

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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September 23, 2020

Start: 1:45 p.m.

Recess: 2:59 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

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

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

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

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2 DIRECTOR D'ALBA: Sergeants, turn on your
3 recordings.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Starting live shortly.

5 DIRECTOR D'ALBA: Thank you. At this
6 time I ask all panelists please turn all electronic
7 devices to vibrate. Thank you. Madam Majority
8 Leader.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [gavel] Good
10 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of
11 September 23, 2020. I am Majority Leader Laurie
12 Cumbo and it is my pleasure to welcome you to this
13 virtual meeting of the New York City. If you would
14 like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting
15 is posted on our website.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Would you please join us
17 for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to
18 the flag of the United States of America, and to the
19 republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
20 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
22 will begin now with roll call.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I'm present.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala. Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, blessed,
5 unbossed, and present. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here, thank you.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I'm here.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I'm at home, but
16 I'm definitely present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene. Gibson.

- 2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.
- 3 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.
- 4 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.
- 5 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.
- 6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.
- 7 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.
- 8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
- 9 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos. King. Koo.
- 10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
- 11 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
- 12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
- 13 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.
- 14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.
- 15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
- 16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
- 17 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
- 18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
- 19 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.
- 20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.
- 21 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.
- 22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
- 23 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.
- 24 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Present.
- 25 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller. Moya.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins. Powers.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca. Torres.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger. Matteo. Cumbo.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader, we
6 have a quorum.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
8 much. We will now have today's invocation, which
9 will be delivered by the Very Reverend Father George
10 Anastasiou, the spiritual leader of the Holy Cross
11 Greek Orthodox Church in Whitestone, Queens.

12 REVEREND ANASTASIOU: Brothers and
13 sisters, let us bow our heads, mindful that we are
14 always in the presence of Almighty God, heavenly
15 King, comforter, the spirit of truth, the bestower of
16 every blessing, both heavenly and earthly. We humbly
17 bow our heads in awe of your magnificent glory. We
18 humbly bow our hearts, most thankful that you have
19 brought us together as a family. Dear Lord, we ask
20 that you bless, enlighten, and guide the hearts,
21 minds, and deliberations of our speaker and all the
22 members of this city council as they work diligently
23 for the welfare of New York City, most especially
24 during this unprecedented pandemic. Bestow upon them
25 resources to heal and to help. We ask and place this

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2 prayer in your holy, majestic, and eternal name.

3 Amen.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you.

5 REVEREND ANASTASIOU: Thank you, thank
6 you very much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
8 for your powerful and important words at this time.

9 I now ask Council Member Vallone to spread the
10 invocation onto the record.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam
12 Majority Leader. I'd like to make a motion that the
13 invocation be spread in full upon the record.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
15 much, Council Member Vallone. We will now have the
16 adoption of minutes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Well, if I could
18 just say quickly, sorry, Madam Majority Leader...

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, of course.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: ...just a few
21 words about my brother, Father [inaudible]
22 Anastasiou. Father George, um, is beloved by so many
23 in Queens. He graduated from JFK High School in the
24 Bronx and studied at City College in New York and the
25 Higher Ecclesiastical School of Athens. Upon

2 returning from Greece he attended the Hellenic
3 College Holy Cross, continued at St. Vladimir's
4 Seminary and Fordham University. Go [inaudible]. In
5 2001 to 2004 he worked as a public school teacher of
6 history and social sciences for the New York City
7 Department of Education. He was ordained in 2004 and
8 served in the Cathedral of St. Demetrios of Astoria,
9 or as everybody in Astoria says, St. Dee's, and he
10 was appointed to the Parish of Transfiguration of
11 Christ in Corona, and in September of 2019 he became
12 the spiritual leader of our beloved Holy Cross Greek
13 Orthodox Church here in Whitestone. Father George is
14 a graduate of the NYPD and FBI Citizens' Academies
15 and works for the NYC Police Department as their
16 chaplain since 2014. He also serves as chaplain to
17 the MTA Police Department, TBTA Police Department,
18 and the New York State Fraternal Order of Police.
19 His love of the church and his faith is clearly seen
20 in his love for his family. He is married to
21 Presbyteria Aleki Anastasiou and they have three
22 beautiful children. I can proudly say that Father
23 George is known for his warm smile, compassion,
24 Zestril for life, and, even though he won't admit it,
25 his wonderful baritone voice. He is a great

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2 communicator and keeps his congregation involved,
3 engaged, and fully part of their community. He is
4 deeply loved by his parishioners from Astoria to
5 Corona and we are very lucky to have him now in
6 Whitestone. [inaudible] and thank you my brother for
7 giving your blessing over this council, our staff,
8 our families, and my friends on this beautiful fall
9 day. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
11 much, Council Member Vallone, and for giving us the
12 full breadth and weight of the well-roundedness of
13 Father George. We thank you so much for being with
14 us here in the council and we hope to be able to
15 visit you soon. I would now at this time, we will
16 now have the adoption of minutes.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Messages and
19 papers from the mayor.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M252, Mayor's Management
21 Report.

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

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
25 from city, county, and borough offices.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
4 communications.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use callups.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
9 will now have communication from Speaker Corey
10 Johnson.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
12 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, everyone. Happy
13 Wednesday and happy fall, it's now fall. I hope you
14 and your families are safe and well. As you all
15 know, our city is continuing to cope with the
16 economic devastation of this pandemic, which we are
17 still living through. We have made a lot of
18 progress, but New Yorkers still need so much help
19 right now and that is why I am proud that we have
20 several bills today designed to better protect New
21 Yorkers hurt by the pandemic. But first I want to
22 acknowledge all those who have died as a result of
23 the coronavirus. Nationally, we have surpassed
24 200,000 deaths from COVID-19. That includes 23,780
25 New Yorkers who have lost their lives as of

2 yesterday. That's a staggering loss for our city and
3 for our country, and although we are losing few years
4 to the virus than we did at the height of the
5 pandemic, each death is still heartbreaking. On
6 behalf of the council and, as always, I want to send
7 our deepest condolences to the families and loved
8 ones who have lost someone during this painful time.
9 I also want to take a moment to acknowledge 9/11-
10 related deaths since we last met. Rene Sanchez, who
11 was an EMS worker with the FDNY, died this morning.
12 Our condolences go out to his family. I would be
13 remiss not to remember one of the most tremendous
14 losses for our country this year. Justice Ruth Bader
15 Ginsberg, a tireless champion for the rights of
16 women, the LGBTQ community, and countless others, the
17 marginalized, the vulnerable. She died on Friday.
18 We lost our hero on Friday during a period in history
19 when it feels like there are so few of them and we
20 are at a time of grieving during a year when we have
21 already lost so much. But we must continue her fight
22 for justice. To honor the legacy of Justice
23 Ginsberg, the council's Women's Caucus is wearing
24 blue today. She had a steadfast dedication to
25 justice and was committed to lifting up the voices of

