

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 28, 2020
Start: 1:40 p.m.
Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

Jumaane Williams
Public Advocate

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
Corey Johnson
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)

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1
2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Good afternoon,
3 everyone. At this time I ask that everyone please
4 turn all electronic devices to vibrate. Please mute
5 your microphone on Zoom. Mr. Public Advocate, ready
6 when you are.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.
8 Ah, good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting
9 of May 28, 2020. My name is Jumaane Williams. Ah,
10 this is my first time joining my colleagues since
11 they started, ah, the virtual. I want to say
12 congratulations to the City Council for finding a way
13 to do this, one of the first in the nation. It's my
14 pleasure to be here at the virtual meeting of the New
15 York City Council. If you'd like to follow along the
16 agenda for today's meeting is posted on the City
17 Council website. Ah, for those who would like to,
18 I'd [inaudible] my personal issues with this, but
19 today has even been harder for me, ah, so this is an
20 even harder one, but for those who would like to, ah,
21 please join for the Pledge of Allegiance.

22 MULTIPLE PEOPLE: I pledge allegiance to
23 the flag of the United States of America, and to the
24 republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
25 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 Roll call.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ayala.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Barron. Thank
11 you. Borelli. Brannan.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Mr. Clerk, just one
14 second. If folks could remute themselves after
15 they're done speaking just so we don't hear all the
16 background noise. Unmute yourself when you want to
17 speak and then remute yourself. I apologize. Keep
18 going, Mr. Clerk.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you, Mr.
20 Speaker. Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Constantinides.
3 Cornegy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Ah, present.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Present.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Diaz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: The same thing.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Dromm.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Eugene. Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gjonaj.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Grodenchik.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Holden.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Kallos. King.

20 Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Present.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lancman.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lander.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Present.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Louis.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Maisel.

11 Menchaca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Present.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Miller. Moya.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you.

16 Perkins. Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Reynoso.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Richards.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Ah, sending my

22 condolences to Adrienne Adams on the loss of her

23 father, and I'm present.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rivera.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: And to Adrienne
3 Adams, please accept my condolences. Present.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez.
5 Rose. Rosenthal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present, present.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you. I'm
8 sorry, Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Ah, similarly with,
10 with love and affection to Council Member Adams, on
11 her loss. Present. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Salamanca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: My condolences to
16 Adrienne. Ah, present.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Treyger.
18 Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.
20 Vallone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Adrienne, we're
22 all sending you our love and condolences, and I am
23 present.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Very, very
3 sorry to hear about Adrienne's loss. Much love to
4 her, and I am present.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Yeger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo.

8 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: My condolences
9 to Adrienne, and I'm here.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cumbo.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I am present,
12 outraged black mother of a black son.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Mr. Public
15 Advocate we have a quorum.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [inaudible]
17 Council Member Kallos, too.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
19 Kallos, thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you. We
21 will now have today's invocation, which will be
22 delivered by Pastor Gabriella Cujo-Wilkes of the
23 Double Love Experience, located at 334 South Fish
24 Street in Brooklyn.

25

2 PASTOR CUJO-WILKES: Greetings to
3 everyone. Um, it's been a tough week in the
4 headlines and so I invite all who are willing to bow
5 their heads with me for a word of prayer. Holy One,
6 we give thanks to you for sustaining us this day.
7 Thank you for the breath in our bodies, the air in
8 our lungs, and the determination in our hearts to
9 bring about justice and equality for all we serve.
10 May the power of Your presence grant us the vision,
11 clarity of thought, and fortitude to have a
12 productive gathering today. May we work together in
13 unity and may we follow the words of your profit,
14 Micah, to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly
15 with our God. This we ask in the name of Jesus.
16 Amen.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you, ah,
18 so very much, Pastor Wilkes. And I'm gonna now ask
19 Council Member Reynoso to spread the invocation on
20 the record. Council Member Reynoso?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Yep, can you hear
22 me? I'm sorry.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Yep.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Ah, thank you,
25 Public Advocate, and I just want to thank Pastor

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2 [inaudible] for being here today, and I make a motion
3 that the invocation be spread in full upon the
4 record.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
6 Council Member Reynoso. We will now have the
7 adoption of minutes by Council Member Miller. Is
8 Council Member Miller there?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Oh, yes I am.
10 Can you hear me, Public Advocate?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: I can hear
12 you, yes, sir.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: OK, I make a
14 motion that the minutes of the, ah, Stated Meeting
15 from May 23, 2020, be adopted as printed. Thank you.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Miller,
17 point of parliamentary inquiry. Can you please
18 clarify the date of the minutes that are being
19 adopted?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: May 23, 2020.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I, I believe it's May
22 13.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: May, I'm sorry,
24 May 13. May 13, ah, 2020.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,
3 Counsel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.
5 Messages and papers from the mayor.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Communication
8 from city, county, and borough offices?

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Petitions and
11 communications.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Land use
14 callups.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: We will now
17 have communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, good afternoon
19 everyone and happy Thursday. This is our third
20 virtual Stated Meeting. I hope you and your families
21 are safe and well. I want to Public Advocate
22 Williams for presiding today. He has been a really
23 important voice over the last 12 weeks in pushing our
24 city to do more and to think about this in, ah, the
25 best way possible and being proactive. So, ah, July,

2 you have been wonderful, ah, over the last 12 weeks.
3 I'm grateful for your leadership. The city is
4 grateful for your leadership, and I am glad that you
5 are here today to preside over this stated meeting of
6 the council. I hope your mom is safe and healthy
7 and, ah, it's good to see you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Before we start, I want
10 to acknowledge the hard work of all New Yorkers to
11 flatten the curve. Without the help and cooperation
12 of everyone we would not be moving in the right
13 direction that we've seen in the numbers over the
14 last couple of weeks. We must stay vigilant about
15 social distancing as we slowly reopen and mandatory
16 mask wearing, but I have faith in our residents and
17 New Yorkers to do the right thing and to continue to
18 collectively come together in the interest of the
19 entire city. As of yesterday we lost 21,362 New
20 Yorkers to COVID-19. That includes probable deaths.
21 Let me repeat that number, 21,362 of our fellow New
22 Yorkers have lost their lives to the COVID-19. This
23 number also includes more than 280 city employees and
24 123 transit workers, who showed up day in and day out
25 to serve our city and to keep it moving. Each day

2 the death toll continues to become more and more
3 grim. Our country counts over 100,000 COVID-19
4 deaths and it is important for us to remember that
5 these are not just numbers. These are moms and dads,
6 daughters, cousins, uncles, best friends, coworkers,
7 neighbors, fellow New Yorkers, these are the people
8 that we lost too soon. And one of them was Council
9 Member Adrienne Adams's father, Irvin Edy. He was
10 found to have the virus after going to the hospital
11 for heart failure. He died this past Saturday. I
12 have been on the phone with Adrienne so many times
13 the last many weeks, when he wasn't doing well, when
14 he was improving, when she was feeling hopeful, when
15 she was not feeling hopeful. It has been an
16 emotional roller coaster for her. But I want to just
17 say that in the midst of most people in the public
18 not even knowing she was going through this, most
19 colleagues in the City Council not knowing she was
20 going through this, Adrienne still came to every
21 single committee hearing. She was at the final day
22 of budget on the hearing until midnight with some of
23 our colleagues, engaging with the public. I have
24 been on Zoom conferences with her. I have been on
25 the phone with her early in the morning and late at

2 night. She has, ah, shown incredible strength during
3 one of the most painful that an individual can go
4 through and I am, I'm so sorry for her, for her
5 husband, Jay, for her sister, Tracy, for their entire
6 family. Her father was a very strong man who fought
7 very, very hard and I'm sure Adrienne will speak
8 about the indelible impact that he has left on her
9 and their entire family and the city, given what he
10 stood for and what an important part of the community
11 he was. So, Adrienne, I wish that we could give you
12 a big hug right now. You and I have talked a lot
13 over these last many weeks about your dad and you've
14 told me so many wonderful stories. But I wanted to
15 appropriately recognize him today. Council Member
16 Salamanca lost his dad at the beginning of this
17 crisis. You lost your dad in the past week. So many
18 people have encountered so much loss, and you both
19 have handled it with tremendous grace and continue to
20 serve your communities and districts every single
21 day, even in the midst of dealing with such, ah,
22 personal loss. So, um, I know you're emotional, as
23 anyone would be today, but I'm sending you and Jay
24 and Tracy and your entire families an enormous amount
25 of love, and we just have so much respect for you and

2 what you stand for and the job you've done over these
3 last many weeks. So I want to thank you, Adrienne.
4 As we do during every Stated, we, ah, would like to
5 acknowledge those who have died from 9/11-related
6 illnesses since our last meeting. Sadly, since our
7 last Stated Meeting the NYPD lost two members of the
8 department to 9/11-related illnesses, Detective
9 Thomas L. Neil and retired Officer Edward J. Reilly.
10 In addition, we lost Reginald L. Portee of the New
11 York City Department of Transportation. We also
12 always acknowledge workers in New York City who have
13 died on the job, and I'm sad to say that Victor
14 Pando, 35 years old, died on May 13 due to an
15 explosion while he was working on the job at the
16 Morgan General Mail Facility as part of the United
17 States Postal Service in my district in Chelsea. I
18 also want to acknowledge the death of a personal
19 friend and hero to me, legendary activist and writer,
20 Larry Kramer. It is not an exaggeration to say that
21 millions, literally millions of people, are alive
22 today because of Larry's activism, and I am one of
23 them. He was my hero. He became my friend, and the
24 only way that I can ever repay him is by continuing
25 to fight every day for people who are being left

