

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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DECEMBER 17, 2020
Start: 1:42 P.M.
Recess: 4:09 P.M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: COREY D. JOHNSON, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL
DIANA AYALA
INEZ D. BARRON
JOSEPH C. BORELLI
JUSTIN I. BRANNAN
FERNANDO CABRERA
MARGARET S. CHIN
ANDREW COHEN
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
LAURIE A. CUMBO
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
RUBEN DIAZ, SR.
DARMA V. DIAZ
DANIEL DROMM
MATHIEU EUGENE
VANESSA L. GIBSON
MARK GJONAJ
BARRY S. GRODENCHIK
ROBERT F. HOLDEN

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED) :

BEN KALLOS
PETER A. KOO
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
BRAD S. LANDER
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
MARK LEVINE
FARAH N. LOUIS
ALAN N. MAISEL
STEVEN MATTEO
CARLOS MENCHACA
I. DANEEK MILLER
FRANCISCO P. MOYA
BILL PERKINS
KEITH POWERS
ANTONIO REYNOSO
CARLINA RIVERA
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
DEBORAH L. ROSE
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
RAFAEL SALAMANCA, JR.
RITCHIE J. TORRES
MARK TREYGER
ERIC A. ULRICH
PAUL A. VALLONE
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
KALMAN YEGER

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

YOLANDA BATTS, Pastor, Invocation,
Spiritual Leader at Celebration Spiritual
Center

LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN

2 JOHANNA M. CASTRO: We're live.

3 DIRECTOR OF SECURITY: Sergeants start
4 the backup recordings.

5 SGT. HOPE: Audio is started.

6 SGT. MARTINEZ: Cloud started.

7 SGT.: Backup is rolling.

8 DIRECTOR OF SECURITY: Thank you. Good
9 afternoon everyone and welcome to today's stated
10 meeting at this time I ask everyone to please turn
11 all electronic devices to vibrate. Madam Majority
12 Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Good
14 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of
15 December 17th, 2020. I am Majority Leader Laurie
16 Cumbo and I would like to thank you for joining us at
17 this virtual meeting of the New York City Council.
18 If you would like to follow along, the agenda for
19 today's meeting is posted on our website.

20 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Please join
21 us for the pledge of allegiance. I pledge allegiance
22 to the flag of the United States of America. And to
23 the Republic for which it stands, One Nation, Under
24 God, indivisible with Liberty and Justice for All.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
3 roll call.

4 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Adams?

5 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Present.

6 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

7 ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

8 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ayala?

9 DIANA AYALA: Present.

10 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Barron?

11 INEZ BARRON: Blessed and present.

12 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Borelli?

13 JOSEPH BORELLI: I'm here, thank you.

14 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Brannan.

15 JUSTIN BRANNAN: Present.

16 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Cabrera?

17 FERNANDO CABRERA: Here.

18 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Chin? Cohen?

19 ANDREW COHEN: I'm here.

20 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK:

21 Constantinides?

22 COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: I'm present.

23 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Cornegy?

24 ROBERT CORNEGY: Here.

25 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Deutsch?

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2 CHAIM DEUTSCH: I'm here.

3 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Council
4 Member Darma Diaz?

5 DARMA DIAZ: Present.

6 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Council
7 Member Ruben Diaz? Dromm?

8 DANIEL DROMM: Here.

9 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Eugene?
10 Gibson?

11 VANESSA GIBSON: Blessed Thursday
12 everyone I'm here.

13 MATHIEU EUGENE: Eugene is present.

14 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Gjonaj?
15 Thank you, Council Member.

16 MARK GJONAJ: Present.

17 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Grodenchik?

18 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Present.

19 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Kallos?

20 BEN KALLOS: Here.

21 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Koo?

22 PETER KOO: Present.

23 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Koslowitz?

24 Lander?

25 BRAD LANDER: Here, thank you.

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2 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Levin?
3 Levine?

4 MARK LEVINE: Here.

5 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Louis?
6 Maisel?

7 ALAN MAISEL: Here.

8 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Menchaca?

9 CARLOS MENCHACA: Presente.

10 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Miller?

11 I. DANEEK MILLER: Present.

12 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Moya?

13 FRANCISCO MOYA: Present.

14 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Perkins?

15 BILL PERKINS: Present.

16 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Powers?

17 KEITH POWERS: Present.

18 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Reynoso?

19 ANTONIO REYNOSO: Present.

20 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rivera?

21 CARLINA RIVERA: Presente.

22 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rose?

23 DEBORAH ROSE: Present.

24 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Rosenthal?

25 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Here.

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2 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Salamanca?

3 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Present.

4 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Torres?

5 Treyger?

6 MARK TREYGER: Here.

7 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Ulrich?

8 Vallone?

9 PAUL VALLONE: Here.

10 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Van Bramer?

11 JAMES VAN BRAMER: Here.

12 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Yeger?

13 KALMAN YEGER: Here.

14 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Matteo?

15 STEVEN MATTEO: I'm here.

16 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Cumbo?

17 LAURIE CUMBO: Present.

18 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Speaker

19 Johnson?

20 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Here.

21 MARK MCSWEENEY, NYC CLERK: Madam

22 Majority Leader we have a quorum.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

24 We will now have today's invocation which will be

25 delivered by Pastor Yolanda Batts, the spiritual

2 leader at Celebration Spiritual Center located at
3 1360 Fulton Street in Brooklyn. Welcome.

4 YOLANDA BATTS: Well, thank you Council
5 Members. It is indeed an honor to be here. We gather
6 bringing this unprecedented year of change, pause and
7 restoration to close. During this season of light, we
8 convene not to curse the darkness but to be the
9 light. Each of us, a candle of truth. Please close
10 your eyes and open your heart to connect to the
11 higher power of your understanding, Mother, Father
12 God, Divine Presence, known by many names and beyond
13 all names. Spirit of Light, Love, Community, Wisdom,
14 Justice and Peace. Illuminate these proceedings and
15 bless those who have been called to govern this great
16 City. Guide these leaders of the people. Let them
17 summon infinite intelligence, imagination, intuitive
18 power to speak with authority and lead in new and
19 exciting ways. Grant them the wisdom to replace
20 conflict with consensus, and passion for justice
21 embryonating from right-mindedness. Let these
22 pioneers of progress listen to understand and speak
23 with clarity and charity, may they work together in
24 harmony and experience peace within their families
25 this holiday season and may this peace joyfully

2 extend to every action taken by the New York City
3 Council. Finally, bless today's agenda that it may
4 unfold with grace, ease and spiritual dignity. Thank
5 you, Mother, Father, God for renewed strength, the
6 spirit of service and the power of conviction to
7 govern our beloved community in ways that works for
8 everyone. A new day is dawning, let the light and
9 power of love be activated here today. I release
10 these words back into the light of truth that joins
11 us all and will never be extinguished, Amen, Asha and
12 so it is.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
14 thank you for that very enlightening prayer. I know
15 that Council Member Cornegy is eager and excited to
16 spread the invocation on to the record and I will
17 call on him at this time and thank you so much Pastor
18 Batts for being here with us today.

19 YOLANDA BATTS: You are so welcome, thank
20 you.

21 ROBERT CORNEGY: Good afternoon Pastor.
22 I am incredibly uhm, I feel incredibly blessed
23 because I get to share a campus with your ministry so
24 I get residual blessings constantly. So, it is good
25 to see you. Yolanda Batts is the co-founder, co-

2 Pastor of Celebration Spiritual Center (CSC) in
3 Brooklyn. CSC is an award-winning, independent
4 spiritual center teaching practical spirituality and
5 bringing a fresh perspective to the new thought
6 movement. Both she and Greg Stomper, co-lead CSC and
7 are the recent recipients of the New Thought Walden
8 Award in interfaith and intercultural understanding.
9 Pastor Yolanda effectually known as PY is a powerful
10 teacher, dynamic speaker and engaging storyteller
11 whose fearless transparency and unconditional love
12 bring an innovative and fun approach to understanding
13 sacred text. She began a life of service to God and
14 community at an early age, through educational,
15 professional and creative experience, that
16 relationship continues to this day. In addition to
17 being an ordained minister, she also holds an MA in
18 both public policy and music theory as well as being
19 a Certified Yoga Instructor. As a Pastor, music
20 psychotherapist, meditation and yoga instructor, she
21 works with individuals to explore the spiritual,
22 physiological and psychological dimensions of human
23 experience. She is concerned with dismantling the
24 stigma of therapy, especially within communities of
25 color. Her goal is to re-imagine and re-define the

2 therapeutic relationship as soul work where the
3 therapist and the patient work beyond limited beliefs
4 and arrive at a level of depth and beauty which
5 promotes unity, consciousness and healing. She
6 continues to explore the mind, body connection in her
7 work and is a dedicated student of the Transcendental
8 Meditation Technique. As a Yoga and Meditation
9 Instructor she assists students to connect with their
10 inner source of unlimited joy, wisdom and power.
11 Yolanda believes that well-being is natural and that
12 every individual is endowed with the ability to
13 thrive. By using an integrated approach to help and
14 healing we can bring ourselves back into alignment
15 with the source. For more than 20 years, Pastor
16 Yolanda has been both student and teacher of A Course
17 in Miracles. She is the creator of 50 Days of
18 Fearless Living Course and Coaching program designed
19 to access authentic power buried beneath layers of
20 fear, train the mind to be at peace and to live in
21 joy, create a miraculous life which allows
22 opportunities to flow easily and effortlessly. She
23 has experienced this personal transformation as well
24 as witnessed it in the lives of those who listen to
25 our dynamic sermons and participate in her powerful

2 classes. As a gifted singer, songwriter and producer
3 she is recording a solo project as well as plans to
4 release a meditation CD. Answer the call to ministry
5 is an extension of her personal desire to assist
6 others in recognizing the magnificence of God within
7 all around. Watch her message on YouTube at CSCs
8 website at www.celebration.org. I don't know if I
9 was supposed to do the full commercial, but Pastor, I
10 will ask for an extra blessing on that one.

11 YOLANDA BATTIS: Granted.

12 ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you and I swear
13 the invocation over the record.

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
15 I think we now know the secret to your spiritual
16 guide. Uhm and we thank you so much again, Pastor
17 Batts for being here and thank you so much Council
18 Member Cornegy for sharing your spiritual treasure
19 with the entire council.

20 ROBERT CORNEGY: Thank you Majority
21 Leader.

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
23 at this time we will now have the adoption of
24 minutes.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Messages
3 and papers from the Mayor?

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M268, the appointment
5 of Anthony Perez to the Economic Development
6 Corporation.

7 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: One moment.
8 Received, ordered, printed and filed.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO:
10 Communication from City, County and Borough Offices?

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Pre-considered MS 269
12 and 270, Budget modifications.

13 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Finance.

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Petitions
15 and Communications?

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Land Use
18 Call-Ups?

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
21 and we will now have communication from our Speaker,
22 Corey Johnson.

23 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Good afternoon,
24 and a very happy Thursday to everyone. Welcome to our
25 final Stated Meeting of 2020. I hope that you all and

2 your families are safe and well, uhm, especially
3 given the storm that we got overnight. This has been
4 the most challenging year for our City in recent
5 times. I am proud of this Council for finding
6 creative ways to protect workers, small businesses,
7 restaurants, arts and culture and so many other New
8 Yorkers during this difficult time. We are committed
9 to strengthening our City and protecting our most
10 vulnerable in the New Year as well and hopefully it
11 will be a brighter one. Already we have been given a
12 dose of hope this week from Pastor Batts but also
13 where we saw our City received its first batch of
14 vaccinations. They couldn't come soon enough. As of
15 yesterday, 24,578 New Yorkers have died from COVID-
16 19, that number includes probable deaths. We have
17 lost so many in our Community. This will be a
18 difficult holiday season for their loved ones and our
19 thoughts are with them. I also want to acknowledge
20 that always do a few of the people that we have lost
21 as a result of 9/11 related illnesses since we last
22 met. We recently lost Lieutenant John Crow who was a
23 member of the NYPD and passed from 9/11 related
24 illnesses that impacted his recovery from COVID-19.
25 We are sending our deepest condolences to his family

2 during this difficult time and I also want to
3 acknowledge the death of Maria Sanchez, one of our
4 City's essential grocery workers. She was killed on
5 the job at Food Emporium and Hell's Kitchen in my
6 district by an illegally installed dumbwaiter
7 elevator. This is a tragic reminder of the dangers
8 of unsafe working conditions that many New Yorkers,
9 particularly immigrants and low-income workers that
10 they face every day. Maria Sanchez was just 39 years
11 old. She leaves behind a grieving family including
12 children, four children from the ages of 5 years old
13 to 21 years old. Tragedy. I want to take a moment of
14 silence to remember all the lives that we have lost
15 as a result of coronavirus as well as those from
16 Lieutenant Crow and Maria Sanchez. Thank you. I
17 also want to acknowledge a departure from the
18 Council, Meagan Chen, an Assistant Deputy Director in
19 the Legislative Division will sadly because Meagan is
20 amazing, sadly she is leaving us to go to the dark
21 side. I'm kidding. She is going to the Mayor's
22 Office of City Legislative Affairs. We are very
23 happy for her. We are very happy for the Mayor's
24 Office of City Legislative Affairs. Meagan started
25 with the Council in 2016 but even prior to that she

2 was an intern at the Council in 2012. She was
3 instrumental in our fights to enact major lead-
4 related Legislation to pass a strong package to
5 ensure tenant protects and she was critical in the
6 Council's efforts to pass the Climate Mobilization
7 Act. Meagan we will miss you and wish you all the
8 best in your next steps. You have really just been a
9 pleasure uhm to work with and I am very happy for
10 you. Uhm, I also want to mention that we are losing
11 uhm two Council Members today. Two of the members of
12 this body, it is their last meeting as Council
13 Members in the New York City Council. It is crazy
14 that time flies so quickly. Council Members Andy
15 Cohen and Ritchie Torres, both from the great borough
16 of the Bronx are moving on to greener pastures. I am
17 very proud of Ritchie that he is going to be in
18 Congress, uhm very soon. A historic election for
19 him. The first only gay member of Congress
20 representing New York City, born and raised in public
21 housing, really a child of the Bronx, someone that I
22 am proud to call a friend, someone who I was elected
23 with in 2013 and who has done so much first as Chair
24 of the Public Housing Committee and then now as Chair
25 of Oversight and Investigations. Uhm, Ritchie we are

2 going o miss you in this body. You have really made
3 this body a better body and I am really grateful for
4 your friendship and I am really proud of you. As I
5 said, we are losing Andy Cohen who is becoming a
6 State Supreme Court Judge. I can't think of anyone
7 who is more fair, more ethical, more compassionate,
8 more thoughtful as it relates to thinking about any
9 issue and so for the people of the Bronx who are now
10 going to be able to go before uhm Justice Cohen, they
11 are going to be very lucky to have someone who I know
12 will handle uhm administering Justice and the Law in
13 a thoughtful, compassionate way that makes a
14 difference in people's lives. Andy has been a great
15 friend to me. I am really going to miss him. He has
16 done a great job as Chair of our Consumer's Affairs
17 Committee this past year and he is just a mitch.
18 Andy Cohen is a mitch and so I am going to miss both
19 of them. They are both two good friends and I am sad
20 to see them leave and I didn't get to make the
21 announcement of one of the previous stated meetings
22 because he just got up and abruptly left, but I do
23 again want to congratulate, Council Member, former
24 Council Member Donovan Richards who left the Council
25 a couple of Stated Meetings ago and now the Queens

