

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, September 28, 2023

Start: 2:00 P. M.

Recess: 3:05 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana I. Ayala
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farias
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

Rabbi Barry Dov Katz,
Conservative Synagogue Apath Israel of Riverdale
located at 475 West 250th Street, Bronx NY 1047

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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SERGEANT LYNCH: This is a microphone check for
The Stated Meeting in the Council Chambers on
September 28, 2023 -- recorded by Layla Lynch.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of
Allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

CITY COUNCIL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: [NO RESPONSE]

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: [NO RESPONSE]

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: [NO RESPONSE]

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Farías?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: [ABSENT]

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: [ABSENT]

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: [PARENTAL]

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [NO RESPONSE]

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordon?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: [ABSENT]

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Williams?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: [NO RESPONSE]

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [NO RESPONSE]

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
21 have today's Invocation delivered by delivered by
22 Rabbi Barry Dov Katz from the Conservative Synagogue
23 Adath Israel of Riverdale located at 475 West 250th
24 Street in Riverdale, welcome.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

1 RABBI BARRY DOV KATZ: "Today is pregnant with
2 eternity", that is how Rabbi Gerson Cohen, who was
3 the Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary in
4 Manhattan and a member of my synagogue in the Bronx,
5 translated a phrase that jews repeat over and over
6 again as we start the new year. Today is pregnant
7 with eternity, hayom harat olam. At the beginning of
8 a new year we judge our actions against the yardstick
9 of nothing less than forever. We see every moment as
10 full of promise and possibility. And in a city as
11 dynamic and everchanging as New York, we understand
12 the notion of being pregnant with eternity. Every
13 day in our great city, artists create cutting edge
14 creations, athletes achieve incredible heights,
15 individuals incubate ideas, and the future leaders of
16 our city, the future city council members and leaders
17 of our nation, and leaders of the world are being
18 born right now in this great city.

19 "Today is pregnant with eternity," is a beautiful
20 translation of the Hebrew, but it can be pretty
21 overwhelming. I would like to get through this
22 invocation, getting through eternity feels like a
23 lot. Getting through a day, getting through a week
24 feels like a lot. It is a lot of time of
25

1 uncertainty, eternity. Something new is being born

2 right now, but we don't exactly know what that is.

3 We don't know what challenges we will face, and

4 whether we will rise to meet them in ways that will

5 be judged well against the standards of eternity.

6 All of you, people in this room, have chosen communal

7 service. You know the heavy weight of seeing each

8 moment as pregnant with eternity.

9 Under the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams,

10 you watch over the everyday, the countless decisions

11 that will echo for good or bad.

12 Eternity asks us to take a long view of our work.

13 Will we raise our heads and hearts above the partisan

14 and petty to build a city that it is environmentally

15 responsible? Eternity wants to know. A society

16 where people go to sleep at night secure that they

17 have enough to eat and a roof over their heads?

18 Eternity asks. A community where the promise of

19 education and the protection of health care is

20 assured? Eternity asks us. Cities might seem very

21 solid, but they are delicate. They take years to

22 build, but much of what holds us together can fall

23 apart if we are not vigilant. Will we live in a city

24 that is divided and violent and full of prejudice and

25

1 hatred, or will we live in peace? Will we be decent
2 and kind? Will we, in every conversation and
3 deliberation and vote recognize the divine image in
4 every human being?
5

6 President John F. Kennedy said, "Democracy is
7 never a final achievement, it is a call to an
8 untiring effort." Cities, especially ones as vibrant
9 as New York City, require similar untiring effort.
10 In the Jewish tradition we say, "You are not required
11 to complete the work, but neither are you free to
12 desist from it." Eternity asks us to get to work.

13 When the challenges of eternity of the moment
14 feel overwhelming, I pray to God, who exist for
15 eternity, to give me strength. And I pray that God
16 will give each one of you strength.

17 I pray to the God who exists for eternity to give
18 me wisdom. And I pray that God gives each one of you
19 wisdom. I pray to the God exists for eternity to
20 remind that we need not meet challenges alone. We
21 can join together and be God's partners in lovingly
22 creating the better world that is being born right
23 now. I pray to God who exists for eternity that you
24 do not feel alone or lonely in your work, and that
25 when you look for partners, you will find them in

2 people, in eternal values, and in God. Today really
3 is pregnant with eternity. And let us meet today and
4 every day with faith and hope.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. I will now
6 ask Council Member Eric Dinowitz, I believe someone
7 you know very well, to spread the Invocation upon the
8 Record.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you. I am very
10 excited for you to be here, Rabbi. Rabbi Barry Dov
11 Katz serves the Greater Riverdale community and the
12 Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel building a
13 vibrant community that leads into the values that you
14 spoke of in your invocation. But, I know him very
15 well, he was the rabbi who took me on my first trip
16 to Israel, I think shortly after my teenage years,
17 and through there, ushered me through many life cycle
18 events, and, then, eventually, my family. But, that
19 relationship is just one in the many that Rabbi Katz
20 built throughout the entire Bronx. Building
21 relationships within the Jewish community, outside of
22 the Jewish community, to build a better Bronx - work
23 that speaks to the interfaith work we so desperately
24 need in our city; the interracial work we so
25 desperately need. And you do the work, and you

2 embody that work. And I just want to thank you one
3 more time, Rabbi Barry Dov Katz, for being here
4 today. I make a motion for unanimous consent to
5 spread the Invocation in full upon the Record.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
7 Dinowitz.

8 We will now have the Adoption of Minutes by
9 Council Member Alexa Avilés.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I make a motion that the
11 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 14, 2023 be
12 adopted as printed.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

14 We will have Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

15 COUNCIL CLERK: M 174 Mayor's Management Report.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and
17 Filed.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: M 175 through M 178, Mayoral
19 appointments.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communication From City,
22 County and Borough Offices?