2 behind and ignored just like he did. Larry founded
3 the Gay Men's Health Crisis, which has saved
4 countless people's lives. Larry founded Act Up,
5 which pressured the federal government to expedite
6 life-saving drugs to help people who were dying at
7 the height of the AIDS epidemic. Larry had a
8 volcanic temper, someone you did not want to mess
9 with, but he also had an incredibly sweet side. I
10 met him when I was 24 years old, two years after I
11 found out that I was HIV-positive. I went to a
12 speech that he gave at the Cooper Union asking for
13 young people to get re-engaged in activism, and I
14 approached him afterwards and asked for his email
15 address. I emailed him the next day and he asked to
16 meet up, and for the last 16, for the last 14 years
17 he has been someone who has been a thorn in my side,
18 but also a friend in difficult times. One of my
19 biggest honors was in 2018 when I received the Larry
20 Kramer award from Gay Men's Health Crisis in his
21 name. He was supposed there that night but couldn't
22 because he had fallen sick and sent a note instead to
23 be read. Ah, it is a tremendous loss for the LGBT
24 community, for the AIDS community, and for activism
25 around the world. Larry Kramer saved countless lives

2 and changed the course of history. I also want to
3 acknowledge the death of George Floyd, who was killed
4 by police in Minneapolis, killed, murdered. Sadly,
5 yet another black man is dead because of an encounter
6 with the police. The video of Mr. Floyd being pinned
7 down by the police while saying I can't breathe,
8 obviously is reminiscent of the death of Eric Garner,
9 a tragedy in our city's history. Mr. Floyd's death
10 is another reminder of the work we have to do as a
11 nation to reform our broken criminal justice system
12 and the continuing racial inequalities that we see in
13 it. I hope that the officer that committed this
14 crime is brought to justice. Let's have a moment of
15 silence for Detective Neil, Officer Reilly, Reginald
16 Portee, Victor Pando, Mr. Irvin Edy, Adrienne's dad,
17 Larry Kramer, George Floyd, as well as all of those
18 who we have lost to COVID-19. [moment of silence]
19 Thank you all. Let's dive right into today's
20 legislative agenda. Out of the Land Use Committee
21 the council will be voting on the following items:
22 Two Article 11 tax exemptions and dispositions of
23 city-owned land, 311-313 Pleasant Avenue for the
24 preservation of 64 affordable home ownership units in
25 Council Member Kallos, Ayala, and Perkins's

2 districts. And 993-995 Union Avenue to facilitate the
3 preservation of 69 affordable home ownership units in
4 Council Member Salamanca's district. 266 West 96th,
5 which is a disposition of city-owned land to
6 facilitate the development of a new mixed-income
7 development in Council Member Helen Rosenthal's
8 district. The project will include 68 permanently
9 affordable units. Lenox Terrace, Manhattan, the
10 council will vote to remove the Lenox Terrace Project
11 in Council Member Perkins's district from our
12 calendar. The application was withdrawn in March.
13 Moving on to our legislative agenda, the council will
14 be voting on a few bills today. The first is an
15 immigration bill. It will help move our city towards
16 inclusivity in a way, and the way that we speak and
17 the way that we conduct our business. Proposed
18 Introduction number 1836-A, sponsored by Council
19 Member Francisco Moya, would prohibit the use of the
20 terms alien, illegal immigrant, or illegal migrant,
21 and remove it from our existing local laws, rules,
22 and other documents and materials. These terms would
23 be replaced by the word noncitizen where applicable.
24 This term is offensive, degrading, and it does not
25 belong in our city and that is why we are making this

2 change. By taking this step New York City would
3 become the first major US city to remove the term
4 alien from its books. I want to thank the staff who
5 worked on this, Harvoni Ahouja. The next is a
6 resolution that aims to ensure our first responders
7 who are fighting on our front lines that they receive
8 adequate pay for their work. Our EMS personnel have
9 worked so hard even before this pandemic began but
10 they have not been paid fairly. Despite that, they
11 remain on the front lines, meeting the medical needs
12 of countless New Yorkers throughout the COVID-19
13 pandemic. We owe them fair pay for this work, now
14 more than ever, so Resolution number 1062-A,
15 sponsored by Council Member Daneek Miller, the chair
16 of our Committee on Civil Service and Labor, calls
17 for EMS personnel to be equally compensated and have
18 their salaries be comparable to New York City
19 firefighters and police officers. I want to thank
20 Council Member Miller for his leadership on this and
21 continuing the conversation on how we can lift up
22 workers and ensure parity in the city. Next, we have
23 legislation related to the coronavirus pandemic. The
24 first two bills are criminal justice bills. The
25 coronavirus has sickened so many people in our jails

2 this cannot be ignored. We must take action to stop
3 the spread of COVID-19 among incarcerated persons and
4 those who work in the correctional system. In order
5 to do that, we must know the full extent of its
6 impact. Ah, we also have to protect correction
7 officers. They have been really affected during this
8 time. Although the city's Board of Correction has
9 released daily reports regarding the number of
10 positive cases, there is still more detailed
11 information that the council and the board had asked
12 for and not received. Preconsidered Introduction
13 number 1954-A, sponsored by Council Member Keith
14 Powers, the chair of our Criminal Justice Committee,
15 would require the Department of Correction and
16 Correction Health Services to create a public weekly
17 report related to the outbreak of COVID-19 in city
18 jails and any future health emergency. The report
19 would include numbers of individuals diagnosed,
20 hospitalized, and tested for COVID-19. The proposed
21 legislation would also require correction of health
22 services to provide regular updates to people in
23 custody about the public health emergency and to
24 publish a timeline of significant events. The
25 information that we are requiring is not only

2 important for understanding the extent to which the
3 virus has spread through our correctional system, but
4 it is also critical for the city's efforts to plan
5 for any similar public health emergency in the
6 future. With the spread of the virus through our
7 jails and prisons in mind, medical experts have
8 impressed upon us the urgency that this poses for
9 depopulating our jails in a safe manner in order to
10 flatten the curve. Next, it's preconsidered
11 Introduction 1956-A, also sponsored by Council Member
12 Keith Powers, and it would create a local conditional
13 release commission. This commission would have the
14 authority to release certain sentenced individuals
15 once they had served a portion of their sentence.
16 Eligible persons would need community ties and
17 convictions for certain offenses, such as domestic
18 violence and other offenses, would not be eligible.
19 Our final bill is a health bill related to the issue
20 of contact tracing throughout our city. As we think
21 about what reopening our city will look like, we know
22 that it cannot be done without a robust regular
23 testing system in place and a plan to trace the
24 spread of this deadly virus. The city is working on
25 preparing the New York City Test and Trace Corps to

2 test, trace, and treat every case of COVID-19. In
3 order to understand how we are managing the spread of
4 the virus we are tracing down infections and
5 reporting on those efforts. The next bill is
6 preconsidered Introduction 1961-A, sponsored by
7 Council Member Ritchie Torres, and it would require
8 the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or
9 another agency designed by the mayor to ensure a
10 report providing details of the contact tracing
11 program that is posted online and updated regardless.
12 The legislation also requires DOHMH or another agency
13 designated by the mayor to ensure a report on
14 comorbidities and occupation is posted online and
15 updated in a regular manner. I want to thank the
16 staff who worked on this, on this bill, Sarah Liss
17 and Zeamanuel Halu, and I want to Alana Siven, who
18 worked on the two criminal justice-related bills with
19 Council Member Powers. I also would, ah, be remiss,
20 Mr. Public Advocate, if I did not mention the
21 incident that occurred in Central Park on Memorial
22 Day. I know Christian Cooper. He is a member of the
23 LGBT community. He is a wonderful person, a
24 distinguished career. What we saw on that video from
25 Amy Cooper, ah, trying to call the police on him when

2 he had done nothing wrong and potentially putting his
3 life in danger was completely and totally
4 unacceptable, and it reminds us of the reality that
5 so many men of color face in this city. Ah, she
6 falsely claimed that she was being threatened by a
7 "African American man" and it is important for us to
8 always speak out and, ah, talk about when racism is
9 rearing its ugly head in New York City and anywhere
10 else. So I wanted to mention that today and I want
11 to thank you again, Mr. Public Advocate, for being
12 here to preside over this meeting. With that, I turn
13 it back to you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you very
15 much, ah, Speaker Johnson, and thank you for your
16 leadership. We will now move into discussion of
17 general orders. We will first recognize council
18 members who signed up by email and then recognize
19 members who wish to speak by using the raise hand
20 function in Zoom. Please wait before you begin your
21 remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to announce he has
22 begun the countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms will
23 alert you when your time has expired. Matt, do we
24 have anyone signed up?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: We do, Mr. Public
3 Advocate, Council Member Powers would like to be
4 recognized.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Recognizing
6 Council Member Powers.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Council Member Powers,
8 your time starts now.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, and
10 thanks to everybody. Um, today we're going to be
11 voting on two bills that came out of the Criminal
12 Justice Committee that I introduced, ah, with the,
13 with the support of the Speaker, um, to address the
14 public health emergency in our city jails and to
15 better equip the city to respond to future
16 emergencies. I don't have to tell anybody here that
17 this has been a hot spot of infection in our city
18 jails. This is that the city jails have been a hot
19 spot of infection and we've seen the hard work on the
20 part of the Correctional Health Services, the DOC,
21 and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice to ensure
22 that people are safe, whether its releasing people in
23 city custody through the six-day work release program
24 to temporarily opening up new facility space to allow
25 for more social distancing and the daily efforts of

2 the doctors to keep them healthy. We believe that we
3 need more transparency and a process in place to
4 safely release individuals from detention in this
5 crisis, um, so we're doing two bills. One is, as
6 mentioned, is about reporting, so we have all the
7 accurate data to know the impact of coronavirus on
8 those inside of our city jails, whether you are an
9 incarcerated person or you working there, and to have
10 a clear sense of the data. The second one is around
11 a conditional release commission, which is allowed by
12 state law and we are actually implementing it through
13 this bill today, and I want to thank Council Member
14 Farah Louis for her partnership on this issue. What
15 it does is it basically creates a commission to
16 review and recommend release for individuals serving
17 a city sentence, which is a sentence under one year.
18 To qualify for release under the state law
19 authorizing an individual has to have served at least
20 90 days, three months, of that sentence, have
21 verified community ties, such as housing or
22 employment, are not convicted of an offense
23 ineligible for merit time, like domestic violence
24 offenses, and will allow folks to be able to review
25 it. Practically, that means that right now during

2 the pandemic rather than having to have this debate
3 about pushing to get, who should be released, we
4 could have a commission set up to be able to review
5 people and make them [inaudible].