2 Borough President. We miss him, he was with the
3 Council I believe for 16 years of his life as a
4 staffer and then as a Council Member, so he has given
5 a lot of his life to the New York City Council and
6 uhm in this upcoming year of 2021, there is going to
7 be I guess a lot of changes. People are uhm figuring
8 out what to do next in their lives after serving in
9 this body. So, we are going to miss you Ritchie, we
10 are going to you Andy and we congratulate both of
11 you. As we close out this year, I want to give a
12 special thank you to each member of this body. We
13 have accomplished so much together in a year when so
14 much has changed around us and I look forward to
15 working alongside all of you next year and fight to
16 do even more for this City that we all love. I want
17 to give a special congratulations to Council Member
18 Francisco Moya's Chief of Staff, Meghan Tadio who
19 recently gave birth to her daughter, Rosalee. I know
20 that Francisco is now a very happy and proud
21 godfather. So, we congratulate Meghan and Francisco
22 and their families on this really wonderful, exciting
23 moment and last but not least uhm to everyone who is
24 celebrating a Merry Christmas, a Happy Kwanzaa, hope
25 everyone has been, who has been celebrating Hanukkah

2 has really been enjoying this festival of lights in
3 this, in this hard year and a Happy New Year going
4 into 2021. Because this is our last Stated Meeting
5 of the year, I know this year looked different and so
6 much has changed but we still have a lot to
7 celebrate. There were so many uplifting stories of
8 New Yorkers helping each other out during this
9 difficult time like when Community Fridges people set
10 up to make sure no one went hungry. The nightly
11 applauding that was done at 7 o'clock for essential
12 workers and frontline workers and healthcare workers,
13 restaurants feeding healthcare workers for free, uh
14 to thank the for all of their service. We were the
15 epicenter of COVID-19 in the entire world and we
16 showed the world our resiliency and proved once again
17 why, and I have chills saying this because I believe
18 it, why New York City is the greatest City in the
19 world. Now, on to today's agenda. Today, the Council
20 will be voting on the reappointment of Miguelina
21 Camilo, Patricia Anne Taylor and Tiffany Townsend to
22 the New York City Board of Elections. Out of our
23 Finance Committee we will vote on a budget
24 transparency resolution, expense and revenue budget
25 modifications to make changes to the Fiscal 2021

2 Budget, an Article XI Property Tax Exemption for
3 Scheuer House and Brighton Beach in Council Member
4 Chaim Deutch's District to preserve 154 units of
5 affordable senior housing, an Article XI property
6 exemption for Ridgewood Bushwick in Council Member
7 Antonio Reynoso and Darma Diaz's Districts to
8 preserve 83 units of affordable housing. Out of the
9 Land Use Committee, we will be voting on four Land
10 Use Items including one Resolution. Dekalb Commons
11 HPD is seeking approvals to facilitate the
12 construction of three new buildings with 84
13 affordable units in Council Member Robert Cornegy's
14 District, PS48 is on the designation list as a
15 Historic Landmark in Council Member Adrienne Adams'
16 District. New York City Health and
17 Hospitals/WoodHull II approval of a long-term lease
18 in Council Member Robert Cornegy's District to
19 facilitate the development of an 8-story residential
20 building with 93 supportive and affordable housing
21 units, 265 Front Street Rezoning in Council Member
22 Steve Levin's District, this application has been
23 withdrawn and 312 Coney Island Avenue Rezoning will
24 be voting to modify a series of applications in
25 Council Member Brad Lander's District to facilitate

2 the development of a mixed use building with
3 approximately 278 units including 70 units of
4 affordable housing, ground floor retail space and a
5 new church facility. We are voting on Resolution
6 1445A sponsored by Council Member Rafael Salamanca,
7 our Land Use Committee Chair which is an authorizing
8 resolution submitted by the Mayor to the Council
9 pursuant to Charter Section 363 for the granting of a
10 non-exclusive franchise for the installation of cable
11 wire and/or optical fiber and associated equipment on
12 and in the inalienable property of the City to be
13 used in providing one or more telecommunication
14 services. The resolution would authorize do it to
15 solicit requests for proposal or other solicitation
16 for a period of five years from the date of adoption
17 by the Council. Franchise is granted in connection
18 with such RFPs could be for a period of up to 15
19 years including all renewals. Moving on to the
20 remainder of our Legislative agenda, we will be
21 voting on Introduction number 2187 sponsored by 37
22 Council Members which would co-name 92 Thoroughfares
23 and public places based on requests for Council
24 Members whose Districts include the location for
25 these co-namings are either a relocation of a

2 previously enacted co-naming or revision to the
3 street sign installed with respect to a previously
4 enacted co-naming and I want to thank from the staff,
5 Christopher Sartori and Patrick Mulvahill. We will
6 be voting to expand whistleblower protections,
7 introduction number 1770A sponsored by Council
8 Member, one of the last times that we can say it,
9 Council Member Ritchie Torres will expand
10 whistleblower protections for individuals facing
11 adverse personnel actions. This Legislation would do
12 so by 1) requiring the Corporation Council to
13 investigate allegations of adverse personnel action
14 against high-ranking officials within the Department
15 of Investigation. 2) Clarifying persons who report
16 misconduct to the Special Commissioner Investigation
17 for the New York City School District are eligible
18 for whistleblower protection. 3) Requiring that the
19 entity investigating the whistleblower retaliation
20 claim provide periodic status updates to the relevant
21 whistleblower. 4) Establishing a private right to
22 action for City-employee whistleblowers who suffer
23 adverse personnel actions if their employing agency
24 does not comply with remedial actions recommended by
25 the Department of Investigation. 5) Requiring more

2 comprehensive annual reporting about whistleblower
3 retaliation claims from the Department of
4 Investigation and I want to thank Ed Atkin for his
5 work on this really important Bill. We will be
6 voting on two Bills related to Housing and Building,
7 Introduction number 2171A sponsored by Council Member
8 Robert Cornegy extends the deadline by which owners
9 must install carbon monoxide detectors in compliance
10 with Local Law 191 by six months until July 1, 2021
11 in order to give property owners additional time to
12 comply with the law. Local Law 191 of 2018 requires
13 the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in
14 certain new group M occupancies and certain existing
15 commercial buildings that were not previously
16 required to have carbon monoxide detectors. This Bill
17 takes effect immediately and shall be deemed to have
18 been in force, in effect on and after January 1, 2021
19 and I want to thank from the staff, Jean Ensulka
20 (SP?) for her work on this important Bill.

21 Introduction number 2151B sponsored by Council Member
22 Cornegy, our Housing and Buildings Chair and Council
23 Member Danny Dromm our Finance Chair would extend the
24 deadline for buildings in Community Districts 1, 3,
25 and 10 in all boroughs to inspect gas piping systems

2 and where applicable, certify that hazardous
3 conditions have been corrected. The deadline for
4 these requirements which were established by Local
5 Law 152 of 2016 would be extended from December 31,
6 2020 to June 30, 2021. The deadline for the
7 remaining Community Districts is staggered until
8 December 2023. This Bill would also require the New
9 York City Department of Buildings to solicit public
10 comments related to the implementation of Local Law
11 152, conduct targeted outreach regarding the
12 requirements of the Law and submit a report
13 describing the methods of targeted outreach employed
14 by the Agency and I want to thank, Austin Branford
15 for his work on this Bill. Our next two Bills are
16 related to remote learning for students in our City's
17 Public Schools. This year has been so incredibly
18 hard for our children and for school communities.
19 These Bills are designed to provide us with much
20 needed information on how students are faring in
21 school during the pandemic. This is important
22 information and has been very hard for this Council,
23 though Mark Treyger has been a pit-bull to obtain the
24 information from the DOE so I am very proud that we
25 are taking this action. Introduction 2058A,

2 sponsored by Public Advocate Jumaane D. Williams will
3 require the New York City Department of Education to
4 post student attendance data on its website monthly
5 during the use of remote learning due to the COVID-19
6 pandemic. The data would be disaggregated by school,
7 school district, grade, ethnicity and a number of
8 other factors. Introduction number 2104A, sponsored
9 by our Education Chair, Mark Treyger, will require
10 the New York City Department of Education to report
11 on a series of metrics whenever it is engaged in
12 remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those
13 metrics would include 1) Language access and support
14 provided for English Language learners. 2) Steps
15 DOE took to ensure incarcerated students receive
16 remote instruction. 3) Details on internet enabled
17 devices ordered by the DOE and distributed to
18 students, both of these Education Bills would take
19 effect immediately and we would be deemed repealed
20 two years after becoming Law and I want to thank
21 Malcolm Budhorn for his work on these Bills. Our
22 last two Bills are designed o protect workers in our
23 fast-food restaurants throughout New York City. These
24 workers are our most vulnerable to being fired
25 without a cause related to their work performance and

2 it has to stop. This practice prevents them from
3 speaking out about harassment and poor working
4 conditions and as we have seen during COVID-19 they
5 continue to face dangerous conditions on the job. We
6 need the to be able to speak out without fear of
7 being fired and we as a City need to protect them and
8 these Bills work to do that. Introduction number
9 1415A sponsored by Council Member Brad Lander will
10 prohibit fast-food employers from terminating the
11 employment or substantially reducing the hours of a
12 fast-food employee in the absence of the fast-food
13 employee's demonstrated failure to satisfactorily
14 perform job duties or misconduct, in other words,
15 without just cause. Employers would be required to
16 give employees a written reason for termination of
17 their employment, laid off fast-food employees would
18 also be entitled to scheduled pay premiums for shifts
19 lost due to termination and this provides remedies
20 including reinstatement, back pay and civil
21 penalties. Introduction 1396A sponsored by Council
22 Member Adrienne Adams will prohibit fast-food
23 employers from terminating the employment or
24 substantially reducing the hours of a fast-food
25 employee in the absence of a bonafide economic

2 reason. This includes full or partial closing of
3 operations or technological or organizational changes
4 to the business in response to the reduction and
5 volume of production, sales or profit. Additionally,
6 the employer would be required to discharge employees
7 but inverse seniority, those hired last would be
8 discharged first. Employees discharged for bonafide
9 economic reasons within the prior year must first be
10 offered available shifts before they are distributed
11 to other employees or new hires. This Bill also
12 provides for arbitration or disagreements between
13 fast-food employers and fast-food employees. Both
14 of these Bills would take effect 180 days after they
15 become Law and I want to thank from my staff, Louis
16 Cholden Brown for his work on these two Bills and I
17 also want to mention that Louis Cholden Brown, one of
18 my longest staffers who is just the best. He, found
19 out I believe yesterday that he passed the Bar so
20 congratulations to Louis, the New York City Bar could
21 not admit anyone better than you, you are the best
22 and I am so grateful for everything that you have
23 done, so I want to congratulate you for your hard
24 work. Louis has been going to Law School part-time
25 while being a full-time employee of the New York City

2 Council, I believe for the past four years or five
3 years and I am really, really proud of him so
4 congratulations to Louis. That is our agenda uhm,
5 Madam Majority Leader I will turn it back to you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
7 so much and congratulations to Louis, we are so proud
8 of you. You are an inspiration to all of us about
9 what can be done. Thank you, Speaker Johnson, we
10 will now move into discussion of General Orders. We
11 will recognize Council Members who wish to speak only
12 on the Bills that we are about the vote on right now.
13 So, if you wish to speak, please use the raise hand
14 function in Zoom at this time. Please wait before
15 you begin your remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to
16 announce that he has begun the countdown clock. The
17 Sergeant at Arms will alert you when your time has
18 expired. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any Council
19 Members who wish to speak at this time?

20 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,
21 Madam Majority Leader, Council Members Salamanca,
22 Adams, Lander and Maisel.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Alright, we
24 will begin.

25 SGT. BIONDO: Time begins.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: With
3 Council Member Salamanca.

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

5 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Thank you all,
6 Majority Leader Cumbo. Uhm, today we are voting on a
7 Resolution 1445A sponsored by myself and Chair Moya
8 which would authorize the expansion of franchises for
9 telecommunication services. While the resolution is
10 quite technical, what we are voting on is a
11 commonsense measure that would benefit New Yorker's
12 greatly with expanded broadband connectivity options.
13 In a City of nearly 8.5 million people and as diverse
14 as ours, there are only three, three providers who
15 provide residential broadband connectivity. As a
16 result of this, New Yorkers are at their mercy of
17 these three pre-determined providers in our area to
18 carry out these critical services, which
19 significantly stifles consumer access, competition
20 and not to mention revenue for the City and at a time
21 when the digital divide in our community is
22 exacerbated by COVID-19 has never been clearer, we
23 must challenge the business-as-usual approach to our
24 franchise agreements. By authorizing Do It to expand
25 parameters of the broadband franchise agreement to

2 companies not part of the cable franchise agreements
3 we are laying the groundwork for a fairer, more
4 affordable and more transparent era of
5 telecommunications in New York City. With our
6 actions today, New Yorkers who have long been
7 frustrated by the strange hold of the major cable
8 providers, myself included, we will have the option
9 to secure the best available product at the best
10 available price. Today's vote is a clear sign to
11 providers that we are breaking the long-established
12 monopolies. I want to thank; I want to thank you for
13 allowing me to speak today and I urge my colleagues
14 to vote yes on this important resolution. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
16 so much, Council Member Salamanca and I love the
17 tree. I will now call on at this time Council Member
18 Adams.

19 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

20 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Thank you Madam Majority
21 Leader. After more than a year of fast-food workers
22 fighting to pass Intros 1415 and 1396 today, we will
23 vote on these measures which would prohibit fast-food
24 employers with 30 or more stores from terminating or
25 cutting workers hours without just cause.

2 Additionally, they would require fast-food employers
3 who do to legitimate economic reasons need to layoff
4 employees who do so in order of seniority. Before
5 the pandemic fast-food workers performed dangerous
6 and physically demanding work but now as essential
7 workers their jobs have become more dangerous putting
8 their health and family's health at risk. In
9 exchange, they are often faced with impossible
10 choices, endure hostile working conditions, leave or
11 be fired and face financial struggle without a job.
12 Just because Legislation is about giving working
13 families economic stability and security and most
14 importantly this is about treating workers with
15 respect and dignity. I thank my colleague Council
16 Member Lander and we thank all of the advocates for
17 their solidarity. Today, we will also vote on a pre-
18 considered Bill that will co-name three thoroughfares
19 in my District, in Queens District 28. I would like
20 to publically thank Ashook Ramsaran (SP?), Kevin
21 Livingston and all of the members of the Great 28
22 that fought to honor people and culture of our
23 Community with Pandit-Ramal Way, Henry Clayton Street
24 and Little Diana Avenue. Lastly, PS48 in my District
25 in Jamaica will become a City Landmark. This effort

2 has been ongoing for over a decade. Thank you, Jeff
3 Gottlieb, the historian of Queens, the scholars and
4 Community are so proud of this Landmark designation
5 and I have asked all of my colleagues to support
6 these Bills. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

7 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO:
8 Congratulations. We will now hear from Council
9 Member Lander followed by Council Member Maisel.

