

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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October 15, 2015  
Start: 1:25 p.m.  
Recess: 2:50 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO  
Speaker of the Council  
LETITIA JAMES  
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Inez D. Barron  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene

## COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Julissa Ferreras-Copeland  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
David G. Greenfield  
Corey D. Johnson  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Darlene Mealy  
Carlos Menchaca  
Rosie Mendez  
I. Daneek Miller  
Annabel Palma  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

Rev. Michael T. Sniffen  
Dean  
Cathedral of the Incarnation

Bernadette Nation  
Director  
Business Outreach Team  
Small Business Services

Dr. Roy Hastick  
President  
Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Hey, we're gonna start ceremonials and I know we have members coming up; definitely don't wanna make our honorees wait. So we have three Proclamations, three ceremonials today; first one by Council Member Laurie Cumbo honoring Rev. Michael Sniffen, Dean of the Episcopal [cheers] Cathedral [applause], if he can come up, if the Reverend can come up, please. So again, Rev. Michael Sniffen, Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation [cheers] for his years of service to the Brooklyn and Queens community, and his incredible relief work after Superstorm Sandy and wishing him well as he transfers to the Cathedral in Garden City. So with that I'll pass it off to Laurie Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for being here. Today is certainly an honor, as the very Rev. Michael T. Sniffen, Dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation, serving Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk; we're so very happy that we had him in Brooklyn, New York and I know that you will continue to ascend to higher heights in your new capacity.

Father Sniffen was ordained priest in 2007; since 2010 he has served as the rector of the

1 Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Clinton Hill,  
2 Brooklyn. Father Sniffen understands the gospel of  
3 Jesus Christ, the word of freedom, justice and  
4 reconciliation in a world fraught with division and  
5 oppression. What I have been most impressed with  
6 with your work is the leadership responsibility and  
7 role that you took following Hurricane Sandy; your  
8 church became a place of refuge; it was a place where  
9 people came for food, for water, for love and very  
10 importantly, for shelter and you sheltered so many of  
11 New Yorkers who were displaced during the hurricane;  
12 you allowed your space to be opened up for people to  
13 distribute food, clothing, to find comfort and  
14 guidance with one another for prayer, but also for  
15 meetings and congregation and a lot of strategic  
16 events that happened out of that; you really showed  
17 the City of New York how our religious institutions  
18 are critical not only for spiritual strength, but  
19 also for food, clothing and shelter during times such  
20 as Hurricane Sandy. We thank you so very much for  
21 your service; we are certainly going to miss you in  
22 the Borough of Brooklyn and I just wanna say, you  
23 have been a pillar of strength in our community and  
24 when your church was so tragically hit with a very  
25

1  
2 tragic fire, where someone decided that they wanted  
3 to try and extinguish the light that was coming out  
4 of your church, you organized and created an even  
5 stronger base within your church to overcome those  
6 heights. So we wanna thank you for the work that you  
7 do, for continuing to be a pillar; we know that in  
8 the Fort Greene-Canton Hill community you will  
9 continue to soar; my friend and colleague, Public  
10 Advocate Letitia James is a huge supporter, and can  
11 we also read the Proclamation and then... And I would  
12 also love for our Public Advocate to be able to say  
13 something as well.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So we all love  
15 Father in Brooklyn; when he was the victim of an  
16 arson attack, we all gathered together and we stood  
17 behind this wonderful church, which is a beacon of  
18 hope to the LGBT community, to countless number of  
19 individuals who are marginalized; to those who are  
20 addicted to drugs, this is a great, great institution  
21 and it's because of the leadership of this great man  
22 and the reason why he has a cast is because I and  
23 other members of the community kicked him [laughter]  
24 because he was leaving and so... [laugh] but we love  
25

1  
2 him and we're going to miss him. Thank you so much  
3 for your service. God bless you.

4 [applause]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And we will now  
6 read the Proclamation.

7 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
8 Proclamation. Whereas, we are a city forever  
9 strengthened by our extraordinary diversity,  
10 including our wide spectrum of faiths and the  
11 spiritual leaders who offer their guidance during the  
12 best and worst of times. Pastors have been integral  
13 pillars of our society since at least 1628, when the  
14 first congregation was formed in New Amsterdam;  
15 nearly 400 years later, pastors continue to minister  
16 to the needs of their fellow New Yorkers, promoting  
17 compassion and understanding and inspiring us to be  
18 our best selves; in doing so, they provide a moral  
19 compass for our entire community. On this occasion  
20 it is a great privilege to pay tribute to Rev.  
21 Michael T. Sniffen, a truly dedicated faith leader  
22 who has achieved this and more for residents of  
23 Clinton Hill, Brooklyn and beyond.

24 And whereas, Father Sniffen is the Dean  
25 of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation,

1 serving Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk.  
2  
3 Ordained as a priest in 2007, he served as rector of  
4 the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Clinton  
5 Hill, Brooklyn for the last five years; during his  
6 tenure he led the congregation in forming new  
7 community partnerships, he established an artist and  
8 residence program in collaboration with parishioners  
9 and creative leaders bringing world class dance and  
10 fine art to the church. He partnered with local  
11 clergy to fight for affordable housing and fair  
12 policing and he won a grant from the DEP to create a  
13 green infrastructure project in the church yard on  
14 Clinton Avenue.

15           And whereas, Father Sniffen understands  
16 the gospel of Jesus Christ to be prophetic words of  
17 freedom, justice and reconciliation in a world  
18 fraught with division and oppression; he considers  
19 the primary work of the church in our time is, in the  
20 words of Luke, Chapter 4, Verses 18 and 19, "To  
21 preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to the  
22 captives and set at liberty all those who are  
23 oppressed." Adhering to this belief, he was a  
24 committed supporter of the Occupy Wall Street  
25 movement and regularly provides a clear voice on the

1  
2 complex challenges facing New Yorkers today and  
3 preaches and speaks at many rallies, events and  
4 prayer vigils.

5           And whereas, Father Sniffen played a key  
6 role in the recovery and healing of the community  
7 during the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy and worked  
8 with other visionaries to make Occupy Sandy the most  
9 effective grassroots disaster response in the history  
10 of our city. With his leadership, the Church of St.  
11 Luke and St. Matthew served as Occupy Sandy's primary  
12 collection and distribution site. Two days before  
13 Christmas 2012 an arsonist caused major damage to the  
14 church, but Father Sniffen worked to ensure that the  
15 relief effort continued. As his church remained open  
16 to aid neighbors by any means necessary, they too  
17 opened themselves to a spiritual awakening which  
18 renewed the faith necessary for resilience. Later,  
19 with the support from the church insurance company,  
20 Father Sniffen spearheaded a multimillion dollar  
21 effort to restore the church to its former glory.

22           And whereas, on November 1st, All Saints'  
23 Day, Father Sniffen will embark on a new chapter in  
24 his ministry as the newly appointed Dean of the  
25 Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. He has

1  
2 been a powerful catalyst for positive changes  
3 throughout our community and we wish him continued  
4 success in the years ahead.

5 Now therefore be it known, that the  
6 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors  
7 Father Michael T. Sniffen for his inspiring service  
8 and enduring contributions to Clinton Hill, Brooklyn  
9 and beyond. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the  
10 entire Council; Laurie A. Cumbo, Council Member, 35th  
11 District, Brooklyn.

12 [cheers, applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And I just wanna  
14 say, Father Sniffen's last day at the Church of St.  
15 Luke and St. Matthew will be this Sunday for an 11:00  
16 service and so if you are in the neighborhood or if  
17 you're not, please come by, because it's going to be  
18 a powerful celebration of his work to our community.

19 REV. MICHAEL SNIFFEN: Thank you. Thank  
20 you so much for this great honor and it's wonderful  
21 to be flanked by two women who I've really enjoyed  
22 working with in their capacity as council member for  
23 our district and now one Public Advocate for the City  
24 of New York.

