

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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October 15, 2020
Start: 1:34 p.m.
Recess: 2:45 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

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

Corey Johnson
Ben Kallos
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

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2 SERGEANT PEREZ: Council meeting. At
3 this time will all panelists please turn on your
4 videos. Again, at this time will all panelists
5 please turn on your videos. Silence all electronic
6 devices. Thank you. Madam Chair, we're ready to
7 begin.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon
9 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of October 15,
10 2020. I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and I'd like
11 to thank you for joining us at this virtual meeting
12 of the New York City Council. If you would like to
13 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
14 posted on our website.

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

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Roll
21 call.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and

6

present.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

18

Deutsch.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

20

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Diaz.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.
COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.
COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.
COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Still here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel. Menchaca.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers. Reynoso.

10 Richards. Rivera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

12 Rodriguez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

3 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader, we
9 have a quorum.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Ah, Mr. Clerk, I
11 just wanted to say I'm here as well, Council Member
12 Keith Powers.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
14 Powers.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
16 will now have today's invocation, which will be
17 delivered by Bishop Doctor Roderick Caesar III, the
18 spiritual leader at Bethel Gospel Tabernacle, located
19 at 110-25 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard in Jamaica, Queens.

20 BISHOP DOCTOR RODERICK CAESAR: Our
21 gracious heavenly father, we honor you for the
22 blessing that you have bestowed upon us by allowing
23 us to awaken this morning and to gather together to
24 accomplish something that will be of great benefit to
25 the residents of the region. Look upon us as we

2 engage in the proceedings of this day and bless us
3 with your divine wisdom and knowledge, which will
4 enable us to make decisions that are in the best
5 interests of our constituents. And I pray that that
6 we will work in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation
7 and that at the end of the day let us conclude with
8 the knowledge that we have made a difference in the
9 lives of many people through our action and our
10 legislation. In the name of Jesus, the one who
11 empowers us to serve, amen.

12 PASTOR RODERICK CAESAR III: Amen. And
13 Lord we thank you for the gift of life, of health and
14 strength, and the ability to work together for the
15 benefit of our communities. I pray oh Lord, that you
16 would strengthen us, particularly in this election
17 season as our nation has been polarized and fractured
18 by the effects of COVID-19 and racial injustices. I
19 pray Lord that you would help us to look to the hills
20 from where our help comes from and trust you in this
21 season of uncertainty. We will not fail to give you
22 the praise, the honor, and the glory. We pray these
23 things in Jesus's name. Amen.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
25 much. And I'd like to make a correction. I

2 recognize now that we are having today's invocation
3 delivered by Pastor Roderick Caesar III as well as
4 Bishop Doctor Roger Caesar, the spiritual leaders at
5 Bethel Gospel Tabernacle. And now I will turn it
6 over to Council Member Adrienne Adams to spread the
7 invocation on the record. And I know that she is
8 very excited, ah, to welcome them to the City Council
9 here today. Thank you so much, Council Member Adams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you very
11 much, Madam Majority Leader, and you're so right.
12 We've been blessed today by what some of us would
13 call a double portion. I believe that this is the
14 very first time that father and son clergy have
15 appeared together to render the invocation for a
16 Stated Meeting of the New York City Council, and it
17 is my pleasure and honor to welcome the Reverends
18 Caesar to the chambers today. Dr. Roderick R. Caesar
19 is the bishop and overseer of the Bethel Gospel
20 Tabernacle Fellowship International. He is the son
21 of Bethel's founders, Bishop Roderick R. Caesar, Sr.
22 and Gertrude Brown, Sr. For ten years he served as
23 pastor of Calgary Full Gospel Church in ? Woodside,
24 Queens, and for seven years he assisted his father in
25 ministry and served as the assistant pastor of Bethel

2 Gospel Tabernacle in Jamaica, Queens. In November
3 1994 Dr. Caesar was consecrated to the office of
4 bishop, becoming overseer of Bethel Gospel Tabernacle
5 Fellowship International. In 2017 he ordained his
6 son, Roderick III, as senior pastor of Bethel Gospel
7 Tabernacle. Bishop Caesar received undergraduate and
8 graduate degrees from North Gate Bible College and
9 Logos Bible College. He also earned a doctorate of
10 divinity from Vision Christian College. Bishop
11 Caesar lives in Hollis, Queens, where I grew up, with
12 his wife, Beverly. They have four children and five
13 grandchildren. Pastor Roderick Caesar III is the
14 lead pastor of Bethel Gospel Tabernacle in Jamaica,
15 Queens. Installed as pastor by his father, Bishop
16 Roderick Caesar, Pastor Roderick Caesar is a Gordon
17 College graduate and holds a master's of divinity
18 from Alliance Theological Seminary. Pastor Roderick
19 resides in Queens with his wife, Stephanie, their
20 daughter, Sela, and of course son, Roderick IV. He
21 is grateful for the examples of ministry set before
22 him by his parents and grandparents and is looking
23 forward to continuing the legacy of leadership with
24 which God has entrusted him. And I am honored and
25 blessed to have this great legacy cradled and shared

