

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED CHARTER MEETING
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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January 6, 2010
Start: 12:24 pm
Recess: 1:30 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
- Council Member Fernando Cabrera
- Council Member Margaret S. Chin
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley
- Council Member Inez E. Dickens
- Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
- Council Member Daniel Dromm
- Council Member Mathieu Eugene
- Council Member Simcha Felder
- Council Member Julissa Ferreras
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member Helen D. Foster
- Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
- Council Member James F. Gennaro
- Council Member Vincent J. Gentile

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Bradford S. Lander
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Michael C. Nelson
Council Member James S. Oddo
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Council Member Deborah L. Rose
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin
Council Member Thomas White, Jr.
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Michael McSweeney
Clerk of the Council and City Clerk

Joel Rivera
Majority Leader
New York City Council

Peter Vallone, Sr.
Former Speaker
New York City Council

Gifford Miller
Former Speaker
New York City Council

Marty Markowitz
Brooklyn Borough President

James Maldonado
Staten Island Borough President

Herb Berman
Former Finance Chairperson
New York City Council

Niles Burgess
Irish Council General

Inez Barron
Assemblywoman
New York State Assembly

Father Brian Jordan
Holy Name of Jesus Church

Melissa Mark-Viverito
New York City Council Member

Moment of Silence:
Percy Sutton, Esq.
Former New York City Civil Rights Champion

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Charles Barron
New York City Council Member

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
New York City Council

Thank you's:
My family
Kim
her dad
my dad
my sister
all the Cotulos

Gale A. Brewer
Seconding
New York City Council Member

Robert Jackson
Seconding
New York City Council Member

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Seconding
New York City Council Member

James S. Oddo
Minority Leader
New York City Council

Thank you's:
The Republican Delegation

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[START 1001.MP3]

[No content]

[END 1001.MP3]

[START 1002.MP3]

MR. EDDIE RENTO CORIASO: Today is the Stated Charter Meeting. Today's date is January 6, 2010 and it's being recorded by Ivette Molina.

[END 1002.MP3]

[START 1003.MP3]

MR. MICHAEL McSWEENEY: Please turn all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, lobbyists, please leave the main floor of the chambers unless you have a ticket? For all our guests in the balcony, please refrain from public outbursts.

[Pause]

MR. McSWEENEY: Thank you.

[Pause]

[Gavel banging]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I call this meeting to order. Will the Clerk please read the call for today's Charter Meeting?

2 MR. McSWEENEY: M 0001, call for
3 Charter Meeting.

4 December 22, 2009.

5 Honorable Michael McSweeney
6 City Clerk and Clerk of the
7 Council.

8 Dear City Clerk McSweeney:

9 Pursuant to Section 42 of the New
10 York City Charter, the first meeting of 2010 of
11 the Council of the City of New York is scheduled
12 for Wednesday, January 6th, 2010 at 12:00 o'clock
13 noon in the Council Chambers, second floor, City
14 Hall, New York.

15 Sincerely,

16 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker.

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I order
18 the call to be received, ordered, printed and
19 filed. Pursuant to Section 42 of the New York
20 City Charter, I hereby call this meeting to order
21 and direct the City Clerk and the Clerk of the
22 Council to read the communication from the Board
23 of Elections stating the list of elected City
24 Council members.

25 MR. McSWEENEY: M 0002, Board of

Elections list of elected City Officials.

December 4th, 2009

Honorable Christine C. Quinn

Speaker, New York City Council

Dear Speaker Quinn:

The Commissioners of Elections at their meeting held today certified the 3rd of November, 2009 General Election for the Members of the City Council. The Following have been elected:

1st Margaret S. Chin

2nd Rosie Mendez

3rd Christine C. Quinn

4th Daniel R. Garodnick

5th Jessica S. Lappin

6th Gale A. Brewer

7th Robert Jackson

8th Melissa Mark-Viverito

9th Inez E. Dickens

10th Ydanis A. Rodriguez

11th G. Oliver Koppell

12th Larry B. Seabrook

13th James Vacca

14th Fernando Cabrera

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STATED CHARTER MEETING

- 15th Joel Rivera
- 16th Helen Diane Foster
- 17th Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
- 18th Annabel Palma
- 19th Daniel J. Halloran III
- 20th Peter A. Koo
- 21st Julissa Ferreras
- 22nd Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
- 23rd Mark S. Weprin
- 24th James F. Gennaro
- 25th Daniel Dromm
- 26th James G. Van Bramer
- 27th Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- 28th Thomas White Jr.
- 29th Karen Koslowitz
- 30th Elizabeth Crowley
- 31st James Sanders, Jr.
- 32nd Eric A. Ulrich
- 33rd Stephen T. Levin
- 34th Diana Reyna
- 35th Letitia James
- 36th Albert Vann
- 37th Erik Martin Dilan
- 38th Sara M. Gonzalez

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- 39th Bradford S. Lander
- 40th Mathieu Eugene
- 41st Darlene Mealy
- 42nd Charles Barron
- 43rd Vincent J. Gentile
- 44th Simcha Felder
- 45th Jumaane D. Williams
- 46th Lewis A. Fidler
- 47th Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
- 48th Michael C. Nelson
- 49th Deborah L. Rose
- 50th James S. Oddo
- 51st Vincent M. Ignizio

Very truly yours,
Marcus Cederqvist,
Executive Director
George Gonzalez,
Deputy Executive Director.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you.

I order this communication to be received,
ordered, printed and filed. Will the City Clerk
and the Clerk of the Council perform the formal
ceremony of the duly elected Council Members
taking their oath of office?