1  
2 Serving at St. Luke and St. Matthew has  
3 been the greatest honor of my ministry; it's an  
4 extraordinary church; one of the most diverse  
5 churches in the City of New York and it has really  
6 been radically changed by its experiences in the face  
7 of natural disaster and fire at the hands of an  
8 arsonist. One of the lessons that we learned is that  
9 when you try and burn down good, the flame only comes  
10 back stronger and... [background comments, applause,  
11 cheers] not only the people of the congregation, but  
12 the whole neighborhood became so committed to  
13 radically opening themselves to others, whether they  
14 be immigrants, people from backgrounds very different  
15 from their own, to do all that they can for all the  
16 time that they can; with all the resources they can,  
17 to do what it takes to make this city the place that  
18 we know that it can be. So it's sad for me to be  
19 leaving to move [background comments] to Nassau  
20 County, but I'm so glad that I'll still be a part of  
21 our... [laughter, background comments] of our mission  
22 strategy in Brooklyn and Queens, so thank you so  
23 much, Laurie for this honor and thank you all; it's  
24 really wonderful to be with you.

25 [background comments, applause, cheers]

[pause]

[background comments, laughter]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, so the next Proclamation and ceremonial will be by Council Member Mendez, given to Bernadette Nation, [cheers, applause] long-time SBS employee [cheers, applause]. I wanna... [background comments] she's being commended for the work that she did on behalf of local businesses after the East Village explosion, and I can also speak to experience that Bernadette, on behalf of SBS, was extremely helpful to my district as well in the aftermath of our East Harlem explosion. So congratulations to you; I'll give it over to [cheers] Council Member Mendez, but thank you for all your effort and your support. And with that, Council Member Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you Madame Chair. So after the East Village explosion there were so many heroes and we saw many of them on TV, you saw the firefighters and the police and the average citizens, but after the explosion there was a real problem in my district because a lot of the businesses could not get back to work; streets were closed, sidewalks were closed and there was one

1 person with a team behind her, but there was one  
2 person walking those streets everyday; I called her  
3 the boots on the ground; that is Bernadette Nation,  
4 and when businesses would call my office I'd have to  
5 call Bernadette anyway. But we're in a much better  
6 place and the Speaker came and we did a business  
7 crawl over there and we had a wonderful time; we need  
8 to get you back to get your fortune told by the..  
9 [laughter] by the machine over there.. [background  
10 comment] by solar, exactly. But you know, Bernadette  
11 is one of the unspoken heroes and to every merchant  
12 who's still there and the few, very few who are still  
13 trying to get back, they all depend on you and the  
14 work that you have done, so today we wanna honor you  
15 and I'm so glad that your mom was able to join us..  
16 [cheers, applause] and the entire team from SBS,  
17 because of course, this is a teamwork; thank you, SBS  
18 for being there in my district. [applause] And the  
19 clerk can read the Proclamation.

21 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
22 Proclamation. Whereas, on the afternoon of March 26,  
23 2015 on 2nd Avenue and East 7th Street in the East  
24 Village, illegal work on a gas main led to a horrific  
25 explosion and fire, the deaths of two people and many

1  
2 others injured, the collapse of three buildings and  
3 the loss of many homes and businesses. Weeks later  
4 the neighboring buildings still stood, but they were  
5 far from unscarred; many of the area's small  
6 businesses, the lifeblood of the community, had long  
7 histories and loyal customers, yet they too were  
8 severely impacted and struggled to recover  
9 economically. Fortunately for the last 20 years,  
10 these small businesses and more than 240,000 others  
11 have had a tireless and very effective advocate,  
12 Bernadette Nation.

13           And whereas, since Bernadette Nation  
14 joined the New York City Department of Small Business  
15 Services in 1995, she has played a key role in making  
16 it easier for businesses in New York City to form, do  
17 business and grow by providing direct assistance to  
18 business owners, fostering neighborhood development  
19 in commercial districts and linking employers to a  
20 skilled and qualified workforce. As the Director of  
21 the agency's Business Outreach Team, Ms. Nation and  
22 her staff are on the frontline whenever and wherever  
23 disaster strikes in the five boroughs; she stays at  
24 the scene around the clock to help business owners  
25 with everything, from assessing damage and obtaining

1  
2 emergency grants or permits to facilitating  
3 interactions with other City agencies or navigating  
4 what some view as an over-complicated bureaucracy.

5           And whereas, when Ms. Nation is not in  
6 the field, she and her staff make presentations to  
7 business groups about the wide range of City services  
8 available to them and to City agencies about how to  
9 improve their services to small businesses. In 2002,  
10 her service to so many vital enterprises was  
11 recognized with the prestigious Isaac Liberman Public  
12 Service Award.

13           And whereas, Ms. Nation has a lengthy  
14 record of going above and beyond even before she  
15 joined SBS two decades ago. In her City Government  
16 career she worked for 22 years as a teaching aide,  
17 youth worker and counselor for the New York City  
18 Board of Education. During that tenure she taught  
19 at-risk adolescents about building maintenance and  
20 restoration skills in the Village of Harlem and  
21 introduced many of them to the industrious business  
22 owners along 125th Street. She sacrificed seniority  
23 rights earned at the Board of Education to join a new  
24 government initiative to help businesses in Harlem

1  
2 and the Bronx; we are all beneficiaries of her choice  
3 today.

4 And whereas, thanks to Ms. Nation and her  
5 staff at the Business Outreach Team, the East Village  
6 continues to recover. In August, with her support,  
7 the area's beloved B&H Dairy, a small business and  
8 staple of the community for decades, was able to  
9 reopen its kosher kitchen and offer area residents  
10 much-needed [applause] matzo ball soup. [applause]  
11 We are confident that Ms. Nation will continue to  
12 help many other small businesses reopen and grow more  
13 resilient in the years ahead.

14 Now therefore be it known, that the  
15 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
16 SBS Business Outreach Team and their Director,  
17 Bernadette Nation [cheer] for their stellar service  
18 in the wake of the East Village explosion. Melissa  
19 Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the entire Council; Rosie  
20 Mendez, Council Member, 2nd District, Manhattan.

21 [cheers, applause]

22 BERNADETTE NATION: Wow. Wow, I didn't  
23 remember all of that. I just wanna say thank you;  
24 yes, it's a lot of hard work, but it's needed, our  
25 small businesses are the backbone of our city and the

1  
2 least supported and I really... I am passionate about  
3 helping small businesses and I also have to thank a  
4 lot of people here; thank you, Council Member Mendez;  
5 I really didn't expect all this, but thank you very  
6 much. Thank you, Speaker; thank you Public Advocate  
7 and everybody else, Gibson, who's my council member  
8 [laughter] in my district, and my team -- Oscar  
9 Santana, I can't... I'm gonna tell you, I can't do it  
10 without him, so Oscar, please raise your hand.  
11 [background comment, cheers, applause] And my  
12 Administrative Assistant; I call her my secretary; I  
13 know that's outdated, but she is my backbone, Cheryl  
14 Thomas; I can't do it without her. [applause,  
15 cheers] And my entire team members from SBS are here  
16 and my boss, Robinson Hernandez is here and I just  
17 wanna say thank you so much and... and... [background  
18 comment] oh, I couldn't do this without my mom..  
19 [laughter, cheers, applause] who is my... when I grow  
20 up, I wanna be like my mother, [background comment,  
21 laughter] I'm so proud of her; she's a retired school  
22 teacher and she's... she's more active than I am  
23 [laugh] and I'm just glad she's here with me. And I  
24 also have to thank the Council Member who really,  
25 really supports me a lot and he's the chair for Small

1  
2 Businesses, my man, Cornegy... [background comments,  
3 cheers, applause] yeah, the short guy. But anyway, I  
4 could go on and on, but this really... you can see that  
5 I'm like kinda nervous, but... and that's weird for me...  
6 but thank you very much. Thank you.