2 within Districts 27 and 28. One property is in
3 Council Member Miller's district and one is in my
4 district. And we want to thank you, Bishop Caesar,
5 and Pastor Caesar, for your examples of true
6 spiritual leadership not just in New York but
7 internationally. We are so grateful for your gift of
8 prayer in these chambers on this day. Thank you,
9 Madam Majority Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
11 much. And again, I, I thank you for the correction.
12 I don't think we've ever had, ah, two pastors preside
13 at a Stated Meeting. We look forward to, um,
14 Roderick Caesar IV at some point here to join you all
15 to make it three pastors, um, praying over the
16 council and hopefully, and I'm sure you've had the
17 blessing of hearing Council Member Adrienne Adams
18 sing before, um, but if not you're certainly in for
19 a, a wonderful treat at your next service. At this
20 time I want to thank Council Member Adams, ah, for
21 this wonderful introduction. We will now have the
22 adoption of minutes by Council Member Farah Louis.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I make a motion
24 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of September
25 23, 2020, be adopted as printed.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much, Council Member Louis. We will now have
4 messages and papers from the mayor.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: M-253 and M-254, New York
6 City Art Commission appointments.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, privileges, and
8 elections.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication
10 from city, county, and borough offices.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M-255 and
12 M-256, council appointments.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, privileges, and
14 elections.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
16 communications.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

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

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

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

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
25 Majority Leader. Ah, good afternoon, happy Thursday

2 to everyone. As always, I hope that you and your
3 families are safe and well. Since the COVID-19
4 pandemic started this council has looked for various
5 ways to help our city recover. So many industries
6 have been financially devastated. Today we have
7 bills to help our taxi and restaurant industries.
8 These two industries were struggling prior to COVID-
9 19, but the virus caused massive decreases in
10 revenues for restaurant owners and taxi drivers. I'm
11 proud of these bills that we're voting on today
12 because they address these very real issues and they
13 in turn protect New Yorkers who have been hurt by the
14 coronavirus pandemic. I want to begin by
15 acknowledging all of those who have died as a result
16 of the coronavirus; 23,905 New Yorkers have succumbed
17 to the impact of the virus as of yesterday. This is
18 a loss for our entire city and the loved ones of
19 those taken from us by this virus are in my thoughts
20 and prayers, and I know that they're in all of our
21 thoughts and prayers. On Monday our city lost a
22 former first lady, First Lady Joyce Dinkins. She was
23 a champion for New York City and an advocate for
24 causes that made our city better. Her life and
25 legacy will serve as the inspiration to so many. We

2 are keeping for Mayor Dinkins in our thoughts and
3 prayers and their children and grandchildren. Ah, we
4 are so sorry and sad for this loss for the Dinkins
5 family and for our city. Our city also lost Carlos
6 Rivera, the first Latino FDNY commissioner.

7 Commissioner Rivera bravely led the department's
8 response to the 1993 World Trade Center terrorist
9 bombing. He passed away on October 12 at 86 years
10 old. I'd like for us to take a few moments of
11 silence to acknowledge the lives of those we've lost
12 to COVID-19, former first lady Joyce Dinkins, and
13 former FDNY commissioner Carlos Rivera [moment of
14 silence]. Thank you. On Tuesday the United States
15 Supreme Court allowed the Trump administration to end
16 the census count early. It will end tomorrow at 6:00
17 a.m. So if you have not filled out your census
18 please do so today, tonight, or early tomorrow
19 morning before 6:00 a.m. This news is extremely
20 disappointing. The Trump administration is using the
21 census to wage a war on immigrants and on our
22 democracy itself. We need every New Yorker, as I
23 said, to fill out their census forms by tomorrow at
24 6:00 a.m. if you haven't already. This is about
25 money and power for our state and city for the next

2 10 years. Now on to our agenda. Today the council
3 will be voting on several appointments. We'll be
4 voting on the reappointment of Stanley Richards to
5 the New York City Board of Correction and the
6 reappointment of Jose M. Arajo to the New York City
7 Board of Elections. Just before the Stated Meeting
8 the Democratic Conference voted on the appointment of
9 Rodney L. Pepe Souvenir to the New York City Board of
10 Elections. We will be voting on several land use
11 items, including the following applications submitted
12 by HPD. Weeksville NCP and 1510 Broadway in Council
13 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel's district will provide
14 over 150 affordable housing units. Three affordable
15 homeownership applications in the 37th Council
16 District and in the districts of Council Members
17 Reynoso and Cornegy to be developed under the Open
18 Door Program that will provide 21 homeownership units
19 and 22 affordable rental units. We'll be voting on
20 four applications from the Landmarks Preservation
21 Commission. The designation of Manida Street
22 Historic District in Council Member Rafael
23 Salamanca's district in Hunt's Point, the rescission
24 of landmark designation, I apologize if I
25 mispronounce this, Beth Hamedrash Hagodol Synagogue

2 in Council Member Margaret Chin's district, which had
3 been destroyed by a fire, and amendments to landmark
4 sites in Council Members Koo and Perkins's district.

5 We'll be voting to disapprove 3 St. Mark's Place.

6 That application sought approval of a special permit
7 to allow the transfer of development rights from the
8 Hamilton Holly House to facilitate a new 10-story

9 building in Council Member Carlina Rivera's district.

10 5914 Bay Parkway rezoning and a MIH text amendment,

11 which will facilitate the development of a nine-story
12 mixed use building, including additional parking

