

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 12, 2010
Start: 01:41pm
Recess: 03:16pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Gale Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erick Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
David G. Greenfield
Daniel J. Halloran, III

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Peter Koo
G. Oliver Koppell
Karen Koslowitz
Brad Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Stephen Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Christine C. Quinn
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Albert Vann
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Sam Barnes
Coach
Staten Island Hurricanes

Chief Thomas Purtell
Command Officer Manhattan South
New York Police Dept.

Asst. Chief Carlos Gomez
Command Officer Bronx
NYPD

Chief Kevin Unick
Bronx
NYPD

Deputy Inspector White
NYPD

Captain Elias Nikas
41st Precinct
NYPD

Deputy Inspector Donald McHugh
41st Precinct
NYPD

Deputy Inspector William McSorley
48th Precinct
NYPD

Captain Kevin Nicholson
49th Precinct
NYPD

Deirdre DeAngelis
Principal
New Dorp High School

Paul Presti
Teacher
New Dorp High School

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

Duane Jackson
Times Square vendor
New York City

Lance Orton
Times Square vendor
New York City

Francisco Gonzalez
President
Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade

Rabbi Leonard Blank
Director of Pastoral Services
Bialystoker Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation

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SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to get these ceremonials started, and if we could get the Staten Island delegation, please, and the Hurricanes down here, that would be terrific. Thanks, so the Hurricanes who are here for the ceremony, why don't you just come right down the middle aisle, right up to the front, please, folks. Yea. Come on guys. All right, well, while folks are falling into formation, so to speak, let me - a little quiet in the chambers - and turn the microphone over to Council Member Debbie Rose, and this is her first ceremonial presentation since getting elected to the City Council, so let me ... and who do you ... just hand that to whoever you want to hold it.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay.

SPEAKER QUINN: Stand right over here.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, you hold that. It gives me great honor to be here today with the Staten Island Hurricanes. This is a story about the brothers Barnes, Sam and Anthony, who believed that the young people on Staten Island needed something constructive to do.

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2 But not only did they need something constructive
3 to do, and build skills, but they needed something
4 that was going to make sure that they did well in
5 school, provided them with support, and that they
6 learned the value of giving back, giving back to
7 their community. This is about a lesson in
8 integrity, honor, and competitiveness. And I am
9 so proud today to say - I have to read it, because
10 this is really phenomenal. The Hurricanes, the
11 Staten Island Hurricanes, not to be mixed up with
12 any other Hurricanes, were the only team in New
13 York State to have six of their teams, six
14 divisions of their teams, compete for the national
15 title in 2009. The Hurricanes won eight Big Apple
16 Youth Football Superbowl championships, five
17 American Youth Football national championships,
18 and one New York City Pop Warner championship.
19 And it is not only rumored but I saw that happen,
20 that nobody wants to play you guys in this region.
21 And we are honored also to be joined by the Little
22 Lady Hurricanes, who competed in their first
23 competition this year in Florida. It gives me
24 great pride to present this proclamation, and I
25 know my Speaker is going to give some words, but I

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2 am so proud of Sam and Anthony Barnes, and the
3 parents. The parents, because the components of
4 being in this league is that your parents have to
5 participate, that young people have to go to
6 school and get good grades, and they have to
7 volunteer in their community. It is a totally
8 holistic program, and you can't ask for more than
9 that. So Sam Barnes, thank you for your insight
10 and commitment to Staten Island youth.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
12 much, Council Member Rose. Congratulations to
13 everybody, and if I could ask the clerk to please
14 read the proclamation - that's not so easy to say.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
16 New York, proclamation. Whereas the Council of
17 the City of New York is proud to honor the Staten
18 Island Hurricanes for their recent victory and
19 their longstanding contributions to youth and to
20 the community, and whereas, formed in 2001 by
21 brothers Samuel and Anthony Barnes, the Staten
22 Island Hurricanes offers great opportunities for
23 its young participants to work as a team and hone
24 their skills as formidable contenders, not only on
25 the football field, but in the classroom and in

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2 life. And whereas the Staten Island Hurricanes
3 football program- -

4 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Get
5 quiet in the chambers, please.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: The Staten Island
7 Hurricanes football program provides tightly
8 structured professional caliber football training
9 for youth on the North Shore, with many of its
10 talented kids coming from mostly African-American
11 and Latino communities, such as Park Hill, West
12 Brighton, New Brighton, Marine Harbor, Stapleton
13 and Port Richmond. And whereas the Staten Island
14 Hurricanes football program is currently ranked #1
15 in the nation in the Midgets Division- -

16 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Yea!

17 COUNCIL CLERK: ... ages 14 to 16 and
18 ranked #3 in both the Junior Pee Wee ages 9 to 11,
19 and Pee Wee Division, ages 11 to 12. And whereas
20 the Staten Island Hurricanes are the only team out
21 of New York State to have the most teams, six,
22 compete for a national title in 2009.
23 Additionally, to date they have eight BAYF
24 superbowl championships, five AYF national
25 championships, and one New York City Pop Warner

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2 championship. And whereas the Staten Island
3 Hurricanes players, coaches, parents and
4 volunteers have fostered great pride and respect
5 throughout the borough of Staten Island, and they
6 are all worthy of our enduring gratitude, now
7 therefore be it known that the Council of the City
8 of New York most gratefully honors the members and
9 supporters of the Staten Island Hurricanes for
10 their outstanding service and contributions to New
11 York City. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
12 entire Council, Deborah Rose, Council Member 49th
13 District, Staten Island, James S. Oddo, Minority
14 Leader, 50th District, Staten Island, Vincent M.
15 Ignizio, Council Member 51st District, Staten
16 Island.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea! Sam, would
18 you like to say a few words?

19 MR. SAM BARNES: First of all, I'd
20 like to say thank you to all my cheerleaders and
21 my football players. I'd like to say thank you to
22 all my volunteer staff and our wonderful parents
23 for supporting the Staten Island Hurricanes. The
24 Staten Island Hurricanes are football, but we're
25 education first. We have a strict rule that if

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2 you fail any classes, you can't participate in the
3 State Island Hurricanes. So we'd just like to say
4 thank you, and thank you to the Speaker, and this
5 year, 2010, hopefully we can bring New York City
6 another national championship.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Go

8 Hurricanes.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Hopefully? We are
10 expecting it, we've already drafted the
11 proclamation, so there's no going back. Thank you
12 all very much, congratulations. Congratulations,
13 everybody.

14 As the Hurricanes make their way
15 out, we're going to start the next ceremonial,
16 which is being led by our Majority Leader, Joel
17 Rivera. So if I could ask Chief Tom Purtell and
18 the rest of the gang from the NYPD to come on up.
19 And if I could ask the men, anyone from the Bronx
20 delegation who want to come up. And just before,
21 again, the Public Safety Chair is a good thing
22 when you have a lot of police officers. Just get
23 a little quiet. So just before I turn the mic
24 over to our Majority Leader, and to the Bronx
25 delegation, I just want to say a few words,

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2 because Chief Purtell, who we are recognizing
3 today for his service to the Bronx is somebody who
4 I actually met when I first got elected to the
5 City Council, when you were commanding officer of
6 Midtown North. And you know, I went into that
7 meeting and he was playing the tough guy cop role,
8 and he wasn't going to work with the new Council
9 member, and there wasn't going to be any of this
10 union demonstration thing. I'm not lying. And he
11 very quickly, quickly, showed the pussycat that he
12 is. Aah, ruining his rep. And I'm going to pay,
13 I'm going to pay. Yes. But let me say quickly,
14 quickly, Chief Purtell and I became fast friends,
15 and he's actually a very good friend to myself and
16 my family, and I want to say, you know, and kind
17 of that description, I think I described the best
18 police officer there could be. Somebody who knows
19 when they have to be tough, somebody who has an
20 exterior that makes you feel safe, because they
21 look tough and you know they're in charge. But
22 somebody who has the common sense and wisdom to
23 know how to modulate that toughness with their
24 humanity and their heart. And it's that balance
25 of the total human being that we see in Chief