10 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

11 BRAD LANDER: Thank you, Madam Majority
12 Leader and so it is so good to follow my partner on
13 these Bills. Uhm, Council Member Adrienne Adams has
14 been a real champion for these workers. As she
15 said, fast-food workers have been on the front lines
16 of this pandemic, serving their neighbors, working in
17 tight quarters, taking on new responsibilities for
18 sanitizing and yet in many cases, uhm fearful to
19 speak up about health and safety issues out of fear
20 of losing their jobs. I am so proud the City Council
21 is giving these essential but long disrespected
22 workers some job stability today. We should all be
23 able to agree that no one should be fired on a whim,
24 but for years in the fast-food industry that's been
25 the norm. A survey found that more than 65% of fast-

2 food workers, most of them are women of color have
3 had hours reduced or been let go without receiving
4 any notice or reason. Intros 1415 and 1396 will end
5 that by requiring that they receive just cause and
6 notice before there could be any loss of hours or
7 termination. A couple of quick points I just want to
8 clarify, this only covers fast-food restaurants, not
9 other neighborhood small businesses. It doesn't go
10 in to affect for six months and we will be in a
11 different place six months from now. Companies can
12 still fire employees for misconduct or failure to
13 perform work duties, they just have to give notice
14 and have clear policies and the opportunity just like
15 any employee expects, and there can still be layoffs
16 for economic reasons, they just need to be in order
17 of seniority. Uhm, I guess it is not a surprise that
18 industry lobbyists are pushing back but it is worth
19 noting that the eight largest publically owned fast-
20 food companies have increased their value by \$42.4
21 billion since December 2019. They can afford to
22 treat their workers with some dignity. I will say
23 some, my thank you when I vote, but I think the most
24 important ones really here belong to the workers,
25 they have been organizing through the 515 for a fair

2 work week for this Bill when we were cheering our
3 stoops all spring, it was in part them we were
4 cheering for and today we are backing that up with
5 dignity, fairness and job stability.

6 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

7 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
8 and congratulations.

9 BRAD LANDER: Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: At this
11 time, we will call on Council Member Maisel.

12 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

13 ALAN MAISEL: Uhm, good afternoon
14 everyone. Uhm, first let me congratulate my
15 colleagues who are going on to greener pastures, it
16 was a pleasure serving with you. I am happy to have
17 this opportunity to extol the virtues of my uhm
18 previous, the Councilmen of my pre... of my District,
19 the 46th Council District, Lew Fidler, we are
20 honoring him today by co-naming a street in
21 Sheepshead Bay. Lewis Fidler was more than a Council
22 Member he was my friend for over 40 years. He set the
23 example of how an elected official can serve a
24 community selfishly with honor and dignity. Lew was
25 taken from us in a very untimely way. Uhm, it is

2 very, very appropriate and meaningful that we will
3 now and forever enshrine Lew's name on Lew Fidler Way
4 in Sheepshead Bay. So, I am just very proud and very
5 honored to be able to introduce this Legislation.
6 Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
8 so much Council Member Maisel and congratulations to
9 you in memory of Lew Fidler. Are there any other
10 members who wish to speak at this time, Mr.
11 Parliamentarian?

12 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,
13 Madam Majority Leader. Council Members Gibson and
14 Kallos.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Council
16 Member Gibson, you may begin.

17 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

18 VANESSA GIBSON: Thank you Madam Majority
19 Leader, good afternoon Speaker and all of my
20 colleagues. Happy holidays and seasons greetings to
21 all of you. I want to quickly speak on behalf of my
22 community with respect to several street co-namings
23 that are on today's agenda. Reverend Wendell T.
24 Foster Way in recognition of being the first African-
25 American from the Bronx to hold political office with

2 his successful election to this body in 1978. He
3 would serve for 24 years, was a long-term Pastor for
4 40 years of the Christ Church in the Bronx. I am
5 honored to carry on his legacy in the City Council,
6 following in his footsteps of compassion and
7 leadership. Bishop Cesar Gooding Road in recognition
8 of his service in the US Army. He later on, in 1969
9 joined his wife to create the Miracle Revival Church
10 in Harlem which later relocated to McCoombs Road in
11 my District in the Bronx. He was a spiritual leader
12 and advisor and role model to so many in the Bronx
13 and beyond. Niema Bello (SP?) Way in recognition of
14 a tireless advocate and community leader and personal
15 friend of mine, DC37 member. She served for 22-years
16 at the state's HCR. She was involved in local
17 community board 4, the 44th Precinct Council, My
18 Tenant Block and Neighborhood Council and Casa Bronx.
19 She was an advocate for safe and affordable housing
20 and was also the President of her Tenant's
21 Association. Uhm, Brandon Ellison Hendrix Boulevard
22 is name in recognition of a 17-year-old basketball
23 star who was on the path for a full college
24 scholarship. He recently graduated from the
25 Metropolitan Soundview High School in the Bronx.

2 Brandon was called B Diddy. He was the star athlete
3 on his basketball team and he was known and loved by
4 his family, his friends, his coaches, his community
5 in the Bronx and beyond and unfortunately on June
6 29th, he was at a barbeque with his friend and he was
7 fatally shot uhm and I am so honored to know his mom,
8 Eve Hendrix and to work with her family in
9 recognizing the block that he grew up on.

10 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

11 VANESSA GIBSON: In honor of Brandon, B
12 Diddy uhm and Ellison Hendrix and I ask all of my
13 colleagues to vote yes on today's item agenda related
14 to street co-namings. Thank you so much Madam
15 Majority Leader.

16 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
17 so much Council Member Gibson and I know how much
18 these street co-namings mean to our community and I
19 applaud you. Uhm, we will now uhm turn it over to
20 Council Member Kallos.

21 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

22 BEN KALLOS: Uhm, I am here to speak on
23 Resolution 1445. This pandemic has had such a
24 disproportionate effect on low-income communities of
25 color. All of us have the privilege to be remote and

2 zoom in to our **INAUDIBLE** and to this stated session
3 but for one in five households in New York City that
4 is just note the case. Uhm, as we grant these
5 franchise agreements, we have an opportunity to bring
6 equity uh and to do more and I do want to thank the
7 Land Use Chair and Zoning Chairs, Salamanca and Moya.
8 Uhm, the virgin of the Legislation that we are now
9 passing, the aversion includes protection for labor
10 to pay people what they should, at least with
11 transparency so we can at least enforce that. It
12 also includes a new Enola provision to provide low-
13 cost affordable high-speed broadband internet access
14 in residential and commercial areas and last but not
15 least, it does provide mandates for net neutrality
16 which we were previously missing. The only thing I
17 can say is that I am beginning to lose confidence in
18 the ability of the private sector to deliver on the
19 promise of universal broadband given how much of a
20 discriminatory impact we have seen and how the
21 services have been provided. I think we are losing an
22 opportunity for having municipal broadband. I am
23 guaranteeing internet for all. That being said, I
24 really appreciate that they were able to include and
25 add the affordable internet and the net neutrality so

2 I will be voting in favor but I hope that we can as a
3 body can fight for and win municipal broadband.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
5 so much Council Member Kallos and thank you for your
6 advocacy. I would like ask the Parliamentarian, are
7 there any additional members that wish to speak?

8 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,
9 Madam Majority Leader, Council Members Barron, Holden
10 and Menchaca.

11 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Council
12 Member Barron you may begin.

13 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

14 INEZ BARRON: Uhm, thank you very much.
15 I just want to add my congratulations also to the
16 street co-naming on behalf of Wendell Foster, who was
17 a great person, very bold and very much outspoken
18 activist in his community and also recognize that my
19 former counsel to **INAUDIBLE** Paul Sinegal is no longer
20 with us. He has left, he has gone into the private
21 sector and has a very, a very important position with
22 the Botanical Gardens I believe in the Bronx, we wish
23 him well. In terms of co-namings I also want to
24 acknowledge that there is a co-naming for Akai Gurley
25 in this package. Akai Gurley was a resident of the

2 Pink Houses located in my community. He is 28 years
3 old and in 2014 he entered a stairway of Pink Houses
4 and was shot by Police Officer Peter Liang. Akai
5 Gurley was unarmed. He was not committing any crime.
6 He was not engaged in any negative behavior. Police
7 Office Liang violated policy by having his gun out,
8 by having his finger on the trigger and by pulling
9 that trigger killing Akai Gurley. We also want to
10 make sure that we recognize that this was in many
11 people's opinion a great miscarriage of justice
12 because even though he was indicted and convicted and
13 found guilty, he was only sentenced to 500 hours of
14 community service, home detention under the, under
15 the recommendation of District Attorney Ken Thompson.
16 Many people were outraged and felt it was a great
17 discourage, miscarriage of justice and similar to
18 Timothy Stansbury, Jr. who was shot in 2004 by an
19 officer in the har... in the stairway of a NYCHA
20 building.

21 SGT. BIONDO: Time's up.

22 INEZ BARRON: So, we want to acknowledge
23 the loss that we have suffered and send or
24 condolences to his family still and to all of my

2 colleagues who are leaving, we wish you well, and
3 much success in your new endeavors. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
5 so much Council Member Barron and thank you for
6 keeping the memory and the history of those that we
7 have been tragically removed from our communities.
8 Thank you.

9 INEZ BARRON: Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: We will
11 now call on Council Member Holden followed by Council
12 Member Menchaca.

13 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

14 ROBERT HOLDEN: Thank you Madam Majority
15 Leader, uhm regarding the Street Co-Naming Bill that
16 we are voting on today, I just want to say what a
17 pleasure it is to honor my friend and mentor Thomas
18 Ognibene with street co-naming. I know that I am
19 joined with, uhm, in this honor with my good friend
20 Councilman Eric Ulrich. Uhm, he will probably say
21 something later, too. Tom was elected to the New
22 York City Council in November 1991. The election of
23 the newly created Council, the 30th Council District
24 and then re-elected in '93 and '97 serving full 10
25 years allowed by term limits. In '95, Tom Ognibene

2 was appointed by speaker Peter Vallone to the
3 council's leadership Team and budget negotiating
4 committee and on the 23rd of November 1994, he was
5 elected as the Minority Leader of the Council and as
6 Minority Leader, Tom was well-known and respected for
7 his passionate defense of his communities and their
8 principals of Middle Class. Tom died unfortunately
9 on October 12, 2015 at the age of 71 after a battle
10 with cancer and we miss him dearly. I also want to
11 recognize another important street co-naming for over
12 190 years, Neir's Tavern in Woodhaven has been a
13 long-standing bar in all five boroughs and again a
14 huge part of the Woodhaven Community that I represent
15 and it was founded in 1829 and Neir's Tavern was
16 originally called the Blue Pump Room and sat across
17 the street from the Union Course Racetrack. The
18 matches in that racetrack were between horses from
19 the south against those of the north and they
20 actually drew crowds in the Union Course Track of
21 about 70,000. So, I want to thank Loycent Gordon the
22 owner of Neir's for keeping it alive and the Queens
23 Chamber of Commerce, Tom Grech and the newly elected
24 officials including the Mayor uhm for helping save

2 Neir's this year. Thank you uhm, Madam Majority
3 Leader and happy holidays to everyone.

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time's up.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
6 so much. We will now hear from Council Member
7 Menchaca.

8 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

9 CARLOS MENCHACA: Hello colleagues. Uhm,
10 I want to speak on one thing that we are going to be
11 voting on that hasn't gotten a lot of attention but I
12 want to bring attention to it. Today, the Finance
13 Committee is presenting modifications in response to
14 the November plan. I brought this up in Democratic
15 Conference earlier this week, uhm because I was
16 surprised, I was surprised that we hadn't gone
17 through and taken the opportunity that we have every
18 year in the middle of the year to examine where we
19 are in the budget. We just passed a budget; I know
20 that it was contentious but it was a Budget that we
21 passed in City Council and it gives us the
22 opportunity to make changes. There might be surplus
23 or deficit that we need to deal with and the City
24 Council has to approve those changes and
25 recommendations from their Mayor. While this Council

2 made a commitment to our communities that we were
3 going to be extra careful, that we were going to
4 bring sunlight and transparency, this Council made
5 that commitment and the truth is that we need that
6 transparency, especially as we are going in to some
7 really tough budget negotiations and we didn't review
8 it. I didn't review it in the BNT uhm because
9 colleagues we have an apparatus here, the Budget
10 Negotiation Team that hasn't met, it hasn't reviewed
11 what I think is incredibly critical movement as we
12 look at the budget so that we can understand what is
13 on its way and so I am going to be voting no and I am
14 hoping that you can also vote no on these
15 modifications until we do the due diligence. I know
16 this is a little bit of a, of a weird moment for us
17 right now, but uhm I think that is the right thing to
18 do. Uhm, we have a process and I want to make sure
19 that we use that process that is so important to us
20 because our public and our constituents are looking
21 to us to understand it. There are advocates that are
22 waiting for this moment to be able to give us ways to
23 rethink how we can use this budget modification
24 process to benefit the people that we are saying that

2 we are going to benefit, our working families.

3 People...

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Continue.

6 CARLOS MENCHACA: That's all the time I
7 have right now. I am hoping that you all vote no on
8 the budget modifications today. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
10 Council Member Menchaca. Mr. Parliamentarian are
11 there any additional members who wish to speak at
12 this time?

13 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,
14 Council Members Cornegy and Reynoso.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Council
16 Member Cornegy, you may begin.

17 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

18 ROBERT CORNEGY: Uhm, so I'm in a little
19 bit of a position, so I will save my comments for
20 General Discussion.

21 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Fair,
22 okay, then we will move right on to Council Member
23 Reynoso.

24 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

25

2 ANTONIO REYNOSO: Uhm, hi colleagues. I
3 hope everyone is doing well. I want to take the time
4 to echo the sentiment of uhm Council Member Carlos
5 Menchaca. I've tried to look through many documents
6 to find out exactly what is going to be happening in
7 this budget modification outside of the traditional
8 changes to the Schedule C uhm which would move money
9 from organization to organization in our local
10 Council Districts uhm depending on whether or not
11 they were able to spend it or had any issues on it.
12 But there is a second portion of the budget
13 modification that I just can't seem to square and
14 want to be very careful uhm to not approve anything
15 or attach my name to anything that would in any way
16 transfer City funds between various agencies in
17 Fiscal Year 2021, or implement changes to the City's
18 Expense Budget that might be related to the NYPD and
19 because I don't have enough information uhm on
20 whether or not that will be happening and I made a
21 commitment when I voted on the budget, uhm, this year
22 that I would be vigilant to ensure the cuts that we
23 said were going to be made are actually going to be
24 made. I can't say for certain either way because I
25 just don't have the information. I've been looking

2 through documents uh for quite some time and can't
3 find exactly how the transfer of funds will be
4 happening, so I want to encourage my colleagues to be
5 vigilant and be thoughtful. We said we were going to
6 cut \$1 billion and some people think we did that,
7 other folks don't but the people who think that we
8 did that attributed a lot of that money to overtime
9 and again, I'm not sure if that is going to happen
10 here, uhm but I'm not sure either way, I just don't
11 have the information and we've never had, we didn't
12 have a BNT which I think would have been the
13 appropriate entity to address these issues and
14 because of that I am going to be very cautious about
15 uhm voting uhm on this, on this, on the motion to
16 transfer funds. I'll, I'll be voting no, thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
18 Council Member Reynoso. Uhm, we recognize that it
19 wasn't discussed in the BNT but the Brooklyn
20 Delegation and the Dem Conference are also other
21 areas where we could discuss these matters, uhm in
22 full. At this time, Mr. Parliamentarian, are there
23 any other members who wish to speak?

