

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

December 10, 2020

Start: 1:49 p.m.

Recess: 3:37 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing - Virtual Room 1

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Costa Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Darma V. Diaz
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

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

1 STATED MEETING

4

2 UNIDENTIFIED: Just give me one second,
3 Carl. Um, Billy, can you test your audio and your
4 mic?

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Testing, testing, one,
6 two.

7 UNIDENTIFIED Yup, we hear you. Do you
8 hear us properly?

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Yeah, I hear you guys
10 fine. As long as you can hear me, I'm moving like a
11 robot, that's OK.

12 UNIDENTIFIED: Yup, we hear you. Thank
13 you.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All right. That's
15 most important. Thank you.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: OK. Um, I'm going to
17 start the live now, Carl. Just give me one second.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sergeants, start the
19 recordings, the backup recordings, please.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS LUGO: PC recording
21 done.

22 JOHANNA CASTRO: We're live.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS PEREZ: Backup is
24 rolling.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you.

1 STATED MEETING

5

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS BRADLEY: Cloud is up.

3 DIRECTOR OF SECURITY: Good afternoon
4 everybody and welcome to today's Stated Meeting. At
5 this time I ask that you please place all electronic
6 devices to vibrate. Madam Majority Leader.

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

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

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Roll call.

20 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Adams. Ampry-
21 Samuel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ayala.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

25 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Barron.

1 STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and
3 present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Borelli.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present and
6 blessed.

7 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Brannan.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present and very
11 blessed.

12 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Chin. Cohen.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

14 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Constantinides.
15 Cornegy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aqui.

17 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

19 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Darma Diaz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ruben Diaz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: Oh, there's
23 another Diaz here. Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

1 STATED MEETING

7

2 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Eugene.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gibson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon,

6 I'm present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Gjonaj.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Grodenchik.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'm here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Holden.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Holden.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Thank you.

16 Kallos.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: We're here.

18 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

20 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

22 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Lander.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

24 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

1 STATED MEETING

8

2 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Levine.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.
4 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Louis.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here.
6 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Maisel.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
8 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Menchaca.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
10 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Miller. Moya.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.
12 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Perkins.
13 Powers.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.
15 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Reynoso.
16 Rivera.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
18 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rodriguez.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.
20 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rose.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.
22 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Rosenthal.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Salamanca.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

1 STATED MEETING

9

2 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Torres.
3 Treyger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

5 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Ulrich.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am here.

7 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Yeger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Matteo.

14 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Cumbo.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Speaker
18 Johnson.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

20 COUNCIL CLERK MCSWEENEY: Madam Majority
21 Leader, we have a quorum.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, we
23 have a quorum. We will now have today's invocation,
24 which will be delivered by Rabbi Eli Cohen, our
25 spiritual leader at the Crown Heights JCC and also a

2 very good friend right in the heart of my district in
3 Crown Heights. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Hey, Cumbo, we
5 share the rabbi. Take it easy. [laughter]

6 RABBI COHEN: No problem.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Rabbi Cohen is
8 all of our rabbi.

9 RABBI COHEN: Yes. So I'm joining the
10 meeting from my office here in Crown Heights, where
11 the Hanukkah menorah is ready, right here, to be
12 light for the first night of Hanukkah. I want to
13 thank the Majority Leader, our dear Council Member
14 Laurie Cumbo, and also our beloved speaker for this
15 invitation in honoring our community on this eve of
16 Hanukkah. I also have to single out, I'm sorry
17 everybody else, but I want to single out the members
18 that represent Crown Heights, Council Members Eugene,
19 Ampry-Samuel, and Cornegy. So a special shout-out
20 to, to all of you. I also ask you to join me at the
21 suggestion of the Lubavitch Rebbe. I'm holding up
22 here a charity box and I'm putting a quarter in as a
23 symbolic gift to charity, and if you have your own
24 charity box in your home or your office, or wherever
25 else you are please join me in that important act.

2 This was the suggestion of the Rebbe many years ago
3 to another rabbi who was leaving such an invocation.
4 It's a Chabad custom that we sit and watch the lights
5 of the menorah for half an hour after we kindle them.
6 And while we're watching them, one of our great
7 rebbes taught, we must listen to the message of the
8 Hanukkah lights. So what is the special message that
9 these lights are going to be telling us tonight? So
10 from Proverbs it says, "For the light of God is the
11 soul of man." These lights tell us that every single
12 one of us has a soul inside whose job is to bring
13 illumination and brightness into this world. Many
14 have described these past months as a time of
15 darkness, of loss, and of suffering, and indeed we've
16 felt this personally. But throughout we've seen
17 bright souls who have brought healing, comfort, and
18 even joy to those around them. These Hanukkah lights
19 tell us that every one of us can be a bright light,
20 helping our neighbors with charity, with a kind word,
21 and with a helping hand. The New York City Council
22 has been the flame to kindle many of those candles by
23 supporting initiatives by great organizations
24 throughout the city. So let us pray that you,
25 members of the City Council, be blessed with good

2 health, with strength, and with wisdom to continue
3 your important work. May you merit to see the
4 success of your initiatives and may we all see you
5 shepherd this city to be safe and prosperous in this
6 tumultuous time. May the Create bless and keep our
7 brave first responders and health workers as they
8 defend us and heal the vulnerable and the sick. May
9 He bless our essential workers and all the volunteers
10 at food pantries, social service programs, and other
11 good works throughout the city. And we pray for the
12 good health and good fortune of every single resident
13 in New York City, from our seniors to our children,
14 as we will quickly recover them this pandemic. And
15 may the lights of the Hanukkah menorah usher in the
16 redemption with masiach, a time of great light when
17 good will triumph over evil and where jealousy, war,
18 sickness, and hatred will be abolished, and the world
19 will be filled with the knowledge of God as the
20 waters cover the ocean.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
22 much, Rabbi Cohen. It's always an honor and a
23 blessing to have you here for your very timely words.
24 It's good to see everyone and I hope everyone is
25 well. In my district it is a pleasure to have Rabbi

2 Cohen here today. Ever since I've known Rabbi Cohen,
3 since the beginning of my tenure, I have admired his
4 perseverance and unique ability to work with everyone
5 in my diverse district. In addition to being ED of
6 the Crown Heights JCC, which has a robust food pantry
7 and an array of social services, I especially
8 appreciate Rabbi Cohen's footprint in the work he is
9 doing in building bridges with our unique and diverse
10 communities, including, but not limited, to the
11 Hasidic community, the African American, and the
12 Caribbean American communities through Project Care
13 and other initiatives. A little background now.

14 Rabbi Cohen, born and educated in England, has been a
15 resident of Crown Heights since 1973. He received
16 rabbinical ordination in 1980 from the Central
17 Lubavitch Yeshiva in Brooklyn. Soon after their
18 wedding he and his wife worked for three years and
19 founded an outreach social service program in San
20 Francisco, California. Then for 18 years he ran the
21 Chabad in New York University, building a vibrant
22 Jewish communal and religious life on the NYU campus
23 and providing spiritual guidance to the students,
24 faculty, and staff. After a couple of years at
25 yeshiva, administrator and board liaison, in 2009

2 Rabbi Cohen was selected as executive director of
3 Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, where he has
4 worked to further the council's mission of providing
5 assistance to all of the residents of Crown Heights,
6 including every ethnic group and creed, for the
7 purpose of creative a more cohesive community and
8 representing the Crown Heights neighborhood to the
9 broader New York community. I want to thank you so
10 much for being here today. I want to thank you for
11 the incredible work that you are doing in our
12 community. I know many people that, ah, many of my
13 colleagues that are here today also want to claim
14 you. Um, but at this time I will be claiming you and
15 I make a motion to spread the invocation on full onto
16 the record today. Thank you so much, Rabbi Cohen.

17 RABBI COHEN: Thank you.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader?

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Now at this time
20 I'd like to ask, ah, Council Member, excuse me. Now
21 at this time we would have the adoption of the
22 minutes by Council Member Eric A. Ulrich.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader?

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: I believe Council
3 Member Cornegy is going to be doing that.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, Council
5 Member Cornegy has signed up. OK, we will now have
6 Council Member Cornegy to adopt the minutes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So I don't have
8 that script, but I'd like to spread the, no, I'm not
9 spreading the invocation, I'm adopting the minutes...

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yes?

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Would you like to make
13 a motion that the minutes of the Stated Meetings of
14 October 29, 2020, and November 19, 2020, be adopted
15 as printed?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I would love to
17 do that. Thank you. I'd like to make a motion that
18 the adopted, the minutes of the October...

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: 29th.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: 2020, 29...

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN: And November 19th.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: And November
23 19th be, be adopted.

1 STATED MEETING

16

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Thank you, Council
3 Member Cornegy. Madam Majority Leader, you can
4 continue.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
6 much, Council Member Cornegy. And if you could just
7 give me one moment. Thank you. Messages and papers
8 from the mayor.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

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

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M262, the
13 certification of election of Darma V. Diaz, 37th
14 Council District, Brooklyn.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations to
16 Council Member D. Diaz and that communication is
17 received, ordered, printed, and filed.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M263, Brooklyn
19 borough president strategic policy statement.

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

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M264 through M266,
23 commissioner of election appointments.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, privileges, and
25 elections.

1 STATED MEETING

17

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
3 communications.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M267, the resignation
5 of Council Member Donovan J. Richards.

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

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-
9 ups.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
12 will now have communication from Speaker Corey
13 Johnson.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
15 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, very happy Thursday
16 to you all. As always, I hope you and your families
17 are safe and healthy. We are sadly continuing to see
18 an unfortunate surge in COVID-19 cases throughout our
19 city. As we head into the winter and cold weeks
20 ahead, I want to note how important it is to continue
21 adhering to what public experts call the core four -
22 staying home if you're sick, wearing a mask, washing
23 your hands, and keeping six feet apart and doing
24 social distancing. New Yorkers have flattened the
25 curve before and we have to do it again. We all know

1 that it's tough, but the alternative is tougher. We
2 have the power to save lives by wearing a mask. We
3 have lost too many New Yorkers to this devastating
4 disease. As of yesterday, 24,411 New Yorkers have
5 died from coronavirus and that includes probable
6 deaths. This is more than a number. These are
7 family members, loved ones, neighbors, parents,
8 grandparents, this is our community and our city. I
9 want to also acknowledge, as I always do, a few of
10 the folks we've lost from 9/11-related illnesses
11 since we last met. We recently lost Auxiliary
12 Officer Michael Dorian and Officer Frank Rosado of
13 the NYPD, as well as EMT Donnell Ford of Jamaica
14 Hospital, and we are sending our deepest condolences
15 to their families during this difficult time. Our
16 city, New York City, will be forever grateful for
17 their sacrifice and service to our city. I also want
18 to acknowledge a major loss for our city since we
19 last met. Mayor David Dinkins, our city's first
20 black mayor and a man who fought for the most
21 vulnerable in our city, died on November 23. He was
22 a model for so many who entered public service after
23 him. He never stopped looking after those who needed
24 him the most. He was a mentor to so many on how to
25

2 serve with dignity and with commitment. He believed
3 New York City could meet any challenge it faced by
4 working collectively. He talked about the gorgeous
5 mosaic of our city, our heart, my heart, is with his
6 family and loved ones. It is a major loss. Rest in
7 peace and rest in power David Dinkins. Today New
8 York City lost another beloved civic leader and a
9 true bridge-builder, Dr. Ahmed Jabar, a Muslim
10 activist who made our city stronger, died this
11 morning. We all grieve with the Muslim and Arab
12 community for this major loss and we are grateful for
13 his dedication to his community and to our city. I
14 also want to take a moment of silence to remember all
15 the lives that we've lost as a result of coronavirus,
16 Officers Dorian and Rosado, EMT...