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Mr. McSWEENEY: Please raise your
right hand. I, state your name,

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: Do solemnly swear.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: That I will support
the Constitution of the United States of America.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: And I will support
the Constitution of the State of New York.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: And I will support
the Charter of the City of New York.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: And that I will
faithfully discharge.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

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MR. McSWEENEY: The duties of the
office of

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: Council Member.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: State your
District,

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: For the Borough of,
state your Borough.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: According to the
best of my ability.

[All Council Members participate in
oath]

MR. McSWEENEY: Council Members
congratulations.

[Applause]

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay.

1
2 Okay will the Clerk call the roll for the purpose
3 of ascertaining the presence of a quorum?

4 MR. McSWEENEY: Arroyo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

6 MR. McSWEENEY: Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

8 MR. McSWEENEY: Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

10 MR. McSWEENEY: Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

12 MR. McSWEENEY: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

14 MR. McSWEENEY: Comrie.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [No audible

16 response]

17 MR. McSWEENEY: Crowley.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

19 MR. McSWEENEY: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

21 audible response]

22 MR. McSWEENEY: Dilan.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

24 MR. McSWEENEY: Drumm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Here.

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response]

MR. McSWEENEY: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No audible

MR. McSWEENEY: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No
audible response]

MR. McSWEENEY: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

MR. McSWEENEY: Seabrook.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [No
audible response]

MR. McSWEENEY: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No audible
response]

MR. McSWEENEY: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excited
that I'm here.

[Laughter, applause]

MR. McSWEENEY: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: A little
surprised I'm here. Here.

[Laughter]

MR. McSWEENEY: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

MR. McSWEENEY: Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: We have a
quorum. Before we go onto the invocation, I just
wanted to recognize the elected officials and
former elected officials that we have here with us

1
2 today. We have former Speaker of the City
3 Council, Peter Vallone, Sr.

4 [Applause]

5 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: We have
6 another former Speaker Gifford Miller.

7 [Applause]

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: We have
9 Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

10 [Applause]

11 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: We have
12 Staten Island Borough President James Maldonado.

13 [Applause]

14 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I believe
15 I saw as well former Finance Chairman Herb Berman.

16 [Applause]

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: And we're
18 also honored to have Niles Burgess from the Irish
19 Council General.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Excuse me,
22 just a point of clarification, you also have
23 Assembly Woman Inez Barron who's a part of the--

24 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

25 [Interposing] And we also have Assembly Woman Inez

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Barron--

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --State

Assembly.

[Cheering, applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Are there any others who are here with us that I did not recognize? Okay. At this point in time I will ask my colleagues to please rise for today's invocation being given by Father Brian Jordan.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

FATHER BRIAN JORDAN: Let us pray my sisters and brothers. Gracious the loving god, bestow your loving presence upon us today as we bless this new City Council, those who served in the past and the 12 new members. This is a City; we welcomed people from all over the earth. We welcome our new City Council Members. Welcome this new year, this new decade to bless them and guide them to serve the people of this City of New York. Yes Lord there are problems, economic problems, social problems, emotional problems, political problems, financial problems, but Lord we here in the City Council are called to be better, not bitter. It's easy to be a bitter

1 person. It's easy to be a bitter family. It's
2 easy to be a bitter City Council, a bitter City, a
3 bitter State, a bitter country, a bitter world.
4 But Lord God, we call upon you to help us to be a
5 better person, to be a better couple, to be a
6 better family, to be a better City Council, to be
7 a better city, a better state, a better country, a
8 better world. Be better, not bitter. Lord God,
9 this City Council truly portrays the mosaic of New
10 York City. I don't care if you're Black, you're
11 White or your light, to God we're all right. And
12 we'll continue forth as sisters and brothers, the
13 same God, to serve the city of New York. Bless us
14 and guide us to the road of salvation Lord God,
15 help us make the 51 become 1. I repeat, let the
16 51 become 1. We thank you our Creator. Amen.
17 God bless the City of New York and God bless
18 America.

19 [Applause]

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you
21 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
23 make a motion to spread the invocation in full
24 upon the record.
25

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So

ordered. If my colleagues can remain standing for the moment of silence. On December 26th, 2009, Percy Sutton, 89, one of the most important African American political, civic and social leaders of the last 70 years passed away. The son of a former slave, Percy Sutton worked his way through college and law school. As a decorated veteran, Percy Sutton served with the legendary Tuskegee Airmen during World War II and again in the Air Force during the Korean War. As a lawyer he was a civil rights activist. As the longest serving Manhattan Borough President, Percy Sutton encouraged and mentored so many young African American politicians and he always stressed the need to build coalitions across ethnic lines. When David Dinkins was elected the City's first Black mayor he proudly stated I stand on the shoulders of Percy Ellis Sutton. Percy Sutton's funeral and burial is being held today and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, loved ones, friends and admirers.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Point of

clarification before the moment of silence. Let's

1
2 acknowledge him for being a leader and not pigeon
3 hole him to African Americans, he set the tone for
4 this city and this nation as a leader and a man.
5 Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
7 ordered. Thank you.

8 [Moment of silence]

9 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay you
10 may be seated.

11 [Pause]

12 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay at
13 this point in time, we will be moving forward to
14 the nominations for Speaker and although it's
15 allowed a second is not required. And at this
16 point in time I would be making the nomination.
17 To me it is with great honor and pleasure that I
18 make this motion to nominate Christine C. Quinn
19 for reelection as our New York City Council
20 Speaker.