24 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, the
25 last speaker is Council Member Rosenthal.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Council
3 Member Rosenthal you may begin.

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

5 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much.

6 Uhm, I just want to jump in, in response to Council
7 Members Menchaca and Reynoso about the November plan.
8 Just uhm you know this is nothing we have ever had a
9 BNT about and the November modification was brought
10 to the Finance Committee where uhm Council Member
11 Dromm could remind us but there were a few questions
12 there uhm and I feel that you know we were given just
13 as much notice as we've ever been given about the
14 materials in the November modification, uhm our
15 Finance Director sent us the work that her staff does
16 every year in digesting what is in the plan and uhm
17 sent that over. You know the next real time that we
18 will start to have input is probably March or April
19 as we usually do after the Executive Budget comes out
20 and you know after our finance staff has time to
21 digest what is in there and of course we have all of
22 our hearings in March uhm to ask those really
23 important questions so we can have a good handle of
24 the information in for a vote on the adapted budget,
25 so, uhm I'm voting yes on this with no, with no

2 concerns or thought that something might be slipped
3 in there that is untoward. Thank you very much
4 Majority Leader.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
6 Council Member Rosenthal and I just want to remind
7 members part of the reason that we do Dem Conference
8 now by borough is so that we can dive deeper into
9 many issues that are going to be voted on uhm at the
10 Stated Meeting so I strongly encourage everyone to
11 attend and uhm to voice many of your concerns or
12 questions uhm at that particular time. Just to be
13 sure and thorough, Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any
14 other members who wish to speak at this time?

15 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam
16 Majority Leader.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Okay, we
18 will now move into the Report of Special Committees.

19 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Reports of
21 Standing Committees.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
23 Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Intros 1396 and
24 1415A, Fast-Food Employees?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 51

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
3 coupled on General Orders.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
5 Committee on Education, Intros 2058A and 2104A,
6 Remote Learning?

7 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
8 coupled on General Orders.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
10 Committee on Finance, Pre-considered Ms 269 and 270
11 and accompanying resolutions, Budget Modifications?

12 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
13 General Orders.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Pre-considered Reso
15 1509, Transparency Resolution?

16 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
17 General Orders.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Pre-considered LU 709
19 and 710 and accompanying resolutions, Tax Exemptions?

20 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
21 General Orders.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
23 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intros 2151B and
24 2171A, Gas Piping Systems and Carbon Monoxide
25 Detectors?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

52

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
3 coupled on General Orders.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
5 Committee on Land Use, Resolution 1445A,
6 Telecommunication Franchises?

7 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
8 coupled on General Orders.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 693 and Reso 1517,
10 Dekalb Commons?

11 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
12 General Orders.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 703 and Reso 1518,
14 Landmark Designation?

15 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
16 General Orders.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 704 and Reso 1519,
18 Health and Hospitals, Woodhall II?

19 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 705 and 706, 60th
22 Street Rezoning?

23 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Approved with
24 modifications and referred to the City Planning

25

2 Commission pursuant to Section 197B of the New York
3 City Charter.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: LU 707 and 708 and
5 accompanying Resolutions 265, Front Street Rezoning?

6 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled to be
7 filed pursuant to Letter of Withdrawal.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
9 Committee on Oversight and Investigations, Intro
10 1770A, Whistleblower Protections?

11 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Amended and
12 coupled on General Orders.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
14 Committee on Parks and Recreation, Pre-considered
15 Intro 2187, Naming of 92 Thoroughfares and Public
16 Places?

17 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Report of the
20 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, M264
21 and Reso 1522, Approving the reappointment of
22 Miguelina Camilo, Bronx County Commissioner of
23 Elections?

24 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
25 General Orders.

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2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M 265 and Reso 1523,
3 Approving the Reappointment of Patricia Anne Taylor,
4 Richmond County Commissioner of Elections?

5 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
6 General Orders.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: M 266 and Reso 1524,
8 Approving the Reappointment of Tiffany Townsend, New
9 York County Commissioner of Elections?

10 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
11 General Orders.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: On the General Order
13 Calendar now, LU 696, 697 and 698 and accompanying
14 Resolutions 312, Coney Island Avenue Rezoning?

15 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Coupled on
16 General Orders and I am asking the Clerk to take a
17 roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's
18 General Order Calendar?

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Adams.

20 ADRIENNE ADAMS: Wishing the very best to
21 Council Members Torres and Cohen on their future
22 endeavors, you will be missed and congratulations to
23 all of my colleagues on passing Legislation today.
24 Happy Holidays to all, I vote aye.

25 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you and Ampry-
3 Samuel?

4 ALICKA AMPRY-SAMUEL: Wishing everyone a
5 health and safe Holiday Season and I look forward to
6 working with you in a new year with that I vote aye
7 on all.

8 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Ayala?

9 DIANA AYALA: I vote aye.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Barron?

11 INEZ BARRON: Uhm, permission to explain
12 my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

16 INEZ BARRON: Thank you. I just want to
17 commend, uhm, Council Member Cornegy for the project
18 that he is bringing in to his District, great work.
19 It meets the needs and the income variance of the
20 people who live in this District and uhm I echo the
21 comments of my colleagues and Menchaca and Reynoso
22 who talk about the uhm, uhm, the questionability of
23 what is in fact of that budget mod so I am voting no
24 on that and I am voting no on 705 and 706 and I am
25 not quite sure if Land Use 694 and 695 are in this

2 package? If they are, I am voting no on those as
3 well. Thank you very much.

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

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Council
7 Member Borelli?

8 JOSEPH BORELLI: Thank you, I vote aye on
9 all except Intros 1396 and 1415 and with the very
10 best luck to uhm my colleague Council Member Cohen
11 and to my colleague Council Member uhm Congressman
12 Elect Torres. Both of you guys, it was a pleasure
13 serving with you. I wish you luck serving the people
14 of New York City in the future.

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

16 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Brannan?

17 JUSTIN BRANNAN: I vote aye on all.

18 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Cabrera?

19 FERNANDO CABRERA: I vote aye on all and
20 I want to give a special thanks uhm to Council Member
21 Ritchie Torres and Andy Cohen, you two are amazing.
22 Thank you for your insight, your knowledge, for uhm
23 your advice and above all, your friendship.

24 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cohen?

25

2 ANDREW COHEN: Uhm, thank you. I have
3 some comments but I will make them on the General
4 Discussion Calendar and with that I will vote aye on
5 all.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Constantinides?

7 COSTA CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye on all
8 and congratulate both of my colleagues, uhm Andy
9 Cohen and Richard Torres. I wish you guys all the
10 success in the world in your new roles and the
11 Council is definitely going to be diminished by not
12 having you guys here with us. So, Happy Holidays
13 everyone and again I vote aye on all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Cornegy?

16 ROBERT CORNEGY: I vote aye.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Deutch?

18 CHAIM DEUTSCH: Uhm, no on 1396, no on
19 1415, I abstain on Intro 2187 and aye on the rest.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank
21 you.

22 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Darma
23 Diaz?

24 DARMA DIAZ: I vote aye. Happy Holidays
25 to all.

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Ruben
3 Diaz? Dromm? Council Member Dromm? Okay we will
4 come back. Council Member Eugene?

5 MATHIEU EUGENE: I vote aye.

6 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

7 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Gibson.

8 VANESSA GIBSON: Permission to explain?

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

12 VANESSA GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
13 Majority Leader and good afternoon again colleagues.
14 I am voting eye on all of today's item agendas and I
15 want to wish each and every one of you a Season's
16 greetings and a very Happy Holiday season. I echo
17 the sentiments expressed by our speaker and just
18 recognizing all of those New Yorkers that we have
19 lost to COVID-19. Uhm and as we see a vaccine here,
20 we are reminded that communities of color, immigrant
21 communities have been the hardest hit by this COVID-
22 19. Uhm, we've all been personally touched and
23 impacted by COVID and I really want to thank each and
24 every one of you, my colleagues and friends for all
25 of the work that we've done collectively on the

2 ground, feeding families, providing just a security
3 and encouraging so many New Yorkers during the
4 greatest time of challenge that leaders will step up
5 as we all have done and so I salute all of you. This
6 has been a hard year, a very painful year, but I am
7 reminded of the beauty of life and every day we wake
8 up with the commitment to serve our constituents and
9 families and certainly I look forward to better times
10 ahead in the new year. I will join with all of our
11 colleagues in congratulating our outgoing colleagues,
12 my Bronx friends, Council Member Ritchie Torres, as
13 you ascend to Congress. I am so proud of you and I
14 wish God's blessings upon you and your team and
15 Council Member Andy Cohen, I am extremely proud of
16 you and I know that you will be a phenomenal Supreme
17 Court Judge so congratulations, my Bronx colleagues,
18 we wish you well and Happy Holidays to each and every
19 one of you, may God Bless You All and keep you and I
20 look forward to 2021 and all of the blessings that
21 the new year will bring. I vote aye on all. Thank
22 you, Madam Majority Leader.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
24 so much, Council Member Gibson.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Dromm?

2 DANIEL DROMM: Yes, I vote aye. Thank
3 you.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Gjonaj.

5 MARK GJONAJ: Permission to explain my
6 vote, Majority Leader?

7 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
8 granted, Council Member Gjonaj.

9 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

10 MARK GJONAJ: Thank you. As Chair of
11 Small Business, now is not the time to pass any
12 Legislation that will put any additional burdens on
13 all small business. It has been reported and as
14 anticipated about that 30% of all small businesses
15 will not survive this crisis. An estimated 75% of
16 the independent restaurants that have been closed to
17 protect New Yorkers from the coronavirus, will not
18 make it. In addition, I point out this very day that
19 this body is passing these Bills we learn that the
20 leaders of Washington are going to pass a COVID-19
21 Relief Package that specifically excludes the
22 Restaurant Survival Act. So, if you are a New York
23 City restaurant owner, waiting for the much-
24 anticipated needed relief from Leaders in Washington,
25 don't hold your breathe. With that, I vote aye on all

2 except 1415 and 1396, uhm my wishes to Council Member
3 Cohen and Torres, congratulations, I wish you all of
4 the blessings of the Holiday Season, a healthy, safe,
5 peaceful and productive new year. Thank you.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Grodenchik?

7 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Permission to explain
8 my vote, Madam Majority Leader.

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

12 BARRY GRODENCHIK: Thank you, uhm, first I
13 want to start off by thanking uhm all of those New
14 York City workers who have kept us safe during the
15 snow storm, especially uhm, those who work for the
16 Department of Sanitation and DOT but everybody
17 really. Uhm, I just wanted to mention, this has been
18 a very tough year, some of my colleagues have already
19 stated and on this past Sunday, a true giant in the
20 history of Queens, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld who lived
21 in the District of former colleague, Rory Lancman,
22 passed one day before his 97th Birthday. He was a
23 holocaust survivor. He came to America and built what
24 has become a very large Jewish Community in Kew
25 Garden Hills. He is he co-founder of the Vaad of

2 Queens but more importantly in that he was an advisor
3 to people throughout New York City and really even
4 Presidents relied upon his wisdom and his knowledge
5 and he will be sorely missed. May his memory be for
6 a blessing. I also want to uhm wish my colleagues
7 Andy Cohen and Ritchie Torres the very best. I know
8 that Andy will be pursuing Justice and dispensing it
9 in Bronx County. Uhm Ritchie represented the Land of
10 the Grodenchik's my father's hometown up there in the
11 Belmont Section and that is very special to me. I
12 know you are going to be a phenomenal advocate for
13 your community and for all of us really. Uhm, I
14 think that covers my remarks. I just want to wish
15 everybody a happy and healthy Holiday Season. Please
16 stay save, so many of us in this Council alone have
17 lost loved ones uhm to this terrible disease. This
18 is, we are almost there. This week, uhm, the first
19 vaccine perhaps in the nation was dispensed in my
20 District at Long Island Jewish Medical Center part of
21 the Northwell System and I am so proud of that and I
22 am proud of all the, all the front-line workers for
23 everything they have done. With that, uhm, Madam
24 Majority Leader I vote aye on all and a happy and a

2 healthy and a prosperous new year to us all, Merry
3 Christmas to and Happy Kwanzaa as well. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
5 so much.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Holden?

7 ROBERT HOLDEN: I vote aye on all and
8 wishing Godspeed to my colleagues Torres and Cohen,
9 thank you.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koo?

11 PETER KOO: I vote aye on all and I also
12 want to wish uhm my colleagues a happy and healthy
13 holiday and a prosperous new year and also
14 congratulations to Council Member Cohen and Council
15 Member Torres for their new endeavors in Congress and
16 the Supreme Court. Thank you and I want to say thank
17 you to them for serving in the City Council for many
18 years with us, thank you.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Koslowitz?

20 KAREN KOSLOWITZ: Thank you, may I explain
21 my vote please?

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

25

2 KAREN KOSLOWITZ: I also want to
3 congratulate Ritchie Torres and uhm Andy Cohen. We
4 are going to miss you. I am going to miss you but I
5 know you will make us proud. I also want to
6 recognize the street co-namings of Wendell Foster who
7 I was happy to serve with in the Council and too of
8 course, Lew Fidler whose wife now lives in my
9 District and also to Tom Ognibene who I served in the
10 Council with in the 90s and I'm happy to say he was a
11 friend, we used to laugh a lot and he is sorely
12 missed and I just want to wish everybody a very, very
13 Happy Holidays and please, please, please be safe and
14 I vote aye.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Lander?

16 BRAD LANDER: Request permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

21 BRAD LANDER: Thank you very much. First,
22 I want to say a few thank you on the Best Food Just
23 Cause Bill, starting with the Speaker and Chair
24 Miller, I really appreciate your leadership in
25 bringing these protections to fast food workers, your

2 ability to empathize with people who are suffering
3 and helping the Council act to do something about it
4 is really pushing us forward. A big thanks to the
5 staff, Louis Cholden Brown, a big champion here,
6 congrats on the bar, Annie Leavers and my Policy
7 Director Steff Sotowski, to the team at the
8 Department of Consumer and Worker Protection,
9 especially Commissioner Lorelei Salas and Deputy
10 Commissioner Ben Hold, Paul Sahn at Nell, Rachel
11 Deutch and the team at CPD, uhm as I said in my
12 earlier remarks, this victory belongs uh to the
13 workers who have been incredible over the last
14 decade, winning paid sick leave, the Fight for 15, a
15 fair work week and now Just Cause, none of that would
16 have been possible without the rock solid support of
17 SEI 32BJ, big thank you to Kyle Brag, Kandis
18 Tolliver, David Cohen, Hannah Burnbaum, Autumn
19 Winetrab and formerly Nea McDonald, uhm, some amazing
20 organizing and support. I also want to say a big
21 thank you to Rosa Kelly and Amy Levatamper from the
22 Land Use Division for their help to me with 312 Coney
23 Island Avenue uhm in addition to Megan Flynn on my
24 staff. Uhm, we are naming streets in my District
25 today from Sin San Sone a gutsy Brooklyn Social

2 Worker who defied the mafia and lived to 101, former
3 New York State Assembly Member Joe Farest (SP?), NYPD
4 Officer Jose Perez who was killed in the line of duty
5 in 1994, incomparable Brooklyn I. Pete Hamill and
6 finally I want to say farewell to Andy Cohen, who I
7 really learned a lot from and there is no way to
8 express my friendship and admiration for Ritchie
9 Torres in my time, so I will have to try to do it
10 elsewhere. I am sorry that we cannot buy both of you
11 a drink today. Uhm, I vote no on M269, the Expense
12 Budget Modification and aye on the rest. Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
14 so much Council Member Lander and I just want to
15 remind uhm many of my colleagues here today that in
16 November we had actually a Budget Modification
17 hearing uhm in the Finance Committee, so I just want
18 to make everyone aware of that as well. So, I will
19 move on to the next person.

