Robert Holden
Donovan J. Richards
Eric A. Ulrich
Stephen T. Levin
Antonio Reynoso
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Carlos Menchaca
Brad Lander
Mathieu Eugene
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Inez Barron
Justin Brannan
Kalman Yeger
Farah N. Louis
Alan N. Maisel
Mark Treyger
Chaim M. Deutsch
Deborah Rose
Steve Matteo
Joseph C. Borelli

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

Tahir Kukaj, Imam
Albanian Islamic Cultural Center

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Okay. At this time, can I please have everyone turn on their videos? Please turn all electronic devices to vibrate. Thank you. Madam, Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 13th, 2020. I am Laurie Cumbo and it is my pleasure to welcome you to this virtual meeting of the New York City [inaudible 00:00:39]. If you would like to follow along, the agenda to today's meeting is posted on our website. Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. And we now have roll call.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Is the clerk ready to call the roll? Does someone need to unmute the clerk?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [inaudible 00:01:46]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay. Thank you very much. Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala? Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm blessed and
present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannon?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNON: Present.

Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'm here someplace.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene? Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present. I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos? King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: [inaudible

00:03:20].

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Whatever sort of
here this is.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [inaudible

00:03:39]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.

[background comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: They're getting to
me soon.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lewis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel:

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: You get me?

COMMITTEE CLERK: I've got you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER: Presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya? Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso? Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [inaudible

00:04:34]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich? Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [inaudible

00:05:23]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here. And, Mr. Clerk, I believe Council Member Dromm wasn't unmuted in time to say he was here, but he is--

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. I've added him to the roll. We have a quorum.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We love shopping. It's our new favorite pastime.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: If the folks that are muting could mute folks that aren't speaking right now, that would be helpful. We're getting some background noise from people.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now have today's invocation which will be delivered by Imam Doctor Tahir Kukaj [sp?] of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center located at 307 Victory Boulevard in Staten Island.

IMAM KUKAJ: Mr. Speaker, the honorable Corey Johnson, members of the New York City Council, public servants, ladies and gentleman. I'm honored to have been invited to offer the invocation as we gather remotely to begin our meeting today. In the

name of God, the compassionate and merciful, praise be to God, lord of the worlds, our creator. Creator of the universe, known by many names. The compassionate, the merciful, ruler of life on the day of reckoning, you alone we worship and you alone we ask for help, guidance on a straight path. The path of those that have received your grace, not the path of those that have brought down wraths, nor those who wander astray. Our lord, we ask you that you bless our City Council and its members. Bless our city, our state, and our great country, United States of America. God of justice and mercy, thank you for your countless blessings and gifts. The gift of life and opportunity to serve the people of our city. Help us to act with character and conviction. Help us to listen with understanding and good will. Help us to speak with charity and nobility. Give us a spirit of service. Remind us that we are stewards of your authority. Guide us to be the leaders that New York people need. Our lord, remind our City Council members that no matter where we live, everyone, regardless of race, gender, age, and other aspects, black or white, Hispanic or Asian, Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hindi, Sikh, or atheist, is our neighbor. Our

sibling in humanity. Grand our leaders the wisdom and courage to know and do what is right and good and true. May they and we speak out when it is time to speak out and listen patiently and receptively when it's a time to listen. May they and you always be guided by the spirit of community, by the spirit of justice, and by the spirit of love. Our lord, as we live through difficult times, we ask you to bless all first responders, doctors, nurses, volunteers, social workers, philanthropists, humanitarians. Bless our scientists to find a cure for this plague and every illness. Bless all those that respect instructions. Stay home. Stay safe. In your name we make this prayer. Amen.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you for that beautiful and very timely prayer. Dr. Kukaj, we appreciate you and we appreciate the service that you do in Staten Island and beyond. I'd now like to ask Council member Rose to spread the invocation onto the record.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: You aren't muted, Debbie.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay. Thank you, Majority Leader, and thank you, Imam Tahir. Doctor--

IMAM KUKAJ: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Tahir-- Can you hear me?

IMAM KUKAJ: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Dr. Tahir Kukaj bring a diverse multi-cultural background to my north shore community district where he has been bringing people together for nearly two decades. He serves as the vice president of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center in Tompkinsville, as well as being a chaplain for the New York City Police Department and he's a members of the Mayor's Clergy Advisory Board. Imam Tahir is a powerful voice for immigrant rights, social justice in my district, and across New York City. He's a healer who is always present when there is a need and he is a friend. The Imam is a skilled spiritual diplomat with a keen ability to focus on common beliefs and values for people of all faiths and traditions. A skill that we really need now in this fractured society. Every year, he bring together various communities to break bread in friendship and, at these events, he reminds all of us of our common values that all people of all values and backgrounds in New York City hold dear. I would

like to thank Imam Tahir for being here today during this holy month of Ramadan and I make a motion that the invocation be spread in full upon the record.

Thank you.

IMAM KUKAJ: Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council member Debbie Rose. We will now have the adoption of minutes by Council member Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I hereby make a motion that the minutes of the stated meeting of April 22nd, 2020 be adopted as printed.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much. We will now have messages and papers from the Mayor.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication from city, county, and borough offices?

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: [inaudible
00:12)06] 21 Queens Borough president budget response.

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

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and communications.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call ups.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now have communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. Good afternoon, everyone. Happy Wednesday until all of you. Welcome to our second virtual Stated Meeting of the New York City Council. I hope that all of the member who are on this call, as well as the staff and anyone who is watching today, that you and your families are safe and healthy and well. I want to begin by thanking the entire Council. All the members and all of their staff for their continuous efforts to make the work we are doing day in and day out possible. So many people have been working around the clock on the city's budget, on the bills we are voting on the day, on keeping the Stated Meeting going in a virtual way. Our district office, serving our constituents. There been so many people that have been working so hard. So I want to thank everyone who works at the City Council for their hard work. The work we are doing is so critically important and we have not let the social distancing that we need to do right now. Our

work as members of this body. We know that New Yorkers are counting on us to step up and do everything we can for them we will, as we have always done, continue to serve our districts, our communities, and our neighborhoods. Each Stated Meeting, I take time in mentioning the deaths that our city has faced during the last time we met. These days, it becomes even more grim as we lose more New Yorkers at such a rapid rate. As of yesterday, we've lost more than 20,000 New Yorkers to this terrible virus. This includes so many of our civil servants who have committed their lives to serving the people of our great city. We've lost so many people that work at the Department of Education or MTA workers. I won't go through every agency, but every agency has been touched by this and we are holding all of those families in our hearts and in our hands to get through these difficult days. The FDNY laws to retired members of their family to 9/11 related illness is our last Stated Meeting. Retired firefighter Paul J. Greco passed away on May 6th and the Department also lost retire Lieutenant Kevin C. Dunn on May 7th. My heart is with the families and friends of Lieutenant Dunn and firefighter Greco and

the entire fire department. I wanted to take a moment of silence for all of the New Yorkers that we have lost to COVID-19, as well as Lieutenant Dunn and firefighter Greco. Thank you.