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2 Purtell every time he is called out to serve our
3 city. And I know he wouldn't want us to go into
4 all the details, but rest assured, he has been
5 called out to serve our city in the most dangerous
6 and the most tragic of moments in our city. And
7 he has said things to me like, "Well, I did X on
8 September 11th, because it was an order and it was
9 the right thing to do, and I never thought twice".
10 And there's very few people who could say that in
11 a time that tragic and that's just one example, of
12 countless examples of heroism on the part of Tom
13 Purtell. And we were sad to lose him from
14 Manhattan, he did a great job for the Bronx at the
15 time when the Bronx needed a real focus on safety
16 to help the Bronx move forward. So I just want to
17 thank you for all of that service. I'm so happy
18 to have him back in Manhattan, where, in my
19 opinion, to be parochial, he belongs. But he is
20 somebody who is the best of our Police Department,
21 one of the hardest-working, kindest people you
22 will ever meet in your life, and really is one of
23 the finest of the finest. So Joel, thank you so
24 much for honoring Chief Purtell today, and
25 reminding us what a great police officer looks

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2 like, because we have one right here. He's as red
3 as my hair after I get it colored, which will be
4 later today.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
6 much, Madam Speaker. Now, how do I follow that
7 introduction? I definitely won't refer to him the
8 way that the Madam Speaker did. You can tell- -

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SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Rank
10 has its privileges.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yeah, rank has
12 its privileges. You know, I've had the privilege
13 to know Chief Purtell for the past three years and
14 every single year, every single, you know, day we
15 hear nothing but great things coming out from your
16 service and what you've been able to do in the
17 borough of the Bronx, you know, during your tenure
18 there. And it's always been a privilege, you
19 know, whether it's different functions, different
20 events, or even what you do on a day-to-day basis,
21 making sure that, you know, the people, the 1.4
22 million Bronxites always felt safe because we had
23 a great New York City Police Department protecting
24 us on a day-to-day basis. And I was sad when we
25 got the news that we were losing you. We stole

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2 you from Manhattan, you know, and the Speaker
3 found a way to steal you back. So, you know, we
4 were all saddened because we felt we had a kinship
5 with you and a friendship, and we know that's
6 going to continue, even though you're going to be
7 stationed in Manhattan, and we look forward to
8 continuing working with you and showing that the
9 City of New York is extremely dependent upon our
10 Police Department to protect us, to serve us, and
11 to make sure that we can go about our daily lives
12 feeling secure, and with the Times Square
13 incidents, we feel even more confident in what it
14 is that the NYPD does. And you know, we have been
15 working on doing this honoring for about a month
16 now, and I said I definitely want to be able to
17 bring, you know, Chief Purtell down to City Hall,
18 he's done a phenomenal job. We want to bring the
19 team, we also have ... and let me recognize who we
20 have with us. We have our new Assistant Chief,
21 Carlos Gomez, who joined us. He has big shoes to
22 fill, but I hear he's going to do a stellar job,
23 and we're going to work very well together, as we
24 did, you know, with Chief Purtell. And I hear we
25 stole him from Brooklyn. So Brooklyn's loss is

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2 our gain. And we also have Chief Unick as well,
3 who is working with Assistant Chief Carlos Gomez.
4 We have Deputy Inspector White with us, and we
5 also have, from the 40th Precinct, Captain Elias ...
6 from the 41st Precinct, Captain Elias Nikas, and we
7 have Deputy Inspector Donald McHugh, we have
8 Deputy Inspector William McSorley from the 48th
9 Precinct within my district, and we have Captain
10 Kevin Nicholson as well from the 49th, newly
11 stationed at the 49th. So again, this is just our
12 way of saying thank you for the great service you
13 provide for us on the Bronx and for everything
14 you're doing for the City of New York, and to all
15 the men and women, you know, in blue, our finest,
16 you know, the best of the best. You know, we are
17 here in the City Council saying we stand by you,
18 especially during these budget times to say we
19 believe in the work you do, and we honor you every
20 single day. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could A,
22 get quiet, and B, ask the clerk to read the
23 proclamation, please.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
25 New York, proclamation. Whereas the work of

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2 Bronx's finest men and women is not often
3 adequately recognized, they're quite often the
4 very first people we can expect to respond, day or
5 night, when the safety of our lives and our homes
6 is in jeopardy. And whereas it is important that
7 we recognize a lifelong resident of the Bronx,
8 Chief Thomas P. Purtell, who for 28 years risked
9 his life every day to help his fellow Americans in
10 the Bronx. Our community offers special thanks to
11 him, and to the men and women who protect us, and
12 who have given their lives in the line of duty.
13 They are all heroes. And whereas, appointed in
14 1982, Chief Thomas P. Purtell's career has spanned
15 nearly three decades, having served as Sergeant,
16 Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Inspector, Inspector,
17 Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Commanding Officer,
18 and Executive Officer. His career has taken him
19 to the 10th, 41st, 42nd, 44th, 45th, 46th and- -

20 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Can
21 we get quiet?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: ... 50th Precincts,
23 Midtown North, Midtown South, Bronx Narcotics
24 Division, and the Street Narcotics Enforcement
25 Unit. Most notably as the commanding officer of

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2 the Special Operations Division, he led the NYPD's
3 search and rescue effort at the World Trade Center
4 after 9/11. And whereas Chief Thomas P. Purtell
5 is an inspirational example for all of us and is
6 worthy of our highest praise for his tireless
7 devotion to fulfilling his responsibilities to
8 society and for his contributions to the Bronx
9 communities where he worked. By honoring him we
10 pay special tribute to the spirit of community and
11 unselfishness that is such an integral part of his
12 character. Now therefore be it known that the
13 Council of the City of New York recognizes the
14 exemplary service, dedication, bravery and
15 selfless acts of heroism made by one of the
16 Bronx's finest, Chief Thomas P. Purtell, and
17 congratulate him on the occasion of his
18 appointment as Commanding Officer of the Patrol
19 Borough Manhattan South. Christine C. Quinn,
20 Speaker for the entire Council, Joel Rivera,
21 Majority Leader, 15th District, and many other
22 members of the City Council.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Chief?

24 CHIEF PURTELL: I'm not good at
25 this, I never like to be the center of attention,

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2 but that's why I think the Speaker and the
3 Majority Leader knew this. But let me start,
4 thank you for the honor and the privilege, I'm
5 truly humbled to be here. I want to thank the
6 Bronx delegation, it's six and a half years, there
7 was a lot of accomplishments done, some publicly,
8 some not publicly, because of your intervention
9 and your dedication to the community. And that
10 has to be acknowledged also. And what I have to,
11 we always worked as a team in the Bronx, Kevin
12 Unick, Kathy White, Billy McSorley, Donny McHugh,
13 Kevin Nicholson, a bunch of other guys that
14 couldn't be here, have done phenomenal things, and
15 they don't get recognized, and I was just
16 privileged to say that I was the leader up there
17 while, you know, I took the ride with them. So
18 thank you very much.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: And the next
20 ceremonial, as we wrap this one up, will be led by
21 our Minority Leader, Jimmy Oddo. Yea! Can the
22 Bronx delegation members go over here to the right
23 to get a picture taken with Chief Purtell? And
24 then the folks for Minority Leader Oddo's, why
25 don't you just fall in right over here? Come on.