2 those who felt powerless. We must do the same, each
3 of us, in our own. Justice Ginsberg made New York
4 proud, her hometown, her home borough of Brooklyn
5 proud, and now we must make her proud. I want to
6 thank you, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, for everything you've
7 done to make our country a better place, especially
8 for women. I want us to take a moment now, a moment
9 of silence for those New Yorkers that we've lost to
10 this virus, EMS worker Rene Sanchez, and Associate
11 Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Ruth Bader
12 Ginsberg. [moment of silence] Thank you. This
13 Sunday evening, September 27, is the beginning of Yom
14 Kippur. To those who will be observing, may you have
15 an easy and meaningful fast. And now on to our
16 agenda. We will be voting on the following finance
17 items: Introduction 2039-A, sponsored by Council
18 Member Danny Dromm, at the request of the mayor, will
19 extend the deadline to file an initial or renewal
20 application from March 16, 2020, to July 15, 2020,
21 for various property tax exemption or abatement
22 programs. According to the Department of Finance,
23 approximately 2650 eligible initial and renewal
24 applications were received after the existing
25 deadline, but prior to July 15, 2020. This

2 legislation will permit the approval of these
3 applications this year rather than requiring the
4 homeowners to wait until next tax year to qualify for
5 benefits. Introduction 1225-A, sponsored by Council
6 Member Danny Dromm, will require the Department of
7 Finance to make best efforts to collect and maintain
8 telephone and email contact information for every
9 property owner in the city to allow the department to
10 do improved and more efficient outreach. Currently,
11 the department does not have a systematic way of
12 collecting and maintaining contact information other
13 than a physical mailing address for property owners.
14 However, email and telephone information are crucial
15 for improved and more efficient outreach and
16 communication, and this legislation encourages DOF to
17 ensure that emphasis is also placed on those
18 alternative and often preferred means of contact.

19 Intro 1702-A, sponsored by Council Member Karen
20 Koslowitz, will require the Department of Finance to
21 include notice on July 1 property tax bills that use
22 a prior year's tax rate to calculate the amount of
23 tax owed and the taxes that are due subject to
24 adjustment upon the adoption of the tax rate for the
25 new fiscal year. Tax rates for the new fiscal year

2 are typically adopted after the preparation and
3 mailing of the July 1 tax bills, and this
4 notification is intended to clear up confusion about
5 why taxpayers may see a mid-year adjustment on the
6 subsequent tax bill. Introduction 705-A, sponsored
7 by Minority Leader Steven Matteo, will require the
8 Department of Finance to establish and maintain a
9 system to contact property owners by email and
10 provide access electronically to receipt for and
11 information each payment made for the charges shown
12 on their statement of account, and I want to thank
13 the staff who worked on these bills, Rebecca Chasen,
14 Amraya Dev, Stephanie Ruiz, Noah Brick, Andrew
15 Wilber, and Luke Zingerly. The final finance item is
16 determination of an Article 5 property tax exemption
17 that the council granted in 2007 to two developments,
18 called Albany Crossing and Kingston Heights in
19 Council Member Cornegy's district. The properties
20 wish to reorganize as an HDFC and seek a different
21 as-of-right property tax exemption to preserve 224
22 units of rental housing. And I want to thank Noah
23 Brick for his work on that. In addition, the council
24 will be voting on the following legislative items:
25 Introduction 2032-A, sponsored by Council Member

2 Andrew Cohen by request of the mayor, will align New
3 York City's paid sick law with the recently enacted
4 New York State law, including how time is accrued in
5 which businesses are covered and from the staff I
6 want to thank Balkis Myra. The next bill is an
7 effort to provide displaced hotel workers with
8 protections. Intro 2049-A, sponsored by Council
9 Member Mark Levine, will establish protections for
10 displaced hotel service workers in the event of a
11 change in control of a hotel, such as a sale or
12 bankruptcy. Once new ownership commences the owner
13 will be required to provide employment to the
14 existing hotel workers for at least 90 days. During
15 this retention period existing workers would be paid
16 the same wage rate or higher and at the end of the
17 90-day period the employer would perform a written
18 evaluation of each worker and if the worker receives
19 a satisfactory result the new employer must offer
20 them continued employment. Additionally, this
21 legislation will require hotels to notify guests of
22 service disruptions that would substantially affect
23 their stay. A hotel would be prohibited from
24 charging a fee or penalty for cancellations made
25 because of a service disruption. The displaced

2 worker protections would take effect immediately and
3 the provisions related to service disruptions would
4 take effect in 120 days. I want to thank from the
5 staff Leah Scripiak and Balkis Mary. Our final bill
6 is in response to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
7 The pandemic has devastated the finances of so many
8 of our local businesses and they need our support
9 more than ever. We will be extended previously
10 enacted legislation that temporarily suspends
11 personal liability provisions in the leases of
12 certain COVID-impacted businesses. Introduction
13 2083-A, cosponsored by Council Member River and
14 myself, would extend the timeframe of our existing
15 legislation, which is set to expire on September 30,
16 and move that date to March 31, 2021. Personal
17 liability provisions or provisions that hold a
18 business owner personally liable in the event they
19 are unable to pay rent, and this is common for small
20 businesses leases. In order to prevent the seizure
21 of personal assets or property an owner must turn in
22 the keys to the property, effectively ending their
23 lease. In addition to extending our legislation,
24 this legislation would also require to city to
25 conduct outreach to commercial tenants regarding

2 protections created in the bill and from the staff I
3 want to thank Stephanie Jones, Noah Mexler, and Chris
4 Sartori. That is our agenda today. And I now turn
5 it back to you, Madam Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
7 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now move into
8 the discussion of general orders. We will recognize
9 council members who wish to speak by using the raise
10 hand function in Zoom. Please wait before you begin
11 your remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to announce he
12 has begun the countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms
13 will alert you when your time has expired. Mr.
14 Parliamentarian, are there any council members
15 registered to speak at this time?

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
17 Leader. Council Member, ah, Ulrich has raised his
18 hand, as has Council Member Cabrera.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK, we will begin
20 with Council Member Ulrich.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm sorry, Madam
23 Majority Leader, can you hear me?