21 Under her steadfast leadership over
22 the last four years we have made tremendous
23 strides in improving the lives of millions of New
24 Yorkers. During these four years she's listened
25 to those to who no one would listen to. She gave

1
2 voices to those who could not be heard. This City
3 Council lead by Christine Quinn stood up to the
4 unscrupulous landlords.

5 City Council Members working with
6 this Speaker developed best practices for night
7 clubs and improved our City's nightlight safety
8 laws. Working with Speaker Quinn, we created
9 thousands of full day pre-Kindergarten spaces for
10 our City's youngest students. This legislation
11 led by Christine Quinn made it a priority to
12 connect hungry New Yorkers to accessible and
13 healthier food options.

14 The New York City Council led by
15 Speaker Quinn secured 18,000 new bulletproof vests
16 for the New York City's men and women in blue.
17 And when the Police Academy classes were
18 cancelled, Christine Quinn and this Council drew a
19 line in the sand and made sure we hired 500 new
20 cadets over the past 5 fiscal years.

21 This Speaker and this Council also
22 mandated for the first time ever reporting of race
23 in police involved shootings. This Council led by
24 Christine Quinn created important protections
25 against harassment and intimidation at our City's

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reproductive health clinics.

And she continues to lead the fight for marriage equality in the State of New York. These are just a few examples of our work looking back on these last four challenging and rewarding years. The next four--

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: --will be...

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: The next four will be just as demanding and exhilarating if not more. And there is no one else more willing or more capable to lead this diverse body forward than Christine Quinn.

And it is with great confidence and enthusiasm that I nominate Christine Quinn as Speaker of the Council of the City of New York pursuant to Section 44 of the New York City Charter for the term commencing January 1st, 2010 and terminating December 31st, 2013. And at this point we call for a seconding of the nomination.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I second the nomination.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So

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ordered. Are there any other nominations?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. I, Charles Barron rise on this occasion and before I do announce my nomination, I do want to make an observation. Under the leadership of Christine Quinn, we've had serious issues regarding where resources go as it relates to race and communities. Just look at this Council Chamber right now as we talk about seating arrangements. I was talking to Alton Maddox and he said this looks similar to the Alamo Theater many, many years ago in Newnan, Georgia where Whites sit on the floor and Blacks sit in the balcony.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: To me this is a reflection of what's going on in this City. So as I rise to announce my nomination, my nomination to be Speaker, I also want to raise this. And I say to my colleagues this is not about Christine Quinn. It's not really about Charles Barron. It's about us having our turn. Howard Washington used that as a campaign slogan as he became the first Black mayor of Chicago.

It's our turn now. 62% of this

1
2 City is people of color. 54% of the people that
3 voted in the November election for the first time
4 in the history of this City is people of color.
5 27 of you who sit here today are people of color
6 in the majority. Many of you may not want to deal
7 with race but watch when it comes to budget
8 allocation time--

9 [Applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --watch
11 where the money goes. So I say to you today, I
12 proudly stand as a member of the new majority and
13 to bring up race doesn't mean that you're anti-
14 anyone. You are pro-you. And to be pro-us
15 doesn't mean to be anti-white or anti-anybody
16 else. But I do think that it is time--

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

18 [Interposing] Council Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --that we
20 elect one of us to be Speaker in this body. If
21 you look at the appointment of Commissioners by
22 the Mayor of New York City, we're the new
23 majority, yet we're the minority. A small
24 minority when it becomes to the appointment of
25 Commissioners.

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2 We're the new majority; well you
3 look at the citywide offices. The Mayor, the
4 Speaker, the Public Advocate are not one of them
5 are a part of the new majority. We're thankful
6 that we got John Liu through as Public--as
7 Comptroller. We got one. But for us to be the
8 new majority and not a single Black or Latino is
9 in a powerful position in a citywide position in
10 this City is unconscionable.

11 Then look at the City Council,
12 never in the history of the City Council, and this
13 is why I'm appealing to you, never in the history
14 of the City Council has there been a person of
15 color Speaker. Never in the history of the City
16 Council has there been a person of color heading
17 up the two powerful committees in this City
18 Council, the Land Use Committee and the Finance
19 Committee. Now that you have the power to be
20 Speaker and have everything, they're going to give
21 you one, the Land Use Committee. I'm sure a Black
22 from Queens is going to get that. Too little, too
23 late.

24 [Applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: It's time

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for us...

[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: To vote

for--

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

[Interposing] Council Member

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --a

Speaker, vote for a Speaker--

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

[Interposing] Council Member Barron if you can
please wrap up.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --that will
see to it, as we move toward Martin Luther King
Jr.'s birthday, Martin Luther King, Jr. said there
should be a redistribution, an equitable
redistribution of the wealth in this nation. I
say in this City--

[Applause]

[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --there
should be a redistribution of the wealth, an
equitable distribution of the wealth. You know
what happens during capital distribution time.
You know what happens when it's expense money.

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2 You know what happens to our
3 communities, struggling communities, highest in
4 unemployment, highest in poverty, yet we don't get
5 the highest capital money. We don't get the
6 highest expense money. So I'm saying to you on
7 this day that we need to be bold enough to stand
8 up and not mistrust each other. I know the vote's
9 going to be 50 to 1 but I don't care.

10 I was hoping that one of you would
11 at least have the conscience and the heart to say
12 that--don't vote for Charles Barron. When I ran I
13 said I'm running but I hope one of you would run.
14 I would have turned my campaign down 'cause I know
15 it's going to be difficult for y'all to vote for
16 me. The Speaker has too much power. Many of you
17 even told me that I can't do it Charles because I
18 don't want to be punished. That's what many
19 people said. So on this day, I'm putting my name
20 in for Speaker. And I'm doing it in the name of
21 Percy Sutton.