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: If you could, I
18 don't know to get into...

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, Laurie, you're not
20 on mute. EMT Ford, Dr. Jabar, and Mayor David
21 Dinkins, if we could take a [moment of silence].
22 Thank you. I want to acknowledge the departure of
23 two very important staff members here at the council.
24 John Blasko has been with the council since 2014,
25 first worker for former Council Member Rosie Mendez

2 and then joining current Council Member Carlina
3 Rivera's team, before joining the Community
4 Engagement Division. John's tireless efforts here
5 have helped communities all across New York City and
6 I am wishing you the best, John, on your next steps,
7 and we are grateful for all the work that you have
8 done here at the council. Thank you so much. We are
9 also losing a core member of our team, Briana
10 Mulligan, who is the first deputy press secretary
11 here in the speaker's office. Bri joined the
12 speaker's office in 2017 under Speaker Mark-Viverito,
13 and has been in with the council since 2014,
14 initially joining the office of Council Member Paul
15 Vallone. For the past few years she has brought so
16 much dedication to this role and the entire council
17 has benefitted from her work. So all of your years
18 of service to the council are appreciated, Bri. We
19 are excited for your next steps. We are proud of
20 you. Thank you all for all of your hard work here at
21 the council. I want to extend a special welcome to a
22 newly elected Council Member, Darma Diaz. We are so
23 excited to have you here as a Council Member.
24 Congratulations. Ah, we are excited to get to work
25 with you and I know how excited you are to get to

2 work on behalf of your constituents. So you were
3 doing that work before you were elected, so this is
4 just an extension of that. So I want to congratulate
5 you and welcome you to your first Stated Meeting of
6 the City Council. Congratulations, Council Member D.
7 Diaz. Ah, yesterday was Council Member Adrienne
8 Adams' birthday. Council Member Adams, I would sing
9 you Happy Birthday, but it would not sound great, and
10 you are the real singer in the council, so I want to
11 just wish you a happy birthday, and I hope you had a
12 great day with Jay and with your family. And last,
13 but not least, as you heard from Rabbi Cohen, I want
14 to, ah, everyone a happy and healthy Hanukkah. Ah, I
15 want to wish everyone a really beautiful celebration
16 of the miracle of the Festival of Lights, which
17 begins tonight. To all of our Jewish colleagues,
18 Happy Hanukkah. To all of, ah, Jewish New Yorkers
19 and, and Jews around the country and around the
20 world, Happy Hanukkah. We hope you have a really
21 beautiful celebration over the course of Hanukkah.
22 And now on to our agenda. Out of the Land Use
23 Committee we'll be voting on the following five land
24 use items. The Department of Sanitation, Queens
25 Sanitation Garage One, this is a site selection, ah,

2 to facilitate the relocation of a garage and salt
3 shed to Council Member Costa Constantinides'
4 district. HPD has committed to providing 100%
5 affordable housing at the former site. The Special
6 Flushing Waterfront District, a series of zoning
7 actions which will facilitate the development of 1700
8 units of housing and new commercial space on the
9 Flushing waterfront, in addition to new waterfront
10 open space and new recreation center, and over 3000
11 jobs in Council Member Peter Koo's district. The
12 Bedford Avenue overlay extension, a rezoning in
13 Council Member Antonio Reynoso's district, which will
14 facilitate the development of a three-story mixed use
15 building with commercial and residential uses above.
16 803 Rockaway Avenue rezoning in Council Member Inez
17 Barron's district, which will facilitate the
18 development of a new mixed use building continuing
19 ground floor manufacturing and approximately 174
20 units of affordable housing, including 80 units for
21 formerly homeless adults. Mansion Restaurant
22 Sidewalk Cafe amendment in Council Member Kallos'
23 district. Moving on to our legislative agenda, we'll
24 be voting on two important resolutions that support
25 the repeal of the walking while trans law. Both

2 resolutions are sponsored by Council Member Carlina
3 Rivera. For too long the trans community has been
4 unjustly targeted by law enforcement. Walking while
5 trans is not a crime and the state penal code should
6 reflect that. Resolution 1444-A calls on the state
7 legislature to pass and the governor to sign a bill
8 to allow violations of for any loitering for the
9 purpose of engaging in prostitution offense to be
10 sealed. This law would apply retroactively if passed
11 by the legislature and signed by the governor. The
12 next resolution by Council Member Rivera related to
13 this is Resolution 923, which would declare the
14 council support for Senate Bill 2243 and Assembly
15 Bill 654, sponsored by Senator Hoylman and Assembly
16 Member Polin, which repeals the law that we're
17 talking about, also known as Penal Law Section
18 240.37, and often referred to as walking while trans
19 statute. I want to thank the staff who worked on
20 this, Chloe Rivera, Brenda McKinney, John Blasko,
21 Smeeta Desmuk, Andrea Vazquez, and Zeamanuel Halu.
22 Our next bill is a Housing and Buildings bill,
23 Introduction number 2033-A, sponsored by the chair of
24 our Housing and Buildings Committee, Council Member
25 Robert Cornegy, would permit the Department of

2 Buildings to issue an interim certificate of
3 occupancy to allow for the occupancy of a building
4 before the final certificate of occupancy is issued.
5 The bill would not apply to residential buildings
6 with fewer than eight stories or four dwelling units,
7 nonresidential buildings with fewer than five
8 stories, mixed use buildings with fewer than four
9 dwelling units, or parking structures. And I want to
10 thank Council Member Cornegy, ah, for this
11 legislation. Ah, and I want to thank the staff who
12 worked on this, ah, Genan Zilka, ah, for her work on
13 the bill. Introduction, ah, number 1170-A, sponsored
14 by Council Member Ritchie Torres, will prohibit the
15 sale of biometric identifier information. It would
16 also require certain commercial establishments, such
17 as retailers, restaurants, entertainment venues, to
18 post signage notifying customers if they collect
19 biometric identifier information. Financial
20 institutions are exempt from the signage requirement,
21 as are businesses with security cameras that are not
22 used for automated identification of individuals and
23 do not share video footage except with law
24 enforcement. This bill requires the city's chief
25 privacy officer with the relevant agencies to conduct

2 outreach and education to affected commercial
3 establishments. And I want to thank from the staff
4 Valkys Mireg, Leah Skirpiak, Noah Mexler, Florentine
5 Kabor, David Sitzer, and Rachel Cordero for their
6 work on that bill. Next up we're voting on a bill
7 related to the issue of mold in public housing. We
8 know that mold remains a chronic problem in NYCHA
9 units and we must do everything we can to alert
10 tenants to their right to live in a mold-free
11 environment. There are places and people to help
12 them and we are pleased that this bill promotes
13 awareness of these resources. Introduction number
14 1911-A, again sponsored by Council Member Ritchie
15 Torres, will require an office or agency designated
16 by the mayor to distribute a pamphlet or other
17 printed documents that contain information about the
18 mold ombudsperson, the mold ombudsperson's call
19 center, and how to make a complaint to the mold
20 ombudsperson to every NYCHA tenant. The office would
21 also be required to communicate this information to
22 each tenant by telephone. For tenants enrolled in
23 electronic billing the office can opt to send the
24 information via email instead of distributing a paper
25 copy. This legislation would also require the

2 designated office to distribute such a pamphlet to
3 certain elected officials and community
4 representatives and to hold a public briefing at
5 least once a year to provide information about the
6 mold ombudsperson. And I want to thank Audrey San
7 from the staff for her work on that bill. In 2015
8 this council enacted the historic Fair Chance Act to
9 ensure everyone has equal access to employment. The
10 pandemic we are in has posed a public health and
11 economic crisis, ah, and right now any barrier to
12 employment is devastating. Individuals with criminal
13 histories face significant barriers to stable
14 employment. In an effort to strengthen employment
15 protections the council will vote to strengthen the
16 Fair Chance Act, which, again, was enacted by the
17 council in 2015. Introduction 1314-A, sponsored by
18 Public Advocate Jumaane Williams by request of the
19 mayor, would add unsealed violations and adjournments
20 in contemplation of dismissal to the category of
21 dispositions that may never be considered for the
22 purpose of making employment-related decisions. It
23 would also extend the protections of the Fair Chance
24 Act to current employees. This bill would also
25 prohibit discrimination in licensing against

2 applicants with convictions for violations even prior
3 to sealing. And I want to thank from the staff
4 Valkys Mireg, Wayam Daori, Neven Singh, David Sitzer,
5 and Rachel Cordero. Our final two bills are an
6 effort to support the arts and cultural sector of our
7 city, very excited about these bills. The COVID-19
8 pandemic has had devastating effects on this sector.
9 It has brought on closures, restrictions, and the
10 canceling of so much programming that our arts
11 community does in our city. The arts are integral to
12 the health of our city and they are hurting so much.
13 These bills give them a chance to survive, much like
14 we did with Open Streets and outdoor dining. They
15 will also enliven our streets and bring so much joy
16 to New Yorkers when we could use more joy during this
17 difficult time. I want to Majority Leader Cumbo and
18 the chair of our cultural affairs committee, Council
19 Member Van Bramer, for their commitment to arts and
20 culture. Introduction 2034-A, sponsored by Majority
21 Leader Cumbo, will require the creation of a website
22 that would provide information on open spaces
23 designated by the city for arts and cultural
24 programming, such as roadways, parks, or pedestrian
25 plazas. It would facilitate the use of such space by

2 arts and cultural institutions by allowing users to
3 search for open space on a map, as well as providing
4 information on other arts and cultural events in the
5 city, either hosted by an arts or cultural
6 institution or outdoor events held on private
7 property. The next bill, Introduction number 2068-A,
8 sponsored by the chair of our cultural affairs
9 committee, Council Member Van Bramer, would require
10 the city to create an open culture program that would
11 allow eligible arts and cultural institutions or
12 cultural venues to use approved public street space
13 for artistic or cultural events. This program would
14 be similar to the concept of the, it would be similar
15 to the concept of open restaurants, ah, our outdoor
16 dining program that launched earlier this year.
17 There would be an application fee of \$20 for
18 participation in the program to cover some costs and
19 discourage frivolous applications. But participation
20 in the program would otherwise be free. The
21 Department of Transportation would be required to
22 share a list of spaces for the program by February 1,
23 2021, in just a few months, and the Mayor's Office of
24 Citywide Event Coordination and Management, which
25 houses the city's permit office, would establish the

2 Open Culture Program by March 1, 2021. The program
3 will remain in effect until October 31, 2021, with
4 the possibility of extension, but it would expire by
5 March 31, 2022. Ah, these bills were complicated.
6 They took a long time. The staff worked really hard
7 on them, as well as the members. And I want to thank
8 from the staff Brenda McKinney, Christie Dwyer,
9 Andrea Vazquez, Smeeta Desmuk, and Zeamanuel Halu.
10 That concludes today's legislative agenda. I now
11 turn it back over to you, Madam Majority Leader.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
13 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. At this time we will
14 now move into discussion of General Orders. We will
15 recognize council members who wish to speak by using
16 the raise hand function in Zoom. Please wait before
17 you begin your remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to
18 announce he has begun the countdown clock. The
19 Sergeant at Arms will alert you when your time has
20 expired. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any council
21 members registered to speak at this time?