23 COUNCIL CLERK: M 179, Bronx Borough President
24 appointment?

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
3 Communications

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

6 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We will now have Communication from Speaker
9 Adrienne Adams.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you very much, Majority
11 Leader. And, good afternoon, everyone.

12 I want to begin by taking a moment to address the
13 tragic death of a one-year-old child at Bronx daycare
14 center in Council Member Sanchez's district. Our
15 hearts go out to the family of Nicholas Dominici who
16 are experiencing unimaginable pain from losing their
17 baby, as well as to the children who are still
18 recovering today from opioid exposure and their
19 families.

20 We entrust our precious children to daycare
21 centers with the expectation that they will be safe.
22 To lose a child in any circumstance is profoundly
23 devastating, but for it to occur in a place that is
24 depended upon for care is an unacceptable betrayal,
25 and no parent should ever have to endure this. As a

1
2 grandmother of small children myself, I cannot fathom
3 the immense pain that Nicholas's family and the
4 families of the children hospitalized are going
5 through right now. Our children deserve to be safe.
6 The circumstances that allowed this incident to take
7 place are reprehensible, and it is critical that a
8 tragedy like this never happens again.

9 I also want to address the ongoing disciplinary
10 process related to the killing of Kawaski Trawick by
11 two NYPD officers. NYPD Deputy Commissioner
12 Maldonado's recommendation that no disciplinary
13 action be taken against the officers is
14 disappointing, and it is unjust. The NYPD failed to
15 hand over key evidence to the CCRB, including body
16 worn camera footage in a timely manner, causing
17 unnecessary delays that impeded the CCRB's ability to
18 do their job. And, yet, these delays caused by the
19 NYPD were the reason for the Deputy Commissioner's
20 recommendation, which is *totally* unjustifiable. The
21 Trawick family has been forced to fight and wait for
22 years to attain some form of accountability for
23 Kawaski's killing; this is far too long and has only
24 added to the suffering of losing a loved one.
25 Commissioner Caban can still do the right thing by

1 holding the officers accountable for their actions.

2 And that is what the Trawick family and our city
3 deserve. Accountability is critical to our public
4 safety.
5

6 Over the past month, our city has been mourning
7 the loss of Dale West, who fell to his death last
8 month in Council Member Mealy's district while
9 repairing a home. He leaves behind a nine-year-old
10 son and a loving family, and we express our
11 condolences to them during this very difficult time.

12 On Sunday, our Jewish communities observed the
13 start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. I
14 hope that everyone who observed had a meaningful and
15 reflective holiday. And for all those celebrating
16 Sukkot, I wish you all a Chag Sukkot sameach. Have a
17 wonderful and joyful holiday.

18 Tomorrow is the start of the Mid-Autumn Festival,
19 a traditional festival celebrated in China according
20 to the lunar calendar. Countries across Asia who
21 also observe the lunar calendar are celebrating their
22 own holidays including Chuseok, which is South
23 Korea's Thanksgiving, and Tsukimi, which is Japan's
24 version of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Have a happy and
25 healthy celebration.

1 Last Thursday was National Opioid Awareness Day.
2
3 More than 3,000 people died from an overdose in 2022,
4 the highest number since the City began reporting
5 such deaths in the year 2000. We can keep each other
6 and our communities safe by approaching substance
7 abuse as an urgent matter of public health and safety
8 concentrating on public health solutions to this
9 deadly crisis. We must recognize the racial
10 disparities in the addiction and overdose crisis and
11 focus on more prevention, harm reduction, and
12 treatment services in the most impacted communities.
13 I appreciate our work as a council to address this
14 crisis, and we must continue to deepen our efforts to
15 save lives.

16 Last Thursday was also World Alzheimer's Day, a
17 day to increase public awareness about Alzheimer
18 disease, which is a growing public health crisis in
19 New York. So many have personal connections to this
20 disease including our own council member and Aging
21 committee chair, Crystal Hudson, who cared for her
22 mother as she lived with Alzheimer's. Council Member
23 Hudson is organizing a council team to participate in
24 the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday
25 October 21st. And we hope members can join together

2 in representing our body. Let us continue to work
3 towards solutions that support those with the disease
4 as well as their families and care givers.

5 Sunday was World Day of Migrants and Refugees,
6 and day that asks Catholics around the world to
7 remember those displaced by conflict and persecution.
8 The Catholic Church has been celebrating the day
9 since 1914, and it is an occasion to express concern
10 for different vulnerable people on the move, to pray
11 for them as they face challenges, and to increase
12 awareness about the opportunities that migration
13 offers. This is a message needed now more than ever
14 as we work towards solutions to support asylum
15 seekers and longtime New Yorkers, it is critical that
16 we recognize one another's humanity. People have fled
17 their homes and have endured immense journeys of
18 trauma in search of safety. As we mark World Day
19 Migrants and Refugees, let us remember our shared
20 humanity and aspirations to pursue life and liberty
21 for ourselves and our families.

22 Next, Colleagues, I want to wish a belated Happy
23 Birthday to our very own Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala.

24 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala
3 celebrated her birthday on the 24th. And we also
4 wish a belated Happy Birthday to Council Member Farah
5 Louis, whose birthday was on the 25th!

6 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Happy, Happy Belated Birthday to
8 you both.

9 Finally, Colleagues, I want to take a special
10 moment to announce that City Council's Special
11 Counsel and veteran, Jim Caras, is retiring at the
12 end of this week. For over three decades, Jim has
13 exemplified what it means to be a true public
14 servant. He has made an immeasurable impact on the
15 Council, this city, and the lives of all New Yorkers.
16 Jim joined the staff of the Council in 1992. Some of
17 you weren't even born in 1992.