This month is also Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It's a time for us to celebrate the rich history and achievements of the AAPI community. Unfortunately, we have seen significant discrimination and harassment against Asian New Yorkers these last many month. A big increase. And I want to think this opportunity to shore every Asian New Yorker that the entire New York City Council stands with you. The fear of COVID-19 should not be used as an excuse of any harassment or discrimination of any kind, especially against Asian New Yorkers. I'm particularly proud of today's legislative agenda because we are voting on bills to help small businesses and restaurants survive this crisis. Small businesses and restaurants are the heart and soul of our city. They were struggling before COVID hit and the shutdown has been catastrophic for so many of them. We knew we had to act or we would lose many of the shops and restaurants that make our city in our neighborhood so

special. For those of us who live here, but also for the people who visit our city. This is not the time for all restaurants to pay high fees, nor should any COVID impacted business be exploited by their landlords. An introduction in 1932 will present commercial landlords from going after business owners personal assets. When I met with some restaurant owners last virtually, we learned that this is one of the top issues keeping them up that night. It is awful. Losing your business is hard enough. But imagine someone coming after your home, as well, while your business is closed. I am glad we are voting to put an end to that today and I want to thank the restaurant industry for raising this issue. This legislation will benefit all kinds of business owners in our city will be better off because of it. I am proud of this package and I want to thank the restaurant industry and small business owners are working collaboratively with the Council to find solutions. I also want to thank everyone at the Council for recognizing the urgency of these relief bills and for all of us collectively and moving quickly to bring them to a vote. So let's dive into today's stated agenda. The first two bills are bills

coming out of our consumer affairs committee and I want to thank our Chair Andy Cohen for doing a great job in the hearings that we have had. At the monument, the requirement to renew certain licenses and permits required for business to operate has been suspended pursuant to an executive order. This first bill, sponsored by Minority Leader Matteo and co-primed by Council member Yeger, would require city agencies to publish a list of any licenses, permits, consents, or registrations that are not covered by the renewal extension and renewal deadlines for any license or permit cannot be earlier than 45 days after the suspension ends. The next bill propose, Introduction 1916A, sponsored by Council member Andres Cohen, would require the city to waive and refund all revocable consent fees for unenclosed sidewalk café's that are due between March 1st, 2020 and February 28th, 2021. Revocable consent fees for enclosed sidewalk cafés would be waived for the duration of the Mayor's Executive Order, which is Executive Order 105, which was published on April 4th, 2020. This is a common sense measure and it's really going to help restaurants during this difficult time. I want to thank the staff who worked

on both of those bills. Belkis Murig [sp?]. I want to thank her for her hard work.

Next, the Council will be voting on legislation that will help residential tenants who are facing crushing financial hardships. Proposed Introduction number 1936 A, sponsored by Council member Ritchie Torres and myself, would expand the definition of harassment to include threats against an individual based on their status as a COVID-19 impacted person, their status as an essential employee, or their receipt of a rental concession or a forbearance. It's imperative that we step to show that tenants are not harassed or forced out of their homes during these difficult times. And I want to thank, from my staff, Kelley Taylor, for her hard work on that bill. As I said, earlier, we'll be voting on a small business relief package that really steps up and provides much needed relief for these impact businesses. We cannot continue to wait for the federal government to step up and do their jobs. Restaurants have seen a massive decline in customers since they were forced to stop dine-in orders. Some are not open at all. Some are doing takeout and delivery. And with so many of them having to switch

to takeout and delivery only, the following two bills are an effort of alleviate some of the burden that this has caused them and ensure they can thrive as much as possible during this crisis. Proposed Introduction number 1898 A, sponsored by our small business Chair, Mark Gjonaj, would prohibit third-party delivery platforms for charging for telephone orders and wheelchair transaction did not take place. Violations of the prohibitions in this bill would be subject to civil penalties of up to 500 dollars per day per restaurant which is put forward unlawful charges. Then I want to thank Chair Gjonaj for chairing the hearing recently on these bills. The next bill, proposed Introduction number 1908 B, sponsored by Council member Francisco Moya, would restrict the fees that third party food delivery services may charge restaurants during the emergency when restaurants are prohibited from offering food for consumption on premises. Deliveries services would be prohibited from charging more than 15 percent per order for providing delivery services to a restaurant and, separately, more than five percent per order for other charges. Violations of the prohibitions in this bill would be subject to civil

penalties of up to 1000 dollars per restaurant per day. Both of these bills will be in effect for 90 days following the conclusion of the state of emergency. And I want to thank Stephanie Jones, from the staff, for her work on both of those bills. Lastly, I worked on the following two bills closely with colleagues in an effort to ensure our small business owners are not facing financial ruin during this crisis. That is something our small business owners should not be concerned about right now. We need New York to come back stronger than ever and our small businesses make a strong. The first, proposed Introduction number 1932 A, sponsored by Council member Carlina Rivera and myself, would suspend personal liability provisions in leases for businesses that were impacted by the mandated closures and service limitations in the governor's executive orders like bars, restaurants, and retail shops.

And, finally, we are providing protections against the harassment that these tenants may face during the pandemic. Proposed Introduction number 1914 A, sponsored by Councilmember Adrian Adams and myself would make threatening commercial

tenant based on their status as a COVID-19 impacted business of form of harassment punishable by a civil penalty of up to 10,000 to 50,000 dollars. I want to thank the staff who worked on these bills, Kelly Taylor and the rest of her team. And, with that, Madam Majority Leader, I turn it back to you. And, again, I just want to thank the Imam for his really beautiful invocation today and I want to thank all of you for working so collaboratively during these difficult days. Thank you very much. I'm grateful for all of this work that we are doing together. And I turn it back to you, Majority Leader Cumbo.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker Corey Johnson, and all my colleagues for this very impactful legislation. We will now move into discussion of general orders. We will first recognize Council members who signed up by email and then recognize members who wish to speak by using the raise hand function in Zoom. Please wait for you to begin your remarks for our Sergeant-at-arms to announce he has begun the countdown clock. The Sergeant-at-arms will alert you when your time has expired.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madam Majority Leader, Minority Leader Matteo, Council member Adams and Council member Gjonaj are the first three on the list for discussion of general orders.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Council member Minority Leader Matteo.

MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Thank you, Majority Leader. Good afternoon, colleagues.

[background comments]

MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: This ongoing crisis has been terrible for all walks of life and toot our physical and mental health is, in some ways, still beyond reckoning. As public health a-- and always will be the top priority, and it is also imperative that we aid in the challenges of economic recovery. Small businesses are the backbone of our communities and the engine of our local and national economy. They employ more than half of our city's workforce and most of our residents. They provide important and unique services and products and their owners support the not-for-profit that enhance our neighbor's quality of life to a level that government can never accomplish on its own. We have to support them as they get back on their feet so they can

continue to fill that vital role in New York City. That is why I authored Intro 1940 on today's agenda. The administration deserves credit for extending permits, licenses, and the rest to during a state of emergency, but we need it to work for clarity and a certain process for when it is over. Now, businesses will know for sure whether each of their permits and licenses have been extended during this period, as well as both how and when to renew them. Many will receive 45 days after this emergency is over to operate on permits before having to renew permits and licenses that could have otherwise expired with the Mayors Executive Orders. I want to thank the many who made today's note possible. Speaker Johnson, Chairs Gjonaj and Cohen, co-sponsor Yeger, Jason Goldman, Jess Baker, Markice Marie [sp?], Kenny Grace from the administration, and my Chief of staff, David Carr. Thank you. And I ask that my colleagues join me in support of this bill.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council member Matteo. Will now have Councilmember Adams.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCILMEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. Good afternoon. My bill, Introduction 1914 would make threatening a commercial tenant, based on their status as a COVID-19 impacted business or person, of form of harassment punishable by a civil penalty of 10,000, up to 50,000 dollars. Our businesses, especially small businesses, are important to our neighborhood. These businesses are really suffering right now as they are forced to adapt to the new normal. We need to act now to protect the businesses that make our neighborhood vibrant and build the character of our community. Unfortunately, thousands of businesses in our city are suffering as they have been forced to close due to COVID-19. As availability of federal loans is limited, many businesses are unable to pay their rent. This leaves them vulnerable to harassment from landlords looking to find ways to collect or to just get the tenant to voluntarily abandon the property so they can find tenants willing and able to pay those higher rents. The threat of harassment will particularly impact the city's small, independently owned and immigrant owned businesses, many of whom were operating on thin margins and struggling to pay

rent even before this crisis began. So I think the Speaker for his support on these efforts and his leadership. I thank all of my colleagues who have bills in this important legislative package and I honestly encourage my colleagues to support commercial tenant protections and vote in favor of Intro 1914. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council member Adams for this critical piece of legislation. I would now like to call on the Chair of small business services, who has been a tireless advocate for our small businesses. Council member Gjonaj.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you, Majority Leader. Thank you for those kind words. I want to first think Imam Kukaj for his wonderful blessing and compassionate words. He is a dear friend in the work that he does is truly remarkable, not only for Staten Island, but throughout the city in the state. I want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson for his leadership on this issue. I want to thank my good friend, Councilman Francisco Moya for being such a passionate fighter to protect our cities struggling restaurants during this time of crisis. There are a number of

significant COVID-19 related rescue bills that this body will likely pass today and I congratulate my colleagues who have the bills before us. I would like to focus on two bills in particular. The work that I am very proud of. Intro 1908 which would cap the commissions charged by third-party food delivery platforms to five percent for non-delivery service and up to 15 percent for delivery. This would bring significant relief to local restaurants that are struggling to stay afloat who are now paying these platforms as high as 33 percent for every order. I am also proud to answer Intro 1890 that would levy hefty fines every time a food delivery company erroneously charges a restaurant for phone orders that never took place. This bill will help restaurants keep more of their money to invest back into their businesses and employees as they seek ways to keep their doors open. See, this is a question about thriving. It's a question about surviving. And what we are doing today is helping these small businesses survive this crisis. It will do this by not only allowing delivery companies to take the money that was never there in the first place. Late last year, 31 of you in this body signed on to a

letter asking one of the companies to stop predatory practice or face a legislative solution. The company chose to ignore this body is called to do the right thing, so I am proud that we as a body, are taking the steps to right this wrong.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And now I am grateful to provide this much needed relief for restaurants looking for a lifeline during this pandemic. I remain confident that we will pass the full set of bills that were introduced earlier this year on the primary relief to small mom and pop shops just looking for their fair playing field and use the service of these venture capital backed Silicon Valley Tech behemoths. I want to thank my chief of staff, Reggie Johnson, for his hard work on this issue and I want to thank small business Committee Counsel Stephanie Jones, Joss Kingsley, and policy analyst Noah Mixler for all their tireless help. I want to thank Irene Bahoski [sp?] who is no longer with the committee, for her hard work she was instrumental in the work that we're doing here today. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: They give so much, Council member Gjonaj. We will now hear from Council members Rivera, Cohen, and Rodriguez.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so much, Madame Majority Leader, for the time. Thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly on my bill that we are voting on today, Intro 1932 A, which would prohibit the enforcement of personal liability provisions and commercial leases or rental agreements involving a COVID-19 impacted tenant. I have heard from countless small business owners these past few weeks from Melba Wilson, owners of Melba's Restaurant in Harlem to Mario, the owner of Folia in my district, to Gabriel Stolman who went from making cheesesteaks as a line cook to being a successful restaurantor to now worrying about going belly up about the very real possibility that their stores may have to change or even never return after this pandemic ends. We have already lost one historic business in my district, Jem Spa, near and dear to my heart. I remember hanging out there as a teenager on the lower East side and being reminded by the energy of that place that I, as a New Yorker, was part of

something much bigger and cooler than any one of us. And I know we all have places and stores like that in our districts where we-- that same feeling is evoked. So, while my bill will not be able to bring back Jem Spa were bring back any business that we lose, and can ensure that the owners who poured years then dreams into a store friends to not have to face our landlord going after their personal life savings and asset because of a disaster no one saw coming. Now, certainly stand that landlords are also facing struggles and the small and nonprofit landlords need further financial support, but I also find it in a moral and ethical failure that anyone would seek to take every last bit of someone savings in the middle of a disaster, even after they have taken their businesses to the point of the. It is, plain and simple. This is a large national emergency and this pandemic certainly, legally, and morally qualifies of to take swift and immediate action. I want to thank the entire legal legislative and Council team who worked on this bill, including Kelly Taylor.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Stephanie Jones, Jason Goldman, Jeremy Unger, and my chief of staff,