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2 Let's let the pictures wrap up and then we'll get
3 started. One second, everybody. Once that's
4 done. Great, and then we can spread out a little
5 bit. Okay, Jimmy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you,
7 Madam Speaker. By the way- -

8 SPEAKER QUINN: (Interposing) Can
9 we get quiet? Chuck (inaudible) staff, quiet.
10 Thank you. Can we get a little quiet in the back?
11 Okey-dokey, Jimmy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm rooting
13 too, but scalp-colored. You'll never say that
14 Quinn and Oddo don't have fun. Madam Speaker, I
15 am very proud of the fact that I have New Dorp
16 High School in my district, one of the great
17 public schools on Staten Island and in the city,
18 and led by my good friend, Deirdre DeAngelis. And
19 today we have something I think very special. New
20 Dorp High School has a virtual enterprise program.
21 They have two different teams, one is the virtual
22 enterprise law team, and one is the management and
23 insurance. And there is something called the U.S.
24 National Business Plan competition, it is held at
25 Baruch College. And the competition begins on the

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2 local level across the United States, 500 classes
3 write business plans, create Power Point
4 presentations, they prepare an eight to twelve
5 minute presentation to a panel of judges. And
6 then those winners, the best of the best, move on
7 to the regionals, and then there's state
8 championships and national qualifiers. Well, the
9 two teams here finished second and first
10 nationally.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea! That's great.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: The
13 management insurance placed second, the law team
14 placed first nationally, and that's a huge
15 accomplishment. And Council Member Rose, Council
16 Member Ignizio and I are just absolutely proud of
17 you guys, and we're grateful for all the hard
18 work. I actually visited the school a while back
19 and met with the previous team, and it's really a
20 wonderful thing for Staten Island, it puts Staten
21 Island on the map in a positive light, and we are
22 most appreciative.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Well,
24 congratulations. We have all kinds of winners
25 here today. Why don't we hand the proclamation to

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2 the folks in the middle, and if I could ask Mike
3 to read the proclamation please. And could we get
4 some quiet? Quiet.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
6 New York, proclamation. Whereas the Council of
7 the City of New York is proud to honor the
8 participants in the New Dorp High School's virtual
9 enterprise program for their exceptional
10 performance and dedication. And whereas, since
11 the New Dorp High School virtual enterprise
12 program was launched in 2005, it has allowed its
13 participants to create and manage their own
14 businesses, while learning from those already in
15 their fields of interest. And whereas the virtual
16 enterprise program has combined real world
17 experience with academics to provide the
18 participating students with a valuable learning
19 process to start them off in the professional
20 world on a better footing. And whereas the
21 virtual enterprise law and virtual enterprise
22 management and insurance teams swept the top two
23 spots at the 2010 U.S. National Business Plan
24 championships in Manhattan. And whereas year
25 after year New Dorp High School's virtual

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2 enterprise program has won countless awards for
3 the excellent work of its students, as well as the
4 dedication of Mr. Paul Presti, the program's
5 teacher. This year is no exception. At the 2010
6 U.S. National Business Plan championships in
7 Manhattan, New Dorp High School's virtual
8 enterprise law team and its virtual enterprise
9 management and insurance team won the top two
10 spots, beating out seventeen other finalists from
11 California, Tennessee, Vermont, South Carolina and
12 New York. And whereas the students and supporters
13 of New Dorp High School virtual enterprise program
14 have truly distinguished themselves with their
15 entrepreneurial acumen and they are worthy of the
16 esteem of all New Yorkers. Now therefore be it
17 known that the Council of the City of New York
18 congratulates the participants in the New Dorp
19 High School virtual enterprise program on their
20 outstanding performance at the 2010 U.S. National
21 Business Plan championships. Christine C. Quinn,
22 Speaker for the entire Council, James S. Oddo,
23 Minority Leader, 50th District, Staten Island,
24 Deborah Rose, Council Member 49th District, Staten
25 Island, Vincent M. Ignizio, Council Member 51st

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2 District, Staten Island.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Yea!

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Congratulations, and Paul, would you like to say

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something? Or the two? All right, look at that.

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MALE VOICE: Well, I'd like to

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start off saying thank you to the teams that we

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have here, VE Law and Management/Insurance. It

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was great working with you guys all this year,

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through all of the hard work and everything that

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we have accomplished, and I'm really proud of all

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of you, especially to Maria, the CEO from

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Management/Insurance, who came in second place,

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and no one else can beat us out. I'd like to

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thank Ms. Deirdre DeAngelis, our principal. She

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had countless efforts in keeping our program

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alive, and helping us along the way as much as

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possible, Dina Zoleo, who is here today, our

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assistant principal, and Paul Presti, who's made

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this all possible. Without you we wouldn't be

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here today. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations,

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that's really terrific. Congratulations, and the

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next ceremonial will be led by our Public Safety

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Chair, Peter Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Come on down, guys. Where are they? One in back. Tell him to go get them.

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Everybody, I would like you to meet the famous Times Square vendors. Duane Jackson and Lance Orton. Now, these guys did not want to be here today, it's matinee day, they want to make money. We had to convince them to come down here, because they don't consider themselves heroes. They want to get back to Times Square and do what they do every day, which is apparently sell stuff, and keep us safe from terrorists. These guys, these are the eyes, out of the hundreds of thousands of eyes that are in Times Square, these are the ones that alerted the police to the terrorist car bomb that was in Times Square. And if they had not done it - excuse me, James, thanks - if they had not done it so quickly, who knows? Who knows what would have happened? Who knows if that terrorist would have escaped? Because we know we only caught him with minutes to go on the plane. Who knows what would have happened if they had taken ... if they

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2 had said, you know what, it's just a noise.
3 There's noise in Times Square, it's just a
4 firecracker. It's just some smoke, it happens all
5 the time. But they didn't, they didn't. These
6 guys work in Times Square, it's their second home.
7 And if you're going to mess with Times Square,
8 you're going to mess with them, all right? Thank
9 you. As I said, it's because of people like this
10 that New York City has been safe, not just in the
11 last, during that incident, but for the last
12 almost ten years now. And they have set an
13 example for everyone. If you see something, say
14 something. This is a concrete example. No matter
15 what you see, report it. And they may have saved
16 lives. If not in that incident, this guy would
17 have escaped and planned another attack. So as I
18 said, they're very humble, they did not want to
19 come down today, I had to force them to come down
20 so that we could honor them with the thanks of all
21 New Yorkers, which is what these procs represent.
22 I want to turn it over now to my Speaker to
23 continue. Oh, Dr. Eugene, Chair of our Veteran's
24 Committee. And I forgot to mention that, these
25 guys, you know, their duty to the country is not

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2 done, apparently, even though they're both
3 veterans, they're still keeping us safe every day.
4 Dr. Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you
6 very much. Thank you very much. I want to first
7 and foremost thank you for your service to our
8 nation. And you know, it is no surprise to me to
9 see that both of you alerted the police when you
10 saw suspicious smoke from a nearby car. As
11 soldiers I believe that, you know, watching out
12 for the safety of others is an essential duty. It
13 is a characteristic that is almost a second
14 nature, you know, to you. But let me tell you
15 honestly, I'm so proud to be here today, to join
16 my colleagues and the Speaker to commend you, to
17 congratulate you, to honor you today. And I think
18 that New York City owes you a big deal of
19 gratitude. And again, congratulations, thank you,
20 because as soldiers, again, let me say that to
21 conclude, you demonstrated that you still have,
22 you still have, the spirit and the dedication to
23 fight for the safety of our nation, for the safety
24 of our people, regardless of your new title.
25 Thank you very much, God bless you.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Well,
3 I'll just be brief so that we can have ... no, no,
4 no, I'm fine. I have heels on, so at least
5 seeable, so thank you. Well, we've had the
6 pleasure of meeting already, but we haven't, so,
7 lovely to meet you and I really just wanted to
8 take a second with the rest of my colleagues to
9 thank both of you. You know, I spoke at the Times
10 Square Alliance a couple of days after the failed
11 car bomb attempt, and what I said to them I think
12 you guys really embody. Who would ever have
13 thought in the 1970's and 1980's that Times Square
14 would be a community? A community that supported
15 each other, that watched each other's backs.
16 That's not usually what happened when you went to
17 Times Square in the '70's and '80's. And people
18 set out about rejuvenating Times Square and making
19 it something really wonderful and positive for our
20 city, and the only way you can do that is if you
21 create a sense of community on all levels. The
22 actions you guys took that night are the best
23 definition of community caring for itself and
24 taking care of itself. You saw something out of
25 the ordinary, you could have looked the other way.