22 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
23 Leader. Council Members Koo, Van Bramer, and
24 Menchaca.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Koo, Van Bramer,
3 and Menchaca. OK. We will begin with Council Member
4 Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, thank
6 you, Majority Leader. Thank you, Speaker. Today we
7 are voting on the Special Flushing Waterfront in my
8 district. This vote comes after decades of planning
9 and proposals, starts and stops, meetings and
10 hearings. And I'm very happy that the applicants and
11 neighbor groups were able to arrive at an agreement
12 that will include good-paying jobs, good-paying local
13 jobs, for the Flushing community. On a grander
14 scale, we have a commitment to an economic shot in
15 the arm for Flushing and the city at a time when we
16 need it most. We are getting a commitment from the
17 development team with long-standing ties to our
18 community, who will finally connect downtown Flushing
19 to its waterfront with an expanded promenade with
20 playgrounds, pedestrian trails, and open spaces. We
21 are getting 30% affordable housing on the rezoned
22 portion of the site on site four. Importantly, the
23 applicants have entered into an agreement with the
24 city to further engage in discussions over the next
25 three years with HPD and the council to work on ways

2 to secure financing so we can maximum the amount of
3 affordable housing on site. This is critical because
4 we all know the pandemic has caused cuts across the
5 board. So it was necessary to look to the future
6 when we are not so set back by budget cuts, when we
7 can work on securing funding for more affordability.
8 To name some benefits, we are getting a commitment to
9 sustainable shore infrastructure that won't
10 contribute CSO to the Flushing Creek, and a
11 commitment...

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: ... shoreline
14 stabilization that goes beyond the required
15 [inaudible] sustainability measures. We also have
16 commitments to direct waterfront assets, education,
17 and programming. We are getting workforce agreements
18 with the Queens Chamber of Commerce and the Flushing
19 Business Improvement District. They will focus on
20 the hiring from both of our [inaudible] developments
21 at [inaudible] Houses and Latimer Gardens, as well as
22 12 million dollars to support small businesses
23 impacted by the development over the next 10 years.
24 We are getting new, we are getting new community
25 facility spaces, including a new set-aside for youth

2 mentoring and [inaudible] recreational space for
3 [inaudible] food pantry. This is in addition to
4 numerous financial contributions and equipment
5 donations to help support the pantry's mission. And,
6 most importantly, at a time when the City of New York
7 is struggling financially we are getting a commitment
8 to good-paying jobs with 32BJ and XTC, as well as
9 thousands of temporary jobs and estimated 160 million
10 dollars in property tax revenues. This kind of
11 economic development can help New Yorkers get back on
12 their feet. I would like to thank Speaker Johnson,
13 Chairs Moya and Salamanca, Raju Mann, Jason Goldman,
14 Ebony Meets, Anthony Paris, and Genevieve Michael,
15 Amy Leviden, John Durgas, Arthur Hu, Julia Rubin, and
16 the entire land use division. I would also like to
17 thank the Waterfront Alliance, [inaudible] Latimer
18 Gardens, [inaudible] food pantry, City Parks
19 Foundation, Queen Chamber of Commerce, the Flushing
20 Business Improvement District, 32BJ, XTC, and all the
21 other groups who were engaged throughout this
22 process, and also my own staff, especially Ling Chong
23 and Scott Seaver. I especially would like to thank
24 the applicants and the labor unions who came together
25 despite a lot of misinformation from those who would

2 prefer nothing for, for those who would prefer
3 nothing to be [inaudible] here at all. We have all
4 struggled in this pandemic and this isn't perfect.
5 But we simply cannot afford to continue our demands
6 for the perfect, we cannot simply continue, we cannot
7 simply afford to continue our demands for the perfect
8 [inaudible] of over the good. This is a good
9 compromise that will address many of the issues we
10 heard from many public hearings to provide good-
11 paying, good-paying union jobs, affordable housing,
12 and a host of other community benefits. I encourage
13 all of you, my colleagues, to vote in favor of this
14 project. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and
15 Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
17 much, Council Member Koo. We will now hear from
18 Council Member Van Bramer, followed by Council Member
19 Menchaca.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
22 very much. I'm gonna shift gears and talk about open
23 culture a little bit. Ah, Intro 2068-A, which I'm,
24 ah, very proud to be the prime sponsor of, is a, not
25 only a cultural bill, it's a small business, ah,

2 bill, it's a job creation bill. It creates for the
3 first time a one-stop-shop for expedited permits, ah,
4 for cultural organizations, individual artists, and
5 other performing arts venues. And most importantly
6 the performances will be able to be ticketed events
7 and these organizations and artists will be able to
8 charge for the performances. It's incredibly
9 important that we allow artists to be paid for the
10 work that they create, ah, and they perform. Ah, the
11 New York City Open Streets Program will be a source
12 of dancing and singing, ah, comedy, and performance.
13 And other locations will be able to be chosen by
14 artists and arts organizations in consultation with
15 their local council member. All of the DCLA, ah,
16 recipients, ah, our five boroughs arts councils, and
17 all the individual artists who received grants
18 through the arts councils, ah, as well as other
19 organizations like comedy clubs can access and
20 participate in the program as long as they have a
21 sponsor, ah, among those 2000 arts organizations and
22 individual artists. This is incredibly important.
23 We've lost hundreds of thousands of jobs. Artists
24 have been struggling to pay the rent and stay in New
25 York City. This is the first time that we are doing

2 something for artists, for the cultural community,
3 for all of those small theaters, all of those small
4 performing arts venues have simply shut down in March
5 and haven't been able to produce, and the artists who
6 haven't been able to be paid for the art that they
7 want to create and share with the world. So start
8 March 1 we will see art, dance, music, performance,
9 break out all over the City of New York,
10 democratizing art, making sure that we're making
11 better use of city streets, and, most importantly,
12 putting artists back to work. I'm enormously proud
13 of this bill. I want to thank, ah, the Speaker,
14 Jason Goldman, my staff, ah, Jack Bronadavitz, this
15 is his first piece of legislation that he's seen
16 through to, ah, completion. My chief of staff, Matt
17 Wallace, ah, our counsel, Brenda McKinney, who worked
18 really hard on this, ah, Christie Dwyer, Aliah Ali,
19 and all of those artists, and all of those advocacy
20 organizations for the arts who pushed for this open
21 culture program to happen. Ah, there is more to be
22 done. This is just the beginning. But artists and
23 art organizations you are seen, you are heard, we
24 support you, and I can't wait for open culture to be
25 a reality in New York City. Thank you very much.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
3 much, Council Member Van Bramer. It's been an honor
4 to work with you on this legislation. At this time
5 I'd like to call on Council Member Carlos Menchaca.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
8 Majority Leader. The Flushing rezoning has falsely
9 been presented today as a boost to the local economy
10 and affordable housing. It is not. Spending 10
11 years on a bad plan doesn't make it a good plan.
12 COVID has changed everything. At a time and place of
13 extreme need this body, our City Council, will be and
14 continuing to approve developments that help the rich
15 at the great expense of our working families. It is
16 egregious to argue that this rezoning is for the
17 people of Flushing, when the community and advocates
18 are saying the contrary. And up until a few days ago
19 a couple unions were against it and standing in
20 solidarity with the people. Well, congrats to them.
21 In a neighborhood with the highest overcrowding rate
22 in the city, this rezoning promises 1700 new
23 apartments, only 3% of which will be affordable.
24 That is a tenth of what would be required in MIH.
25 This mayor promises to create new affordable housing

2 problems around this project in the future. Well,
3 good luck taking that to any bank with public trust.
4 The community of Flushing is already severely rent
5 burdened in a majority low- and moderate-income
6 neighborhood, majority immigrant, thousands of whom
7 are seniors, exacerbating the rent burden means
8 creating a housing crisis and displacement. This
9 morning we just sat down with advocates on
10 Stabilizing NYC where we're trying to fund programs
11 to support people that we're about to be displacing
12 in the future. Equally important, New York City's
13 waterfront should be publicly accessible. This
14 rezoning will result in a, in a privately managed
15 waterfront with limited public access. The City
16 Planning Commission, to no surprise, also failed to
17 conduct an adequate environmental review and has
18 disregarded community input. The environmental
19 factor is crucial to the community of Flushing.
20 Flushing Creek has one of the worse combined sewer
21 overflow problems in New York City. And the arrival
22 of thousands of new residents will undoubtedly
23 exacerbate this unjust environmental burden.
24 Nonetheless, I understand that employment crisis
25 facing our city and empathize with those to see this

2 proposal as an opportunity to get back to work. But
3 it is a terrible deal that promises a short-term win
4 for some while creating a long-term crisis for an
5 existing community. The promise of good jobs is
6 important, yes. But it is and cannot be justified
7 while threatening the homes of thousands of people
8 barely hanging on to their communities today. The...

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: ...[inaudible]
11 development that serves them, that creates
12 desperately needed stability and opportunity within
13 our communities. And that goes through a legitimate
14 environmental review process. I will be voting no
15 and I will be asking my colleagues to join. Thank
16 you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
18 Council Member Carlos Menchaca. Mr. Parliamentarian,
19 are there any other members registered to speak at
20 this time?

21 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
22 Leader. Council Member Barron.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, thank you
25 very much. I want to echo the comments made, made by

2 my colleague, Council Member Menchaca, and to say if
3 you look at the design of the project you will see
4 that that waterfront area is in fact reserved for
5 those who are in those apartments that are at market
6 rate and above. So in addition to those things that
7 were mentioned, we now have another barrier for those
8 who are low income, which I believe is the majority
9 of that, ah, district, to be able to have immediate
10 view and access of that. But I did want to speak in
11 terms of my project, 803 Rockaway Avenue. It is a
12 project that is being, ah, constructed with light
13 manufacturing on the ground level and apartment
14 spaces above. I'm very pleased about it. It's also
15 very significant to me because it faces a public
16 school and it is a public school where I was a
17 teacher for a dozen or so years and where I also
18 served as the assistant principal. So I'm very
19 familiar with the area, the community, the residents
20 that are there. This project will have 174 units and
21 you know what I'm gonna talk about. Affordable to
22 the people who live in the community. And you may
23 want to know what is that area median income for the
24 neighborhood? It's about \$38,000. So I'm not
25 supporting projects that are not affordable to the

2 people who live there because that would be
3 contributing to gentrification and displacing those
4 people. So 35 of the units will be at 27% AMI, 28%
5 of the units will be at 40% AMI, 10% of the units at
6 50% AMI, and 13%...

