

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

June 30, 2020
(continuation of Recessed Meeting)
Start: 9:36 p.m.
Recess: July 1st, 2020 at 12:34 AM

HELD AT: Remote Hearing - Virtual Room 1

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

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

Robert Holden
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

1 STATED MEETING

4

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Just give me a minute.

3 SERGEANT AT ARMS: We're good, Joanna.

4 Good evening. I ask that you please turn your
5 devices to vibrate and mute your microphones on Zoom.
6 We will begin the Stated Meeting shortly. Madam
7 Majority Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [gavel] Good
9 afternoon and welcome to the recessed Stated Meeting
10 of May 28, 2020, being held on June 18, 2020. Give
11 me one moment as I'm experiencing some technical
12 difficulty. I'll be right with you. OK. Thank you
13 for your patience. Good evening and welcome to the
14 recessed meeting of June 30, 2020. Once again, I am
15 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. It is my pleasure and
16 honor to welcome you back to this virtual meeting of
17 the New York City Council. If you would like to
18 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
19 posted on our website. Since we are resuming the
20 recessed stated meeting from earlier today, we will
21 move right into a roll call to establish quorum.
22 Roll call.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

- 2 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.
- 3 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala. Barron. Borelli.
- 4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.
- 5 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.
- 6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present.
- 7 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.
- 8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.
- 9 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.
- 10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.
- 11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.
- 12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.
- 13 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.
- 14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.
- 15 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.
- 16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
- 17 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.
- 18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.
- 19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
- 20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
- 21 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
- 22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.
- 23 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.
- 24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

1 STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Thank you,
3 Councilman. Ah, Council Member Gibson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: King.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

1 STATED MEETING

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Lewis.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel. Menchaca.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.

1 STATED MEETING

8

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm tired, but

11 I'm here.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

19 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader we

25 have a quorum.

1 STATED MEETING

9

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
3 will now have the adoption of minutes from Council
4 Member Ayala.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I make a motion
6 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 18,
7 2020, be adopted as printed.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
9 Council Member Ayala. We will now have messages and
10 papers from the mayor.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Supplemental
13 communication from city, county, and borough offices.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: M244, Board of Elections
15 appointment.

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

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
19 communications.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use callups.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
24 will now have communication from Speaker Corey
25 Johnson.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, good evening,
3 everyone. Negotiating the city's budget each year is
4 one of the most important responsibilities of the
5 City Council and one that I take very seriously. I
6 have been proud to stand with my colleagues for the
7 past two years and celebrate the victories that the
8 City Council fought for and won on behalf of the
9 people of our great city. Unfortunately, today is
10 not a day of celebration. We are not in a time of
11 celebration. It is a time of necessity. And today's
12 budget agreement is one of necessity. These budget
13 negotiations have reflected that fact. We knew how
14 important this work was to New Yorkers. Our city has
15 faced so much pain these last few months. On March 1
16 New York City confirmed our first case of COVID-19
17 and since then we have lost over 22,000 New Yorkers
18 to the coronavirus. Millions of us were confined to
19 our homes, as many New Yorkers lost their jobs or
20 watched their businesses fold, and we were left with
21 a 9 billion dollar revenue shortfall. Heart
22 wrenching impossible choices had to be made. It was
23 not easy. But collectively the council was
24 determined that even in the midst of the worst
25 financial crisis anyone had ever seen, we would do

2 our best to protect and preserve as many vital
3 programs and services as we could for New Yorkers.
4 We sought to address injustice and inequity. We
5 asked ourselves line by line does this program
6 support the social safety net? Does it address
7 systemic inequality and will it help communities hit
8 hard in the pandemic recover from both COVID and the
9 recession. It was deliberative, it was painstaking,
10 and it was difficult work. But even in the midst of
11 the worst economic crisis our city has faced in
12 decades we fought hard and we stuck to our
13 principles. The City Council's budget negotiating
14 team literally went line by line to find and save
15 programs that never should have been cut in the
16 mayor's executive budget. We fought for and managed
17 to restore summer youth employment, COMPASS, Beacon,
18 Cornerstone, summer camp, and other youth programs.
19 That means more than 35,000 young people will get job
20 training in just a couple of weeks for the summer and
21 at least 70,000 kids will go to summer camp this
22 summer. I want to, ah, I want to say we did this
23 because investing in our young people is the right
24 thing to do and there's a lot of people to thank, but
25 I especially want to thank our Majority Leader,

2 Laurie Cumbo, but even above her, and I love her,
3 Council Member Debbie Rose, the chair of our Youth
4 Services Committee, has been unbelievable, literally
5 day in and day out these last many months fighting
6 for every slot, every dollar, every detail, um, ah,
7 Debbie, you are just the best champion that youth in
8 New York City have and we wouldn't be at this
9 agreement today, honestly, if it wasn't for you and
10 the work you did with young people and advocates and
11 how you pushed us and the administration to do more.
12 So I want to thank you, Debbie, for everything you've
13 done. We also restored social workers and guidance
14 counselors to our schools, including the Single
15 Shepherd Guidance Counselor Program, which was
16 completely zeroed out in the city's budget, in the
17 executive budget. And I'm especially proud that we
18 fought for and won 100 million dollars in restoration
19 for Fair Student Funding, schools that need this
20 money. It was zeroed out in the mayor's executive
21 budget. We restored it 100 million dollars. That
22 will keep school budgets whole at possibly the worst
23 and most challenge time in our city's history for
24 educators, parents, and students. And I will not try
25 to begin to describe what our BNT meetings have been

2 like these last many weeks and months. But Mark
3 Treyger, ah, is really a hero, a hero for school
4 children in New York City, fighting tooth and nail
5 for Fair Student Funding, fighting tooth and nail for
6 the Single Shepherd Program, which doesn't even
7 affect his district, but affects children in central
8 Brooklyn and the South Bronx, fighting tooth and nail
9 for every education dollar we could come up with, not
10 cutting classrooms or teachers, but actually finding
11 savings in bus contracts and in, ah, regional offices
12 and other things that we knew wouldn't affect, ah,
13 school classrooms. Mark was there every step of the
14 way fighting, haggling, cajoling, screaming, ah, in
15 behalf of the children in New York City, and so I
16 want to thank you, Mark Treyger, for your leadership.
17 You helped get us to this point tonight. The council
18 also successfully fought to bolster our food pantry
19 funding. Food insecurity is a problem even in our
20 times when our economy is strong. We have been
21 through hell with COVID-19 and we know that more
22 people than ever need help putting food on the table
23 and I want to thank Council Members Levin and
24 Grodenchik who have been fighting on these issues for
25 food access for years. There is so much that we

2 fought for and won that will help the city in this
3 difficult time. I could literally go on and on.

4 Restoring money for FairFutures, for foster youth, so
5 that they have mentors and coaches, fully restoring
6 the CUNY ASAP program. The mayor's budget sought to
7 cut it by over 30 million dollars. We fully restored
8 CUNY ASAP, 100% restoration of the CUNY ASAP program.

9 Libraries, we fought like hell to get libraries

10 funded. Domestic violence programs, ah, our

11 initiatives through domestic violence, for sexual

12 violence, saw no cuts, zero cuts on DOV money, zero

13 cuts on the groups that help survivors. No cuts

14 there. Margaret Chin, I can't begin to describe her

15 advocacy for seniors, and there are some small cuts,

16 but we were surgical, we were thoughtful in how we

17 got there. We trimmed away things that we thought we

18 could go without for the next year, and Margaret was

19 fighting every step of the way for older adults in

20 New York City. She was one of the most fantastic

21 members of the budget negotiating team. I'm

22 enormously grateful for her, for her friendship, um,

23 and Margaret, we are really grateful for you.

24 Housing programs, we restored a lot of money that was

25 cut in housing programs. There's still cuts that we

2 don't like to HPD, especially on the capital side and
3 some other things. But our chair, Robert Cornegy,
4 and Council Member Carlina Rivera were insistent in
5 the budget negotiating team of protecting as many of
6 these programs as possible, given that we know that
7 New Yorkers are in a precarious situation in the
8 coming months when the eviction moratorium might be
9 up. That's why we need this federal help from
10 Washington. These programs are programs that we have
11 spent years building up in the council and they are
12 programs we need right now to help us move forward
13 from COVID. We did not get the help that we needed
14 from the feds. They haven't come through. We didn't
15 get help from the state. They actually cut us. Ah,
16 so this has been an enormously challenging situation.
17 In addition to dealing with the fallout from COVID-19
18 from our economy being in freefall. This budget was
19 also negotiated while our city and our nation were
20 dealing with the ramifications of another deadly
21 disease, racism, generations and centuries of racism.
22 On March 13 Breonna Taylor was unarmed when she was
23 killed by police officers in her own home in
24 Louisville, Kentucky. On March 18 Stephon Clark was
25 unarmed when he was killed by police officers in his

2 grandmother's back yard in Sacramento, California.

3 And on March 25 George Floyd was unarmed when he was
4 killed, murdered by an officer kneeling on his neck
5 for 8 minutes and 46 seconds while George Floyd
6 begged for his life, yelling out for his mother.

7 That is just a small number of the people that have
8 been killed, unarmed black people killed by police
9 officers over the last many months and year.

10 Millions of Americans of all races took to the
11 streets and demanded a change to a system of policing
12 that overwhelming targets black and brown people.

13 Many of my colleagues and I joined in some of these
14 protests and were inspired by them. It is no secret
15 that I was in favor of at least a billion dollars in
16 spending cuts from the NYPD. This budget does not
17 include that level of cut for the NYPD. It contains
18 an agreement to make some transformative changes at
19 the department, though. We're taking school safety
20 out of the NYPD, undoing a disruptive policy put in
21 place by then-mayor Rudy Guiliani, and we want to
22 move it towards a community model, a model that talks
23 with students and teachers and principals and parents
24 and labor, a model that's about restorative justice,
25 not about arresting our young people, not about

2 having agents with handcuffs. We're removing the
3 NYPD from homeless outreach. We're reducing the head
4 count by well over a thousand officers to create
5 ongoing savings. These are real changes and I stand
6 by what we were able to accomplish. To everyone who
7 is disappointed, I know that there are many, many
8 people who are disappointed that we could not go
9 further. I'm disappointed as well. I wanted us to
10 go deeper. I wanted us to take larger head count
11 reductions. I wanted a true hiring freeze. I wanted
12 us to cancel additional classes. But this is a
13 budget process that involves the mayor, who would not
14 budge on these items, and 49 other council members
15 currently, many of whom were not as supportive of the
16 one billion dollars and the kind of cuts that some of
17 us were pushing for. This was an unprecedented
18 budget and there were many things that we had to
19 protect. But I am proud of the changes that we
20 secured, especially given the challenges we faced,
21 given the 9 billion dollar revenue shortfall. I do
22 wish we had done more to cut the NYPD. But I also
23 know this fight is not finished. This is the
24 beginning. It was and is one of the honors of my
25 life to work with my colleagues in the City Council

2 for the city that I love. We are going to reimagine
3 policing in New York City and we're not gonna stop
4 until we get there. I believe that we can rise to
5 the great challenge of our time and create the kind
6 of city we know New York can be, a just city, one
7 that recognizes our past and fights like hell for a
8 better, more equitable future, a New York that ends
9 police brutality, school segregation, and housing
10 discrimination, a New York that protects our most
11 vulnerable and picks up our sisters and brothers who
12 have fallen. That's the city I want. That's the New
13 York that I believe in. So let's build it together.
14 I will end by saying this has been a hard process.
15 It's been a challenge for me to try to reach
16 consensus. I have done my best. My best may not be
17 enough for many New Yorkers. My best may not be
18 enough for many council members. But I really do
19 want you to know, New Yorkers who are listening,
20 members that are on this call tonight, I did my best
21 to reach consensus from what the budget negotiating
22 team wanted, from what other members were comfortable
23 with, and having a mayor that wouldn't budget on the
24 additional cuts. We fought like hell to restore
25 these programs. He wanted to wipe out education

2 dollars, CUNY dollars, human and social services,
3 Single Shepherd, and the list goes on. We got those
4 programs restored. In the executive budget they were
5 at zero, zero, and the only reason why they are being
6 restored tonight is because of this body, is because
7 of us coming together to fight those cuts. So there
8 is a lot more work to do. We need help from the
9 federal government. We need the billions of dollars
10 in revenue replacement to get our city back on track.
11 We need help from Albany. I believe we should raise
12 taxes on the rich to create more revenue. And we
13 need help from them on changing abusive policing as
14 well. I wish we could go in and just fire cops right
15 now that have a bad CCRB history, that should not be
16 cops. But we cannot do that at this moment. We need
17 changes at the state level to enable us to do that.
18 We have an outdated, broken disciplinary system. We
19 need to get rid of qualified immunity at the federal
20 level. There's a lot we need to do. So I know
21 tonight is the beginning, not the end. And I want
22 you all to know that I look forward to standing with
23 you as we push further, as we try to do better. I
24 commit myself to doing that. And the last thing that
25 I want to say before I turn it back to the Majority

2 Leader, I am really grateful, really grateful, more
3 than I can describe, to every single black member of
4 the City Council who have stepped up, not even just
5 since George Floyd were murdered. They were having
6 these conversations and pushing these things before
7 George Floyd was murdered. This conversation didn't
8 start when George Floyd was murdered. And over the
9 last many weeks, over the last five weeks, since that
10 murder in Minneapolis, our black colleagues have
11 inspired me. They have taught me a lot. I am really
12 grateful for the leadership of the BLAC under Chairs
13 Daneek Miller and Adrienne Adams. I am really
14 grateful that we have been able to listen to our
15 black colleagues on what is important to them, and to
16 not get out in front of them, to not pretend like we
17 know better than them, to not act like I know what's
18 best for them and their constituents. So I am
19 tremendously grateful for each and every one of them,
20 not just for the work we've done during this budget,
21 but the work that they do year-round that many people
22 don't know about. I want to continue to work with
23 them, learn from them, listen to them, let them lead,
24 step aside sometimes so they can be the ones doing
25 that, because that is what this is about for me,

2 listening to them. So I want to thank you all.
3 Tonight's budget is not an easy budget. There are a
4 lot of people who are not going to be happy. But I
5 do believe we did the best we could, and I'm asking
6 you all to support this budget because I do think it
7 is the best we could do given the circumstances that
8 we're in right now. Thank you very much. With that,
9 Madam Majority Leader, I turn it back to you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
11 Speaker Corey Johnson, for your leadership, for
12 recognize the importance of consensus building, of
13 hearing us out, for coming up with the best proposal
14 and plan that you possibly could, given all of the
15 dynamics of a very diverse body of 51 members of all
16 races, nationalities, and religions. We appreciate
17 your leadership and for hearing us. We will now move
18 into discussion of general orders. If you wish to
19 speak please use the raise hand function in Zoom. Or
20 you can hold your comments to your vote in the
21 upcoming moments. I will ask the parliamentarian are
22 there any members that wish to speak now during
23 discussion of general orders, or will we be able to
24 go right into the vote?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
3 the first three council members who wish to speak are
4 Council Member Dromm, Council Member Richards, and
5 Council Member Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I'll, I'll save
7 my remarks for, ah, the vote. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
9 Dromm.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I will also save
12 my remarks till, ah, the vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
14 Koo.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I'll save it to the
17 vote.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you very
19 much, Council Member Koo. Ah, Parliamentarian, are
20 there any additional members that wish to speak at
21 this time or they will be holding their votes for
22 the, their remarks for the vote?

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Members Barron,
24 Lancman, and Van Bramer.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
3 Barron. Council Member Barron, you are still muted.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Barron,
5 are you there?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [inaudible] now?

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, now we can hear
8 you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We can hear you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: OK, thank you.

11 Since my remarks were long, I'll split them into half
12 now and half to explain my vote. First, I want to
13 acknowledge the work of the finance staff under the
14 direction of Latonya McKinney. And second, I want to
15 thank the members of the budget negotiating team for
16 their participation in a very arduous task, and
17 thanks for delivering to BNT the concerns that were
18 expressed in our delegation meetings. And the
19 restorations which were achieved reflect the
20 persistence of council members to push the
21 administration to fund council initiatives and
22 programs, proving [inaudible] services in various
23 areas, including youth, public school students,
24 students at CUNY's ASAP programs, and other vital
25 services. And just as an aside, it still remains for

2 the governor and the CUNY board of trustees to
3 reverse their vote to increase tuition and fees for
4 CUNY students. And as has been said, in March the
5 city began its response to the novel coronavirus,
6 COVID-19. New York City came to a standstill
7 literally overnight and the city transformed the norm
8 to how the society functioned, social distance and
9 remote learning, virtual conferences, food
10 deliveries, face masks, gloves, constant
11 disinfecting, frequent handwashing, and the
12 devastating consequences caused by COVID-19 made
13 reasonable people, analytical and informed people,
14 have a quick adaptation. And in my second half I'm
15 gonna talk about how the council needs to make just
16 as quick an adaptation to the, to the situation
17 regarding the police. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Barron. Parliamentarian, the next
20 speaker.