13 spaces, that will provide 36 units of housing, 11 of

14 which are affordable, in Council Member Kalman

15 Yeger's district. 50 Old Fulton rezoning, which will

16 facilitate the development of a new five-story

17 commercial building in Council Member Steve Levin's

18 district. And finally we'll be voting on a motion to

19 file the Industry City applications, which have been

20 withdrawn by the applicant. This vote is on the

21 motion, ah, to withdraw. Moving on to our

22 legislative agenda, we'll be voting on the following

23 bills. The first bill is out of our Committee on

24 Aging. Introduction number 2030, sponsored by our

25 committee chair, Council Member Margaret Chin, ah,

2 will increase the maximum income threshold for
3 eligibility in both the Senior Citizen Rent Increase
4 Exemption and the Disability Rent Increase Exemption
5 programs, otherwise known as SCRIE and DRIE, and both
6 part of the New York City rent freeze program. In
7 2014 New York State increased the income threshold to
8 \$50,000 through June of 2020. The state authorized
9 the income threshold increase after its expiration
10 this year and as a result the City of New York must
11 do the same and reauthorize the extension. We are
12 doing that and this bill is retroactive and would
13 extend the current qualifying maximum level of income
14 through June 30, 2022. From the staff I want to
15 thank Nushat Chowdry for their work on this bill.
16 Our next bill comes out of our Housing and Buildings
17 Committee. It's Introduction number 2093, sponsored
18 by the committee chair for that committee, Council
19 Member Robert Cornegy, and it will amend the
20 expiration date of the New York City Rent
21 Stabilization Law. In order to maintain the city's
22 rent stabilization law a housing and vacancy survey
23 must be conducted in partnership with the United
24 States Census Bureau. Due to limited capacity of the
25 Census Bureau to conduct the survey concurrently with

2 the decennial census the State of New York passed
3 legislation delaying the requirement of the survey by
4 one year. To reflect the state's extension of the
5 deadline this bill would shift the current expiration
6 date of the city's rent stabilization law from April
7 1, 2021, to April 1, 2022. This bill will go into
8 effect immediately. And from the staff I want to
9 thank Austin Branford for his work on this. Before
10 COVID-19 hit the taxi industry in New York was facing
11 a sharp decline in revenue and in medallion values.
12 The pandemic has only made these struggles more
13 difficult. Today we will be voting on a package of
14 legislation aimed at providing increased oversight
15 and support to this industry. I am grateful to the
16 members who are prime sponsors on these bills and
17 have kept this very urgent issue front and center.
18 Our first bill, Introduction number 1610-A, sponsored
19 by Council Member Ritchie Torres, will require the
20 creation of an Office of Financial Stability within
21 the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. The
22 office will monitor and evaluate a range of factors
23 related to the financial stability of the taxi
24 industry, including income and expenses for medallion
25 owners, medallion loan terms, and market

2 manipulation. The office will also be required to
3 post online and to submit to the council, the mayor,
4 and the Department of Investigation an annual report
5 on the office's activities an assessment of the
6 financial stability of the taxi industry and any
7 recommendations regarding industry stability. Our
8 second bill, Introduction number 1584-A, sponsored by
9 Council Member Adrienne Adams, will require any
10 person with an interest in a taxi license to make
11 annual financial disclosures to the TLC. Required
12 disclosures would include information about income
13 from and expenses related to each taxi license, any
14 loan secured by a taxi license, and any other
15 interests the person filling the disclosure has in
16 any taxi, livery, for-hire vehicle business. Our
17 final bill in this package, Introduction number 1608-
18 A, sponsored by our Transportation Committee chair,
19 Ydanis Rodriguez, would require the TLC to evaluate
20 the character, honesty, and integrity of taxicab
21 brokers, agents, and licensees when they submit a new
22 license application or when they submit an
23 application to renew an existing license. The
24 commission will be authorized to refuse to issue or
25 renew a license upon a finding that an applicant

2 lacks good character, honesty, and integrity. The
3 commission would consider, among other factors,
4 misstatements or misrepresentations in connection
5 with an application and commissions of fraudulent,
6 deceitful, or unlawful acts while engaged in the
7 business license by the commission. And from the
8 staff I want to thank Elliot Lin. The taxi industry
9 is hardly the only one that is suffering now. We all
10 know that. The pandemic has hit our economy
11 severely. Our restaurant industry has been
12 particularly hard hit and outdoor dining has provided
13 a lifeline to many restaurants. I'm so proud of this
14 council for passing, ah, the bill to create outdoor
15 dining and I know many New Yorkers have enjoyed
16 outdoor dining during the pandemic. It has enlivened
17 our streets. It has offered us a much-needed chance
18 to socialize. It has been a bright spot during this
19 very dark time in our city. And the council will
20 make sure it continues. Introduction number 2127-A,
21 sponsored by council member Antonio Reynoso, will
22 extend the expiration of the city's current outdoor
23 dining program until September 30, 2021. This
24 legislation will also require the city to create a
25 permanent outdoor dining program for the future that

2 uses city road space. The bill would also allow for
3 the use of propane heaters in outdoor dining areas,
4 subject to guidelines issued by the New York City
5 Fire Department. I want to Council Member Reynoso
6 for leading on this effort. And I want to say that
7 I'm really proud of this program. We're also gonna
8 have to potentially come back and fine tune it over
9 the winter and spring and next summer before the
10 current program expires and the new program is set up
11 and permanence. We know that there are some
12 community concerns, ah, and we want to be responsive
13 while still allowing this space for restaurants who
14 really need it during this hard time. So this will
15 be an ongoing conversation. I want to thank from the
16 staff Balkies Myrig and Leah Skirpiak for their work
17 on this. I now turn it back to you, Madam Majority
18 Leader. Ah, thank you all for being with us today to
19 vote on these important bills.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
21 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now move into
22 discussion of general orders. We will recognize
23 council members who wish to speak by using the raise
24 hand function in Zoom. Please wait before you begin
25 your remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to announce he

2 has begun the countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms
3 will alert you when your time has expired. Mr.
4 Parliamentarian, are there any council members
5 registered to speak at this time?

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
7 Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: No? Interesting.
9 OK. All right. We have a very robust legislative,
10 um, program today. I'm surprised no members have
11 signed up to speak. But we will continue to move on.
12 Report of special committees.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
15 standing committees.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
17 on Aging, Intro 2030, SCRIE and DRIE programs.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
19 orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
21 on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing,
22 preconsidered Intro 2127-A, outdoor dining.