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Um, so I want to,
8 I want to thank the Speaker and my colleagues, and
9 Council Member Farah Louis for their support on this
10 effort. I think it's an important and meaningful
11 step here, and I just want to end by saying I didn't
12 [inaudible] earlier, but my, my deepest condolences
13 to our friend and our colleague, Adrienne Adams, who
14 I know has been going through a really difficult
15 period in time. We all love Adrienne and respect
16 here and are thinking about her family right now. So
17 thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
19 Council Member Powers.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate,
21 there are no other council members who wish to speak.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you very
23 much. Report of special committees.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hold on one moment.
25 None.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Reports of
3 standing committees.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Report of the
5 Committee on Criminal Justice, Intro 1954-A, COVID
6 reported.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Intro 1956-A,
10 conditional release commission.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
12 general orders.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Report of the
14 Committee on Health, Intro 1961-A, contact tracing
15 reporting.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
17 general orders.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Report of the
19 Committee on Immigration, Intro 1836-A, prohibiting
20 use of the word alien in local laws and other
21 documents.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
23 general orders.

24

25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Report of the
3 Committee on Land Use, LU 623 and Reso 1327, through
4 LU 635 and Reso 1330, Lenox Terrace.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Filed pursuant to a
6 letter of withdrawal.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: LU 659 and Reso
8 1331, 311-313 Pleasant Avenue.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
10 orders.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: LU 660 and Reso
12 1332, 993-995 Union Avenue.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
14 orders.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: LUs 661 and 662,
16 and Reso 1333, 226 West 96th Street.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
18 orders.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: General
20 orders.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Will the clerk please
22 take a roll call vote on all of the items that are
23 coupled on today's general orders calendar. This
24 includes legislation and land use items.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams.

1 STATED MEETING

30

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Congratulations to
3 all of my colleagues on your phenomenonal
4 legislation, and thank you all for all of your love
5 and well wishes. I proudly vote aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye
8 on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ayala.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: My condolences to
11 Council Member Adrienne Adams, and I vote aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Barron.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
14 Barron?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Sorry, I forgot
16 to unmute. Are we just couplng or are we voting on
17 the items as well?

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're voting on
19 everything right now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: OK, I'd like
21 permission to explain my vote, please?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
23 granted.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Ah,
3 I'm voting aye on all with the exception of Land Use
4 661 and 662. Ah, those are, that's a bill for
5 development which I think does not adequately reflect
6 the need for people who are actually of low income to
7 be able to qualify. We called it an affordable
8 housing plan, but yet we go up to 120% of the AMI for
9 a family of three. And it's my belief that that's
10 not really affordable in the numbers that we see
11 reflected in this project that would match what the
12 numbers in New York City. I think that the Council
13 Member was able to shift some of the apartments to a
14 lower AMI, but when you still have 80, close to 80%
15 of the project at market and at 120% of the AMI, I
16 don't think that we are addressing the needs of the
17 people in this city so for that reason I'm voting no
18 on LU 661 and 662. Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Borelli.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. May
21 I briefly explain my vote?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
23 granted.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. Ah,
3 I'm going to vote aye on all, except Intro 1836 and
4 preconsidered, ah, 1956. I do want to say, ah, how
5 proud I am that today's bill about EMS pay parity,
6 ah, which came out of my committee earlier today,
7 passed unanimously and I think [inaudible] today in
8 the Stated Meeting. Um, it is something that I know
9 Daneek has worked on for many years and it's
10 something Speaker Johnson has taken a keen interest
11 in, and I am glad we are pushing this forward today
12 because one of the, the worst parts of my committee
13 is having to look people in the eye who are EMTs, who
14 work incredibly long, difficult, ah, and dangerous
15 hours and explain to them why, ah, they can't afford
16 to, to work an honest job for the City of New York
17 and pay their bills, why EMTs who have five years on
18 the job in many cases make less than the starting
19 salaries of other city employees. So this is a great
20 development and, ah, let's get this across the finish
21 line. Thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Brannan.

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

25 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Ah, my prayers
3 are with Council Member Adams, and with that I'll
4 vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Chin.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cohen.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I am voting no on
9 1956 and aye on all other items on the general order
10 calendar.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Constantinides.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: And with
13 condolences to Council Member Adams, our family is
14 thinking about you today. I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: You have, ah,
17 myself and my family's deepest sympathy, Adrienne.
18 Ah, I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Deutsch.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
21 Deutsch?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Ah, no on Intro
23 1956 and aye on the rest.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Diaz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Si in total.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Dromm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Ah, with, ah, all
4 sympathy to Adrienne Adams, Council Member Adrienne
5 Adams, we love you. I vote aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Eugene.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [inaudible] this
8 very difficult moment, and I vote all on aye, yes on
9 all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you.

11 Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
13 explain?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
15 granted.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. Thank
18 you, Mr. Public Advocate, and good afternoon,
19 Speaker, and all of my colleagues. Um, I want to
20 congratulate all of our colleagues who are passing
21 very important legislation today, but I especially
22 want to speak up in support of the, ah, resolution,
23 ah, intro'd by Council Member Borelli and Council
24 Member Miller that relates to EMS salary parity, um,
25 and certainly I want to dedicate my vote in honor of

2 a fallen EMT, Ydira Arroyoa, who was fatally killed
3 in the line of duty back in March of 2017, a 14-year
4 veteran of EMS, ah, that served our community at EMS
5 Station 26 in Morrisania in the community of our
6 district in the Bronx, and she was working overtime
7 at the time that she was tragically killed, because
8 we continue to not recognize the value and all of the
9 hard work of our EMTs and certainly this is a step in
10 the right direction and I really hope we make sure
11 that all of our EMTs are paid equitably, as every
12 other first responder is, and so Ydira Arroyo was
13 important to our community and I dedicate my vote in
14 support of her memory and certainly to her family.
15 We continue to lift them up in prayer. Um, I also
16 want to express my condolences and prayers of
17 comfort, strength, and healing to our sister,
18 Adrienne Adams, on the loss of your beloved father.
19 Ah, we love you, we support you, we are always here
20 for you during your time of need. Um, and with that
21 I vote aye on all items on today's agenda. Thank
22 you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Adrienne, my
25 condolences to you and your family on the loss of a

2 loved one. It's difficult times for all of us, but
3 none more difficult than to those who have lost loved
4 ones, so I'll keep you in my heart and prayers. I
5 vote aye on all except 1956.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Grodenchik.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah,
8 permission to briefly, very briefly, explain my vote,
9 Mr. Public Advocate.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Briefly
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you
13 very much.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Um, to my
16 sister, Adrienne, I, I can only tell you, my daddy is
17 gone 21-years plus. I speak to him everyday and I
18 use his wisdom and he guides me, um, in his past
19 because that's what fathers do. Um, ah, on my
20 colleague, my other member of the Jamaica Avenue
21 Caucus, ah, Daneek Miller, last night just two houses
22 away from me we smelled smoke and of course there was
23 a fire. My neighbor's house was on fire and, um, the
24 fire department was there, 10 units in total
25 responding, including Rescue 4, um, from I think

2 Jimmy Van Bramer's district. But, um, the point is
3 that when, ah, the fire trucks arrive they arrive
4 with EMTs. Um, they all came together and they all
5 put themselves at risk for the people of the City of
6 New York. And it's the least that we can do to make
7 sure that they are paid a proper day's salary. Um,
8 they can take care of their families as they take
9 care of us. So with that I vote aye on all, with the
10 exception of 1956-A, on which I vote no. Thank you,
11 Mr. Public Advocate, and thank you all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Holden.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: My condolences to
14 Adrienne, ah, sincere condolences, it's terrible. I
15 vote aye on all with the exception of Intros 1956-A
16 and 1836-A, of which I vote note.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Kallos.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Ah, good afternoon,
21 and condolences again to our sister, Adrienne. Send
22 out prayers, healing prayers and strength for you and
23 your family through these trying times. I definitely
24 identify. And to everyone who's passing legislation
25 today, congratulations and I vote aye on all.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koo.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: My sincere
4 condolences to Council Member Adams and her family,
5 and I vote aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: My
8 condolences, love, and affection to my friend,
9 Adrienne Adams, and I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lancman.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Adrienne, my
12 sincerest condolences and I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Permission to
15 explain?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
17 granted.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.
20 Adrienne, you also have my deepest condolences. I
21 know that your dad was very, very proud of you and
22 rightly so. Um, but it's just such a rotten time to
23 lose somebody when you can't be there in person to
24 have hugs and like share memories in that way, and so
25 I'm so sorry, and I hope the ability to share

2 memories has been, has been helpful, even if not in
3 person. Um, Daneek, congratulations on this Reso.
4 Long before this crisis you were on the front lines
5 of calling out the disparities, you know, the *Daily*
6 *News* had such good coverage and the *Times* and what it
7 has taken to call this to people's attention, um,
8 it's a shame it has taken this long, um, but I'm
9 grateful to you for leading us on it and I'm really
10 hoping this budget, ah, that the mayor will hear us
11 and that we'll be able to get this done. Um, and
12 finally I just, I want to say to all of my black
13 colleagues, um, it's a hard time right now just to be
14 a human being on Planet Earth, but, boy, it is a
15 really hard time to be a black elected official in
16 the United States of America. Um, like the, the,
17 you, all of you are folks who have been fighting for
18 civil rights and for racial justice your whole lives,
19 and then at this moment to have all this
20 disproportionate black deaths around us and COVID,
21 um, and seeing all these disparities, and then just
22 at a time when maybe you would think that a crisis
23 could kind of bring us together and help us overcome
24 some of our divisions, that in fact somehow what
25 happened is that racism is elevated, um, it's hard,