1
2 You could have just sold more t-shirts. You
3 didn't. You did what we asked citizens to do to
4 be public citizens. You went and got help, and
5 made sure that all of the appropriate authorities
6 were brought in to make sure nothing horrible
7 happened. So I thank you both so much for what
8 you did that night, and as importantly, for what
9 you've done every day by turning Times Square into
10 a community that supports the City of New York
11 through its great resources, and through such a
12 tourism industry. So thank you both very, very
13 much, and thank you both for your service to our
14 country, as veterans. I know we talked when I met
15 you at the firehouse about my dad having been a
16 Navy guy, although I think you have had a tougher
17 assignment than he ever did, but we won't tell him
18 that. And if I could ask the clerk to please read
19 the proclamation.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
21 New York proclamation. Whereas New York City has
22 earned its reputation as the safest big city in
23 America, not only due to the support of law
24 enforcement, but also due to the vigilance of its
25 citizens.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Will you get a
3 little quiet. I think I'm on like the sixteenth
4 request for quiet, not that I'm counting. But I
5 am.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: On this occasion,
7 we are proud to recognize Lance Orton and Duane
8 Jackson, two New Yorkers who acted upon today's
9 popular slogan, "If you see something, say
10 something", and as a result helped save possibly
11 hundreds of lives. And whereas on Saturday, May
12 1st, 2010, Mr. Orton and Mr. Jackson alerted the
13 police when they reached a parked Nissan
14 Pathfinder on 45th Street that had begun filling
15 with smoke, and then emitting sparks and making
16 popping sounds. Eventually the car bomb was
17 defused and in the end no one was hurt. With a
18 trove of evidence still within the vehicle,
19 authorities had enough clues to lead to the
20 suspect's arrest 53 hours later, just as his
21 flight was taxiing away from the gate and Kennedy
22 Airport. And whereas Mr. Orton and Mr. Jackson
23 are to be commended for their eagerness to alert
24 the police to the scene in Times Square. Both are
25 veterans who served their nation with the Navy

1
2 during the Vietnam War. Today as vendors in Times
3 Square, they continue to serve our nation as extra
4 eyes and ears for New York's finest, and whereas
5 Mr. Orton and Mr. Jackson serve as important
6 examples for all New Yorkers. They have
7 demonstrated true concern for the wellbeing of
8 others through their vigilance, and have proven
9 once again that acting with fortitude and hope is
10 more powerful than fear. They are to be commended
11 for their actions and they are worthy of the
12 esteem of all New Yorkers. Now therefore be it
13 known that the Council of the City of New York
14 most gratefully honors Lance Orton and Duane
15 Jackson for their outstanding service to New York
16 City. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire
17 Council, Peter F. Vallone, Jr., Council Member 22nd
18 District Queens, Mathieu Eugene, Council Member
19 40th District Brooklyn, Melissa Mark-Viverito,
20 Council Member 8th District Manhattan, Leroy
21 Comrie, Deputy Majority Leader, Council Member 27th
22 District Queens, Inez E. Dickens, Council Member
23 9th District Manhattan, Jumaane D. Williams,
24 Council Member 45th District Brooklyn, James
25 Sanders, Jr., Council Member 31st District Queens,

1

2 and every other member of the City Council.

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4 SPEAKER QUINN: And I just wanted
5 to say, the proclamations that we're giving to
6 Lance and Duane today, I just want to make sure
7 folks know that the Public Safety Chair and I went
8 over to the stable and gave proclamations to
9 Officer Rhatigan and Office Duffy who were the two
10 mounted police officers that night, and also went
11 down to the ... and we brought apples and carrots.
12 And then we went down to the bomb squad to give
13 them a proclamation too, and we brought dog treats
14 to make sure their partners were taken care of as
15 well. So ... right, cupcakes, and we brought
16 cupcakes for all the people involved with the
17 horses and the dogs as well. So we just wanted to
18 really make sure we thanked everybody, and Lance
19 and Duane, let me give you all the mic, I'll hold
20 that for you.

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MR. ORTON: I don't know what else
to say. I've been on a whirlwind for over a week
and I thank everyone that was involved in these
various interviews with everybody, and I sincerely
hope through all of this, as was aforementioned,
we do have a community of veteran vendors in that

1
2 area. The police can't be everywhere, but we're
3 there. We're their eyes and ears. We all have to
4 work hand in hand to keep our area safe and
5 correct. So I hope at the end of this, the
6 veterans of that area will have more recognition
7 for what they really do, because it's all of us,
8 not just us two. It's all of us. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
10 much.

11 MR. JACKSON: Thank you, Lance.
12 Just ... and I always do this, and excuse me if I'm
13 out of order. But I'd like to give a moment of
14 silence for those men and women who are still in
15 harm's way today, because that's what the true
16 feeling of patriotism is, is when you go in harm's
17 way for our great country. And if you would just
18 join me in a moment of silence. Thank you so
19 much. As I recall the Saturday evening, you know,
20 I'm not a hero. I think Lance and I were just the
21 right guys in the right place. I've said many
22 times this week that Captain Sully, the guy in the
23 subway, those are true heroes. We were just two
24 guys who were very alert to our own surroundings.
25 You know, we've both been there over ten years,

1
2 and even if the car wouldn't have had anything in
3 it, we would have been trying to get it out of
4 there, because the buses are turning. You know,
5 what knucklehead leaves a car in Times Square an
6 hour and fifteen minutes before the shows start.
7 So, you know, just basic things, and you know, my
8 hat's off, and I spoke to Chief Purtell, I've been
9 working with officers in the North Precinct and
10 the South Precinct for the last twelve, thirteen
11 years. We have their cell phone numbers, we see
12 them every day, and we've seen the different
13 officers come through there, Chief McCarthy, Chief
14 Duffy, you know, Kavanaugh, and these were
15 officers who came out, said hello to the veterans,
16 and how are you doing and what's going on. And
17 that means a lot to Lance and I, that we have that
18 type of relationship, and we hopefully will grow
19 that relationship in other parts of the city.
20 Because as Lance has said, if you see something,
21 say something. And I give that feeling out every
22 day to all the people of New York City, don't take
23 anything for granted. Thank you so much.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you both
25 very, very much. Take good care, thank you. All

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right, and after this ceremonial exits, we'll have our final ceremonial, which will be led by the Majority Leader, Joel Rivera, and the Bronx delegation. And as we move, the ceremonial move over to the right a little bit, shh. If we could ask the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade Committee to come on up here. Why doesn't everybody just line up right here in kind of like a semi-circle type of a thing. Here you go, Joel.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Again, I just want to call everybody's attention to another great organization that has been operating in the Bronx for the past 22 years, promoting our culture, our heritage, our tradition, you know, the salsa flavor that we have, and the Condado de la Salsa (phonetic) we have, the Bronx Puerto Rican Day parade will be kicking off this Sunday on Grand Concourse. It's going to be an amazing, amazing day. I know Francisco has been working very hard for so many years to make this one of the premier events that we have. And I just want to commend the leadership of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day parade for all the hard work and the dedication

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2 that they, you know, put into this event, and
3 obviously to the people who participate, some
4 friends here who I know for a very long time, and,
5 you know, some people who have really dedicated
6 themselves to making sure they can show what it
7 means to be, not only from the Bronx, but what it
8 means to be from Puerto Rico as well. So, you
9 know, if I had a hat on, I would tip my hat to
10 you, you've done a phenomenal job, and Francisco,
11 you deserve a lot of the credit, I know that
12 you've, you know, over the past years, have
13 continued the legacy of Angel and all the work
14 that he did, you know, with founding the parade,
15 and you have done a phenomenal job. And with
16 these kids in front of us, how can you not smile
17 at what the Bronx Puerto Rican Day parade has
18 done. And I want to thank my colleagues who are
19 here with us from the Bronx delegation, and from
20 Brooklyn as well. You know, we are all, you know,
21 just proud to be part of this great celebration,
22 and tomorrow I believe is the gala, so with that
23 being said, can we have the clerk read the
24 proclamation?

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of

1
2 New York, proclamation. The Puerto Rican
3 community in the Bronx, El Condado de la Salsa,
4 will share the values and traditions of their
5 homeland with New York City citizenry at this
6 year's 22nd annual parade held in the heart of the
7 Bronx. And whereas the Grand Concourse will be
8 the stage for one of the Bronx's grandest events.
9 Puerto Ricans from all ages from Boston to
10 Washington State, from California to Florida, will
11 gather to highlight their accomplishments,
12 culture, pride and patriotism. The parade and its
13 participants help increase awareness of, and
14 appreciation for, the Puerto Rican community in
15 the United States. And whereas it is fitting that
16 New York is of all backgrounds joined in this
17 momentous event and acknowledge the contributions
18 of our Puerto Rican friends, neighbors and
19 community leaders. Through hard work, dedication
20 and perseverance, Puerto Ricans have improved the
21 quality of lives and community, making the borough
22 of the Bronx a better place for all. And whereas
23 the celebration of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day
24 Parade instills a sense of pride in younger
25 generations who will add to their ancestor's

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2 legacy of accomplishments. And whereas we join in
3 extending recognition and appreciation for the
4 history, customs and goodwill of the Puerto Rican
5 community in the Bronx. Now therefore be it
6 resolved that we as members of the Council of the
7 City of New York and by powers vested in us by the
8 charter of the City of New York do hereby proclaim
9 Sunday, May 16th, 2010 the Bronx Puerto Rican Day
10 Parade, La Borinquena. Christine C. Quinn,
11 Speaker for the entire Council, Joel Rivera,
12 Majority Leader, 15th District, the Bronx, every
13 member of the Bronx delegation, and many other
14 members of the City Council.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Yea! Joel, I just
16 wanted to thank you for making sure we did this
17 ceremonial today. I want to thank everyone who
18 worked from the day after the parade up until the
19 parade, it's a year's event and a ton of work, and
20 just an amazing day for the borough to celebrate
21 itself, and also to celebrate all the
22 contributions of the Puerto Ricans to the Bronx.
23 So thank you all who make sure this happens every
24 year, and every year is even better and grander
25 than the year before. And would you like to say a

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few words?