20 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Levin?

21 STEPHEN LEVIN: Permission to explain my
22 vote.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

2 STEPHEN LEVIN: Thank you Majority
3 Leader. I am going to be voting aye on all and I
4 want to uhm acknowledge among all of the street co-
5 namings my colleague, Karen Koslowitz mentioned
6 street co-naming for uhm former Council Member, Lew
7 Fidler, Lew served uhm four years, 12 years in this
8 Council and four years uhm with me and he was a real
9 mentor to me and I think a lot of other Council
10 Members. He was a very kind-hearted, hard-working,
11 incredibly smart and dedicated uhm public servant and
12 my, my best wishes go to Robin and his sons and uhm,
13 you know one thing just as a matter of uhm legacy,
14 Lew was so dedicated to uhm runaway and homeless
15 youth in New York City, uhm, more than really anybody
16 that I can think of so it is a really fitting legacy
17 of the work that he did. Uhm, and I want to uhm just
18 thank and acknowledge my friends, Ritchie Torres and
19 Andy Cohen, uhm I can't say that I am surprised that
20 Ritchie Torres is going to Congress. I kind of
21 always thought that he would go to Congress, uhm and
22 I'm just, my heart fills with gladness for you
23 Ritchie because I know both, both Ritchie and Andy
24 are and I think that everyone should know this,
25 everyone in the public, two incredibly honest and

2 decent people who have always done things for the
3 right reason and what's in their heart and they
4 follow their conscience and..

5 SGT. BIONDO: Time.

6 STEPHEN LEVIN: And are people that we
7 can look to uhm to know that those in our Government
8 responsible for making important decisions, uhm come
9 at it with the best of intentions and a compassionate
10 heart and I wish you both Godspeed. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
12 so much.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Levin,
14 your vote please?

15 STEPHEN LEVIN: I vote aye on all, thank
16 you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Levine?

18 MARK LEVINE: Thank you Madam Majority
19 Leader, request to explain my vote.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
21 granted.

22 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

23 MARK LEVINE: Thank you. I want to start
24 by congratulating Council Member Lander for his
25 leadership and sponsoring 1415, fast-food workers

2 labored under notoriously difficult conditions prior
3 to the pandemic and have been out there working
4 throughout the past 10 months, too often with
5 inadequate health protections and the least they
6 deserve is to know they won't be fired without just
7 cause. Secondly, today we are voting to co-name a
8 street in my District, the corner of 143rd Street and
9 Convent Avenue for a leader who I know many of you
10 knew and admired, Cecil Corbin Mark. Really a giant
11 in the Environmental Justice Movement in West Harlem,
12 Citywide and nationally and someone who I was honored
13 to call a friend. He was of course suddenly taken
14 from us in October and the corner of that we are co-
15 naming has been home to his family for generations
16 and so I'm thrilled that it will forever be known as
17 Cecil Corbin Mark Way and finally Andy and Ritchie,
18 two colleagues whose friendship has meant the world
19 to me over the past seven years, whose wisdom I have
20 constantly relied on. I will miss you both dearly and
21 this body will be diminished by your departure but I
22 know that a future of limitless possibilities awaits
23 you both and I wish you all the best. With that, I
24 will be voting aye on all and wishing everyone a
25 happy and safe holiday.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

3 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Louis.

4 FARAH LOUIS: I vote aye on all I just
5 want to quickly congratulate both my colleagues,
6 Council Members Cohen and Torres on your new
7 endeavors and also want to acknowledge two very, very
8 good mentors of mine that passed away, Dr. Roy
9 Hastick and Lew Fidler on the co-namings for both of
10 them, happy to see that happening. Happy Holidays to
11 all. Thank you.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Maisel?

13 ALAN MAISEL: Yes.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Menchaca?

15 CARLOS MENCHACA: Permission to explain
16 my vote.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

20 CARLOS MENCHACA: Thank you. Happy
21 Holiday, Felis Navidad, to uhm everyone and I hope
22 that we come back in 2021 with some renewed energy
23 and commitment to each other here in this body. Uhm,
24 I want to say thank you to the incredible Ritchie
25 Torres and Andy Cohen for your service here in the

2 Council. It is one of the best jobs to have and I
3 hope you miss us in your new endeavors. Uhm, I
4 wanted to also address some of the back and forth
5 around this Budget Modification and just double down
6 on this concept of transparency and I know that the
7 Majority Leader is reminding us that there was a
8 conversation that has happened in the Finance
9 Committee but I want to honor what has been very kind
10 of clear to the communities that we represent, that
11 the Budget Negotiation Team is where we do a lot of
12 this work and where we can actually bring
13 recommendations and debate them, without debate we an
14 really bring uhm it brings concern. It brings a lot
15 of concern for me and I think that right now we
16 cannot, we cannot forget what happened last summer.
17 There was a lot of consternation in communities
18 erupted and I don't want that to happen and so this
19 is a tell-tale side for us that I hope we can correct
20 and bring a different style of conversation and yes,
21 I know that the borough delegations are places that
22 we connect but that doesn't give us all the
23 opportunity to talk to each other and so I hope we
24 can actually correct that and move out of borough
25 delegations because that is not functioning in the

2 way that I think that we can and deserve. Uhm, and so
3 I will be voting no on the Budget Modifications, the
4 Finance Budget Modifications. I will also be voting
5 no on Land Use Item 696, 697, 698 uhm and this a
6 project in Brooklyn in Council Member Lander's
7 District. Uhm, Community Board 7 voted no on this
8 project citing incredible scale issues.

9 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

10 CARLOS MENCHACA: That this could have
11 been part of a comprehensive planning process. Uhm
12 that would have been I think a better, a better
13 process. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

15 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
16 Kallos?

17 BEN KALLOS: Thank you. Permission to
18 explain my vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

22 BEN KALLOS: I want to thank millions of
23 New Yorkers who turned out to vote. Waited hours in
24 the rain to cast their vote. You are heros of
25 democracy but the truth is there is no reason that

2 voting needs to be so hard. No reason it should be so
3 hard to register, so hard to vote. A Board of
4 Election broken by patronage are the biggest
5 impediment to free and fair elections in New York
6 City, despite calls to blow up New York City Board of
7 Elections from the Governor and Mayor de Blasio, we
8 are still stuck with the same broken system. As a
9 Council Member with a vote on the Appointment of
10 Commissioners to the Board of Elections, I will use
11 my power to demand that anyone I vote for do the
12 right thing. I have taken the time to meet with all
13 three Democratic Commissioners for New York, Staten
14 Island and the Bronx and they have all agreed to the
15 following with Albany passing a lot of block on-line
16 voter registration here in New York City, all three
17 agreed to: (1) let people register online once it is
18 repealed by Albany or Executive Order; (2) taking on
19 the patronages and nepotism by posting jobs for the
20 public to apply; (3) taking out long lines by
21 splitting up mega poll sites, adding poll sites for
22 early voting and on election day just to name a few.
23 I want to thank Council Member Menchaca and Reynoso
24 for their appeal during today's meeting, it moved me.
25 The November Budget Modification added nearly \$4

2 billion still leaving non-profits who are on the
3 frontlines serving youth, seniors, disabled, homeless
4 and all of those in need out in the cold with
5 millions in retroactive and perspective cuts.
6 November Budget Modification still fails to invest in
7 our low-income communities of color and still fails
8 to fundamentally change policing in order to advance
9 criminal, economic and racial justice. I vote aye on
10 all with the exception of the Budget Modification.

11 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Miller?

13 I. DANEEK MILLER: Good afternoon,
14 permission to explain my vote please?

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

18 I. DANEEK MILLER: Thank you, Madam
19 Majority Leader. Uhm, first of all I want to wish
20 everyone a safe and healthy holiday, upcoming
21 holidays and once again those who celebrated
22 Hanukkah, may the light continue to shine. It has
23 been a tough 2020 but looking forward to working with
24 each and every one of you to make New York City a
25 better City. Uhm, I want to say that it has been an

2 honor and privilege to work with Council Member
3 Cohen, soon to be Judge Cohen and Congress Member
4 elect, my little brother and primo, Ritchie Torres.
5 So proud of both of you and know that you are going
6 to represent the people well, in, in your future
7 endeavors and I am as we all are here to work with
8 you in those endeavors as well. I want to echo the
9 sentiments of my colleagues in honoring the
10 contributions of so many New Yorkers with the street
11 co-naming and I would just like to add the name of
12 Professor David Buford, a great public servant and
13 educator from my District who worked throughout the
14 City of New York. I will be voting no on 1445A, the
15 Franchising Agreement. This is something that we
16 have dealt with for probably the last five years here
17 to some degree here in the Council. This is an
18 industry that regardless of the company, they have
19 put profits over people. This is an industry that
20 for five consecutive years, a company within this
21 industry, major company represented by major
22 bargaining units have been on strike because those
23 workers have not been treated with the dignity and
24 respect that they deserve. I think that this Council
25 has done little to rectify that and so I will be

2 voting no on 1445 and aye on the rest. Thank you and
3 everyone have a great prosperous safe and healthy new
4 year.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you Council
7 Member. Moya?

8 FRANCISCO MOYA: Aye on all.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Perkins?

10 BILL PERKINS: Aye on all.

11 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Powers?

12 KEITH POWERS: Permission to explain my
13 vote, Ms. Majority Leader?

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

17 KEITH POWERS: Thank you. I am voting aye
18 on all uhm but I wanted to use my time just to say
19 congratulations but also how much I will miss my
20 friends, Council Member Cohen and Council Member
21 Torres, two people that have become very dear
22 personal friends of mine in addition to being
23 colleagues, and people I really enjoy the time we
24 spend together and even though this year has kept us
25 all apart from each other, I was looking forward and

2 I am looking forward to getting all back together at
3 City Hall sometime in the future but I know I will
4 miss having the opportunity to catch up and chat with
5 them uhm about all things. So, uhm with that I say
6 uhm congratulations to them. I am excited for your
7 next steps but of course deeply saddened to be losing
8 two great friends but on to better pastures for them
9 both. I want to thank everybody for their work on
10 these Bills today and wish everybody a Happy Holiday
11 and a safe and healthy new year as well. So, thank
12 you and I vote aye on all.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Reynoso. You are
15 muted Council Member.

16 ANTONIO REYNOSO: Permission to explain
17 my vote.

18 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
19 granted.

20 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

21 ANTONIO REYNOSO: Just wanted to say how
22 much I am going to miss Andy Cohen and Ritchie
23 Torres, two people that have been extremely
24 influential in my time here in the City Council, my
25 neighbor Andy Cohen in the City Hall Chambers and how

2 many conversations we've had about so many things and
3 my brother, Ritchie Torres, I can't say enough about
4 my relationship with you and how much you have
5 influenced the work that I have done as well. I am
6 going to miss you. ARK is going to miss you. Uhm and
7 but I know it is for the better, you both deserve
8 where you are going and what you are doing. Andy, you
9 are going to be a great Judge. Ritchie I can't wait
10 to see your work in Congress. So, extremely grateful
11 for your time here and friendship. I want to vote
12 aye on all with the exception of pre-considered Intro
13 M 269 of the Budget Modification. Thank you.

14 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Rivera?

15 CARLINA RIVERA: I want to vote aye on
16 all and say congratulations to Council Members Cohen
17 and Torres. I really do wish you the best and I hope
18 that all the energy that we have today can be put
19 forward productively into our 2021 Budget
20 Negotiations. Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rodriguez?

22 YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: Congratulation to
23 Council Members Torres and also Council Member Cohen.
24 I know that you two will do a great job in both

2 places in the State Supreme Court and in D.C. I am
3 voting aye on all the items.

4 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

5 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Rose?

6 DEBORAH ROSE: I vote aye on all and I
7 want to wish Happy Holidays to all of my colleagues
8 and to Council Members Torres and Cohen,
9 congratulations and Godspeed as you begin the next
10 chapters of your professional journey. Your passion
11 and compassion and integrity really have served your
12 constituents well and I know that the residents of
13 New York City will continue to benefit from your
14 efforts. We are really going to miss you. This body
15 is not going to be the same without you. Uhm,
16 Ritchie, you and I started out I think the same time
17 and it's been; it's really been great. So, I wish
18 you both good luck and everybody have a good holiday.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Rosenthal?

20 HELEN ROSENTHAL: With permission to
21 explain my vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
23 granted.

24 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

2 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much.
3 Thank you. Uhm, my vote is aye on all. Uhm, and I
4 know how boring this is but my passion for
5 understanding the City's Budget grew out of my seven
6 years of dedicated public service in the City's
7 Office of Management and Budget. As most of you know
8 I served under Koch, Dinkens and Guillani, I love the
9 **(INAUDIBLE)** and I know how much power one can have by
10 understand the **(INAUDIBLE)** and understanding how to
11 shape the City's Budget for the good of public
12 service. Uhm, and that, and now as a Council Member
13 with any responsibilities, I have to say
14 understanding the **(INAUDIBLE)** is what we count on the
15 City Council Finance staff for and over the past
16 seven years, our Finance Director Latonya McKinney
17 and the staff that she has grown and nourished, they
18 have moved mountains to increase transparency in the
19 City's Budget. We are so much further along than any
20 of the time that I worked at OMB uhm, and so to the
21 Finance Director and her team, she deserves
22 congratulations and respect for doing that. Uhm,
23 honestly with all due respect to my colleagues, a no
24 vote on the Expense Budget at this juncture is simply
25 grandstanding. Uhm, so I am proud to vote aye. It

2 was the information was given out as it always has
3 been. It is more transparent than ever. Uhm, you
4 know and I know that for those that are..

5 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

6 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Interested, that uhm,
7 that the Finance Director is always interested in
8 giving uhm you know sessions for folks who want to
9 ask questions. I know several of our colleagues
10 have, have done that in the past and it has been
11 incredibly helpful. So, I am proud to vote yes on
12 this November modification. I don't know why it is
13 an issue and vote aye on all but most importantly I
14 am thrilled for you Council Members Torres, Cohen and
15 Richards you know you again. Like our Finance
16 Director, you make our body proud. You make us look
17 good and you have an amazing future ahead of you. Uhm
18 congratulations to you. Thank you for the extra
19 time, Majority Leader Cumbo. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Salamanca?

22 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Uhm, permission to
23 explain my vote.