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

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
3 on Housing and Buildings, Intro 2093, rent
4 stabilization law.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
6 orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
8 on Land Use, LU 658 and Reso 1446, 50 Old Fulton
9 rezoning.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 666 and Reso 1447
13 through LU 670 and Reso 1451, property tax exemption
14 in various UDAAPs.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 671 and Reso 1452
18 through LU 673 and Reso 1454, landmark designations.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
20 orders.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 674 and Reso 1455
22 through LU 677 and Reso 1458, Industry City.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed
24 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 678 and Reso 1459, and
3 LU 679 and Reso 1460, 5914 Bay Parkway rezoning.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 680 and Reso 1461, 3
7 St. Mark's Place.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Motion to disapprove.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 681 and Reso 1462,
10 Manida Street Historic District.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
12 orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 682 and Reso 1463
14 through LU 685 and Reso 1466, 1510 Broadway.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
18 on Rules, Privileges and Elections, preconsidered M-
19 255 and Reso 1467, approving the appointment of
20 Stanley Richards, Board of Correction.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
22 orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M-256 and
24 Reso 1468, approving the reappointment of Jose M.

25

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2 Arajo, Queens County Democratic Commissioner
3 Elections.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
5 orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
7 on Transportation, Intros 1584-A and 1608-A, taxicab
8 licenses.

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

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 1610-A, TLC Office
12 of Financial Stability.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
14 general orders. And at this time I'm asking for the
15 clerk to conduct a roll call vote on all of the items
16 that we just mentioned that are coupled on today's
17 general orders calendar. [clears throat] Excuse me.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

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

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you...

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam
3 Majority Leader. Over the past few years we've all
4 become aware of the struggle and overwhelming debt of
5 taxi medallion owners. Taxi medallions have become a
6 money pit for thousands of drivers in New York City.
7 It's time that we mandate this reporting to get a
8 handle on this unregulated sector that has allowed
9 unscrupulous people to exploit hard-working drivers.
10 Intro 1584 will help to root out bad actors and give
11 way to the oversight that should have taken place all
12 along. I ask my colleagues to support my
13 legislation, Intro 1584, and all of the legislations
14 in this valuable package of bills to protect our
15 struggling taxi industry. Thank you, and I vote aye
16 on all.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Madam
20 Majority Leader, permission to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you.

25 I just wanted to, you know, really highlight the fact

2 that at a time when we always feel just kind of like
3 a lot of gloom and doom and, um, 2020 has been just a
4 rough year for everyone, I am just so proud, um, to
5 be able to sit with the Land Use Committee and
6 everyone to be able to really discuss and bring truly
7 affordable housing to communities that desperately
8 need it, especially now, and so I'm very proud of the
9 projects that we'll see coming up on Broadway, um, in
10 the Bed-Sty area of my district in Ocean Hill, as
11 well as, ah, what we'll be seeing, um, along Crown
12 Heights and in Weeksville. And so, um, you know, I
13 just wanted to share that because there's always
14 light at the end of the tunnel and it just really
15 brings hope to the community. And the last thing I
16 want to say is, um, I'm very proud of don't, you
17 know, my Democratic colleagues in voting on behalf of
18 making sure that we have a replacement and we have a
19 commissioner in Kings County, and I am very proud of
20 Rodney Pepe Souvenir as a amazing intelligent and
21 competent black woman in New York City and having her
22 lead our borough at, um, the Board of Elections.
23 It's very needed, especially now, and so I am proud
24 to, um, you know, stand beside, um, Ms. Pepe during
25 this time, and so with that I vote aye on all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
3 congratulations to you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

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

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted, although your connection is a little bit,
12 ah, challenged.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can you hear me?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I can here you
15 now, um-hmm.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: OK, good. Ah,
17 permission to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Ah, I
22 want to commend my colleague, Council Member Alicka
23 Ampry-Samuel, for her great housing project. You
24 know, we got a competition going here between the two
25 of us and I commend her for the affordability of her

2 project. I want to also compliment, ah, our new
3 Brooklyn commissioner for her appointment. I expect
4 that she'll do great things, as she's indicated to me
5 in the conference that I had with her, and I vote aye
6 on all with the exception of 670, 678, and 679.
7 Thank you.

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

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
11 Member. Those are land use items? Council Member
12 Barron?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, yes, those
14 land use items.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. I
19 vote aye on all except preconsidered, ah, M-255 and
20 accompany resolution 1467. Ah, and Intro 2093.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Brannan.

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

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

3 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I'm voting no on
4 [inaudible] 2093, [inaudible] thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Can you repeat
6 that once more? It was a difficult, ah, connection.

7 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Sure. No on
8 2093 and no on [inaudible].

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And no on?
10 Council Member Matteo?

11 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: M-255, 1467.
12 255. Can you hear me? Can you hear me now?

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, yes sir.

14 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: You got it? M-
15 255 and 1467.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: I got it.

17 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: And 2093
18 [inaudible].

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes. Thank you. I got
20 it. Thank you, thank you, ah, Madam Majority Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
4 aye on all. I'd like the permission to vote on all
5 land use call-ups and I vote aye as well.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cornegy.
7 Council Member Cornegy?