18 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: And he served as counsel to the
20 Committees on Consumer Affairs, Finance, and State
21 and Federal Legislation. He later became counsel to
22 the Council's Finance Division and Deputy General
23 Counsel. After stint at the Manhattan Borough
24 President's Office, with our own Council Member Gale
25 Brewer, Jim returned to the Council in 2019 to serve

1 as General Counsel and Special Counsel. For all that
2 Jim has accomplished during his distinguished tenure
3 in the Council and public service, those who know
4 him, and who have had the honor of working with him,
5 can attest to just how great of a friend and human
6 being he is.
7

8 Jim has been our dependable go-to person for
9 nearly all things in this Council, with an
10 inexhaustible willingness to help his colleagues with
11 any question or any need. Jim has a great passion
12 for city government and municipal law in the service
13 of New Yorkers. He has improved The City Council
14 through his contributions, his presence has steadied
15 this council, and his commitment to budget
16 transparency has helped this council flex more of its
17 budgetary powers by securing *record* units of
18 appropriation and important terms and conditions as
19 part of our budget negotiations.

20 Jim, on behalf of the entire New York City
21 Council, and all New Yorkers, and from the very
22 bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for
23 everything you have done for this institute and for
24 our city. We will always be so grateful for your
25 great public service and your friendship. We will

2 miss you dearly. I ask Council Member Brewer to join
3 me in the front.

4 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Get up!

6 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: [NOT MIC'D] [INAUDIBLE] the entire
8 New York City Council. We present you with this
9 proclamation of thanks. I am not going to read it
10 all, I am just going to read the final "whereas".
11 "Whereas throughout his tenure, Jim's contributions
12 have always exceeded his official title. Jim is a
13 generous man, with his knowledge, experience, and
14 inexhaustible willingness to guide others, as well as
15 his kindness, infectious laugh -- which we all know
16 and love -- and sense of humor, upon his departure he
17 can be proud of our entire city for generations to
18 come. Jim you have helped to shape this city council
19 and strengthen our entire city. Be it known that the
20 City of New York, and the New York City Council,
21 gracefully honors James Caras for three decades...

22 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: of stellar service...

24 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

1
2 SPEAKER ADAMS: to the New York City Council and
3 to his fellow New Yorkers." It is signed this 29th
4 day of September in the year 2023, by yours truly,
5 Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker for the entire Council,
6 and Council Member Gale A. Brewer, Council Member of
7 the 6th District of Manhattan, we thank you.

8 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much, Madam
10 Speaker. This is hard for me, because I feel so
11 strongly, as we all do, about this amazing man. But,
12 there were some very funny portions of this
13 particular wording, and I would like to share it.
14 Obviously we talked about his distinguished career,
15 City business, [INAUDIBLE] improvement districts
16 city, worked on the Expense, the Capital Budget,
17 making sure that the lobbyists did the right thing,
18 working on the Retiree Health Benefits Trust Funds,
19 all of the legal review of council legislation,
20 paring his deep knowledge with creativity. He earned
21 a reputation of being one of the hardest working
22 attorneys, burning the midnight oil and working on
23 weekends, catching sleep when he could. During
24 Quinn's term, those attending meetings in the
25 Council's office, might find him asleep on a terribly

1 worn out couch. And over the course of many hours
2 and naps, his pockets emptied out all of their coins
3 into the couch, the value of which far exceeded its
4 worth as a piece of furniture. And his office -- if
5 you have ever been in his freaking office -- in his
6 office, [INAUDIBLE] to controlled chaos and
7 workspaces of legendary proportions, the papers, the
8 stacks, the files, the open tabs on the desktop bely
9 his organizational thinking. He is probably the
10 leading expert of the City Charter separation of
11 powers and issues, Home Rule, Powers of the City
12 under state law, state constitution, high profiled
13 litigation between The Mayor and The City Council,
14 all the Executive Budget transparency that we know he
15 knows, and that the City should have a real say in
16 how funding decisions are made on the budget. He his
17 uses expertise to prep for this by placing terms and
18 conditions, as we heard. He has a sweet tooth! From
19 250 Broadway to City Hall and One Center Street, he
20 would go to a meeting and easily clean out open bowls
21 of candy, unwrapping new candy before finishing what
22 he started. During the Bloomberg Administration, he
23 set up a standing Swedish Fish order with City Hall
24 staff, raiding The Mayor's food stash before arriving
25

2 at 250 Broadway for meetings. This is the Jim Caras
3 whom we love, Shulamit Puder is here, and she brought
4 you a whole friggin' bag of candy! There you go!

5 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I know that Rob Newman is
7 trying to get here, Anthony Crowel, and Liz Fine, his
8 very dear friends, are all trying to get here. We
9 are going to miss you tremendously. We all have your
10 cell number, and we will use it on a regular basis.

11 JAMES CARAS: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

13 JAMES CARAS: I just want to thank you all. It
14 has been my honor to serve The City Council, this
15 speaker, the former borough president, all of you,
16 and I just had the... I was fortunate enough to have
17 the most wonderful career in city government, so,
18 thank you.

19 COUNCIL: [APPLAUSE]

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Let's just applaud Jim one more
21 time. I just can't believe he's leaving.

22 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Oh, my gosh.

24 Alrighty, let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

1 First we will vote on the following Finance
2
3 Items:

4 A Preconsidered Resolution to authorize an
5 Article XI Exemption for two new buildings in Council
6 Member Fariás' district.

7 A Preconsidered Resolution to renew an Article V
8 Exemption for one building in Council Member Abreu's
9 district.

10 Four Preconsidered Resolutions to act on recently
11 granted state authorization to allow the Council to
12 amend the required formula for calculating the Fiscal
13 Year 2024 property tax rates. Passing this package
14 of resolutions will result in lower property tax
15 rates for class 1 and class 2 residential properties
16 in this fiscal year compared to what was adopted in
17 the budget in June.