2 that's not for all of us but obviously, you know, a
3 system of, of white supremacy that puts some of us in
4 positions, um, of privilege, um, and that does so
5 much harm. I, I see it and, and I just want to let
6 you know. So, um, you know, and that you have as
7 much solidarity as we can give and a commitment to
8 work with you out of this rage on this set of issues.
9 So I vote aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Um, Adrienne, I
12 want to offer my condolences as well on the loss of
13 your father. I'm very sorry, and, um, we're all with
14 you, um, ah, and we'll continue to be with you every
15 step of the way and helping you and your family to
16 get through this, and we love you. And with that I
17 vote aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I also want to
20 extend heartfelt condolences and much love to
21 Adrienne and her family, and I will be voting aye on
22 all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Louis.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: My heartfelt
25 condolences to Council Member Adams. Um, I'm here

2 for you, praying for you, um, and will continue to
3 keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Um, I proudly
4 support my colleague, Council Member, sorry, I ask
5 permission to explain my vote, sorry about that,
6 Public Advocate. I'm just proud to sponsor this
7 bill, Council Member Powers, 1956. As a black woman
8 I feel that it's important, um, for us to diversify a
9 commission and to continue to, ah, magnify the voices
10 of those that go through mass incarceration. This is
11 a opportunity for us to bring in restorative, um,
12 justice advocates to continue to magnify the voices
13 of those that can't speak for themselves. Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Maisel.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Menchaca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
23 Public Advocate. Just a few hours ago today the
24 Committee on Immigration voted unanimously to move
25 Intro 1836-A, led by my colleague, Council Member

2 Moya, by removing the dehumanizing word alien from
3 official documents here in the City of New York. And
4 as the chair of the Committee on Immigration I
5 couldn't be more proud. New York City is an
6 immigrant city and more than 3.2 million of our
7 residents hail from all over the globe, yet still
8 call this home, the New York City home. And as the
9 chair of the Immigration Committee I understand that
10 the well-being of immigrant New Yorkers are
11 interwoven into the well-being of all New Yorkers,
12 and so with this law that you are all voting on
13 today, New York City will be the first in the country
14 to remove hateful anti-immigrant language from our
15 city laws, rules, documents, and materials.

16 Communities of color specifically have historically
17 been targeted, intimidated, by the use of racially
18 charged language and the term alien is dehumanizing
19 and reinforces discriminatory attitudes towards
20 immigrants of all colors, ah, and so I vote aye on
21 all and, ah, Council Member Adams, sending you love
22 and light. Thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Miller.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council
25 Member, you're muted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye. Aye again.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you.

4 Moya.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
8 granted.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, ah, Mr.
11 Public Advocate. Um, again, I want to send my
12 condolences to, um, Adrienne Adams on the loss of
13 your father. My love, my prayers, ah, go out to you.
14 We love you very much and, um, we hope that you're
15 doing well during this very difficult time. Um, I
16 want to take this opportunity to, to thank, ah, the
17 Speaker for his support, my colleagues, ah, and the
18 staff Urbani Ahuja, who worked on this legislation,
19 ah, and Megan Tatio and Jason Goldman as well, and
20 thank you to Chair Menchaca. Ah, but this is a
21 really important piece of legislation. Um, because
22 no human is illegal. Ah, this term isn't neutral, it
23 isn't fair, ah, and it's just not accurate. And
24 let's take a look at the accuracy first. More than
25 60% of undocumented immigrants entered this country

2 lawfully and simply overstayed their visas. That's
3 not even a criminal offense. Those who crossed a
4 border unlawfully are only in violation of a
5 misdemeanor in the eyes of the law. They're no
6 different than a jaywalker, and yet after a jaywalker
7 is done crossing the street they're not branded as
8 illegal. Nobody shouts illegal at them on the street
9 or on Twitter. It's not some scarlet letter that
10 they're forced to wear forever. As the son of
11 immigrants I know your immigrant status, ah, often
12 has no bearing on how some prejudiced people will
13 characterize this. But the City of New York doesn't
14 need to support or participate, ah, in this divisive
15 behavior. Those words aren't just inaccurate,
16 they're loaded with hate. They're used to dehumanize
17 the very people who ironically embody the American
18 dream. These are hard-working men and women who came
19 here in search of a better life for them and for
20 their families because for generations this country
21 has advertised to the world that this is the land of
22 opportunity, available to anybody willing to work for
23 it.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Those words don't
3 belong in civil discourse and absolutely don't belong
4 in our city's guiding documents. My bill, Intro
5 1836, would replace the term alien with noncitizen,
6 wherever it refers to noncitizens in the City Charter
7 and Administrative Code. It would bar the city from
8 using the term alien, illegal alien, or illegal
9 immigration in the law document materials unless
10 referenced in the federal law [inaudible]. Words
11 matter. The language that we choose...

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council
13 Member, I ask you to wrap up hard.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: [inaudible] and
15 consequences. Ah, I want to thank everyone, um, for
16 their support on this legislation, ah, and I will be
17 voting aye on all. Thank you, ah, Mr. Public
18 Advocate.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Perkins.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: [inaudible]
22 except for no for 1956 and no for LU 661. Otherwise
23 aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Powers.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Reynoso.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Condolences to
4 my colleague, Adrienne Adams. I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Congratulations
7 to my colleague, Council Member Miller, ah, Moya, and
8 Powers on some great pieces of legislation today. I
9 vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rivera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: My condolences
14 to Council Member Adams and I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Um, I'd like to say
17 to Daneek Miller, Council Member, um, thank you for
18 always fighting for the working people and, um, to my
19 little sister, Adrienne, I want to send my love and
20 condolences and prayers. Um, it's a tough time, but
21 we're gonna help you get through it. And I vote aye
22 on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rosenthal.

24

25

1 STATED MEETING

47

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Um, if I could
3 ask to be signed on to 1954-A and 1961, and then I
4 vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Salamanca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Condolences to
7 Council Member Adrienne Adams. I'm sorry for your
8 loss. Um, and I vote aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Treyger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Ah, permission
13 to explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
15 granted.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
18 Public Advocate, and, ah, like all my colleagues I
19 want to also extend my heartfelt condolences, ah, to
20 a phenomenal leader, ah, to a person who I am proud
21 to call a friend and a colleague, one of the hardest-
22 working officials we have in the entire City of New
23 York, who speaks up for her district like no other,
24 and to my colleague, Council Member Adams, we love
25 you, we have your back, and, ah, we're always gonna

2 be here for you, and God bless you and your family,
3 you're always in our prayers. Um, I want to also
4 give a big thanks, ah, shout-out to, ah, my, my labor
5 colleague, Council Member Daneek Miller, who always,
6 as my colleague, Council Member Rose mentioned, he
7 always champions working people. Um, this is long
8 overdue. This is the right thing to do. Ah, people
9 that are putting their lives on the line, ah, who are
10 barely making ends meet. Ah, so thank you and, ah,
11 also remind my colleagues that the council has always
12 stood for working folks. It was only about a year
13 ago, it feels like a decade ago, that we [inaudible]
14 the issue of pay parity for early childhood teachers,
15 where we saved [inaudible], we saved many programs
16 from collapse. That's what we do. We always look to
17 fight and protect the safety net of the City of New
18 York. So with that, I thank my colleagues for their
19 leadership and, and their, and their great, ah,
20 voices for working people and I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Ulrich.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: With my deepest
23 sympathies to my friend and colleague, Adrienne
24 Adams, ah, I vote aye on all with the exception of
25 Intro 1956. Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Vallone.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Mr. Public
4 Advocate, good to see you. May I have a few moments
5 to explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Suit
7 yourselves, good to see me, yes. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [laughs]

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Adrienne, your
11 father is so proud of you. You carried him with you
12 everywhere you went in life, and especially in his
13 last few months and weeks. I know how hard it was
14 for me to express that publicly and when you did you
15 we prayed with you and we felt your pain. So just
16 know that we're all with you and he is so proud of
17 the leader and the super woman that you have become.
18 I just wanted you to know that always. And on the
19 votes today, I vote aye on all with the exception of
20 preconsidered 1956. Just to give you some context as
21 to why, um, this went quick, it went fast, and the,
22 the concerns to it really didn't get a chance to be
23 brought out. So let me give you a quote from my
24 district attorney, Norma Katz of Queens, ah, and this
25 is what she said. "To take the decision of early

2 conditional release out of the hands of the parole
3 board and place in hands for a few appointed members
4 removes a judicial process and system that began with
5 the trial conviction in judicial centers, which has
6 already considered these factors. To rush and vote
7 it to a place with a new commission without structure
8 and coordination with the existing parole board that
9 is already doing this is very concerning." Those
10 words are, are troubling to me. Ah, I believe we
11 should have some more time to think about this.

12 [inaudible] the Board of Corrections for years, ah,
13 is a lot to go through. Um, so if we're going to do
14 this we must work and figure out how it's gonna work
15 in conjunction with the existing parole board to make
16 sure the rights of all are considered, ah, that we're
17 not [inaudible] and not causing concerns and more
18 problems. So I thank you for the intent, and I vote
19 no on that one and aye on everything else. God bless
20 everyone. I hope they had a wonderful morning.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer.

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

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Briefly
25 granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you,
3 sir.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Ah, I just
6 want to say, ah, Council Member Adams, you're an
7 incredibly strong woman. I've always known that.
8 But watching you, ah, sit through this meeting, ah,
9 through all these tributes, ah, to your father, ah,
10 just reinforces what a strong woman you are, so I
11 just want to say again, ah, my condolences, but also
12 great and deep respect for your strength, ah, to be
13 here and, and participating in this meeting, um, on
14 behalf of your constituents and your family. Ah,
15 with that I just want to say I, I proudly vote all, I
16 want to just echo, the Speaker spoke about, ah, Larry
17 Kramer and the role that he played in the lives of
18 all of us, ah, and I wrote yesterday that he was
19 fighting for my life, ah, to be able to live as a gay
20 man long before I even knew I was a gay man and I'm
21 grateful to Larry Kramer, and also Christian Cooper,
22 ah, who I also know for over 20 years, ah, and who is
23 an active burger and is one of the smartest and most
24 gentle man I know and, um, what happened to him was
25 wrong, but the truth of it is it happens every day to

2 black men and, um, and it's wrong, and I'm glad
3 Christian spoke up about it and posted that video.
4 Um, but, ah, much love to Christian. But, ah, ah, we
5 have a huge program, ah, in this country with racism
6 and, ah, with black men being under attack, ah, on a
7 daily basis and, um, and we've just got to continue
8 to speak out against it, so, ah, thank you to all my
9 colleagues for the great legislation and with that I
10 vote all, aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Yeger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote aye on all
13 with the exception of Introduction 1956 and 1836.
14 Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo.