MR. GONZALEZ: It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be here in this chamber with so many representatives from throughout the City of New York. We of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade are not just about being Puerto Rican. We are a humanistic organization, so that we embrace all cultures, and we ask you to come along and be with us, from Honorable Koppell up in the North Bronx, to all the delegates here, Jimmy, my (Spanish phrase) Joel, Maria, where is she? I know that, where is she? Okay. Annabel, Fernando, okay, Larry Seabrook. But we want to show the culture, and I want to show you what we're about. This is an opportunity for me that we don't have every day. But I'm going to show you something, I'm going to prove to you something. This is our queen, one of a few. I'm going to ask her to show you what we mean when we hold on to our culture and our pride and our dignity. We came here as simple people, and now we're members of the City Council, we're lawyers and doctors that represent people in the Congress. Although President Ruben Diaz, Jr. is a pride

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2 indeed to us, and that we hold in high esteem, but
3 I wanted to show you what we do with the Bronx
4 Puerto Rican Day Parade as part of promoting our
5 culture. We take our children, our babies, and
6 make sure that they understand who they are, where
7 they come from, and what we expect of them. So I
8 want you to cantar.

9

FVX: (sings song in Spanish).

10

(applause)

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12 MR. GONZALEZ: We love you all,
13 every one of you who sacrificed your life to make
14 New York better, on behalf of the Bronx Puerto
15 Rican Day Parade and the 300,000 Puerto Ricans
16 that live in the borough of the Bronx, we send you
17 a heartfelt invitation, come to our parade, be
18 part of our family, and let us be part of your
19 family, in the name of the almighty Father. Thank
20 you, Speaker Quinn.

21

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
23 much, and that concludes today's ceremonials.
24 Thank you. (pause)

25

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Ladies and
gentlemen, please rise for the Pledge of
Allegiance.

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2 I pledge allegiance to the flag of
3 the United States of America, and to the Republic
4 for which it stands, one nation, under God,
5 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

6 Thank you. Roll call.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

18 [no response]

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

[no response]

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

[no response]

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

[no response]

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

[no response]

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Somewhat
present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

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Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
6 [no response]
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
10 [no response]
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.
14 [no response]
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
18 [no response]
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: White.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and

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gentlemen, can I have your attention please. At

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this time can you please place all cell phones and

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pages to vibrate. All non-Council employees and

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lobbyists, please leave the main floor of the

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chambers. Thank you.

22

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All right,

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thank you very much. A quorum is present, if

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everyone could please rise for the invocation

25

1
2 being delivered by Rabbi Leonard Blank, Director
3 of Pastoral Services at Bialystoker Center for
4 Nursing and Rehabilitation.

5 RABBI BLANK: Springtime weather,
6 flowers blossoming, walks in our parks,
7 rejuvenation of spirits, mind and body. Not the
8 out of season cold temperatures we are now
9 experiencing. Yet, just as we are confident warm
10 and beautiful days are soon to come, we are
11 confident with the blessings of life, the
12 dedication and devotion under the leadership of
13 the Speaker, Christine Quinn and the distinguished
14 members of this New York City Council, there will
15 be warmth and sunshine in the days and months
16 ahead for our city. We are truly fortunate to
17 have City Council members representing many
18 wonderful and diverse, multi-cultural, multi-
19 ethnic, religious, spiritual and linguistic
20 communities, making New York an exceptional city.
21 We are approaching the Jewish holiday of Shavuot,
22 that celebrates the receiving of the Torah, giving
23 much knowledge and the first roots of spring,
24 brought to the Temple many years ago. May all the
25 members of the New York City Council be filled

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2 with the blessings of goodness, that their
3 devotion and efforts will also bear the fruit of
4 goodwill, wisdom, ethical guidance, and sense of
5 purposes, instilling unity and friendship to those
6 who reside, work, play and visit New York, one of
7 the greatest cities in the world. May the Holy
8 One keep us safe. Blessings to all who are
9 present today, and may there be peace throughout
10 the world. Let us all say, amen.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
12 Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,
14 Rabbi Blank. Motion to spread the invocation in
15 full upon the record.

16 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Motion is
17 approved. If we could get silence in the chambers
18 please?

19 SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could ask
20 my colleagues to please stand for another moment.
21 We have two moments of silence, two individuals to
22 remember today. First, on May 4th, Abelardo
23 Nazario Virgos, 84, father of our colleague
24 Council Member Sara Gonzalez, passed away after a
25 long illness. Mr. Virgos was born, raised and

1
2 graduated from college in Puerto Rico. He
3 enlisted in the Army during World War II and
4 honorably served in the Pacific. After the war,
5 he married his wife of 63 years, Rafaela, before
6 moving to New York City with his two daughters,
7 Anna and Sara. Mr. Virgos enlisted and served 27
8 years in the Merchant Marine before joining Union
9 Carbide for fourteen years as a chemical
10 technician. One day while on the job he was
11 forced to jump into a tank during an explosion in
12 order to save his life. The incident led to a
13 stroke, and for many, many years he fought
14 valiantly and courageously until passing on on May
15 4th. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a
16 brother and a sister, four grandchildren and four
17 great grandchildren. Sara called earlier today
18 and asked that I add this quote when we remembered
19 her father. "I am who I am because he was who he
20 was." On May 9th, 2010, Lena Horne, 92, one of the
21 world's greatest entertainers, passed away in
22 Manhattan. Lena Horne first rose to fame in the
23 1940's, becoming a nightclub and recording star in
24 the 1950's, and made a triumphant return to
25 Broadway in 1981 with her one-woman Broadway show.

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2 When she was first signed by MGM, the NAACP
3 celebrated her contract as a weapon in its war to
4 get better movie roles for black performers. Her
5 father weighed in, saying, "I can get a maid for
6 my daughter, I don't want her in the movies
7 playing maids." In the 1960's Lena Horne, always
8 outspoken on the subject of civil rights, became
9 even more active, participating in many marches
10 and protests. President Obama said in a message
11 of condolence that Lena Horne, "worked tirelessly
12 to further the cause of justice and equality."
13 She is survived by her daughter, six grandchildren
14 and three great grandchildren. And I want to call
15 on our Assistant Majority Leader, Council Member
16 Al Vann, to say a few words.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.
18 Madam Speaker, with the passing of Lena Horne we
19 lose a great American icon. She broke down
20 barriers in the entertainment industry for black
21 people and black women. She was not only a
22 beautiful woman and a very talented performer, but
23 also a strong black woman who stood for principles
24 of empowerment and equality for our people. I am
25 extremely proud that she is a product of Bedford-

1
2 Stuyvesant, and that I was able to honor her
3 achievements while she was still alive. She
4 leaves behind a legacy of courage and success, and
5 her spirit shall live on as an inspiration to
6 young people in Bed-Stuy and of course beyond. I
7 would like to comment that Lena Horne first
8 achieved fame back in the 1940's as being the
9 first black performer to sign a long-term contract
10 with a major Hollywood studio, MGM. She would
11 have become a major movie star except for the fact
12 that she was black. And she emerged during those
13 times when even being in a film, they had to be
14 re-edited because there were certain states would
15 not allow a movie to be shown with black people in
16 it. She became disenchanted with Hollywood after
17 a while and focused on her nightclub appearances
18 throughout this country and Canada, and throughout
19 Europe. I would like to also mention that she was
20 a consistent involvement in the civil rights
21 movement, and she maintained strong relationships
22 with both Paul Robeson and W.E.B. DuBois, and of
23 course this hurt her throughout the entertainment
24 industry, but so be it. But I would also like to
25 remark that in her role in entertaining troops as