18 Next, we will vote on the following Land Use
19 items 1460-1480 Sheridan Boulevard will facilitate
20 three new mixed-use buildings with 100 percent
21 affordable housing in Council Member Rafael
22 Salamanca's district. It will include approximately
23 970 housing units, nearly 140,000 square feet of
24 commercial space, and bike, and automobile parking
25 spaces.

1 244 East 106th Street Article XI Disposition will
2
3 facilitate the development of 10-story shared
4 supportive housing building under HPD's ShareNYC
5 pilot program. It will create approximately 32
6 affordable units in Deputy Speaker Ayala's district.

7 761 Plumb 2nd Street Rezoning will allow an
8 existing restaurant to continue operating without
9 renewing its BSA special permit every five years in
10 Minority Whip Inna Vernikov's district.

11 125 Greaves Lane will facilitate the conversion
12 of an existing community facility into commercial use
13 in Minority Leader Borrelli's district.

14 Next, we will vote on the following pieces of
15 legislation:

16 Introduction 743-A, sponsored by Council Member
17 Rafael Salamanca, would require City employees who
18 can issue summonses or notices of violation to
19 provide a pre-printed, handwritten, or electronic
20 business card with identifying information to members
21 of the public upon request. The business card would
22 include the employee's name and agency, a telephone
23 number, and email address that could be used to
24 contact the agency and the relevant 311 customer
25 service number. The City Employee will indicate that

1 this contact information may be used to submit
2 comments about the encounter. Employees who are
3 engaged in agency approved undercover activities, who
4 must take immediate action, or are providing
5 identifying information through other forms of
6 documentation, like a Certificate of Inspection or
7 Notice of Violation are exempt. Thank you to staff
8 members Jayasri Ganapathy, Erica Cohen, CJ Murray,
9 Rachel Cordero, and David Seitzer.
10

11 Introduction 906-A, should not have been Justin
12 L. Brannan, would require an agency or office
13 designated by The Mayor, to offer off street parking
14 for tractor trailers and commercial trucks at three
15 or more location citywide by 2025. This is especially
16 important in our outer borough residential
17 neighborhoods, where overnight truck parking has
18 taken up curbside space and often blocks car traffic,
19 bus lanes, and/or bike lanes. Thank you staff
20 members Samuel Breidbart, Mark Chen, John Basile, and
21 Kevin Kotowski.

22 Next, we will vote on Introduction 349 sponsored,
23 by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. This
24 legislation would require the Department of
25 Correction to create a dyslexia screening process for

1 individuals in custody and offer treatment programs
2 for those who are identified. Thank you to staff
3 members Natalie Meltzer and Jeremy Whiteman.
4

5 Introduction 279-A, sponsored by Majority Leader
6 Keith Powers, would require the city to only purchase
7 zero emissions light- and medium-duty vehicles after
8 2025, and zero emissions heavy duty vehicles after
9 2028. It would also require the City to ensure that
10 its entire fleet of municipal vehicles is converted
11 zero emissions... zero emissions vehicles, by 2038
12 with earlier goals for some vehicle types.

13 Introduction 279-A also requires the training of City
14 workers on the repair and maintenance of these new
15 vehicles and reporting on workforce development to
16 ensure that we are protecting both the environment
17 and our city's workers.

18 We are also voting on a Preconsidered Resolution,
19 sponsored by Majority Leader Powers, calling on The
20 Mayor to procure on the basis of best value when
21 contracting for the purchase, operation, and
22 maintenance of zero emission vehicles. Thank you to
23 our staff members Brad Reid, Andrew Bourne, Samara
24 Swanston, and Clara McLaughlin.

1 And Introduction 1190, sponsored by Council
2
3 Member Gale Brewer, would create a one-time exception
4 to the maximum age requirement for employees of the
5 FDNY's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services who are
6 seeking to take the next Civil Service Promotion exam
7 to become fire fighters. Under existing law, in
8 order to become a fire fighter for the FDNY an
9 individual may not have passed their 29th birthday
10 when applying to take to the Fire Fighter Exam.
11 However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FDNY hiring
12 cycles were delayed for several years and civil
13 service exams were not offered at their usual
14 frequency. As a result, a group of nearly 300 EMS
15 workers, who would have otherwise been eligible to
16 take a promotion exam in 2020, have now reached an
17 age where they are ineligible. This legislation
18 creates a one-time waiver to allow those EMS workers
19 who missed this opportunity to take the upcoming
20 promotion exam in 2024. Thank you to our staff
21 members Josh Kingsley, William Hongach, and Rachel
22 Cordero.

23 We thank you all for your attention. Now, I turn
24 it back over to our Majority Leader.

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.

1
2 We are now going to move into the Discussion of
3 General Orders on today's Agenda. We will begin with
4 Council Member Gale Brewer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I am
6 here to introduce this legislation that the speaker
7 was just talking about to create a one-time waiver
8 from existing age requirements for becoming an FDNY
9 fire fighter for EMS workers who would have otherwise
10 been able to take the promotional exam had it been
11 given at its usual frequency - but couldn't because
12 of the pandemic -- and it is usually given every four
13 years.