16 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I vote no on
17 1836, no on 1956, and aye on the rest.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cumbo.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission to
20 explain my vote, Mr. Public Advocate?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. From
25 one Spellman sister to another Spellman sister, from

2 one daddy's girl to another daddy's girl, Adrienne,
3 my heart goes out to you. My prayers go out to you.
4 The most challenging thing I think to be is a woman
5 and a woman elected leader. Our roles are so
6 challenging in terms of protecting and nurturing our
7 families as well as our communities, and I thought
8 about you and the vulnerable so much, as I also have
9 a dad who's over 80 years old and just wanting to
10 protect and hold up everyone around us. So we love
11 you. Your father got to see you do so many things,
12 from becoming chair of the community board to the New
13 York City Council, to becoming chair of the Black,
14 Latino, and Asian Caucus, and doing so much and
15 passing so much critical legislation. Your dad is
16 proud of you, will continue to be proud of you, and
17 will be your strongest guardian angel in heaven
18 watching over you. So watch out, world, you haven't
19 seen anything yet from Ms. Adrienne. Um, I proudly
20 vote aye and thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Speaker Johnson.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all. I
23 want to thank, ah, again, everyone in the council for
24 working collaboratively over the last many weeks as
25

2 we have been trying to continue with the people's
3 business. I vote aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The vote on all
5 items for today's general order calendar is 50 in the
6 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions,
7 with the exceptions as following. Land use 661 and
8 662 with companion resolutions 1333 has a vote of 48
9 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, 2 in the
10 negative, and no abstentions. Intro 1956-A has 39 in
11 the affirmative, 11 in the negative, no abstentions,
12 and Intro 1836-A has 46 in the affirmative, 4 in the
13 negative, and no abstentions.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you, and
15 to the extent it's possible I'd like to clerk to
16 please add my name to 1836-A and 1062-A, and with
17 that the items on today's general order calendar have
18 been adopted. Introduction and reading of bills.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills are referred
20 to committees as indicated on today's agenda.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Discussion of
22 resolutions. As a reminder, please wait until the
23 Sergeant at Arms begins the countdown clock before
24 you begin your remarks. Are there any council
25 members signed up?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate,
3 Council Member Miller has signed up for discussion of
4 resolutions.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.
6 Council Member Miller?

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Daneek, you have to
9 unmute yourself.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Right, thank you,
11 OK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Public Advocate,
12 thank you as well. Before I, I speak on, ah, Reso
13 1062 I, I would like to just acknowledge and thank my
14 colleagues for all of their [inaudible], not just
15 about this but acknowledging the plight of black men,
16 men of color, throughout the, the country that we're
17 seeing. And, and certainly, ah, brother Christian
18 and brother Floyd being at, you know, one might say
19 at totally different ends of the spectrum, but at the
20 end day [inaudible] is not because you're Muslim or
21 Christian, it's simply because you're black and, and
22 that is a very unfortunate situation for all of us,
23 ah, to have to endure. Um, this body, ah, will be
24 voting on Reso 1062, calling on the city to give
25 more, more than 4000 EMS, EMT, paramedics of the FDNY

2 EMS who have the strongest representation of women
3 and people of color in the uniform forces, ah,
4 services in, in the city, and they, ah, too, have the
5 pay that they long deserved as first responders. The
6 administration has neglected these brave public
7 servants by paying them a fraction of what is an
8 overwhelming white counterpart, ah, in the fire
9 department. Until recently, the diminished, until
10 recently diminished the value of these life-saving,
11 the life-saving work that these, ah, men and women do
12 for over eight-and-a-half million New Yorkers.
13 Nearly 900 EMS members left their jobs in the last
14 two years to earn tens of thousands of dollars more
15 as New York City firefighters through a pipeline that
16 has served to help the FDNY compensate an abysmal
17 racial and gender diversity outside of the EMS force,
18 ah, which came at actually by virtue of a federal
19 lawsuit and have to mention the broken society in
20 this as well. The disparity and pain blocking the
21 upward mobility of the city's...

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Five minutes...

24 and New Yorkers of color and women, ah, has magnified
25 by, been magnified by COVID-19. At the outset of the

2 pandemic the FDNY had directed only EMS would respond
3 to emergency calls where COVID, ah, COVID-19 centers
4 were reported. This was followed by a series of
5 confusing, incomprehensible orders, such as requiring
6 pregnant woman and COVID-19 infected two, ah,
7 members, not showing symptoms, to report to work in
8 restricted their use...

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council
10 Member, I'm going have to ask you to wrap up, please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I understand.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Mr. Public
13 Advocate, if we could just allow Council Member
14 Miller to finish his remarks. I know he worked hard
15 on this.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: I'm with it.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you so
18 much, Mr. Speaker. And, and one out of four EMS
19 members called out sick during those horrific weeks
20 during the, the time of exposure. And, and part of
21 this parity also talks to the fact that they do not
22 have unlimited sick. Um, so we want to dedicate this
23 to folks like FDNY paramedic Krista Cadet, which many
24 of know who stood us, with us on the steps of City
25 Hall, who testified before the committee, and who

2 herself ended up the last six weeks in the hospital
3 in a coma due to COVID-19, and, and that's how this
4 thing is really brought home. And, and to talk about
5 my good friend, ah, L. Hasmalik, ah, Adrese Bay, who
6 served EMS during, ah, ah, 9/11 and, and now passed
7 from COVID-19 three weeks back, as well as certainly,
8 um, the many other members of EMS that have perished
9 during the COVID virus. But most of all I want to
10 thank, ah, this council. I want to thank the Speaker
11 for his leadership and, and his support. I want to
12 thank the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus as well as
13 the Women's Caucus. I want to, ah, Chair Borelli for
14 the leadership that he has shown in the firing safety
15 and, and so when you look at that, when you look at
16 that, all of those that were involved in, in really
17 getting this, ah, ah, to finish my, um, it shows what
18 happens when we work together, but it also as, as,
19 ah, was mentioned earlier this is a just, um, by, by,
20 um, ah, Council Member Treyger, this is a just, ah,
21 council who stands, ah, up for workers and, and
22 equity, and so this was at the forefront of pay
23 equity. I want to thank everyone, including those
24 unions, ah, that were involved, ah, as well, and had,

2 um, I look forward to the passage of this
3 legislation. So thank you all for your support.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Miller,
5 you did a great job on this. I'm really glad we were
6 able to work on this, and I also want to thank, ah,
7 Council Member Borelli, ah, who chaired the committee
8 on helping get this through as well. He has been an
9 advocate for this. So I want to thank both of you
10 for your hard work and, ah, the Black, Latino, and
11 Asian Caucus for their leadership as you. You and
12 Council Member Adams have done a great job on that,
13 so thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Not to, I'm
15 sorry, not to, but Council Member Adams, who happens
16 to have a daughter who is an EMS officer, who
17 happened to also have contracted COVID-19 as well,
18 not to, not to add to that, so.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thanks, Daneek.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
21 Daneek. I hope I, I get some credit for the extended
22 time, too, even though the Speaker was the one
23 [inaudible]. Ah, do you have any on signed up?
24 Anyone else signed up?

1 STATED MEETING

60

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Hold on one moment, Mr.
3 Public Advocate. Ah, Council Member Reynoso.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
5 Reynoso.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Ah, thank you
8 for that, Public Advocate. Ah, today we're
9 introducing legislation to support small businesses
10 here in the City of New York.

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'm sorry, was I
13 on mute?

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: No, no, we're, we're
15 not at that point yet. We're discussion resolutions.
16 We'll go into general discussion [inaudible].

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I apologize. So
18 I want to not speak at this point, sorry.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate,
20 there are no other speakers for discussion of
21 resolutions. Ah, thank you very much. Resolutions,
22 Resolution number 1062-A, calling on the New York,
23 New York State, sorry, calling on the New York State
24 Legislature to pass and the governor to sign
25 legislation automatically classifying the deaths of

2 all municipal employees who died from COVID-19 as
3 line-of-duty. We'll have a voice vote on today's
4 resolution. If you wish to vote against or abstain
5 from today's resolution please notify the Legislative
6 Documents Unit, and so I guess folks will have to
7 take themselves off of mute so we can hear your
8 voice, voice vote. Would all those in favor say aye?

9 MEMBERS' RESPONSE: Aye.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: OK, mute everyone.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: All opposed
12 say nay.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: This is like Old
14 McDonald Had a Farm.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Any
16 abstentions? Just by a little bit the ayes have it.
17 We will now have general discussion. As a reminder,
18 please wait until the Sergeant at Arms begins the
19 countdown clock before you begin your remarks.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate,
21 now we will have Council Member Reynoso, followed by
22 Council Members Koo and Adams.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
25 Council Member Reynoso.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: And thank you,
3 Public Advocate this time. Ah, but we're introducing
4 legislation today, ah, that is going to be supporting
5 small businesses here in the City of New York. Um,
6 the restaurants and the food industry in our city has
7 been struggling just as much as, ah, any other
8 businesses in our, in our city. What we're going to
9 do today is open up sidewalks, streets, and plazas
10 for our restaurants, so we can start getting them
11 back to work. We're going to do it in a way that is
12 safe, um, and follows, ah, health guidelines, but
13 also make sure that the process is something that can
14 be done very quickly and in a timely fashion so that
15 we don't need to ah, ah, have bureaucracy [inaudible]
16 hold back the potential, um, that these businesses
17 have once we're, um, able to reopen. I want to
18 thank, ah, Speaker Corey Johnson. We've been talking
19 about reimagining street space for such a long time
20 to get us to post-pandemic new New York. And this is
21 exactly what we're talking about, allowing for our
22 small businesses to finally open in an appropriate
23 way and reimagining our street space to allow for us
24 to do just that. I'm looking forward to pushing this
25 legislation so that we can get restaurants like Blend