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, I can.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Sorry. Um, is
3 this discussion on general orders?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: This is general
5 orders, yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: OK. Um, I'll
7 reserve my comments for the actual vote, then. I, I
8 don't want to, um, take away time from the meeting.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We'll
10 be anxiously awaiting.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
13 Cabrera.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Um, actually,
16 um, I'll speak, ah, during discussion time. Thank
17 you so much. If you could just add me to the list.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
19 will add you to the list and we also will be
20 anxiously awaiting your response. Are there any
21 other members, Mr. Parliamentarian, requesting to
22 speak at this time?

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, there are not,
24 Madam Majority Leader.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK. Then we will
3 move into the report of special committees.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Report of
6 standing committees.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: People have to mute
8 themselves. Thank you. Say that again, Madam
9 Majority Leader?

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Report of special
11 committees.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: There are none, Madam
13 Majority Leader.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
15 standing committees.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
17 on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing, Intro
18 2032-A, employee safe and sick time.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
20 general orders.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 2049-A, hotel
22 service disruptions.

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

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Finance, Intros 1225-A and 1702-A, property tax
4 rates and owner information.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
6 general orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Intros 1705-A, Department
8 of Finance payment receipts.

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

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 2039-A, tax
12 abatement and exemption program deadlines.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
14 general orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1433,
16 transparency resolution.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
18 orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered LU 686 and
20 Reso 1437, and LU 687 and Reso 1438, tax exemptions.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
22 orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
24 on Small Business, Intro 2083-A, commercial tenant
25 personal guarantee protection.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders. And I would ask the clerk to take a
4 roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
5 general orders calendar.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Good afternoon. Excuse
7 me. Adams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on
17 all, except Intros 2032-A, 2049-A, 2083-A. Thank you
18 very much.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Brannan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.
24
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Ah, I have to
3 disclose that my husband is a teacher with the
4 Department of Education, and I vote aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Mr. Clerk, were
7 there any land use call-ups?

8 COUNCIL CLERK: No, sir.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: OK, well, then,
10 I'm gonna vote aye on all general orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Sounds good. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Clerk?

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes?

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Can you please call on
16 Council Member Ampry-Samuel before moving on to the
17 next Council Member?

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Absolutely. Council
19 Member Ampry-Samuel.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Apologies.
21 I meant to disclose on the record that, um, my
22 brother is a teacher at the Department of Education
23 and today we are voting on a, um, transparency reso,
24 um, in relationship to the Department of Education,
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2 so I just wanted to disclose that on the record.

3 Thank you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cornegy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to
6 explain.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Go ahead, Rob.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Um, as we await
9 the, ah, verdict on, or the decision, on the Breonna
10 Taylor case, I ask for peace and some type of
11 tranquility and some leadership. Um, I don't know
12 what the ultimate result will be, but it will
13 certainly reverberate around the country and land in
14 New York. I vote aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Deutsch.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Ah, no on 2083,
17 aye on the rest.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yes on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir. Dromm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
3 explain?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. Good
8 afternoon, colleagues. Thank you, Madam Majority
9 Leader, Speaker, all of my colleagues, and those who
10 are watching us today. I am voting aye on all items
11 on today's agenda. I echo the sentiments expressed
12 by Council Member Robert Cornegy regarding the
13 Breonna Taylor case. Um, certainly we continue to
14 lift up the family of Breonna Taylor who continue to
15 cry out for justice for the loss of their loved one.
16 Ah, last Friday our nation learned the tragic news
17 that civil rights icon and legend, Justice Ruth Bader
18 Ginsberg, passed away at the tender age of 87. For
19 over 27 years she served on the Supreme Court as a
20 titan for justice and equality, presiding over cases
21 that limited environmental pollution, legalize same-
22 sex marriage, ensured workplace protection for LGBTQ
23 Americans, and guaranteed equal access to educate for
24 women and women's health care. As one of a few women
25 to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ginsberg has

2 been a role model for young girls across the country.
3 Her legacy will forever be cemented in our history as
4 an advocate for women's rights, gender equality, and
5 guaranteeing protections for many marginalized
6 communities. We will never forget her dedication to
7 her work and commitment to public service. Just
8 [inaudible] past Monday I join with my colleagues and
9 members of the Bronx Judiciary to provide a Bronx
10 salute in her honor, although we know she is a
11 daughter of Brooklyn, but the Bronx wants to salute
12 her for a job well done. Ah, today at our Stated
13 Meeting I join with our Women's Caucus cochair,
14 Council Member Farah Louis, and all the women in the
15 Women's Caucus in wearing blue, her favorite color,
16 in solidarity. May her legacy serve as a beacon of
17 hope and opportunity for the next generation of
18 leaders. May she rest in power for a job well done.
19 The honorable, notorious RBG. With that, I vote aye
20 on all items on today's agenda. Thank you so much.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
22 much, Council Member Gibson.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Permission to
25 explain my vote?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
6 Majority Leader. I just want to echo the sentiments
7 of Council Member Cornegy and Gibson, and I got the
8 memo, as you can see by the blue shirt. Ah, before I
9 vote, for the record I'd like to make the following
10 disclosures. My wife is a school nurse in the
11 Department of Ed, Public School PS-175. My sister is
12 an administrator within the Department of Education.
13 My son may enroll as a student at CUNY. And my
14 brother owns property related to a New York public
15 library. And with that, I vote aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, I have
18 nothing to disclose today because I believe my son
19 has actually graduated Queens College, although I am
20 waiting to see the diploma. Um, with that, ah, Madam
21 Majority Leader, I vote aye on all. I join my
22 colleagues in mourning the passing of Ruth Bader
23 Ginsberg, and I will share with you just a very small
24 story. My mother-in-law and, ah, the Honorable Ruth
25 Bader Ginsberg came from the same part of the world,