22 [Applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm doing
24 it because--

25 [Gavel banging]

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --Percy Sutton had the first Black radio station ever in this City. Percy Sutton ran for the Assembly and you know who helped Percy Sutton get elected to the Assembly? Malcolm X. And Percy Sutton--

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --when I--
[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --made my little bit for Mayor for a hot minute, Percy Sutton came to a meeting and said Charles I'm supporting you because we need that radical voice in this town. Percy Sutton wasn't afraid of radicals. He didn't run away from them. He ran to them. That's why he became Malcolm X's lawyer.

I'm putting my name in nomination because three seats from me, where Brother Sanders is sitting, sat Adam Clayton Powel the first Black Councilman in the history of the City of New York. Adam Clayton Powell sat there and Adam told us, use what's in your hands.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Use what's in your hands.

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[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And when you get power in your hands, use it. We have the power now to be able to determine our destiny in this City. I put my nomination in, in the name of Fannie Lou Hamer, who was beaten into a pulp for this day to come. In the name of Harriet Tubman who freed us and said I could have freed more if more of us would have known we were slaves.

[Applause, cheering]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I put my nomination--

[Gavel banging]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down please.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I put my name in nomination for Malcolm X, for Martin Luther King, for Rosa Parks, for Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I put my name--

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --in

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2 nomination for Dr. Khalid Mohammed. I put my name
3 in nomination for the Maroons of Jamaica, for Dr.
4 John Henry Clark, for Asa Hilliard, for Dr. Ivan
5 Van Sertmer [phonetic], for all of those who came
6 before us and said that we must fight for our
7 rights.

8 And once we have that power, we
9 should use it. We should exercise it. No one has
10 to give you anything. You could have given
11 yourself more. So as you go ahead and vote and
12 give all the power back to the Speaker and
13 hopefully she'll give you the chair that you want.
14 Hopefully she'll give your community a few extra
15 dollars but the bottom line; we owe it to our
16 children to stand up like men and women--

17 [Applause, cheering]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --and say--

19 [Gavel banging]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --our time
21 has come. So I...

22 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Can we get
23 silence in the balcony.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Charles
25 Barron--

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: [Interposing]

Quiet please.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I, Charles Barron, respectfully submit my name in nomination as the next Speaker of the City Council of New York City and all those in favor say aye.

[Audience yelling aye]

[Gavel banging]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: The ayes have it, thank you very much.

[Applause, cheering, chanting]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Can we get silence. Can we get silence in the balcony please?

[Chanting Charles Barron for Speaker from the balcony]

[Gavel banging]

[Chanting continues]

[Gavel banging]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Can we please get order in the chambers? Can we get-- we're going to have to--we're going to have to ask everyone to leave if we don't get order. Thank you very much. Is there a second for the

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nomination, none is required but is there one?

Okay--

[Audience yelling]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: At this point in time, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to please ask that you refrain from any outbursts or we will have to clear the chambers. We want to have a formal process here.

All right at this point in time I'm going to ask the City Clerk to please call the roll for this vote and for the members, you will be declaring your support for either Council Member Christine Quinn or for Council Member Barron to be the next Speaker, so just state who it is that you will be supporting. Will the Clerk please call the vote?

MR. McSWEENEY: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I proudly vote Charles Barron.

[Applause, cheering]

[Gavel banging]

MR. McSWEENEY: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Council
Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Council

Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Christine

Quinn.

[Booing from audience]

[Gavel banging]

MR. McSWEENEY: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Council

Member Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Drumm.

COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Quinn.

[Audience yelling]

MR. McSWEENEY: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Council

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Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Christine

Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:

Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I proudly

vote for Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Christine

Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I gladly

vote for Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Christine

Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Jackson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Majority
3 Leader, may I be excused to explain my vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes you
5 may. And if we can get silence so the Council
6 Member can explain his vote.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
9 I apologize for being late to the Charter Meeting.
10 I was attending the funeral of Percy Sutton along
11 with some of our colleagues, Inez Dickens and
12 Leroy Comrie and Al Vann. And let me just say
13 that it was--it's just--it's easy for me to stand
14 here and just say Christine Quinn or--

15 [Audience outburst]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: --or
17 Charles Barron. It's easy for me to just sit
18 there and just say that. But let me just comment.
19 As someone that has stood up on behalf of the
20 children of New York City when people said to me
21 you must be crazy and I said yes, if it means
22 advocating for a million children including my own
23 then I am crazy. I have been involved in
24 electoral politics for 23 years, 15 as a School
25 Board member and 8 as a member of this City

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2 Council. Our state and our city is in fiscal
3 crisis.

4 Obviously if you're listening to
5 the news you know exactly what I'm talking about.
6 When it comes to this City Council, I've been
7 involved on an intimate basis and 95% of my time
8 is spent down here at City Hall, working on behalf
9 of the people that I represent and the people of
10 the City of New York. And considering where we
11 are financially in New York City, in my opinion,
12 it's best that we have a proven leader that has
13 shown to handle the City's budget. And with that
14 I endorse Christine Quinn, thank you.