2 on the water in Long Island City, um, some space on
3 the sidewalk and also La Cuchifritos spot in the
4 South Bronx and allowing them to also have some
5 space, and this couldn't have been done without the
6 support of many advocates and especially the Speaker,
7 ah, and I'm looking forward to getting my colleagues
8 on board to supporting our small businesses and
9 showing that the City Council is here, um, making
10 sure that they're not left behind during this
11 pandemic. Thank you so much for your time.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
13 Koo, followed by Council Member Adams.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr.
16 Public Advocate. Thank you. I want to quickly thank
17 our speaker for spearheading a set of comprehensive
18 guidelines and recommendations for the city to reopen
19 beaches this summer. This plan is critical because
20 we simply cannot open the beaches without giving the
21 public access to the water. If we do people are
22 going to get heat stroke. Like the plan to open the
23 beaches, we also need a plan to open the rest of the
24 city and revitalize our economy, small business and
25 restaurants. Any movement forward should be based on

2 the data to keep us safe. We need to continue
3 educating the public about the importance of wearing
4 masks and social distance. We need to enforce the
5 rule of law to keep people safe and prevent
6 reinfections. But we must also give our businesses a
7 chance to survive and get back on their feet. I'm
8 looking forward to working with all of you on
9 rebuilding our city. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
11 Council Member Koo, and we'll now have Council Member
12 Adams.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you so much,
15 Mr. Public Advocate. It's good to see you in that
16 seat, even if we are on Zoom. Um, I don't even know
17 where to begin. I know I'm gonna run out of time,
18 but I really, um, I think I'm gonna start with, um...

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to, I want to
20 make sure that Council Member Adams has enough time
21 that she needs to make her remarks today, so let's
22 not put her on the clock. Go ahead, Adrienne.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Well, thank you,
24 Corey. All right, I'm going to start with a big
25 virtual hand clap, um, to, um, the passage of Reso

2 1062, um, spearheaded, um, by our colleague, Daneek
3 Miller. Um, it's been a long, hard fight, I believe
4 even longer than I've been in this body. Um, as one
5 it was mentioned that my oldest step-daughter is, is
6 an EMS worker. She is on the front line in Far
7 Rockaway in Council Member Richards's district. She
8 is the single mother of four and she has worked very,
9 very hard for a long time to get to where she is
10 right now, a proud EMS worker who is feeding a
11 family, my beautiful grandchildren, and to see this
12 happen today, to be such a proud cosponsor of this
13 legislation makes my heart feel very, very proud,
14 very proud. She was a very early victim of COVID-19
15 doing the job that she loves to do so, so much. So
16 it's very ironic. But, um, she came out of it like
17 the trouper that she is, hard back at work to the job
18 that she loves, and a parent and the wonderful mother
19 that she loves to be and is still to this day. So
20 thank you so much for passing this legislation, and
21 I'm so proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. Um, I
22 don't even know where to begin. Ah, Corey, your
23 tribute to Irvin Edy, um, as his church members calls
24 him, the Great Brother Irvin Edy, ah, thank you so
25 much. You have been there since, since day one, and

2 you used the word roller coaster, and that's the word
3 that I used with you. Um, I think there are only two
4 other people that were with me pretty much since day,
5 a part of this body, and that would be Council Member
6 Inez Barron and Assemblymember Charles Barron, who
7 are close family friends, who know my family, knew my
8 dad, ah, knew my uncle very well, who passed a couple
9 years ago. So you all have really been with us since
10 day one on this ride, um, and to say that it has
11 been, um, cruel is putting it mildly. My dad went in
12 to Long Island Jewish Hospital on March 26. Um, my
13 sister and I my husband, we took him there believing
14 that he was suffering symptoms of congestive heart
15 failure, a condition that he has had for many years.
16 We took him in and we masked him up and to our
17 surprise we were even so naïve we didn't even realize
18 we couldn't go in and register him and get him
19 settled into the hospital. So March w6 was the last
20 day that I saw my dad in person. Um, as I waved a
21 kiss to him as they wheeled him away with a mask on
22 his face. Um, unbeknownst to us we found out the,
23 ah, he had been tested upon entry into the hospital
24 and he had indeed been a victim of COVID-19. So we
25 thought we were bringing him in for his illness we

2 were actually traveling in with COVID-19, something
3 that, again, impacted my own sister, who is an
4 attorney, some days later without even realizing it.
5 She's fine, by the way. Here we are some two months
6 later, almost to the day, and where we thought that
7 we would be bringing him home after two tests of
8 negative, testing negatively since his admission into
9 the hospital, so upon discharge he would have been
10 COVID-negative. My dad say no, his spirit said I am
11 not going to a nursing home for long-term care.
12 Instead, I am choosing to go to my heavenly home
13 where I can rest and where my daughters will not have
14 to look at me with pity. And so it is with that that
15 we wish him the safe travel that we know that he has.
16 I say thank you again to my Speaker, Corey Johnson.
17 Thank you to Jason Goldman, taking all my tests and
18 giving me calls. Thank you Women's Caucus, all of my
19 love. Vanessa, Debbie, thank you for holding my hand
20 virtually. Thank you, Daneek and Donovan. You
21 already know what you are to me and what you've been
22 to me through this process and through this
23 experience. To all the hands that reached out to me,
24 council staff, Public Advocate Jumaane Wilson,
25 Williams, I'm sorry. Admin on the mayor's side, my

2 constituents, goodness, my colleagues in government,
3 my amazing Team Adams, Jamal Wilkerson, Stacy
4 Yearwood, Kate Mooney, Ty Hankerson, Brendon Jackson,
5 Shafina Botch, and Shanile Reilly. I thank you all
6 for embracing me as your member and loving me as much
7 as you do. Thank you, colleagues. You are my
8 backbone, as my dad was the backbone of St. Mark's
9 AME Church in Jackson Heights, that district led by
10 Council Member Moya. These are such extraordinary
11 times, colleagues. But then again, so was my dad.
12 Thank you, love you.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That was really
14 beautiful, Adrienne. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
16 Council Member Adams. Ah, that was a beautiful
17 tribute. Ah, I never knew your dad, ah, but I know
18 you and I know that's the biggest testament to who he
19 was. Um, and as I said, um, you know, having lost my
20 dad it doesn't get better, as they say, but you learn
21 to live in a new reality. Ah, my dad's birthday just
22 passed and I want to tell you what [inaudible] told
23 me, ah, with prayers of peace and comfort, ah, may
24 your ancestor speak to your sole. Ah, do we have
25 anyone else signed up?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: We do, Mr. Public
3 Advocate. Ah, we're gonna have Council Member
4 Gibson.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
6 Gibson.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Ah, thank you so
9 much, and Council Member Adams, my sister, I love you
10 so much and I, too, have lost my dad and I know that
11 each day it gets better because your dad's assignment
12 on Earth was complete and he now begins his new
13 assignment in our heavenly, heavenly gates of our
14 fathers. So I love you and I continue to pray for
15 you. Ah, thank you, Public Advocate and Speaker and
16 all of my colleagues and I, too, want to add my voice
17 to everyone that really continues to express
18 condolences and prayers to everyone who's been
19 affected by COVID-19, the 21,000-plus New Yorkers
20 we've lost, those that remain on the road to
21 recovery, ah, and certainly Public Advocate and
22 others, ah, we are pained, we are pained. As African
23 American men and women, when we see what has happened
24 to our brother, George Floyd, it is heartbreaking.
25 It is a painful reminder of the racist society we

2 continue to live in and that for too many of our
3 black brothers and sisters being black in America is
4 a death sentence. It is painful to watch this man
5 talk about not being able to breathe and having a
6 police officer's knee in his neck. Ah, we have to do
7 better as a society, as a country, and I look forward
8 to working with all of you on a local level to make
9 sure that we continue to build relationships. It is
10 unacceptable that for some reason in this world black
11 people are a threat to some and that should never be
12 the case. Those are our brothers and sisters and we
13 have to continue to protect them and lift them up.
14 So I pray for the Floyd family, ah, for his sisters
15 and so many relatives that are mourning during this
16 time. Um, I want to call my colleagues' attention to
17 two pieces of legislation that I've intro'd today,
18 the first being Intro 1951, which would require the
19 Department of Youth and Community Development to
20 develop and disseminate information on guidance for
21 youth and family regarding youth online activity...

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Ah, in this COVID
24 world we want to make sure that our youth have access
25 to more programs, so I ask all of you to join me on

2 that. And the second bill is Intro 1952 that relates
3 to a COVID tracking expenditure that I've intro'd
4 with Council Member Treyger. Thank you so much,
5 colleagues.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate,
8 point of parliamentary procedure.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you very
10 much. Ah, we have to go back and...

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Public Advocate.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Yes?

13 [inaudible]

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Ah, first, Council
15 Members Rodriguez and Barron, ah, we see that your
16 hands are raised on Zoom and we're gonna lower them.
17 Ah, you are on the list for general discussion. Ah,
18 Mr. Public Advocate, we need to go back to
19 Resolutions to make sure that the correct text of
20 Council Member Miller's is read into the record and
21 that we vote on the correct text.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

23 Ah, so we're going back to the resolutions portion.
24 Resolution number 1062, calling for the salaries of
25 New York City emergency medical service personnel to

2 be comparable to New York City's firefighters and
3 police officers. We will have a voice vote on this
4 resolution. If you wish to vote against or abstain
5 for today's resolution please notify the Legislative
6 Documents Unit. Um, I just want to clarify that this
7 is, ah, 1062-A or 1062, I just want to make sure we
8 get it right.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN: 1062-A.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you. So
11 we'll be voting on 1062-A. Will all those in favor
12 say aye?