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Members
22 Lancman, Van Bramer, and Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Sorry, I meant
24 to save my remarks for when I vote thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Lancman. Council Member Van Bramer,
4 followed by Council Member Rose.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
7 very much. Millions have been marching all across
8 the world demanding an end to police brutality
9 because black lives matter. We must meet this moment
10 in history. The people have demanded a real one
11 billion dollar cut to the NYPD, but also a
12 reimagining of public safety in this city. Sadly,
13 the most historic part of this budget is how badly it
14 manages to meet the moment. The people have spoken
15 through marches and rallies and by occupying City
16 Hall. We must listen to the people we work for.
17 That is our job. We must hear the cries from the
18 streets and respond. The budget does not really
19 defund the NYPD by one billion dollars. Over 350
20 million dollars of the cut is through overtime
21 reduction goals that we know from history is merely a
22 suggestion, because the NYPD is able to blow through
23 these overtime numbers. We should have eliminated
24 cadet classes and actively reduced the head count.
25 Moving NYPD to DOE is a good start, but it's gonna

2 take two years and too long. I'm also disheartened
3 that too many people, too many elected officials
4 don't believe that cultural programs have the ability
5 to save lives, particularly in black and brown
6 communities that have been underserved by the arts,
7 and particularly arts in education. This budget cuts
8 arts in classrooms by 15 million dollars. A society
9 that fails to appreciate the role of education,
10 culture, the arts, and libraries in any battle for a
11 more just society is doomed to fail, and it's for
12 those reasons that I'm voting no on this budget.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
14 Rose.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
17 Rose, you need to unmute yourself.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: OK. We have been
19 working around the clock to negotiate a budget like
20 none that we've ever negotiated before. I want to
21 start by thanking Speaker Johnson for his leadership,
22 for his vision and his support in getting us through
23 these crises, and to a point where we have negotiated
24 an on-time budget that impacts our most vulnerable
25 communities and restores cuts to the social safety

2 net. Today's budget is a small but important step
3 forward, significant in that this is the first time
4 that funds have been taken from the NYPD budget to
5 provide programs that empower youth, not imprison
6 youth. I have said throughout this fight that our
7 young people do not need more policing. They need
8 support, guidance, and opportunity. And that is what
9 this budget provides. After weeks of round-the-clock
10 negotiations we have an agreement that saves the
11 Summer Youth Employment Program and other youth
12 programming that offers young people positive
13 opportunities to learn and grow to their full
14 potential. In April the mayor abruptly announced
15 that all summer youth programming would be totally
16 cut from this budget, zeroed out. We immediately
17 began to fight to reinstate them. I heard the loud,
18 strong voices of thousands of young people and spent
19 weeks negotiating a budget that restores many of
20 these cuts, not allowing our youth to be collateral
21 damage. This budget makes a direct investment in the
22 lives of 100,000 New York City youth. This adopted
23 budget restores 128.2 million dollars in youth
24 programming, 116 million in summer programming, and
25 12.2 million in council-funded initiatives,

2 specifically at least 35,000 SYEP slots were
3 restored, 2000 Work Learn Grow slots restored, and
4 70,000 summer camp slots.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I guess I'll
7 finish, um, when my...

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please continue,
9 Council Member Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, thank
11 you. Um, and these positions are afforded the
12 flexibility to allow families a personal option to
13 choose between in-person or online camp models. 12.2
14 million allotted in council-funded initiatives
15 serving youth through enriched afterschool
16 programming, work force certification programming,
17 youth mentoring, and civic-focused education
18 citywide. Other vital youth programming funded in
19 this budget includes 16.3 million to the council-
20 funded Peter Vallone Academic Scholarship, which
21 funds 25,000 students with scholarships at CUNY, 34
22 million restored to avoid the imminent cut to CUNY's
23 ASAP program, again 25,000 students given financial
24 and academic support, waivers, tuition, and
25 textbooks. 4 million in the Department of Probation

2 to support the NeON program, which will fund various
3 programs and provides slots for 2240 young people.

4 And then 600 million dollars in capital funds will be
5 now redistributed from the New York Police Department
6 and reinvested in community centers citywide

7 throughout this historic budget negotiation. This
8 budget is unlike any that we've experienced before.

9 The COVID pandemic has not only taken an immense toll
10 on the lives and livelihoods of New Yorkers, but also
11 on the services our city can provide to its

12 residents. As the city faced a 7 billion budget

13 shortfall, the fight to protect youth programs has

14 been an uphill battle, and I thank many of the young

15 people who were out there, the advocates, the

16 providers, and the protestors who raised their

17 collective voices with demands to reinstate these

18 programs. This budget is evidence that your voices

19 have been heard and you sent a powerful message to

20 every level of city government. And again I want to

21 thank Speaker Johnson for his dogged, unwavering

22 support. I want to my colleagues on the budget

23 negotiation team for never, never backing down from

24 the fight to restore youth jobs, and all of my

25 colleagues, all of my council colleagues, the City

2 Council finance team under the leadership of Latonya
3 McKinney, who is just phenomenal, with special
4 kudos to Regina Pareda Ryan, Isha Wright, and
5 Michelle Peregrine. I want to thank my council staff
6 for their work on this budget and the thousands of
7 New Yorkers, the protestors, the people who
8 relentlessly advocated for a budget that makes
9 investments where they were most needed. And I
10 encourage my, my colleagues to vote yes on this
11 budget. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
13 Council Member Rose, and thank you for the work that
14 you have done. Ah, Parliamentarian, are there
15 additional speakers at this time?

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam...

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader
18 Cumbo, um, I, I just, ah, I was totally remiss, and
19 it's just because I'm a little exhausted, um, and it
20 was, ah, it was, it was a big miss. We could not do
21 this without Latonya McKinney and the entire finance
22 division. And I am enormously grateful to Latonya,
23 to Regina Pareda Ryan, to Isha Wright, to all the
24 finance analysts, to the support staff, to everyone
25 in finance. Latonya has done many budgets. She

2 might tell you this has been the most challenging one
3 she's ever done. Um, but I'm really grateful to her,
4 ah, and I'm grateful to everything she [inaudible]
5 and I, I specifically want to thank Nevin Singh for
6 his work on the NYPD's budget. Ah, he was incredible
7 as well. So I want to thank the entire finance
8 division. Latonya, ah, I love you, ah, you know
9 that. Um, just enormously grateful for you and
10 everything you do for the council and for our city.
11 So I apologize for not saying it before. It's just a
12 matter of me being, ah, pretty tired. I haven't
13 slept much this week, and so I give it back to you,
14 Madam Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: The next three council
19 members who wish to speak are Council Members Gibson,
20 Chin, and Borelli.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
22 Gibson, you may begin.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Your time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
25 Majority Leader, and good evening, Speaker, and all

2 of my colleagues and everyone who is watching. Um,
3 as members of this body we have the challenging
4 responsibility of making tough decisions that will
5 have a long-term impact on all New Yorkers, including
6 those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We
7 started this budget process from a place of zero,
8 with the administration unwilling to fund and support
9 valuable safety net programs that have been lifelines
10 for our residents, children, and families, with no
11 federal support, a 2 million dollar cut from Albany,
12 7 billion dollar loss in sales in revenue, 9 billion
13 dollar budget deficit, no authority to borrow money,
14 this council attempted to ensure that we protected
15 workers, guidance counselors, social workers,
16 educators, many essential workers who have been on
17 the front lines during this pandemic. This has been
18 one of the most challenging budgets that we have
19 faced in one of the worst economic crises we've
20 endured in our tenures. I am thankful for all the
21 hard work and the relentless hours poured into this
22 budget, all done remotely, by the way, by our
23 speaker, Corey Johnson, our finance division, led by
24 Latonya McKinney, the entire finance team, members of
25 the budget and negotiating team. We've worked around

2 the clock, weekends, late night, through budget
3 lines, PEG restorations, one-shots, council
4 initiatives, to get to a responsible place. We did
5 exactly what we're supposed to do on behalf of New
6 Yorkers. We did not come to this place and space
7 today easily. We all care about our constituents and
8 their families. My district is one that is
9 struggling right now with the aftermath of COVID, gun
10 violence, food access, stable housing, rent-burdened
11 tenants, families who've lost their income and jobs,
12 small businesses who are closed and can't afford
13 their rent, youth in desperate need of jobs,
14 programs, and summer camps, and we are well aware of
15 many of the challenges faced every day in our
16 communities, and...

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I will continue
19 my remarks during my vote. Thank you so much, Madam
20 Majority Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
22 much. And now we will have Council Member Borelli.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Ah, thank you.
25 Tonight I'm speaking to not my colleagues, but to the

2 public, and also the people that will come around 20
3 years from now and write books about the legacy of
4 Bill de Blasio. Because today we, we know what we're
5 doing and we know that what we're doing will create a
6 more violent city, and yet we're doing it anyway.
7 We're making these cuts to appease a fraction of far-
8 left New Yorkers, and I understand the politics of
9 that. But we're also making these cuts to continue
10 this false propagation that police officers are the
11 greatest danger to the public, as though less police
12 officers will somehow make the general public safer
13 in New York City. This is what's guiding this
14 decision tonight. And, in fact, we know this will be
15 the opposite of what occurs. There will continue to
16 be more violent crimes. There will be longer
17 response times for women being victimized by domestic
18 violence. There will be more, not less, illegal guns
19 on the streets. There's less chance that no one will
20 show up as [inaudible] being robbed. There will be
21 less detectives to figure out who shot that stray
22 bullet. There will be less investigations into who
23 burglarized your home. All this because as a body
24 we've decided to compound this falsehood that police
25 officers are the cause of violence in our community.

2 We've convinced ourselves essentially that the, the
3 sky is purple. Ah, unfortunately, it's, it's not.

4 So from 2018, one of the lowest crime years on
5 record, 23 times an NYPD officer fired his weapon.

6 By comparison, there were 954 shooting incidents.

7 What is more dangerous to the public? It is this

8 one? Or is it this one? In every one of these

9 police incidents, the gun was recovered, the shooter
10 identified, and an investigation occurred.

11 Criminality was waived. In these, who knows?

12 Moreover, in 2018 95.7% of the victims, nearly 900 on
13 this side, nearly 900 people, 95% were black and

14 Hispanic. So I ask, which is the real threat to the
15 public, this one or that one? There were 72

16 shootings last week alone and not one...

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: ...[inaudible]

19 was fired by the gun of an NYPD officer. Friends,
20 you're witnessing a moment where we are

21 democratically electing to make the City of New York

22 less safe, and I won't be a passive participate as we

23 undo three decades of good work by our predecessors.

24 I will vote no, and I urge my colleagues to do the

25 same. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Borelli. We will now hear from
4 Council Member Chin.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Majority
7 Leader. You know, this is my eleventh budget on the
8 City Council. And one of the most emotional, heart
9 wrenching, toughest budget ever. But it is a budget
10 that begin to address the inequality in the city. We
11 heard the demonstrators in the street when they shout
12 black lives matter. But we gotta turn those words
13 into action and start addressing the inequity across
14 the city. Why is there violence? Because of
15 poverty. People don't have job. They live in
16 horrible condition and the government for a very long
17 time has not been addressing it. And that's why we
18 want to change that. This is unprecedented that for
19 the first time we can do something about cutting
20 dramatically in the NYPD budget. It has never
21 happened before. And turn that money to invest in
22 our youth so they have summer job training. They are
23 our future. We gotta make sure that they can go to
24 college. And we have to make sure that these
25 programs from the community organization get funded

2 and we were able to protect them. This is the
3 mission that we have to continue. We have to fight
4 against the inequality, the structural racism. We
5 all have to face it. Because it is happening across
6 the district, across the city. People who are living
7 doubling up, tripling up. Immigration, you know,
8 problem, construction worker dying, do people really
9 care about these people? The delivery worker who has
10 been working every day to serve food in our city, do
11 people care about them? We fought for them and
12 that's why this budget...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We've worked very
15 hard on it in BNT and it's the first time the City
16 Council is a equal partner. The administration have
17 few hundreds of staff and we only have 48 finance
18 staff. Latonya was amazing and we got to this point.
19 So I want to tell my we work very, very hard on this
20 and I'm definitely voting yes and I urge my colleague
21 to vote your conscience, not your self-interest.
22 Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
24 Member Chin. Parliamentarian, are there any
25 additional members who wish to speak at this time?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
3 Leader. Council members Menchaca and Reynoso.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
5 Menchaca, you may begin.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Buenos noches.

8 I've been thinking about you, colleagues, as you each
9 respond to the protestors, the advocates, the
10 activists, the New Yorkers camping outside city hall.

11 I'm compelled to address it as it is troubling me,
12 colleagues, because we as public servants can do
13 better to deescalate. The NYPD touts the many hours
14 of training in the academy to deescalate situations,
15 but so must we. Yet that is not the example that we
16 setting the past few days. The reason why our

17 constituents are desperately trying to call our cell
18 phones and knock on our doors, as alarming and wrong
19 as they may be in some cases, is because we have

20 failed to create a real space, real spaces for real
21 dialogue on the people's demands. We held one

22 hearing where the public was invited to speak on the
23 budget in May, one virtual hearing in the middle of a
24 pandemic, when people were focused on surviving. A

25 10-hour marathon session that most of us did not even

2 attend. And then a subset group of larger council,
3 ah, of the council members negotiated this budget
4 behind closed doors even when the people asked us to
5 include them. No wonder people are protesting. We
6 are failing to create spaces for an honest
7 conversation with our constituents about the things
8 that they want to talk about. Do cops actually make
9 our communities safer? Do we think protecting the
10 jobs of cops is more important than protecting the
11 jobs of teachers and social workers? Do we think we
12 get to define our communities or do our communities
13 get to define us? Why are budgets negotiated behind
14 closed doors rather than openly every step of the
15 way? If we believe in deescalation for the NYPD we
16 need to practice it ourselves and have that dialogue.
17 Vote against this budget. But if you won't, be
18 prepared to talk about why...

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: ...all the time
21 and everywhere. Otherwise, we will be going down a
22 path that leads us away from deescalation, not
23 towards it. We will be failing to be the people's
24 representatives. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Menchaca. Council Member Reynoso.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: You can continue
6 to run my clock, I'm sorry. One second. Good
7 evening, everyone. Ah, I hear my constituents and
8 fellow New Yorkers loud and clear. Our system of
9 policing in New York is rotten to the core. That is
10 not a new truth. Our criminal justice system has
11 been plagued by racist and oppressive practices since
12 the founding of our national, of our nation, and I
13 have spent my entire career in office fighting
14 against it. For the men and women and children, ah,
15 for the men, women, and children who have lost their
16 lives at the hands of NYPD, Eric, Shaheed, Sean,
17 Debra, Marley, and the countless victims whose names
18 we don't know, there can be no peace until we end
19 discriminatory policing practices in New York City.
20 Divestment in policing, a restructuring of our
21 justice system, and meaningful investment in our
22 communities is what New Yorkers have been demanding,
23 and it is our duty as elected representatives to
24 deliver these demands. I believe that the one
25 billion worth of cuts to the NYPD budget are the most

2 that we can achieve are, are most, I'm sorry, are the
3 most we could have achieved with this council. We
4 have moved much further, ah, than the near-zero cut
5 initiative opposed in the mayor's budget. I commend
6 Speaker Johnson, the finance staff, ah, for, ah,
7 conducting a democratic process and listening to all
8 voices. In calling for cuts to the NYPD's budget one
9 billion was always an arbitrary number. What we've,
10 what we're really pleading for is the end to a system
11 of policing that discriminates based on economic
12 status, race, religion, gender, and sexual
13 orientation, and an investment in the support and
14 services that will offer the opportunity for success
15 to all New Yorkers. It is my belief that the budget
16 we are voting on today will not bring about the level
17 of systemic change being demanded by myself, my
18 constituents, and groups that are minority-led, like
19 Community United for Police Reform, the Brooklyn
20 Movement Center, Focal, and Make the Road New York.
21 I have pride in myself on always working
22 collaboratively to achieve the results, but this, but
23 on this issue there is too much at stake.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

1 STATED MEETING

42

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I cannot
3 compromise or settle for half measures today. I am
4 voting no on the FY21 budget. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
6 Member Reynoso. Parliamentarian, are there any
7 additional speakers that wish to speak at this time?

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
9 Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now have
11 report of special committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Supplemental
14 reports of standing committees.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
16 on Finance, preconsidered Reso 1355 through 1357,
17 base percentage and base proportion.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
19 orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M230 and Reso 1360 and
21 1361, expense revenue contract budget, fiscal year
22 2021.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
24 orders.