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2 a performer for the USO, she advocated for the
3 equal treatment of black soldiers by refusing to
4 perform for segregated audiences. She paid a
5 price, the USO retaliated against her by ending
6 her relationship. She was the great granddaughter
7 of freed slaves, and again she was born and raised
8 in Bedford-Stuyvesant, attended a girls' high
9 school. She was a true icon, that word is thrown
10 around a lot lately. But in reality, the
11 definition of an icon, she meets it expertly. We
12 pay deep respect to her and to her family. We
13 thank her for her life, the lessons and the
14 legacy. Thank, Madam Speaker.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you,
16 Assistant Majority Leader Vann. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you,
18 we'll move on, there are no adoption of the
19 minutes, so we'll move on to messages and papers
20 from the Mayor.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: M90.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,
23 printed and filed. And I just ... Majority Whip
24 Vann, I was just calling you by your wrong title,
25 so I apologize.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I like that
3 title.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: M91 through M98,
5 Executive Budget.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Okay, before
8 we move on to the next section, I think Assistant
9 Majority Leader Inez Dickens wanted to have a
10 moment.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Quiet, please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
13 Majority Leader and thank you Madam Speaker. I
14 want to welcome the newest member of our New York
15 City Council family, Attorney Lamont Bland, who
16 will serve as assistant general counsel
17 parliamentarian and counsel to the Rules
18 Committee. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
20 much. Now we'll move on to Communications from
21 City, County and Borough Offices?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Petitions and
24 communications?

25 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use Call-

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ups?

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COUNCIL CLERK: M99 and M100,

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unenclosed sidewalk café.

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SPEAKER QUINN: I'd like to couple

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those on a land-use call-up vote please, and have

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a roll call.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I

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request a unanimous consent, to vote on all

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general aught items?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes sir.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye

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on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

25

[no response]

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
17 [no response]
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be

8

excused to vote aye on all general coupled orders

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and resolutions and land use call ups?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye,

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thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
11 [no response]
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
15 [no response]
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: May I ask

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permission to vote aye on all land use and general
order calendar numbers ... items?

6

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you, I

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vote aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

18

COUNCIL CLERK: White.

19

[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
3 on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Today's Land
7 Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 47 in the
8 affirmative, with zero in the negative.
9 Communication from the Speaker?

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First I
11 just want to note for everyone's attention that
12 the budget hearings start tomorrow. Please check
13 the schedule that is attached to your agenda, the
14 schedule has changed. The schedule may continue
15 to change, so you really need to have your staff
16 monitor it on a regular basis. But today's
17 attached to your agenda is the most up-to-date
18 schedule. I also want to note that the date and
19 time of the new, the next Stated Meeting, has been
20 moved, it is now Tuesday, May 25th at 2:30,
21 Tuesday, May 25th at 2:30, that's a different day
22 and time, as opposed to usual, so please note
23 that.

24 We're voting on a number of
25 different important pieces of legislation and

1
2 exciting land use action. I just want to take a
3 moment to talk about a few of them. The first,
4 Intro 118A, which is a piece of legislation that
5 will create a Business Owners Bill of Rights, I
6 want to thank Council Member Brewer whose
7 committee oversaw this piece of legislation, also
8 Council Member Koslowitz, who was the lead sponsor
9 of the bill, and also the Chair of our Small
10 Business Committee, Diana Reyna who worked on
11 this, and also the members of our Regulatory
12 Review Panel, Deputy Majority Leader Leroy Comrie
13 and Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo, as well as our
14 former colleague, David Yassky. I mention the
15 Regulatory Review Panel, because the Business
16 Owners Bill of Rights is a piece of legislation
17 that comes directly from the feedback we received
18 from countless business owners, particularly small
19 business owners across the city, during the
20 Regulatory Review Panel. They told us over and
21 over that they weren't clear what their rights
22 were when they were dealing with inspectors. They
23 told us over and over that there wasn't a clear
24 and consistent pattern of behavior when they were
25 dealing with inspectors, and that they thought it

1
2 would be helpful if we could find ways to send
3 inspectors a clear sense of what was required of
4 them and try to get a message that they were
5 supposed to be acting in a collegial and
6 cooperative way. We believe having this six-point
7 Business Owners Bill of Rights requiring that
8 every inspector give it to every business owner
9 before they interact will, most importantly,
10 improve interactions between inspectors and
11 business owners, and hopefully eventually move the
12 city away from a punitive overfocus on
13 enforcement, and to a more collaborative type of
14 engagement that really focuses on having rules
15 obeyed by business owners. And we hope this will
16 also cut some of the red tape out of the process
17 that business owners often complain is strangling
18 them. I want to thank the staff who worked on
19 this bill, particularly Matt Gewolb and Alix
20 Pustilnik, and let me call first on the Chair of
21 the Committee, Chair Brewer, and then the sponsor,
22 the lead sponsor of the bill, Council Member Karen
23 Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
25 very much, Madam Speaker, and certainly

1
2 congratulations to Council Member Koslowitz. It
3 is a pleasure for me, I believe this is one of the
4 first bills to go through the Committee in my new
5 chairship, and it's a wonderful one. The
6 Regulatory Review Panel is a welcome addition,
7 many more bills and recommendations to come from
8 it, this was the first. And I think all of us in
9 our neighborhoods have heard small business owners
10 complain that not only did they not understand,
11 but they would have appreciated some education
12 before they were issued a summons. And that's
13 exactly what this does, and I think it will
14 educate not only the small business people, the
15 community and the community board, but also the
16 inspectors. Because the inspectors too are human
17 beings, just like the rest of us, and it's
18 complicated to understand the rules and
19 regulations, and they too want to be able to
20 support the owners who are doing the right thing.
21 Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Council
23 Member Koslowitz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank
25 you, Speaker Quinn, and I'd also like to thank

1
2 Council Member Brewer and Council Member Reyna.
3 Everyone knows that small businesses are the
4 lifeline of the economy. New York City has more
5 small businesses than any other city in the United
6 States, and with the shape of the economy today,
7 we in government should be doing as much as we can
8 to help small businesses. Keeping small
9 businesses informed of government policies and
10 regulations will empower owners of their rights.
11 The Business Bill of Rights will do this by
12 informing owners of their rights as they are
13 related to agency inspections. This will
14 guarantee consistent enforcement of agency rules,
15 fair inspectors and the ability to contest a
16 violation. The current system places too much
17 strain on small business owners, they have to deal
18 with too many agencies, oftentimes with each
19 agency telling them something different. I am
20 excited to have this bill come before the Council
21 today, and I urge everyone to vote for this
22 wonderful bill to help our small businesses.
23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
25 much. Thank you. We're also voting today on an

1
2 important landmarking, the landmarking of the
3 West-Park Presbyterian Church on the Upper West
4 Side. I want to thank all of the Land Use staff
5 who worked on this. I also want to recognize in
6 particular Gail Benjamin, I want to recognize the
7 work of Chuck Meara and Ramon Martinez, and also
8 the Chair of the Committee, Leroy Comrie, and
9 thank the Chair of the Sub-committee, Brad Lander.
10 And landmarking the West-Park Presbyterian Church,
11 a church that is well over a hundred years old,
12 and one of the most significant examples of
13 Romanesque religious architecture in the City of
14 New York, will make sure that this building, and
15 all that it reminds us of, of a different period
16 of architecture, it will make sure that this
17 building stays alive, stays intact as this
18 wonderful architectural example, so generations
19 for decades and decades and decades to come can
20 enjoy and learn from what is part of this great
21 building. And I want to in particular thank
22 Council Member Gale Brewer, who worked very, very,
23 very, very, very hard to make sure we could get to
24 a point where we were able to landmark and in
25 essence save this building for future generations