13 MEMBERS' RESPONSE: Aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Any
15 abstentions? Shockingly, once again, just by a
16 little, the ayes have it.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: OK, Mr. Public
18 Advocate, we will now move back to general discussion
19 and we will hear from Council Members Louis, Barron,
20 and Rivera.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
22 Rodriguez.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I
25 would like to ask my colleagues to please join us

2 tomorrow in a rally that we have at 138 and Broadway,
3 together with Council Member Levine, [inaudible] our
4 sister, Congressman [inaudible] and other in an
5 effort to save Pizzas Olga. Olga is an icon in the
6 community as a pizzeria that unfortunately is taking
7 the risk to be closed. So one thing that we would
8 like to be sure that we throw all the support to
9 them, and again, one more time, a reminder that we
10 should and we must pass the Small Business Job
11 Survival Act. In the last couple of days I had gave
12 some new language to the start to be sure that the
13 legislation that will bring [inaudible] to the small
14 business when they sign and renew the lease it's only
15 to be applied above 96th Street in some areas,
16 especially in the Council Member Carlina Rivera. So
17 hopefully the, the [inaudible] order they can sit
18 with us and pass this bill. The second thing that I
19 would like to invite everyone is to look at the bill
20 that I submitted today when I hold a press conference
21 with a gold medal or Lincoln winner, Ms. Prescott,
22 who stand with us today in an effort to push the City
23 of New York to work passing the bill that I
24 introduced, which is to create this New York City
25 Sport Department. The coronavirus showed the true

2 new city, the poor and the rich. Sports have to be
3 seen from the point of equity, poor, black, Latino,
4 and Asian. They don't have the same opportunity and
5 path through sports. And the bill that I introduced
6 today, again, will create the sport, the New York
7 City Sport Department, already been supported by
8 Amanda from [inaudible] New York, Ken Baksiva from
9 [inaudible] New York, from Michael Front, the Hopes
10 in Sailing, and hundreds of other baseball,
11 basketball, and all the sport discipline that believe
12 that the City of New York should have the sport
13 department to bring [inaudible] legislation to
14 support sport activities.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
18 Council Member, and just to, ah, correct the lineup,
19 we have next, ah, Council Member Louis, Council
20 Member Barron.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Angus, baby, I'm gonna put
22 Sissy in her bed, OK? OK my love?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Someone needs
24 to be on mute. All right. Council Member Louis.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Council
3 Member, ah, Adams, for sharing your dad with us and,
4 um, my continued prayers with you and your family.
5 Thank you so much for sharing that. Thank you, ah,
6 Speaker Johnson, for your continued leadership.
7 Thank you, ah, Mr. Public Advocate. But today I'm
8 introducing two pieces of critical pieces, two
9 critical pieces of legislation, the first one a
10 resolution, 1324, calling on the DOE to partner with
11 nonprofit organizations to provide pro bono legal
12 assistance at schools to help families with housing
13 issues. Um, we've seen positive effects of
14 partnerships between the DOE, um, and nonprofits in
15 the past. Um, expanding food access, health, and
16 social services, so adding housing to the list is the
17 most we can do for students here in New York City.
18 The second bill is Intro 1953, which would be a Local
19 Law to mandate the NYPD to report on its public
20 health enforcement. In the past few weeks we've
21 witnessed a string of high-profile encounters with
22 NYPD, exposing injustices along racial lines, um,
23 regarding black and brown people. Um, and it's now
24 coupled with racial disparities with enforcement on
25 public health orders so the NYPD has a responsibility

2 to be transparent in regards to how they're
3 implementing, um, enforcement and social distancing
4 enforcement and we need that data in order to
5 continue to [inaudible] at the council. Um, and I
6 also want to thank my cosponsors, Council Member
7 Rivera and Salamanca for your support, and thank you,
8 Speaker Johnson.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Ah, thank you
10 Council Member, ah, particularly for that, that last
11 bill. Ah, it's sad that we have to mandate the NYPD
12 report [inaudible]. My office has asked for some of
13 that data. We still don't have it. Ah, so I'm glad
14 to see your leadership and I hope the council pushes
15 forward with that. Ah, Council Member Barron and
16 Council Member Rivera.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Um,
19 my prayers and condolences go to all of those who
20 have suffered losses and particularly to my sister,
21 Adrienne. We're keeping you in our prayers and we
22 just believe that this is going to continue to
23 strengthen you. You have a great legacy that you'll
24 be continuing, and hold onto your faith. Don't let
25 go of your faith. Secondly, this, ah, pandemic adds

2 to those events that have highlighted the
3 institutionalized racism that pervades our system in
4 this country and is in the United States structural
5 DNA. Dr. Martin Luther King said, ah, of all the
6 forms of injustice and inequity, injustice in health
7 care is the most egregious. He didn't say egregious,
8 is the most shocking and inhumane because it often
9 results in death. So now we know that there's a
10 phrase we're all in this together. But we're not all
11 in the same boat. Some people are in ocean liners.
12 Some people are in yachts that have protection from
13 their taxes by the state. Some people are in
14 rowboats, and unfortunately there are some who just
15 have life jackets. And until we talk about not just
16 the underlying health conditions, but the underlying
17 physical conditions that we are facing we are going
18 to continue to be in this situation of inequities in
19 health, education, hunger, access to food,
20 employment, and even, ah, able to get jobs in this
21 area of homelessness and mass incarceration. So what
22 I want say that when we get through this and come
23 back to our ports we've got to do things differently.
24 We can't have a paternalistic policy of other folks
25 telling black and brown people what it is they need

2 and how they should get it. We can't have other
3 people telling our children take this and then you'll
4 be able to get this going into specialized high
5 schools when we've seen...

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...this
8 [inaudible] that that does not work. We can't have
9 police killing us and getting away with murder.
10 We've got to look at a, an elected civilian review
11 board that will have the power to impose the
12 sanctions that are appropriate. And I said we got to
13 look in this budget to maintain funding for CUNY, for
14 the [inaudible], for those are the programs that are
15 going to get people coming out on the other end an
16 opportunity to do better. Thank you very much.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 Council Member Rivera.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
21 much, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Public Advocate, echoing all
22 of my colleagues in terms of how we move forward
23 equitably, and to Adrienne, thank you for what you
24 said. I think you really moved us all in realizing
25 what we've lost. So thank you for the time. To all

2 of my colleagues congrats on the passing of your
3 bills today, and to Council Member Reynoso, I have to
4 thank you for your leadership on supporting our New
5 York City businesses while better utilizing our
6 public space. I've seen you fight for our
7 restaurants and the Cuchifritos spots around
8 [inaudible] specifically and for the many, many
9 workers that they employ. So thank you very, very
10 much. I want to bring attention to a resolution I'm
11 introducing today calling for the state to issue
12 clear guidelines to ensure the New York, that New
13 York hospitals' patient's bill of rights applies to
14 all hospitals, including temporary emergency and
15 field locations. COVID-19 has severely impacted us
16 and stretched the resources of New York hospitals and
17 healthcare providers. Throughout this crisis we saw
18 hospitals overwhelmed with fewer and fewer beds
19 available as the pandemic continued, resulting in
20 coordination at the city, state, and federal levels
21 to create publicly operated and privately operated
22 temporary sites in our city. And though the intent
23 was and always is to save the lives of our fellow New
24 Yorkers, field hospital operators like Samaritan's
25 Purse unnecessarily incited concerns that patients

2 may receive biased or unfair treatment in their 68-
3 bed emergency field hospital in Central Park that
4 closed earlier this money. This organization led by
5 Franklin Graham, who has a history of promoting
6 homophobic and transphobic biases and has called
7 LGBTQ community immoral and detestable was requiring
8 its volunteers to agree to a written affirmation that
9 marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male
10 and one genetic female. This is not only morally
11 wrong but reflective of bigotry that has no place in
12 our city or our healthcare system...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [inaudible] must
15 guarantee patient rights, regardless of who they are,
16 who they love, who they worship. So I ask that you
17 join me as we approach Pride Month and we honor the
18 legacy of pioneers like Larry Kramer and all those
19 who have fought against injustice in medicine to sign
20 on to this resolution. Thank you so much.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
22 Council Member. Do we have anyone else signed up?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: We do, Mr.
24 Public Advocate. We have four last members, Council
25

2 Members Richards, Cornegy, Treyger, and Majority
3 Leader Cumbo.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.
5 Council Member Richards.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you,
8 Public Advocate, and say their name, Gregory, Gregory
9 Floyd, Amid Aubrey, Riana Taylor, and so many others
10 that we've lost, ah, to senseless violence and
11 racism, ah, right here in our country, even dying of
12 pandemic, um, so may we continue to carry out not
13 just in orders but in deeds, by policy and budget,
14 um, and continue to say proudly that black lives
15 matter. Today I would like to introduce my, ah, urge
16 my colleagues to sign onto my bill that requires the
17 Department of Small Business Services to report by
18 borough on the allocations of loans and grants issued
19 and received by small businesses impacted by COVID-
20 19. Um, when you look at the stats of where SBS put
21 their financial assistance you'll see Manhattan has
22 received by far the highest percentage of loans and
23 grants, 66%, in Queens we received 9:00 p.m., Staten
24 Island received 5%, Brooklyn 18%, and the Bronx only
25 1%. And even as we recognize that Manhattan is the

2 economic engine of our city, it's important to
3 remember that the outer boroughs like Queens are the
4 oil that keeps the engine running. I would like to
5 take a moment to emphasize that the big roles our
6 small businesses play are key to thriving
7 neighborhoods and economic security across the five
8 boroughs. So I'm urging my colleagues to sign on.
9 We need to make sure, as I start to see too many
10 rental signs propping up, popping up in my
11 neighborhood that SBS is delving out those resources
12 in an equitable fashion, ah, so that we can get
13 people back to work as well and ensure that we can
14 protect, ah, our financial stability right here, ah,
15 especially in black and brown communities, ah, to
16 address many of the plights that our communities
17 already are facing, even through the pandemic. So
18 with that being said, I urge all to sign on.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

20 Council Member Cornegy, followed by Council Member
21 Treyger, and Majority Leader Cumbo.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you,
24 Public Advocate Williams. Um, this is a very
25 difficult conversation for me to have with my

2 colleagues. Um, I want to thank those colleagues
3 that are not of color who have spoken out against
4 what they've witnessed. Um, but that black man that
5 they talk about every single day is me. As a father
6 of six, four black boys, um, it is very difficult for
7 me to witness and [inaudible] um, when I know that
8 we're suffering from post, post-traumatic stress
9 disorder as, as blacks in this country, when we know
10 that what we saw, ah, mirrors, ah, the murder of
11 Emmett Till and how a white woman accused him of
12 whistling at her and later, decades later, on her
13 deathbed recanted her story, and said that it was a
14 lie. So we know that, ah, the law enforcement has
15 been weaponized against the black man for so long,
16 and to witness this again, in this era, in this time
17 period, is a hundred percent post-traumatic stress
18 disorder. So when you see, ah, black men like myself
19 who are in leadership with you, ah, please understand
20 that there is, um, a stress and anxiety that's put
21 upon us that makes it almost impossible to lead
22 effectively. But some of us show up every single day
23 regardless of that, knowing that it's important for
24 us to be present and accounted for, even in these

2 difficult times. So I want to thank my colleagues
3 [inaudible].