25

1 STATED MEETING

43

2 COUNCIL CLERK: M231 and Reso 1362 and
3 1363, executive capital budget fiscal year 2021.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: M232 and Reso 1364,
7 fiscal year 2021, community development program.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
9 orders.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M245 and
11 preconsidered Reso 1365, fiscal year 2021 tax rate
12 and tax levies.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
14 orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered LU 665 and
16 Reso 1366, West 49th Street.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
18 orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: M239, chancellor five-
20 year capital plan.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed
22 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: M210 through M215 on page
24 7 and M233 through M236 on page 8, various budget
25 reports and supporting schedules.

1 STATED MEETING

44

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: The clerk will
4 now take a roll call vote on all items coupled on
5 today's general orders calendar. As during any
6 Stated Meeting, you can vote aye on all, no on all,
7 or specify any items you wish to vote against or
8 abstain from. For this meeting, if you say I vote
9 aye on all and no on the budget, the clerk will
10 record your vote as yes on all with the exception of
11 M230 through M232 and accompanying resolutions. If
12 you wish to have your vote recorded differently
13 please specify when voting. I'm gonna read that one
14 more time. For this meeting, if you say I vote aye
15 on all and no on the budget, the clerk will record
16 your vote as yes on all with the exception of M230
17 through M232 and accompanying resolutions. If you
18 wish to have your vote recorded differently please
19 specify when voting. I will now ask the clerk to
20 take a roll call vote on all items coupled on today's
21 general orders calendar.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams, excuse me, Adams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Permission to
24 explain?

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank
6 you, Madam Majority Leader. I do disclose it on the
7 record of these council proceedings that [inaudible]
8 Foundation of Queens is funded in the budget we're
9 adopting and I'm associated with this entity. And
10 I'm not sure if this applies, but I'm a member of the
11 Greater Allen AME Cathedral of New York, which may
12 still be affiliated with the Allen Community Senior
13 Center, also funded in this budget. That said, as
14 the cochair of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus I'm
15 going to thank all of the members of the BLAC. No
16 matter where you stand on this budget, this was
17 especially difficult for the communities that we
18 collectively serve. Unfortunately, this pandemic
19 created a shortfall in our city and it was a long and
20 difficult road to get to this point. The mayor's
21 proposed budget was shameful and it would have
22 negatively impacted commissions hardest hit by COVID-
23 19. This has been a painful process as significant
24 cuts had to happen. Under the leadership of the
25 speaker, I'm proud of what my colleagues and I were

2 able to accomplish and I'm pleased to see so many of
3 the priorities that my colleagues and I championed
4 during this process will be included in our adopted
5 budget. There is no better investment than in our
6 youth and this year's budget will maintain critical
7 programs and services for our young people, including
8 SYEP, summer camps, CUNY finding, Beacon and CASA
9 programs. We worked on a budget that would not let
10 our older adults fall through the cracks and fought
11 for the including of NORCs and senior meals. We
12 secured finding to serve survivors of domestic
13 violence, elder abuse, sexual and physical assault.
14 We invested in small businesses, housing, and worked
15 to save jobs for New Yorkers to help improve economic
16 conditions for all residents under such terrible
17 circumstances. We worked on our budget that reflects
18 the needs of our city and invested in areas that
19 serve the greater public good. Yes, this includes a
20 reduction of one billion dollars to the NYPD.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I'm glad to be a
23 part of a body that's focused on addressing the needs
24 of those who have been traditionally underserved and
25 as a member of the budget negotiating team I know

2 that this has been a difficult journey, but I'm glad
3 that we could agree on a budget that provides that
4 New Yorkers with the services they deserve and need.
5 And one last note, let me just say to my colleagues
6 who are not of color.

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

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: ...[inaudible]
10 three weeks ago. Madam Majority Leader, two seconds.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Two seconds.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Communities of
13 color do not require an outside ideology to enrich
14 our message. We have hundreds of years of experience
15 with the matter at hand. We learned a long time ago
16 that there is not a price tag to ending systemic
17 racism. There is no panacea bought, to be bought, or
18 an elixir to be ingested. When those with privilege
19 put down their torches and return home our Black,
20 Latino and Asian communities will remain and it will
21 continue to be our responsibility to illuminate the
22 path forward for our movement. I encourage my
23 colleagues to vote yes on this budget. Thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
25 Council Member Adams.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Permission
4 to explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: My
9 community is in pain. We are hurt. We are angry.
10 We are fed up. And we are also over political
11 rhetoric. New York City was overtaken by COVID-19
12 and the community that I represent was one of the
13 hardest hit. We lost more than 1200 NYCHA residents
14 and so many were left forgotten. Each of those
15 residents deserve the 500 million in capital repairs
16 coming to them in this budget and more. The pandemic
17 has underscored our vulnerabilities and weaknesses
18 and put us in a position to either drive down a hill
19 or off a cliff. Driving off a cliff would have been
20 laying off hard-working New Yorkers, gutting SYEP,
21 over-policing stressed-out communities, while waiting
22 for federal aid that may never come to save us. But
23 we were able to save ourselves. So today I'm
24 choosing to drive down the hill instead by returning
25 peaceful school safety to their rightful place in the

2 DOE, funding SYEP, prioritizing youth and
3 communities, and funding the organizations that kept
4 us alive during the height of the pandemic. Coming
5 out of a global pandemic we entered a race war. Both
6 have shocked the entire country, not just New York
7 City. We have fought for police reform and more
8 funding every single budget cycle. This debate is
9 not new to me. What is new are the additional voices
10 of concern added to the conversation which at times
11 have overshadowed our fight. My office was called
12 and advocates were calling for layoffs of workers
13 from brown and black communities that are still
14 struggling from COVID. That's 5000 women who work at
15 the school safety agents today. That does not
16 address police brutality. What are we doing? We
17 address police brutality with meaningful legislation,
18 policy changes, and getting rid of police officers.
19 So as I close, Madam Majority Leader, I want everyone
20 to see my Black Lives Matter T-shirt. To all those
21 who have questioned my love and support of my
22 people, I say to you when I take this T-shirt...

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: ...I am
25 still a black life that matters, and to all that have

2 forgot that you need to check your privilege and have
3 a conversation with a black woman about the needs in
4 our community. So I want to thank the speaker for
5 your leadership and to all my colleagues that stepped
6 up to make sure that our communities survive and
7 thrive. And thank you, Latonya McKinney, for all of
8 your hard work. So with that I want to say that
9 after all those phone calls I vote yes on behalf of
10 the residents of the 41st Council District. I also
11 want to say that I'm disclosing on the record of the
12 council proceeding that DOE is funded in the budget
13 we are adopting and my brother is employed by this
14 entity. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you. Good
23 afternoon.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: So, um, I, I come
3 here today, I'm, I'm planning to, ah, to submit my
4 remarks regarding today's vote online, ah, later this
5 evening. But I wanted to take an opportunity to
6 really discuss some of the things that have happened,
7 um, in the last few weeks. Ah, this vote was really,
8 ah, it was very difficult for many of us. Um, we
9 spent hours, days locked up, trying to figure out the
10 best way to make lemonade out of the lemons that we
11 were given. But I want to say that while I respect
12 and I applaud all of you who took to the streets to
13 demonstrate, to voice your concerns, to stand up for
14 what it is right, that it is never appropriate to
15 show up and protest at somebody's doorstep. It is
16 never OK to vandalize someone else's property, or
17 call their mother in the middle of the night, or
18 threaten a person or their families with physical
19 harm. And that is what happened to members of this
20 body during the last few weeks. Members that have
21 been allies to you on all of the same social justice
22 issues that you're fighting for today. I don't
23 expect that everybody's gonna be satisfied with
24 today's vote. But I truly hope that we can figure
25 out a way to sit together as the impacted community

2 of which many of us still are members of and come up
3 with strategic ways to address all of the systemic
4 issues that we are fighting for. A violent act is
5 not the same as making someone feel uncomfortable.
6 Threatening someone's life is not, it has
7 consequences, irreversible consequences, and it must
8 stop now and it has to stop with us. I also would
9 like to disclose for the record, ah, that Park East
10 High School is funded in the budget and we're
11 adopting my, ah, and my child is a student at Park
12 East High School and that AHRC is funded in the
13 budget that we're adopting and my partner is
14 associated with this entity. The Children's Aid
15 Society is funded in this budget that we're adopting
16 and my son is associated with this entity. Heritage
17 High School is funded in the budget that we're
18 adopting and my son is associated with this entity.
19 And with...

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: ...I vote aye on
22 all.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
24 Council Member Ayala.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, I am
3 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
4 that CUNY is funded in this budget we are adopting
5 and my son is associated with CUNY. Ah, my
6 permission to be excused to explain my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
8 granted.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. To
11 continue what I had started earlier, on May 25 the
12 police killing of George Floyd became the catalyst
13 for hundreds of thousands to take to the streets,
14 demanding justice and change in how policing is done
15 in our cities. The ongoing daily protests have
16 disrupted business as usual. Protestors demand that
17 police be held accountable for police abuse,
18 misconduct, and unjustified killing of unarmed
19 civilians, that they be charged, arrested, brought to
20 trial, and appropriately disciplined, no longer being
21 shielded by federal immunity. In response to this
22 heightened, intense, expansive call for change and
23 justice states have taken action on bills that have
24 lain dormant for years. Sadly, in some instances
25 this new attention to these bills sometimes resulted

2 in revisions that weakened the original intent, such
3 as 50-A, or new bills being introduced that suppress
4 stronger legal consequences with tepid civil
5 penalties. In 2018 Police Commissioner Shea said
6 that he did not believe that NYPD officers treated
7 the black communities any differently than they treat
8 the white community. Two weeks ago he said, "I don't
9 believe there is systemic racism in the NYPD." For
10 the NYPD to be led by a man who holds this flawed
11 belief and to have him maintain responsibility for
12 the same number of uniformed officers, detectives,
13 undercover agents, and plainclothes officers who are
14 in no way a part of the reduction of the NYPD is
15 ludicrous. We need a reduction in the ranks of those
16 who are...

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...[inaudible] and
19 killing black and brown people. We need a hiring
20 freeze, no new academy classes, and a reduction in
21 uniform officers head count. The proposal to build
22 youth centers is very long in being completed. It
23 will be two, three, four, or five years before those
24 centers that are said to be built will be completed.
25 And just as the city had to pivot on a dime to

2 address the COVID-19 pandemic, we must do likewise
3 regarding the NYPD. There is, as Dr. Martin Luther
4 King, Jr. said, "the fierce urgency of now." I vote
5 no.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
7 Council Member Barron.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Ah, thank you.

11 I'd first like to disclose on the record that the
12 College of Staten Island is funded in the budget that
13 we're adopting and I am associated with this entity.
14 Ah, PS-55 is funded in this budget and my wife is a
15 former employee of that entity. And the South Shore
16 YMCA is funded in this budget and my son is
17 associated with this entity. With that said, I will
18 be voting yes on preconsidered Land Use 665, ah, and
19 the accompanying preconsidered Reso 13, ah, and the
20 accompanying preconsidered Reso 1366. I'll be voting
21 no on the rest of the budget items and, ah, I would
22 like to congratulate, ah, and, ah, just offer a
23 really positive word for our finance staff, who
24 worked very hard, ah, in this difficult budget year.
25 Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Permission to
5 explain my vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
7 granted.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN: You can go ahead,
9 Council Member Brannan.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Ah, I've
14 agonized over this budget and the message that it
15 will send during this extraordinary time. Ah, the
16 economic fallout from COVID is worse than we had
17 anticipated and in order to deliver a balanced budget
18 we need to close an absurdly daunting gap. No cuts
19 were easy, but no cuts were punitive. Every choice
20 was a tough one. Passing a budget that cuts any of
21 the services or programs New Yorkers have come to
22 rely on is as close as it gets to impossible. But
23 it's our duty as elected officials to do what is best
24 for the neighborhoods we represent and the city as a
25 whole. I'm most grateful for the leadership of my

2 colleagues in the BLAC and the budget negotiating
3 team who have lived and breathed this budget for
4 several weeks. I do believe that we did the best we
5 could, considering the brutal hand that COVID dealt.
6 They say a budget is a statement of values and during
7 a, a dire fiscal crisis it must also be a statement
8 of priorities. I know that some who are calling for
9 the NYPD are not satisfied with the cuts that we've
10 made here tonight. I know that the one billion that
11 we've cut is not happening in the way that some
12 advocates had envisioned. But police reform doesn't
13 end tonight. There's still much to be done and the
14 work must continue. Treating all New Yorkers with
15 dignity and respect while keeping everyone safe are
16 goals that can coexist. In the meantime, voting
17 against the budget would mean voting against child
18 care vouchers, senior centers, and programs that can
19 feed the hungry. Voting against this budget would
20 mean voting against summer youth jobs, adult
21 literacy, and CUNY. Voting against this budget would
22 mean voting against protections for domestic violence
23 survivors and protections for people facing eviction.
24 This budget is far from perfect. We can all find
25 something we don't agree with or something we wish

2 there was more or less of. But in this moment this
3 budget keeps the light on in the city and allows us
4 to fight another day towards building a better,
5 safer, and more equitable city. And with that I vote
6 aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to
9 explain my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
14 much Madam Majority Leader and to my esteemed
15 colleagues. It's no secret that for several years I
16 have raised the issue of an impending [inaudible]
17 recession to come, which now has come to pass. A
18 recession which was no fault of our own. But let me
19 be clear. This recession will be with us for some
20 years to come and we must act accordingly. Given the
21 unexpected challenges of the corona, coronavirus
22 pandemic, we have managed to create a budget that
23 reflects our values, caring for the most vulnerable
24 New Yorkers, our youth, and immigrants by continuing
25 to provide for public safety and the environment.

2 This has been a difficult, sometimes heart wrenching
3 process. But I believe tonight we have succeeded. I
4 want to give a special thanks to Latonya McKinney and
5 the staff for their enormous work that they
6 [inaudible] in the last few months. Mr. Speaker,
7 thank you for helping us achieve a budget worthy of a
8 yes vote. I want to give a special thanks to the
9 chair of finance, Danny Dromm, who day in and day
10 out, countless hours he has invested in helping us
11 achieve the budget that we are about to vote on. So
12 with that I vote aye on all.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

15 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Thank you. I
16 just to disclose on the record that my kids attend
17 the College of Staten Island, Wagner High School, and
18 PS-30, and they're on the budget. My brother works
19 at Richmond University Medical Center, which is also
20 in this budget. Um, just very quickly, as I've said
21 over the last few weeks, I cannot support a budget
22 that provides extensive cuts to the NYPD. That's why
23 I'm voting no on all, um, except for Land Use 655 and
24 1366. So just to be clear I'm voting no on all
25 except for Land Use 655 and 1366. Thank you.

1 STATED MEETING

60

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Permission to
4 explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority Leader. Ah, first, ah, I'm also disclosing
10 on the record of these proceedings, ah, that
11 Montefiore Medical Center is in the budget and my,
12 ah, [inaudible] and my wife is a volunteer attending
13 at that facility. I really just, ah, I could not
14 vote for the budget without acknowledging the
15 tremendous, ah, amount of work that has gone to get
16 to us to this point, ah, from our speaker, Chair
17 Dromm, the entire BNT team, but especially the Bronx
18 reps, ah, Councilman Gibson, Salamanca, and Ayala,
19 ah, for their hard work, ah, in fighting for the
20 Bronx. I really just want to thank the finance
21 staff. Isha is always there for us and I want to say
22 thank you publicly for that. Ah, and with that I
23 vote aye.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25

1 STATED MEETING

61

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. My apologies.
3 Council Member Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Ah,
5 permission to explain my vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
7 granted.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: OK. I just wanted
10 to continue what I said earlier, that this is a
11 tough, emotional budget. It's a hard budget and it's
12 a not perfect budget. When the mayor proposed in his
13 executive budget that he was gonna zero out all the
14 youth programming we were shocked, and NYPD didn't
15 get any cut. I think that's unacceptable, that we
16 have to fight for drastic cut in the NYPD budget and
17 to make sure that we can fund back our youth program,
18 our afterschool program, and the program that
19 preserve the safety net. That's what's the mission
20 that we set out to do. And I think we accomplished
21 that. It's not a perfect budget. But the work is
22 only beginning. My colleagues, we were here when we
23 fought for police reform, fighting against Stop and
24 Frisk, Black Live Matters, we all stood together and
25 we gotta continue to do that. And I really want to

2 thank, you know, my colleagues in the BLAC
3 especially, ah, the leadership, and the Women's
4 Caucus for your support. Because it's tough with the
5 BNT every single night. Um, but our speaker, Corey,
6 you are amazing and that's why we stand strong with
7 you. OK? You made this happen, that you set out to
8 make sure the safety nets, the most vulnerable are
9 protected. And so I support voting on this budget.
10 Ah, first I gotta disclose on the record of the
11 council proceeding that PS-3 is funded in the budget
12 we are adopting and my husband works for this entity.
13 Ah, Gouverneur Health Nursing Facility is funded in
14 this budget we are adopting and my mom is associated
15 with this entity. With that, I proudly vote aye on
16 this budget. Thank you.