1
2 of New Yorkers and keep it an important part of
3 our wonderful Upper West Side. So thank you,
4 Gale. Let me call on the Chair of the
5 Subcommittee, Brad Lander, and then the Council
6 Member whose district the church is, Council
7 Member Brewer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
9 Madam Speaker. I want to say mostly that I
10 thought the process for considering this item was
11 exactly what you would hope would happen in the
12 city and in the City Council. As the Speaker
13 outlined, this is a very preservation-worthy
14 building, a real important treasure. But there
15 were strong feelings on all sides, and it was
16 important also to attend to preserving the spirit
17 and the use of the building as well, and that the
18 work of the Land Use staff of Christian Hylton and
19 Amy Levitan and Gil Benjamin, of the Speaker's
20 staff, Chuck Meara and Ramon Martinez, of Chairman
21 Comrie of the Land Use Committee, of really
22 providing a forum where everyone knew their voices
23 were going to be heard, and where values could be
24 listened to. And especially of Council Member
25 Gale Brewer, who really brought the community

1

2 together in what looked like it was going to be a
3 very polarizing situation of two competing values,
4 into a place where I think we can all be proud of
5 what we're doing today.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
7 much, Brad, and I think, Brad, you summed up
8 Gale's work. It made it sound very simple, maybe
9 it was simple, but it wasn't easy. So thank you
10 very, very much, Gale. Council Member Brewer.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
12 very much. I certainly want to thank Leroy
13 Comrie, Chair of Land Use, and Brad Lander, Head
14 of the Subcommittee on Landmarks. Ramon went on
15 vacation the day this was to begin discussion, and
16 came back afterwards. So I want to thank Chuck
17 Meara. And I also want to thank ... that's an
18 inside joke. And I want to thank certainly
19 Community Board 7 and I want to thank Reverend
20 Brasher and his parishioners, and certainly all
21 the members of the West Side community and the
22 preservation community. As the Speaker indicated,
23 this is a church on 86th and Amsterdam, I think we
24 all have such churches, and such religious and
25 such synagogues and mosques that in fact mean that

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2 we are home. They stand for not only an
3 historical landmark, but also a personal landmark,
4 and certain West-Park Presbyterian Church does
5 that. But in addition, it's been the home of
6 very, very early worship in LGBT community, very,
7 very early thinking about anti-war activity, very,
8 very early thinking about ways that the community
9 can be involved, the sanctuary that is a wonderful
10 place to listen to both either a sermon or music.
11 And it's a place that people feel very much at
12 home, families. So we in the community are going
13 to work with the congregation to restore the
14 church, and to figure out a way that we can all
15 work together. As Council Member Lander
16 indicated, I think that everybody, no matter which
17 you were on, for or against landmarking, felt that
18 the hearing that he conducted was the first time
19 that they could all be heard in a constructive
20 fashion, and I give him great credit for running
21 such a very long discussion - and it was a very
22 long discussion. But the fact of the matter is,
23 we were all working together, and we will continue
24 to do so. And I hope in the near future to be
25 able to update all of my colleagues on the way in

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2 which we are able to figure out a way to make this
3 church, and the mission of the church, the church
4 has a long mission, in terms of the way in which
5 it supports homeless folks getting housing and
6 figuring out ways, as I said earlier, for families
7 to get support. Thank you all, and I look forward
8 to an update for all of you in the near future.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
10 much, Gale. Lastly, we're voting on Intro 123A
11 today. I want to thank Lyle Frank and Laura Popa
12 and Jeff Haberman who worked on this piece of
13 legislation, and also the sponsor of the bill and
14 the Chair of the committee it went through,
15 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito. I think all
16 of us remember a few years ago, when it became
17 clear that a park that the Parks Department had
18 resurfaced with crumbled rubber resurfacing came
19 back after testing that there were high lead
20 levels in that park. And this raised a concern
21 amongst park users and families in our city, were
22 we taking fields and athletic park surfacing and
23 were we testing it and thinking about it in the
24 right way, from a safety and environmental
25 perspective, before we installed it in parks and

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2 playgrounds and on fields across our city. So in
3 an effort to make sure the questions that were
4 kind of asked after the fact are asked before we
5 move on to new technologies and new surfaces we
6 can use in our parks, this piece of legislation
7 will create an eight-person expert advisory panel,
8 four members appointed by the Speaker, four
9 members appointed by the Mayor. They will review,
10 looking at safety, environmental and health
11 questions, all future park surfacing, report to
12 the Mayor, the Parks Department, the Council, as
13 well as all of their recommendations and findings
14 being made public and posted on the internet, to
15 make sure that the city is fully informed and the
16 public is fully informed, as we make decisions
17 about new surfacing for parks, playgrounds and
18 fields in the future. So I want to thank very
19 much the Chair for her work on this, and call on
20 the sponsor and the Chair, Melissa Mark-Viverito.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: You
22 hit two birds with one stone with me, it's only
23 the Chair of the Committee and the legislation. I
24 want to thank you, Madam Speaker. I am very
25 pleased that we will be voting today on Intro

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2 123A, which is a bill that I sponsored and was
3 passed out of Parks Committee yesterday. While I
4 recognize the importance of synthetic turf to so
5 many New Yorkers who use our playfields for
6 recreation, I've been deeply concerned about some
7 of the health, safety and environmental risks
8 posed by these materials' increased usage in our
9 public parks. In my district in particular, a
10 field was found to have elevated levels of lead,
11 which is clearly a very serious issue. This bill
12 will insure that going forward the Parks
13 Department will be presented with an evaluation of
14 the potential dangers of any new surface materials
15 that the Department wishes to place in our public
16 parks. We hope that Parks will take into account
17 whatever concerns and recommendations are
18 presented by members of the Advisory Committee in
19 the interests of maintaining our fields and
20 playgrounds as safe greenspaces for all New
21 Yorkers. I want to thank, obviously, the
22 Committee staff, Lyle Frank and Patrick Mulvihill,
23 for their work on this legislation, as well as the
24 members of the Committee. And I want to thank the
25 many advocates that have done such great work on

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2 this and many other parks-related issue matters,
3 for working with us on drafting of this bill. So
4 I would urge all my colleagues to vote for this
5 important piece of legislation. Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
7 much. And I just want to thank Chairperson Dilan
8 for his work on Intro 66, and also thank Baaba
9 Halm, Jeff Haberman and Ben Goodman for their work
10 on Intro 66 as well. And that concludes
11 Communications from the Speaker.

12

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much, Madam Speaker. We'll move on to discussion
14 of general orders. Seeing none at this ... oh, we
15 have Council Member Vincent Gentile.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
17 I just want to congratulate Gale Brewer on the
18 landmarking of the West-Park Presbyterian Church,
19 and Council Member Brewer, I just hope that this
20 marks a new era in landmarking churches, because
21 the church in my district, the church that I have
22 in my district, was as unique as the West-Park
23 Presbyterian Church, it was as historic as the
24 West-Park Presbyterian Church, but unlike the
25 West-Park Presbyterian Church, it was located in

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2 Brooklyn, and as a result, the Landmarks
3 Preservation Commission wouldn't even consider the
4 landmarking of that church, over 100 years old,
5 unique in its design. I have to say, Council
6 Member Brewer, that church has now been
7 demolished, and that site sits vacant. It's a
8 shame, it's a disgrace, and that's something I
9 hope has now changed with the landmarking of
10 churches, and I congratulate you on West-Park.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
12 much. Seeing no others, we'll now move on to
13 Reports of Special Committees?

14 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Reports of
16 Standing Committees?

17 COUNCIL CLERK: The report of the
18 Committee on Finance, Preconsidered LU 91 and Reso
19 221 through Preconsidered LU 96 and Reso 232.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
21 orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
23 Committee on Governmental Operation, Intro 118A,
24 Business Owners Bill of Rights.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on general orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 66.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Land Use, LU 58 and Reso 233, and LU
60 and Reso 234, landmark designations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 74 and Reso 235
through LU 84 and Reso 238, various applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 88 and Reso 239
and LU 89 and Reso 240.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Parks and Recreation, Intro 123A,
Playgrounds and Athletic Fields.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
on general orders.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: General order

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2 calendar?