14 We all know that fire fighters and EMS workers
15 are some of the bravest and most dedicated public
16 servants. They put their lives on the line every day
17 to protect all of us. And during COVID, they
18 continued to be on the front line sacrificing their
19 health to keep doing the job, and we owe them
20 gratitude. This legislation is a small way to show
21 our appreciation for their service and to give these
22 heroes a fair chance to compete for promotions in The
23 Fire Department. They really have the skills and
24 expertise necessary to be successful fire fighters,
25 they should not be barred from taking the promotion

1 exam simply because they are over the current maximum
2 age, and COVID prevented the City from administering
3 the exam in 2020. There are around 300 of them in
4 this situation. I know that this one-time exemption
5 will not cover everyone who wants to take the exam;
6 although, I thank The Speaker's Office and The
7 Mayor's Office, because people were added. I am
8 confident that we have maximized an opportunity that
9 is consistent with the law, and it is the right thing
10 to do. Most, most, most thank you, Chair Ariola,
11 head of The Fire Committee, thank you for your
12 support and also for your great appreciation for
13 these amazing civil servants. I want to also thank
14 Andrea Vazquez, Rachel Cordero, Josh Kingsley,
15 William Hongach, and in particular Cynthia Hornig
16 from my office, and I think in the stands Haley
17 Saydle (phonetic), Micheal Kavanaugh and his amazing
18 dad, who also supported this at the hearing when they
19 testified at The Fire Committee, Christopher Nigro,
20 Dominick DeFranco, Jordan Tymony, [TIMER CHIMES] you
21 are fabulous presenters of the best of New York.
22 Thank you very much.
23
24
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
3 anyone else who would like to speak on today's Agenda
4 with General Orders?

5 Okay, seeing none, we will go the Report of
6 Special Committees.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Report of Standing
9 Committees?

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
11 Criminal Justice Introduction 349-A, Dyslexia
12 screening in city jails?

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
14 Orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
16 Environmental Protection, Resiliency and Waterfronts
17 Introduction 279-A, zero emission vehicles?

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
21 Finance, Preconsidered Resolutions 787 through 789,
22 based percentage and adjusted base proportion?

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Coupled on General Orders.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Resolution 790,
25 property taxes?

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered LU 273 and
4 Resolution 798 and Preconsidered LU 274 and
5 Resolution 799 property tax exemptions?

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire
8 and Emergency Management, Preconsidered Introduction
9 1190, FDNY age requirements?

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
12 Governmental Operations, Introduction 743-A, city
13 employee identifying information?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
17 Use LUs 253 and 254, 1233 57th Street Rezoning?

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled to be filed pursuant to a
19 Letter of Withdrawal.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 259 and Resolution 800, 2761
21 Plumb 2nd Street Rezoning?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: LUs 260 and 261, 2-18 31st Avenue
24 Rezoning?

25

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with Modifications and
3 Referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
4 Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: LUs 262 and Resolution 801 through
6 LU 265 and Resolution 803, various zoning amendments?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 266 and Resolution 804,
9 disposition of City owned property?

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
12 Transportation and Infrastructure, Introduction 906-A
13 commercial truck parking?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing various
17 persons Commissioner of Deeds?

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

19 I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on
20 all of the items coupled today on today's General
21 Orders Calendar.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I am aye on all... I'm
3 sorry, aye on all except for Resolutions 787, 788,
4 789, and 790. I am also pleased to be a prime
5 cosponsor on Introduction 1190, with the incomparable
6 Gale Brewer, who never gave up on this idea, and I
7 thank all of those who were involved in making this
8 happen.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

10 Council Member Avilés?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all. I am happy to
12 support Introduction 1190, congratulations to Council
13 Member Brewer and Council Member Ariola.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

19 Council Member Bottcher?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member BRANNAN?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to
2 explain my voter?
3

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I want to take a
6 moment to congratulate Chair Brannan on the passage
7 of Introduction 906. In my committee we have had
8 discussions with so many stakeholders to understand
9 how trucking is impacting communities and how we can
10 work together to fix the problem of illegal truck
11 parking. Communities like mine in South East Queens
12 are frustrated with the noise, pollution, and
13 congestion that trucks generate on neighborhood
14 streets. We have also spoken with truckers who often
15 have trouble finding places to park after long
16 grueling shifts behind the wheel. Introduction 906
17 is about addressing community concerns and supporting
18 truckers alike by finding dedicated, nonresidential
19 locations where truckers can rest. I just want to
20 note that the enforcement remains an essential
21 component of the City's strategy on this issue. The
22 Council will continue to explore legislative
23 solutions and increase its oversight capacity to
24 ensure effective vigilant enforcement. I thank
25 Council Member Brannan for his work on this. And I

2 am grateful for this council's commitment to
3 addressing this issue.

4 And, separately, I would like to be added to
5 Introduction 1190.

6 With that, I vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member , no
8 problem.

9 Council Member Cabán?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to explain my
13 vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I just want to commend
16 Council Member Brewer and our Committee Chair, Joann
17 Ariola, for the passage of Proposed Introduction
18 Number 1190. So many talented young people missed an
19 opportunity to take the Fire Fighters exam in 2020
20 through no fault of their own just due to the COVID
21 emergency. And, now, because of this measure, which
22 I am proud to cosponsor, they will have an
23 opportunity to show their worth and no doubt continue
24 to give great service to our city as fire fighters
25 and maybe even fire officers in the future. So, I am

2 so proud to see this bill move forward, and to
3 support it, and to thank my colleagues for
4 championing this issue.

5 I also just want to say briefly thank you to Jim
6 Caras for his many years of service here in the
7 Council. He was a friend and advisor to all three of
8 my District 50 predecessors and to me as well. He's
9 a phenomenal asset here in the Council who will be
10 sorely missed. But, I do look forward to trying all
11 of my rejected term and condition ideas on his
12 successor. Hopefully he hasn't briefed them on all
13 of them. But, I will certainly miss having him as a
14 friend here in the body. But, I know he continues to
15 be a friend to all of us in life. So, God bless you,
16 Jim.

17 And, with that, I will be voting no on
18 Preconsidered Resolutions 787, 788, 789, and 790, and
19 aye on all the rest.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

21 Council Member De La Rosa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Permission to explain
23 my vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: I want to first
3 congratulate the colleagues, Council Member Brewer
4 for Introduction 1190, as well as the men and women
5 of the FDNY and the unions who came, testified, and
6 surely convinced us of the plight that they have had
7 to endure because of this pandemic. It is a pleasure
8 to have voted on this bill and to work with them to
9 make sure that this important part of our City
10 workforce is able to serve.