24 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

2 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

3 RAFAEL SALAMANCA: Thank you. First, I
4 want to congratulate my good friend and he also, he
5 works at the Speakers Office, Anthony Perez on his
6 appointment to the EDC Board. Congratulations. I
7 also want to congratulate Miguelina Camilo on her
8 appointment to the Bronx uhm as a Bronx Commission
9 for the Board of Elections, we are extremely proud of
10 her. Uhm, and then finally, you know I have to give
11 two big kudos and congrats to (1) our Bronx
12 Delegation Chair, now Your Honor Andy Cohen, congrats
13 on your election to the New York State Supreme Court
14 Judge and I am proud to call you my friend. And, and
15 of course, my colleague and my good friend, Council
16 Member and Congressman Elect, Ritchie Torres, and I
17 am proud to say that Ritchie is going to be my
18 Congressman representing me in Washington D.C. Thank
19 you very much and I vote aye on all.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Torres?

22 RITCHIE TORRES: Uhm, permission to
23 explain my vote.

24 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

2 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

3 RITCHIE TORRES: Make comments later on
4 but for the final time I vote aye on all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

6 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Treyger?

7 MARK TREYGER: Permission to explain my
8 vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
10 granted.

11 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

12 MARK TREYGER: Thank you Majority Leader.

13 I want to first actually acknowledge and thank the
14 Speaker, his staff, my staff, the Education Committee
15 Staff for helping uhm me advance an important Bill
16 that will shed light on the need our kids are facing
17 right now with remote learning. There is power in
18 transparency. We need to know where the needs are so
19 this will be a lot of good information that we will
20 get from this Bill to better support our kids and who
21 need it the most. So, I want to begin by
22 acknowledging that. I also want to mention, I, we, I
23 appreciate that we are co-naming a street in the
24 honor for a friend of mine, also as a mentor, someone
25 who I spoke to a number of times for wisdom and

2 experience, Councilman Lew Fidler. May he rest in
3 peace. You know Lew Fidler, always, always spoke up
4 for the marginalized, those who were forgotten by
5 Government uhm as we heard early and during this
6 pandemic that's who we are fighting for right now
7 very much, people who need help the most, I'm
8 thinking about Lew and this is a small token of
9 appreciation for his work and so I want to thank,
10 thank, Council Member Maisel for advancing this. I
11 also want to speak up for our Finance Chair Danny
12 Dromm, his staff, his team, uhm, who have worked
13 tirelessly, non-stop. I want to speak up for LaTonya
14 McKinney, the entire Finance Staff, Finance Division
15 who continuously be accessible to me, I'm sure others
16 of the Council reaching out to them frequently about
17 issues that we are all, we are all experiencing.
18 They have been nothing but accessible, responsive and
19 helpful. If there is some anger today, we should
20 direct anger at the Federal Government that continues
21 to prioritize airline CEOs over local and state
22 governments, over our hospitals and schools. It is
23 shameful that they are passing another relief Bill
24 without any local and state aid when our communities
25 need it the most. So, I want to share that and to my

2 colleagues, Council Members Cohen uhm and Torres,
3 Congressman Elect Torres. Councilman Cohen is one of
4 the most honorable, honest officials I have ever had
5 the honor of working with and I am going to continue
6 to nudge him to show more love to the Coney Island
7 Boardwalk because he always raves about the Rockaway
8 Boardwalk but show some love to Coney as well, Judge
9 Cohen, I wish you continued successful and to
10 Congressman Elect Torres, I want to tell you that as
11 we speak, NYCHA is finally installing new boilers and
12 infrastructure in Coney Island because of the work
13 that you have led and done. Families are going to
14 have heat and hot water on a reliable basis. I know
15 you represent the Bronx but folks in Coney Island
16 will never forget that. That is what you have done
17 Councilman Torres. You don't do this work for
18 friendships; you don't do this work for Tweets or
19 Facebook likes you do it for the people and just keep
20 at it. I am so proud to call you a friend and are
21 proud to call you a Congressman and with that I vote
22 aye on all and wish all of my colleagues a Merry
23 Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, very happy,
24 healthy, new year, thank you.

2 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member
3 Ulrich?

4 ERIC ULRICH: Uhm, with congratulations
5 to my colleagues who are moving up, uhm it's sad to
6 see the go but they are really terrific people. I
7 wish them all the best. I am voting aye on all with
8 the exception of 1396 and 1415 which I am voting no.
9 Happy and healthy new year. Thank you very much.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you. Council
11 Member Vallone?

12 PAUL VALLONE: Permission to explain my
13 vote please?

14 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

17 PAUL VALLONE: First and foremost, to our
18 soon to be Judge Cohen and Congress Member Torres,
19 both the Judiciary and the House of Representative
20 are getting men of honor, men of integrity and men
21 who lead with their heart and that is something that
22 we all need more of so I am very proud of both of
23 you. And also included in today's package of street
24 co-namings is one in my District for Monsignor John
25 C. Tosi of St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church.

2 Monsignor Tosi was a priest for over 45 years and a
3 Monsignor for 23 years within the Dias of Brooklyn
4 and Queens. Born in Flushing, Monsignor Tosi was
5 ordained in May 1973 at St. John's Pro-Cathedral,
6 downtown Brooklyn. He was named as Monsignor in 1997
7 and in January 2005 was named Pastor of St. Luke's
8 where he remained until his death. Monsignor Tosi
9 rebuilt St. Luke's Church and made many renovations
10 to the Queens Parish based on his experiences with
11 the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. He was a member
12 of the Knights of Columbus in Whitestone and
13 supported by the Veterans of Foreign Affairs and many
14 other local organizations such as the Whitestone
15 Taxpayers Association. He worked hard for our
16 quality education in St. Luke's where students and
17 faculty were blessed to have had his guidance and
18 support over the years. I am proud to announce this
19 much deserved honor for Monsignor Tosi who is
20 regarded as a Stallworth and a man of deep faith. I
21 look forward to joining together with his community
22 in the new year to celebrate his life and legacy in
23 Northeast Queens and with that everyone, God Bless
24 each of you, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy
25 and Blessed new year and especially to our Majority

2 Leader and to our speaker who have guided us through
3 a very, very, difficult year. The two of you have
4 given us competency and guidance when we needed you
5 most. So, with that, Happy and Blessed New Year to
6 everyone. And I vote aye on all with the exception
7 of 1415A.

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
9 Council Member Vallone.

10 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Van Bramer?

11 JAMES VAN BRAMER: Permission to explain
12 my vote.

13 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

14 JAMES VAN BRAMER: Thank you. So, there's
15 suddenly been a lot of talk about the Budget Mod and
16 I will get to that later but I, I do want to say
17 thank you again to Council Members Lander and Adams,
18 not to be lost in this discussion about the Budget
19 Mod is the justice that is going to be brought to
20 fast-food workers and I appreciate that fight and we
21 should mark that achievement. Uhm and with respect
22 to the Budget Mod I am thankful to my colleagues,
23 Council Members Menchaca and Reynoso for first
24 raising this and I am going to be voting no on the
25 Budget Mod and you know I made a point last week that

2 we can disagree here and it doesn't have to be
3 personal. I think that every member who has voted no
4 on the Budget Mod today made this vote because they
5 really believed in their vote. It was a vote on
6 conscience and it is not an attack on LaTonya
7 McKinney who is amazing and who we deeply respect.
8 People can vote their conscience here and not have it
9 perceived as a personal attack on anyone. Why are we
10 doing that to ourselves. So, I praise the Council
11 Members who vote their conscience; however, you vote
12 you conscience and it is not a personal attack on
13 anyone or anyone's work. I also want to say that I
14 am voting no on M264, M265, M266 the accompanying
15 Resos. Obviously, M269, Reso 1513, uhm and I have a
16 couple of co-namings one the famous Whitey Ford who
17 was a Yankee pitcher even though I am wearing a Met
18 cap. But more important to me is Don McCallian who
19 was a Veteran, an incredible civic leader in
20 Sunnyside and I just want to call his name because he
21 meant too much to our Community. He was not famous
22 but what he did was change the lives of thousands and
23 thousands of people in his Community. So, with much
24 love to Don McCallian. Thank you very much.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
3 Council Member.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Van
5 Bramer, can I just clarify, both Budget Mod items or
6 just one? My apologies.

7 JAMES VAN BRAMER: Yes, if we are saying
8 M269, Reso 1513 and M270 and Reso 1514.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, I just
10 wanted to, thank you.

11 JAMES VAN BRAMER: No, thank you.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Yeger?

13 KALMAN YEGER: Madam, President may I be
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

18 KALMAN YEGER: Thank you very much. Thank
19 you. First, I, I would like to echo, the words of,
20 of my colleagues here on the floor today uhm who
21 invoked the name of the very great and unfortunately
22 late Lew Fidler. He was more than a friend to me; he
23 was a mentor. He was family. We celebrated our joyous
24 occasions together. We celebrated our tragedies
25 together. I loved him. His family is incredible and

2 they are still my friends and I love them all. And I
3 frequently find myself uhm before a vote, asking what
4 would Lew do? Today, I believe my votes will channel
5 what Lew would do. Some of those reasons I will state
6 now and some I will just keep to myself for now.
7 Uhm, first, with respect to the Budget Modification,
8 I like many members of this body voted against the
9 Budget. We all had our different reasons for doing
10 so. Uhm, for the second meeting in a row I find
11 myself thanking Councilman Van Bramer for his words,
12 so true. I do not agree with the members who are
13 voting against the Budget Mod today. Not because I
14 think they are grand-standing, I think they are
15 making a decision based on their feeling. I, having
16 voted against the budget in June, on June 30th,
17 actually July 1 shortly after midnight, I was none
18 the less vote in favor of the Budget Mod. The Budget
19 Mod uhm provides, there is a lot of things in the
20 Budget Mod I don't like. There is a lot of spending
21 that I don't like. I think there is a lot of waste
22 and I think we could do better but we are putting \$28
23 million in to parks, we are putting \$136 million into
24 the Department of Sanitation, nearly \$10 million into
25 the Department of Health, an enormous amount of money

2 into the Department of Education, Small Business
3 Services getting another \$3 million. I am rattling
4 them off. EMS is getting another \$20 million. There
5 are things that we need to do in this Budget Mod and
6 that is why I am voting yes; however, the members of
7 this Council who voted against it have great reasons
8 for expressing their viewpoint on this topic and I
9 honor them.

10 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

11 KALMAR YEGER: Uhm, okay let me just
12 state my votes, I'm sorry Madam President. My votes
13 are aye on all with exception of Introduction 1396,
14 Introduction 1415 on which I vote no and on
15 Introduction 2187 I respectfully abstain. Thank you,
16 Madam President.

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

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay, Council Member
20 Koo?

21 PETER KOO: I have no more comments.
22 Thank you.

23 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay, thank you.
24 Uhm, Council Member Levin?

2 STEPHEN LEVIN: I just want to speak in
3 general, General Discussion.

4 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay thank you.
5 Council Member Barron? You are muted Council Member.

6 INEZ BARRON: Yes, thank you so much. I
7 thank you for that. I was called because I wanted to
8 make a correction in one of my votes but before I do
9 that I do want to say to my colleague, Danny Dromm.
10 He is a good friend of mine, I appreciate him. We
11 have a common background of teaching and I respect
12 the work that he does. LaTonya McKinney, I have often
13 publically commended for the great work that she
14 does. I have a different opinion and I take
15 exception from my colleague and do not embrace the
16 description of grand-standing and I want that on the
17 record. In terms of correcting my vote, uhm I am
18 voting no, not on 694 but on 696, 697 and 698 as I
19 had done in the Committee Meetings and also regarding
20 LU 703, the Landmarking of PS 38. I just want to put
21 on the record that the cartouche that is a part of
22 the architectural design on that building is in fact
23 an Egyptian hieroglyph which the Egyptians called a
24 Sneferu and it is a horizontal with a horizontal line
25 that includes other text and hieroglyphs and it

2 became known as a cartouche because when the French
3 soldiers invaded Egypt they saw that symbol and for
4 them it reminded them of where they kept the
5 ammunition which they called a cartouche so I just
6 wanted to put that little historical tidbit into the
7 notes as well. Thank you so much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

9 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Thank you, Council
10 Member Barron.

11 INEZ BARRON: Thank you.

12 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Matteo?

13 STEVEN MATTEO: Thank you. I am voting no
14 on 1396 and 1415. I want to congratulate and wish
15 Andy and Ritchie, good friends of mine, good luck. I
16 know that you will do well and make us all proud. I
17 wish everybody Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a
18 happy, healthy and safe New York. Looking forward to
19 seeing everyone in the new year.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.

21 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Council Member Cumbo?

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you,
23 I just want to again celebrate all of my colleagues.
24 I am so excited to see what you are going to do in
25 your life Council Member Ritchie Torres. I know you

2 are going to take Congress by storm. We are all going
3 to be saying, we know him. Uhm and just to see you
4 rise on the National Stage is just going to be, they
5 don't know what they are in for. You are going to be
6 such a strong and powerful voice and I know you are
7 going to make history there on so many different
8 levels and to my colleague and friend, Andy Cohen, I
9 am so excited to see your, your expansion and how you
10 are going to grow. I am going to miss us discussing
11 all of the things that we are going to do that we
12 never did but I am excited to see this growth and for
13 Donovan, wow, the first African-American man elected
14 to the Queens Borough President. We know your story.
15 You are going to inspire so many African-American men
16 and women in the Borough of Queens who can relate to
17 your story, can relate to your challenges as well as
18 your triumphs and to see you in that position is
19 going to give so many people, particularly of color,
20 particularly black men hope at a time when they are
21 so challenged in so many different ways. So, we
22 appreciate your courage and your tenacity and it is
23 an honor to see you in that position and I proudly
24 vote aye on all.

25 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: I vote aye on all
3 and I again want to tell Ritchie and Andy that I
4 really am going to miss them. They are friends and
5 great colleagues. I am really happy for both of them
6 and their families. I know Ritchie's mom is just so
7 proud of him and I know Andy's wife is probably happy
8 that he is leaving the New York City Council. So, to
9 both of them I am really uhm you know really proud of
10 both of you. You both have done a wonderful job over
11 the last seven years. You have been great
12 colleagues. Great elected officials for the
13 communities that you represent and I am going to miss
14 you guys but I know that we will continue to stay in
15 touch and we will be following Ritchie's path in just
16 the next few weeks when he is going to be casting
17 really important votes for the future of our country
18 but also for the future of New York City and I
19 couldn't think of a better advocate to be part of the
20 New York City delegation fighting for public housing
21 residents, fighting for mass transit, fighting for
22 people who are food insecure right now, fighting for
23 New York's most vulnerable and fighting for other
24 LGBT young people who were raised in New York City in
25 public housing like Ritchie and you know I didn't go

2 to college, Ritchie didn't go to college but somehow
3 through mentorship, Ritchie had Jimmy Vacca to be
4 able to be a real role model and trailblazer for many
5 people who are going to look at Ritchie's story and
6 what he has been able to accomplish in his short life
7 thus far is just really heroic and inspiring and I
8 look forward to continue to watch as he rises and to
9 cheer him on as he does everything to uplift our City
10 during one of the most difficult times. I know he is
11 going to, when he, when he puts his hand up and takes
12 that pledge to be a member of the House of
13 Representatives, I know he is going to do everything
14 that he can to look out for our City and uhm and I'm
15 really grateful to him and grateful for our
16 friendship and so I vote aye on all. I want to again
17 wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a safe and Happy
18 New Year and with that Madam Majority Leader I turn
19 it back to you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
21 and before we have uhm the vote tally presented to
22 us; we are going to do something that we have not
23 done on Zoom but we would traditionally do if we were
24 in the chambers. And so, we are going to unmute
25 everyone and we are going to give a standing ovation

2 for Ritchie Torres, for our very good friend who is
3 going off to do great things Andy Cohen, as well as
4 our great friend Donovan Richards. Let's stand up and
5 give them a round of applause.