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COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution
appointing various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general
orders, and at this point I would like to ask for
a roll call on all items that have been coupled on
the general order calendar, please.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye
on all. I just want to congratulate my great land
use staff. I want to congratulate Council Member
Brewer and Council Member Lander for all they did
to insure that we had a positive with a positive
outcome regarding West-Park Presbyterian. Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:

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Congratulations, Council Member Brewer, and aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

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[no response

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COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

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[no response]

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COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: May I be excused to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: It's ordered, go ahead.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I'm going to vote aye to all, but I did want to address the West-Park Presbyterian Church. I understand that several of my colleagues to my right are in opposition to it. In fact, during the questioning of the Committee, I was one of the people asking the negative questions. I was one of the people who were attempting to see where the church's position was going to meld with the government's interests here. And I would commend Council Member Brewer for her work in reaching out to the church community and attempting to assuage their fears, to provide opportunities for them to find additional funding. This is one of those places where the property rights of the individual and the interests in the community at large in order to preserve a church that has been there for a

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2 very long time and is in need of much work, had to
3 come together. And I commend her and the
4 subcommittee Chair for his work in making this
5 happen, and I will accordingly vote aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: If I may
8 be excused to explain my vote.

9 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you
11 very much, Mr. Acting Presiding Officer. I'm
12 voting no on Land Use 60. As you know, those who
13 know my philosophical opposition towards
14 landmarking any home, building, house, over the
15 objection of a homeowner. I believe the owner's
16 rights need to be protected in the city, I think
17 property rights need to be paramount. And I
18 believe ultimately at some point we are going to
19 have to have a citywide dialogue on what we're
20 doing when we allocate homes to landmarking
21 status, and then what happens to them when they
22 fall into disrepair in many of our communities?
23 It sounds great that we just saved, not in regards
24 to this home, it sounds great that we saved homes
25 and we stamp a landmark status on them. But come

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2 to my district on Seguine Avenue where a
3 landmarked home is being dilapidated, there's a
4 cyclone fence around it, and it's been allowed to
5 rot in perpetuity. The problem with some of these
6 homes is that's what their fate ultimately will
7 be. I think we need to have a discussion, this
8 Council and the city, with regard to property
9 rights, and with regard to what we do, how we
10 offer and incentivize those who want to be part of
11 the landmarking process. But to landmark a home
12 or a building which you own, which you pay the
13 taxes on, and ultimately will have to have the
14 burden of taking it into consideration with
15 regards to the rules and regulations of an obscure
16 agency, I think is the wrong way to go. I vote no
17 on that and yes on all others.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: (inaudible).

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Chair, can
25 I explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes you may.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I will vote aye on everything except LU 60 and Resolution 234, on the Presbyterian church. I'm a strong believer in property rights. I think it's not fair for City Council to landmark a building against the property owner's wishes. If you own a home, a nice house, what happens if the Landmark Commission said you cannot, you have to landmark the house and you cannot do anything with this? The land owner, or the property owner, should have a right to refuse. And this is a fundamental right that everybody should have, the freedom of owning a house and freedom of speech, and things like that. Thank you.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission

4

to explain my vote?

5

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,

7

Mr. Chair. Although I will be voting in favor of

8

Intro 66, I would like to express some concern

9

that I have heard in recent days that by

10

conferring a 421A tax abatement benefit to these

11

handful of properties which were previously

12

disqualified from receiving those benefits, we may

13

be seen as opening the door for other potential

14

exceptions to seek relief from the requirements

15

under the revised 421A program passed by the city

16

and the state several years ago, and which I am

17

proud to have worked on on the state side. In

18

addition, this bill, while designed with the best

19

of intentions, may preempt what has already been

20

codified into state law. It is our obligation to

21

make sure that any modifications sought and made

22

to this program be in accordance with the state

23

law. And I would also like to congratulate, on

24

another topic, Council Member Gale Brewer with a

25

1

2 job well done. With that, I vote aye on all.

3 Thank you.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

6

on all.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I have

9

permission on the land use call-ups?

10

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: And aye on

12

all.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Permission

21

to vote on all the land use call-ups?

22

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I vote aye

24

and I ... aye on all.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission
3 to explain my vote?

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Okay.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I just
6 wanted to take this opportunity to thank the
7 Speaker on the review panel for small businesses,
8 and the Chair for the Consumer Affairs Committee,
9 who so graciously had sponsored and led through
10 the passage of this bill. The Bill of Rights is
11 perhaps a unique opportunity for our small
12 business owners of the City of New York to
13 properly get recognized for due process, so that
14 we can begin better dialogue through agencies of
15 the City of New York as inspectors enforce. We
16 hope that this will provide an opportunity to
17 improve consistency as the codes are applied to
18 small businesses, and for small businesses to have
19 a venue where they feel they're being protected.
20 This is just the beginning of what we hope to see
21 as a greater commitment to the 220,000 small
22 businesses in the City of New York. Thank you,
23 and I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

1

COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

3

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Permission

5

to vote on previous land use items?

6

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I vote aye

8

on all.

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

11

all.

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: May I be

16

briefly excused?

17

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

19

Regarding the Land Use 60, the church issue, I

20

agree with Council Member Gentile, there are

21

places of worship throughout the city that need

22

protection, not just Manhattan. And I wanted to

23

make sure Landmarks realizes that before these

24

beautiful churches in other places of worship are

25

1

2 bulldozed. On the other hand, I also agree with
3 Council Member Halloran and some of his colleagues
4 when they say that when property rights are
5 infringed upon, every care has to be taken. And
6 there is no satisfactory program right now when it
7 comes to these places of worship to reimburse
8 them, to make sure that they have the money for
9 upkeep, and that needs to be done quickly, because
10 this is a huge issue, it's a growing issue and it
11 needs to be ... it's something that needs to be
12 taken care of. That being said, I think the best
13 option is to vote aye on that and on all the rest.
14 Thank you.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on
17 all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
24 excused to explain my vote?

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm going
3 to vote aye on all. In relation to West-Park, I
4 too am very concerned about owners' rights and
5 owners' consent, and I don't know that we have the
6 exact answer, but I do know that our role is to
7 try to weigh that also with the public good, and I
8 think Council Member Brewer did a brilliant here
9 in doing that, and I wanted to congratulate her.
10 So I vote aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be
13 temporarily excused to explain my vote?

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm voting
16 yes on all and I just want to echo the comments of
17 Council Member Diana Reyna and talk about Intro
18 118A, where admittedly it's a first step and a
19 small step, and what we're trying to do is change
20 the mentality of the administration and change the
21 culture in terms of our agencies. The Speaker
22 dedicated a city speech to it, and we have a lot
23 of work to do. And what we have to try to do,
24 frankly, is reconcile the work of this Small
25 Business task force with the executive budget

1

2 where there are increased fees and fines. And
3 eventually in this process we're going to have to
4 get to the tax policy in this city. Because if
5 you go to many small business owners, they will
6 tell you their biggest burden is their property
7 tax. And I can't see how we can make a genuine
8 effort to try to help small businesses in this
9 city without eventually talking about the tax
10 policy. So it's a small step but a good step. I
11 vote yes on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
14 on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

16 [no response]

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All items on
18 today's general order calendar were adopted by a
19 vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the
20 negative, there were zero abstentions, with the
21 exception of Land Use Item 60 and Reso 234, which
22 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,
23 two in the negative, with zero abstentions. And
24 the revised land use call-ups were adopted by a
25 vote of 49 in the affirmative with zero in the

1

2 negative. Introduction and reading of the bills?

3

4 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to Committee as indicated on the agenda.

5

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Discussion of resolutions being none, we'll move on to the
7 resolution itself, Resolution 7, calling upon the
8 United States Congress to authorize a minimum \$250
9 economic stimulus payment for social security and
10 supplemental security income beneficiaries to aid
11 seniors and persons with disabilities during these
12 difficult economic times, given that there will be
13 no automatic social security cost of living
14 adjustment in 2010, adopted by the Committee on
15 Ageing. All in favor, say aye.

16

ALL: Aye.

17

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed say nay?

19

[no response]

20

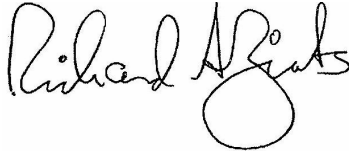
21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Any abstentions? The ayes have it. General
22 discussion? Seeing none, okay, this meeting is
23 adjourned. That was the first ever.

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Signature _____

Date May 25, 2010