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

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Oh,
20 excuse me. Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Ah, thank you.
22 Firstly, I want to thank the advocates who pushed us
23 through their respective protests, demonstrations,
24 and marches, whether in person, online, through
25 calls, or emails. You spoke and I definitely heard

2 you. Which is why we've gotten to a place of
3 substantive police and criminal justice reform,
4 policy, and legislation, and ultimately to an
5 unprecedented budget cut to the NYPD of a billion
6 dollars. No one would have thought even two months
7 ago this would have been possible. So again I thank
8 you. Alongside a team of colleagues led by Speaker
9 Corey Johnson and Finance Chair Danny Dromm, and with
10 the assistance of the finance team led by Latonya
11 McKinney, we painstakingly combed through one of the
12 most brutal council budgets in history, to cut
13 spending in light of a 9 billion dollar revenue
14 deficit due to COVID-19. Amazingly, we were still
15 able to save programs essential to minority
16 communities. For instance, we secured funding for
17 housing programs that prevent eviction and
18 foreclosure, particular dangers given the lifting of
19 the moratorium looming near. We pushed back on a
20 proposed budget that zeroed out programs that serve
21 our youth, SYEP, Sonic, and COMPASS. We secured
22 significant restorations and we saved the jobs of
23 school safety agents, the majority of whom, 80% to be
24 exact, are black women. From the outset I committed
25 myself to participating in the exercise of

2 negotiating a budget that did the least harm and
3 reflected the needs of the communities I represent
4 and hold dear. There remains a tremendous amount of
5 work to be done to change the culture of policing in
6 this city and reimagining policing overall. I remain
7 committed to that work. The laws we enact and the
8 policies we adopt serve as key tools in continuing
9 the ongoing effort. This budget is not an end to our
10 policy-making as a council and it is not a final
11 chapter. It's not the conclusion of the important
12 discussions we're having around policing and caring
13 for our shared communities. Is this budget perfect?
14 No. However, I'm voting yes to a budget that
15 prioritizes Fair Student Funding and arts and culture
16 programming in our schools. I'm voting yes to a
17 budget that prioritizes summer youth employment. I'm
18 voting yes to a budget that did not allow the
19 decimation of program design to support minority and
20 immigrant owned businesses. I'm voting yes to a
21 budget that prioritizes increased funding for food
22 pantries to address food insecurity in this city,
23 especially in the communities that have been
24 disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm voting yes
3 to a budget that prioritizes funding for mortgage
4 foreclosure prevention, eviction prevention, to help
5 combat displacement and harassment. I'm voting yes
6 to a budget that prioritizes services to our senior
7 population. I'm voting yes to a budget that
8 addresses a police head count reduction by
9 eliminating the next two cadet classes while
10 simultaneous protecting the livelihood of school
11 safety agents. I'm voting yes because my
12 constituents have a reasonable expectation that I
13 balance as best I can the many competing priorities
14 we face in this difficult moment. My constituents
15 also expect that we deliver essential services
16 without interruption to New York City's communities
17 in need. Thank you. If you didn't get it, I vote
18 yes.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [inaudible] that
21 my son attends, ah, CUNY and, ah, CUNY is funded by
22 the budget. Ah, as a member of the budget
23 negotiating team I know how much work went into this
24 budget and this was not a typical year, as we
25 navigated the challenges of a global pandemic and, an

2 8.5 billion dollar budget hole. I thank the finance
3 team, my colleagues, and Speaker Johnson for their
4 work to get this to this point. However, I cannot
5 support a budget that includes defunding to NYPD by
6 one billion dollars. It is neither productive for
7 the safety of New Yorkers nor a true reform that
8 benefits the minority communities. Instead of, ah,
9 instead we are making significant cuts in our city's
10 law enforcement at a time when shootings are up by
11 50% and violent crimes plaguing minority communities.
12 My constituents are afraid. New Yorkers are afraid.
13 Mothers are hesitating to send their children out.
14 This is not the time to start making cuts and
15 opposing deeper restrictions on the NYPD. Our police
16 officers are New Yorkers, too, working every day to
17 earn a living to support their families and put food
18 on the table. Many cops are people of color who
19 share the same concerns and life experiences as the
20 neighbors, who are advocating for their defunding.
21 Bringing true change to law enforcement and to our
22 city isn't going to happen by making the job of
23 police officers more difficult. It's going to come
24 from working in partnership with advocates and
25 experts to determine where authentic reforms are

2 needed. Again, I do not take this vote lightly and
3 it is not a reflection on the hard work that was put
4 into this budget. However, I cannot in good
5 conscience support the willful disregard of public
6 safety that I believe this budget is. Ah, I must
7 vote no on this budget, with the exception of LU 665
8 and Reso [inaudible]. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to
11 explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Thank you, thank
16 you. Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen, ah, we
17 are living in a time where the City of New York crime
18 is going up, murder is going up, shooting is going
19 up, and the only thing that we have to protect us
20 from that is the police officer. Ah, but cutting
21 money to police officer we are putting senior citizen
22 life in jeopardy. We are putting children life in
23 jeopardy. We are putting [inaudible] life in
24 jeopardy, taxi drivers' life in jeopardy, the
25 community as a whole. Ah, we are, ah, private houses

2 and, ah, private property [inaudible]. So I, you
3 know, honestly I cannot vote to against, ah, to put
4 the, the safety of these individuals, ah, and my
5 community in jeopardy. Ah, in every group we have
6 [inaudible], every single group, and the police
7 officer we have [inaudible]. That doesn't mean that
8 we're gonna dismantle them so we, our community, is
9 still, ah, get unprotected. So on behalf of the
10 homeowners, the [inaudible], the senior citizen and
11 the children and the private and the, the community
12 as a whole in the 18th Council District I'm voting
13 no. Thank you very much.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member, I
15 think, ah, is there a disclosure you need to make?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Ah, yes, I would
17 like to say that my son, ah, Ruben Diaz, Jr., works
18 as the Bronx borough president and my other son,
19 Sammoy, works for the New York City Housing
20 Authority. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Permission to
23 explain my vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
4 much. First, let me start off by, ah, thanking our
5 speaker for his courageous leadership, his
6 determination, his kindness, and his concern for all
7 New Yorkers. We are very, very lucky indeed to have
8 you as the speaker of the New York City Council. I
9 want to also thank Latonya McKinney, ah, Regina
10 Pareda Ryan, Isha Wright, and the whole finance team,
11 Rebecca Chasen, ah, and all of the members of the
12 finance team for the outstanding work that they have
13 done as well. Let me thank the members of the BNT
14 for working so long and so many hours. Thank you for
15 your cooperation and for your help. It is greatly
16 appreciated. And I want to say that despite many
17 efforts by people to silence or bully us into, ah,
18 submission for a minority belief, ah, and, ah, some
19 of the tactics that were used against some of the
20 members of the City Council, ah, we have been able to
21 put together a budget which I believe addresses the
22 needs of our communities, ah, and our communities
23 most affected by poverty, by this pandemic, and so I
24 proudly vote yes on this budget. I have offered
25 other remarks during the Finance Committee hearing on

2 some of the successes that we were able to achieve in
3 this budget, but, ah, I will [inaudible]. I am
4 voting yes on this budget now. Thank you very much.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
6 Council Member Dromm.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote yes on
9 all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thanks, Madam
17 Majority Leader. In addition to the speaker and the
18 finance division, I also want to thank our amazing
19 finance chair, Danny Dromm, for your relentless
20 hours, of compassion, of consistency, of dedication
21 for everything you've done during this process. Um,
22 this budget process also includes significant cuts to
23 the NYPD, which has not happened for many years and
24 certainly would not have been a priority without this
25 movement in our city and across the country against

2 police violence. Overtime reductions, eliminating
3 the cadet class, and future academy classes, reducing
4 uniform head count, and shifting the responsibility
5 of the NYPD away from school safety and school
6 crossing guards, the majority of whom are women and
7 men of color, and homeless services is really a giant
8 step forward, considering we came from a place of
9 complete resistance and opposition from this
10 administration. This is a process that we know will
11 continue well beyond today's budget adoption. We
12 will work collaboratively with all stakeholders to
13 make systemic changes to reform policing in our city
14 and invest in restorative justice work, holistic
15 services, healing centers, trauma-informed care, and
16 social emotional learning for our children. I thank
17 all of the advocates and activists who have been and
18 continue to be a part of this defining moment in our
19 history, standing up against 401 years of systemic
20 racism and the racism of the COVID-19 pandemic. We
21 appreciate all of your advocacy. This budget has
22 made important investments in summer youth, Work
23 Learn Grow, COMPASS, Sonic, Beacon, Cornerstone,
24 Single Shepherd, FSF, FairFutures, the CUNY ASAP,
25 guidance counselors, social workers, school nurses,

2 supporting food access, mental health, legal
3 services, protecting DV survivors, victims of sexual
4 assault, the New York City Crisis Management System,
5 ATIs, and seniors, just to name a few. This budget
6 is painful, but it would have been...

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...much worse
9 without the strong advocacy of all of our advocates.
10 July 1 is tomorrow and community groups needed their
11 funding to start their summer programs. So I will
12 just conclude by saying that this is a real defining
13 moment for us as we make these decisions and I am
14 choosing to stand up for workers, educators, youth,
15 seniors, and all of our residents of our community,
16 tenants, CUNY students, immigrant families, essential
17 workers, and marginalized and vulnerable communities.
18 This budget is painful, imperfect, and falls far
19 short of much more we wanted to accomplish. We
20 started from the bottom and now we here. I will vote
21 aye on this budget and thank my speaker, finance
22 chair, BNT, and all the members of this body, the
23 Women's Caucus, and the BLAC for all of your
24 collective work. I vote aye. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Gibson.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

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

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
8 granted.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you. Thank
11 you, Majority Leader. First, I'm disclosing on the
12 record of the council proceedings that to the best of
13 my knowledge and recollection, PS-175 is funded in
14 the budget we are about to adopt and my wife is
15 associated with this entity. My sister is associated
16 with the Department of Education, which is about to
17 be funded in this budget. CUNY is funded in the
18 budget we're about to adopt and my sons may or may
19 not be students at CUNY. Bronx Parent Housing
20 Network is about to be funded in this budget and my
21 brother may or may not be associated with this
22 entity. New York Public Library is funded in the
23 budget we're adopting and my brother may or may not
24 be associated with that entity. And finally my
25 family and past associates may or may not be

2 associated with any entities about to be funded in
3 this budget we are adopting. With that, I just want
4 to thank Speaker Corey Johnson along with Jason
5 Goldman for the time they've given me during this
6 process. I want to thank Chair Danny Dromm, Latonya,
7 and all of the council staff for the countless hours
8 and the sleepless nights, and my staff. But most of
9 all I want to remind everyone of the loss of life
10 that we just experienced and the pain. There isn't a
11 single New Yorker that hasn't lost or know someone
12 that we've lost to this pandemic, and then the crisis
13 afterwards, which has created further insecurities
14 and instabilities. The questions here that we're
15 about to address all have been very painful ones.
16 Ah, what we've been facing has been unprecedented,
17 ah, and no, one could have prepared possibly for
18 these challenges. But with that, I have to vote no
19 on the entire budget, except for Land Use items LU
20 665 and the occupying resolution 1366.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
22 Council Member Gjonaj.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, just
25 briefly to explain my vote, Madam Majority Leader?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

6 First, I'm disclosing on the record, um, that my son
7 is a student at Queens College CUNY and TSQ Inc. is
8 funded in this budget that we are adopting this
9 evening. And my son, my wife, and myself are
10 volunteers of this wonderful organization. I want to
11 thank, ah, my colleagues, especially those on BNT. I
12 know it has not been an easy few weeks, to say the
13 least, um, and I really, I want to thank the finance
14 staff, led by the great Latonya McKinney, um, and all
15 the people that I've relied upon, ah, as we move
16 forward on this budget. And to my friend, Danny
17 Dromm, um, those of you who don't know him who are
18 watching, Danny is a civil rights pioneer, not only
19 in Queens but in the City of New York and across the
20 nation, and he has been on the front lines for a
21 generation or longer to protect people, men, women,
22 and children, in this city and places further, ah,
23 for the causes that he has believed in. So, I love
24 you, Danny. Um, I want to say that, um, this budget
25 does something tonight that nobody has talked about

2 yet. We're actually lowering tax rates on class 1
3 and class 2 properties, ah, for the first time since
4 I've been in the council and probably the first time
5 in quite a while. Um, so I am happy about that. And
6 I want to add to, ah, those of you who haven't voted
7 yet, um, the council has worked very, very hard on
8 this and these are truly unprecedented times in our
9 lifetime. Um, but if this budget is not adopted
10 there is a great likelihood that the financial
11 control board will take over the finances of the City
12 of New York. And I cannot abide that. I cannot
13 abide having the wonderful organizations that do work
14 in every corner of this city being cut off because
15 our member items would be gone, our, ah, all, all the
16 initiatives that we love and hold dear would be gone.
17 And, um, these are services that they bring to
18 people. 8.6 million New Yorkers, um, in many cases
19 depend on this so, um, and they are especially needed
20 today in this time of...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: ...[inaudible]
23 is not going away. With that I vote aye on all, and
24 I thank you again, ah, for all the work that's been
25 done. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: First, I'm
5 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
6 that CUNY is funded in the budget that we are
7 adopting and my son is an employee of this entity,
8 and that New York Presbyterian Hospital is funded in
9 the budget that we are adopting and my son is
10 associated with that entity. Um, permission to
11 explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: One of the main
16 duties of an elected official is to ensure public
17 safety for his or her constituents. The rhetoric
18 against public safety that we've seen recently is
19 dangerous and irresponsible. It seems that we have
20 forgotten about Officers Liu, Ramos, and Familia.
21 What's worse, some members of this body have
22 neglected their duties to public safety and have
23 fallen prey to the mobs of anarchists in our streets.
24 We have forgotten about the majority of constituents
25 who don't believe in the anti-cop rhetoric of the

2 anarchists. We have forgotten about the men and
3 women in law enforcement who on a daily basis go to
4 work because they love and care deeply about this
5 city and want to protect it. From bail reform to
6 releasing dangerous criminals from Riker's Island and
7 the recent bills on police reform, the political
8 class of this city continues to disregard the people
9 they serve. They continue to push for policies that
10 make this city and the constituents they are supposed
11 to protect less safe. They continue their attacks on
12 the middle class, who are really the backbone of this
13 city, by raising their property taxes, adding
14 unrealistic regulations on them, and destroying their
15 quality of life. We have become a body politic that
16 crafts policies from signs at protests, held by
17 people who aspire lawlessness and anarchy, instead of
18 using logic and reason. Today's budget may be the
19 final nail in the coffin for this city and its
20 safety. The bad old days, which I lived through, may
21 come back and it looks like they are. I'm voting no
22 on the budget because that's what the silent majority
23 of this city expects from us. I'm voting no on all
24 with the exception of LU 665 with the accompanying
25 resolution 1366. But I do, this was a tough

2 decision, I do want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson,
3 who's worked really hard, along with all his staff,
4 Jason Goldman, the finance staff, and all my
5 colleagues on the budget. I know it was a difficult
6 decision, but because of the police, ah, cutting the
7 police so much...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: ...[inaudible]
10 graduating class that's why I'm voting no. Thank
11 you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I'm disclosing on
14 the record of the council proceedings that I am
15 teaching my 2-year-old daughter to swim and
16 participating in children's activities with her at
17 the 92nd Street Y. I helped found the 72nd Street
18 Neighborhood Association as an elected official and
19 I'm an ex officio board member of the Friends of the
20 East River Esplanade, as well as the Sutton Park
21 Conservancy, all of which are funded in the budget we
22 are adopting. Permission to explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Coronavirus has
3 claimed the lives of over 21,000 New Yorkers,
4 magnified systemic racism, and blown a 9 billion
5 dollar hole in our city's budget. The mayor's
6 proposed budget left NYPD budget largely intact while
7 zeroing out services for youth, families, and
8 seniors, a budget that would rather invest in
9 policing our children than caring for them. Our
10 budget has grown by 24 billion dollars under this
11 administration and we've missed an opportunity
12 [inaudible] more than 15 billion dollars in debt
13 before eliminating jobs and essential services. We
14 should cut billions in corporate welfare that goes to
15 a handful of our nation's wealthiest corporations.
16 When we heard George Floyd plead I can't breathe he
17 was, and he was murdered by police, it opened the
18 unhealed wounds left in our city from the murder of
19 Eric Garner. New Yorkers took to the streets in the
20 name of Black Lives Matter to demand that we defund
21 NYPD by one billion dollars to invest in communities
22 harmed by over-policing. Since then we've received
23 over 125,000 emails and thousands of calls. Frankly,
24 I've never seen anything like it. As a person
25 benefitting from white privilege it is my

2 responsibility to use that privilege to empower New
3 Yorkers from all communities, particularly voices of
4 color, black voices, and listen when they demand that
5 we defund NYPD. As a member of a council that made
6 the mistake of adding 1300 police officers and
7 increasing the NYPD budget by a billion dollars, it
8 is our responsibility to right that wrong. When the
9 Black, Latino and Asian Caucus members led our body
10 in bold statement with Speaker Johnson supporting
11 cuts of at least a billion dollars this year, the
12 Progressive Caucus, which I cochair, stood in
13 solidarity. The cuts we are voting on today
14 depending on half a billion dollar transfer of school
15 safety agents from the NYPD to public school budget
16 that seems like an accounting trick. I join the
17 speaker and so many of my colleagues in the budget
18 negotiating team who fought so hard and their
19 disappointment...