6 ALL: (Cheers) (Clapping) Hip, hip,
7 hooray. For they are jolly good fellows. For they
8 are jolly good fellows. For they are jolly good
9 fellows. Which nobody can deny. Can deny. Nobody can
10 deny.

11 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: So proud,
12 so proud of you. Alright.

13 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Legislative Barron
14 you had your hand raised?

15 INEZ BARRON: That's for general
16 discussion, thank you.

17 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay thank you.

18 INEZ BARRON: Sorry.

19 LEGISLATIVE CLERK: Okay. No problem.

20 All items on today's General Order Calendar, I have a
21 vote of 46 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
22 and no abstentions with the exception of the
23 following Bills: Introduction 1396A has a vote of 40
24 in the affirmative, 6 in the negative and no
25 abstentions. Introduction 1415A with a vote of 39 in

2 the affirmative, 7 in the negative and no
3 abstentions. Land Use Items 696, 697 and 698 with
4 their accompanying resolutions have a vote of 44 in
5 the affirmative, two in the negative, no abstentions.
6 M269 and resolution 1513 has a vote of 40 in the
7 affirmative, 6 in the negative and no abstentions.
8 M270 and Resolution 1514 has a vote of 42 in the
9 affirmative, 4 in the negative, no abstentions.
10 Resolution 1445A has a vote of 45 in the affirmative,
11 one in the negative, no abstentions. M264, 265 and
12 266 with accompanying Resolutions has 45 in the
13 affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions and
14 one moment, Introduction 2187 has a vote of 44 in the
15 affirmative, 0 in the negative and two abstentions.
16 Thank you.

17 SGT. BIONDO: Majority Leader you are on
18 mute.

19 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: The items
20 on today's General Orders Calendar are adopted.
21 Introduction and reading of Bills.

22 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: All Bills are
23 referred to Committees as indicated on today's
24 agenda.

2 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
3 Speaker Johnson there are no Resolutions on today's
4 calendar so we will now move into general discussion.
5 As a reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms
6 begins the countdown clock before you begin your
7 remarks. Mr. Parliamentarian are there any members
8 who wished to speak at this time.

9 LANCE POLIVY PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam
10 Majority Leader, Council Members Torres, Cohen,
11 Cornegy and Levin. We will have them lead us out. We
12 have several more after that.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: We will
14 begin with Council Member Torres?

15 RITCHIE TORRES: Thank you. There is
16 something strange and anticlimactic about leading the
17 Council on Zoom but I will make the best of it. I
18 first want to share some news that I just found out
19 that I was appointed to the Committee on Financial
20 Services so I am going to continue my advocacy for
21 public housing, and Congress. You know I spend all of
22 my adult life in the City Council. In 2006, I served
23 as an intern, in 2008, I became an employee, in 2014
24 I became a member. It is no exaggeration to say that
25 the City Council has been my home and always has been

2 in a deeper sense always will be. Uhm, in 2005 when
3 I was in High School I met then District Manager
4 Jimmy Vacca whom my legendary principal leader who
5 happened to have been a professor for Mark Treyger
6 and that faithful encounter with Jimmy Vacca is what
7 sent me on a journey from the New York City Council
8 to the United States Congress from public housing to
9 the House of Representatives and I never imagined
10 this happening and I am just so proud of the
11 Legislation that I passed as a City Council Members
12 at the hearings that I have held but I am proudest of
13 the friendships that I have forged. I am grateful to
14 each and every one of my colleagues. I feel like I am
15 a better person and will be a better Congress person
16 for having known each and every one of you and I am
17 going to be a better person and better Congress
18 person for having been a member of this family. I
19 want to there are so many people to thank and I am
20 going to reach out to colleagues individually to
21 thank them but I want to single out three people.
22 When I first entered the City Council as a Chair of
23 the Committee of Public Housing, my City Council was
24 Ed Atkin and as I am leaving the City Council, the
25 Director of Oversight Investigations is Ed and I have

2 to say Ed is the most talented person that I've ever
3 had the pleasure of working with. And the Council is
4 so lucky to have him and I consider it an honor to
5 have worked with him. Uhm, I want to thank Jason,
6 you know the most important responsibility that we
7 have as elected officials is constituent services but
8 we the elected need constituent services ourselves
9 and I have never met someone more devoted to member
10 services uhm that Jason and I know that he is part of
11 a great tradition of Chiefs of Staff that includes
12 Ramon Martinez and Kevin McCade who have all been
13 friends and mentors to me and I want to thank my
14 friend, Corey Johnson, the Speaker. I remember in
15 2017, in December of 2017 when I emerged from a
16 bruising and brutal Legislative battle, I felt like a
17 broken man, I was depressed and it was not clear what
18 my future was going to look like. There was no one
19 who was more supportive of me in my moment of
20 vulnerability than you were so I just want to uhm.

21 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Thanks Ritchie, I
22 love you. We are friends for life.

23 RITCHIE TORRES: Thank you for being there
24 for me. I mean I feel like you gave me the strength
25 to renew myself as an elected official and I feel

2 like I would have never made it to Congress without
3 the generosity that you have shown me. I am honored
4 to call you my friend. I am honored to call you my
5 Speaker and I just want you to know that public
6 service needs you and I am going to be there for you
7 no matter what you pursue. Thank you for your
8 friendship and thank you everyone.

9 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Thanks Ritchie.

10 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Okay, I
11 got all caught up in that. Council Member Cohen?

12 ANDREW COHEN: Thank you Madam Majority
13 Leader, uhm can I tell you something that I've tried
14 to avoid for the last several years is following
15 Council Member Torres is because he is so smart, so
16 articulate and such a powerful speaker and so
17 sincere, Ritchie, congratulations to you. Uhm, you
18 know I am so proud to know and I know that you are
19 going to do great things in the House of
20 Representatives. It is amazing. I too want to uhm
21 thank the Speaker for his friendship uhm and his
22 support. You know that support has really made a
23 difference in my own District uhm and I am very
24 grateful to it, for your support and the impact it
25 has had on the people I represent. Uhm to all of my

2 colleagues, you know, I would like to believe that I
3 am going to leave the City of New York, the City
4 Council better than I found it but I am certain that
5 I am better for having served in the City Council,
6 gotten to know all of your, your diverse perspectives
7 have made me a better person, learning and listening
8 from you. All that we bring together here has just
9 profoundly changed me forever and I am going to bring
10 that with me on the bench and service for the people
11 of the Bronx, so for all of that I am very, very
12 grateful. I too want to thank Jason for his support
13 and making it, making things work around here for me
14 so I am very, very grateful for that. Louis,
15 congratulations on passing the bar and to really all
16 the staff uhm that make us all look good. It made me
17 look good over the years, so thank you very, very
18 much. Uhm, you will, I will miss you all. I know I
19 am going to stay in contact with you and I appreciate
20 the friendship and I wish you all a productive 2021.
21 Thank you very much.

22 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Thanks Andy, we
23 are going to miss you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you.
25 We are going to miss you.

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Congratulations
3 to, to Heather and Sarah one more time, going to be
4 able to spend more time with you.

5 ANDREW COHEN: They are thrilled.

6 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: (laughing)
7 Council Member Cornegy?

8 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

9 ROBERT CORNEGY: Uhm, thank you Madam
10 Majority Leader, uhm it's not goodbye but farewell to
11 Ritchie and Andy and a special shout out to uhm to
12 somebody who was a real mensch, Lew Fidler who was a
13 mentor, not just to his community but to the
14 communities that were ancillary to his and to me in
15 particular so thank you all. For me, the theme today
16 is finding balance. I started this year hoping that
17 we could be more thoughtful, that we could help one
18 group without pitching them against the other. We are
19 attempting to find balance with Bills like 2151B and
20 2171A. Gas explosions injury and kill New Yorkers
21 with seeming inevitability. This was one of the
22 reasons that the City passed crafted rules for
23 improved gas line inspection with possible \$10,000
24 penalties for failure to file the inspection
25 certificate before December 31st. Intro 2151B

2 recognizes that COVID-19 pandemic made this date
3 possibly, not possible. Similarly, the City has
4 suffered a number of carbon monoxide deaths and
5 injuries. Just last month two men in Bensonhurst
6 died of carbon monoxide. They were roommates in a
7 basement apartment with no carbon monoxide detector.
8 Had there been one, these men might be alive.
9 Proposed Intro 2171A which I sponsored will extend
10 the deadline for carbon monoxide detector
11 installation from January 1,2021 to July 2021. We
12 need the detectors but the pandemic means that we
13 must adjust to current circumstances. We can do
14 better. I support fast-food workers and I gladly vote
15 Just Cause protections but I also work to make sure
16 that we support small business owners. I don't think
17 that we've reached our goals of helping both workers
18 and small entrepreneurs simultaneously. It is too
19 easy for us to be satisfied with the progress that
20 we've achieved. Right now, many people are
21 celebrating because major league baseball recognizes
22 the statistics of Negro leagues from 1928 to 1948.
23 We have to come to grips with our history of
24 segregation especially here in the north, yet this
25 leaves out some important Brooklynites. The Brooklyn

2 Royal Giants were founded in 1905 and were champions
3 in the Negro Leagues in 1908.

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time's expired.

5 ROBERT CORNEGY: I am incredibly proud
6 that the very first documented baseball game between
7 two black teams included athletes from my District.
8 Our local team was called the Unknowns and while we
9 lost in 1859 there were leaders in a national sport
10 that started decades before the MLB. Finally, today
11 the City Council will consider honoring the life of
12 Yusef Hawkins with a street co-naming but I fervently
13 wish we did not have to honor the lives of young
14 black men who get killed this way. His life was cut
15 short in Bensonhurst, the same neighborhood as the
16 carbon monoxide victims whose lives were cut short in
17 November. I pray we can do better in 2021. I want to
18 dedicate my actions to becoming more reflective, more
19 insightful. We will get there through mutual respect
20 and dedication to really listening to each other.
21 Thank you all and Happy Holidays.

22 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
23 Council Member Cornegy, I am going to turn it over to
24 Speaker Johnson.

2 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Yes, Madam
3 Majority Leader, thank you for calling on me. I was
4 remiss and I said this when our former colleague Lew
5 Fidler passed but I wanted to just repeat it today
6 because it is so important and I want people to
7 always associate this with his memory. Lew Fidler
8 Chaired the Youth Services Committee and the City
9 Council and year after year after year during the
10 Bloomberg years, when money was attempted to be cut
11 for homeless youth, specifically homeless LGBT youth
12 Lew Fidler became the champion. The champion for
13 young people who are homeless in New York City,
14 especially LGBT children who had faced parental
15 rejection and were living on the streets or the
16 subways or in shelters. Lew was their champion and
17 Lew would go to their shelters. Lew would go and do
18 street outreach. Lew would go to the Ali Forney
19 Center. Lew would go to Covenant House in my
20 District. Lew would do this work year in and year
21 out when cameras were not around. I think it speaks
22 to the type of human being that Lew Fidler was. That
23 as a man that represented a District that probably
24 didn't have many folks or a huge number of folks from
25 these communities, Lew saw himself as their protector

2 and as someone who was going to make sure that if
3 their parents were not there for them, he was going
4 to be there for them and that tells you what you need
5 to know about Lew Fidler, so on this day that so many
6 New Yorkers are being uhm remembered, our former
7 colleague did an inordinate amount for LGBT people
8 and for homeless children across New York City and on
9 this cold day, on this day with almost a foot of
10 snow, I was actually thinking of Lew last night.
11 Thinking about the number of people who are trying to
12 get a warm roof over their head. So, I just wanted
13 to take a moment. I didn't do it in the Speakers
14 Remarks, I should have, but I wanted to do it here
15 today to remember our colleague Lew Fidler for always
16 being a champion for the vulnerable and I am really
17 proud that we are doing this today and I hope that
18 someone will send this to his wife, his late wife,
19 Robin, so that she can see the praise and love and
20 accolades that he is receiving today because the
21 Fidler family deserves this as well. Thank you very
22 much Madam Majority Leader, I turn it back to you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
24 so much, Speaker Johnson. We share those sentiments

2 as well. Council Member Levin followed by Council
3 Member Lander.

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

5 STEPHEN LEVIN: Thank you Madam Majority
6 Leader. I was remiss earlier. Uhm, thank you Madam
7 Majority Leader, I was remiss earlier. There are two
8 street co-namings in my District today that I want to
9 acknowledge. The first is firefighter John Jack
10 Toomey Way on White Street between Sacket and Union
11 Streets in the borough of Brooklyn. Firefighter
12 Toomey died tragically on December 7, 1987. He was
13 assigned to Brooklyn Ladder Company 123 and he died
14 in the line of duty when he suffered a heart attack
15 while fighting a fire in a building on Crown Street
16 on Brooklyn. Uhm, we are also co-naming. My heart
17 goes out to firefighter Toomey's family. We are also
18 uh co-naming St. Raphael of Brooklyn Place on Stage
19 Street between Hoyt Street and Bond in the Borough of
20 Brooklyn. Raphael Hawawini was the first Orthodox
21 Bishop consecrated in North America in 1904. He
22 founded the Word which is the official news magazine
23 of the Antiochian Arch Diocese which is still
24 published monthly today and informs readers of
25 Orthodox News and also educates and inspires with

2 articles on faith and practice. I want to thank the
3 residents on State Street for their continued
4 advocacy to make that happen. And lastly, I was, I
5 was thinking about our colleague Lew Fidler and I
6 think Council Member Barron will appreciate this,
7 that one of the memories, one of the memories that
8 will stick with me forever of the New York City
9 Council is being in Brooklyn Delegations and hearing
10 debates between Lew Fidler and Charles Barron and uhm
11 you know when I, when I was young when I first
12 entered the Council and so for me, I was like I would
13 sit back and watch and think this is just the greater
14 job in the world, to be able to be with these two
15 remarkable men and so and that's one that I think of
16 a lot and my heart goes out to Robin and the family.
17 Thank you.

18 SGT. BIONDO: Time's expired.

19 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
20 Council Member Levin. Council Member Lander.