15 [Audience outburst]

16 [Gavel banging]

17 MR. McSWEENEY: James.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Quinn.

19 MR. McSWEENEY: Koo.

20 [Pause]

21 MR. McSWEENEY: Koo

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [No response]

23 MR. McSWEENEY: Koppell.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Christine
25 Quinn.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: With
great pride and pleasure, Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Council
Member Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Council
Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
Council Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Can I
explain my vote then?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes you
may.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Oh he knows

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MR. McSWEENEY: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Christine
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Christine
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Council
Member Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I
explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes you
man.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIQUEZ: First of
all I would like to say that I'm so proud to join
the City Council at a time when I'm part of the
27, a Black Latino nation. For me this is an
important, this is a historical moment, where the
27 represent the diversity and the growing of the
Black Latino nation.

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2 And I hope that the new Speaker
3 will really take into consideration the need that
4 we have in those 27 Districts that we represent.
5 Like the one that I represent, Washington Heights,
6 Marble Hill and Inwood is a District with a lot of
7 need. Our youth need after school programs.
8 Senior centers need more programs.

9 Our teenagers, our children need
10 more than what we have right now. And I hope that
11 in the next ten, that our Speaker will continue
12 helping us to bring the resources because my cause
13 is going to be improve the quality of life of the
14 community that I represent where 85% are Latino.
15 So I--that's my call on the Speaker but I support
16 Christine Quinn as the next Speaker.

17 [Audience outburst]

18 [Gavel banging]

19 MR. McSWEENEY: Rose--

20 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:

21 [Interposing] I'm not going to ask again. If we
22 can get silence in the balcony.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Quinn.

24 MR. McSWEENEY: Sanders.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Quinn.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Christine
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Christine
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm happy
there will be no coup in the City Council other
than the one sitting next to me and I want the
same two votes that he got for Speaker Christine
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With
great price, my friend Christine Callahan Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Chris
Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Christine

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Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I proudly support Christine Quinn.

MR. McSWEENEY: Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: [No audible response]

[Pause]

MR. McSWEENEY: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No audible response]

[Gavel banging]

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down please.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: The vote for the Speakership was 47 in favor of Christine C. Quinn, 1 in favor of Barron. Christine C. Quinn, congratulations, you have been elected--

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: --the new Speaker.

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: And just to be read into the record the Council Member duly

1
2 elected as Speaker of the Council of the City of
3 New York, Speaker Christine Quinn, her term
4 commencing on January 1st, 2010 and terminating
5 December 31st, 2013. Again congratulations.

6 [Applause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Four
8 years ago I stood behind this very podium and said
9 how incredibly proud I was to live in a city with
10 the rich diversity of New York, a city where that
11 diversity is celebrated and seen as a strength not
12 an impediment. Today I'm proud to say we've never
13 had a City Council that so fully reflects the
14 diversity of our great City. For the first time
15 our Black, Latino and Asian caucus will comprise
16 more than half of our membership. 18 of us are
17 women and 4 of us--

18 [Audience outburst]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: --are members...

20 [Gavel banging]

21 [Audience outburst]

22 [Gavel banging]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, thank
24 you, thank you.

25 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Just take

1 a minute while they escort these--them out there.

2 [Pause]

3 [Audience outburst]

4 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay.

5 [Audience outburst]

6 [Pause]

7 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay--

8 [Audience outburst]

9 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay Madam
10 Speaker.

11
12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. 18 of
13 us are women and 4 of us are members of the LGBT
14 community.

15 [Applause]

16 SPEAKER QUINN: We are tenant
17 leaders and labor organizers, teachers and small
18 business owners. And just as this Council looks
19 very different from Councils of old, we've
20 governed differently too. We've pioneered a new
21 politics of inclusion, bringing together diverse
22 stakeholders and traditional opponents in
23 unprecedented ways.

24 We push the definition of
25 bipartisanship far beyond the realms of democrat

1
2 and republican. Real estate groups and tenant
3 activities, business leaders and labor
4 representatives, law enforcement and community
5 organizers, under this Council's leadership
6 everyone has come together and worked for the
7 greater good.

8 [Applause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: This new approach
10 has allowed us to tackle problems that had long
11 been ignored or stuck in political gridlock. Now
12 not all of our solutions have changed the world
13 but each one of them has made a world of change in
14 the lives of real New Yorkers. Here's an example.
15 In spite of continued complaints by residents,
16 hundreds of buildings around the City spent years
17 in dangerous states of disrepair.

18 But in 2007 the City Council began,
19 we began working with both tenant groups and
20 building owners and we created the Safe Housing
21 Law. As a result tenants who'd been living in the
22 most dangerous and deplorable conditions
23 imaginable, well they're now proud to call those
24 very same buildings their home.

25 For over three decades, New York

1
2 City couldn't agree on an equitable plan to deal
3 with its trash. But by bringing all stakeholders
4 to the table, this Council passed a waste
5 management plan that is improving our environment
6 and taking an unjust burden off of low income
7 communities of color.

8 Now some people thought nothing
9 could be done to bridge the performance gap
10 between middle schools and other grades. But we
11 brought together experts, experts representing the
12 full spectrum of the educational world from
13 parents to the DOE's own leadership. And we
14 created a middle school task force. Thanks to the
15 innovative proposals of that task force we've
16 already begun to make significant progress. And
17 we've seen above average gains at many of the
18 lowest performing middle schools in our City.

19 But even as we've worked together
20 to bring people together, we've never shied away
21 from a fight when it was in the best interests of
22 New Yorkers. Some of our battles were fought and
23 won in public, protecting senior centers or making
24 sure that New Yorkers received that property tax
25 rebate that they were promised, that they needed,

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2 and that they deserved. Others were won by
3 negotiation.

4 But we've stood as a balance to
5 executive authority while refusing to let
6 political grandstanding get in the way of
7 cooperation or get in the way of getting results.
8 It is for all of these reasons and so many more
9 that I'm incredibly proud to call myself a member
10 of this City Council.