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: ...[inaudible] the
22 bills to achieve our initial proposal. This is not a
23 transformative change to NYPD and New Yorkers are
24 demanding. I vote no on the budget and vote yes on
25 all other matters.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Kallos.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: King.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Ah, good evening,
6 yeah, good evening, it's not the next day yet. Ah,
7 I'm disclosing on the record of the council
8 proceedings that 1199 Service Employees International
9 Union is funded in the budget we are adopting and my
10 wife and my daughter, stepdaughter, are associated
11 with this entity, as well as 100 Black Men is funded
12 in this budget we are adopting and I'm a member of
13 this entity. Madam Majority Leader, may I explain my
14 vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you.
19 Appreciate it. First, I just want to say as a youth
20 developer instilled in the ground in the trenches, I
21 want to thank Council Member Rose for your energy,
22 your dedication, the fight for making sure that the
23 light is still shining for our young people this
24 summer and beyond. Um, so Margaret Chin, um, we
25 having the largest NORC in the United States of

2 America in your Co-op City. I thank her for her
3 fight for making sure that our seniors are protected
4 however we were able to manage it. There's a lot of
5 work that had to be done. Um, but I want to just add
6 also to the conversation when it comes to NYPD, you
7 know, regardless of our philosophies or what we think
8 or whether we have friends that are on the force, you
9 know, I think it's a shame that if this budget
10 determines one item on it, we're being irresponsible
11 if one item determines how we think for everybody
12 that we have to represent throughout the City of New
13 York and the borough, and for me in the borough of
14 the Bronx. Dollars shouldn't be versus enforcement
15 of internal policy. We want to do away with bad
16 policing and it's a policy. We want to do away with
17 bad policing then that's the enforcement of internal
18 rules that have been violated and they're violated in
19 communities of color. To BLAC, the leadership, thank
20 you for staying strong and staying true to the cause.
21 To everybody that's on BNT, those who were in the
22 Bronx, to Salamanca, to Ayala, to Gibson, thank you
23 for standing strong, and Cohen leading the
24 delegation. I appreciate it. To everybody on the
25 speaker's team we say thank you, I say thank you.

2 Latonya McKinney on the finance team, go take a
3 Calgon bath, enjoy the summer, do what you gotta do,
4 this is a budget that was responsible in the times of
5 perilous times that we're dealing with. So to all
6 the advocates, as I say, thank you for engaging,
7 because I say people pay attention to people who
8 participate. We heard you, we're listening to you,
9 but we have responsibility to look at the totality of
10 everything that we have to manage during these trying
11 times and today we vote on a budget that allows us to
12 shine the light on to live another day. With that
13 all being said, I vote aye, and congratulations to
14 all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member King.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Ah, may I explain my
19 vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Majority
24 Leader. This is a painful budget with cuts across
25 the board. It's not perfect, but it's going to keep

2 us moving forward. Let's not be naïve. We all knew
3 this was going to hurt. On every newsstand Americans
4 are out of work and we are not going to heal until we
5 stop the bleeding. So I'll be voting in favor of
6 this budget, with the understanding that we have to
7 move our city forward towards recovery, and we cannot
8 do that burying our heads in the sand and pretending
9 everything is fine. Regarding the police, no one
10 wants to see us return to the bad old days. We need
11 our police to protect and preserve. But we also must
12 recognize the need for training and reform. I also
13 want to speak specifically about the parks, which
14 have remained open throughout the pandemic and serve
15 as the only source of refuge for New Yorkers. Coming
16 off last year's historic increase the cuts at hand
17 are going to hit hard. I'm happy, though, that no,
18 I'm happy, though, that all is not lost. I'm very
19 grateful we were able to secure 10 million dollars
20 for city park workers and gardeners and support of
21 our community gardens. These are important elements
22 of our parks that will do much to keep them well
23 maintained for the next year. At the end of the day
24 our budget needs to reflect our economy. And next
25 year will not last forever. We will stop the

2 bleeding. We will heal. And we will begin to
3 restore the people's faith. I would like to thank
4 our speaker for the unenviable task of passing one of
5 the hardest budgets we have ever had. This was no
6 easy task, but he has done a good job of building
7 consensus in a time of division. I also want to
8 thank Cheema, Monica, Natalia...

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: ...and our entire
11 finance team, and also our dear Chair Dromm. Thank
12 you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
14 Council Member Koo.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be
17 excused to explain my vote? Permission granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I've said
19 this...

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I've said this
22 many, many times. This is my, actually I've always
23 said 20th budget. It's really my 21st budget. I
24 have done budgets under four mayors and four
25 speakers. While there were budget cuts in many of

2 those budget years, this was by far the hardest
3 budget we ever did, that I ever did. I want to thank
4 our speaker, Corey Johnson, for the grueling events
5 that he had to go through, for his leadership, he has
6 done a wonderful, wonderful job, and I so appreciate
7 it. To Jason Goldman, who took many phone calls, and
8 to superwoman Latonya McKinney and the entire finance
9 staff. I am going to vote aye tonight for the
10 children of our city, for the seniors of our city,
11 the people who need the social services of our city,
12 and for the educators of our city. This is not a
13 perfect budget, but it's a budget that will serve
14 many, many people and it's amazing that we got to
15 this point with the deficit that we faced. So I vote
16 aye.

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

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: May I explain my
21 vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you. In
3 the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic Mayor de Blasio
4 proposed balancing an 8 billion dollar deficit on the
5 back of our youth and most vulnerable, while
6 essentially leaving the NYPD untouched. This council
7 through this budget has completely flipped that
8 switch, and we did it by listening to the people, our
9 constituents. In this budget we preserve the social
10 safety net for seniors and the poor. We defend
11 immigrants from deportation, renters from eviction,
12 and homeowners from foreclosure. We ensure that our
13 young people are engaged, challenged, supported, and
14 guided. We keep municipal workers working and
15 bringing home a paycheck, and we right sized the NYPD
16 for 2020, forcing a transformation in our safety as
17 defined and achieved in our schools and how our
18 homeless population is engaged. Reforming policing
19 in the criminal justice system is nothing new for so
20 many members of this council. We've led the way in
21 reducing the city's jail populations to the lowest
22 level since World War II, decriminalized the most
23 common low-level offenses, forced the city to make
24 far fewer marijuana and fare-evading arrests, got the
25 DAs to extinguish hundreds of thousands of old

2 warrants, passed the Right to Know Act, eliminated
3 fees for posting bail and inmate phone calls, made it
4 easier for former inmates to vote, kicked ICE off
5 Riker's Island and provided lawyers to immigrants
6 facing deportation, quadrupled funding for
7 alternative to incarceration programs, and funded
8 district attorney reforms, like a wrongful conviction
9 unit on Staten Island. And that, my colleagues, is
10 the abridged version. So, for making meaningful cuts
11 and reforms to the NYPD and for saving the social
12 safety net, criminal justice reform spending, and
13 youth and education programs I vote aye on this
14 budget. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
19 permission to explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I
24 want to thank our tremendous finance staff, led by
25 Latonya and Regina, as well as the budget negotiating

2 team, Chairs Rose, Treyger, Gibson, Finance Chair
3 Dromm, and especially Speaker Johnson for your
4 tireless work. You fought for and won restorations
5 that really mattered to Fair Student Funding, summer
6 youth programs, CUNY ASAP, and I want to honor the
7 black members of this body for your lifetimes of
8 leadership and pursuit of civil rights. There has
9 never been an easy time to be black in America, but
10 this is an especially difficult one. We honor it and
11 I feel grateful to serve in this body with you. I am
12 voting no on the budget tonight. Over the past
13 money, since Breonna Taylor and George Floyd were
14 killed an unprecedented movement for racial justice
15 has taken to the streets, led by black leaders, but
16 including a multiracial, multigenerational coalition
17 pushing for fundamental change in how we approach
18 public safety. We have made many incremental reforms
19 in this body, but they have not gotten the job done.
20 So a clear demand emerged from long-time police
21 accountability advocates led by communities united
22 for police reform to shrink the NYPD budget by at
23 least one billion dollars and prioritize investments
24 in contract. Reducing police spending is both a
25 first step to transforming our approach to public

2 safety and a fiscal necessity. According to the
3 [inaudible] Institute New York City spends far more
4 on policing than other cities. We have one officer
5 for every 162 people, LA one for every 308, Houston
6 one for every 360, Phoenix one for every 380. But
7 this budget does not meaningfully shrink the NYPD
8 budget. While it imposes a hiring freeze on teachers
9 and counselors, it does not even extend that hiring
10 freeze to cops. Put simply, we are not making the
11 kinds of cuts needed to reduce the footprint of
12 policing to protect public health, our social safety
13 net, and balance the budget. Now, we aren't gonna
14 transform our approach to public safety in one budget
15 vote. So however you vote tonight I hope we can work
16 together to follow the lead of the Minneapolis City
17 Council...

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: ...who voted on
20 Friday to replace their police department with a new
21 Department of Community Safety and Violence
22 Prevention. We urgently need to get away from having
23 policing as the primary response for every public
24 safety problem from mental health to domestic
25 violence to homeless to school safety to reckless

2 driving. That is the real path to transformation and
3 how we achieve public safety. I vote no on all the
4 budget bills and I vote aye on the remaining non-
5 budget items. Ah, and I'm disclosing on the record
6 of the council proceedings that Women For Afghan
7 Women of New York City is funded in this budget and
8 my wife is a board member there. Bard High School is
9 a New York City public school funded in this budget,
10 and my daughter is a student there. And finally,
11 speaking of family members, I am really sorry for
12 those of you who have loved ones targeted, including
13 the speaker. It's unacceptable. We are working to
14 build a city where everyone is safe from harassment.
15 Let's get to work together to build it. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Um, Madam Majority
18 Leader, I'd like to disclose on the record that, ah,
19 CUNY is funded in this budget and my wife, Ann
20 Farrell, is associated with this entity, and Streb is
21 also funded in this budget and, um, and, ah, my
22 daughter, Frances, is, ah, associated with this
23 entity. Um, Madam Majority Leader, may I explain my
24 vote?

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Go ahead, Council
3 Member Levin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Speaker
5 Johnson.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
7 granted. I'm sorry.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Ah, my colleagues,
9 and members of the public, I first wish to thank
10 Speaker Corey Johnson, who has acted with honesty and
11 decency and kindness at all times during this
12 process. I want to members of the Black, Latino and
13 Asian Caucus, Chairs Dromm and Gibson, Jason Goldman
14 and the members of the speaker's staff, finance
15 director Latonya McKinney and her unbelievable staff,
16 who did the hard and unglamorous work to make this as
17 just and equitable a budget as we were able to do. I
18 also want to recognize the thousands of people who
19 have written to us, protested us, and marched in the
20 street for transformative change in our city. This
21 is the most difficult and heart rending budget in
22 recent memory, certainly that I've been a part of.
23 And that is why I am voting yes on this budget. I
24 see it as my responsibility to do my best to stand up
25 for those in greatest need, and that's very easy in

2 good years and it is very difficult when times are
3 hard. As speaker and my colleagues have said, I,
4 too, am disappointed that we weren't able to go
5 further with cuts to the NYPD, particularly with
6 regard to cutting additional classes from the police
7 academy, which would have resulted in an additional
8 approximately, approximately 100 reduction in head
9 count. That said, Mayor de Blasio was unwilling to
10 move on this, and doing our own budget would be
11 potentially catastrophic. Because we were unable to
12 achieve this, that does not mean that the effort was
13 in vain or that this budget does not reflect our
14 values. It does. This budget is dissolving a long-
15 standing [inaudible] between the NYPD and the
16 Department of Homeless Services. There will be no
17 NYPD homeless outreach unit, no coordination between
18 NYPD and Homeless Services, which will result in
19 fewer New Yorkers on the street being harassed by the
20 NYPD or coerced into doing something they did not
21 want to do with the threat of arrest. That ends now.
22 And with the move of the school safety agents to the
23 DOE, it is far from a shell game or sleight of hand.
24 We had the opportunity to reimagine what school
25 safety looks like for our future...

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ... and that work
4 must start right away and be led by the community,
5 like how they are doing, like how they are
6 approaching in Oakland and in other cities. But I do
7 believe that the current school safety agents should
8 be part of this process. Um, I want to, again, thank
9 all of my colleagues, BNT members, um, and everybody
10 that has, um, throughout New York City that has, has
11 invested so much in this budget process, and I hope
12 that we can, um, maintain this level of engagement,
13 um, as we, as we do this really difficult work moving
14 forward. And with that I vote aye on all. Thank
15 you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
17 Council Member Levin.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. Madam
20 Majority Leader, may I please explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: This is a crisis
3 budget in the middle of a pandemic and economic
4 collapse and a long overdue reckoning with racial
5 injustice. We have many obligations in this
6 difficult moment. We have an obligation to provide
7 adequate resources for a public health fight against
8 COVID-19, a fight that has already cost billions and
9 is far from over. We have an obligation to protect
10 the social services which vulnerable New Yorkers,
11 already battered by coronavirus, are desperately
12 depending on. We have an obligation to transform
13 policing, to once and for all end the
14 disproportionate and too often violent targeting of
15 black and brown New Yorkers. This budget does not
16 achieve all of those goals, but it does fend off
17 devastating cuts that were slated to hit the social
18 programs that are vitally important to young people
19 and CUNY students and seniors and people who are
20 facing food insecurity. This budget avoids laying
21 off what could have been thousands of public sector
22 workers, the overwhelming number of whom would have
23 been people of color and women. This budget provides
24 billions for the next stage of our fight against
25 COVID-19. This budget does not go far enough in

2 transforming policing in the city. But it does take
3 a step forward. And it must be followed up in the
4 days ahead with a relentless, ongoing effort to bring
5 real accountability for police misconduct, to end
6 disproportionately aggressive policing in black and
7 brown communities, to ensure much stronger
8 protections for peaceful protestors, and to ensure
9 that police can no longer be the first line of
10 defense in mental health and addiction response. If
11 this body fails to pass the budget tonight, the City
12 Council risks losing all control. We risk what could
13 be a budget catastrophe for every cause I have just
14 mentioned. So I will be voting aye, with enormous
15 gratitude for the leadership of my African American
16 colleagues and with a firm commitment to the long
17 fight ahead.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: And lastly, if I
20 may just disclosing on the record of the council
21 proceedings that I have a son who attends City
22 Council of the City University of New York and a son
23 who attends Columbia Secondary School, and both of
24 these are funded in the budget we are adopting.
25 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Madam Majority
5 Leader, I'm disclosing for the record of the council
6 proceeding that MTA, Coney Island, York College,
7 Brookdale Hospital, and BRADS will all be funded by
8 the budget we are adopting, and I have sisters,
9 brothers, and a mother that are all associated and/or
10 employed by these entities. Permission to explain my
11 vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Budgets are a
16 reflection of our priorities and the people of New
17 York have made these priorities clear. The fallout
18 of COVID-19 drastically impacted our budget process.
19 But I believe that without this pandemic the many
20 disparities black and brown people experience in
21 small business, health care, housing, and education
22 systems it would not have exposed how detrimental it
23 is, ah, these, that disparities are. COVID has shown
24 us how racially divided we are as a city. I am proud
25 to be a member of the BLAC and a cochair of the