2 Brooklyn, New York, and they were virtually the same
3 age. And when she went to the Supreme Court, when
4 she was nominated, my mother-in-law cried, because it
5 was as if she was going to the Supreme Court. When
6 people think that diversity doesn't matter, when
7 inclusion doesn't matter, they are dead wrong. We
8 need to have a judiciary and all levels of government
9 that are as diverse as our nation is today. And so
10 with that I say may her memory be for a blessing
11 always. And with that, Madam Majority Leader, I vote
12 aye on all.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Ah, before I vote
16 I want to disclose that my son is an adjunct lecturer
17 at CUNY, of which this council funds. That said, I
18 vote aye on all, with the exception of Intro 2049-A
19 and 2032-A, which I vote no. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Kallos.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Without Ruth
3 Bader Ginsberg there would be no protections for sex
4 discrimination under law and all the great work that
5 she did, and even to this day, ah, the Fourteenth
6 Amendment only protects, ah, discrimination in sex
7 where there is no important governmental objective,
8 which is known as intermediate standard of review,
9 and so, ah, I, I mourn the loss of Ruth Bader
10 Ginsberg. I think I got to meet her when I went to
11 the Supreme Court at High School of Bronx Science for
12 a field trip and, ah, I just hope we can pass a, ah,
13 equal rights amendment, ah, to give women strict
14 scrutiny in her honor and so much more. I vote aye
15 on all.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: King, oh, excuse me.
18 Council Member King.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: For the record, I'd
20 like to disclose my daughter, um, is a teacher at the
21 Department of Education. I vote aye on all, and rest
22 in peace, Judge Ginsberg.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Ah, yes, I will
11 be voting aye, but I need to disclose that my son is
12 a student at City University of New York, ah, which
13 is allocated funding in today's transparency measure.
14 And, again, voting aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Louis.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all,
17 but I would like to disclose on the record that CUNY
18 is being funded in the reso and my sister is employed
19 by CUNY, and I would like to echo the sentiments of
20 my colleagues regarding Breonna Taylor's killers and
21 hope that she gets real justice. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I just want to
3 briefly say that, um, I'm really thankful that
4 Breonna Taylor and Ruth Bader Ginsberg are names that
5 we're talking about here in this council and that
6 they continue to shine, um, a light towards the
7 justice that, um, both they served, um, Supreme Court
8 and the justice that Breonna and her family deserve.
9 I vote aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on
12 all, with the exceptions of 249-A and 2032-A, for
13 which I will be abstaining.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Moya.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You're muted,
18 Council Member Perkins.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: [inaudible]

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We hear you now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: You hear me now?

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Oh, OK. So I
24 vote aye on all.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [inaudible]

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Reynoso,
8 yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
10 all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Richards.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thanks everyone
15 for their support for the small business legislation
16 and for all their kind words about extraordinary
17 women. I vote aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to
20 explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Eh, I'm proud
25 of the, of the bill that we brought in today,

2 including the one for that would bring more support
3 to the local small businesses, even though I continue
4 to believe that the solution to protect the small
5 businesses to fund the small business [inaudible] but
6 at least the one that we passing today is advancing
7 in the right direction. With that, I vote aye.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Clerk.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes?

11 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Before our next council
12 member, Council Member Barron wishes to make a
13 statement about her vote on the record.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, Council Member
15 Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank you.
17 I would like to disclose on the record that CUNY is
18 funded in this resolutions today and my son is
19 affiliated with CUNY.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
24 explain my vote?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I vote
6 aye on all, and I want to disclose for the record
7 that the Department of Sanitation is in this reso and
8 my son is an employee, and, um, we mourn the
9 devastating loss of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, a
10 champion for women's rights. She fought through
11 tremendous barriers, became an iconic and notorious
12 member of Supreme Court and paved the way for
13 generations of women. We owe it to her legacy to
14 preserve the fundamental human rights that she so
15 tirelessly fought for. Justice Ginsberg once said
16 fight for the things that you care about, but do it
17 in a way that will lead others to join you. So we
18 must join together as a nation to honor Justice
19 Ginsberg's legacy and continue our pursuit of justice
20 and equality, and I, I think this is so fitting in
21 light of the, ah, the recent report of the outcome of
22 the Breonna Taylor, ah, case and, um, I just want to
23 say justice delayed is justice denied, and, um, I
24 hope that in the spirit of Ruth Bader Ginsberg this

2 justice will be accomplished in the Breonna Taylor
3 case. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Miller,
7 can I ask you for a clarification?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yeah, Billy.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: My, my apologies. On, on
10 the two items you are abstaining?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: That is correct.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, kind sir.
13 Council Member Rosenthal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
15 all, and I, I couldn't say it better than Council
16 Member Rose, so I just want to attach my name to her
17 statement. That was beautiful weaving together of
18 both of these women's lives. Thank you, Council
19 Member.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you,
21 Helen.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rosenthal.

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

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Salamanca.
3 Torres.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
9 granted.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you, ah,
12 Majority Leader. I first want to disclosing on the
13 record that that New York City Education Department
14 is in today's, ah, transparency resolution and my
15 father is associated with, with the DOE. I, I also
16 want to just, ah, echo the words of my colleagues
17 that Breonna Taylor deserves, and her family deserve
18 justice and nothing short of justice, and, um, with
19 regards to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, um, you know,
20 from Madison High School in Brooklyn to the United
21 States Supreme Court, um, Justice Ginsberg, ah, is a
22 trailblazer in so many ways and her impact will be
23 felt for generations. Um, trailblazer for women, for
24 families, and [inaudible] her family, ah, her family
25 comes from Ukraine, just like my family, and came

2 here to this country and came here and lived in
3 Brooklyn, New York. So, ah, may she rest in eternal
4 power and may we continue the work to ensure that the
5 words in the preamble of the Constitution, we the
6 people, truly mean all the people, because that was
7 very much about her work and her legacy. And with
8 that I vote aye on all. Thank you.

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

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Well, Madam
13 Majority Leader, may I be excused to explain my vote,
14 please?

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, you may.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: OK, thank you so
18 much. It's great to see everybody [inaudible]. Ah,
19 I'm going to be voting aye on all, with the exception
20 of 2032-A, 2049-A, and 2083-A. But I would like to
21 speak to 2032-A for just a moment if I can. Um, I
22 know that earlier I said that I was going to speak
23 during the vote. Um, I'm very disturbed about the
24 fact that the City Council is going to allow the
25 finance department to charge a 7.5% late payment, um,

2 fee or assessment on property taxes that are going to
3 be made late by landlords in New York City. I know
4 that the city has to raise revenue, but the fact that
5 so many tenants are unable to pay their rent and as a
6 result landlords are not receiving the same amount of
7 income and now we're charging them a 7.5%, um,
8 surcharge or interest rate, whatever you want to call
9 it, I'm, I'm calling it a tax. I think it's really,
10 really despicable. It's a slap in the face to the
11 folks who pay for the services and the salaries and
12 the things that we're trying to preserve in the
13 budget, not only this fiscal year but next fiscal
14 year, and the fact that we let the mayor get away
15 with it I think is really disgraceful. So, you know,
16 landlords are hurting, tenants are hurting, everyone
17 is hurting during the COVID crisis. The fact that
18 we're gonna allow the city to tack on a 7.5% interest
19 rate for people who are unable to make their property
20 taxes on time because their tenants are not able to
21 pay their rents because they're out of work, it's
22 really not fair. So I'm voting no on 2032-A for that
23 reason, and I'm hoping that maybe later on the City
24 Council can bring this up at Finance Committee
25 hearing or some other, ah, opportunity, because it's

2 not fair. Everyone [inaudible] during COVID, we have
3 to try to alleviate the pain and suffering that
4 people are experiencing right now due to the economy
5 and what's going on in the world and in our country,
6 and, um, and for that reason I'm going to be voting
7 no on that, as well as the other two items. But I'll
8 be voting aye on all others, and I want to thank you
9 for the time. Thank you very much, Madam Majority
10 Leader.