11 Aye on all, thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Dinowitz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: [ABSENT]

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Leader, I request the
21 opportunity to speak about how great your bill is.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I will definitely give
23 you permission for that.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr. Leader,
25 279-A is really great bill that does... That works

2 on a lot of issues that other cities around the
3 country are going to face, because when you make this
4 kind of move, there are a lot of labor issues that
5 are involved in to make sure that we don't lose jobs
6 when we do this. And, uh, the Majority Leader worked
7 through this bill with great aplomb, and he deserves
8 a lot of credit for it. The Council passed a bill
9 like this in 2005, uh, but this bill has things that
10 we could have never dreamed about 18 years ago. And
11 that bill sorely needed an update, and the Majority
12 Leader came forward with this bill and worked out all
13 of the labor issues. And it was a lot of yelling and
14 screaming, but he got it done. It's a great bill
15 that will be replicated throughout the country. I
16 congratulate other members on their bills. And I
17 will fondly miss Jim Caras who I have known for more
18 than 30 years. And I wish him all the best in what
19 he does next. And, yes, I do have his cell number.

20 With that, I vote aye. Thank you, Mr. Leader.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

22 Council Member Gutiérrez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: [ABSENT]

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all with the
6 exception of Resolutions 787, 788, 789, 789, and 790,
7 of which I vote no.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Permission to explain my
13 vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Every year the Council is
16 required to set the property tax rates for each
17 property class and legislature allows to adjust those
18 rates to lessen the impact on small family homes.
19 So, I will vote yes with reservations. These
20 property tax rates are still very high, but better
21 than the rates proposed back in June when I voted no.
22 Unfortunately, these rates are grouped together in
23 one vote for all classes. Current rates are still
24 far from a solution to a real problem. Our unfair
25 property tax system continues to burden working,

2 middleclass families. And we need Albany to act on
3 real property tax reform now. So, I am voting yes on
4 all, and, as I said, my vote yes on property taxes
5 are with reservations, thank you.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all, and we will
12 miss you, Jim.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Jim, I love the face,
23 and thank you so much for everything you do, and aye
24 on all. I love happy faces.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all. And,
5 Jim, I want a piece of candy, please. And you will
6 be missed.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all except
9 for Preconsidered Resolutions 787, 788, 789, 789, and
10 790.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 Council Member Restler?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on all. Congrats,
14 Majority Leader on a great bill. And, thanks for all
15 your years of really tremendous service, Jim. We
16 will miss you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
18 Jordan?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: [ABSENT]

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Jim, for all of
24 your years of service. I vote aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

6 Council Member Schulman?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to explain my
8 vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: As someone who was once
11 part of the leadership at New York City EMS before it
12 became part of the Fire Department, I am very proud
13 to have been a cosponsor of Introduction 1190. And I
14 want to thank Jim Caras for his wonderful years of
15 service, and I wish him luck in his next adventure,
16 thank you. And aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Congratulations, Jim.
19 And I vote aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all. And,
24 thanks for your service, Jim, we love you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all except for
3 Preconsidered Resolutions 787, 788, 789, 789, and
4 790, and congratulations to my colleagues Council
5 Member Brewer and Council Member Ariola.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Williams?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Permission to explain my
11 vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I just want to recognize that
14 in Sunnyside this week we have lost a resident to a
15 fire on 46th Street, and we have had a serious injury
16 to a brave firefighter. So, thank you to the more
17 than 60 firefighters and EMS workers who spent hours
18 risking their lives to respond. And congratulations
19 to Council Member Brewer and Council Member Ariola
20 for passing the Fire and Emergency Management Law.

21 And I would like to thank Jim Caras for truly
22 sharpening our teeth for our terms and conditions,
23 and for teaching first term members like me what it
24 really means to really exercise our powers and the
25 Council, thank you.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

3 Council Member Yeger?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the
5 exception of 788, 789, and 790, and Introduction 906.

6 And, Uh, Jim teaches even second term members,
7 and, so, I am very grateful to you, Jim, for
8 everything, thank you.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Yeger,
10 the Resolutions, can you clarify for me, please,
11 sorry?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Sure, no on Resolutions
13 788, 789, and 790, and no on Introduction 906, and
14 aye on the remaining.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, thank you, apologies,
16 thank you.

17 Council Member Borelli?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. A brief
19 explanation? I would like to share the sentiment
20 wishing Jim a Happy Retirement. I wish him best of
21 luck in the future.

22 I would like to commend Council Member Brooks-
23 Powers on Introduction 906. Tractor trailers are a
24 tremendous problem in my district. They have
25 become... It has become a de-facto parking lot for

1
2 18-wheelers who are transitioning between New Jersey
3 to New Jersey Turnpike and New York City, so that's
4 great.

5 I want to just mention why we are voting against
6 Preconsidered Resolutions on the property taxes.
7 Even though despite, in fact, that most of my
8 district is Class 1 properties, and this will
9 actually slightly by a hair lower the rate,
10 ultimately, we talk a lot about housing
11 affordability, and although we need to meet our debts
12 and obligations, and we have to raise the tax levy at
13 this point in the year, we are missing an opportunity
14 on Class 2 properties, which house the majority of
15 New Yorkers, to give them slight property tax relief.
16 And this is part of the problem of why housing has
17 become less affordable for many New Yorkers. And I
18 wish in the future that we can perhaps put a little
19 bit more of an emphasis on lowering the rates for
20 Class 2. Thank you.