2 Women's Caucus, and part of our city's movement that
3 pushed for police reforms. I am proud to have
4 advocated alongside my colleagues to deeply cut the
5 NYPD's inflated budget by a billion dollars. I know
6 that this cut wasn't perfect. We have much more work
7 to do, but I truly believe that this cut and this
8 budget addresses the needs of my community and makes
9 a meaningful dent in the NYPD's budget. I am proud
10 we were able to restore SYEP, Cornerstone, Beacon,
11 CUNY ASAP, increase Fair Student Funding, provide
12 housing assistance, guidance counselors' and social
13 workers' jobs. To my constituents, protestors, and
14 advocates across the city who have worked diligently
15 to express and fight for their needs, I heard you and
16 I hear you. And I'm committed to a future free of
17 police brutality, intimidation, and injustice by the
18 NYPD. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader
19 Cumbo, Jason Goldman, BNT members, Latonya McKinney,
20 and the entire finance team for your hard work and
21 your diligence. I vote yes on this budget and all.
22 Thank you so much.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: We did our best
8 to protect the safety net for our youth, our
9 immigrants, our black and brown communities impacted
10 by COVID. But really this budget protects the police
11 department that is brutalizing our neighbors, locking
12 them up, separating them from our families, and
13 criminalizing our children and our schools. The
14 demand to defund the NYPD was never about a number.
15 It was about questioning the fundamental approach to
16 public safety that condones killer cops, racist
17 policing, and mass incarceration, no matter who wears
18 the blue uniform. They say budgets are moral
19 documents that show us who we are and what we stand
20 for. Well, I am walking with the people marching on
21 the streets, the advocates working for decades to
22 reform the police and close jails, and, most
23 importantly, the incredible voice of our New York
24 youth who have risen to the occasion and flooded our
25 public hearing demanding New York City budget

2 justice, and Red Hook and Sunset Park youth we see
3 you. Yes, we did our best. But sometimes our best
4 is not good enough for the people of the city. I
5 vote no on all the budget items and yes on land use
6 item 665 and the accompanying resolution 1366. And
7 colleagues and New York City, I am hopeful, because
8 in the streets right now are the next members of the
9 City Council and the mayor who will lead us to a
10 better future. And I am ready to follow them. Thank
11 you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
13 Council Member Menchaca.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Uh, good evening,
16 uh, permission to explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
21 Majority Leader. I would first like to begin by
22 disclosing on the record that, ah, the Alpha Phi
23 Alpha Senior Center is being funded in this budget
24 and my mom attends the center. I now would like to
25 thank the members of the Black, Latino and Asian

2 Caucus for their months of steadfast deliberation and
3 participation, um, not just on this budget but in
4 advocacy and their commitment to our borough,
5 prospective communities, ah, during the, the, in the
6 midst of the, the critical COVID-19 crisis, in
7 addition why social unrest, ah, in response to
8 violence and in the debt perpetrated, ah, on black
9 lives at the hands of police officers. And in the
10 midst of all this that, that we as a caucus you have
11 remained steadfast and been able to manage the
12 business of the people and not get caught up in the
13 hype, the, and the hyperbole, even the personal
14 attacks. We have all remained focused and I, I thank
15 you for that. And being able to remain focused and
16 serving the 5 million New Yorkers, ah, that we are
17 tasked with serving is important, that those leaders
18 and advisors of those communities of black, Latino,
19 and Asian members are reflected in this time and
20 particularly in this budget and because for that I
21 want to thank everybody for their steadfast advocacy.
22 It is not easy in this climate. And I'd like to
23 thank my colleagues, ah, in the council that aren't
24 members of, of the caucus for their advocacy and
25 their support as well. Ah, but certainly I'd like to

2 thank Speaker Johnson. I'd like to thank him for his
3 leadership, his thoughtful support...

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...and for him
6 listening and hearing the call and the voices of
7 these black, brown, and Asian folks throughout the
8 city. Ah, and because of that we were able to
9 address the needs of these communities. So I want to
10 say to the others that are out there that police
11 reform did not begin nor end with this budget. Um,
12 to believe that would dismiss the community safety
13 act and not recognize what the city looked like prior
14 to that. It would be to dismiss the work that all of
15 my colleagues have done over the past few years in
16 police reform, from Right to Know to, to, to all of
17 the, the low-level, ah, um, reforms that have been
18 done, including marijuana reforms that
19 disproportionately impacted communities of color, and
20 certainly it would be to dismiss the package of
21 really impactful legislation just passed by this
22 council and our colleagues in the state. And so
23 understand that these reforms only occurred by, by
24 engagement and the thoughtful discourse. We hear you
25 and we have engaged you. But please do not dismiss

2 the work that we have done and the work that we will
3 continue to do on behalf of police reform and on
4 behalf of all the citizens of the City of New York.
5 I look forward to working with my colleagues, um, as
6 we move forward...

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: ...on this just
9 budget and I will be voting aye on all except for
10 Resolutions 1355 through 1357. Thank you, Majority
11 Leader.

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

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Permission to
16 explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Coming up with a
22 budget is a process that is inherently fraught with
23 conflict. Ah, on one end I believe that a budget is
24 a statement of values and priorities. On the other
25 hand, it's an imperfect document. It can't be

2 everything to everyone and it has to balance our
3 causes with compromises. And that's never been more
4 true than this year as we've been faced with
5 unprecedented circumstances, a pandemic that's
6 claimed the lives of nearly 25,000 New Yorkers and
7 disproportionately black and Hispanic New Yorkers,
8 ah, a pandemic that's also create a recession, ah,
9 that followed that has left nearly one in five New
10 York City residents unemployed, a 9 billion dollar
11 budget deficit, and a moral imperative to use the
12 budget to make real and meaningful advances for
13 racial justice. The black and Latino communities
14 have borne the brunt of the COVID crisis. They got
15 sicker at higher rates, we died at higher rates,
16 we're out of work at higher rates. Every aspect of
17 the pandemic and the economic crisis has hit us the
18 hardest. That's why as a son of immigrants who was
19 born and raised and still lives today in a majority
20 minority community and as the co-vice chair of the
21 Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, I'm proud of the work
22 that we've done here. In addition to slashing one
23 billion from the NYPD's budget, we managed to save
24 almost every immigrant initiative, from the New York
25 Immigrant Family Unity Project that provides legal

2 representation to immigrants facing unjust
3 deportations, unaccompanied minors and families, CUNY
4 Citizenship Now, the Adult Literacy Program, Day
5 Laborers Work Force Initiatives. We restored summer
6 youth employment programs. I said publicly as the
7 budget negotiations began that I wouldn't support a
8 budget that gutted things like education, immigrant
9 and social services, but spared the NYPD. This
10 budget meets that bar and reflects a more equitable
11 cuts and saves almost every immigrant initiative.
12 But budget cuts alone won't be enough to solve the
13 programs in policing or institutional racism. Firing
14 police alone won't fix flawed training. One budget
15 was never gonna be the answer. And we need to be
16 better than a hashtag and commitment to real policy
17 changes. We need police who live in our
18 communities...

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: ...[inaudible] and
21 staff at the academy, and educational requirements in
22 fields pertinent to enforcing laws. It's been an
23 honor and a privilege to champion these initiatives
24 that make a difference in the lives of the
25 historically under-represented and under-resourced

2 neighborhoods. And so I want to take this
3 opportunity to thank Speaker Johnson for his
4 incredible work in getting us to this point. Ah, I
5 want to thank, ah, Jason Goldman and of course, ah,
6 Latonya McKinney and the entire finance staff for
7 their dedication, ah, and their hard work. Ah, they
8 got us here. Ah, and with that, Madam Majority
9 Leader, ah, I will be voting aye on all.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
11 Council Member Moya.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Madam Majority
13 Leader, I want to apologize again, but thank you to
14 Council Member Moya and to other members for thanking
15 Jason Goldman, who every member here knows, ah, has
16 literally, I think since the beginning of March, not
17 taken a single day off and has worked with every
18 member here in a thoughtful way. So I am so grateful
19 to Jason. He has a small child, ah, like you, Madam
20 Majority Leader, and has been balancing that. We
21 couldn't do this without him. We couldn't do this
22 with the entire staff. I want to thank all the staff
23 at the City Council, ah, but especially Jason for his
24 hard work. I'm really grateful to him. So thank
25 you.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: [inaudible] and
4 I'm voting aye on all, and I want to [inaudible] that
5 I'm, ah, disclosing for the record, ah, of the
6 council proceedings that the Board of Elections is
7 funded in this budget we are adopting and my wife,
8 Pamela Perkins, is associated with this entity, and
9 so I just wanted for the record to make sure that
10 there's no conflict in that regard. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
12 Council Member Perkins.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Ah, I'm
15 disclosing on the record of the City Council
16 proceedings that Mount Sinai Hospital is in the
17 budget we are adopting. My mother is associated with
18 that entity. Permission to explain my vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Great, thank you.
23 Um, this has been a very difficult and tumultuous
24 time here in New York City, and this budget is going
25 to be the first of a number of budgets where we have

2 to pull the city out of an unprecedented fiscal hole
3 that's been caused by COVID-19. It's also going to
4 be one of the first in many inflection points on a
5 path towards tackling systemic racism in the city and
6 in our approach to criminal justice. And I'm voting
7 yes today in the interest of taking a step forward in
8 both of those important goals, with the recognition
9 that we have a lot more work to do. We have to act
10 both with a level of urgency in doing that, in the
11 last three or four weeks we have been doing, while
12 recognizing that this is going to be a persistent and
13 aggressive focus on this goal. I think there are
14 goals that are very attainable if we continue to stay
15 focused, accept this progress, and build on today's
16 reforms and the recent legislation that we passed,
17 whether it's continuing to reform policing in our
18 schools or having a serious conversation on the role
19 and the head count of police in a major city like New
20 York City. I believe we can get there and I wouldn't
21 be in public service if I didn't believe that we can
22 achieve those goals. And while there are times in
23 these last few months, including right now, where
24 these all feel so difficult and impossible, I believe
25 in New York City to meet that challenge and I believe

2 in us to continue to respond to these challenges that
3 lay right before us. And the last few weeks have
4 been very difficult as a lot of us have tangled these
5 big questions and fought over what should be in this
6 budget and what should be, what has to, what has to
7 be the difficult decisions, but I want to appreciate
8 my colleagues and where we disagree. You guys are
9 thoughtful and have really engaged this seriously. I
10 want to thank my constituents. They have responded
11 to this moment. They have engaged in a thoughtful
12 dialogue. They have exchanged ideas with me and
13 together we're gonna to continue to do more in the
14 coming months to build on this work, and we're gonna
15 continue to do the work that we've been sent here to
16 do, to reform and to keep acting upon this. And I
17 just want to thank the staff here at the City
18 Council, but I also want to thank my staff, who have
19 been helping to answer the calls and talk...

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: ... [inaudible] to
22 add their voice, my constituents and throughout the
23 city in the last few weeks. They are just a young,
24 talented, and remarkable group. I'm proud of them
25 every single day, and they really have been

1 STATED MEETING

111

2 responding to this moment and sharing really
3 thoughtful ideas about what comes next. So I know
4 that we have all agreed the work doesn't end with
5 today's vote. It is a step towards progress. It is
6 rebuilding. It is reforming. We have a lot more
7 work to do. I hope we all do this together.
8 Whatever you vote today we'll all be a little bit
9 better and a little more thoughtful moving forward.
10 Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
12 Council Member Powers.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: The vote, Council Member?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Excuse me?

15 COUNCIL CLERK: I didn't catch Council
16 Member Powers' vote.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes, [inaudible].
18 Thank you. Yes.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Yes on all?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yes.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: My apologies. Richards.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Um, I'm
23 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
24 that Chairman's Prep Academy is funded in the budget
25

2 that we are adopting and my wife is associated with
3 this entity. Ah, permission to explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Ah, first of
8 all I would like thank to Speaker Johnson, who I
9 believe did everything in his power to ensure
10 communities like mine that were hit hardest by COVID-
11 19 would be, ah, would be prioritized in this budget,
12 and I want to thank him for defending his members and
13 this institution, even at his own expense. I spent
14 the last 48 hours wrestling with the decision whether
15 to vote for or against this budget, especially since
16 I've never voted against one. However, my concern
17 with this budget is not just about the one billion
18 dollar cut, but more about the NYPD's culture. A one
19 billion dollar budget cut can't address systematic
20 racism that runs rampant within the NYPD. Today we
21 must send a clear message that it's not OK to kettle
22 peaceful protestors, that it's not OK to place black
23 and brown New Yorkers in a chokehold as they gasp for
24 air. We must send a clear message that it's not OK
25 to shoot unarmed black men, like Sean Bell and

2 Ramarley Graham. Tonight we must send a clear
3 message that no one is above the law, not even the
4 NYPD. Now let's go through some of the facts on this
5 budget and I've had the pleasure of chairing the
6 committee which has overseen the police department.
7 Let's talk about overtime first. There are no
8 safeguards to ensure the NYPD will actually adhere to
9 the reductions in overtime they committed to this
10 fiscal year, like they do every year. Secondly,
11 fringe benefits regardless of whose budget line
12 they're under shouldn't count towards cuts. This is
13 call creative accounting. I want to thank Speaker
14 Johnson for his work on ensuring that we do cancel
15 two police classes, but there still isn't a binding
16 agreement that city workers won't be laid off later
17 in the year, although the NYPD would still be able,
18 ah, to, ah, not have a freeze enacted. Lastly, even
19 with school safety being transferred, there hasn't
20 been enough details fleshed out in advance of this...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: ...to ensure
23 protections and real reform in our schools will take
24 place sooner than later. While I have other
25 concerns, these are but a few. As chairman of the

2 public safety committee, it is my hope that as we
3 move through the remainder of this year and beyond
4 that this administration seriously works within, with
5 the council, community stakeholders, and local
6 communities on the finite details of a real plan to
7 chart a new course on what police, policing should
8 look like in our city in the 21st century. I will
9 end with the words Dr. King spoke so eloquently in
10 1962, the ultimate measure of a man is not where he
11 stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but
12 where he stands at times of challenge and
13 controversy. With that being said, I am voting no on
14 this budget and I vote aye on the rest of everything
15 else. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
17 Council Member Richards.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'd like to
20 disclose on the record that my wife is a mental
21 health counselor for The Founding, Incorporated,
22 which is funded by the City of New York. I'd like to
23 vote no on all budget items and vote yes on all land
24 use items.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Reynoso.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: First, I must
6 disclose for the council record that the NYPD is
7 being funded in the budget and my mother is an
8 employee there. Permission to explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
13 Majority Leader. This budget vote, like many of the
14 decisions we've made in light of the COVID-19
15 pandemic finds us attempting to address multiple
16 crises caused by systemic racism. That's an almost
17 impossible task and one made even more difficult by
18 our federal and state leaders, who know fully well
19 that municipalities have little to no power to
20 explore new taxes or implement debt financing.
21 Regardless, we will need the state to be a serious
22 partner going forward. Given all of this, Speaker
23 Johnson and his team have gone above and beyond to
24 meet this moment. Speaker Johnson, the finance
25 division, and our budget negotiation team tried

2 harder than anyone could have imagined to drag the
3 mayor to the negotiating table. For the first time
4 in decades the city's budget negotiations addressed
5 some of the funding inequities between the NYPD and
6 our community programs. This took a hell of a lot of
7 work and it should be lauded. My vote on this budget
8 was always going to be guided first and foremost by
9 the mayor's commitment to invest sufficient dollars
10 into our black and brown communities, who have been
11 most impacted by the stark inequities in education,
12 housing, and health care. We knew that the best
13 source of these dollars came from the NYPD,
14 particularly their funding for enforcement in spaces
15 where police are clearly not the solution. While
16 this budget will result in some officers and schools
17 and homeless outreach being moved out of NYPD, the
18 mayor would not accept the removal of police from
19 other roles or even seriously address the failure of
20 the NYPD to dismiss officers who have committed clear
21 acts of misconduct or abuse and remain on the force.
22 Because the mayor decided to draw his line in the
23 sand here, I cannot support the resolutions and
24 communications related to the FY21 budget and I am
25 voting no on all budget items. Now we must all look

2 to the future. When I first spoke to advocates about
3 their call for cutting the NYPD budget by one billion
4 dollars and reinvesting those funds in our
5 communities, we all knew that the fight, whatever the
6 outcome, would only be the first step in a much
7 longer and larger fight to radically change the
8 way...

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: ...[inaudible]
11 public safety. Whatever way you cast your vote
12 today, we can all pledge to work together so that one
13 day we can reach that future. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
15 Council Member Rivera.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Eh, permission
18 to explain my vote?