Pedro Carrillo, who just had a baby with his wife, Tiffany Townsend. We will continue to fight and urge Albany and Washington to also provide. Thank you so much.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council member Rivera. And thank you for your mention of so many restaurants that are dear to all of us. Council member Cohen, followed by Council member Rodriguez.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. It is good to see everybody. Then I just briefly want to say that I am really proud that we came up with a piece of legislation that I think is targeted that really-- that this industry, obviously, the restaurant industry is profoundly impacted. I think it is physically responsible. Allowing sidewalk cafés the access, not having to pay those fees, I think would play a role also ultimately in their recovery. Be able to use the space, if we have to limit capacity in restaurants, as is likely. Having the outdoor space will make a real difference and being able to utilize the restaurant. So, I am just very, very grateful that we were able to get

this done. I think it has been a challenge to come up with good legislation that is COVID responsive. I really want to thank the Speaker for his support. He was supportive the whole way through. The staff, also, Balkhis Murig [sp?], my legislative director, Patty Entrader [sp?]. And, again, I encourage all my colleagues to vote aye and thank you very much.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council member Rodriguez.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: For me, permission to explain my vote? [inaudible 00:35:04]

SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're not voting. This is just general discussing on general orders. Discussing any of the bills that we are voting on today.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Speaker. So, definitely, as a member also the Small Business Committee, together with the Chairman Gjonaj, I think that having so many restaurants in North Manhattan, as you know, and other areas that we have been working with men, especially during this time of coronavirus, I feel like it is important, you know, to have our

colleagues, the Speaker, and everyone in being able to put good bills for these bad times that we have in our society where restaurants are being hurt so much. So, hopefully, again, I hope that the private sector that provides services for Uber and others so that restaurants are being able to get their service for them to provide the connection with a consumer and understand that this is the time for them to understand that we cannot continue with the system where they take so much-- so high percent to benefit of those corporations. But this is the time where we need to protect our local small business. We need to protect, with those bills and other things that we need to do, especially at me this time. So, thank you to the Speaker. Thank you to our colleagues. And I that this is something that our small business owners, the restaurant owners, are desperately waiting for. And I hope, again, that all our colleagues would be voting for this bill. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much, Council member Rodriguez and to all of my colleagues for this critical package of legislation that is really going to provide relief to so many of our

businesses. We will now have report of special committees.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: None. None. I think you can call the next one, Laurie.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Presiding officer with me, general orders.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: No. The next one is standing committees.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of standing committees.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Can someone unmute-- let me unmute the Clerk? There you go, Johnathan.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs and business licensing, Intro 1916 A, sidewalk café fee.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Pre-considered Intro 1940, renewal extensions.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 1936 A. Expanding the definition of harassment.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small-cap business. Intros 1898 A and 1908 B. Third-party food delivery services.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Intro 1914 A and 1932 A. Commercial tenants impacted by COVID-19.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now have general orders.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Well the Clerk please take a roll call vote on all of the items that are coupled on today's general orders calendar? We are voting now on all of the bills that have been mentioned.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I proudly vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you so much, colleagues, on the bills today. And, on behalf of the New Yorkers, thank you so much. You make me proud and we're going to get through this. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: AYALA?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye on all.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on all except 1898 A, 1908 B, 1914 A, and 1932 A, and 1936 A. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Permission to explain my vote?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you.

Great job to my colleague, Councilman Moya, on 1908. I believe this is a very, very fair bills. It's

going to help a lot of our restaurants. And I think, actually, it's going to end up in our business for our restaurants and for our delivery workers because the lower fees, actually, hopefully get more restaurants to use these apps. As the husband of a small business owner that is drowning right now, many of these bills are very, very personal to me. 1932 A, with regard to personal liability for commercial leases, I still have some concerns that this bill may end up helping Louis Vuitton as much as it helps Louise pizza, but it is a very, very much needed measured during this unprecedented time. And in that spirit and with thanks to Speaker Johnson for all his leadership in the absence of leadership in every other level of government, I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council member.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Okay. Great.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to explain my vote, please?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: First of all, I want to congratulate also Francisco Moya. I think that is a measure that is absolutely necessary. I was getting calls in my office from a lot of small businesses on that. And, quite frankly, you beat me to the punch. But, congratulations on that bell and just I want to say to Jonathan, is that your kid's headphones that you are using?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council member Cornegy, do you want to keep going?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: No. No. No. I vote aye.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm waiting to hear from Jonathan, though. I'm sure those are his kid's headphones.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: No on Intro 1932 and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: [speaking foreign language]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: With my warmest congratulations and gratitude for all the hard work of my colleagues and the Speaker and all of the staff in the leg division, thank you putting together this package of bills to really help a lot of small businesses and many New Yorkers. I have all aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all with the exception of 1932 and 1936 A. Those are nos. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: With congratulations to the bill sponsors, I hope we can get these protections done for not only the coronavirus pandemic, but year-round and I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Permission to explain my vote? I read your lips, Laurie. I read your lips.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: HUH.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I just want to say thank you to Carlina, for Francisco and Mark at everyone that is worked on these bills, for all the small businesses I've been working with and been having complaints and trying to figure out their survival tactics. These pieces of legislation makes sense and thank you, again. So I vote aye. God bless.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: What happened to chicken Holden?