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
9 Cornegy, you're on mute.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: I'll come back.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Ah, Council Member
13 Deutsch.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Ah, no on resos,
15 ah, 1455 through 1459, LUs 674 through 678, aye on
16 the rest.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yes on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Eugene.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
23 Eugene, you're on mute. We'll come back.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

25

1 STATED MEETING

33

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Can you hear me
3 now? No?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Oh, Council Member
5 Eugene, yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, OK. I vote,
7 I vote yes.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

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

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
12 much.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
14 Gibson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye on
16 all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, just
21 permission, Madam Majority Leader, to very briefly
22 explain my vote.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, I want
3 to, um, I had some concerns about, ah, Intro 2127,
4 um, and I'm grateful to the sponsor for reaching out
5 to me, even though I didn't get back to him
6 yesterday. But I was, ah, I'm happy to hear the
7 Speaker address those, ah, concerns in his remarks
8 today, and I also heard from the administration. I
9 am concerned, ah, about making this permanent,
10 although I do support it, um, but we haven't gone
11 through a full season, ah, four seasons of this. Um,
12 but I think it, on balance it will be a good thing
13 for the city. Um, so with those reservations in mind
14 and my concerns, I'm still going to vote for the
15 bill, and I vote aye on all. And thank you for
16 indulging me.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Holden.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye on all
19 with the exception of M-255, with accompanying Reso
20 1467, and Intro 2127, of which I vote no.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Kallos.

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

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: As council
4 members we have a vote on appointees, including the
5 Board of Elections. Today the Democratic
6 commissioner for Queens came before the Rules
7 Committee, where I was able to ask questions and
8 receive commitments to support online voter
9 registration, post jobs, and reject patronage
10 appointments who aren't qualified, follow anti-
11 nepotism policies and a verification that any and all
12 fines that have been paid involving prior incidents,
13 ah, promised to do their part to implement ranked-
14 choice voting for 2021 and to address long lines on
15 Election Day, given the bipartisan nature of the
16 Board of Elections with party control mandated the
17 corrupt Albany legislature and our role as a council
18 within that framework. I thank the Rules Committee,
19 ah, led by Karen Koslowitz, for the opportunity to
20 ask questions. I vote aye on this appointment and
21 aye on all.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Permission to
25 explain my vote, Majority Leader?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

6 Regarding Intro 2127, I'm going to have to see a
7 readiness to implement a pilot for outdoor dining.
8 So I will be voting yes. But I think we will need to
9 be very careful not to lose sight of the potential
10 problems this can cause. We need to be sure
11 [inaudible] oversight and the ability to troubleshoot
12 issues as they arise. Of course, we want to support
13 our restaurants. But we cannot [inaudible] the very
14 real problem safety, public safety issues. We don't
15 want bad actors abusing the system by overtaking the
16 level streets where we have vehicle and pedestrian
17 traffic competing with diners, garbage pickup, UPS
18 deliveries, and snow removals in the winter. We
19 should also be mindful of the quality of life impacts
20 on tenants who live upstairs from restaurants.
21 Finally, while outdoor dining is a quick benefit to
22 some restaurants, many are left out. We need to be
23 sure we take care of those restaurant owners who
24 cannot participate in outdoor dining because of their
25 geographic locations. We want our city to get back

2 on its feet responsibly, but I think this is a good
3 bill that gives us the opportunity as long as there's
4 oversight. So I will be voting yes. Thank you.

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

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cornegy.
8 OK.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member...

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member, I'm
11 sorry.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koslowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you.
15 May I be excused to explain my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Always.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: The other day
18 in the Consumer Affairs Committee I voted no for
19 2027-A. But I have certainly changed my mind because
20 I realized that I didn't quite understand the bill.
21 The fact that we're going to revisit it makes me very
22 happy. I happened to walk down my street, ah,
23 yesterday, Austin Street, which is a very big
24 commercial district in my, ah, in my district. And I
25 was so depressed seeing all the stores that have

2 closed during this pandemic. And there's no question
3 in my mind that these store owners need our help
4 desperately. I love eating outside. My concern, my
5 biggest concern was that how it was going to be when
6 it would snow and how the plows would be able to come
7 through the narrow streets, the two-way narrow
8 streets. I feel very happy that I could change, I
9 can't change my vote in the Consumer Affairs
10 Committee, but I certainly am going to vote aye on
11 all. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lancman.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all,
19 ah, and congratulations, um, to all the appointees,
20 um, ah, and, and particularly to my friend, ah,
21 Stanley Richards, for his reappointment to the Board
22 of Corrections.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Levine.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye on
25 all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all,
4 and I would like to congratulate Ms. Rodney Pepe
5 Souvenir on her appointment. I know you do great
6 work in Brooklyn. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all, with
13 the exception of 2127-A, from which I will abstain.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Moya.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Powers.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Proudly aye on
20 all, with congrats to my friend, Stanley Richards,
21 and also proudly in favor of outdoor dining. Thanks
22 a lot.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

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

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you,
6 Majority Leader. Time starts now? Thank you,
7 Sergeant. Ah, I just want to thank all my colleagues
8 that are voting yes on the outdoor dining bill, um,
9 especially the ones that had reservations. Um, I
10 think it's extremely important that the Department of
11 Transportation and the Consumer Affairs Department,
12 ah, address many of the issues that are happening in,
13 at a local level. But in a time when we've seen very
14 few positives, um, especially when it comes to the
15 help that government is giving for small businesses,
16 um, I'm happy to see that we're gonna be able to do,
17 ah, extend outdoor dining. I do want to make sure
18 that we also pay attention to the workers and ensure
19 that they're also protected during this time, which I
20 don't believe we've done to this point. Ah, I want
21 to congratulate, ah, Assembly, um, I'm sorry, Council
22 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, ah, for the great work
23 that she's done in bringing affordable housing to her
24 district, especially in Bed-Sty. Um, but for too
25 long the burden of building affordable housing has