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

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you. I'd
15 like to disclose for the record that the New York
16 Junior Tennis League is in today's resolution and my
17 father and brother are involved with that entity.
18 Ah, with that, I vote aye on all with the exception
19 of 2032-A. And just a couple of words. I guess
20 coming up on my 30th, can't believe it, anniversary
21 as a lawyer, ah, the passing of the Honorable Justice
22 Ruth Bader Ginsberg, I have to tell you, she set a
23 standard of excellence and professionalism that when
24 you were in law school and as you became a lawyer
25 you, you tried, but never could meet what she did.

2 And, and it drove you to be the best you could be as
3 a person and as a lawyer. So we keep her in our
4 prayers, but we keep her, her memory alive by
5 continuing to be the best we can be as, as
6 legislators, as educators, as lawyers, every walk of
7 life. So with that, thank you to everyone for their
8 beautiful words and, um, [inaudible].

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With great
12 gratitude to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who helped
13 allow me to even have the right to be married to the
14 man that I love, ah, I vote yes on all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

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

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. Ah,
23 first, ah, to, to my colleagues and to all New
24 Yorkers, ah, ah, my neighbors in my district and
25 throughout the city, ah, Shana Tova, happy and a

2 healthy New Year. Ah, may the year 6781 bring us a
3 far better place than the 6780 that we just left
4 behind. Ah, and I thank the Speaker for his, ah,
5 kind wishes as well for the upcoming holiday. Um,
6 ah, I, I, too, would like to join my colleagues in
7 recognizing the passing and the greatness Madam
8 Justice Ginsberg. Ah, those who, ah, have the, the
9 time in life to read even one of her opinions
10 understood, ah, the way she reads through traffic,
11 ah, of the facts to, to get to her point. That's so
12 Brooklyn of her. Ah, but it also spoke to her
13 brilliance in every way and, ah, her struggle to
14 become who she was, ah, the discrimination she faced
15 as a young mother entering the work force, um, ah, as
16 or better qualified than anyone else that she had
17 applied for a job, ah, but simply because she had a
18 young child she had to face her struggles, um, ah,
19 perhaps something that we're not [inaudible] today,
20 ah, and any strides that we've made as a society, ah,
21 are owing to her. Ah, but we're still not there.
22 And, ah, surely whatever we come through as an
23 American nation today is owing, ah, in many ways to
24 her perseverance. Um, she was a resident. She grew
25 up in my neighborhood, ah, in Midwood in the district

2 that I am now privileged to represent, on East 9th
3 Street in Midwood. Ah, ah, a neighborhood, a
4 beautiful neighborhood. Um, and I'd like to think, I
5 hope, ah, that the place that she grew up, ah, is,
6 you know, in addition to the great mind that she had
7 maybe, ah, a part of the foundation of who she
8 became. Um, I've seen in the last couple days of
9 something I remembered from Justice Scalia's funeral,
10 ah, when she spoke, they were famously good friends,
11 and, um, I'm almost concluded and I'll vote, ah,
12 Madam President, if I have an extra minute, um, she,
13 she said, ah, ah, that, you know, speaking about
14 Justice Scalia she said he once just asked how we
15 could be friends, I'm reading the quote, ah, given
16 our disagreements on lots of things, she said.
17 Justice Scalia answered, I attack ideas, I don't
18 attack people. Some very good people have some very
19 bad ideas. Ah, I like to think that the two of them
20 in their brilliant, amazing friendship, ah, can, can
21 guide a lot of us, ah, here in New York City and
22 throughout the nation on how we relate to each other
23 on political matters, and on all matters. Um, and
24 with that I would, will pass my vote. I will
25 abstain, one, I'm voting no on 2083. For the same

2 reason I voted no on Intro 1932 a number of months
3 ago. I believe firmly that it violates Article 1,
4 Section 10 of the United States Constitution,
5 prohibiting government impairment of the obligation
6 of contracts. I understand there are those who have
7 a different opinion. This is my opinion and for that
8 reason I vote no on 2083. I vote aye on all the
9 rest. A happy and a healthy and wonderful New Year
10 for all. Thank you, Madam President.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Clerk.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN: There are several
15 council members who would like to be recognized,
16 starting with Council Member Levin.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you. I'd
19 just like to disclose on the record that CUNY is
20 funded in this transparency resolution and my wife is
21 a student at the grad center of CUNY.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Matteo.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Mr. Clerk.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Oh, excuse me, sorry.

25 Yes.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: There, there are two
3 more. Ah, Council Member Cabrera.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabrera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I'm sorry, I
6 raised my hand for, ah, the discussion part.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN: OK, we've got, we've
8 got you on the list. No problem. And then finally,
9 Mr. Clerk, Council Member Salamanca.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Sure. Council Member
11 Salamanca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you. I
13 would like to vote aye on all.

14 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member, do you
15 have any, um, disclosures to make for the record?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Um, actually,
17 yes. For the record I just want to disclose that,
18 ah, my wife is, ah, employed by New York City Parks
19 and we're funding New York City Parks Department.

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Thank you. Council
21 Member Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Yes, I'd
23 like to vote aye on all land use callups and items on
24 the general order calendar today, with permission.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
5 you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

7 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I'm voting no on
8 2032, no on 2049, and no on 2083, and aye on the
9 rest.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye on
12 all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: [clears throat] Excuse
16 me. All items on today's general order calendar have
17 a vote of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,
18 and no abstentions, with the exceptions of the
19 following: Introduction 2032-A has 44 in the
20 affirmative, 5 in the negative, 1 abstention.
21 Introduction 2049-A has 45 in the affirmative, 4 in
22 the negative, 1 abstention, and Intro 2083-A has 45
23 in the affirmative, 5 in the negative, and no
24 abstentions. And there are no land use call-ups.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. The
3 items on today's general orders calendar are adopted.
4 We will now move into introduction and reading of
5 bills.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
7 referred to committees as indicated on today's
8 agenda.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Speaker Johnson. There are no resolutions on today's
11 calendar, so we will now move into general
12 discussion. As a reminder, please wait until the
13 Sergeant at Arms begins the countdown clock before
14 you begin your remarks. Mr. Parliamentarian, are
15 there any council members who wish to speak at this
16 time?