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye and congratulations to all the bill sponsors.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and congratulations to my colleagues on these wonderful bills.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: am really grateful to the sponsors for putting forward this really thoughtful package of bills to help save our small businesses and really save our communities. Then I hope that won't be just a first step. I was really encouraged by yesterday's conversation between Council member Powers and Commissioner Trottenberg about the possibility of getting our streets open for restaurants to be outdoors so we can really help them come back. These bills are a great first step and there is so much more that we have to do. Thanks to the sponsors. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: With congrats to all the sponsors of these great bills, I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lewis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Congratulations to all the bill sponsors and for your commitment to small businesses here in New York City. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you to all the sponsors for the bills today to protect the future of our small businesses and our neighbor. I especially want to give a shout out to all those small businesses who reached out from the district, especially in Redhook where the Business Association continues to bring beautiful ideas to the Council for our work. And especially Susan Povich who runs the Lobster Pound. Thank you and don't stop reaching out. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I want to congratulate my colleagues on some really thoughtful bills. This is just the beginning, but this is what happens when we engage our community. We do better. So I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. You want to think this opportunity to thank Speaker Corey Johnson and Chair Gjonaj for their support on this important piece of legislation that we're moving forward today, and my colleagues, as well. But I, in particular, want to thank the legislative staff, specifically Stephanie Jones and Meghan Tattio [sp?] From my office works so hard to get this bill done. Thank you to my colleagues for their support. But, again, I want to thank all those who are looking to make sure that we are protecting New York City mom-and-pop restaurants during this extraordinary time when we are seeing the exorbitant

fees of billion-dollar tech company is charging these restaurants these ridiculous amounts of money. When I talked to restaurant owners around the city who are partnered with third-party food apps like Grub Hub, to the person, they tell you the same thing. These apps are killing them with these exorbitant fees. It is contrary to why it there expensive ad suggests. These tech companies aren't restaurant industry saviors. They are making them out to be. They're about the profit at all costs and, to me, this cutthroat strategy ends up killing the restaurants that they are feeding off of. And now the COVID didn't create this problem, but like many in other-- like so many other issues, it is dramatically made it worse. The commission fees for food apps could reach 30 percent or higher, exceeding the already razor thin profit margin of many restaurants. If third-party food delivery apps were nibbling away at neighborhood restaurants before COVID, they are bleeding them dry now and that is because this bill would actually change what is going on today in 1908 would specifically address COVID times and declared state of emergency so it can provide the critical and

immediate relief for those restaurants that most needed by putting--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: the apps and its fees at 15 percent and five percent for all the fees, and marketing fees, as well. So, I want to thank my colleagues, central staff, again, for their support on this important issue. And, on behalf of myself and the locally owned restaurants in my community across the city of New York. Thank you. I'll be voting aye on all.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Thank you.

Aye on all and special congratulations to all the sponsors and keep the faith.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Majority Later. I just want to say congratulations to all my colleagues on these bills which are going to be very

meaningful to small business owners in the city as we deal with a public health crisis that was completely unpredictable to them and, as they face many more challenges, whether it's business insurance or federal bp or other issues that are in the city. I want to recognize also all the staff here. Jason Kelly, [inaudible 00:50:41] and other who worked really hard and, I think, overtime on these to make sure that they addressed all of the concerns and a lot of the stakeholder input and a lot of work that went beyond the [inaudible 00:50:54] for that these bills were smart and responsible. So I want to thank everybody who worked on it. And, you know, whether it is waiving fees or capping deliveries at a time when this is really their only source of revenue or ensuring that personal liability clause in me says don't cause an individual to lose their livelihood, I think they steps that we are taking today are going to really make sure that small business is don't get crushed during a really difficult time for any of them. And as many of them are figuring out their futures here. Then I also want to reiterate. I now is the time to focus also on the future of our restaurants and our nightlife. We should consider

opening up bars sidewalks in our streets and our open space is to restaurants as part of the recovery. Maintain these delivery and take out rules that we have put in place, the state has put in place in the post COVID world. Figure out ways to manage capacity responsibly as places reopen. And the creative and flexible in helping businesses that are going to be the last ones to open. So, that is, today is, I think, good way to help them now not lose their livelihood and I think that we should continue working on ways that we can make sure that, as they reopen, they can, you, trees their revenue and be able to operate in a responsible way. I vote aye on all the bills probably.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you.

Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you.

And I just wanted to congratulate all of my

colleagues on all of these great bills. When you look at this recovery-- and I think we look at the numbers that Small Business Services has put out on the retention and grants program, how seven percent of the retention and loans that have gone out to that program have gone to Queens, but yet 56 percent of the resources have gone to Manhattan, but it certainly has to be a recovery that works for every borough and certainly works for every corner of our city. So these bills are certainly a step in the right direction, but not, you know, and here. We've got a lot more work to do to make sure that our small businesses are being treated fairly across New York City. And this is certainly a step in the right direction, but a lot more work needs to be done. So I want to congratulate my colleagues for all of their hard work in passing these measures and I vote aye.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to explain my vote very briefly?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: great. Thank you. So, we all know that our small businesses have taken a major hit since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis and I truly do think we have to do everything in our power to make sure that they survived this virus and that they continue to provide for their own families. I know that they desperately want to bring their workers back on to the payroll and they want to be there with that extended family of all of their employees and, of course, all of the neighborhoods that treasure them so deeply. So, I am very, very proud to be passing Intro 1932 and I hope that we can also use my Open Streets legislation to further address the needs of promoting safe social distancing and also helping to bolster the economy. I proudly vote aye on all and congratulations to everyone.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I want to dedicate my vote to the restaurant owners. Those

that have serving in those [inaudible 00:54:46] where people I've been dying in high numbers. We have the higher numbers of dying. Those who continue delivering food to New Yorkers. Especially those owner's that are being working with those undocumented brothers and sisters. They are the ones who are part of essential workers. Those who come out from the restaurant at 11 and 12 and then they have to be cleaning in those places. And they need to take the trains. They need mass transportation. So, thank you to Speaker Johnson and our colleagues. And especially to the men and women who make the determination open those restaurants to provide the service. And, especially, to those undocumented brothers and sisters. We owe them a lot and hope that this is only the beginning. And I hope also that I can get the support of my colleagues in various pass the Small Business [inaudible 00:35:44] Act. With that, I vote aye.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to explain my vote, please?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I just found out that one of my favorite businesses is closing due to all of the unpredictable stressors, economic stressors, that have presented themselves throughout this pandemic. And I'm only sorry that this package of bills in the package that we passed at the last Stated had to happen sooner because I believe that we might have been able to save a lot more businesses. But I want to thank all of my colleagues for this very thoughtful package of bills that will serve to protect our small businesses who really are suffering through this pandemic. And for recognizing that our small businesses are really the backbone of our economy. So, again, I thank Speaker Johnson and all of the authors of these bills. And I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on all with congratulations to Speaker Johnson, all of his staff, and to the bill sponsors who really got out of the gate fast on these. Congratulations for all of your good work.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I just want to say I'm honored to be the prime sponsor of the anti-harassment legislation and proud to be part of a city Council that has been at the cutting-edge of legislating in a time of social distancing. You know, I am proud that we are acting decisively to protect tenants from harassment, from any unscrupulous actors who are exploiting the crisis for their own benefit. And so, I want to thank my colleagues, the Speaker of the City Council, Robert Cornegy, the Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee and I proudly vote aye on every bill.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.