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ... and 70% of the
9 AMI. There will be no units higher than 70% of the
10 AMI. This development will have, as I said, light
11 manufacturing on the ground floor level and above
12 that will be an outdoor space for the residents to be
13 able to enjoy the outdoors in an area where they can
14 look out and see what their children are doing or
15 just relax themselves. It also includes 2500 square
16 feet of community facility space. And the light
17 manufacturing that is there that will be offered to
18 small businesses will be offered at prices that are
19 at least 20% below market rate. So we're talking
20 about making this accessible to the people who
21 actually live in the community. Ah, there will be
22 the population that is invited to participate in this
23 are veterans, seniors, those who are in need of
24 support services, and those who are formerly
25 homeless. We know we're in a pandemic, we know

2 everyone has needs, but certainly this is a
3 population that has extreme needs and this is a
4 project that will address those needs of those
5 people. So I urge all of my colleagues to vote in
6 favor of this project. I want to all of those in
7 land use and all of those on the Speaker's staff and
8 my own staff that worked on getting this project to
9 this point. Thank you so much.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
11 Council Member Barron. And we will now hear from
12 Council Member Cornegy.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Ah, thank you.
15 I want to speak on my, my bill, Intro 2033, which
16 would allow the Department of Buildings to ensure
17 interim certificates of occupancy before all the work
18 in a building is completed and only a few units are
19 still under construction this should not prevent
20 finished apartments from being safely occupied. We
21 need more housing in New York and this is a
22 commonsense way to create housing with apartments
23 that are already complete. This removes a technical
24 hurdle that will help New Yorkers find a home. The
25 DOB issues certificates of occupancy before a

2 building can be legally occupied. Where a
3 certificate of occupancy cannot be issued because
4 there are outstanding concerns, DOB will issue a
5 temporary certificate of occupancy. This temporary
6 certificate of occupancy, which is valid for 90 days,
7 indicates that the property is safe for occupancy,
8 but the outstanding concerns preventing the issuance
9 of a final certificate of occupancy have not been
10 resolved. After 90 days DOB must inspect the
11 property before a new temporary certificate of
12 occupancy can be issued. As a result, DOB is
13 required to repeatedly inspect properties with
14 temporary certificates of occupancy, placing a large
15 administrative burden on an already overworked
16 agency. Proposed Intro 2033-A would allow DOB to
17 issue interim certificates of occupancy before all
18 the work in a building is completed, allowing safe
19 occupancy of specific floors, reducing the need for
20 repeated inspections before the final certificate of
21 occupancy can be issued. This bill does not apply to
22 residential buildings with fewer than eight stories
23 or four dwellings, nonresidential buildings with
24 fewer than five stories, mixed use buildings with
25 fewer than four dwellings, or park constructions.

2 This bill also requires the temporary certificates of
3 occupancy, including interim certificates of
4 occupancy, be posted in buildings. These temporary
5 and interim certificates of occupancy can be revoked
6 if they were issued in error or based on incorrect
7 information. Overall this bill creates a pragmatic
8 way for DOB and the private sector to allow for units
9 that are safe to be occupied while removing the
10 burden of unnecessary repeated inspections. Thank
11 you so much for everybody on the staff who's worked
12 on this bill. Ah, I appreciate it. I hope all of my
13 colleagues will sign on. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Mr.
15 Parliamentarian, are there any other members who wish
16 to speak at this time.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
18 Leader.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: At this time I
20 would just like to say I recognize that everyone has
21 very interesting, um, and important land use
22 decisions that they have to make in their districts
23 on an everyday basis. Um, everyone's district is
24 very different. Land values are very different. Ah,
25 the complexities of everyone's district is very

2 different. And whether it's Industry City in Council
3 Member Carlos Menchaca's district or it's in Flushing
4 in Council Member Koo's district, you both know your
5 districts well. You know them best. You were voted
6 by an overwhelming majority of the individuals in
7 your district to make the best decisions for your
8 district. And so I congratulate everyone here,
9 particularly Council Member Barron as well, who's
10 been able to produce extraordinary affordable
11 housing, um, in her community. So with that I would
12 then like to go on to the report of special
13 committees.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
16 standing committees.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
18 Committee on Civil and Human Rights, Intro 1314-A,
19 prohibiting discrimination based on arrest or
20 criminal record.

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

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
24 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing,
25 Intro 1170-A biometric identifier technology.

1 STATED MEETING

45

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
5 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, and
6 Internal Intergroup Relations, Intros 2034-A and
7 2068-A, outdoor and open space for cultural events.

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

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
11 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 2033-A,
12 certificates of occupancy.

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

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
16 Committee on Land Use, LU 691 and Reso 1501, Queens
17 Sanitation Garage One.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
19 orders.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 694 and Reso 1502,
21 and LU 695 and Reso 1503, Special Flushing Waterfront
22 District.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
24 orders.

25

1 STATED MEETING

46

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 696 through 698,
3 Coney Island Avenue rezoning.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with
5 modifications and referred to the City Planning
6 Commission pursuant to Section 197-D of the New York
7 City Charter.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 699 and Reso 1504,
9 Bedford Avenue overlay.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
11 orders.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 700 and Reso 1505
13 and LU 701 and Reso 1506, 803 Rockaway Avenue
14 rezoning.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
16 orders.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 702 and Reso 1507,
18 Mansion Restaurant.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
20 orders.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
22 Committee on Public Housing, Intro 1911-A, NYCHA mold
23 ombudsperson.

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

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
3 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections,
4 preconsidered Reso 1497, council committee changes.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
6 orders. And at this time I'm asking for a clerk to
7 take a roll call vote on all of the items coupled on
8 today's general order calendar.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Adams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ampry-Samuel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Permission
13 to explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Um, I
17 just...

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I just want
20 to quickly say thank you to everyone, um, to all my
21 colleagues, who expressed, um, words of comfort and
22 condolences on the passing of my mother, Ernestine
23 Turner, who died after, um, ah, a battle, short
24 battle with an aggressive cancer. And so I just want
25 to say thank you so much for, um, keeping me in your

2 prayers. This was a difficult journey, um, but again
3 thank you. And I just wanted to also say
4 congratulations to Council Member D. Diaz and Happy
5 Birthday to Councilwoman Adrienne Adams. And with
6 that I vote aye on all.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Ampry-
9 Samuel, Council Member Ampry-Samuel, your mother was
10 just such a bright light. Ah, Ernestine was, every
11 time you were around here you felt what a special
12 human being and person she was, and I have such a
13 great memory of, ah, not this past summer but the
14 summer before, marching in the Brooklyn Pride Parade
15 with her after she had finished up some of her
16 treatments when she was pretty sick and, ah, what a
17 wonderful time she had. And I just remember her
18 going to every campaign event you had, coming to City
19 Hall all the time and beaming with such pride and joy
20 over, ah, you and your amazing brother as well. So,
21 um, you know, it's such a tremendous loss and I know
22 that when we lose a close loved one people reach out,
23 you know, immediately when it happens, but I want you
24 to know that we are here for you, not just in the
25 immediate aftermath but always, because we know it

2 leaves a devastating hole, ah, in your heart and in
3 your life, and so I was so grateful to get to know
4 your amazing mother and, ah, we are really thinking
5 of you and praying for you and your family. And I'm
6 glad you mentioned her today, of course.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and I
8 applaud you for being here today and for continuing
9 with your hearings, continuing with the work. It's
10 an honor to see your strength and for you to be here
11 to continue the work of the people. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Ah, permission to
14 explain my vote?

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Um, very quickly,
17 just wanted to say how much we love Alicka. You
18 know, um, this is the picture of her that we have at
19 the City Council and I just, you know, I love you so
20 much, and some of you, you know, um, all of my
21 thoughts and prayers. Um, I wanted to wish Council
22 Member Adams a belated Happy Birthday, and I wanted
23 to congratulate Council Member D. Diaz, um, and
24 welcome her and [inaudible] that we have, ah, that's
25 full of much love and appreciation and, um, looking

2 forward to, to working with you all. And with that I
3 vote aye.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, yes, I vote
7 aye on all with the exception of the Flushing
8 waterfront project, I don't have the numbers, and the
9 accompanying resolutions, and the Coney Island
10 rezoning, ah, I don't again have the numbers
11 [inaudible]. I think those are 9699, 696, 697, 698,
12 and the accompanying resolutions. And, ah, I echo
13 the comments of the speaker for my colleague who is
14 going through her healing process. And I just want
15 to say in terms of David Dinkins I also want to
16 comment on his loss. He was a great person, a
17 gentleman in all respects, and when I was a principal
18 he took the time out of his busy schedule to come
19 from Manhattan to be a guest speaker in my school at
20 an assembly program where my focus was on reading
21 comprehension. And so I just want to acknowledge
22 that. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Borelli.

1 STATED MEETING

51

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Ah, thank you.
3 I'd like to echo the words both of congratulations
4 and of condolences that the speaker laid out prior.

5 Ah, and I'd also like to vote aye on all except
6 Intros 1314 and Resos 0923 and 1444. Thank you very
7 much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I vote aye on
11 all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
14 Cabrera, you might be on mute. We'll come back to
15 Council Member Cabrera.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Sure. Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I'd like
20 to wish all of my colleagues a very happy Hanukkah
21 for those who are celebrating. I vote aye on all
22 with the exception of the Flushing, ah, waterfront
23 special district, which is, ah, LU 694 and 695, with
24 the accompanying Resos, 1502 and 1503, in which I
25 will be voting no. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Ah, can I
5 explain my vote, please?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So I just want
9 to say to Alicka I didn't get a chance to know your
10 mother very well, but I do know that you can judge a
11 tree by the fruit that it bears. So it has been a
12 pleasure to work with you, and I can see your mother
13 and her, ah, sowing into you, ah, all over your work.
14 So it's, it's a pleasure to know her through you.
15 Um, I want to congratulate all of my colleagues on
16 great legislation passed today, but especially
17 Carlina Rivera on, on, on her, her [inaudible]
18 resolutions. I think it's important to always keep
19 in mind those are who are, ah, tremendously
20 underserved and who are under, um, tremendous
21 pressure of violence just for being who they are. A
22 special Happy Birthday to, ah, my home girl, Adrienne
23 Adams. Um, and we know why we say that, Adrienne.
24 Um, ah, and I definitely want to welcome Darma Diaz,
25 which I feel like I don't know how to welcome her.

2 We, we stood shoulder to shoulder throughout this
3 pandemic in our respective communities working side
4 by side , ah, to make sure that our communities are
5 taken care of, both with food and PPE. So, ah,
6 welcome, Darma. I mean, you know, we spent so much
7 time together, but it's great to see you in this
8 capacity and I look forward to working with you and,
9 and, and sharing any information or insight that I
10 may have. Ah, please feel free to use me as a
11 resource. Um, and with that I vote aye on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Deutsch.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Ah, thank you.