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
18 Leader. Ah, there are several. The first three are
19 Council Members Louis, Holden, and Barron.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK. We will
21 begin with Council Member Louis. Please wait for the
22 time clock to begin.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Good afternoon,
25 everyone. Thank you, Speaker Johnson and Majority

2 Leader Cumbo, for the opportunity to briefly honor
3 one of the greatest women of our time, Justice Ruth
4 Bader Ginsberg. District 45 born and raised, Justice
5 Ginsberg will forever be remembered as a shining
6 beacon of freedom and liberty, a ground-breaking
7 lawyer and judge, Justice Ginsberg experienced first-
8 hand struggles that women face in a sexist and
9 misogynistic society. As the second female member of
10 the Supreme Court, Justice Ginsberg worked tirelessly
11 to support women's rights, civil rights, and
12 reproductive rights, while locked in a battle with
13 cancer five times, to which she finally succumbed.
14 She will be memorialized as a woman of heroic
15 strength, determination, and resilience. Her life's
16 work is inspirational for women and girls who will
17 push pass the naysayers, proving that their gender is
18 not a weakness, but rather a, a strength that
19 surpasses all understanding. And while President
20 Trump and the Republican Senate historically intend
21 to fill her vacant seat with another woman, despite
22 her dying wishes, we are all acutely aware of the, of
23 the threat this potential appointee poses to women's
24 right and gender equality. The historic decisions
25 that have for so long been under attack, which have

2 already been eroded into nonexistent are at risk. We
3 are looking at an entire generation of men and women
4 who are hell-bent on stripping women across America
5 of our freedoms and our dignity. We are, once again,
6 in a life and death struggle for women's rights. As
7 a culture of the women's councils, Women's Caucus, I
8 am grateful to witness and be a direct beneficiary of
9 Justice Ginsberg's ground breaking work to protect
10 and expand women and reproductive rights, alongside
11 my fellow women in the council and my cochair,
12 Vanessa Gibson...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: ...and elsewhere in
15 the world, we will continue to carry the mantle and
16 the fight for gender equality and we cannot allow our
17 fundamental freedoms to be taken away once again.
18 Thank you, Majority Leader, for the opportunity to
19 speak and to represent Justice Ginsberg. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
21 will now hear from Council Member Holden, followed by
22 Council Member Barron.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Madam
25 Majority Leader. In light of this week's ruling by

2 the Manhattan Supreme Court barring construction from
3 moving forward on the proposed jail in Chinatown, I
4 would like to call on the Criminal Justice Committee
5 to hold a hearing on my bill, Intro 940, which would
6 create a commission to study the cost of renovating
7 Riker's Island. Despite being introduced in May of
8 2018 and being cosponsored by seven of our
9 colleagues, this bill has never been considered by
10 the committee. Bearing in mind the enormous cost of
11 building four new jails in four boroughs to replace
12 the facilities on Riker's, as well as the current
13 fiscal crisis our city is experiencing as a result of
14 the COVID-19 pandemic, it is incumbent on the
15 committee to practice due diligence. If Riker's
16 Island can be rebuilt into a more modern, humane, and
17 productive correctional facility, ah, while also
18 saving our city billions of dollars, this is an
19 option that we, that we must consider. Ah, the city
20 suffered a 9-billion-dollar revenue shortfall this
21 fiscal year and will probably face another shortfall
22 next year. The plan to close Riker's Island is
23 projected to cost upwards and, and, again, it's
24 probably more than 8 billion, and it will likely cost
25 more in the out years. So community boards across

2 the city have made it clear that our constituents do
3 not want new jails built in their neighborhoods.
4 Activists on both sides of the political spectrum
5 have told us that building more jails is not the
6 answer to the problems in our criminal justice
7 system. Ah, more lawsuits are clearly going to
8 result from this recent court ruling, costing the
9 city even more money as it fights these lawsuits. It
10 is our duty to represent the city residents who
11 elected us by analyzing every possibility in a debate
12 over closing Riker's. I ask my colleagues to sign
13 onto this bill and support a hearing on it. It gives
14 us more information, folks.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Let's just get
17 the information. Thank you. Thank you, Madam
18 Majority Leader. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
20 will now hear from Council Member Barron.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, thank you
23 very much. Just very briefly, I just want to make
24 comment of the fact that yes, we're beginning to see
25 the beginning of the, we're starting to see what

2 would be the beginning of the system that will look
3 at the actions of those officers who killed Breonna
4 Taylor and I'm saying that this is a system that has
5 not in many instances, if any at all, ever gotten us
6 justice in terms of wanton acts of police officers
7 who unjustifiably kill people. So I just ask that we
8 stay vigilant, stay on top of what's happening, and
9 support the family in their call that the criminal
10 justice system bring justice for Breonna Taylor. And
11 just briefly to my colleague, Council Member
12 Menchaca, I want to congratulate you and those
13 advocates who were fighting to make sure that any
14 development that comes into your community is in fact
15 something that the community wants and is beneficial,
16 and is not swayed by the suggestion that they're
17 bringing in jobs and that that's a cover to allow any
18 other kinds of disruption and, ah, discrimination and
19 attempts at bringing in another element and
20 displacing the people who are there. So we are
21 commending you and congratulations to you and the
22 advocates for your victory at Industry City. Thank
23 you.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Parliamentarian,
3 are there any other council members on the list that
4 wish to speak at this time?

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
6 Leader. Council members Kallos, King, Cabrera, and
7 Menchaca.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We'll start with
9 Council Member Kallos.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: [inaudible]
12 cosponsoring three bills to help small businesses.
13 One will help restaurants in expediting their
14 sidewalk cafe applications. The other will help
15 small businesses more, become more accessible to the
16 one-million-plus residents and seven million
17 tourists, which I hope will be coming back, with
18 disabilities. The last would extend outdoor dining.
19 Outdoor dining has become a hallmark of New York
20 City's pandemic resurgence for restaurants and
21 nightlife. Our business faces bureaucratic hurdles
22 to obtain and maintain their licenses to do so.
23 Small businesses that are already struggling or new
24 owners who may seek to fill an empty storefront must
25 start an expensive, cumbersome, bureaucratic, and

2 lengthy process to get a new sidewalk cafe permit,
3 even when one was previously granted. Introduction
4 2096 would allow a sidewalk cafe permit that had been
5 valid in the previous three years to be easily
6 renewed or transferred temporarily for the business
7 for a new owner provided the plans were the same. I
8 wish I could take credit for this idea, but it came
9 right from a small business owner as an example of a
10 bureaucratic problem that seems stupid not to fix.
11 I'd like to thank the New York Hospitality Alliance
12 for their help and advocacy on this and other issues
13 affecting small businesses. The plight of empty
14 storefronts has only gotten worse since the pandemic
15 and we need to do everything we can to help them
16 retrofit for accountability and public health to
17 welcome more customers with disabilities while
18 securing lower rents. Introduction 2097 would
19 provide grants and low-interest loans for up to
20 \$250,000 for small businesses and storefronts to make
21 accessibility and public health improvements, coupled
22 with securing long sought after rent reductions from
23 landlords. I'd like to thank cosponsor Andrew Cohen,
24 Victor Colisi, commissioner of the Mayor's Office of
25 People with Disability and countless advocates for

2 working with us on this program since I was elected.