2 fallen solely on black and brown communities like,
3 ah, like Council Member Ampry-Samuel's district. Ah,
4 so while I'm happy to see that she's been very
5 successful at getting extremely low rents for the
6 people that need it the most, there are two land use
7 items, ah, land use item 678 and land use, ah, 679,
8 ah, Bay Parkway rezoning, where they will be giving,
9 ah, we will be giving a rezoning to these developers
10 for a one-bedroom apartment that will go for \$2500.
11 Um, I want to repeat that. One-bedroom apartment for
12 \$2500. That is not affordable housing. That is not
13 helping us get out of the, the hole that we're in,
14 the homelessness situation that we're fighting for,
15 and this just happens to be in the district that's
16 most affluent and white. Um, so, again, to all my
17 colleagues that are fighting for affordable housing
18 and think it's, ah, the most important issue of our,
19 in our city, ah, we have to be very careful about,
20 um, allowing for council members, ah, to not build
21 affordable housing in their districts and continue to
22 put the burden on districts like mine and, ah,
23 Council Member Ampry-Samuel. So thank you so much
24 for your time and I'll be voting aye on all, again

2 with the exception of land use 678 and land use 679
3 and accompanying resolutions.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
5 Member. Richards.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Congrats to my
9 colleagues. I vote aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.
11 Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
13 all, with congratulations to all my colleagues who
14 are sponsors of bills. Um, I especially, I want to
15 attach myself to the words of Council Member
16 Koslowitz. I think, um, a lot of thought went into
17 the bill to answer concerns that all of us had had
18 and, and we've heard from our constituents. The one
19 piece that I think is outstanding that is still a
20 little troublesome is, um, the piece on the ADA. Um,
21 I think their concerns have not quite been addressed
22 and I hope that Department of Transportation will
23 take that under advisement as they, um, approve
24 permits, ah, you know, restaurant by restaurant. But
25 overall it's a great bill and, and Council Member

2 Reynoso, you're right, um, it's good to have a little
3 bit of happy news and, and this is certainly
4 something that will help our small businesses. So
5 kudos to you for that. Thank you all very much. Oh,
6 sorry, and aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Treyger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,
18 Majority Leader. I, I just want to, as I
19 congratulate my colleagues on their important bills,
20 ah, and important victories in their districts, I
21 just want to note for the record to my colleagues
22 that, um, outdoor amusements in Coney Island, for the
23 first time in New York City history, have been closed
24 for the entire season. Um, that has had a ripple
25 effect on our local economy. So I, I think the, the

2 idea and, and the measure of outdoor dining is very
3 innovative, it's important to support our small
4 businesses. But not every neighborhood is, you know,
5 has the type of, ah, profile and, ah, situations like
6 parts of Manhattan. Others, like southern Brooklyn,
7 is also a part of the city. And the amusements sit
8 on city-owned land. The City of New York is still
9 charging the amusements and the businesses on the
10 Boardwalk rent every month, even though they're
11 closed. Um, fees as well. So we need a plan that's
12 truly five borough. We need a plan that's truly
13 inclusive of every region of the city, that includes
14 neighborhoods like Coney Island, which is now
15 experiencing a 30% unemployment rate as a result of
16 this pandemic and, and, and the damage that this has
17 done to our local economy. So I, I will be
18 supporting these measures, but we need to do better,
19 we need to be much more inclusive of every region of
20 the city and not just some. Thank you. I vote aye.

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

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

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

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So first of
6 all I would like to thank the Speaker and all the
7 colleagues for working together in passing a number
8 of bill that we hope, we hope the yellow taxi
9 industry and the, and the taxi industry overall. We
10 are late. We are against the clock. We know that we
11 are not the same financial situation as we were
12 before the coronavirus. But as we are holding this
13 hearing right now there can be a medallion owners,
14 especially one of those 6000 individual medallion
15 owners that could be thinking about committing
16 suicide because he or she doesn't have the money to
17 pay, you know, the monthly due and I think that one
18 of the area that we know that we have to do better to
19 be sure that those measures, though individuals,
20 those brokers who also have been in the business eh,
21 eh, to work with the yellow taxi medallions are good
22 characters. So hopefully this bill will help us. At
23 the same time that I also call all the colleagues to
24 be sure that we put pressure on City Hall to get
25 funding to get financial assistance from the federal

2 government so that we can put a financial assistance
3 to those individual medallion owners and the drivers.
4 With that I vote aye.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on
8 all, and just a brief thank you to the Speaker and
9 the sponsor on the outdoor dining to heed the
10 concerns of the Queens [inaudible], ah, about just
11 the permanency of the wonderful program and the need
12 for us to have to relook at this within a year, so
13 thank you for doing that. And again I vote aye on
14 all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you.
23 First, I want to, ah, congratulate, ah, Council
24 Member Reynoso in particular. I know that the
25 administration has, ah, adopted and in many ways

2 embraced open restaurants. But the council and in
3 particular, ah, Council Member Reynoso, really have
4 driven this discussion and helped save our, ah, small
5 businesses and so many restaurants and this is really
6 not just a Manhattan issue. In, in my district our
7 restaurants are able to survive, ah, to this point,
8 ah, many of them because of this program. It is
9 really one of the best things that we have done in a
10 very long time and I hope, ah, that the city at some
11 point will take up open culture and work to save some
12 of our cultural organizations, in particular
13 performing arts spaces, before they go out of
14 business. Ah, on the business before us today, I'm
15 voting aye on all with the exception of M-256 and
16 Reso 1468, on which I vote no. Ah, that is the Board
17 of Elections appointee. Again, as I said in Dem
18 Conference, this is not about the individuals. It is
19 about the process, ah, by which people are nominated
20 and political machines should not have a role in this
21 process at all. Ah, we saw last year in Queens with
22 the Tiffany Gabon race, ah, how wrong things can go,
23 and, ah, I just think the whole system needs to be
24 absolutely, ah, revamped and we need to take out of
25 any consideration with respect to the Board of