15 Um, I vote aye on all, ah, except for Reso, ah, 144-A
16 and Reso 923, and I want to congratulate Council
17 Member Darma Diaz, and I also want to wish all my
18 Jewish colleagues a happy Hanukkah. May the light of
19 the menorah shine upon all of us.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
21 happy Hanukkah to you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you,
23 Majority Leader.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You're welcome.
25

1 STATED MEETING

54

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Darma
3 Diaz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Sorry about
5 that. I am all, and I want to thank you all
6 [inaudible] looking forward to collaborating with you
7 all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
9 and welcome.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: Welcome.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ruben
13 Diaz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER R. DIAZ: Thank you. I am
15 voting yes on all except Resolution 923 and 1444.
16 And with that I want to wish all of you happy Merry
17 Christmas. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Reverend Diaz.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
3 much. Let me start off by expressing my condolences
4 to Alicka Ampry-Samuel as well. Ah, I also want to
5 congratulate Carlina Rivera, Council Member Rivera,
6 for taking the lead on walking while trans. Many of
7 you know that I was arrested when I was 16 years old
8 and charged with prostitution, ah, something that has
9 gone on as a tool to use against the LGBT community
10 for many, many years and it's about time that we
11 ended it, and so I'm very glad to see this passing
12 today. I also want to offer congratulations to my
13 colleague, Peter Koo, a man of color, thrice elected
14 to the City Council. He knows his district best. I
15 think the Majority Leader said that. And when I was
16 making this decision I took into consideration the
17 article by Council Members Van Bramer and Menchaca in
18 support of member deference, ah, and I really agree
19 that, ah, you know, member deference is important,
20 especially when you've been elected three times to
21 the City Council. Peter Koo knows his district and,
22 um, and that article I think, ah, really, ah, played,
23 had a big impact on me. So thank you to those
24 council members as well. And I think ultimately, um,
25 we wound up with a very good deal and, ah, one that

2 both of, ah, the unions, the HCG, and 32BJ can
3 support. So therefore I am voting aye on all. Thank
4 you.

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

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Ah, I want to
9 extend my sympathy to Council Member Alicka, and I
10 wish that, and I know that God will give you the
11 strength that you need to overcome this very
12 difficult moment, because we know the importance of
13 mothers, nothing can replace mothers. And God bless
14 you and your family. And I want also to wish, ah, to
15 Council Member Adam also happy birthday. This is a
16 wonderful moment for you. We know how we enjoy our
17 birthday. God bless you, all the best, and all
18 success to you, and blessing to you and your family.
19 And to all our friends and colleagues from the Jewish
20 community and also colleagues on the City Council,
21 happy Hanukkah. Have a safe and happy Hanukkah to
22 all of you, and to the new Diaz, the new Diaz,
23 Council Member Darma Diaz, congratulations. It will
24 be a great pleasure for me to work together with you
25

2 for the good City of New York. And with that I vote
3 aye on all. Thank you.

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: You're very
7 welcome.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
10 explain?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. Thank
15 you, Madam Majority Leader. Good afternoon, Speaker,
16 my colleagues, and everyone who's joined us today. I
17 want to join with all of you in recognizing, ah, our
18 sister, Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel. We
19 continue to lift you up, um, to you and your family
20 on the loss of your beloved queen. You know we are
21 always here for you and your family. I want to wish,
22 ah, Council Member Adrienne Adams a happy belated
23 birthday. We had a wonderful surprise birthday
24 celebration for our sister yesterday, um, and we love
25 you. Ah, we, the Women's Caucus, want to join with

2 the council in recognizing our newest member and
3 sister from Brooklyn, Council Member Darma Diaz.
4 Congratulations, and we look forward to working with
5 you. Um, happy holidays to each and every one of
6 you. Happy Hanukkah to my colleagues who are
7 celebrating and observing this important holiday.
8 And I want to just explain my vote on two pieces of,
9 of bills before today's agenda. Council Member
10 Carlina Rivera, thank you for leading the effort.
11 Chair Helen Rosenthal, the Women's Caucus, the BLAC,
12 thank you so much for your work supporting state
13 legislation, recognizing that we have to support the
14 walking while trans ban and repealing that. It is an
15 archaic law that unjustly targets and punishes black,
16 Latinx, and immigrant trans women throughout our
17 city. Too many trans women and men have been
18 assaulted and this law is archaic and we must repeal
19 it. So I want to thank you all for your work and the
20 walking while trans ban coalition for all of their
21 help as well, and then I also want to congratulate
22 everyone who has bills on today's agenda. Thank you
23 for all of the work you've done. Council Member
24 Peter Koo, I know that rezoning was not easy for you,
25 um, in downtown Flushing. I, I do recognize with did

2 come to an agreement with hotel trades and 32BJ. But
3 I do want to express concern as we move forward that
4 we have to keep pushing the needle. We need to make
5 sure that there is a conversation and a mind set that
6 as we promote good jobs we have to promote affordable
7 housing. They go hand in hand.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [inaudible] have
10 to keep pushing to make sure that these projects work
11 in the best interests of everyone, especially the
12 local community. So with that, happy holidays, happy
13 Hanukkah. I vote aye on all of today's agenda items.
14 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

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

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Ah, permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
23 Majority Leader.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
3 Majority Leader. Let me first begin by extending my
4 condolences to Alicka on the loss of the loved one.
5 Remember to live with the losses, you never get over
6 them, and my prayers are with you and your family
7 during this difficult time. Ah, Adrienne, happy
8 birthday, many, many more, healthy, happy, wonderful
9 birthdays. And to our newest colleague, ah, Darma
10 Diaz, congratulations, looking forward to working
11 very closely with you. We have a lot of work ahead
12 of us, so you're gonna, we're teaching her how to
13 swim the hard way, with being thrown into the pool.
14 Ah, to my, to those that are celebrating Hanukkah, I
15 wish you all the blessings of this holiday season and
16 may the light continue to shine on you. And with
17 that I vote aye on all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Gjonaj.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, thank
22 you. Permission to explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, thank
3 you. Ah, first I want to join my colleagues in, ah,
4 offering condolences to Council Member Ampry-Samuel.
5 Ah, Councilwoman, I lost my mother almost 10 years
6 ago and I speak to her every day, and I can promise
7 you that your mom will never leave you, she will
8 never leave you. Um, I also, um, want to wish
9 everybody a happy and safe Hanukkah. I want to
10 welcome our newest colleague, Darma Diaz. And, ah,
11 hope that you have a wonderful time here at the
12 council and that I know you will do great things for
13 your community. Ah, I want to speak about the
14 Flushing rezoning. I want to congratulate Council
15 Member Peter Koo, the land use staff, ah, everybody
16 that was involved in bringing this across the finish
17 line. Ah, I know that these things often come down
18 to the wire and, as I said yesterday at the Zoning
19 and Franchises Subcommittee I grew up on the edge of
20 Flushing. I have spent, um, much of my life watching
21 the transformation of Flushing, um, from what was a
22 dangerous community and a, ah, community with burned-
23 out stores on Main Street seems inconceivable now,
24 ah, to one of the leading lights in New York City.
25 Um, the waterfront, though, has remained shut off

2 from the public, ah, in my lifetime and probably in
3 the lifetime of anybody who's alive in the City of
4 New York. This is gonna open up the waterfront.

5 It's gonna make a beautiful promenade there, and it
6 will function as a New York City park. It's also

7 gonna bring parkland, which hasn't really been
8 discussed enough, but Councilman Koo knows his

9 district and he knows that there's only small little
10 park in downtown Flushing, next to Bland Houses, and

11 it really isn't much of a park. Um, this will bring
12 a modern playground for the children, um, and the

13 closest large-scale development next to that is Bland
14 Houses, so I'm excited about that. As I said

15 yesterday, I used to walk across the Roosevelt Avenue
16 Bridge to Shea Stadium to watch the Mets, usually

17 lose, but, um, but I didn't want to pay the extra
18 fare because I lived in two-fare zone, ah, growing up

19 in [inaudible] houses. So I want to congratulate

20 you, Peter, for your stick-to-it-ness. I know that

21 this is not a perfect plan but, ah, in all my years

22 in government and in the 60 years plus I've spent on

23 this planet I have not seen a perfect plan.

24 Perfection exists only in nature. So, ah, with that

25 I vote aye on all. And, again, a happy and a safe

1 STATED MEETING

63

2 Hanukkah to all who are celebrating. May the light
3 shine upon all of us. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
5 much.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Congratulations
8 to my Brooklyn district neighbor, Council Member
9 Darma Diaz. Welcome. And I vote aye on all, with
10 the exception of Intro 1314-A, and happy holidays,
11 everyone, happy birthday, Adrienne. Yo Adrienne.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Majority Leader, may
16 I explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you. So first
21 I want to echo our condolences to Council Member
22 Ampry-Samuel for her loss of her mother. You know,
23 we all have mothers and I lost my mother two years
24 ago, and up to now, ah, I still have very fond
25 memories for her in my mind, always. So I understand

2 your sadness and I hope you will get over it. And
3 happy belated birthday, ah, to our Queens, ah,
4 [inaudible] Chair, Adrienne Adams, and also welcome
5 to Council Member Darma Diaz. We have to work
6 together for the next year. And I want to say
7 something about, ah, Council Member Menchaca. I
8 think he said something like the waterfront is
9 closed. The waterfront is open to the public and
10 abide by the same rules where any other city park
11 would abide by. So Council Member Menchaca, please,
12 you know, say something that's correct. Don't say
13 something if you have no idea what you're talking
14 about. Thank you for your input though, OK. And
15 happy Hanukkah, happy Merry Christmas to all our
16 members, and I vote aye on all. Thank you, Majority
17 Leader.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
19 much, Council Member Koo.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I explain
22 my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I lived in,
3 I've lived in Queens...

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I've lived in
6 Queens 58 years, not too far from the Flushing area
7 that we are voting on today. And let me tell you,
8 that has been an eyesore for as long as I'm living
9 here, and I'm sure before. I can't understand why
10 people will vote against this project that a
11 community wants, the community board voted for it.
12 It is just beyond my belief that when it comes to
13 voting for something that a community wants where are
14 we to say no? And with that I just want to say that
15 I am so happy that this is happening. Peter, you
16 have worked so hard on this. I know you called me,
17 you were so nervous about this, and I am so happy
18 that you are getting what you want, that the
19 community of Flushing is getting what they want. Ah,
20 Congresswoman Grace Main was supporting this. The
21 community board supported it. The business district
22 supported it. Who are we to say no to this wonderful
23 project? I look forward to, to seeing it built and I
24 just want to say congratulations to you, Peter. You
25 did a great job and thank you to the unions and thank

2 you to our speaker, Corey Johnson, and Jason Goldman,
3 for working on this, and also to Francisco Moya who
4 borders the creek on the other side. So
5 congratulations to all of you.

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

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Pardon me. Council
9 Member Koslowitz, your vote please?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Can I just say
11 one more thing?