3 Together we can open the best of our city to

4 everyone. I'd also like you to please consider

5 signing on to preconsidered legislation carried by

6 Council Member Reynoso to extend outdoor dining as a

7 permanent addition to our great city. As we mourn

8 the loss of life of Breonna Taylor and countless

9 black men and women, ah, facing a justice system that

10 is fundamentally broken, I am, wish to stand in

11 solidarity and support the voices of this

12 community...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: ...[inaudible] as

15 we respond to the decision, and for those observing

16 Yom Kippur starting Kol Nidre on Sunday night G'mar

17 Hatima Tova.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

19 Council Member Kallos. We will now hear from Council

20 Members I'll say Cabrera and then Menchaca.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so

23 much, Majority Leader. The COVID-19 pandemic has...

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: You forgot King.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'm sorry,
3 Council Member King. I couldn't read my handwriting.
4 We'll come right back to you after Council Member
5 Cabrera. My apologies.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: No problems.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I really don't
8 mind him going first.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK, then we will
10 switch over to Council Member King. My apologies.
11 Thank you so much for your understanding, Council
12 Member Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Ah, thank you
16 again, and congratulations to everyone who passed
17 legislation today. Just want to highlight a few
18 items. Um, first I want to say Happy New Year to all
19 my Jewish brothers over in the caucus and in the
20 council and, ah, and beyond. Also, I want to express
21 my condolences to Council Member Cabrera to your
22 mother-in-law and your family, um, who is
23 transitioning and also your mother recently who was
24 transitioned back home. Um, may, may the Lord
25 continue to protect and watch over your families.

2 Um, of course to Ginsberg's family, um, may she rest
3 in peace and in power for all the work that she's
4 done. And I just want to touch base on 'cause today,
5 um, Intro 2098, for myself, Council Member Levin, and
6 Koo are introducing. We know COVID-19 has did a lot
7 to devastate businesses. Um, but one of the entities
8 that in the City of New York is our M/WBEs, who
9 definitely got left out on the cold when there were a
10 number of funding and grants that came down, um, to
11 the fact that even some of the big white corporations
12 had, were embarrassed that we had return some of the
13 stimulus money. So this bill will allow the
14 administration to form a grant program that will
15 ensure that when funding comes into the City of New
16 York that M/WBEs must be highlighted to make sure
17 they are tapped into these funds, that they don't get
18 excluded from any funding. We know our local
19 barbers, we know our hardware stores, our nail
20 salons. We know our delicatessens. All these stores
21 that make our community strong, ah, especially in the
22 black, Hispanic, and Asians communities have
23 suffered, um, because they didn't have the property
24 capacity that they have access to a number of these
25 grants. So you all have the legislation. I'm asking

2 you all to sign on to it, take a look at, need your
3 support and help to make sure that we protect our
4 M/WBEs in the City of New York as well as asking the
5 State of New York to, um, make their loan program,
6 their, their loan program, turning into a grant
7 program. So you all will get that email. Those of
8 you that got the email I'm asking for your support to
9 sign onto this legislation. Um, and lastly I just
10 want to add two things. Um, we all get elected
11 through represent neighborhoods and communities. I
12 want to commend Carlos Menchaca for doing just that,
13 representing his communities...

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: ...standing with his
16 neighbors, give me just 30 more, 15 more seconds,
17 Madam Majority Speaker, ah, Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [inaudible].

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Um, to make sure
20 that we do what we have to do to represent the people
21 each and every day who vote for us and stand with
22 them. Thank you for standing strong, Carlos, and
23 representing your district very well. And finally,
24 ah, Council Member Treyger, I want to thank him for
25 his energy and strength fighting for the Department

2 of Education and our children each and every day. I
3 ask all of us, if you haven't, to, to touch base with
4 your principals to find out because this reset, these
5 postponements, have caused chaos in the Department of
6 Education and these conversations are not happening.
7 A lot of principals are struggling because as we
8 postpone more kids are transitioning into staying at
9 home and schools and principals are not able to
10 deliver on remote learning. These conversations are
11 not happening. I'm asking us all, if you haven't had
12 these conversations, engage in these conversations,
13 and if we need to have a total pause on the
14 Department of Education until January then let's do
15 and get remote learning together, get school systems
16 in place, because as, as the chancellor said, we are
17 building the plane as we're riding in the plane. I'm
18 asking them to put the plane down on the tarmac, fix
19 the plane, then let's get our children and our
20 educators...

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: ...in there so we
24 can make sure our system works well for everybody.
25 Thank you, thank you again. Have a blessed weekend.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member King. We're going to go to Council
4 Member Cabrera and then Council Member Menchaca.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you, thank
7 you again, Madam Majority Leader, and thank you
8 Council Member King for your kind words regarding my
9 mother-in-law. She is now with the Lord. Ah, the
10 COVID-19 pandemic has devastated many businesses
11 throughout the five boroughs, especially the
12 restaurants. Intro 2089 offers a lifeline to
13 restaurants, particularly small establishments in
14 communities of color. A survey conducted by the New
15 York City Hospitality Alliance revealed that the
16 number, that the number, the number of restaurants
17 that couldn't pay rent increased between June and
18 July, even with outdoor dining, and almost 90% of
19 restaurants didn't pay their full rent by August.
20 The New York State Restaurants Association found that
21 two-thirds of restaurants will likely close
22 permanently by the end of November without any
23 relief. The impact on small restaurants in
24 communities of color who serve a less-wealthy
25 customer base is even more devastating. Intro 2089-

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2 2020 will make outdoor [inaudible] temporarily
3 available to help restaurants generate revenue. Let
4 me be clear. It will be only single person who
5 [inaudible] will be served and only in the outdoor
6 areas, gearing to the fact this is definitely
7 [inaudible] spread of COVID-19. I urge all of my
8 colleagues to sign on to Intro 2089 as cosponsors and
9 help our restaurants and our community [inaudible]
10 recognize and appreciate Council Member Reynoso and
11 Council Member Rodriguez as coprime, ah, of this
12 bill. Thank you so much.