7 [background comments, cheers, applause]

8 [pause]

9 [background comments]

10 [applause, cheers]

11 [background comments]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We have one more  
13 ceremonial; this one by Council Member Williams.  
14 We're gonna do... he's gonna be honoring and giving a  
15 Proc to the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce  
16 and Industry on its 30th anniversary; [cheers,  
17 applause] if they could come on up. Alright, Council  
18 Member Williams, off to you. As we... they're heading  
19 up here, so you wanna start...

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you

21 Madame Speaker. Today is just a great day for me; I  
22 came from seeing the municipal building renamed for  
23 Mayor David Dinkins and I'm now here in the Caribbean  
24 community and other communities -- Dr. Roy Hastick  
25 has been a household name in my house and many

1 Caribbean houses for as long as I've known; he also  
2 happens to be full of the Isle of Spice, like my  
3 parents, the tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou  
4 and Petite Martinique, and what he's been able to do  
5 with the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce is  
6 simply amazing -- hold on -- [background comments] So  
7 this is the 30th anniversary of CACCI, the Caribbean  
8 American Chamber of Commerce and they have made great  
9 progress and this is the first Caribbean American  
10 chamber trade center business incubator in New York  
11 State and will soon open a central location in  
12 Brooklyn. CACCI's members, with public and private  
13 business entities, have contributed to the success of  
14 such annual events as the tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin  
15 Luther King, participation in black and Puerto Rican  
16 legislative business forums, seminar focusing on  
17 certificate and procurement opportunities for  
18 minority and women business enterprises and  
19 international conference on doing business with the  
20 United... I've got a lot to read.. [laughter] with the  
21 United... [background comment] I know, that's why I'm  
22 tryin' to speed through, the chairman... with the  
23 United States and the Caribbean, focusing on export  
24 and import opportunities -- I can't read all of it  
25

1  
2 'cause it's just so great and I know they're gonna  
3 read the Proclamation. I do wanna shout out some  
4 people who are here; I won't get to everybody, but of  
5 course, Dr. Roy Hastick, Sr.; his... [cheer] his wife,  
6 Dr. Eda Hastick, [cheers] his daughters Camille and  
7 Renee Hastick-Ortiz [cheers] and Hastick-Motes and  
8 come to celebrate him; Dionne [sp?] Allen and Sandra  
9 Chapman, George Holtz [sp?], Daniel Jones, Alfa [sp?]  
10 Perk [sp?], Bishop Cicely Riley, Edmond Sadio, of  
11 course, and we also wanna recognize Beth Goldberg,  
12 the District Director of SBA and Greg Bishop, also  
13 from the tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou and  
14 Petite Martinique, from the Small Business Services...  
15 actually, I don't say it very often, but I'm the  
16 first Grenadian American elected to the City Council,  
17 so this been [cheers, applause] a great source of  
18 pride for me. So I'm gonna hand it off to the  
19 Speaker. But thank you so much... oh to the clerk.  
20 We're gonna have the clerk read the Proc and I'm so  
21 honored to be able to do this; this is my honor and  
22 my pleasure. Thank you.

23 [background comments]

24 CITY CLERK: Council, City of New York  
25 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is

1  
2 proud to honor the Caribbean American Chamber of  
3 Commerce and Industry for 30 years of outstanding  
4 service and contributions. And whereas, the  
5 Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce [background  
6 comments] and Industry was founded in 1985 by Roy  
7 Hastick, it's president and his wife Eda Harris-  
8 Hastick with the support of chamber members and  
9 others who united around a common goal, promoting  
10 economic development among Caribbean American,  
11 African American and other minority entrepreneurs.  
12 Their collective action in this not-for-profit  
13 organization has provided everything, from business  
14 development seminars, technical assistance and  
15 referrals, to training programs on how to start,  
16 operate and manage a business.

17 And whereas, headquartered at the  
18 Brooklyn Navy Yard, this nonprofit organization  
19 serves as a valuable advocate for increased American  
20 corporate investment in Caribbean businesses and  
21 connects them with financial resources to help them  
22 succeed too. Over the course of the last three  
23 decades it has created more than 800 seminars,  
24 workshops and small business clinics, trade missions  
25 to the Caribbean and business networking meetings.

1  
2 And whereas, today the Caribbean American  
3 Chamber of Commerce and Industry continues to grow  
4 under the leadership of its passionate president, Roy  
5 Hastick, who continues to chart its course for the  
6 future as it grows in size and impact. At this time  
7 the organization is on the verge of achieving a long  
8 sought after goal; the establishment of the first  
9 ever Caribbean American Trade and Culture Center,  
10 which will include organization offices, affordable  
11 housing, a redeveloped Flatbush Caton Market, a  
12 museum and community space.

13 And whereas, at this milestone we commend  
14 the Chamber for its help in cultivating an  
15 environment that supports innovation for all of its  
16 members and we wish it continued success in the years  
17 ahead.

18 Now therefore be it known, that the  
19 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the  
20 Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
21 in celebration of its 30th anniversary for its  
22 outstanding service and contributions to New York  
23 City. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the enter  
24 Council; Jumaane D. Williams, Council Member, 45th  
25 District, Brooklyn.

[cheers, applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And again, Dr. Hastick has so many awards, I didn't know what to do, but I'm glad we were able to bring you here and I don't think too many elected officials don't know who you are, so congratulations again.

[background comments]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh no... well thank you so much for your contributions; he's standing strong here in receiving this Proc and thank you for working with us so collectively. I know there's many people here that could say wonderful, wonderful words about your commitment on making and supporting small businesses in the City of New York; we were just honoring someone... one of the staffers of SBS for their support on behalf of small businesses, so thank you for everything and I look forward to our meeting in the near future.

[background comments, cheers]

DR. ROY HASTICK: Thank you very much, Madame Speaker; thank you, Council Member Jumaane Williams; thank you to our Public Advocate Tish James; thank you to my chair, Edmond Sadio; thank you to all of our elected officials that are here,

1  
2 especially [inaudible 00:27:26] Anda Dayas [sp?]; I  
3 cannot look back, but I want to thank them for their  
4 hard work and support for CACCI over the last 30  
5 years. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.  
6 Give them a round of applause. [applause, cheers]

7           Madame Speaker, I know that you have a  
8 Stated Meeting, but I want to also thank Council  
9 Member Mathieu Eugene, who is on his lunch break; who  
10 will be here shortly, but also want to thank the City  
11 Council Members for their support for the first ever  
12 Caribbean American Trade Center to be built in the  
13 48th District in Brooklyn. [cheers, applause] As  
14 the Speaker and also the Public Advocate know, for  
15 many years we have worked hard for that development.  
16 I had a stroke in 2008 and it had a setback, but with  
17 God's grace I continued and today, Council Members, I  
18 must say with your help, with your support, with the  
19 board's support, we are about to announce in a few  
20 weeks who will build the facility, which is, as was  
21 read in the Proclamation, affordable housing, the  
22 Caribbean American Trade Center, museum; community  
23 space in a badly needed community next to Kings  
24 Theatre in Flatbush, New York City. [cheers,  
25 applause]

1  
2 I know Madame Speaker that you are also  
3 of the Caribbean, 'cause the first time we met you  
4 told me you are Caribbean and you have done an  
5 outstanding job during your tenure and you have our  
6 support, you and your entire delegation at the City  
7 Council from the Caribbean American Chamber of  
8 Commerce and Industry. To our sponsor and young  
9 visionary, Jumaane Williams, I want to thank you, sir  
10 for recognizing us as people who came from many  
11 places, Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean,  
12 to make a difference, only in America. So we thank  
13 you, God bless you and God bless the public, God  
14 bless the City Council members; we love you and we  
15 will continue for 30 more years. God bless you all.

16 [cheers, applause]

17 [pause]

18 [background comments]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Before we get the  
20 Stated going we are gonna do a purple photo, Go  
21 Purple Day photo, so if members can come up.

22 [background comments] Everyone welcome, I am not  
23 wearing purple; I do have my pin; everyone is  
24 welcome. There's purple in here. Alright. So

25

1  
2 anybody that wants to be part of the photo, come on  
3 up.