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I know that
14 Claire Schulman is up there smiling down and looking
15 at us and clapping. Because she worked very, very
16 hard on this project.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And how do you
18 vote, Council Member Koslowitz?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Absolutely
20 aye.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Lander.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
24 permission to explain my vote?
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
5 Majority Leader. I want to welcome Council Member D.
6 Diaz. Ah, I want to say thank you to Council Member
7 Rivera for leading us towards the repeal of the
8 walking while trans law, Council Member Van Bramer on
9 open culture, and our public advocate on the
10 expansion of the Fair Chance Act. Ah, I genuinely
11 respect and appreciate the hard work of Council
12 Member Koo, Chairs Moya and Salamanca, and Speaker
13 Johnson, and of course the fierce organizing of 32BJ
14 and the Hotel Trades Council, ah, which have made the
15 Flushing rezoning meaningfully better than it was and
16 in ways that matter. But I still believe it falls
17 short of the standards of affordable housing,
18 equitable and sustainable development that we should
19 be setting here. Now, to be clear, much of that is
20 the fault of our too reactive, too piecemeal, too
21 developer-driven land use process, and I hope this
22 project will serve as a wake-up call to help us fight
23 to change that process. Um, so I vote no on the
24 Flushing rezoning, land uses 694 and 695, and
25 accompanying resolutions 1502 and 1503, and aye on

2 the rest. Um, and finally may the Hanukkah lights we
3 kindle tonight remind us of the courage of ancestors
4 and the wonder of miracles inspire us to fight for
5 the freedom and safety of our people and of all
6 people in these too-dark times.

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

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Koo, did
10 you want to clarify your vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: You're muted,
12 Council Member Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Ah, I want to
14 clarify something I bespoke. Um, I want to say my
15 condolences to, um, Council Member Ampry-Samuel and I
16 used the word get over, I shouldn't use the get over
17 and I should say she should heal from it, because of
18 my language and my culture, you know, we say get
19 over, but in American culture you have to heal from
20 something. So, ah, Council Member Ampry-Samuel,
21 please accept my apology. And I want to welcome the
22 Council Member Darma Diaz, our new member. Thank
23 you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
25 Council Member Koo, for the clarification.

1 STATED MEETING

69

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Levin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Um, with

4 congratulations to all my colleagues, um, who either

5 have legislation or, ah, development projects in

6 this, um, ah, at the Stated Meeting. Um, I vote aye

7 on all. And I want to, I want to offer my

8 condolences as well to Council Member Alicka Ampry-

9 Samuel and, um, and her family on the passing of your

10 mother. Um, ah, from my family to yours. And, um,

11 ah, happy birthday to my colleague, Adrienne Adams,

12 um, and congratulations to my colleague, ah, new

13 colleague, Darma Diaz. My son just arrived right in

14 time. So, um, ah, congratulations and, ah, I vote

15 aye on all, and I wish you all a happy holiday

16 season.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you..

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Ah, thank you.

20 With, ah, a warm welcome to Council Member D. Diaz

21 and, again, deepest condolences to Council Member

22 Ampry-Samuel. I will be vote aye on all. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

24 Council Member Levine.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you,
9 Majority Leader. I just want to applaud, sorry for
10 the noise in the background, somebody's doing
11 construction. I want to applaud, ah, Council Member
12 Koo, as well as our colleagues who stepped in to
13 support him, um, with this fast turnaround of the
14 Flushing project. I'm happy to see that we're
15 securing more jobs for essential workers and hope to
16 get all the details that we need. Um, I will be
17 voting aye on it, but look forward to getting more
18 details. I want to congratulate Council Member D.
19 Diaz, making the Women's Caucus a proud 13, and we
20 look forward to working with you. Congratulations,
21 Council Member Rivera, for your staunch advocacy on
22 the walking while trans bill. Welcome back, Alicka.
23 I know that you are going to work hard to live out
24 your mother's legacy, and happy birthday, Adrienne
25 Adams. I'm voting aye on all. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

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

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
9 granted.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. Ah,
12 hello, colleagues. Ah, I'm here and probably gonna
13 vote no on the Flushing rezoning and all resolutions.
14 But I wanted to say that what's really important
15 about this conversation are a couple things. One, I
16 did reach out to Council Member Koo's office, without
17 much response, on some of the things that we were
18 hearing on the ground. Um, and I think that was
19 troubling, not just for me but some of the community
20 members that just did not get access to us in the
21 City Council, especially the local council member,
22 and I find that troubling. There were other elected
23 officials that are against this rezoning, ah, not
24 just me, ah, and, and I think that those are the kind
25 of things that are important in this discussion. I

2 reached out to some of you, my colleagues, I'm not
3 gonna call you out right now, but I will ask us to
4 set a precedent, that communication happened between
5 us, because these rezonings are controversial and
6 they require us to engage each other. Ah, what we
7 must undo is the dangerous precedent of developer
8 deference. And, ah, Council Member Dromm referenced
9 our, our op ed that Jimmy Van Bramer and I wrote, and
10 it was pointing to developer deference. And, and I
11 know that member deference is in many ways dead
12 thanks to some of the council colleagues here who
13 refuse to support our work in the Sunset Park area,
14 but what we're trying to focus the conversation
15 around is developer deference and that is what's
16 moving so many of these projects. Ah, so I welcome
17 more conversation, ah, and that's what I'm asking for
18 as we move forward to more controversial things that
19 are on their way. Ah, happy Hanukkah all and happy
20 birthday Adrienne, and, um, looking forward to
21 working with you, Council Member D. Diaz. And I vote
22 aye on the rest. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Ah, permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon,
7 colleagues, and, again, once again, Alicka, ah, my
8 condolences on the passing of your mother,
9 phenomenal mother, and an even more phenomenal, as
10 phenomenal, public servant. If, if, if anyone has
11 had the opportunity to see, um, Ms. Turner walk
12 through the Brownsville area, she just was a queen,
13 and the children and the community loved her and we
14 all loved her, and, ah, we will miss her, certainly.
15 Um, happy birthday, Adrienne, one heck of a birthday
16 party for sure. It, it really was, surprise,
17 surprise, surprise. Ah, welcome Darma, although it
18 seems like you've been around forever, that you are
19 now here officially doing the people's work and, and
20 you will kill it, and we are here to support you.
21 Obviously the caucus is here to support, I am here to
22 support you, and looking forward to working with you.
23 Um, the great Peter Koo. Um, great job, man, it
24 really was, and, and, and we talk about, um, having
25 access and collaborations and, and, and I do know

2 that Peter has reached out to most of us in the areas
3 whatever our particular area of expertise, whether it
4 is land use, whether it is labor, whatever, that we
5 rely upon each other and that we should be here for
6 each other, and can say that I know that I made
7 myself available for, for him during these process
8 and, and, and because of this collaboration that
9 happens not just on this project, but on many
10 projects that our city is, is, is better off because
11 of that. And, um, oh, Diana Ayala, happy belated
12 20th anniversary. To you and my guy, ah, is
13 [inaudible] couple. And with the that I vote aye on
14 all. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

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

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Ah, I vote aye on
19 all, and I just wanted to express my condolences as
20 well to, ah, Alicka and her family, um, with your
21 loss of your mother. Um, I also want to welcome my
22 good friend, ah, Darma Diaz, to the council. I know
23 you're gonna be a rock star. Thank you so much for
24 all the work that you've been doing. Ah, and to
25

2 Peter, congratulations, ah, on a fight well fought.
3 Thank you.

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

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers. Sorry.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Um, ah,
8 permission to explain, quickly?

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, um,
13 thank you. I, I, I only want to add, I was not gonna
14 explain my vote, but I just want to add that, um, I'm
15 voting aye on all, but I want to just, for the
16 allegation that Council Member Koo did not
17 communicate clearly I think is not the experience I
18 had and I want to just speak up in his favor here,
19 because whether you disagree or not, or don't agree
20 with the proposal, he, I talked to him numerous times
21 about issues that came up during it. He communicated
22 very clearly to me, and I feel that was a very unfair
23 attack on him. Whether you disagree with the
24 proposal, to make a comment that he doesn't, I spoke
25 to him when I needed to, he communicated

2 affirmatively. I just want to, you know, speak in
3 his favor here because even if you disagree with the
4 proposal or the process, I think that was an unfair
5 attack on him and I think he deserves, um, ah, sort
6 of an apology for that. Um, I also want to welcome
7 Darma Diaz to the council. Ah, I want to [inaudible]
8 express my condolences again to our, um, our
9 colleague, Alicka Ampry-Samuel. I know, um, how hard
10 the last few weeks have been for you, but you know
11 that all your colleagues are here in support for your
12 and, um, anything you need we're here for you. And
13 of course I want to wish all my colleagues a happy
14 Hanukkah and to continue to stay safe and healthy.
15 Like I said, I vote aye on all. Thanks.

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

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
20 Reynoso, you may be on mute.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: He's logged off at the
22 moment. Ah, Council Member Rivera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to
24 explain my vote?
25

1 STATED MEETING

77

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. I
6 just want to say, Alicka, I miss sitting by you a
7 lot. I'm here if you need anything. Welcome to the
8 council, Darma Diaz, and what a great birthday
9 present for Council Member Adrienne Adams.
10 Congratulations on your new position as Public Safety
11 chair. I vote aye.

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

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

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

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. Um, I
21 want to vote aye on all and, um, I want to send all
22 my love, prayers, and condolences to, um, to my
23 sister, Alicka. Um, it seems like a dark time and I
24 just want you to know that we're here for you. Um,
25 and to Council Member D. Diaz, I, I wonder if that

2 sounds great to you, ah, Darma. Ah, Council Member
3 D. Diaz, I want to say welcome and thank you for
4 adding to our numbers. Ah, we have phenomenal women
5 in the council and, um, I'm glad to welcome you to
6 our ranks. And, um, I want to say to Carlina thank
7 you so much for this meaningful legislation for our
8 trans community. Um, I want to say happy anniversary
9 to my girl, Diana. And, um, I want to wish a happy
10 Hanukkah to all my colleagues. And I just want to
11 say, it's such an honor to serve in this city
12 council. I've been in three. Now it is really an
13 honor to serve in this city council and to Adrienne,
14 I want to say happy birthday to ya, happy birthday to
15 ya, happy birthday, happy birthday to ya, happy
16 birthday to ya, happy birthday, happy birthday, come
17 on ya'll, birthday, happy birthday, happy birthday
18 [chorus of members].

19 UNIDENTIFIED: That was a real surprise.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: That was a good one.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: This is, Adrienne,
22 this is proof that you are the singer in the council.
23 I'm not and apparently we are not. But happy
24 birthday.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I love you guys, I
3 love you, colleagues. Thank you. You made my day.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Happy birthday.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Happy birthday.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, I'm still
7 leading the meeting. [laughs] Where's the gavel
8 when you need one. All right. And how do you vote,
9 Council Member Rose?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I did say that
11 first. I vote aye on all.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK, just want to
13 make sure. A lot, a lot has happened since you last
14 [inaudible].

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yeah, you're right.
16 [laughs] Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs]

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Ah, I vote aye
20 on all and of course welcome our new Council Member
21 D. Diaz. Ah, welcome to the team. And, um, of
22 course happy birthday sister Adrienne Adams. You are
23 a remarkable woman. Welcome to the team, by the way,
24 and the club, yeah. And, um, and, and to Council
25 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, ah, when our speaker was

2 talking about that Brooklyn Pride Parade, ah, he
3 spoke about it perfectly, that I remember the same
4 moment and, um, really have, I, you know how much I
5 admired your mom and, um, really glad that she was,
6 you two had each other, you know? It was a really
7 good team. All right, so that's it, I vote aye on
8 all.