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member
5 Cornegy, we lost you. Is Council Member Cornegy
6 still there? Well, um, when we get Council Member
7 Cornegy back can we give him another 45 seconds to
8 finish his statement, so if someone could just let me
9 know when he gets back on, and we'll go to Council
10 Member Treyger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
12 Public Advocate. I want to...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
15 Public Advocate. I want to turn my colleagues'
16 attention, ah, to Intro 1952. I'm proud to work with
17 my colleague, Council Member Gibson, that would
18 establish a COVID-19 funding tracker bill, which will
19 create a city website that would include expenditures
20 of federal, state, and local funding to address the
21 pandemic, including grants, loans, and city
22 contracts. Ah, I want to point out that in the early
23 parts of this pandemic we already saw gross
24 inequities in how they added even hospital space.
25 The Javits Center, Manhattan, the Comfort docked by

2 Manhattan, all of the added hospitals tents, Central
3 Park, Manhattan. We had to fight like hell for
4 hospital space for testing. And so this is another
5 lesson that we also have to apply from Superstorm
6 Sandy when we learned that a lot of the spending to
7 help our communities was not reaching initially the
8 hardest hit areas. So we have to make sure that all
9 of these precious resources are reaching the hardest
10 hit communities that I represent as well. Coney
11 Island actually has the fifth highest death rate per
12 capita in the entire City of New York. We are not
13 just about the Wonder Wheel. We're not just about a
14 beach. People live here. People died. We lost so,
15 we lost lives here in this community and we have to
16 make sure neighborhoods like mine and many of my
17 other colleagues' neighborhoods which were hard hit
18 see the resources they deserve to help their
19 residents. I ask my colleagues for their support.
20 Thank you, Public Advocate.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

22 We're gonna have Council Member, sorry, Majority
23 Leader Cumbo, ah, Council Member Koslowitz. Majority
24 Leader?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm waiting for
3 him to say time now.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
6 much, Public Advocate. I'm devastated, angry, and
7 conflicted. The killing of black men and women is
8 the most important issue facing this country, period.
9 This is not an issue that we can continue to think or
10 believe that because I am not black this does not
11 affect me. One only need look at the uprisings in
12 Minneapolis over the killing of George Floyd to see
13 that the entire city, that entire city, is going to
14 be impacted over this tragic death and rightfully so.
15 I, like so many other black elected officials thought
16 if I got elected as a black woman to the New York
17 City Council I could do something to end the assault
18 and killing of black people. I thought if we
19 protested peacefully, shut down bridges, boycotted,
20 traveled to D.C. en masse for marches we could do
21 something to end the assault of black people. We've
22 done sit-ins, die-ins, made T-shirts, signs, wrote op
23 eds, press conferences, flooded social media with
24 videos. This is my third I can't breathe T-shirt and
25 I can't watch another video while being shut in and

2 be a loving, caring, and nurturing mom to a 2-year-
3 old during this pandemic. I thought being at the
4 table with law enforcement, commissioners, and
5 administrators that we could have a meeting of the
6 minds to end the assault and killing of black people.
7 What we are seeing in the burning of Minneapolis are
8 people who feel they have no more hope, trust, or
9 faith in this criminal justice system or country and
10 have taken matters into their own hands. The
11 potential of America is great, but I believe we are
12 destroying the promise of America and doing
13 irrevocable damage to the people that our children
14 and children's children will inherit. Black history
15 for our children is now learning about the name of
16 the most recent black man or woman to be killed at
17 the hands of law enforcement. As a black mom of a
18 black son I am over the moon and overjoyed when
19 people tell me how cute and adorable and funny they
20 think my son is. And I wonder what will happen when
21 he is no longer considered adorable and considered a
22 threat to society. When will...

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: When will it
25 begin, when he is 12 years old like Tamir Rice

2 playing cops and robbers, or 14-year-old like Emmett
3 Till, just walking into a store, or 17 years old like
4 Trayvon Martin taking a walk with his Skittles and
5 hoodie. I don't know how to love my son at this
6 point. Should I not get too attached? Should I not
7 love him too deeply? Should I always prepare myself
8 for this to happen to him? And what does that life
9 look like? Dr. King said if a man has not discovered
10 something he will die for he is not fit to live. And
11 I will close on that. We need to do something in
12 this country. And if we do not it is going to be the
13 demise of the entire country. Thank you, Public
14 Advocate.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you so
16 much, Majority Leader. Ah, we have Council Member
17 Koslowitz.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you.
20 Thank you. I wore a hoodie in protest when Trayvon
21 was killed. I lied on the ground in front of City
22 Hall when Eric Garner was killed. And I will do
23 anything. I am outraged at the killing of George
24 Floyd. This has to stop. Police are supposed to
25 protect us, not kill us. And my, my heart goes out

2 to my fellow colleagues of the black and Latino
3 community. I'm with you. I will do anything it
4 takes to help you pass the word of how you feel. I
5 also want to, ah, condemn Amy Cooper for what she
6 did. I think it was disgusting. I think it was
7 outrageous and shame on her, and she deserves
8 whatever punishment she gets. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
10 Council Member. Do we have anyone else not signed
11 up?

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Mr. Public
13 Advocate.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.
15 Um, I want to take a second myself. Um, first, ah,
16 the revelation that everyone passed, ah, legislation,
17 today. This has been, it's been a very rough time
18 and I just want folks, and I, I appreciate the allies
19 who spoke, ah, on the issues. But I want people to
20 really understand how difficult this is, and just
21 trying to get through COVID and see the disparities
22 that happened there, the disparities that didn't have
23 to happen to the black and brown communities. To
24 then have the police respond to those same
25 communities, to then see Aubrey Ahmed, to see, ah,

2 Ahmed Aubrey, not have justice for Brion Taylor, then
3 to see George Floyd. It's a lot. And I thank my
4 colleagues for standing up and saying that it's a
5 lot. And yesterday I said that I'm not OK and we're
6 not OK, and very often we do not have the space to
7 say that. We have to continue to go to work. I
8 especially want to shout out the black women who
9 spoke today. They in particular, ah, don't have
10 spaces in work to speak. Because when they do
11 they're viewed as angry black women. And I want
12 folks to see how interconnected what Amy Cooper did
13 is with George Floyd. So it is not enough for us to
14 speak about it. We have to make change. Everybody
15 knows someone who was killed or heard a story killed
16 by police. If you ask and talk to any one of the
17 black women here they'll probably tell you of a woman
18 like Amy Cooper who got somebody they know fired.
19 These are real stories that we have to deal with.
20 Someone texted me yesterday, I'm so sorry, I pray for
21 you, please do not allow others to get you sick, and
22 then her last words were very, very strong for me. I
23 have never been OK since I learned there was a
24 difference between them and me. And that's something
25 all of have to learn at some point. And how we deal

2 with that every single day for our entire lives is a
3 drip, drip, drip, drip that creates a bucket. And I
4 remember my first [inaudible], I was in a shoe store,
5 a Florsheim, a young, young kid, with my mom, and I
6 remember a young white, young kid, boy, he was
7 younger than me, he pointed and said he's stupid,
8 right, Mommy? And I, I didn't do the math, I didn't
9 quite understand. But I remember my mother looking
10 at another black woman who was there and telling
11 don't worry, he understands what's happening, about
12 me. And I didn't until she said that. But then it
13 struck me, and I understand fully. And I remember as
14 a teenager trying to ask people for the time and they
15 clutch their purse. These are things that many folks
16 do not have the ability to speak about, or they're
17 told why are you always bringing up the race card?
18 Slavery was a long time ago. It is hard. This is a
19 hard time. There's a lot to do. This virus does not
20 discriminate. So I lift up and continue to lift up
21 the voices and the stories of everyone and every
22 socioeconomic sphere who is hurting right now. But
23 our responses and our policies do discriminate and
24 has allowed black and brown communities to hurt
25 disproportionately. And then to have to deal with

2 this. And then to see the highest-ranking black
3 police officer, a deputy commissioner, say we have
4 bigger fish to fry. I was stunned. This is from the
5 NYPD that routinely tells us that there is no
6 discriminatory, discriminatory, ah, discriminatory
7 policing, that there is no racism in the policing.
8 We cannot fix the problem if we do not talk about
9 what it is. So I'm asking this council as we have a
10 budget coming up in June to remember what is
11 happening and how we got here. And to push back on
12 some of things that the mayor's doing and make sure
13 that our budget reflects all of the things that were
14 said here today. Because what we're asking for
15 simply is equity. But I understand too fully that
16 equity is dangerous for some people and although a
17 lot of people talk about it they do not say it, ah,
18 they do not really want to. So I, I am not OK. I
19 know others are not OK. I want to give people the
20 room to say that, but it seems like the institutions
21 that allow us not to be OK, there's too many people
22 who want it to be that way. So I just want to say
23 peace and blessings to everyone. Love and light.
24 Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to speak,
25 and with that I will send it back to our Speaker,

2 Corey Johnson, who I thank for his words and for
3 leading this body to close the Stated Meeting.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Public
5 Advocate, for those incredibly moving and important
6 words that we all need hear right now. I really
7 appreciated hearing from the Majority Leader and from
8 so many colleagues who spoke today. Ah, the Stated
9 Meeting of May 28, 2020, is now recessed. Thank you
10 again very much. Stay safe. Bye-bye.

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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 June 7, 2020