4 [pause]

5 [background comments]

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Could I have your  
7 attention please. Can I please have your attention?  
8 Quiet on the chamber floor please. Quiet on the  
9 chamber floor please. [background comments] At this  
10 time, please place all electronic devices, all  
11 electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-council  
12 employees, non-council employees please leave the  
13 main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

14 [background comments]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
16 chambers. Everyone, please have their seat.  
17 [background comments] Everyone, please have their  
18 seat. Quiet in the chambers, please. If you are  
19 exiting, please exit quietly. All rise for the  
20 Pledge of Allegiance.

21 [collective Pledge of Allegiance)

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
23 Roll call.

24 CITY CLERK: Arroyo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

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CITY CLERK: Barron.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the chambers.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

CITY CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CITY CLERK: Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Presente.

[laughter]

CITY CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CITY CLERK: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Deutsch. Dickens. Dromm.

[background comment] Espinal.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down, please.

CITY CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

CITY CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CITY CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm here.

CITY CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

CITY CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I'm here.

CITY CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

CITY CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CITY CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CITY CLERK: Koslowitz. Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

[background comment]

CITY CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Levin. Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Maisel. Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

CITY CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

CITY CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here and happy to  
be back.

[cheers, applause]

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Shh. Welcome  
back. Quiet in the chambers. [laugh]

CITY CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

[laugh]

CITY CLERK: Richards. Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

CITY CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CITY CLERK: Vallone.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CITY CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CITY CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CITY CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CITY CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the chambers. All rise for the invocation that will be delivered by Rev. Daryl G. Bloodsaw, the Pastor of First Baptist Church of Crown Heights in the Borough of Brooklyn.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

REV. DARYL G. BLOODSAW: Please..

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

REV. DARYL G. BLOODSAW: Please bow. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way, thou who has by

1  
2 they might led us into the light, keep us forever in  
3 the path we pray. Oh God we lift up this august body  
4 of legislators today; we thank you oh God for a day  
5 that you never promised us we'd get to see, but here  
6 we are oh God, ready, willing and able to do your  
7 will. God we pray today for purpose that this body,  
8 oh God, might never forget that they are here, oh  
9 God, to legislate for the common good of the City of  
10 New York; that they might forever keep state in the  
11 front of their minds the least of these and their  
12 needs. We pray oh God right now for provision, that  
13 through this body the hunger might be fed, the naked  
14 might be clothed, the thirsty might receive water; oh  
15 God we just thank you right now. We thank you and we  
16 pray right now for peace in our city, peace oh God  
17 that our differences might not be used against us,  
18 but that our differences oh God might be lifted up  
19 and draw us closer together. God we just thank you  
20 right now and pray that the peace in this room oh God  
21 might be made manifest on the streets of our  
22 communities, that the guns may be put down, oh God,  
23 that angry fists might be unbold [sic], oh God; that  
24 the intolerance oh God might just dissipate, for we  
25 know that your spirit is a spirit of love. God, we

1  
2 just thank you, we love you and we praise you; we  
3 offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

4 [background comment]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Motion to spread  
6 the invocation. Council Member Laurie Cumbo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to thank my  
8 colleagues here today.. [background comments]

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
10 chambers please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: With the passing  
12 of Rev. Clarence Norman, Sr. in July, who served a  
13 senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Crown  
14 Heights for over 62 years, the torch has been passed  
15 to Rev. Daryl Bloodsaw, who has big shoes to fill,  
16 and I know a little bit about having to fill some big  
17 shoes, 'cause I too have had to do the same thing,  
18 but he has done so with such grace and with such  
19 integrity. Rev. Clarence Norman, Sr. [background  
20 comment] was known throughout New York City for  
21 building one of the most powerful and influential  
22 churches in the City of New York; he has been an  
23 important leader on issues around housing, he's been  
24 a champion for economic development and he has  
25 continued to be an advocate, particularly for our

1 seniors and building and developing senior housing  
2 all throughout our community of Brooklyn, New York.  
3 And I just wanna add that Rev. Bloodsaw has  
4 seamlessly filled the shoes of Rev. Clarence Norman,  
5 Sr. and he has done so with integrity, carrying that  
6 mantle and continuing to build strong connections  
7 with our community [background comment]. I just  
8 wanna add that Rev. Clarence Norman, Sr. was also  
9 instrumental following the riots that happened in  
10 Crown Heights over 20 years ago. Rev. Clarence  
11 Norman was instrumental in bringing the African  
12 American, Jewish and Caribbean communities together  
13 and under the leadership of Daryl Bloodsaw, he  
14 continues to be a builder, he continues to unite the  
15 community and he continues to be a voice,  
16 particularly on issues of community development, but  
17 also most recently around gun violence that has  
18 plagued [background comment] our city. So I wanna  
19 thank you for your leadership; I wanna thank you for  
20 being a beacon of light throughout our community; I  
21 wanna congratulate you on being a father once again  
22 to a beautiful baby boy, and I just wanna thank you  
23 for being here today, because your thoughts and  
24 prayers are so important for us here in the City  
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1  
2 Council to gain the inspiration that we need to do  
3 the job that we do. I spread this convocation and I  
4 am so happy that you are here today with us. Thank  
5 you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 Adoption of minutes. Council Member Lander.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I move that the  
9 minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 17, 2015  
10 be adopted as printed.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and  
12 papers from the Mayor.

13 CITY CLERK: None.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
15 from city, county and borough offices.

16 CITY CLERK: M 341, withdrawing the  
17 nomination of Orlando Marin for appointment to the  
18 City Planning Commission.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received,  
20 ordered, printed and filed.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
22 communications.

23 CITY CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-  
25 Ups.

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CITY CLERK: M 342.  
[background comments]  
SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo. Barron.  
COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen. Constantinides.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here. Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.  
COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.  
COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.  
[background comment] Oh aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.  
Espinal.  
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye [sic].  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.  
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Madame Public

Advocate, may I have permission to vote on all Land  
Use Call-Ups and General Orders?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on  
all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Yes.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Mealy.  
[background comments]  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.  
4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.  
6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.  
10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres. Treyger.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.  
12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.  
14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes.  
16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.  
20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.  
22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.  
24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.  
25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use  
3 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 42 in the  
4 affirmative, 0 in the negative. Quiet in the  
5 chambers as we now hear from the Speaker, Melissa  
6 Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madame  
8 Public Advocate and good afternoon, buenas tardes to  
9 all my colleagues.

10 I wanna first begin by asking everyone to  
11 rise and join me in remembering a former member of  
12 this City Council.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Former City  
15 Council Minority Leader, Thomas Ognibene passed away  
16 on Monday at the age of 72. Council Member Ognibene  
17 represented his district in Queens from 1992 until  
18 2001. He is survived by his wife and two children  
19 who are all in our thoughts and I know that a lot of  
20 our colleagues have a lot to say and have a lot of  
21 thoughts about him; in particular I would like to ask  
22 our current Minority Leader, Steve Matteo to say a  
23 few words about Council Member Ognibene and I believe  
24 Council Member Ulrich will say a few as well.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you Madame  
3 Speaker. We have heavy hearts today as we talk about  
4 our good friend and former Minority Leader Tom  
5 Ognibene and I first met Tom over 10 years ago when I  
6 responded to a classified help wanted ad for then  
7 Councilman Jimmy Otto and I was waiting in Jimmy  
8 Otto's office and expecting to meet the Councilman  
9 and then this tall, imposing man came out to greet me  
10 and it was Tom Ognibene, and you know during the  
11 interview Tom quizzed me on government, about life,  
12 about my family, about character and he certainly was  
13 instrumental in getting me hired. And when I worked  
14 for Jimmy he was always a person I could reach out to  
15 for advice; he was always willing to lend his wealth  
16 of knowledge on politics, government and life. When  
17 I decided to run for this council seat, Tom as always  
18 was there for me. He was a big man, he had a  
19 personality to match his size; there was no way Tom  
20 could be in a room without being noticed. I am sure  
21 some of our colleagues could amuse you with stories  
22 of his exploits, about his forceful advocacy for the  
23 people he represented as councilman and as the  
24 council minority leader, about how he never shied  
25 away for a good fight for a cause he believed in.