And I want to commend all my colleagues on their important pieces of legislation today. In jazz, as we're talking about small businesses, I want to remind my colleagues that there are certain communities in New York City that were still dealing with the aftermath of super storm Sandy about eight years later. Neighborhoods like Coney Island are still trying to come back from super storm Sandy and this pandemic has made a situation that much more challenging. I want to remind my colleagues that there are seasonal economies like in Coney Island that did not even qualify for the PPP because their businesses are not really taking off in March or in April. They really start kicking off in the summer, in many cases. So, we need to be mindful of every region of New York City. New York City is five boroughs. It's not just Manhattan. And there is a part of New York City called Southern Brooklyn that cannot be forgotten. So I commend my colleagues on their bills, but we must do a lot more to support every region, particularly regions that were hard hit by Sandy that are still recovering from the worst storm in history and our trying to recover from this

pandemic. And, with that, I vote aye on all. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote no on 1908 B, 1914 A, and 1932 A and aye on all others. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. I'm just quickly wanted that saying Speaker Corey Johnson for this unprecedented second successful virtual hearing and the staff put this together. It's tremendous responsibility in these tough times to make sure each Council member is heard, that these issues are addressed and you are doing that amazingly. So I wanted to thank you for that. Thank you to the sponsors and Council member Rivera for listening to both sides of the story with her legislation and understanding there are some really good landlords out there trying to struggle and survive and work with their tenants, but a bill

like this is needed for those who take advantage of those situations. So, thank you to Council member Rivera for hearing both sides and making some changes. And with that, I vote aye on all and God bless all.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to briefly explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts--

COUNCILMEMBER VAN BRAMER: [interposing]
Thank you very much. First, let me just say, again, this is a great package of bills and I applaud all of my colleagues helping to save our small businesses is possibly one of the most important things that we are all charged with carrying this epidemic. I know that myself and my husband are ordering out as much as we possibly can and eating some of the best food in Western Queens that you will ever have. But this, obviously, helps them even that much more. And I want to associate myself with Council member Powers' comments earlier. I, too, believe this is an opportunity for us to, particularly during the warmer

weather, allow for our restaurants, small businesses to operate on sidewalks and streets much in the way that we see in Europe and allowing them to make the most of the warm weather months when, even if they are in a position to be open, some folks may be hesitant to go inside the restaurant, but they might be more willing to dine outside. And so we've got seriously take a look at how we can help them make the most of the warm weather months by allowing people to sit outside sidewalks and street wherever and whenever possible. So, once again, proudly eye on all and thank the Speaker and all my colleagues for all the work they are doing to help small businesses survive.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madame President, may I be excused to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very much, Madame President. First, I want to begin, like most of my colleagues have by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of members of the City Council

who are incredibly thoughtful in their ways of reaching to try to put forward thoughtful solutions to address some of the needs of New Yorkers. On some of these bills, it's a no-brainer for me and I particularly want to salute and thank Leader Steve Matteo, Chairman Andy Cohen for their commonsense measures to really help some of these small businesses who just need a little hand and the foot of government off their neck. On some of these bills, it was a close call for me really up until Councilman Vallone spoke a few minutes ago. I'm going to vote in favor of Intro 1936 and 1914, although I do believe that the words threatening are so subjective and undefined that it gives me pause. That is right. These are trying times and we have to protect the good actors, but we have to make sure that the bad actors don't take advantage. And for that reason I will be voting aye on those two bills. For Intro 1898 and 1906, and oh, the committee report on these bills says that better than I can. Restaurant owners may, quote may, decide to list their businesses. That's may. They could also choose not to. And that's the point. If businesses feel that they are not being treated right by the

apps that they have contracted with, they can opt out and that's the way it is supposed to work. I don't believe-- although I believe that Intro 1898 addresses an incredibly egregious practice, it's also contracted and agreed to by the restaurant owners. I'm going to vote no on Intro 1898 and Intro 1908. And last, I will vote no on Intro 1932. As I stated during the committee meetings, Madame President, my time is expiring.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I'd ask for just a few more seconds to continue. Intro 1932, in my view, is unconstitutional. Violates article one, section 10, the United States Constitution interferes with the contract already done and that's a basic statement of the Constitution. Now, I understand that there are those that will have a different opinion on it and they are entitled to that different opinion, but my oath requires me to look at whether or not this is Constitution on my oath requires me to support the Constitution. So, for that reason, I vote no on 1932 with respect to the wise thoughts that went into all of these bills. So, again, just to recap, I apologize, clerk, if I didn't get this

right. Yes on 1916, 1940. Yes on 1936 and 1914.
And I am now on 1932, 1898, and 1908. And thank you,
Madame President, for the additional time.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council
member. I've got it. Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you. Yes on
1916 and 1940. Voting no on 1898, 1908, 1914, 1932,
and 1936. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo?

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to thank, again,
all the staff and members for all their hard work,
for being flexible as we are trying operate remotely
these last few weeks. So I want to thank everyone in
a proudly vote aye on all. And I just want to thank
Jason Goldman, my chief of staff who has been working
really hard around the clock with a small child at
home like many people have been. He's been doing a
great job in the midst of this and I'm grateful for
him and his leadership.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please give us a
moment as a tally up today's votes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Excuse me. The vote on all items for today's general order calendar is 15 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions with the exception of Introduction 1898 A with a vote of [inaudible 01:07:13] the affirmative, three in the negative, no abstentions. Introduction 1908 B with 46 and the affirmative, four in the negative, and no abstentions. Introduction 1914 A with 47 in the affirmative, three in the negative, no abstentions. Introduction 1932 A with 44 in the affirmative, six in the negative, no abstentions. And, finally, Introduction 1936 A with 47 in the affirmative, three in the negative, and zero abstentions.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much. And I so and applaud all my colleagues for passing this incredible package of legislation, particularly as many of you have been faced with COVID, either yourselves personally or with your family and friends. And, despite that, you are able to focus to put forward the strong package of legislation. So, continue to heal. Continue to get better. And thank you so much for your presence here today. At this time, all items on today's general orders calendar