11 To my returning colleagues I say
12 thank you. Thank you for your boundless passion,
13 your ceaseless dedication, to the people of your
14 own Districts and to this City at large. To our
15 newly elected members, we welcome you. I can
16 promise you that you'll find the next four years
17 to be among your most challenging, most rewarding
18 and definitely most exhausting.

19 You come to this chamber from a
20 multitude of backgrounds, bringing with you a
21 remarkable array of experience and expertise.
22 We'll need every ounce of that diverse experience
23 as we approach the challenges ahead.

24 Our economy is still reeling from
25 the Wall Street meltdown. At least one in ten New

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2 Yorkers remain unable to find work and that
3 problem is even worse in communities of color.
4 Thousands of children will go to bed tonight
5 hungry. And thousands of small businesses may be
6 forced to close their doors in the year ahead. We
7 face continued budget deficits and countless
8 difficult choices.

9 After a period of extraordinary
10 growth and prosperity our City is struggling to
11 find new footing. But time and again this City
12 Council has found innovative solutions to long
13 thought intractable problems. Time and again when
14 New Yorkers have called out for help, we've been
15 there to answer.

16 We won't allow any challenges
17 however great to cripple our progress or stifle
18 our creativity. We'll continue to be an incubator
19 for big ideas, a City Council that truly
20 represents all five Boroughs. We'll be responsive
21 to the needs of every New Yorker and we'll solve
22 problems from the bottom up. We'll maintain our
23 ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility and we
24 will keep our budget balanced.

25 By embracing new technologies and

1 reforming outdated structures, we'll make
2 government work better for the people. We'll find
3 innovative ways to move forward, to do more with
4 less. We'll live within our means but we'll also
5 plan for future opportunities. We'll make job
6 creation our top priority, building on existing
7 strengths and seeking out new sectors that are
8 ripe for economic growth.

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10 We'll expand affordable housing
11 across all five Boroughs and we'll look for new
12 opportunities in the wake of the housing crash.
13 We'll listen to the needs of small businesses
14 fighting unnecessary regulation and championing
15 tax reform. We'll continue to work together in
16 ways that put results ahead of political
17 posturing. We'll use diversity as a resource.
18 We'll value collaboration. And we'll make sure
19 that every voice has an opportunity to be heard.

20 Today I stand behind this podium
21 for the second time, charged by my colleagues to
22 lead the City Council. And for the second time I
23 find myself incredibly humbled at the faith and
24 responsibility you've placed in me.

25 This is an institution I've worked

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2 in or around for more than two decades. It's a
3 place that I believe wholeheartedly has the power
4 and the ability to create real change and improve
5 the lives of New Yorkers. Time and again I've
6 seen the members of this Council come together and
7 make this City a better place.

8 Looking out at this room today, I
9 could not be more confident at the ability of a
10 group of people to continue that work. It's our
11 shared dedication that will drive us every moment
12 of our next four years together so I am incredibly
13 grateful for the privilege of leading this body
14 and as we serve the people of New York City.
15 Working together we'll continue to overcome the
16 challenges ahead.

17 Today we renew our promise to New
18 Yorkers to never be satisfied, to always be
19 striving, always be working harder and working
20 closer together to build a stronger and better New
21 York. I thank all of you for giving me this
22 opportunity for a second time.

23 I thank my family, Kim, her dad, my
24 dad, my sister, all the Cotulos [phonetic] that
25 are here, for all of their faith and support in

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2 me. And I know that over the next four years I
3 will be as inspired, as humbled, and quite frankly
4 as in awe of this institution and as in awe of the
5 power of a good law or a good budget as I was the
6 first day I walked into this building almost 20
7 years ago. Thank you for your belief in this
8 institution and in the City of New York. And as
9 the Father said, may God bless New York City, the
10 New York City Council, and America. Thank you.

11 [Applause]

12 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Okay we
13 just have a couple of quick votes left so if
14 members can stay here. Messages and papers from
15 the Mayor.

16 MR. McSWEENEY: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Speaker
18 Quinn.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Now could... excuse
20 me, next, going to move on to the creation of a
21 temporary Rules Committee. We'll be doing that--
22 first, excuse me, I'm sorry, we're going to do a
23 motion pursuant to Section 46 of the New York City
24 Charter, the 2006-2009 Rules of the Council as
25 Amended be continued and in effect until new rules

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2 shall be adopted or said rules shall be otherwise
3 amended or modified.

4 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council
5 Member Jackson for a seconding.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I second
7 the motion.

8 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: So
9 ordered. Will the Clerk please call the roll?

10 MC: Arroyo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

12 MC: Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I know
17 we're adopting rules until others are coming forth
18 but I want to encourage my colleagues that we
19 really need to change the rules so that you will
20 be more empowered and we need to change the rules,
21 and I know that can't happen today at this
22 meeting, we're going to adopt rules.

23 But I think we should be open for
24 reform in this City Council so that we can take
25 some power away from the Speaker's Office and give

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2 it to the membership so that this can truly be a
3 democratic process. With that I vote aye on the
4 rules for today but I encourage my colleagues that
5 we must adopt new rules and reform the City
6 Council so that we can vote our conscience, our
7 politics and for our people.