1  
2 But I will always remember him as a good man who  
3 loved his family and embraced his friends and who was  
4 always willing to provide his wise counsel to me. My  
5 sincere condolences to his wife Margaret and his  
6 children Eve and Guy; may he rest in peace and he  
7 will be forever in our thoughts and prayers. And at  
8 this time I'd like to ask my good friend Eric Ulrich  
9 to say a few words.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you Mr.  
11 Minority Leader and thank you Madame Speaker for your  
12 indulgence, just a few minutes; I'm not gonna give  
13 the eulogy that I'll give tomorrow at the church, but  
14 for those who knew Tom knew that he was a father  
15 figure to me, to Jimmy Otto, Steve's predecessor, and  
16 he as an enormous positive influence on my life,  
17 personally and professionally; I would not be here  
18 today if it were not for him and as I told him last  
19 week when he was in Calvary, now we know who to  
20 blame. So he was really just a phenomenal human  
21 being, raised the bar for public service, was  
22 universally respected; I don't see Council Member  
23 Koslowitz here yet, but I know that she was very  
24 close with him and I know that Council Member  
25 Vallone's dad, when he was the Speaker, had a very

1  
2 close working relationship with Tom; he was someone  
3 who was deeply admired, respected and really gave a  
4 lot to this institution and our city today is a  
5 better place because of him and all those who have  
6 served this distinguished body, so I thank you for  
7 that. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you to both  
9 of you, and at this time I ask everyone to join us in  
10 a moment of silence.

11 [pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you my  
13 colleagues.

14 Today we'll be voting on legislation to  
15 require the [background comments] Department of  
16 Health and Mental Hygiene to conduct annual  
17 [background comment] air quality surveys across New  
18 York City. The information gathered will be reported  
19 to the Council by April 22nd, which is Earth Day  
20 [background comment] of each year and posted online  
21 for the public to see. With this information we can  
22 better determine the relationship between air  
23 pollution levels around the city and factors such as  
24 traffic and building emissions. Importantly, this  
25 information can help determine on a neighborhood by

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2 neighborhood basis where air quality is a problem for  
3 New Yorkers.

4 For the staff, I'd like to thank David  
5 Seitzer, Crystal Pond, Terzah Nasser and Lyle Frank  
6 and would ask Council Member Johnson, who is the lead  
7 sponsor of the bill to say a few words.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you Madame  
9 Speaker. As you said, today the Council is going to  
10 vote on Int. 712, a bill that I introduced alongside  
11 Council Member Costa Constantinides. This  
12 legislation will help protect New Yorkers from air  
13 pollution by requiring annual air quality surveys  
14 which will identify the major local and regional  
15 sources of air pollution, particularly from building  
16 and transportation emissions. One of our highest  
17 priorities should be to ensure that the air we  
18 breathe will not pose a risk to our health. Serious  
19 health issues that result from air pollution include  
20 respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, asthma  
21 exacerbation, and reduced lung function. We need to  
22 collect comprehensive data on the sources of  
23 pollution so that we can attack this problem head-on  
24 and prevent the development of pollution-related  
25 ailments. The Department of Health and Mental

1  
2 Hygiene already conducts these types of studies  
3 across the city, but they do it voluntarily; it is  
4 not codified in the Administrative Code and it is my  
5 fear; I know along with Council Member  
6 Constantinides, that depending on who the  
7 administration is or the health commissioner is or  
8 what our budget times look like, we want this  
9 important data to be gathered, so I ask you all for  
10 your support. I also wanna thank David Seitzer and  
11 Crystal Pond from the Health Committee and my  
12 Legislative Director, Louis Cholden-Brown. Thank you  
13 Madame Speaker.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
15 Member. Additionally we'll be voting on a bill to  
16 require the Parks Department to issue an annual  
17 report to the Mayor and Council on the resources it  
18 allocates for maintenance on a park by park basis,  
19 and as I said in the pre Stated, having been the  
20 former Chair of the Parks Committee, I know we had  
21 many hearings on the distribution of funds in our  
22 city parks. I wanna thank Council Member Lander for  
23 his leadership on this legislation, which will ask  
24 the Parks Department to report on the name, size and  
25 identification number of each park, whether each park

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2 has permanent or mobile maintenance staff assigned to  
3 it, the weekly average and dollar value of work hours  
4 performed by maintenance staff at each property, the  
5 value of specialized maintenance work performed at  
6 each property; the number of Parks Enforcement Patrol  
7 Officers assigned borough-wide.

8           The issue of disparate conditions and  
9 resources between various parks in our city has been  
10 an important one to meet since my days as chair of  
11 the Council's Parks Committee and I'm glad that today  
12 we're going to move towards addressing it by making  
13 more data available on where resources are being  
14 allocated across the department, across parks all  
15 across the five boroughs.

16           On the staff side I wanna thank Jeff  
17 Baker, Ed Atkin, Chris Ortora [sp?], Patrick Molvahil  
18 [sp?], Chima Obacheri [sp?] and ask Council Member  
19 Lander, the leader sponsor of the bill, to say a few  
20 words.

21           COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madame  
22 Speaker and this effort did indeed begin last term  
23 under your leadership as Chair of the Parks  
24 Committee. For too long it's been impossible to know  
25 what the City is spending in each of our parks,

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2 whether our capital program is on track and whether  
3 every community is getting its fair share of Parks  
4 dollars; some of this has come up in the Committee in  
5 this term under Chair Levine's leadership and I wanna  
6 thank him, with a particular focus on the  
7 conservancies, and obviously that's a critical  
8 element of Parks' equity, but of course it's  
9 fundamentally important to know where our public  
10 dollars, our city dollars, the resources that we are  
11 allocating, how and where are they hitting the ground  
12 and for too long it's been impossible to know that,  
13 both on the maintenance side, in terms of what  
14 maintenance resources, full-time staff, mobile  
15 maintenance crews are being assigned to each park and  
16 whether that's distributed equitably, and also on the  
17 capital program, where the Parks Department moved  
18 forward about a year ago at this Council's urging on  
19 the Parks' capital tracker, but where you still can't  
20 get that data in aggregate and be able to assess  
21 where there is equity across the system in both  
22 maintenance and capital tracking. But thanks to this  
23 bill and I really also wanna thank the Parks  
24 Department for working with us, we'll improve  
25 transparency, bring their tracking and management

1  
2 systems into the 21st century and be able to see how  
3 our dollars are spent across the city and be able to  
4 advocate as a result.

5 I wanna thank the Speaker and Chair  
6 Levine; as the Speaker mentioned, Jeff Baker, Chris  
7 Ortori, Patrick Molvahil; Chima Obacheri [sp?] did  
8 great work on the bill; my Policy Director Ben Smith.  
9 On Council Member Levine's staff, Aya Keefe [sp?] and  
10 Amy Slattery. The advocates were crucial in pushing  
11 this forward, especially New Yorkers for Parks; when  
12 this bill began, Tupper Thomas was running Prospect  
13 Park and it was Tupper who originally said to me this  
14 is something that would be great to have across the  
15 city. And as I said, the Parks Department, under  
16 Commissioner Silver has worked with us. This is not  
17 only an issue of reporting; it's an issue of them  
18 [background comment] putting the systems in place  
19 [background comment] to track and manage to begin  
20 with and I'm grateful to them for working with us to  
21 do it. Thank you very much.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
23 Member. And finally, the Council is voting on a bill  
24 that will help to ensure that elevators in our  
25 residential buildings are repaired in a timely

1 fashion. Under the Emergency Repair Program, the  
2 Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
3 (HPD) has the power to repair or order an owner to  
4 repair any condition which is dangerous to human life  
5 and safety or detrimental to health; however, HPD has  
6 never used this power to repair elevators. This bill  
7 will require the Department of Buildings (DOB) to  
8 refer immediately hazardous elevator-related  
9 violations to HPD if upon reinspection DOB finds that  
10 the owner has not corrected such violations. HPD  
11 will then be required to report on the number of such  
12 referrals and on any action taken under the Emergency  
13 Repair Program in response to such referrals.