2 Elections, ah, political machines and political
3 machinations. Um, hopefully Tiffany will be a part
4 of this body next year and be a part of that change.
5 Thank you very much.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

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

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
11 granted.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very
14 much. Ah, I vote aye on all, ah, but I'm voting no
15 on, ah, Intro 2127, and I want to explain why. I'm
16 doing it for the same reason that I voted no in
17 committee earlier this week, along with some other
18 colleagues, and I appreciate, ah, that they've
19 revisited their thought on this, um, but I'd like to
20 briefly explain my thoughts on this today. Ah, I
21 supported this bill, ah, when we first created the
22 program and I think we got there quicker than the
23 administration did on trying to recover restaurants
24 and, and give them the opportunities that are
25 necessary for them to, you know, to, to hang on, ah,

2 to get past where they are today, ah, to be able to
3 survive into the future, um, ah, with the hopes that,
4 that they can continue doing that. We've lost, ah,
5 tens of thousands of small businesses throughout the
6 city, including many restaurants, including many in
7 my district and throughout the city. Ah, but in my
8 view to permanentize, ah, ah, the program today
9 without the benefit of reviewing the upcoming winter
10 experience of this program is probably not the best
11 way, at least as I see it, to go. Ah, there's no
12 rush to adopt this bill today in October. We could
13 do it in January, February, March, April, um, with
14 more opportunity to see, for example, the interplay
15 between sidewalks and roadway seating, ah, with the
16 city snow plows, ah, with store owners' and
17 homeowners' ability to shovel snow, to place out
18 trash for pickup in an environment of snow. We don't
19 know what that looks like yet and, um, ah, we don't
20 know how that will work. I do support section one of
21 this bill, which authorizes the use of heating, um,
22 equipment subject to Fire Department guidelines. I
23 think that's wise because it does give restaurants
24 this opportunity, um, and I support section three,
25 which extends the, ah, the, ah, expiration of the

2 program from December 31 to the end of next summer.

3 Ah, I think that, ah, as I've said on this, in this

4 council, on this floor, and committees, there are

5 more things we ought to be doing for restaurants, for

6 small businesses across the board. We ought to be

7 trying to figure out to get more, ah, expansion of

8 their ability to not just seat outdoors, but also

9 indoors.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time's expired.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: But for these

12 reasons, ah, Madam President, thank you for giving me

13 this extra few seconds, for these reasons I

14 respectfully vote no on this bill, aye on all the

15 rest, and I thank everyone for their hard work on

16 getting it to this point.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

18 Council Member Yeger.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council

20 Member Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madam Majority

22 Leader, permission to explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission

24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Our housing and
3 rent stabilization laws depend on accurate data. As
4 HPD testified, the New York City Housing Vacancy
5 Survey requires thousands of interviews over nine
6 months to gather accurate information. That's
7 information about one of the most unique housing
8 markets in the country and data that reflects the
9 experiences of tenants, from reporting on mold and
10 musty smells to pests to how often the heat breaks
11 down, this survey is a tool for understanding
12 housing, understanding what tenants face, and
13 understanding what investments we need to make to
14 protect New Yorkers' housing security. By extending
15 the deadline for this critical survey, Intro 2093
16 allows the Census Bureau and HPD to devote the
17 resources necessary to carry out this survey to the
18 best of their ability, without competing with the
19 2020 census for time, attention, and resources. The
20 2020 census is critically important and this housing
21 vacancy survey is also critically important. The two
22 should not be in competition for resources. Thanks
23 to Speaker Johnson, my colleagues, and the team here
24 at the council for acting to make this important
25 change possible, and with that I congratulate all my

2 other colleagues who had great bills, ah, and I vote
3 aye on all.

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

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council
7 Member Rose.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cumbo.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please bear with
14 us as we are receiving the tally at this time.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: OK, excuse me. All items
16 on today's general order calendar have a vote of 48
17 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
18 abstentions, with the exception of the following.

19 Introduction 2027-A has 46 in the affirmative, 2 in
20 the negative, no abstentions. And 255, with

21 companion Resolution 1467 has 45 in the affirmative,
22 3 in the negative, zero abstentions. Land use items

23 670 with companion Resolution 1451 has 47 in the
24 affirmative, 1 in the negative, no abstentions. Land

25 use items 678 with Resolution 1459 has 45 in the

2 affirmative, 3 in the negative, no abstentions. Land
3 use item 679 with Resolution 1460 has 46 in the
4 affirmative, 2 in the negative, zero abstentions.
5 Land use items 674 through 677 and their accompanying
6 resolutions have 47 in the affirmative, 1 in the
7 negative, with no abstentions. Intro 2093 has 46 in
8 the affirmative, 2 in the negative, zero abstentions.
9 And finally M-256 with Resolution 1468 has 47 in the
10 affirmative and 1 in the negative.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
12 much, ah, Mr. Martin. All of the items on today's
13 general order calendar are adopted. Introduction and
14 reading of bills.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been
16 referred to committees as indicated on today's
17 agenda.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
19 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. There are no
20 resolutions on today's calendar, so we will now move
21 into general discussion. As a reminder, please wait
22 until the Sergeant at Arms begins the countdown clock
23 before you begin your remarks.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
3 Council Members Barron and Rivera have signed up to
4 speak.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK, we will begin
6 with Council Member Barron.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, um,
9 Madam Majority Leader. I just want to call my
10 colleagues' attention to a Reso that Council Member
11 Cornegy and I are introducing, and this Reso is in
12 support of Assembly Bill 3566, introduced in the
13 Assembly by, ah, Assembly Member Felix Ortiz. And
14 the bill talks about the recent incident where Amy
15 Cooper called the police and made a false accusation
16 that she was being threatened by a black man, and the
17 *New York Times* recently talked about an increase in
18 the number of race-based falsely reported crimes.
19 And the states of California, Michigan, and Oregon
20 are already engaged in determining in what ways
21 they're going to penalize folks who make false
22 reports regarding race, national origin, gender,
23 religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation.
24 So I want to urge my colleagues to review this
25 legislation and to join on in support of this