8 MR. McSWEENEY: Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

10 MR. McSWEENEY: Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

12 MR. McSWEENEY: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

14 MR. McSWEENEY: Comrie.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

16 MR. McSWEENEY: Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

18 MR. McSWEENEY: Dilan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

20 MR. McSWEENEY: Drumm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Aye.

22 MR. McSWEENEY: Eugene.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

24 MR. McSWEENEY: Ferreras.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Foster.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No
audible response]

MR. McSWEENEY: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Lappin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Nelson.
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Recchia.
COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Reyna.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Yes.

MR. McSWEENEY: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No audible
response]

MR. McSWEENEY: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: The motion has been approved, 48 in the affirmative, with 0 in the negative and also for the record, we will now be doing the designation of the Minority Leader in a few moments as well.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I nominate the following Council Members as the members of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections of the City Council, Inez E. Dickens is the Chair, Joel Rivera, Leroy G. Comrie, Jr., Lewis A. Fidler, Thomas White, Jr., James S. Oddo, Christine C. Quinn.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Council Member Recchia for the seconding of the nomination.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I second.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Will the
3 Clerk please call the roll? For this roll call,
4 the question on the floor is whether the Council
5 would agree with the adoption of the nominations.
6 Will the Clerk please call the roll?

7 MR. McSWEENEY: Arroyo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

9 MR. McSWEENEY: Barron.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be
11 excused to explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Yes you
13 may.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: On this one
15 I really think we should vote no 'cause this is
16 where the power of the Speaker starts because in
17 this Committee will come all of the Chairs,
18 nomination of Chairs in this Committee, through
19 this Committee, will come the assignments. And
20 this is why we're so silent when it comes to
21 voting in this Council for the people and for the
22 things that we need to do.

23 So I want to encourage a no vote on
24 this and we should reevaluate the rules and the
25 process so that you can be empowered and that all

1
2 the power doesn't go to the Speaker. On this one
3 I strongly vote no and urge a no vote until we can
4 reform that process of who sits on this Rules
5 Committee that will adopt the recommendations for
6 all the Chairs and the Committee assignments. I
7 vote no.

8 MR. McSWEENEY: Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

10 MR. McSWEENEY: Cabrera.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

12 MR. McSWEENEY: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

14 MR. McSWEENEY: Comrie.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

16 MR. McSWEENEY: Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

18 MR. McSWEENEY: Dickens.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote aye
20 and I also vote aye to continue the rules and vote
21 aye on the nomination of Christine C. Quinn as
22 Speaker.

23 MR. McSWEENEY: Dilan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

25 MR. McSWEENEY: Drumm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DRUMM: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Ferreras.
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote
aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Fidler.
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I strongly
vote yes.
MR. McSWEENEY: Foster.
COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes.
MR. McSWEENEY: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote
yes.
MR. McSWEENEY: Gentile.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.
MR. McSWEENEY: Gonzalez.
COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Halloran.
COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.
MR. McSWEENEY: Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

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MR. McSWEENEY: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Yes.

MR. McSWEENEY: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I think
it's ironic that someone with no respect for this
body or its rules is lecturing this body on its
rules and I vote aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: White.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

MR. McSWEENEY: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

MR. McSWEENEY: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: I vote aye.

[Pause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: The motion has been carried by a vote of 48 in the affirmative with 1 in the negative. Will the Clerk read the designation letter of Minority Leader?

MR. McSWEENEY: M 0006, designation of Minority Leader.

December 30th, 2009.

Honorable Christine C. Quinn,
Speaker

Dear Speaker Quinn;

We, the undersigned members of the Minority (Republican) Delegation of the Council of the City of New York, hereby designate and a point James S. Oddo as Minority Leader of the New York City Council, pursuant to Rule 4.10 of the Rules of the Council of the City of New York for the term commencing on January 1, 2010.

Sincerely,

James S. Oddo Minority Leader

Dan Halloran

Council Member, 19th District

Vincent Ignizio

Council Member, 51st District

Peter Koo

Council Member, 20th District

Eric Ulrich

Council Member, 32nd District.

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: This communication...

[Applause]

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: This communication is to be received, ordered, printed

1
2 and filed. Congratulations Jimmy Oddo, the
3 ongoing Minority Leader of the City Council.

4 [Background conversation]

5 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: Thank you.
6 In a little bit of the change of the rules I've
7 decided to appoint Charles Barron to deliver my
8 speech today.

9 [Laughter]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER: I object.

11 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: Leave it to
12 me to lighten the mood a little bit. Folks this
13 is a good day. Everyone needs, I think, to
14 breathe. It seems like there's not enough energy
15 in the room. So everybody, it's a wonderful day,
16 it's a historic day. Now that the Republicans are
17 a robust group of five, we have a few dollars,
18 thank you and we put some dollars together, Eric
19 and Vinnie and Dan and Peter and we bought a
20 goodie bag of sorts for each of the new members.
21 So I'd like to go very briefly--

22 [Off mic comment]

23 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: --no it has
24 not. Get used to third terms. So we will start--

25 [Laughter]

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2 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: The first
3 one is a wonderful book; it is the autobiography
4 of Simcha Felder.

5 [Laughter]

6 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: As you can
7 see it's aptly titled Felder on Felder, it's quite
8 dense, the book not Simcha. The second one is,
9 well, this is Must See TV, this is a keeper. It's
10 called 1,000 Speeches on the Council Floor in
11 which I used the Word Outrageous, Outraged,
12 Disgraced or Disgraceful, Tony Avella. This is a
13 DVD--

14 [Laughter

15 ED: 1,000 Speeches--for those of
16 you who didn't experience it the first time. I
17 had a joke in there and I can't believe--I was
18 going to incorporate my friend Charles but in
19 light of things I want to start out on a good note
20 so. I just want to say that to start off there's
21 a saying, the first time I heard it, it
22 immediately became one of my favorite sayings and
23 that's arithmetic has no mercy.