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

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
17 Majority Leader, and [inaudible], ah, last night
18 after Congress Member Anita Velasquez released a
19 letter with her colleagues and some state reps from
20 Brooklyn Industry City pulled their rezoning
21 application in light of continued opposition from the
22 community and local elected officials. Industry City
23 attempted to use their money and influence to
24 circumvent the community-backed position of a no, and
25 win the support of this body. Money and influence

2 have often been enough to successfully change land
3 use policy in New York City. But like many
4 communities before, Sunset Park said no. And it was
5 clear that Industry City's plan would make tens of
6 thousands of Sunset Park residents who were and are
7 continuing to be impacted by COVID more vulnerable at
8 a time of unprecedented economic instability. We
9 tried to craft a solution with Industry City, our
10 neighbors, and the city to turn their proposal into
11 an equitable opportunity for everyone. But this
12 failed. Saying no to a bad deal is a win. Yes, we
13 are in a health and economic and affordability
14 crisis, and these crisis, ah, these moments of crisis
15 require urgent leadership. Which is why I want to
16 say to you, my colleagues, and our neighbors who
17 followed Industry City's lead or were reluctant to
18 let an opportunity of jobs go, I heard you. And the
19 end of this zoning application is the beginning of
20 our work to deliver what New Yorkers want and deserve
21 - thoughtful, comprehensive planning led by our
22 communities. Comprehensive planning means an
23 equitable and resilient future, not piecemeal,
24 developer-driven rezoning. I want to thank my staff,
25 ah, and everybody on the ground, ah, especially my

2 staff, ah, who worked so many years on this, ah, Tony
3 Sharido, Cesar Vargas, Loreno [inaudible], Carlos
4 Jesus Gonsalvia, um, and, and most importantly, my,
5 my land use guru, Rene...

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: ...[inaudible]
8 who many of you met during this process. Um, they
9 were so incredible in all of this. And my last
10 message is this. People power has triumph. But our
11 work continues. And I must work with all of you to
12 make this next step possible, that our communities
13 will lead in Sunset Park to bring real, lasting
14 opportunities to our city. [inaudible]. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
16 much, Council Member Menchaca. Parliamentarian are
17 there any additional members that wish to speak at
18 this time?

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
20 Leader. Council Member Rivera.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so much
23 for the time. I wanted to, ah, bring attention to
24 something that I am introducing today. Good
25 afternoon. Almost eight years ago Hurricane Sandy

2 hit our city and left us without power south of 40th
3 Street. Over eight feet of water entered Lower East
4 Side homes and approximately 800 buildings were
5 deemed damaged or destroyed around the city. We also
6 lost lives. And yet in the aftermath of the storm
7 thousands of New Yorkers were left devastated by the
8 realization that FEMA's eligibility rules excluded
9 all common interest communities, of which there are
10 over half a million in New York. As someone who led
11 disaster response in the LES before, during, and after
12 Hurricane Sandy, I know we must do better to protect
13 our communities from major storms. The resolution I
14 am introducing, 1436, calls on Congress to pass a
15 disaster assistance equity act to ensure that common
16 interest communities, including co-ops and
17 condominiums, are eligible for the same federal
18 disaster assistance available to other single-family
19 homeowners. Due to their classification as business
20 entities, cooperative and condominium associations
21 are not currently eligible for grants to make costly
22 repairs to common areas such as utility rooms,
23 lobbies, and roofs. Many residents in my district in
24 recent years have faced extreme and sometimes
25 insurmountable costs to cover badly needed repairs

2 with many of these units a part of our Mitchell Lama
3 program, which, as you know, is a real pathway for
4 families to have equity in home ownership and those
5 opportunities are so rare in low income and
6 communities of color. Nearly eight years later,
7 coastal residents still remain vulnerable to the next
8 storm, which experts tell us is a matter of when, not
9 if, it hits again. As our city navigates a global
10 pandemic and the very real impacts of climate change,
11 we must do everything we can to ensure all residents
12 are supported in the event of future disasters.
13 Thank you so much for the time.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
15 Council Member Rivera. Are there any other members,
16 Parliamentarian?

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, there are not.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to
19 close with my own personal remembrances of Justice
20 Ginsberg. Um, not only a fellow Brooklynite, RBG was
21 a fellow working mom and played a pivotal role in
22 making it possible for women such as myself and the
23 women all throughout this caucus to be who we are
24 today. I would like to thank her for her everlasting
25 contributions. When we just think about the fact

2 that she worked until the very last day, trying to
3 hold on to make it past this election cycle just to
4 be able to continue to provide fairness and equality
5 that every American is striving for, as a mother and
6 elected official I thank her for making it possible
7 and so many other women to run for office and for me
8 while being pregnant, ah, with my son. And any other
9 woman who has ever signed a mortgage without a man,
10 or has a bank account without a male cosigner, we
11 have the notorious RGB to thank, thank for her
12 ability to make independent financial decisions.
13 When we think about all of the work that she's done,
14 particularly with pay equity, we know that the
15 Ledbetter versus Goodyear case, which paved the way
16 for the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which
17 gave women the ability to fight for gender pay, is
18 really something that is so transformative that I
19 hope that in New York City we continue to pick up
20 that mantle and make it so that more women and
21 minorities and people of color have the ability to
22 fight for pay equity throughout this city and this
23 nation. And as we continue to talk about the case as
24 we're all pending around Breonna Taylor we certainly
25 know that one indictment is not enough. We must have

2 an indictment of all the officers, all three involved
3 in this very tragic and horrendous and despicable
4 case, um, on our country's, ah, history. I just want
5 to add that when we think about these two women at
6 the same time it's important to remember, as I'm
7 paraphrasing, Justice Ginsberg said women belong in
8 all places where decisions are made. And when we
9 think about the fate of Breonna Taylor I know that we
10 want more women in the Supreme Court, in the House,
11 in the Senate, in City Hall, in every place where
12 women are, these are places where women should be
13 making decisions. So as we continue to lift up
14 Breonna Taylor we have to continue to know that women
15 we have to fight to make sure that there are more of
16 us in every single place where decisions are made,
17 for the Breonna Taylors of the world, for the Jazmine
18 Headleys, and so many women that we have met and have
19 crossed our paths. We must continue to fight for
20 them. And with that I now turn it over to Speaker
21 Corey Johnson to close today's Stated Meeting.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you for the,
23 Madam Majority Leader. And I just want to say that I
24 agree with you on everything you said about Justice
25 Ginsberg and also the fact that the news today on

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2 Breonna Taylor, that one officer is being charged is
3 not good enough. We need to make sure that anyone
4 who was involved in the murder of Breonna Taylor, ah,
5 is brought to justice as well. And with that, the
6 Stated Meeting of September 23, 2020, is hereby
7 adjourned.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 25, 2020