are adopted. We will now have the Introduction and reading the bills.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. All of the bills are referred to committees as indicated on today's agenda.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker Johnson. There are no Resolutions on today's calendar, so we will now move into a general discussion. As a reminder, please wait until the Sergeant-at-arms begins the countdown clock before you begin your remarks.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madame Majority Leader, the first three members to sign up for general discussion our Council members Koo, Chin, and Gibson.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay. We will begin in that order. Council member Koo.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader, and all my colleagues. I just wanted to offer a reminder about the small [inaudible 01:09:18] our city who have also been hit hard by this crisis. We are not talking about large corporations who own properties around the world, but rather immigrant family who spend

their life savings to purchase a multi-family home or a small building. I am hearing from many of my constituents who own properties that they, too, are struggling to make their payments and maintain the homes of their tenants. Their margins are already then then many rely on rent to pay property tax, order, and maintenance bills. Those that continue to come and have been increased. The real estate landscape of our city operates within a delicate ecosystem of renters, landlords, property tax payments, and city services. If one falters, so do the rest. How are they going to pay their mortgages and avoid foreclosure on their properties? I understand the effort to provide relief during these crisis to everyone who needs it. Yes, renters need it, but so do our small landlords who are struggling to make payments and meet their obligations, as well. We need to address this ecosystem as a whole and find a comprehensive solution for all. Thank you

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Now I have Council member Chin followed by Gibson.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. I wanted to give a shout out to my

colleague, Council member, when, who has been a strong partner in affording opportunities for relief of SNAP recipient and immigrant street vendor community. Everyday New Yorkers and immigrant run small businesses have largely been left out of federal and city grant and loan programs. If you don't have a Social Security number or you don't fall into a specific parameter as a business, then you are out of luck. These gaps are opportunity for the city to step up, so I wanted to thank Council member Colin for his leadership as Chair of the Consumer Affairs for writing a letter to the Mayor to create a city grant program to help immigrant street vendors survive this crisis. I am also proud to join him on a resolution today to expand online delivery option for SNAP recipients. Every day, as senior or medically fragile New Yorker has to take a trip to the grocery store. It's a battle. While many grocery stores are offering online delivery services, only a selective few online retailer can accept SNAP benefits in New York, like Walmart, Amazon, and Shop Right. And even fewer can reach predominantly immigrant neighborhoods like Chinatown or the lower East side. Our resolution calls on the USDA to

expand this program to more online retailers and ensure that income is not a barrier for vulnerable New Yorkers to get their groceries safely delivered to their homes. So, I asked my colleagues to sign on to the resolution. Thank you very much.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council member Chin. We will now have Council member Gibson.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: now.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. Good afternoon, Speaker and all of my colleagues. And it's a great opportunity to come together virtually again for our second stated meeting. I am grateful to be a part of his body. Then, certainly, the package of legislation that was passed today is really reflective of not only our priorities, but the real need on the ground. Many of us have been out in our communities day by day delivering food, giving out facemasks and gloves and coordinating services, making sure seniors and homebound New Yorkers are really taken care of. And it has been really traumatizing. What I've seen in my community of the Bronx has been heartbreaking.

I've cried many times because I think about people isolated and depressed and suicidal and so I know we have some long days ahead, but I am grateful for each and every one of you, my colleagues, many of you I have talked to. Certainly my sisters in the women's Caucus have been such sources of strength and encouragement and I just want to take this opportunity to continue to encourage all of you during this budget season and the weeks ahead as we prepare to vote on a budget that is reflective of our values. We have to make sure that we protect our young people and families and our seniors and access to food and safety net programs. And I know it won't be easy, but I know that we are all in this together in this too shall pass. I look forward to more legislation coming down the pipeline that is COVID related in terms of relief efforts for small businesses, for tenants, for many of our small landlords that sometimes get, you know, swallowed up by a lot of the bills that are passed on and. But there is a lot of work left to do and I am mindful that we are all here for a given time and a purpose. So, I think all of you for your work. I look forward to our continued work and really thank you to all of

my colleagues for passing important bills today and thank you to all of the Chairs. Thank you guys and you all stay safe. Thanks.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council member Gibson.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madame Majority Leader, the next three speakers are Council members Barron, Rodriguez, and King.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Council member Barron.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. I want to offer condolences to those whose families are going through the suffering of having lost loved ones. And I just wanted to say that we have got to be vigilant. We are going through some very challenging times. And as we are scheduling and getting into routines of what we are doing now, I hope that we don't lose sight that, when we come through the other end of this, we have got to make significant changes to the systems that existed before we came into this. And it is going to call for us to be bold, to be audacious, and does say, no. We're not going to go back. And I'm thinking

particularly about the education from mime hearing which we had had-- I believe it was on yesterday in which I said to the Chancellor, we have been subject to black and brown people to systemic systems of least and less. Getting the least of what there is or being left out altogether. And now is an opportunity to correct all of those systems that created those resources that did not come to us and did not give us the full opportunity of what it was that we were entitled to. To do it boldly. To not inch up to it, but to take the sledgehammer and to do it boldly. And I want to also say that, in terms of the inequity that we are seeing how this Police Department is brutalized black and brown people repeatedly, even though they have been called out on it and told that this is not something that the DAs are going to pursue in terms of them arresting people for social distancing, they continue to do that in black and brown communities while giving other communities a pass, allowing them to gather repeatedly and not an employee of the roles that we have put in place for, as my colleague calls say, healthy spacing. So, we're going to be vigilant. We

are going to be on it. I'm going to call out all of the--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: who are not applying this line equitably. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council member Barron. I will now have Council member Rodriguez, as well as Council member King.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council member Rodriguez, are you with us?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madame Majority Leader, Council member Rodriguez is experiencing some technical issues.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay. So, then we well moved to the Council member King and then we will come back to Council member Rodriguez.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon again and thank you, Majority Leader, and thank you, Mr. Speaker, for conducting today's Stated Meeting. I think we're getting some good things done for the city of New York. I also want to thank Council member Treyger and Dromm as I viewed yesterday's