21 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

22 BRAD LANDER: Thank you, thank you
23 Majority Leader, I admit I am still a little choked
24 up by Ritchie. Uhm, I want to add my thanks to Jason
25 for his work on the Just Cause Bills and I want to

2 add my name to those who really looked up to Lew
3 Fidler. He, he had admirers across ideological and
4 many other, many other lines. Uhm, I am very excited
5 to be a co-sponsor of the Speaker's Comprehension
6 Planning Legislation, I want to give him great credit
7 for taking Leadership here. It's not easy during a
8 crisis to think about the long-term. But it's so
9 important we've seen so many of the flaws of our
10 planning process in this crisis, segregation and
11 equality, underinvestment, infrastructure, housing
12 affordability crisis but it looks like to be
13 unprepared and we all know that our Reactive Land Use
14 Process is not getting the job done right now. We
15 don't start from shared goals and values. So, how
16 could we achieve shared goals and values. Uhm, I'm
17 not going to talk more about it here but I hope you
18 will take a look at it. This body could make a big
19 difference for the future of our City if we can
20 follow the Speakers' lead. I want to give props to
21 Council Member Reynoso and some of the advocates,
22 ANHD, Pratt, uhm, and the staff, Louis Kelly Rodger
23 and especially the amazing Anne Levers. The report
24 does not just call out problems. It really gets in
25 to the weeds and gives us some real solutions and I

2 hope we have the courage across those lines of
3 difference to walk forward into it. I want to
4 acknowledge some transitions in my office. This is
5 the last City Council Meeting for four of my staff,
6 uhm, Naz Garabalis (SP?), Def Sokowski (SP?) and
7 Naomi Dan have been an amazing part of our team and
8 served the people of the 39th District tremendously
9 well and I need to say a special word about Rachel
10 Goodman who has been my Chief of Staff for the past
11 10 years, literally since day one of my time in the
12 Council. She is a behind the scenes leader so the
13 people of our District don't necessarily know her and
14 how lucky they are to have her there but we do. They
15 aren't going far away so if you are looking for them,
16 I could still get you in touch uhm, but we are really
17 going to miss them here in the Council and finally in
18 that spirit I just want to say a big congratulations
19 to the New York City Council Union, the Association
20 for Legislative Employees, the first Legislative Body
21 in NYC.

22 SGT. BIONDO: Time has expired.

23 BRAD LANDER: Uhm, thank you to the
24 speaker for voluntarily recognizing the Finance Staff
25 as the first bargaining unit. It is a great step and

2 a credit to you. I am looking forward to our
3 recognizing the member staff as well who are seeking
4 recognition. I am proud to be part of a Legislative
5 body that knows its our staff who do the work and
6 that like all workers deserve work place rights and
7 dignity and respect and I am excited that we are
8 taking that step today. Thank you, speaker for that
9 voluntary recognition. Uhm, with that I wish you all
10 bright holidays in dark times. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
12 so much, Council Member Lander. We will now hear
13 from Council Member Barron followed by Council Member
14 Yeger.

15 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

16 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: You are
17 muted.

18 INEZ BARRON: Thank you Madam Majority
19 Leader, thank you once again. I just want to extend
20 my best wishes to Council Member Torres as he goes to
21 Congress and Congress Member Cohen as he goes to the
22 Supreme Court and I just pray that you will continue
23 to be vigorous in fighting on behalf of our people.
24 At our Last Stated, it was on the same day as the
25 Human Rights Day and I don't know that we made

2 mention of that December 10th was chosen to honor the
3 U.N.'s adoption and proclamation of December 10th,
4 1948 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and
5 it's the first global annunciation of human rights
6 and although it is not a binding document, it is one
7 that has been widely accepted and it talks about the
8 broad range of political, civil, economic, social and
9 cultural rights that are a gift to all people and it
10 holds that the world needs to record uh these
11 violations when they occur and address them. So,
12 there are 30 articles that detail human basic rights
13 and fundamental freedoms and it talks about that
14 people have an inalienable, inherent and applicable
15 right to these rights as human beings and it talks
16 about dignity, liberty, equality, freedom of
17 movement, freedom of thought, freedom of opinion,
18 freedom of conscious, it talks about healthcare. It
19 talks about the standard of living. Additional
20 accommodations for those who are physically
21 debilitated or disabled and care for mothers and for
22 children. So, I just wanted to bring that to our
23 thoughts as we talk about uhm what it is that we want
24 to see in our communities and our society and the

2 challenges that we have and I wish everyone a great
3 holiday, stay safe, enjoy your families and...

4 SGT. BIONDO: Time's up.

5 INEZ BARRON: That was the right thing to
6 do and get some time to restore and refresh and
7 reflect. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
9 so much Council Member Barron and now we will hear
10 from Council Member Yeger.

11 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

12 KALMAN YEGER: Thank you Madam President.
13 I intended to speak about uhm my two departing
14 colleagues earlier but the whole conversation about
15 the Budget Mod clock ran me out or I ran it out but
16 before I do that but first, I want to thank the
17 Speaker again for his words about Lew Fidler. I don't
18 know that two minutes or four minutes or 12 minutes
19 or 20 minutes can ever do any of proper in giving Lew
20 all the honor that he deserves but I don't know that
21 there is a single member here who in some way whether
22 he or she even knows it hasn't been affected by
23 Lew's work in the City, in his community and all of
24 our communities and here at the Council. Uhm, and
25 uhm I frequently disagree with Councilman Lander but

2 I will say that he is probably right on the part
3 where Lew is a great uniter in many ways including
4 for people from very far-reaching points of the
5 political spectrum but I know he was a friend of
6 Corey's and the Speaker's words are so important
7 because it really does honor who Lew was, somebody
8 who really figured out ways to bring uhm communities
9 together from all across the City. Uhm, to
10 Congressman Elect Torres and Justice Elect Cohen I
11 had the privilege of serving under you both on
12 Committees. The Speaker use earlier today, sometimes
13 people who use giddish don't get it right but Corey
14 got it right, you are both mensch, in everything you
15 do and everyway you've done it. I know you will
16 bring honor and integrity to your net jobs. I've,
17 I've been privileged to know you both before I came
18 to the Council, we don't always agree but I find
19 that, that's my way about a lot of people here.
20 You've nonetheless treated your job with great
21 integrity, with care, uhm, your work with compassion
22 and importance and you've done this body a great
23 honor and me a great honor by having the privilege.

24 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

2 KALMAN YEGER: To serve. So, I wish you
3 both good luck, Godspeed. Ritchie's job is incredible
4 during these times to go to Congress and to have to
5 work to deliver to New York in a Congress that may
6 not be so amenable to doing so. And Judge Cohen uhm
7 delivering justice is probably one of the most
8 important things a lawyer can ever get to do and so
9 God bless you both and Happy Hanukkah to all who are
10 still celebrating. Merry Christmas, to a healthy and
11 happy 2021, be well.

12 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
13 Council Member Yeger. Are there any other members,
14 Mr. Parliamentarian who wish to speak at this time?

15 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes,
16 Madam Majority Leader, Council Member Darma Diaz and
17 Council Member Rosenthal.

18 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

19 DARMA DIAZ: Hi, I'll be quick but I
20 wanted to share my Lew Fidler story. When I worked
21 for the assembly that's when I learned of him and to
22 thanks social media you became friends. One day I
23 had a cold, he went and brought me chicken soup and
24 made it his business that I got my soup. In sharing
25 with them, that I was born in Williamsburg and always

2 heard of stuff derma, I had never tried it. He made
3 it his business to make date for his wife and I so I
4 could taste the stuffed derma. The moment that Lew
5 took time for me I felt validated in my process of
6 running for City Council, so thank you Lew for
7 looking out for this little girl in Brooklyn and
8 stretching your hands out and for the times that we
9 shared and for all of you that shared your
10 interactions with Lew. Thank you for sharing your
11 experiences as well.

12 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
13 so much. Next, we have Council Member Rosenthal.

14 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

15 HELEN ROSENTHAL: Thank you so much. You
16 know we are at a dire time in our City's uhm economic
17 crisis and there is a revenue option that the state
18 could support that I think is low-hanging fruit and
19 that would be to add a mortgage recording tax to any
20 sort of secondary or tertiary debt that corporate
21 developers take out. So, I am going to introduce a
22 resolution today on this in support of assemblyman
23 Harvey Epstein and State Senator Julius Salazar call
24 for this at the state level. I urge my colleagues to
25 sign on and if you will just give me one minute, you

2 know, I would like to try to explain this. It is
3 really a super easy idea and you know how for those
4 who are lucky enough to buy a home, they pay a
5 Mortgage Reporting Tax because most people can't pay
6 cash. You are taking out debt and you pay the City
7 uhm 0.08% of that, of that debt actually and you pay
8 the State 1%. It's called a Mortgage Recording Tax
9 but you know big corporate developers like Extol,
10 when they build huge luxury condominiums, they don't
11 just take out one debt, no, they take out whatever it
12 is. They pay their Mortgage Recording Tax but then
13 they borrow more money and when they borrow that more
14 money, they don't have to pay a Mortgage Recording
15 Tax and then they might save, they might someone else
16 might buy it and then borrow again and then borrow
17 again and maybe borrow debt from a bank or another
18 type of lender and they don't pay a Mortgage
19 Recording Tax. In fact, when they do that borrowing
20 the public doesn't even know about it. It's all
21 private borrowing.

22 SGT. BIONDO: Time expired.

23 HELEN ROSENTHAL: From a bank or
24 whatever. So, unlike normal human beings who have to
25 pay a Mortgage Recording Debt Tax when they borrow

2 for their home, these corporate developers are
3 getting away from getting riskier and riskier debt
4 not having to tell anyone about it and not having to
5 pay a Mortgage Recording Tax. So, I really urge my
6 colleagues to sign on to this resolution. It is
7 exciting, it is sort of low-hanging fruit and it
8 could help us, it could help the City with hundreds
9 of millions of dollars turning in to a billion
10 dollars in the years to come. Thank you very much,
11 and Happy Holidays everyone. I hope everyone gets a
12 good break.

13 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Thank you
14 so much, Council Member Rosenthal and Happy Holidays
15 to you too. I am very excited, today we are making
16 history in the spirit of the Black Lives Matter
17 Movement. As we vote on the co-naming of designated
18 streets and squares in order to take back our
19 historical narrative. In order to recognize those
20 who have made it their life's work to uplift
21 Brooklynites for generations to come. I am excited to
22 see Putnam Triangle Plaza at Fulton and Grand Avenue
23 in my District renamed Jitu Weusi Plaza, formerly
24 known as Leslie R. Campbell. Jitu Weusi was a long-
25 time educator and activist. Born and raised in

2 Brooklyn, Jitu spent decades serving as an educator,
3 an activist, as a founding member of the African
4 American Teachers Association. Perhaps what he is
5 best known for, is being one of the lead voices on
6 the Brownsville Ocean Hill Experiment in which
7 communities were able to take back control of their
8 schools and to make sure that they have
9 representation that look just like the within their
10 school districts. This was a powerful act that
11 resonated all throughout the nation. What I am also
12 very proud of is being born from Brooklyn, New York,
13 he was the most powerful man and architect of the
14 Black Power Movement in Brooklyn, New York and he
15 founded an organization called the East. Originally
16 located just blocks from the Putman Triangle Plaza at
17 10 Clayburn Place the East served as a community Hub
18 for childcare, adult education classes as well as a
19 bookstore, food coop and bi-weekly black nationalist
20 news publication. It would also serve as a home for
21 the Uhuru Sasa Shule Shoelace School, the Freedom Now
22 School, the first black independent private school
23 for intercity youth, who was under the umbrella of
24 the East Community and Central Center in Brooklyn,
25 New York. The annual events run by the East included

2 the International African Arts Festival, one of the
3 largest African Art Festivals in the City of New
4 York, an annual weekend that began in Bed Stuyvesant
5 but has now grown to Commodore Barry Park. It is
6 only right that we recognize Jitu Weusi's historical
7 contributions to our community in the place where it
8 all began. Many may know him from Jazz 966 and many
9 other endeavors that he continued to do. Alongside
10 Jitu Weusi are is he worked with our very good friend
11 Council Member Albert Vann, and we also want to
12 recognize Dr. Sam Penn Jr. who dedicated his life to
13 uplifting Brooklyn's black community. He was a
14 veteran of the Army Reserves. Holder of two JDs and a
15 licensed master of Social Work. His accolades do not
16 stop at this personal achievement. In May 1973, he
17 helped found and then served as the Chairman of the
18 Fort Green Council Inc. Under his leadership, the
19 Council expanded its sponsorship of Senior Centers
20 offering a range for comprehensive services from its
21 first center located in Fort Green, Clinton Hills to
22 its present sponsorship of 13 centers located
23 throughout Brooklyn. Many of you may have seen Dr.
24 Penn here at City Council with dozens and dozens of
25 children fighting for daycares and to keep them open.

2 During one such visit at City Hall he actually
3 fainted and had to be rushed to the hospital,
4 fighting for our youth and fighting for our children.
5 The work that he has done has created within the Fort
6 Green Council two childcare centers, COMPASS and UPK
7 for alls. He was a visionary who also worked with
8 Jitu Weusi in the creation of Jazz 966. In order to
9 make sure that Jazz was presentable and affordable to
10 people all throughout the community. I want to
11 continue to celebrate these two individuals. These
12 are two giants and it took an entire Black Lives
13 Matter movement to make it happen and I will just
14 close with, we have many others but I want to close
15 to close with Ida B. Wells Plaza, currently known as
16 Times Plaza which is located in front of the Barclay
17 Center in Brooklyn. As we were all aware, this was
18 the space that people converged and they met to talk
19 about the lynching of black men and women all
20 throughout our society. It is only fitting that we
21 would have the space right outside of the Barclay
22 Center known for Ida B. Wells who was a Freedom
23 Fighter and fought for the rights of black people to
24 vote but also to end the horrific practice of
25 lynching throughout this country. I am going to

2 close there but I want to thank Speaker Corey
3 Johnson, I want to thank Jason Goldman. I want to
4 thank my staff, Jason Her and Alicia Mercedes and
5 everyone who worked to make this happen but this
6 victory is really the victory of the Black Lives
7 Matter Movement because if not for you, we would
8 still be in a place at this time fighting for the
9 power to name our own communities, to name our heroes
10 and to name who are the people that we represent in
11 our community. With that, I will turn it back to
12 Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's meeting.

13 LANCE POLIVY, PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam
14 Majority Leader before turning it to Speaker Johnson,
15 Council Member Grodenchik would like to be
16 recognized.

17 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Alright,
18 make it quick.

19 SGT. BIONDO: Time starts now.

20 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Barry, so you are
21 muted so you are not making it quick.

22 BARRY GRODENCHIK: I just want to remind
23 people and I want to thank Speaker Johnson and my
24 colleague Steve Levin and Danny Dromm; people are
25 going hungry in this City and I know there is an

2 effort now to renew what we have done previously this
3 year. Please remember these people, they are our
4 brothers and our sisters, our fellow New Yorkers and
5 those are my words, a happy and healthy New Year.
6 Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you Madam Majority
7 Leader.

8 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: That was the
9 quickest Barry Grodenchik has ever been in his, not
10 just adult life but entire life. The Stated Meeting
11 of December 17th, 2020 is hereby adjourned, Happy
12 Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New
13 Year, everyone be safe. Thank you all very much.

14 ANDREW COHEN: Thank you everybody.

15 CARLINA RIVERA: Happy Holidays everyone.

16 MAJORITY LEADER LAURIE CUMBO: Happy
17 Holiday.

18 ROBERT CORNEGY: Bye Andy, bye Ritchie.

19 SPEAKER COREY JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 JOHNNA CASTRO: The live has ended.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date February 8, 2021