14 This bill will protect New York City  
15 tenants by helping to ensure that they will not be  
16 deprived of elevator service for prolonged periods.

17 On the staff side I wanna thank Jeff  
18 Baker, Ed Atkin, Jen Wilcox, Guillermo Patino, Jose  
19 Conde and Sarah Gastelum. And as I have said, this  
20 has been a crusade of our Council Member Jimmy Vacca  
21 and [cheer] thank him for his leadership on this, and  
22 if he could say a few words as the lead sponsor.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you. I  
24 wanna thank the Speaker and I wanna thank all the co-  
25

1  
2 sponsors who stood by this bill; it's something I  
3 believe in. Right now if you have an elevator in a  
4 building that tenants say is not working, the  
5 Buildings Department goes there, gives a violation  
6 and another violation and another violation, but no  
7 one is empowered to fix the elevator; the violations  
8 stand and weeks go by and people are often trapped in  
9 their own apartments because there's no elevator  
10 service. So I drafted this bill so that now, finally  
11 [background comment] New York City, [background  
12 comment] through the Department of Housing  
13 Preservation & Development, will be empowered to make  
14 emergency repairs on elevators where the Buildings  
15 Department violations have not been adhered to by a  
16 landlord. HPD is going to have hire people to make  
17 sure that they get elevator technicians who can do  
18 the job right. But there's an issue here and the  
19 issue is access, access to people's own apartments by  
20 those people that live there, seniors, expectant  
21 mothers, handicapped people living in high-rise  
22 buildings with no elevator. An elevator's not a  
23 luxury, it's a necessity and now for the first time  
24 we have a mechanism for the City not only to have the  
25 power technically to fix the elevator; they've had

1  
2 that power for years, but they've never fixed an  
3 elevator; now they're gonna have to get the manpower,  
4 they have a process where the Buildings Department  
5 referral must be acted upon by HPD if there is no  
6 action and the landlord will be back-billed for that  
7 repair, which is the way the Emergency Repair Program  
8 of HPD has worked for years. So I think this is  
9 great; I hope that my colleagues vote for this; it's  
10 pro-tenant, it's progressive; it's gotta be done.

11 I want to also thank the staff. I wanna  
12 thank the Speaker, I wanna thank Chair Jumaane  
13 Williams and I wanna thank Jen Wilcox, Rob Newman; I  
14 wanna thank my staff, Michael Rivadeneyra, my Chief  
15 of Staff, and Stacy Gardener, my Deputy Chief of  
16 Staff.

17 This is a great day. You know when you  
18 introduce a bill and you wait a long time you feel  
19 kind of good, so I feel good today, but I think we're  
20 doing a good thing... [background comments] we're doing  
21 a good thing by the city. But thank you, Melissa.  
22 Thank you all... [crosstalk]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council  
24 Member. I'd like to also mention that today the  
25 Manhattan Municipal Building was officially renamed

1 for former Mayor David N. Dinkins. [cheers, applause]

2 As the first and only African American and person of  
3 color elected as Mayor of our city, David Dinkins has

4 been a role model to so many. And I was saying when

5 I spoke earlier today, that I came to New York in

6 1987 when I graduated college; I was hired by an

7 organization called Aspid [sp?] of New York, which

8 was the beneficiary of Mayor David Dinkins' vision in

9 that it was administering four Beacon programs and as

10 part of Safe Streets, Safe Cities, it was not just a

11 program about looking at increasing police presence

12 and roles [sic] in our communities as a way of

13 combating crime, but also the importance that safe

14 havens and programs for our youth would play in

15 combating crime as well and we still have Beacon

16 programs that exist today, thanks to that vision that

17 was laid by David Dinkins back during his tenure, so

18 really was a proud moment and a proud day today to be

19 there. And also in 2011 Mayor Dinkins officiated the

20 wedding ceremony for my long-time staffer and current

21 Deputy Chief of Staff, Joey Pressley and his husband

22 Steven Williams, who are long-term friends. So it

23 was really a wonderful day to be there and to see the

24 look on his face of appreciation for the naming of  
25

1  
2 that building was really precious, so it was a great  
3 day.

4 I also wanna welcome, as we've already  
5 said, to Council Member Annabel Palma back and also  
6 give my best wishes to Council Member Dickens as she  
7 recovers from an injury. And additionally, we  
8 definitely wanna give our well wishes to Council  
9 Member Cabrera who had some procedures earlier this  
10 week.

11 Today is also Go Purple Day, which is a  
12 day to promote awareness, prevention and services for  
13 domestic violence. Domestic violence can never be  
14 tolerated, any type of violence should never be  
15 tolerated and we simply cannot ignore the fact that  
16 so many New Yorkers still experience abuse in 2015.

17 I really wanna thank everyone,  
18 particularly Laurie Cumbo, who has joined us to raise  
19 awareness today; everyone wearing purple; this  
20 council has increased its funding over last year for  
21 domestic violence services; it continues to be a  
22 priority for us, so that is something that we need to  
23 recognize.

24 And also today is Latino AIDS Awareness  
25 Day, which is part of a national community

1 mobilization campaign that unites the Latino  
2 community in efforts to raise HIV awareness,  
3 promotion of HIV testing, prevention and education.  
4

5 And finally, today is Steve Feder's final  
6 Stated Meeting with the City Council. [background  
7 comments] Steve is our Director of Advance Work and  
8 also Special Events Liaison; he's been with the  
9 Council since 2005, after working for three different  
10 speakers over the course of 10 years. We're  
11 definitely gonna miss Steve, [background comment]  
12 he's been an incredible, valuable member of my team  
13 and the incredible work that he has done on behalf of  
14 this Council, so definitely wishing you the best of  
15 luck in the near future. Thank you, Steve. [cheers,  
16 applause] He has some fun things in store, so it'll  
17 go well. But with that I end communication from the  
18 Speaker.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of  
20 General Orders. Seeing none. Council Member Levin...  
21 Levine. No.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Absolutely.  
23 General Orders?

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Orders.

25 [background comments]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Great. Great.  
3 Okay. Forgive me for the confusion. Yes, Madame  
4 Public Advocate, I'd like the chance to say a word on  
5 the bill we're passing today, Int. 154 from the Parks  
6 Committee and commend my colleague, Council Member  
7 Brad Lander on the years of work that it took to get  
8 this bill across the finish line. For those of you  
9 who have not read this bill, and I know we can't read  
10 all of them, there is a treasure trove, a treasure  
11 trove of data that we're now gonna be receiving as  
12 policymakers and as the general public which is going  
13 to allow us to ask profoundly important questions,  
14 ask and answer these questions about distribution of  
15 resources in our park system. If you believe as I do  
16 and Councilman Lander, and I believe all of you do,  
17 that quality green space is essential to community  
18 health, every community, then you understand that the  
19 question of equal distribution of Parks resources is  
20 a matter of social equity and anyone who's traveled  
21 around this city today knows that there is a vast,  
22 vast range of quality of park land among the 1700  
23 parks in the city; something I don't think any of us  
24 accept. We're gonna get the data in this bill today  
25 to finally begin to act to ensure equity in

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distribution of resources in our park land and this is a profoundly important step forward. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council Member Levine. Any others? Seeing none. Report of Special Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of Standing Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Preconsidered Reso 875, organization funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health, Int. 712-A, air quality survey.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Int. 462-A, elevator emergency repair program.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
3 on Land Use, LU 274 and Reso 882, unenclosed sidewalk  
4 café.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to filed  
6 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 281 and Reso 883 and  
8 LU 282 and Reso 884, sidewalk cafés.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
10 General Orders.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 283 and Reso 885,  
12 property acquisition.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
14 General Orders.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 287 and Reso 886,  
16 UDAAP, Brooklyn.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
18 General Orders.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee  
20 on Parks and Recreation, Int. 154-A, annual parks  
21 department report.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and  
23 Coupled on General Orders.