24 And I start out with that because
25 obviously if you follow politics and you follow

1
2 Republican politics those three of you out there,
3 you know we have five members, three of whom are
4 from Queens County. Yet I am standing here, a guy
5 from Staten Island as Minority Leader. So I want
6 to thank Eric and Peter and Dan for their faith in
7 me and believing that I could help them be the
8 best Council Members possible. I appreciate that.
9 I want to thank my best friend here in this body,
10 the consummate team player and one of the best
11 political minds in this state, my friend Vinnie
12 Ignizio. And...

13 [Applause]

14 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: I will be as
15 brief as possible. But I did prepare some remarks
16 and I very rarely do that. I just wanted to say
17 that our delegation looks forward to continuing to
18 partner with you, Madam Speaker, and all of our
19 colleagues. And we pledge to continue to seek
20 common ground, coalitions and consensus. And
21 undoubtedly there will be issues upon which we
22 will disagree.

23 That's democracy, that's debate.
24 That's good, that's healthy. At time it's going
25 to be quite evident that we have a different

1
2 perspective than the majority and the
3 administration for that matter. And on those
4 occasions we will be persistent, hopefully
5 informed and articulate, and certain passionate.

6 At the same time we will always
7 remain respectful to the institution and to our
8 colleagues. You might find this odd but I'm going
9 to quote the legendary comedian George Carlin who
10 once said the reason I prefer the sledge hammer to
11 the rapier and the reason I believe in a blunt
12 confrontational form for the presentation of my
13 ideas is because I see what is happening to the
14 lives of people is not rapier-like, it's not
15 gentle, it's not subtle. It's direct and hard.
16 And I'm sure there are many taxpayers and small
17 business owners today who would concur.

18 The Republican delegation will work
19 diligently to find the balance of standing firm on
20 principle but standing shoulder and shoulder with
21 you as an institution. Four years ago as we
22 gathered together to celebrate that historic
23 election of a new Speaker, the first woman, the
24 first openly gay Speaker, my speech centered on
25 the word optimism. I even told a great old Ronald

1
2 Regan story about identical twins in a barn full
3 of manure; those new members will have to back on
4 crosswalks to catch that one.

5 This year I want to use a word that
6 we've heard a lot about in the last few years and
7 that's hope. Michael J. Fox in his fabulously
8 inspiring book Always Looking Up writes that it
9 was after Christopher Reeve who wisely parsed the
10 difference between optimism and hope. Unlike
11 optimism he said, hope is the product of knowledge
12 and the projection of where knowledge can take us.

13 In my life I found the great
14 equalizer in terms of searching for and acquiring
15 knowledge has been hard work. So let's commit
16 here and now that each of us will do everything in
17 our power to go down as the hardest working
18 Council in the history of this institution.

19 That knowledge will come from a
20 level of interaction with our communities and our
21 constituents, the likes they have not seen before.
22 That knowledge will come from keeping our eyes and
23 our ears, our hearts and our minds open both in
24 our Districts and here at City Hall. And that
25 knowledge will come perhaps from where and whom we

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least expect, including Republicans.

Undoubtedly there will be moments when self-interest and political expediency will creep up. This is the nature of the beast. It's disingenuous and naïve to think otherwise. Let's strive during those times to be buoyed by our greater virtues.

I close with this and I'm going to mispronounce it and my apologies, but there is a principle in Judaism, Takoon Olam [phonetic] which translates roughly into English as repairing the world. Please don't get me wrong, I don't believe government can or should be looked upon as the solution to all problems and some of you have already grown tired of me railing against the cradle to grave mentality that I believe is all too pervasive on every level of government.

For us though, Takoon Olam should mean a realization that we have been given a privilege, that we have a covenant with the people of this City and we are to do what is right by them. It is a fragile bond that needs to be nurtured with hard work, accessibility, common sense and yes at times humor and yes occasionally

1
2 a bit of anger although for the new members when
3 you hit those occasions watch your language during
4 those moments or you might go viral on the
5 internet.

6 [Laughter]

7 MINORITY LEADER ODDO: For us the
8 principle of Takoon Olam should remind us of what
9 Mayor Ed Koch often says that when done properly,
10 public service is the noblest of professions. I
11 wish you the very best in being a dedicated and
12 effective public servant. On behalf of the five
13 man Republican delegation we pledge to you our
14 commitment to do everything to help you help us
15 help this City. Thank you, God bless.

16 [Applause]

17 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:
18 Congratulations. Communication from the Speaker.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. I just
20 want to take a moment to welcome all the family
21 and honored guests of the Council Members who are
22 with us today. Make sure everyone knows that
23 there is a reception for all the Council Members,
24 their guests and family in the Red Room following
25 the end of this Council meeting. Thank you Mr.

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Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: Thank you very much. The revised vote for today's calendar on the Speakership was 48 for Speaker Quinn, 1 for Council Member Barron. And on the rules, the revised vote was 49 in the affirmative with 0 in the negative. AT this point in time the meeting is adjourned. Can--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Mr. Majority Leader I apologize--

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: --the meeting--

SPEAKER QUINN: --we're going to stand in recess. We aren't going to adjourn--

MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA:
[Interposing] The meeting is in recess. And I want to congratulate Speaker Quinn and James Oddo the Minority Leader.

[Gavel banging]

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

[Background noise]

[END 1003.MP3]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature _____Laura L. Springate_____

Date _____January 11, 2010_____