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

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Ah, permission to
15 explain my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
17 granted.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Alicka, I'm
20 praying for you. You know, when I, when I, the first
21 time I met your mother I said to myself this is where
22 Alicka gets her generosity of spirit. She was a
23 sweet soul, and I know that she's so proud of you
24 because you've never forgotten where you come from
25 and you fight for our neighbors in public housing

2 every day. So God bless you, and I'm keeping you in
3 my prayers. And I want to wish, um, Adrienne, a
4 happy birthday. Um, Adrienne, I miss sitting next to
5 you because I need someone to laugh at my bad jokes.
6 Ah, you, you inflated my sense of confidence. Um,
7 and, ah, I want to just commend Peter Koo. You know,
8 he is a consummate gentleman and he was proactive in
9 communicating with me throughout the process, and
10 even when I said to him I could not support the
11 project without HDC and 32BJ he was nothing but a
12 gentleman. Um, it's been a pleasure to call him a, a
13 colleague and I wholeheartedly support the project
14 and I vote aye on all. And I want to congratulate
15 Darma Diaz, ah, my staffers, Angel Vazquez and Rick,
16 Ron Jordan speak the world about you. I'm
17 unfortunately only going to be your colleague for
18 less than a month, but, ah, you cannot have a better
19 family than the New York City Council.

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

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: With
5 congratulations to Council Member Koo on, ah, a very,
6 ah, hard-fought rezoning, but I know it's gonna be a
7 positive thing for his community for decades to come.
8 I'm voting aye on all with the exception of 1314-A,
9 I'm voting no on that bill, but aye on all others.

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

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Happy 25th
14 birthday, Adrienne, we all love you. Ah, welcome,
15 Council Member D. Diaz. We all remember our first
16 meeting, so officially you are at your first meeting.
17 At least you don't get to have to sing the song in
18 front of us that we all had to sing when we were in
19 chambers. Just let Adrienne do it for you. Um, for
20 my vote, I vote aye on all with the exception of land
21 use 694, 695, I abstain on both of those and their
22 accompanying resolutions. Happy Hanukkah, everyone.
23 And I think we have one more Stated before Christmas,
24 but Merry Christmas, Happy Diwali, and we have lots

25

2 of beautiful celebrations of light this month, so God
3 bless everyone.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez,
7 for clarification?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: What is it?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Did you need to clarify
10 something, or no? I'm sorry.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: No, I just
12 voted aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: OK, thank you, thank you.
14 Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
16 explain my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
20 very much. Ah, first, and I said this to Council
21 Member Ampry-Samuel before, ah, as someone who's
22 caring for an elderly parent, obviously my heart is
23 with you and, ah, your mom and your family. And
24 second, I just want to say this is very serious work
25 that we're engaged in here, and we should strive to

2 not make the decisions we make here personal, ah, and
3 keep it professional. Ah, and with that in mind I
4 just want to say I did speak to Peter Koo, ah, this
5 morning, ah, to let him know that I would oppose this
6 project, and we've had a couple of conversations.

7 And, ah, he was, ah, very respectful, ah, and
8 gracious as I explained to him what I'm about to say.

9 I cannot vote for a plan that contains so little
10 affordable housing. And contains only an

11 unenforceable promise by developer to do better by
12 the community within the next three years. The

13 inclusion of labor is very important in this

14 agreement. But let's be clear. Had there not been

15 community opposition, had there not been a fierce

16 resistance to this project as proposed labor would

17 never have been brought into the deal. So let's give

18 credit where credit is due, which is at the community

19 level, and then of course BJ and HTC working with,

20 ah, ah, everyone to make sure that those union jobs

21 were had. But it starts with community. Look, our

22 land use system is broken. It exacerbates the wealth

23 gap and housing insecurity every time we vote for a

24 project like this. This project with approximately

25 5% of affordable units, and not nearly enough

2 community benefits, ah, is absolutely unacceptable.

3 I stand in solidarity with the community advocates in

4 Flushing who stand opposed, and so I vote no on...

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: ...

7 [inaudible] 694 and 695. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

9 Council Member Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. Um,

12 may I be excused to briefly explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission

14 granted.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: [inaudible] right

17 before me [inaudible] Council Member Van Bramer for

18 his words. Um, especially the beginning part. Ah,

19 I'm not gonna speak about the project, but I will say

20 that, um, perhaps we've all been guilty sometimes of

21 personalizing our differences and, ah, me as well and

22 if that's the case, ah, ah, you know, I shouldn't

23 either, but, ah, I do appreciate that this is not the

24 first time I've heard Jimmy Van Bramer state things

25 like that on this floor and I want to make sure

2 [inaudible]. Ah, secondly, um, ah, my new colleague
3 from Brooklyn, who I expect to learn an awful lot
4 from. She's, ah, she's incredible. Councilwoman
5 Diaz, um, is, I'm just happy that we have another
6 member in Brooklyn to even it out because, you know,
7 in Brooklyn we don't have enough. Ah, but she's
8 fabulous, she's wonderful, she's smart, um, and I
9 know I'll learn a lot from her. I already have, and
10 I hope you continue doing that as well. And with
11 that I vote aye on all and I'll be speaking during
12 the general discussion as well. Thank you very much,
13 Madam President.

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

16 COUNCIL CLERK: One moment. OK. Matteo.

17 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I'm voting no on
18 1314, aye on the rest, ah, and I want to congratulate
19 Council Member Koo, um, who handled this process, I
20 thought, extremely well and professionally, and
21 always communicated with me throughout the process,
22 and I know you did everything you can to make sure
23 you get the best project for your district. So,
24 congratulations, Council Member Koo. Happy Hanukkah
25 to all my colleagues and everyone celebrating. Ah,

2 my condolences to Alicka, I know hard this is for you
3 and your family, so my thoughts and prayers are with
4 you and, um, I welcome our new Council Member,
5 Council Member D. Diaz.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabrera
11 has not signed back on. One moment. OK, all items
12 on today's general order calendar have a vote of 44
13 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
14 abstentions, with the exception of the following.
15 Land use items 694 and 695, with their accompanying
16 resolutions, have a vote of 39 in the affirmative, 5
17 in the negative, one abstention. And Introduction
18 1314-A with a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 4 in the
19 negative, and no abstentions.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
21 much, Billy Martin. The items on today's general
22 order calendar are adopted. Introduction and reading
23 of bills.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have referred
25 to committees, as indicated on today's agenda.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
3 will now move into the discussion of resolutions. As
4 a reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms
5 begins the countdown clock before you begin your
6 remarks. Thank you.

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
8 Council Member Rivera wishes to speak.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK. Council
10 Member Rivera, you may now begin.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
13 Majority Leader, for giving me the opportunity to
14 speak briefly on two of my resolutions that we are
15 voting on today. I call on the state legislature to
16 repeal New York Penal Law Section 240.37, commonly
17 known as the walking while trans ban. For years this
18 law has been used by police officers to arbitrarily
19 single out and arrest people suspected of
20 prostitution and has specifically been used to
21 discriminatorily target black and Latino trans
22 communities. In my conversations over the last year
23 with advocates and trans New Yorkers I heard
24 countless stories of police officers going out into
25 the streets to harass and arrest New Yorkers who are

2 out with their friends in their neighborhoods. Their
3 crime, a short skirt, a bra strap showing, tight
4 pants, or simply an Adam's apple. It is unacceptable
5 in 2020 that New York State still permits police to
6 target New Yorkers solely for their gender expression
7 and frankly their existence. The victims of this
8 law, the majority of whom are arrested in just
9 predominantly five black and brown police precincts,
10 can face sexual assault and violence while
11 incarcerated and even after their release the
12 consequence of their arrest can have a lasting
13 devastating effect. The walking while trans ban is
14 one of only two violations in the entire state penal
15 code that can never be sealed, meaning that victims
16 can later be denied public housing, immigration
17 renewals, or other benefits. This cannot be allowed
18 to continue. Today's vote will send a clear signal
19 to leaders in Albany that the removal of the section
20 of the state penal code is a top priority for, for
21 New Yorkers across the five boroughs. And I hope
22 that after the deep public reckoning our nation has
23 faced around police brutality and systemic racism
24 this year the state legislature will act quickly to
25 repeal the walking while trans ban. And ensure that

2 New Yorkers who have been previously prosecuted
3 deserve the chance to seal their records. I just
4 want to thank all of the advocates in the walking
5 while trans ban coalition who have pushed for this
6 legislation, particularly TS Candi, Jared Trujillo of
7 the Legal Aid Society, Brian Romero of GMHC, the
8 entire team at the Make the Road, and so many others,
9 and I have to thank the whole team at the council,
10 including Jason Goldman, Brenda McKinney, Chloe
11 Rivera, especially my LGBTQ liaison, Iraq Johanski...

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [inaudible] of
14 course and a leader in this movement, Council Member
15 Dromm. Thank you. Please vote aye.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Are
17 there any other members at this time, Mr.
18 Parliamentarian, who wish to speak?

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
20 Leader.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,
22 I just want to thank Council Member Rivera and say
23 these are really important resolutions today that
24 we're passing and I hope our colleagues vote in favor
25 of them. Congratulations, Carlina.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker
3 Johnson. We will now have a voice vote on today's
4 resolutions. If you wish to vote against or abstain
5 from either of today's resolutions please notify the
6 legislative documents unit by email. I'll now read
7 today's resolutions into the record. Resolution 923
8 calls on the New York State Legislature to pass and
9 the governor to sign [inaudible] 253-8654 [inaudible]
10 repeal Section 240.37 of the New York Penal Law,
11 loitering for the purpose of engaging in a
12 prostitution offense. Will all those in favor say
13 aye? [chorus of ayes] All opposed say nay?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sorry. Aye.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any abstentions.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Aye.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: The ayes have it.
18 Resolution 1444-A calls on the New York State
19 Legislature to pass and the governor to sign a bill
20 to amend the criminal procedure law to allow
21 violations for loitering for the purpose of engaging
22 in a prostitution offense, Penal Law Section 240.37
23 to be sealed and have the law apply retroactively.
24 Will all those in favor say aye. [chorus of ayes]
25 All opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have

2 it. We will now move into general discussion. As a
3 reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms
4 begins the countdown clock before you begin your
5 remarks. Parliamentarian, are there members who
6 wish to speak at this time?