2 resolution by Council Member Cornegy and myself.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
5 much, Council Member Barron. Council Member Rivera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,
7 Majority Leader.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. I'd
10 like to speak today about the last thing and
11 continued damage caused by the archaic criminal
12 statute widely known as the walking wall trans ban.
13 The use of this statute by law enforcement to target
14 trans women of color on the basis of alleged
15 suspensions of loitering for the purposes of
16 prostitution has resulted in women being criminalized
17 for the length of their skirt or the streets they
18 choose to walk on. I've been fighting alongside my
19 colleagues here in the council and my state
20 colleagues since last year to repeal the walking law
21 trans ban included through council Resolution 923-
22 2019, which I sponsored and which currently has 30
23 cosponsors. Even if we are successful in repealing
24 this deeply discriminatory law, we will have to
25 continue working to provide resolution for the

2 countless New Yorkers with criminal resources because
3 of this criminal statute. The walking law trans ban
4 is currently one of only two violations in the entire
5 state penal code that can never be sealed on your
6 criminal record, which has led to thousands of New
7 Yorkers unable to access public housing, renew
8 immigration filings, or place their children or place
9 their children placed in foster care. Today I am
10 introducing Resolution 1444, which calls on the state
11 to pass legislation to permit the sealing of criminal
12 resources for those convicted under the walking law
13 trans ban criminal statutes and to apply it
14 retroactively for anyone previously convicted under
15 the law. Equally under the law is still, equality
16 under the law is still far from a reality, but it is
17 up to us to hold our legal system accountable. I
18 hope you'll join me in supporting this resolution in
19 calling for hearings for both of my resolutions in
20 the committee on public safety. Thank you so much
21 for the time.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
23 much. Are there any other members who wish to speak
24 at this time, Parliamentarian?
25

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Council Member
3 Vallone.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
5 Vallone.

6 PARLIAMENTARIAN: He will be the final
7 Council Member.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam

11 Majority Leader. I, I did not have any prepared
12 remarks. I just wanted to let everyone know, um,
13 that my wife is Armenian. My children are therefore
14 half Italian and half Armenian. Ah, they are first-
15 generation immigrants and I wanted people to know
16 that once again Armenia is under attack. It's a very
17 peaceful, loving, Christian nation and Turkey
18 annihilated 1.5 millions in the genocide in the early
19 19th century, and once again we have a piece of land
20 controlled, ah, by Armenia [inaudible] and the small
21 land of [inaudible] is under attack, and there's been
22 such little, little cry in today's world for justice
23 for the Armenians are being slaughtered once again.
24 And I had to say something since my children and my
25 family and seeing the hard work that they have done

2 and the cry is peace for Armenia. That's all the
3 hashtag is, that's all the call is, it's not for war,
4 it's not for retributions, it's not for sanctions,
5 it's for peace. And in today when all we do is
6 scream and yell and ask for a million different
7 things for something that happened in another city or
8 country, you have a people that are asking for peace.
9 So I had submitted a resolution for that. I know
10 it's difficult for the council, ah, to get into
11 international politics. But we did as a council, ah,
12 I know my father and in past recognized the Armenian
13 genocide, ah, and demanded Turkey take responsibility
14 for that, um, and I, I would ask that we consider the
15 possibility of passing a resolution to ask for peace,
16 to ask for our brothers and sisters in Congress to
17 reach out because the United States always has a play
18 and hand in, in politics overseas. And there's so
19 much involved in that region, the Mid East is always
20 a powder keg for, for chaos. And here is a land, a
21 peaceful land asking for peace. So I just wanted to
22 give you that, because normally I don't speak from
23 the heart often. So I wanted to let you know...

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: ...that our
3 family is going through that, and so many other
4 Armenians throughout the world are calling for peace.
5 Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
7 much, and our prayers go out to you and your family,
8 and we stand with you. Are there any other members
9 at this time, Mr. Parliamentarian, who wish to speak?

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
11 Leader.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I'll now call on
13 Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's Stated
14 Meeting.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The stated meeting...

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: ...of October 15, 2020,
18 is hereby adjourned.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker, do you have one
20 minute?

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, yeah, OK. So
22 before we, ah, do this I want to make a ask for
23 unanimous consent, ah, to allow Council Member Ulrich
24 to cast votes today. Are there any objections to
25 granting unanimous consent?

2 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: With [inaudible]
4 exceptions, ah, Mr. Clerk, if you call on Council
5 Member Ulrich to cast his votes.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: General order calendar,
7 Council Member Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Ah, thank you,
9 Mr. Speaker. I'm voting aye on all with the
10 exception of Reso 1476. I'm voting aye on all
11 others. I want to apologize for being late. I had a
12 very important meeting that just ran late. Ah, but
13 I, I want to vote aye on all with the exception of
14 Reso 1476. Thank you very much.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Stated Meeting of
16 October 15, 2020, is now adjourned.

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STATED MEETING

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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 November 3, 2020