24  
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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Order  
3 calendar, resolution appointing various persons,  
4 Commissioner of Deeds.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
6 General Orders and at this time I ask for a roll call  
7 on all items on the Coupled General Order Calendar.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madame  
18 Public Advocate, may I be excused to explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I just  
21 wanna congratulate my colleague Corey Johnson on  
22 passage of Int. 712 today; his great leadership to  
23 ensure that the air quality studies will be happening  
24 every year, regardless of who the mayor is or who  
25 this council is; that we understand in neighborhoods,

1  
2 that while the city has made great strides relating  
3 to air quality -- we've, you know, recently met the  
4 federal standard under the Clear Air Act; we still  
5 have many communities that are still struggling with  
6 air quality issues and asthma's still the number one  
7 reason our children are going to the hospital, so  
8 this air quality study is gonna be able to  
9 neighborhood by neighborhood and analyze what we need  
10 to do better. So I congratulate my colleague Corey  
11 Johnson for his great leadership in getting this bill  
12 done, and also my colleague Brad Lander and Mark  
13 Levine on their efforts on 154. I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

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aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield. Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Greenfield.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my  
vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to say aye  
on all Land Use Call-Ups and I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: May I explain  
my vote?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I just wanna  
thank all our bills today that passed that really  
kinda push and dedicate a lot of energy on health and  
public safety. What I also wanna do is highlight the  
information that's coming out of the Parks bill  
that's gonna be coupled with a lot of information  
we're already gathering from our participatory  
budgeting process that is focusing energy on our  
parks in a whole new way and I can't wait for that

1  
2 synergy to be added to the information that's coming  
3 with our Parks bill. Thank you Brad Lander, Mark  
4 Levine and everyone else that pushed that together  
5 and forward. Finally, I wanna dedicate today's vote,  
6 aye on all, to my mother, who's here traveling from  
7 El Paso, Texas [background comments] visiting, who's  
8 up in the mezzanine.. [applause] she's up in the  
9 mezzanine and I love you, mom. Aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 Welcome.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye and I  
18 wanna say thank you to all my colleagues for their  
19 phone calls and well wishes, it really helped with my  
20 recovery time.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Welcome back.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.  
3 Congratulations Corey Johnson on a great bill that  
4 hopefully will shed light on especially poor air  
5 quality in environmental justice communities across  
6 the city, so congratulations.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With  
19 congratulations, welcome back to my colleague,  
20 Council Member Annabel Palma and congratulations to  
21 all my colleagues for their great bills and I give  
22 kudos to Councilman Lander and Chair of the Parks  
23 Committee, Mark Levine on their bill on increasing  
24 transparency at Parks Department; hopefully we'll get  
25 more clarity on why it costs almost \$2 million to

1  
2 build bathrooms in parks. So with that I vote aye on  
3 all. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madame Advocate,  
10 a quick moment, please.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Just wanted to  
13 thank the Speaker and Council Member Gentile for  
14 helping us pull off a great Italian American Heritage  
15 night last week; we had a few hundred people here and  
16 we got to listen to Frank Sinatra's School of Liberal  
17 Arts perform for us for Frank's 100th birthday; it  
18 was quite a nice night, and Council Member Espinal,  
19 thank you for joining the march on the Columbus Day  
20 Parade, you're officially now part of the Italian  
21 Caucus. Thank you and aye on all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

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

1 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I  
4 just wanna say welcome back to my colleague, Council  
5 Member Palma, [background comment] and I wanna  
6 congratulate all of my colleagues for their bills,  
7 but I do wanna specify [background comment]  
8 congratulations to Council Member Vacca, 'cause I was  
9 there with his patience in working through this bill  
10 to make sure that it was done right, so I wanted to  
11 give him a special shout-out and with that I vote aye  
12 on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
20 today's General Order calendar were adopted by a vote  
21 of 44 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0  
22 abstentions. Revised Land Use Call-Ups were adopted  
23 by a vote of 44 in the affirmative and 0 negatives..  
24 quite in the chambers. Introduction and reading of  
25 bills.

1  
2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
3 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda and  
4 welcome to Mama Menchaca; [background comment] did  
5 not know she was here. [laugh] So as I said, all  
6 bills referred to committees as indicated on the  
7 agenda.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: There are no  
9 resolutions. General discussions, beginning with  
10 Council Member Garodnick. Quiet in the chambers,  
11 please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very  
13 much Madame Public Advocate. I wanted to draw my  
14 colleagues' attention to two bills that [background  
15 comment] I'm introducing today, one is Int. 955; the  
16 other is 956; 955 will raise the fines for companies  
17 that fail to repave and repair streets properly after  
18 they have been dug up. Big companies like Verizon,  
19 ConEd, Time Warner and the like often dig up our  
20 streets to lay wires, fix cables and check on pipes;  
21 when they do, it is their responsibility to repair  
22 them [background comment] according to the standards  
23 and specifications set by the City. These standards  
24 exist to ensure the safety of the public and when  
25 companies fail to meet them, they should be held

1  
2 accountable. After all, drivers can't send these big  
3 businesses the bill when their car hits a pothole  
4 caused by shoddy work, so we need to send a message  
5 here and raise the fines to a place where they  
6 deserve to be; I refer you to the bill for those  
7 numbers, they have not been raised since 1993, some  
8 of them.

9 Int. 956 I'm pleased to introduce with  
10 Council Member Ferreras-Copeland [background comment]  
11 which will extend New York City's biotech [background  
12 comment] tax credit, biotech tax credit for three  
13 more years. Biotech is one of the city's most  
14 important sectors and in the world; we are in a  
15 unique position to take advantage of it. We are home  
16 to 59 hospitals, 900 life-science companies and a  
17 fast-growing startup scene. Biotech companies bring  
18 advanced research and development to the city,  
19 creating middle-class jobs and tremendous  
20 innovations.

21 Recent startups as part of this tax  
22 credit can receive a maximum of \$250,000 a year and  
23 preexisting companies can earn up to \$125,000 in  
24 credits under certain conditions. About 28  
25 [background comment] companies took advantage of this

1  
2 tax credit in 2013; it has grown over time; it is  
3 about keeping New York strong in our rapidly growing  
4 biotech sector and I hope that you will join me in  
5 supporting the extension of this biotech tax credit  
6 and I wanna thank Council Member Ferreras-Copeland  
7 for her leadership on this issue too. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We're  
9 still in session, please, quiet in the chambers.  
10 Council Member Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you  
12 Madame Public Advocate. In a joint Contracts and  
13 Housing and Buildings Committee hearing this past  
14 April, construction workers on City-funded projects  
15 described experiencing racism; sexual abuse on the  
16 job, in addition to wage theft. I'm deeply disturbed  
17 that the City continues to fund projects using  
18 contractors with a history of illegal and abusive  
19 treatment toward their own workers. As Chair of the  
20 Committee on Contracts and an advocate of fairness  
21 for all, I'll continue to be relentless in stopping  
22 labor law violations. This bill aims to stop bad  
23 behavior in its tracks and bring more transparency to  
24 HPD. If passed, this legislation will create an  
25 ombudsman [background comments] position within HPD

1  
2 that is responsible for tracking issues with  
3 contractors related to wage theft, labor violations  
4 or shoddy construction. This person will now report  
5 on the violations of laws by detailing their  
6 existence, providing recommendations for fixing the  
7 noncompliance and creating a new list of good actors  
8 instead of bad, a preferred contractor list. The  
9 bill would also refine the language used to describe  
10 a responsible contractor to ensure the City does not  
11 continue to work with contractors that do not have  
12 respect for the law or workers' rights. I'm grateful  
13 to Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for her leadership  
14 in this area and I look forward to having the bill  
15 heard; getting it voted to get signed into law.