21 And I vote aye on all except Preconsidered
22 Resolutions 787, 788, 789, and 790, thank you.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

24 Council Member Powers?

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Just another note to congratulate
4 the Majority Leader on really setting a precedent for
5 the nation. With this legislation, this will be the
6 model for the rest of the country to follow. I
7 commend you, Majority Leader, for all of the hard
8 work on this incredible bill. Congratulations to all
9 of my colleagues for passing amazing legislation
10 today. I vote aye on all.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
12 General Orders Calendar are adopted by a vote of 47
13 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0 abstentions,
14 with the exception of Resolutions 788,789,790 adopted
15 by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 7 negative, and 0
16 abstentions; Resolution 787, adopted by a vote of 41
17 in the affirmative, 6 negative, and 0 abstentions;
18 and Introduction 906-A, adopted by a vote of 46 in
19 the affirmative, 1 negative, and 0 abstentions.

20 We will move into the Introduction and Reading of
21 Bills.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to
23 committees as indicated on today's Agenda.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

25

2 We will now move into the Discussion or
3 Resolutions. We do not have anyone currently signed
4 up to speak, so I will move into voice vote on
5 today's resolutions. If you wish to vote against or
6 abstain from any of today's resolutions, please
7 notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by
8 approaching the dais.

9 I will now read today's resolutions in to the
10 record:

11 Preconsidered Resolution 796, calling on the
12 Mayor of New York City, when contracting for the
13 purchase, operation, and maintenance of zero emission
14 vehicles, to procure on the basis of best value.

15 Will all those in favor please say aye?

16 [AYE]

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay? Any
18 abstentions?

19 The ayes have it.

20 We will now move into General Discussion. We
21 will begin with Council Selvena Member Brooks-Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you, Majority
23 Leader.

24 I am proud to be introducing a pair of bills
25 today support taxi and for hire vehicle drivers. The

1 first of these bills would allow applicants with taxi
2 driver licenses to receive medical clearances from
3 TLC approved physician assistants and nurse
4 practitioners. Currently they can only receive such
5 clearance from physicians. Health care visits in the
6 United States are increasingly conducted by non-
7 physicians. From 2013 to 2019 the number of visits to
8 nurse practitioner and physician assistants increased
9 by 14 percent of total health care visits nationwide,
10 so over a quarter of these visits. This legislation
11 will make obtaining a clearance for a license less
12 burdensome for potential drivers.

14 The second bill will return the duration of taxi
15 cab licenses to two years, back from one year. The
16 change to one year was a technical mistake, and was
17 not intended by the Council, but it has real
18 implications for drivers who must now go through the
19 process of renewal each year. By reverting to the
20 prior licensing regime, the bill will reduce the
21 regulatory burden on drivers. I encourage all of my
22 colleagues to sign on to these bills, and I look
23 forward to holding a hearing on these introductions
24 in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

1
2 to talk to about how we can continue to uplift New
3 York's TLC drivers, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
5 go to Council Member Riley.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.
7 I am proud to introduce three pieces of legislation
8 today that seek to improve the overall well-being for
9 New York City families by reducing light pollution
10 near some NYC residential buildings; expanding
11 healthy meal options for our youth; as well as
12 providing a means of support for incarcerated
13 individuals to successfully reenter society. I am
14 happy to partner with my colleagues in the state
15 government, Assemblyman Benedetto and Senator Bailey
16 to push a resolution on the city level that calls on
17 the New York State Legislature to pass, and the
18 Governor to sign, A.7456A/S.1931B, which prohibits
19 residential and commercial properties from operating
20 digital billboards or with excessive light near
21 certain Mitchell-Lama housing. With my district being
22 home to Co-Op City, the largest Mitchell-Lama
23 development in the nation, Resolution 797 is vital to
24 protecting New Yorkers in Mitchell-Lama housing from
25 the disparities of excessive night lights, making

1
2 them more susceptible to disruptive sleep cycles and
3 elevating risks of cancer and poor overall health.

4 Next, Introduction 1202 will establish citywide
5 nutrition standards and beverage options for
6 childrens meals in restaurants and food
7 establishments. I would like to thank the American
8 Heart Association, all advocates, my colleagues who
9 are planning to sign on, and parents for their
10 partnership in the rally today and continuing the
11 groundwork to promote an healthier lifestyle for our
12 future generations.

13 As we applaud the call to serve all New Yorkers,
14 I introduce Introduction 1203, which would require
15 the New York City Department of Correction to provide
16 all individuals with discharge papers upon their
17 release from custody specifying the date a person
18 entered and was released from custody. These jail
19 release papers promote transparency and
20 accountability in our criminal justice system by
21 providing an official record of individual time
22 served, whether they were held [TIMER CHIMES]
23 pretrial or sentenced in an order of commitment. I
24 would like to thank you, Majority Leader, for the

1
2 time, and I would like to urge my colleagues in
3 government to sign on to these bills, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will go to
5 Council Member Lee, followed by Council Member
6 Sanchez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Thank you, good afternoon,
8 Madam Speaker, Majority Leader, and Colleagues.
9 Today I am proud to be introducing Introduction 1197.
10 This bill fine tunes Local Law 97 to protect the
11 housing affordability of working and middleclass
12 condo and co-op residents many of whom are seniors
13 and retirees living on fixed incomes. Our city's
14 goals for climate and sustainability are necessary,
15 which was the original intent on Local Law 97.
16 However, sometimes in the legislative process
17 unexpected consequences can arise. The bill I am
18 introducing today focuses on the disadvantaged few
19 whose buildings do not have the recourses to get in
20 compliance as quickly as the current schedule of
21 fines demands. These buildings are expected to make
22 costly upgrades and renovations but cannot do that if
23 they are being drained by penalties. My legislation
24 aims to buy those buildings additional time to
25 comply. It would create a more gradual schedule of

1 penalties for those buildings that fall under a
2 certain value. It would improve the method for
3 calculating emissions limits by factoring in open,
4 green spaces, and prior upgrades. And it would also
5 consider median property value when deciding
6 penalties. This Council can reduce the City's carbon
7 footprint while also doing everything in its power to
8 protect and maintain housing affordability for its
9 working and middleclass residents. Thank you to
10 those who are already cosponsors, and I hope the rest
11 will join me in this effort, thank you so much.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will go
14 to Council Member Sanchez, followed by Council Member
15 Restler.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority
17 Leader, and thank you, Speaker, for beginning your
18 remarks today focused on Nicholas Dominici and
19 Kawaski Trawick from District 14.