7 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
8 Leader. Council Members Yeger, Kallos, and Darma
9 Diaz.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
11 Yeger, you may begin.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
14 President, ah, and thank you to all my colleagues,
15 Mr. Speaker, ah, for your kind wishes in advance of
16 Hanukkah. Ah, I'll just be brief. Um, I've spoken
17 on the floor about what I'm about to speak about
18 nearly a year ago, ah, today, which was the first
19 meeting of this year, ah, long before this
20 [inaudible] because of everything that's been going
21 on, and it seems like far longer ago than a year.
22 Um, nearly 2200 years ago a very small band of Jews
23 decided that, ah, the tyranny and the oppression of
24 those who wished to, wished to obliterate our
25 religion and to end our existence, ah, was no longer

2 going to be tolerated. It's a little surprising that
3 we find ourselves 2200 years nearly later, um, with
4 many of the same battles, perhaps not, ah,
5 necessarily the same results, but the same battles.
6 Two days ago in my neighborhood in Borough Park at
7 vehicle stopped at 6 in the morning at an
8 intersection. Ah, three gentlemen jumped out and
9 chased a young teenage Hasidic boy down the street as
10 he was about to go to yeshiva. Ah, in our community
11 yeshiva children go at approximately 6 in the
12 morning. Later that day I learned that that same car
13 did that six other times throughout the neighborhood
14 that morning. That's just my recitation of one anti-
15 Semitic incident, or I guess six, in the last 48
16 hours. I spoke about this last year. I'm gonna say
17 it again. The obligation on those of us who hold
18 public office and those in the media to watch their
19 words, to watch what they do in our communities, to
20 shine lights on us, lights of division, lights of
21 derision, lights of stain, that, ah, Jews don't
22 belong here, um, keeping in mind that the United
23 States is one of very few countries where Jews have
24 not been expelled in our history. And here we are

2 today and the same thing is happening, and it's over
3 and it's over, Madam President, I'm about to go over.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Continue.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Um, ah, in the
7 home of, of, you know, the greatest city in the
8 world, ah, the place where, where we were guaranteed,
9 ah, religious freedom, the place where people in my
10 community and the Roman Catholic community had to go
11 all the way up to the Supreme Court to get that
12 religious freedom back and be [inaudible]
13 Thanksgiving. Um, it's time to say enough is enough,
14 and I sometimes feel that we're not saying that. And
15 I know that there are a number of members here who do
16 very strongly say that. Um, but the reality is that
17 the language we've seen in government in the last six
18 or eight months, shining a light on my community, as
19 not the victims of the coronavirus, but the creators
20 or the spreaders or the perpetrators of the
21 coronavirus. And weeks later we see it spreading all
22 [inaudible] not a word is said about the religion or
23 the ethnicity of the victims of the coronavirus in
24 other neighborhoods. But when it's Orthodox Jews
25 it's all over the place. You won't read a single

2 word, and I'm wrapping now, thank you, Madam
3 President, about the incident I spoke about a few
4 minutes ago in the *New York Times*. You won't. If it
5 happened to any other ethnicity anywhere else in the
6 city you would. But you won't because the victims
7 were Orthodox Jews. So, again, I wish you all a very
8 happy Hanukkah. I'm grateful for your friendship and
9 for your service and for your kind words to my
10 community, and to those who celebrate, Merry
11 Christmas, and a happy and healthy and wonderful
12 2021, and may God bless you all, and I'm very
13 grateful for your friendship. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
15 Council Member Yeger. Ah, Council Member Kallos,
16 followed by Council Member D. Diaz.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Now more than
18 ever New Yorkers are looking for ways to get involved
19 in government. Ah, and local government offers
20 countless opportunities for the public to weigh in on
21 decisions. The problem is even elected officials
22 don't always know, ah, when or, ah, that the a must
23 weigh in on decisions and if we don't know how can
24 the average New Yorker know? Ah, there's, there's a
25 pretty famous book that I'm a big fan of where, ah,

2 a, ah, they end up demolishing the earth, ah, because
3 they put public notice off at Alpha Centuri and it
4 was on us to have noticed, to discover the public
5 notice, and hence they were demolishing our planet.
6 Ah, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, if anyone is
7 wondering. Ah, and today I'm introducing, ah,
8 Introduction 2074, to create a civic participation
9 framework to have government on an app in the pockets
10 of everyday New Yorkers. With an open standard,
11 residents could better connect for public
12 participation in local government, whether virtual or
13 in person, and while I think the *City Record* is the
14 most important paper that no one's ever heard of, and
15 I even wrote the law to put it online, we can do
16 better. Ah, I want to, ah, thank, ah, my legislative
17 director, Wilfredo Lopez, ah, Brad Reed, who helped
18 draft the bill, and I urge all of you to sign on so
19 we can change government and put it in, ah, people's
20 pockets in a good way. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
22 Council Member Kallos. We now have Council Member D.
23 Diaz.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: [inaudible] come
3 back and just say thank you all. I wasn't sure if
4 you were able to hear me when I said thank you, thank
5 you for the accolades, and definitely being a part of
6 this process has brought me to a better understanding
7 and some acceptance of why my goal was to be a voice
8 to my community and listening to today's decisions I
9 know personally I've made the right decision to be a
10 part of your process. Again, thank you for the warm
11 welcome and I know the [inaudible] collaborations I'm
12 gonna have with you all are gonna be rewarding and
13 significant for the 37 council [inaudible] districts.
14 Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and
16 it's an honor and a privilege to have you. And,
17 again, we are so excited to add to the Women's
18 Caucus. I get another dynamic voice. All I can say
19 is for the rest of the city, watch out. There are
20 more women on the way.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER D. DIAZ: [laughs] That's
22 what I'm hearing. It's good thing.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [laughs] Um, are
24 there any others that wish to speak at this time, Mr.
25 Parliamentarian?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
3 Leader, Council Members Levin and Miller.

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

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Actually, if I
8 could pass to Council Member Miller first, I'm sorry,
9 I'm looking for my remarks.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
11 Miller, would you like to begin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yes. I neglected
13 to say, and I just want to ensure that I, I wished
14 all of those celebrating a very happy Hanukkah, to
15 all of my colleagues, council staff, and to those New
16 Yorkers who are celebrating Hanukkah, happy Hanukkah
17 to all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
21 Levin, have you found your remarks?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I have not, Madam
23 Majority Leader, so I'll have to pass. Thank you
24 very much, but happy holidays to everybody, thank
25 you.

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
3 in the meantime we could recognize Council Member
4 Cornegy, who also wishes to speak.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
6 Cornegy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Um, I would
8 like, I would be remiss, um, I had a long list of,
9 ah, thank-yous and, and earlier and I was remiss in
10 not mentioning, um, those celebrating Hanukkah. Have
11 a happy Hanukkah, especially in the hoods around
12 Brooklyn, all my, ah, ah, civic colleagues and
13 friends, ah, in Williamsburg, Borough Park, Crown
14 Heights, happy Hanukkah, enjoy.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
16 Council Member Cornegy. Are there any other members
17 at this time?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Majority Leader,
19 I, I have found my remarks.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Levin, you're
21 back.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you. Um, my
23 colleagues, ah, this week one of our, our neighbors
24 in New York City died on the street, likely due to
25 hypothermia from sleeping in the cold. It is the

2 beginning of December, but, um, this was predictable.
3 Um, once the governor ordered the subways to be shut
4 down nightly for cleaning early in the pandemic, um,
5 it, we, it became clear that, ah, many New Yorkers
6 would not be able to have the refuge, um, those that
7 are not living, that do not have a home, um, from the
8 cold weather. And knowing that many sources of
9 temporary shelter, such as libraries, hospital
10 waiting rooms, etcetera, would also not be available,
11 um, due to the restrictions put in place to combat
12 the pandemic, the city has done little to prepare
13 alternative solutions. We're all aware of, um, the
14 controversy associated with the use of hotels, um, to
15 give people experiencing homelessness, um, ah, safe
16 refuge from, ah, the pandemic. Um, in the immediate,
17 the governor should reopen the subway for 24-hour
18 service and the city needs to implement a pandemic
19 Code Blue response. We also need real solutions that
20 include fewer police calls on people experiencing
21 homelessness and more investment in supportive
22 housing. Yesterday the campaign for New York, New
23 York Housing, which is supportive housing, um,
24 reported that the number of single adults sleeping
25 shelters is higher than any time in history in New

2 York City, with more than 20,000 single adults in
3 shelter every night. We need to immediately
4 prioritize permanent supportive housing development
5 in addition to temporary housing. The General
6 Welfare Committee will be holding a hearing on
7 supportive housing this coming Monday, December 14,
8 and so I encourage you all, um, to join us in this
9 hearing so that we can, um, so we can shine a light
10 on...

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...the city's and
13 state's efforts, um, to support, ah, the, truly the
14 most, most vulnerable New Yorkers at this most
15 vulnerable time. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

17 Parliamentarian, are there any other members who wish
18 to speak at this time?

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
20 Leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to
22 close and continue to echo the sentiments of Council
23 Member Barron, um, in lifting up our great honorable,
24 the late great David Dinkins. I just remember in the
25 1990s as a teenager in Brooklyn, New York, going to

2 Boys and Girls High School to see Nelson Mandela come
3 to Brooklyn, New York after 27 years of being
4 imprisoned and knowing that the Honorable David
5 Dinkins played an instrumental role. He was a global
6 leader. He raised his voice to end apartheid and he
7 was synonymous with ending apartheid but also the
8 lead-up to Nelson Mandela eventually becoming
9 president of South Africa. Here in New York City he
10 continued to be a leader by shattering those glass
11 ceilings and becoming the first African American
12 mayor of the City of New York with such projects as
13 expanding and revitalizing Times Square, the Billie
14 Jean Tennis Center, the Safe Streets Safe City
15 program. He built more affordable housing than his
16 successor did in two terms following him. He was a
17 dynamic leader, an incredible role model, and because
18 of him we are all here in this body. This is one of
19 the most diverse city councils in the entire country
20 and it is because of him, because we believe that we
21 can dream that much bigger because of his legacy, and
22 it's because of him that we have so many firsts in
23 New York State, such as Attorney General Leticia
24 James, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, we have our
25 first black African American borough president in

2 Eric Adams, the first district attorney African
3 American Ken Thompson, then followed by, ah, the
4 great Eric Gonzalez. We have district attorney from
5 the Bronx, Darcel Clark, Speaker Carl Hasty, County
6 Leader, the Kings County County Leader is Ranish
7 Bishot. We have three majority leaders, African
8 American women, Andrea Stewart Cousins, Crystal
9 People Stotes, and myself. We have Congress Member
10 Hakim Jeffries, the Democratic Conference leader. We
11 have Congress Member Yvette Clark, the only African
12 American woman representing in New York State in the
13 House of Representatives. There are so many firsts
14 and I could go on and on and on. I'm looking at one
15 such as Council Member Debbie Rose, first African
16 American woman elected in the Borough of Staten
17 Island, and the list just continues. It's because of
18 Mayor Dinkins that we have a President Barack Obama.
19 He's shattered so many ceilings and caused us to
20 believe that we can be whatever it is that we truly
21 want to be, and we thank you for his courage. Our
22 condolences go out to the entire Dinkins family on
23 the loss of Mayor Dinkins and [inaudible] fondly
24 referred to her as Joyce as his bride. You are going
25 to be missed. You set a strong precedent. We love

2 you. And thank you for always coming up to the steps
3 of City Hall, even in your nineties, to fight for the
4 issues that mattered most to everyday New Yorkers.
5 How many of us can say at the age of 90 we will
6 continue this fight, we will continue this struggle,
7 and we will continue to be out here when the people
8 call. Thank you so much. And I will now turn this
9 meeting over to Speaker Corey Johnson to close
10 today's Stated Meeting.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
12 Majority Leader. We continue to hold, ah, Council
13 Member Ampry-Samuel and her family in our thoughts
14 and prayers. Moving, I didn't know it was, ah,
15 Council Member Ayala's anniversary, but I love her
16 husband and I love her and I'm really happy for them.
17 And, ah, the Stated Meeting of December 10 is hereby
18 adjourned. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 [gavel]

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date January 23, 2021