16           Secondly, I just want to remind my  
17 colleagues that on October 22nd at 1:00 in the  
18 chambers we'll be hearing three bills that will help  
19 people with disabilities get more engaged in civic  
20 life; I encourage you to come [bell] to the hearing  
21 and to sign on the bills and to get the neat info  
22 graphic that my staff created describing the bills.  
23 Thank you.

24           PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
25 Council Member Gibson.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very  
3 much Madame Public Advocate. Good afternoon,  
4 colleagues. I'd like to call your attention to Int.  
5 957, which will bring transparency to the instruction  
6 that's received by our teachers who teach sexual  
7 health education in our city's public schools.  
8 [background comment] Since 2011 our students have  
9 been required to take a semester of sex health  
10 education in both middle and high school; however,  
11 the actual instruction that's received by these  
12 teachers of these courses has never been mandated nor  
13 standardized. Although we can all agree that many  
14 conversations on matter of sexual health and  
15 education can be very sensitive, particularly with  
16 teenagers, teachers are not required to take  
17 professional development courses and in fact can  
18 teach without taking any of the Department of  
19 Education's three optional training classes. Whether  
20 or not teachers choose to take these courses is also  
21 not tracked, nor is the frequency in which they  
22 choose to stay up-to-date on this very important  
23 material. This is truly problematic; we have  
24 mandated sexual health education in this city because  
25 we know that sexual education courses save lives. To

1  
2 achieve these goals we need teachers who are  
3 knowledgeable and committed to their students' health  
4 and their futures; the quality of our kids' education  
5 and health outcomes should not be determined by the  
6 teacher who happens to be leading their course at the  
7 time. This bill will require the DOE to report on  
8 the level of education each teacher leading a sexual  
9 health education course chooses to receive and also  
10 the frequency at which they choose to take it. I  
11 truly believe that by shining a light on this  
12 important issue we will ensure compliance with  
13 educators making use of this critical, professional  
14 development and improve the overall quality of our  
15 children's education, health and their well-being and  
16 I ask you to review this and please sign onto  
17 Int. 957 and also wanna thank all of my colleagues  
18 for their support of domestic violence and mention;  
19 tomorrow the Committee on Public Safety will be  
20 [bell] having a hearing at 10 a.m. here in the  
21 chambers related to domestic violence and the New  
22 York Police Department and services in the city.  
23 Thank you... [crosstalk]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
25 you. Council Member Espinal. Council Member

1  
2 Espinal. Council Member Williams. [background  
3 comment]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 First, I just wanna back up what the Speaker spoke  
6 about of former Mayor David Dinkins; the Municipal  
7 Building being renamed for Mayor David Dinkins is  
8 very proud for me to be there and thank you for  
9 pointing out his Safe Streets and Safe Cities. The  
10 mayor after him tried to take a lot of credit for  
11 things that he did; Beacon program was actually one  
12 of my first... well the first job out of college was  
13 the Beacon program; I was assistant director of a  
14 program there and I'm glad he's finally getting some  
15 of the recognition that he is definitely due and the  
16 great thing about Safe Streets, Safe Cities; it was a  
17 holistic approach; not just about police; he opened  
18 up all the resources we had, like the schools, where  
19 we got the Beacon programs from.

20 I want to point out two bills; one,  
21 Resolution 881. We are dressed in purple today; I'm  
22 asking my colleagues to sign onto that International  
23 Violence Against Women Act of 2015, which was  
24 introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer earlier this  
25 year. Of course too many women and girls across the

1  
2 globe face horrific violence and discrimination and  
3 domestic violence in particular is not just a female  
4 issue; it is all issue, it is a family issue, a  
5 children's issue; it is a community issue.

6 Second, I wanna point out that we'll be  
7 having a hearing on my bill, Int. 832; I wanna thank  
8 Chairwoman Mealy from Civil Rights. That bill will  
9 ban discrimination in housing on the basis of  
10 domestic violence. So please sign onto 881 and I  
11 hope to see you at the hearing. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
13 Council Member King.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you Madame  
15 Public Advocate. Just wanted to say welcome back to  
16 our Bronx delegation chair, Annabel Palma; it's good  
17 to have you back, we're feeling good about the Bronx  
18 again, as always and it was a delight and honor today  
19 to see a building named after the first African  
20 American Mayor of the City of New York and a reminder  
21 to all BLAC caucus members that we have a general  
22 meeting directly right after Stated. Thank you again  
23 Madame Public Advocate.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank  
25 you. Council Member Cumbo.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you Public  
3 Advocate. I wanna bring your attention, with Council  
4 Member Gibson; I would like to call your attention to  
5 Int. 952, a bill that I'm introducing today  
6 [background comments] and I really urge all of my  
7 colleagues to sign on. It is a Local Law to amend  
8 the Administrative Code in relation to requiring the  
9 Department of Education to report information  
10 regarding comprehensive health education. This bill  
11 would require New York City Department of Education  
12 to report annually information regarding school  
13 compliance with the state regulations governing  
14 comprehensive health, reproductive health education  
15 and HIV-AIDS education for students in grades 6-12.  
16 And the reason why I wanna urge my colleagues is  
17 because our young people are making very important  
18 decisions at a very young age that is often having a  
19 detrimental impact on their lives, and so I strongly  
20 urge my colleagues to sign onto today. [background  
21 comment] And ultimately, today I wanna thank all of  
22 my colleagues today for your participation in NYC Go  
23 Purple today; it was a huge success and all of you  
24 today wearing purple, it's not for the vanity of it,  
25 it is for the purposes of bringing greater awareness

1  
2 and shining light on an issue that has remained in  
3 our shadows for far too long. So I wanna thank  
4 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Public Advocate  
5 Letitia James, Commissioner Rose Pierre-Louis and  
6 colleagues for participating in NYC Go Purple Day to  
7 educate our fellow New Yorkers on citywide resources  
8 that are available for domestic violence survivors.  
9 And today we stood on the steps of City Hall  
10 announcing that there has been an 11% increase  
11 [background comment] to **[01:22:02 inaudible]** funding.

12 I also wanna bring your attention to the  
13 fact that with First Baptist Church and several  
14 members here, the Making Strides Walk for World  
15 Without Breast Cancer. I will be walking this Sunday  
16 as we wear pink to honor all of those breast cancer  
17 survivors and those in support of ongoing research  
18 for World Without Breast Cancer. That will be  
19 happening in Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York this  
20 Sunday and I hope that all my colleagues can attend.

21 And I just wanna add as well; I was able  
22 to bring young men [bell] from Whitman Ingersoll and  
23 Farragut Houses from my district to the Million Man  
24 March this weekend and it was a powerful, powerful  
25 discussion... [crosstalk]

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,  
3 please bring your comments to a close.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: and opportunity  
5 for them to be together. So I thank you; this was an  
6 incredible opportunity for our young people and our  
7 young men to be exposed to Washington, D.C. and to  
8 have an intimate conversation about gun violence in  
9 the City of New York. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
11 Council Member Crowley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you Madame  
13 Public Advocate. I rise today to recognize the sad  
14 death of former Council Member [background comments]  
15 and former Minority Leader Tom Ognibene. [background  
16 comment] Tom worked very hard to make the district  
17 he represented and the city a better place. His  
18 dedication did not stop after he was term limited; I  
19 now this because I represent many of the same  
20 constituents that he did and although Tom and I  
21 didn't always agree on politics, he was always a  
22 gentleman and a person who was very well liked and  
23 respected and I wanted to give my personal thoughts  
24 and prayers to his family and all those who are

1  
2 suffering with his loss during this very difficult  
3 time. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 Seeing none other. To close, Speaker Melissa Mark-  
6 Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Madame  
8 Public Advocate and thank you to all my colleagues; a  
9 productive day and have a great one. Thank you.

10 [background comments]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date October 21, 2015