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, go ahead, Ydanis.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I, I think
24 that we need to put our conversation today with
25 regard to this budget on perspective. Being a

2 council member from 2009, there was no police reform
3 from 2009 to 2013, not at all. I think that now
4 coronavirus, George Floyd, have put the real New York
5 City in perspective. We are the results of a society
6 built for more than 40 year with a racist system. I
7 think that this budget is not the ideal one. We
8 should never have to make decision between SYEP,
9 ASAP, and reducing funding from the NYPD. Being this
10 my tenth budget, eh, sharing this experience with
11 many of my colleague here, this is like the budget
12 dancing cycle that we be, that we've been living
13 years after year. I think that this should be only a
14 beginning, where we should invite all colleague here
15 to please share the privilege that many of those
16 community that are composed by middle class and upper
17 class has in our great City of New York. So
18 hopefully this is only a beginning of reforming the,
19 the, the police department. We need to recognize the
20 job done by the good police officers, as we recognize
21 the good job of the people does in different area, at
22 the same time that we need to remove the bad apple
23 and to change the system that we have built in the
24 city. So I am voting aye on this budget...

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: ...
3 understanding that this is only a beginning for a lot
4 of things that we need to do, especially addressing
5 poverty in immigrants, black, Latino, and Asian
6 community. Thanks.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Um, I am disclosing
10 on the record of the council proceedings that the New
11 York City Department of Sanitation is funded in this
12 budget we are adopting and my son is associated with
13 that entity. Um, permission to explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I am, um, voting,
19 ah, no on Resos 1355, 1356, 1357, M25, and Reso 1365.
20 And I, I just want to thank all of the young people
21 for pushing us to this point, for relentlessly
22 raising their voices, um, and I say keep it up, um,
23 we hear you, and, um, hold our feet to the fire. Um,
24 for my colleagues, I want to thank you for the civil
25 discourse that, um, we were able to engage in, um,

2 this evening and to Speaker Corey Johnson, um, I
3 can't thank you enough for the compassion that you
4 brought to, um, all of these discussions. Um, you
5 were deferential to, um, the feelings, the concerns,
6 and the wisdom of the BNT members. Ah, I, um, we
7 wouldn't have gotten here if it wasn't for your, um,
8 sage leadership. And for my BNT colleagues, I can't
9 thank you enough for your vocal advocacy and your
10 tireless support. If you, you never back down, you
11 always said that the youth had to be our priority and
12 you did everything that we needed to do to make sure
13 that they were. Um, and to Latonya, Regina, Isha,
14 and Michelle, I have to say their names because they
15 are phenomenal women who shepherded us to, through
16 this budget, putting us a step closer to making New
17 York City a more equitable city. And for those of
18 you who tried to use this budget as a litmus test,
19 um, for our concerns for black lives, I just want you
20 to know that every decision that was made was made to
21 protect the social safety net and to protect the most
22 vulnerable New Yorkers.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, thank
25 you all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Oh, wait, wait, I
5 vote aye on, ah, on the budget, um, and no on those
6 others that I, I stated. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Got you. Thank you.
8 Council Member Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Permission to
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I'm voting no
15 and I want to make sure my no vote is understood.
16 I'm voting no because this budget imposes sacrifices
17 prompted by COVID and the economic downturn on people
18 who can least afford it. I'm deeply moved by Black
19 Lives Matter and support the call to defund the NYPD.
20 This budget does not meaningfully demilitarize our
21 police force nor reduce its true scale. More
22 centrally, this budget does not address our core
23 fiscal problem, a revenue shortfall. These cuts and
24 those to come will hurt the very people most deeply
25 impacted by this crisis. The work of so many of them

2 is deemed essential, but their welfare apparently is
3 not. More New Yorkers will face economic desperation
4 with tragic results, including renewed calls for more
5 policing. A better way to approach this revenue
6 shortfall is through a combination of spending cuts,
7 borrowing, and new sources of revenue. It's ironic
8 we're in this situation because our City Council
9 speaker, mayor, and public advocate have all to one
10 degree or another supported borrowing authority. The
11 city comptroller, conversely, has not. If borrowing
12 was a good idea after 9/11 it's a good idea now. Our
13 response to the Great Depression was to find every
14 possible way to put people back to work and mitigate
15 human suffering. The remaining tool is to identify
16 and advocate for new sources of revenue. The state,
17 if only for one year, should unwind the rebate of the
18 securities transfer tax. It's fair to ask those
19 profiting from financial markets and government
20 support for those markets...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: ...to repay a
23 portion of the benefits they have received. I'm
24 voting no today to call attention to these shortfalls
25 and to move the ball forward to a more fair and

2 sustainable solution. I'm voting no on the budget
3 and aye on all remaining items.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Salamanca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Um, I'm
6 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
7 that, um, New York City Department of Parks and
8 Recreation is funded in this budget we are adopting
9 and my wife and my, ah, son are associated with this
10 entity. Ah, and may I have permission to explain my
11 vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
17 Majority Leader. I want to thank Speaker Johnson,
18 Latonya, the entire finance division, Chair Dromm,
19 the Black Caucus, Jason Goldman, Ebony Meeks, Anthony
20 Perez, and members of the BNT for the countless hours
21 going line by line, item by item, identifying ways to
22 restore programs the mayor failed to fund. While my
23 colleagues and I agonized over tough decisions, we
24 fought hard to save programs and initiatives needed
25 to rebuild post COVID, such as summer youth

2 employment and youth programs, healthcare services,
3 housing and anti-eviction services, food
4 insecurities, senior services, and education, to say
5 the least. While not perfect at all, Mr. Speaker, we
6 did the best that we could with the cards we were
7 dealt with in this pandemic and financial deficit.
8 And with that I vote aye on all. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Council Member Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yes. I want to
13 disclose that funding in the budget is Department of
14 Finance, which employs my brother. And permission to
15 explain my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
17 granted.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: First of all, I
20 want to recognize the speaker for shouldering the
21 burden of leadership in a moment of crisis. Ah, Mr.
22 Speaker, you had the impossible challenge of
23 substantially restructuring the NYPD's budget amid
24 public protests and sustaining the social safety net
25 for communities hit hardest by COVID-19, while

2 closing a 9 billion dollar deficit, all without stake
3 or federal support. Never has a speaker been
4 expected to do so much with so little. I do not envy
5 your position. Even those voting no must acknowledge
6 that the speaker did the best he could in the face of
7 overwhelming opposition from the mayor, a historic 9
8 billion dollar deficit, and continuing neglect at the
9 hands of the federal government that has told New
10 York City to drop dead. It is true that the City
11 Council could have in theory passed its own budget.
12 But in practice the mayor has the power of
13 impoundment. The mayor could have unilaterally
14 defunded the very community-based organizations upon
15 which all of our communities depend for vital
16 services. In choosing to negotiate a budget, a
17 tragic necessity in a system of checks and balances,
18 the speaker wisely chose not to take to the risk of
19 further endangering not-for-profits that cannot
20 afford to be defunded in the midst of COVID-19. Not-
21 for-profits hanging by a thread cannot afford to be
22 casualties of an indefinite power struggle between
23 the mayor and the City Council. This budget is
24 admittedly full of disappointments, but I ask myself
25 should I vote against the budget that invests over

2 half a billion dollars in the creation of new
3 community centers, that promotes fiscal equity in
4 public education, that preserves afterschool programs
5 and jobs for underserved youth in places like the
6 South Bronx, that manages against all odds to do an
7 enormous amount of good for an enormous number of
8 people in the face of a crippling 9 billion dollar
9 deficit. As a council member who represents some of
10 the poorest communities in the city, I do not have
11 the luxury of voting against critical investments in
12 employment, education, and equity. My community does
13 not have the luxury of sacrificing those investments
14 in a political power struggle with the mayor, who
15 again has the power of impoundment.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: The speaker
18 negotiated the best budget he could, given the
19 dreadful hand that he was dealt, and for that reason
20 I will vote aye.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
22 Council Member Torres.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Um, I am
25 disclosing on the record that 721-K is in the budget

2 and my father is associated with this school. And,
3 ah, permission to explain my vote, Majority Leader?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: This is the
8 hardest vote that I've ever had to take in the
9 council. This was supposed to be a budget that spoke
10 to our moral priorities, making sure that the trauma,
11 ah, our children are experiencing during COVID-19
12 pandemic was temporary, not generational. We have
13 succeeded in restoring some of the mayor's most
14 punitive cuts. But ultimately this body was reduced
15 to fighting for crumbs. We are in an unprecedented
16 fiscal situation at the very end of the budgetary
17 food chain. What little relief came from the federal
18 government for education was quickly expropriated by
19 the state. The state passed along devastating cuts
20 with another 8.2 billion dollars in cuts to aid to
21 localities, that still has not been specified,
22 looming. The mayor put forth a deeply punitive
23 expense budget, prioritizing funding cuts to direct
24 services for children. The administration has
25 overwhelming rebuffed the alternative cuts proposed

2 by this body, both to the NYPD and to other agencies,
3 cuts which would have shifted the pain away from
4 everyday New Yorkers and towards administration.

5 Much of this in the service of the mayor being able
6 to claim that we're passing a budget without layoffs.

7 Mr. Mayor, that is disingenuous. The human service
8 workers, mostly women, people of color, who will be
9 laid off, they matter. Their families count, matter,
10 regardless of whether their paychecks say the City of
11 New York on top. Since I became chair of the
12 Education Committee I have focused on making changes
13 to better support kids and make them feel safe.

14 There are more school safety agents than there are
15 school counselors, social workers, and psychologists
16 combined. There are over 2000 more school safety
17 agents working in the DOE today than there were in
18 1998, when the zero tolerance, ah, when the zero
19 tolerance Guiliani administration transferred them
20 over to NYPD.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Ah, Majority
23 Leader, if I could explain, because a lot of
24 education stuff in this budget really...

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You can continue.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: ...[inaudible]
3 extra time. Ah, last year I and my colleagues had to
4 fight like hell to get 200 additional school social
5 workers hired. This year the mayor proposed cutting
6 25 of those positions, social workers for high-needs
7 schools and students in temporary housing, and we
8 again fought like hell to keep them and succeeded in
9 restoring them. Over the past two years I fought
10 hard to lift a hiring freeze on social workers and
11 counselors, and I'm disappointed it is being
12 reapplied at a time when we need them more than ever.
13 However, I am grateful that today we were able to
14 secure a commitment to include school safety agents
15 in the hiring freeze as well. Last year my
16 colleague, Donovan Richards, and I fought to change,
17 ah, language in the DOE's MOU, with the NYPD that
18 allowed officers to enter schools to execute arrests
19 and to give principals more of a say in the
20 evaluation of safety agents in their buildings. This
21 year we called for the MOU to be canceled and for a
22 transfer of the school safety division from NYPD to
23 DOE as a first step to enable the development of a
24 more restorative model. The transfer of school
25 safety back to DOE undoes a Guiliani era zero

2 tolerance model and a hiring freeze on school safety
3 agents, and I'm proud that we are taking this first
4 step. But make no mistake, we should not be taking a
5 victory lap, what is only a preliminary agreement.
6 There is still ambiguity in what the path forward
7 looks like. I will be fighting to ensure that arrest
8 power and handcuffs are removed. We need to develop
9 a more restorative model with the council, labor,
10 educators, schools that have been doing restorative
11 justice work, and the most importantly, the youth who
12 are directly impacted by school safety policy at the
13 table. To the advocates who have been absolute
14 essential to shaping my advocacy and in challenging
15 me to go farther over the past few years, Girls for
16 Gender Equity, Dignity in Schools, New York City
17 [inaudible] Union, AQE, Urban Youth Collaborative,
18 and many others, I know that this budget is a
19 disappointment. I appreciate our continued dialogue
20 through disagreement and I'm committed to and
21 continuing to work together to ensure that school
22 safety is fundamentally reimagined in a way that
23 centers the holistic needs of children. I am a
24 former high school teacher and I understand that kids

2 respond to trust, not to authority. There is much
3 more to do.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Acknowledging,
6 Majority Leader, I'm ending now, my last final
7 paragraph.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [inaudible].

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: There's so much
10 education here and I just want to make sure we get it
11 out. Acknowledging the places where we fell short, I
12 am proud of the hard-fought victories in this budget.
13 The mayor proposed a 100 million dollar cut to Fair
14 Student Funding, which would have resulted in
15 teachers, counselors, social workers being
16 [inaudible] from schools across the city. We fought
17 hard and that cut was restored. The mayor wanted to
18 cut Single Shepherd, a program which pairs middle and
19 high school students in the South Bronx and
20 Brownsville with a dedicated counselor, social
21 worker, who stays with them through college at a 100
22 to 1 ratio. This is exactly the kind of program we
23 need to contend with the immense trauma that our kids
24 have undergone over the course of the pandemic, and
25 I'm committed to vote against any budget that cut

2 that program. I want to thank the educators, the
3 school leaders, the advocates, my colleagues who have
4 been rallying around this program. I want to thank
5 Single Shepherd. The council has also been very
6 vocal in making sure that we have nurses in every
7 school. This agreement that we're voting on today,
8 there's a commitment to place a nurse in every school
9 building, ah, in the school system and we still, of
10 course, need more details on that. Finally, I am
11 grateful to Speaker Corey Johnson. I am grateful to
12 my colleagues for standing with me to fight for our
13 schools when the mayor literally, even yesterday, was
14 saying no to Single Shepherd. The mayor of New York
15 was saying no to social workers as of yesterday
16 morning, and Corey Johnson said no, we're gonna fight
17 back to add more social workers and counselors and
18 Single Shepherd for our schools. It's not even in
19 his district. It's not in mine, neither. It's in
20 central Brooklyn and the South Bronx, and Corey
21 Johnson got it done. I want to thank all my
22 colleagues for helping me and helping us get this
23 done, and there's, ah, a lot of accomplishments that,
24 you know, that will make a difference in kids' lives,
25 even though there is so much more work to do. I want

2 to thank you the Education Committee staff, the
3 finance staff. Latonya, you are the best. And my
4 staff [inaudible] my chief of staff, who is
5 outstanding as well, and the entire staff. And with
6 that I vote aye, Majority Leader.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
8 much, Council Member Treyger.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission not to
11 explain my vote.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
13 certainly granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. I
15 vote no on everything and I wish everybody good
16 night. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: First, I would
20 like to disclosing on the record that the St. Andrew
21 Avellino Athletic Association is funded in the budget
22 and I have been a passionate volunteer soccer coach
23 there for over 15 years. New York Junior Tennis
24 League, Citizen Schools and YAI are also funded in
25 the budget and my father and brother are associated

2 with those entities. Madam Majority Leader, first to
3 say good morning and may I have permission to explain
4 my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [inaudible]

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm with you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [inaudible]

11 faced with a crisis that this city has really never
12 faced before. The perfect storm of the COVID
13 pandemic, which crippled our city's financial
14 stability combined with the call for social justice
15 have all merged into a very different reality when we
16 started 2020. All of us, no matter where we stand or
17 fall on the economic spectrum, have been impacted by
18 this pandemic. And we now must make extremely
19 difficult decisions to lead the city forward.

20 Leadership by its very nature must lead for all New
21 Yorkers. From our new immigrant brothers and sisters
22 to our multigenerational families, we have all chosen
23 New York City to be our home. Our finance and budget
24 negotiating team have worked day and night to find
25 some way forward and we must give tremendous credit

2 to Latonya and her entire team. For that we are
3 always grateful to, ah, Speaker Corey Johnson and his
4 dedicated staff. We will never find the perfect
5 balance when it comes to reforming and preserving the
6 men and women who keep our city safe. Just last week
7 we took historic strides forward and passed
8 legislation that truly committed to immediate
9 changes. This council reformed police procedures,
10 accountability, and how policing is conducted in our
11 city. Now, this budget will redefine the role our
12 school safety agents play in our schools, safety in
13 our public transit system, and how we interact and
14 provide for our homeless New Yorkers. These are
15 continued steps in the right direction. Policy
16 changes, legislation, accountability, training, and
17 how we police are all positive changes. But removing
18 officers from our precincts and streets I still
19 believe is a mistake. It is true that due to this
20 unforeseen and unprecedented crisis cuts will be felt
21 across every city agency. But only one agency is
22 fundamentally charged with keeping our families and
23 children safe. It is my hope that we as a city
24 immediately [inaudible] the rise of serious crime and
25 reallocate the funds necessary to give our local

2 precincts and communities the resources they need to
3 keep all New Yorkers safe. Once again, I want to
4 acknowledge our speaker, Corey Johnson, our finance
5 chair, Danny Dromm, our Queens delegation's hard work
6 in negotiation which resulted in a budget during this
7 crisis...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: ...[inaudible] I
10 and many of my colleagues can support. I vote aye on
11 all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I am
15 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
16 that Breaking Ground is funded in this budget we are
17 adopting and my sister, Dawn, ah, is associated with
18 this entity and devotes her life to, ah, working with
19 the homeless. Um, with that I'd like permission to
20 explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: So I've heard
3 a lot tonight about mobs, anarchists, bullies, a
4 small minority of people pushing, um, all of this
5 feels to me like an attempt to minimize a mass
6 movement for social justice. I came out as a gay man
7 in 1989 when queer men were dying in droves and Act
8 Up was loud. It was impolite. It pushed the status
9 quo. It made powerful people uncomfortable. Ah,
10 they were rude and some people thought they went too
11 far. I myself participated at a die-in in front of
12 George Pataki's home when he was the governor. But
13 activism and activists saved lives because they
14 pushed the envelope and because they pushed people in
15 power. Systemic and structural racism and police
16 brutality will not end as a result of polite
17 requests. Power doesn't concede, it gets taken. The
18 young people out there, yes, activists, they're angry
19 because we have not listened. They are angry, and
20 they are right to be angry because so much is wrong
21 and we as elected officials should be listening with
22 great respect and admiration because many of us began
23 our careers as activists who were in the streets and
24 just because we're in government today and got
25 elected to the City Council doesn't mean we no longer

2 have an obligation to listen and respect activists.
3 That's how things get done. That's how things
4 change. And that's why I'm voting no on this budget,
5 because we didn't do enough. We didn't get to where
6 we needed to get to. We failed in too many important
7 ways...