Education hearing and thank you, Council member Barron, for standing up foreign equities and, more importantly, making sure that funding does not lose-- we don't lose funding in the education field as we make sure that our most vulnerable, our children, who did not ask for any of this, still able to be successful adults. So thank you both for, the three of you, for your leadership in the hearing yesterday. Also, I want to wish everyone's family well during this pandemic and for all of us who lost family members urges neighborhood members. Continue to stay strong and thank the whole Council for all the work they are doing to make sure that we make sense in trying offer some sense of normalcy. This pandemic. And, finally, for many of you who to know or do not now, the killing that happened in Brunswick, Georgia of Ahmad Aubery, that was my family. That's my cousin's nephew and I'm asking you all to stand with the family. I am asking you all and I'm putting a letter together and I'm asking the Speaker Johnson, I'm asking the whole entire Council to stand with the family as we put a letter together sent to the governor, sent to the state of Georgia, that the hate that killed my nephew-- my cousin's nephew--

doesn't go unpunished. We need to make sure, as a city of New York who stands and prides itself on fairness and rights against bigotry and hatred, that the city of Brunswick knows that there is a city government outside of Georgia that is standing with them, just as Lebron James, just as Snoop Dog, just as, you know, Rock Nation, just as Joe Biden. So many have written letters and made their statements known and let their voices be heard. So, I am asking this body, everyone sign on that this letter to tell the state of Georgia that the hate that killed this young brother needs to be punished and never, never forgotten. Thank you all again. God bless.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. And we stand with you.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madam Majority Leader, Council member Rodriguez is not back on yet.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: But recognize Council members Miller and Cornegy while we wait for Council member Rodriguez.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay. Council member Miller and then Council member Cornegy.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Okay. Thank you, Madame Majority Leader and thank you to my colleagues, again, once again, for your leadership and your thoughtful legislation that was put forth today and we stand together during COVID-19. I want to talk about Intro 1941 which will provide healthcare coverage to families of municipal workers who have died from COVID-19, as well as Resolution 1322 calling for the state to classify their death of employees in line of duty. Brought this crisis, our selfless dedicated municipal workforce has shown through. These heroes and heroines have stood at the front line of the response to the city's response of COVID-19 with great courage and perseverance and personal risk to them to preserve our own health, safety, quality of life. Some 260 civil servants and public servants have lost their lives due to this dreadful disease, 10 of which from EMS, many NYPD and detectives, 74 from DOT and more than 100 transit workers. Under the current rules, the city's pension board with all these deaths as natural death causes and we need to reclassify as COVID-19 in order for their families to receive the proper compensation that they are entitled to, as well as Insurer of 1941

will provide healthcare benefits for these families, as well. I am asking my colleagues to support-- sign on and support this legislation and support these families who have supported of and have brought great value and dignity to our city. I also want to acknowledge the comments of Council member Barron and others that we cannot go back. We have seen the devastation that has impacted black and brown communities. Also law enforcement and other responses to these communities during these times then we need to move forward. So, I am asking everyone--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: to keep that in mind and BLAC this meeting immediately after. Bless you all.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council member Miller. Council member Cornegy.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Majority Leader, as has been mentioned by me on several occasions, this COVID-19 not only impacted me, myself and my physicality, but also I lost, to date, 41 members of my family, friends, and community. And I

don't have enough time to highlight every one of them, but I would like to take the time to highlight two because they were strong black men who represented this community and were business owners. Jonathan Onowame [sp?], who owned or is part owner with his brothers in Amarachi [sp?] and Lloyd Cornelius Porter who was formerly the owner of Bread Love and formally, Bread Stuy. These men demonstrated a commitment to their families and the community that is above reproach and I think it should be noted that it was a tremendous loss and remains a tremendous loss in our community. A lot of times, black males and black man are maligned and the narrative is painted that they don't participate in their communities and they don't participate in their families. These men epitomized what it was like to be a man and they were taken away through this terrible virus. So I want to take just a second to acknowledge both the families of Jonathan Onowame and Lloyd Cornelius Porter.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council member Cornegy, and we share in your loss. Is Council member Rodriguez available at this time? Okay. I will also join in recognizing a few members

in my community that have also passed, as well as beyond. I want to recognize Georgiana Glose [sp?]. She is on Nun activist of the Fort Greene Strategic Neighborhood Action Partnership. She was icon on Myrtle Avenue and done a tremendous amount of work and service and our community. I want to recognize Hazel Gale who is an entrepreneur and one of the very prominent known real estate brokers in our community who has done prominent work within our community. I also want to recognize the art legend Luis del Sart. He was a professor at Morris Brown College. You can see much of his artwork on 125th Street in Harlem, as well as on Church Avenue in Brooklyn as part of the arts for transit program. He will be so missed. As well as Dr. David Driscoll, curator, historian, artist, philanthropist, who has amassed an incredible collection of African-American art throughout his time. And I also want to share with Robert Cornegy with Lloyd Cornelius Porter. An incredible family man, an entrepreneur, and was certainly on the ground with working to bring equity and equality and experiences to the Bedford Stuyvesant that so many affluent communities enjoyed. He believed that they needed to also have that and he worked alongside

many, including myself, and he will certainly be missed. I also want to associate myself with the comments of Council member Inez Barron. The videos that we continue to see day after day of black and brown young people being attacked, to being thrown down on the ground, to having young women be nice if they were grown men in the street continue to haunt us, continue to terrorize us, and continue to take away any support or confidence that we have in our NYPD. And it is important that we move forward and respect for the over 20,000 lives that have been lost. That we come out of COVID-19 a better city, country, and world as a result of this. I think just to put a philosophical thought to it, when we think about the fires, the tornadoes, the hurricanes, the earthquakes, but the COVIDs and all of these things that continue to be brought to our front door, I personally believe that, until we create the equality that this world is so desperately searching for, we can pass all the budgets that we want, we can pass all the laws that we want. But until we really see equity in the sea it exercised and implemented and realized, these issues are going to continue to plague our community because people are hurting, they

are in pain, they are terrorized, they are traumatized, and that energy permeates this entire earth. So I hope that we can come out of this certainly stronger than we came into this and recognizing that common humanity all of us. With that, if Council member Rodriguez has not returned, we will call on Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's stated meeting.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madame Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting of May 13th, 2020 is now adjourned. Everyone stays safe and healthy. Thank you, colleagues.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

[gavel]

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 May 18, 2020