20 I also want to thank all of my colleagues for
21 your support as you have been reaching out to me to
22 help this family, I appreciate you, and we will
23 continue to talk about the GoFundMe page that family
24 has set up. Please help me to share that with the
25 world in support of the family.

1 I am devastated for the family of Nicholas Feliz
2 Dominici, a beautiful one-year-old baby who we lost
3 following exposure to opioids at a daycare center
4 here in Kingsbridge -- as well as the three children
5 who are still recovering. This is a painful time for
6 our community, but most importantly, in honor of
7 Nicholas and what his family is requesting today, it
8 is a call to action for our city, the state, and the
9 country. Over and over as I have visited the parents
10 Nicholas Feliz Dominici in the days since the
11 tragedy, they have asked, what are we going to do?
12 What is government going to do -- city, state,
13 whoever is in charge, to make sure that this never
14 happens again to another child in our city or
15 anywhere in our country? And to them I say that we
16 are going to do everything that we can as a Council,
17 but we are also going to make sure that we are
18 calling on the federal government to strengthen
19 international interdiction efforts, to strengthen
20 efforts against the ruthlessness of the drug dealing
21 operations that we see in our communities. And, so,
22 as we here in New York City pursue better and
23 stronger harm reduction strategies and improve
24 protocols to keep our children safe, there is just so
25

1
2 much to do, and I am thankful for our speaker who
3 cares so much about this situation, and all of you
4 who have reached out, thank you.

5 And regarding Kawaski Trawick, I just want to
6 join the Speaker's remarks and ,you know, emphasize
7 that Kawaski should be alive today. He was a 30+
8 year-old young man who was in his home in a
9 supportive housing facility when the NYPD broke into
10 his home - illegally entered...

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: as substantiated by the
13 CCRB. And it is just very clear that Commissioner
14 Caban has a responsibility to pursue disciplinary
15 actions. Thank you, Majority Leader, and I look
16 forward to that accountability follows four years of
17 inaction by the NYPD.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
19 go to Council Member Restler, followed by Council
20 Member Brewer.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I just firstly want to
22 express my profound sorrow to Council Member Sanchez
23 and to her community with the horrible passing of the
24 one-year-old in a daycare center due to exposure to
25 opioids, and of course the killing of Kawaski

1 Trawick. And I strongly echo the speaker's
2 sentiments that we need accountability from the NYPD.
3 Commissioner Caban needs to do the right thing and
4 hold the officers who killed Mr. Trawick accountable.

5 I wanted to just mention a few bills we are
6 introducing today. We all remember too well the
7 apocalyptic air quality incident that we experienced
8 a few months ago. And, unfortunately, they are a
9 part of the new climate realities that we are facing.
10 And we need to make sure that the City of New York is
11 far, far, far better prepared than they were to
12 handle these types of incidents. I was shocked by
13 how inadequately prepared the Adams Administration
14 was for this incident, the lack of communication with
15 the public, it has to change. And, so, we have
16 introduced three bills, one to create "Spare the Air
17 Day," that include specific policies to reduce
18 emissions on days when we are experiencing
19 particularly bad air quality, and ensure that street
20 homeless New Yorkers have the opportunity to enter
21 any shelter in the City of New York to get safe. We
22 have also introduced bills that would require the New
23 York City Emergency Management Office to create a
24 public notification plan for informing New Yorkers
25

1 about days when we have poor air quality, and an
2 emergency protocol for how they and other agencies
3 must respond to keep New Yorkers safe. We have seen
4 these types of air quality incidents with frequency
5 in other parts of the country, and we have taken best
6 practices from what folks have been doing out west
7 and have applied them to Local Law here in New York.
8 And I hope that we will be able to see these bills
9 advance and get them passed, thank you.
10

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. And, finally,
12 we have Council Member Brewer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. Uh,
14 two issues, one Resolution 791, talks about
15 supporting legislation in Albany that would provide
16 for annual adjustments of the maximum income
17 threshold eligibility for SCRIE and DRIE and SCHE,
18 and DHE, all of which we know need to be increased in
19 order for those... more people to be able to obtain
20 in this very competitive rental world.

21 The second thing I want to mention is that we
22 talk a lot about smoke shops, with school back, every
23 single - I won't say every single - but, too many
24 high schools are experiencing vaping in the school.
25 A principal was crying to me on the phone the other

1 day, because the entire hallway of his high school is
2 filled with weed and people vaping in the classroom.
3 So, I just bring this to our attention, because those
4 smoke shops have got to go. And we have to put more
5 effort between the DAs, the Police Department, the
6 State Office of Cannabis Management, and Corporation
7 Counsel. I think that this is a crisis in the
8 making, and I just want to bring to everyone's
9 attention, I hope that you will all join together to
10 get rid of those goddamn smoke shops, thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
13 anyone else signed up to speak? We have Council
14 Member Feliz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I want to echo the words of
16 Council Member Brewer, and also I just want to
17 briefly disclose on the record that I am an adjunct
18 professor in the CUNY system, Hostos Community
19 College, thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. I will now
21 call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close out today's
22 Stated Meeting.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader. The
24 Stated Meeting of September 28th, 2023 is hereby
25 adjourned. [NO GAVEL]

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 10, 2023