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: ...to
10 fundamentally change the way this city is policed.
11 And so I cannot vote for this budget because I made a
12 pledge. I made a pledge not to vote for this budget
13 unless it cut the budget of the NYPD by at least a
14 billion dollars and in that vein this budget fails.
15 Fails miserably. So I vote no on the budget and aye
16 on all the rest.

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

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes,
21 Parliamentarian.

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Can we please recognize
23 Council Member Ulrich before moving on with the next
24 member?
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes. Council
3 Member Ulrich.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Council Member
5 Ulrich is here.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Ulrich,
7 do you have any disclosures to make on the record?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Ah, yes, I wish
9 to disclosing on the record that I am an adjunct
10 professor at St. Francis College, um, an organization
11 and entity which is funded in this budget, not by me
12 directly, but by this body and, um, I believe that is
13 the only disclosure I have to make on the record.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I thought you
15 wanted to change your vote to a vote on all on aye.
16 [laughs]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: No, no, I haven't
18 had that much to drink, thank you, Madam Majority
19 Leader. Thank you very much. I still wish to vote
20 no on all. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We'll call on you
22 [inaudible] on Monday.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
24 we should also recognize Council Member Gjonaj.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
3 Gjonaj.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
5 Majority Leader. I am, ah, clarifying and further
6 explaining my disclosure statement on CUNY. My boys
7 are considering going, have not finalized their
8 decision for summer classes, and in doing so I'm
9 disclosing that they may be attending CUNY, or taking
10 CUNY classes during the summer. And to further
11 elaborate on the New York Public Library, which is
12 being funded in this budget, that my brother, ah, I
13 have good reason to believe, I know that he is
14 involved with, um, the libraries and maybe associated
15 with this entity. Thank you, Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
17 much, Council Member Gjonaj.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,
20 may I be excused to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
25 President. Ah, I'm going to, ah, try hard not to

2 repeat much of which was said on the fourth night and
3 this morning, ah, particularly because the majority
4 has already recorded its votes and the budget will
5 pass. Um, but, ah, it does, I think, ah, ah, here
6 worth mentioning. Um, you know, the budget, as has
7 been said, are balancing acts. Um, in this body, ah,
8 people don't agree on everything. I think, ah, I
9 think that's very clear. Um, I have agreed and
10 disagreed with members of this body on both sides of
11 the aisle. Um, I have agreed and disagreed with
12 members of this body, ah, from every community, from
13 every borough, ah, sometimes, ah, um, more difficult
14 than others in our disagreements and sometimes our
15 agreements and partnerships have, have been
16 tremendous. Ah, and I think, ah, what we saw on the
17 floor on Thursday was an example of that, um, a broad
18 cross-section of representatives in this body coming
19 together to, ah, speak up on, for example, taxation.
20 And we've done that in the past, ah, together, um, on
21 other issues as well. Ah, for me there is no one
22 particular item in this budget, ah, that, that, ah,
23 galls me, um, to the point of voting no. Um, it's
24 not that at all. Ah, I think it is important to
25 note, as has been said on this floor, that the

2 speaker, Mr. Speaker, his team, ah, the chief of
3 staff, ah, the director of the finance division,
4 members of this body, um, who attended hearings, I
5 attending nearly every single finance hearing, ah,
6 during the preliminary and executive budget process,
7 although I'm not a member of the Finance Committee,
8 because, like most members of this body, I care
9 deeply about the present of our city and the future
10 of our city. That's why I ran for office. Um, I
11 have said often on the floor of this council, Madam
12 President, my time is about to expire. I ask your
13 indulgence briefly.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please continue.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Ah, I have said
16 often on this, on the floor of this chamber the, ah,
17 giants have walked these floors before I. Ah, I
18 believe giants will walk long after I'm gone. Ah, it
19 is an incredible honor to serve, ah, in the council,
20 to be one of 51 members representing the people of
21 New York City, truly the greatest place in the world.
22 For me, um, I think as I cast my vote there are going
23 to be some who will attribute meaning to my vote
24 beyond my words. Ah, I urge you and encourage you
25 not to do that. Um, my words are what I say they are

2 and nothing more. Perhaps I have the luxury of
3 recording my vote after the majority has already
4 recorded its vote and perhaps therefore I can do what
5 I want at this point. It would be wrong as well.
6 The record of this chamber will show that I have
7 frequently, frequently a sole no vote. Ah, I vote my
8 conscience. Um, today I'm not a sole no vote. But I
9 will be a no vote on, ah, the budget package. I
10 believe that I channel the will of the people who
11 sent me to the council in doing that. It's not to
12 say that any one particular issue, as I said, is why.
13 I traveled around my district today in between the
14 two Stated, ah, and as I, ah, ah, saw the vast
15 numbers of trees fallen in my community, I couldn't
16 help but think about the fact that this budget is
17 going to cut the pruning program in the Parks
18 Department. Um, there are going to be fewer
19 sanitation pickups on these baskets on our corners.
20 At the same time, there is no cut to the number of
21 people who are going to walk and write summonses.
22 We're moving the, ah, traffic enforcement people over
23 to an enforcement division that will focus on writing
24 even more summonses, it's been said before, ah, by
25 both sides of City Hall. Um, I have a big program

2 with putting a half a billion dollars into the
3 Department of Education that isn't going into
4 classrooms. I have a problem with that. Now, I know
5 that there are good reasons to do so on both sides of
6 City Hall that I agree with was made. I understand
7 that. But to me if a half a billion dollars is going
8 to move over from another agency into the Department
9 of Education, we ought to figure out ways to do more
10 for the classrooms. I think that's important. And
11 from my point of view, representing a district with a
12 majority of children who do not attend public
13 schools, I think it's an important point of view that
14 somebody ought to say, and I'm saying it, and I know
15 that there are good people in this council who
16 believe that as well. Um, I'm, I've taken enough
17 time and it's long after, ah, the time when this
18 meeting should have ended, and I appreciate your
19 indulgence, Madam President. I respectfully, ah, and
20 with gratitude, Mr. Speaker, for giving me this time
21 and for giving me the opportunity to work with him
22 and members of the council. Ah, I vote no on all
23 with the exception of LUs 665 and accompanying
24 resolution 1366, and I honor those, ah, deeply who
25

2 vote in a different way than I, but this is my vote
3 tonight. Thank you, Madam President.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
5 Council Member Yeger.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. I am
8 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings
9 that the New York City Department of Education is
10 funded in the budget we are adopting and my sister is
11 employed by DOE. I want to just first start off by
12 thanking Speaker Corey Johnson. As all of you have
13 heard tonight, Council Member Johnson had the
14 difficult task of working with 51 members with very
15 different opinions and very different ideals. And he
16 was able to come together to create a budget package
17 that reflected each of the goals and aspirations of
18 all of the council members. Now, for some it wasn't
19 enough. For some they wanted to push further. And
20 we're going to continue to work to get there. But
21 Speaker Corey Johnson, as you see, had a tremendous
22 task of hearing and listening to the diversity of
23 opinions of all the council members. This council
24 had a tremendously difficult task of addressing the
25 totality of racism that is imbedded in every single

2 aspect of our city's agencies during a time when we
3 had to fill an almost 9 billion dollar budget gap.

4 Racism is intertwined and interrelated in almost
5 every single way throughout every agency. It is not
6 simply advocating for a one billion dollar reduction
7 of the NYPD. This is more than hashtag deep. Ending
8 systemic racism and dismantling racism in the NYPD
9 and throughout every New York City agency is hard
10 work. It's continuous work. It is a marathon. But
11 we attempted to do that by fully restoring programs
12 such as CUNY ASAP program, fighting to completely
13 restore CUNY scholarships for deserving students,
14 fighting for fair student funding, restoring summer
15 youth employment, because our youth, they have to
16 start their summer employment this week. We could
17 not continue to debate over a budget that was going
18 to force our young people to continue to languish at
19 home. We were protecting our theaters of color,
20 institutions that have taken decades to be built,
21 fighting for afterschool programs and alternatives to
22 incarceration, so that people can live full lives.

23 And that's what this is all about. Many people
24 wanted to see a total elimination of school safety
25 agents within our schools to reach the goal of one

2 billion dollars, because for many the number was more
3 important than the goal of actually dismantling
4 racism. But as a black woman, and many black women
5 in this council, we did not support the firing of
6 over 5300 school safety agents, 70% of whom are black
7 women and heads of their households in the middle of
8 two global pandemics. I can't wear a Black Lives
9 Matter T-shirt and at the same time fire 5300 black
10 people. Our school safety agents have the ability to
11 be a part of the process of reimagining what safety
12 in our schools actually looks like. I feel inspired,
13 with all of the calls and text messages that I have
14 received, I now got your number, too, and we have an
15 army of people that hopefully will work with us to
16 come up with solutions to really work together to
17 dismantle all forms of racism in the NYPD and every
18 agency across the City of New York. I hope that
19 outside of the protests, rallies, and phone calls
20 that this level of advocacy will continue with
21 working with us to roll up our sleeves, to provide
22 and deliver food for our shut-in seniors at NYCHA who
23 are still dealing with COVID-19, to create
24 afterschool programs for our young people and our
25 community centers, particularly in NYCHA, that are in

2 desperate need for programming, helping us to
3 dismantle racist testing systems that prevent young
4 people from attending our world-class schools, making
5 sure that our children in foster care have mentors
6 that we can create educational curriculums, that
7 eliminates white supremacy, which is at the
8 foundation of the racism that we see each and every
9 day. But it is important that black leaders from our
10 community are leading this charge, that our elders
11 are respected and are part of the voices of this
12 movement. The Black Lives Matter movement demands
13 that it be led by black voices with proven leadership
14 in our communities. The principal [inaudible] means
15 to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for
16 ourselves, and speak for ourselves. And that's what
17 this moment is about. And so I want to thank my
18 colleagues for listening and hearing. This has been
19 an incredible discourse. This is just the beginning
20 in terms of the dismantling of the NYPD's budget. We
21 have one more budget cycle left for many of the
22 council members that are term limited out, and we
23 will have that opportunity in order to create best
24 practices, to have those deep conversations, to
25 understand how people feel all across the city of

2 this New York, but with black voices being at the
3 forefront of that movement. I proudly vote aye. I
4 also want to give a very special shout-out to my
5 entire staff for all of their work in this, and I
6 also want to recognize, ah, Ebony Meeks, who has just
7 been incredible. We've heard her daughter, ah,
8 throughout all of the Zoom conferences,
9 participating. She held down her family, but made
10 sure that we went line by line in this budget cycle
11 to get to where we are today. I thank all of you. I
12 dedicate this to our children. This is for the next
13 generation. And thank you, Speaker Corey Johnson.
14 And I proudly vote aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to thank, ah, my
17 staff, Jason Goldman, Selene Mizrahy, Ebony Meeks,
18 Anthony Perez, Genevieve Michaels, ah Jen Fermino,
19 ah, the entire staff for their, ah, tremendous hard
20 work. Again, Latonya McKinney, Regina Pareda Ryan,
21 Isha Wright, the entire finance division. I want to
22 thank the Sergeant at Arms...

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And Carl Diabla for
25 their really hard work throughout this entire

2 process. And Chief Sergeant Rafael, I want to thank
3 you for your diligence and hard work. So I'm
4 grateful to all of you. I look forward to discussing
5 the next steps of what we can do, 'cause we know this
6 is the beginning, not the end, and I vote aye on all.
7 I also want to thank Joanna Castro, who has been
8 wonderful and making sure these Zooms are working
9 and, ah, she's been fabulous as well. Um, so I want
10 to thank her, I want to thank our IT department. I
11 want to thank everyone.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will stand at
13 pause until today's vote on the items on the general
14 calendar have been tallied.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: [inaudible] public
16 advocate, Majority Leader Cumbo [inaudible].

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [inaudible]
18 promotion, not [inaudible].

19 COUNCIL CLERK: [laughs] OK, the vote on
20 all items for today's general order calendar are as
21 follows. Resolutions 1355, 1356, and 1357 have a
22 vote of 37 in the affirmative, 12 in the negative,
23 and no abstentions. M230 with resolutions 1360 and
24 1361 has a vote of 32 in the affirmative, 17 in the
25 negative, no abstentions. M2A with resolutions 1362

2 and 1362 has a vote of 32 in the affirmative, 17 in
3 the negative, and no abstentions. M232 and
4 resolution 1364 has a vote of 32 in the affirmative,
5 17 in the negative, no abstentions. M245 and
6 resolution 1365 has a vote of 38 in the affirmative,
7 11 in the negative, with no abstentions. Land use
8 item 665 and resolution 1366 has a vote of 46 in the
9 affirmative, 3 in the negative, and zero abstentions.
10 Finally, Ms 239, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 233,
11 234, 235, and 236 have a vote of 40 in the
12 affirmative, 9 in the negative, and no abstentions.
13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. I now
15 formally declare the executive expense revenue
16 contract budget, the executive capital budget, and
17 the community development program for fiscal year
18 2021, all as modified and all in accordance with the
19 relevant sections of the New York City Charter, as
20 hereby adopted as of 12:26 p.m. on this 30th day of
21 June 2020.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Madam Majority
23 Leader, I think you mean 12:33.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm trying.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: 12:33 a.m. on July 1.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs] That's
3 right. 12:23 a.m.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: 12:33.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: 12, you'll to
6 excuse my computer, it's a little behind. As hereby
7 adopted at 12:33 a.m. on this 1st day of July 1,
8 2020. Is that right?

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That's right.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: It's July.
11 Introduction and reading of bills.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
13 referred to committee as indicated on today's agenda.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes,
16 Parliamentarian.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: As of point of
18 parliamentary order we want to note for the record
19 that there was a majority of votes in favor of the
20 budget prior to midnight on June 30.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for
22 that clarification. Thank you. There are no
23 resolutions on the resolution calendar, so we will
24 now move into general discussion. Parliamentarian,
25 are there any members that wish to speak at this time

2 for general discussion, or have all members spoken
3 during their vote?

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
5 Leader. There are no members who wish to speak at
6 this time.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'll now call on
8 Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's Stated
9 Meeting.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
11 Majority Leader. I am so glad that you get to now
12 spend more time with your beautiful son, Prince, who
13 is a gift to this world.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And you are an
16 incredible mother, and, ah, you've done a great job
17 throughout this entire process. So, ah, I know this
18 has been hard for you, ah, and I love your son. I
19 was there the day he was born.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, and I'm just
22 grateful [inaudible]. So I want to thank you, Madam
23 Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting that started on
24 June 30, 2020, and ended on July 1, 2020, is hereby
25 adjourned.

2

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3

UNIDENTIFIED: Peace, God bless.

4

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks everyone.

5

UNIDENTIFIED: God bless, good night.

6

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

7

everybody.

8

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night.

9

UNIDENTIFIED: God bless.

10

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night.

11

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12

UNIDENTIFIED: Get some rest.

13

UNIDENTIFIED: No kidding.

14

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night, everybody, good

15

night.

16

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night.

17

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night, guys.

18

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night.

19

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks, Joanna.

20

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks, Joanna.

21

UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks [inaudible] see you

22

all [inaudible].

23

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

24

UNIDENTIFIED: Good night [inaudible].

25

UNIDENTIFIED: All of you are great.

1 STATED MEETING

155

2 UNIDENTIFIED: All right, bye guys, we're
3 gonna close out now.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Good night, Joanna.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: All right, good night.

6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 July 29, 2020