

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, March 2, 2023

Start: 2:30 P. M.

Recess: 4:04 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
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

STATED MEETING

Shahana K. Hanif
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

STATED MEETING

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

GESHE THUPTEN KUNGKHEN,
From the Drepung Loseling Institute
Located at 164 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y.
11205

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STATED MEETING

SERGEANT BRADLEY: Test, test, test, this is a test for the Stated Meeting. Today's date is March 2, 2023. This is being recorded by Sakeem Bradley.

COUNCIL CLERK: Take your seats! Please take your seats! Quiet on the Floor, please.

Mr. Majority Leader?

Ladies and Gentleman, at this time, please place all electronic devices, all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

Mr. Majority Leader, it's all yours.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

[GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

Good afternoon, and welcome to The Stated Meeting of March 2,2023. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers, and I would like to thank everyone for joining us here today.

If you would like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

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

Please call the roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?
3 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?
5 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Present
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?
7 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?
9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?
11 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannon?
13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer
15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?
17 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: (NO RESPONSE)
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?
19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?
21 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: (NO RESPONSE)
22 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?
23 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?
25 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?
COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?
COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?
COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?
COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?
COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?
COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordon?
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: (NO RESPONSE)
COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: (NO RESPONSE)
COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?
COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?
COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?
COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Won?
COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present
COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?
COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here
COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?
COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Here

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COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: (NO RESPONSE)

COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now have today's invocation, which will be delivered by Geshe Thupten Kungkhen of the Drepung Loseling Institute located at 164 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11205.

Welcome

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

GESHE THUPTEN KUNGKHEN: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for the invite. I am Tibetan monk from Tibet. My parents are from Tibet. I was born in Indian -- North India, Shimla. I entered the monastery in South India called Drepung Loseling. I stayed with the monastery for 35 years for study and meditation. Then the monastery sent me to New York at Tibet House as the resident teacher. Now I am the resident teacher in Tibet House in New York City. I have toured most places in North America states.

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STATED MEETING

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Today, I would like to do chanting, which is very popular with Mahayana Buddhism tradition, it is chanting called Heart Sutra - Heart Sutra. With the Heart Sutra chanting the sound is called [INAUDIBLE] sound.

Is it okay that I start now?

Chanting is the meaning... Heart Sutra is essence of the wisdom. These days, all over the world, we need to be aware of happiness. Genuine happiness comes from our own wisdom. That is why I will [INAUDIBLE] the wisdom that grows in every sentient beings all over the universe, this world, and New York City, thank you.

[CHANTING]

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and thank you for being with us here today.

I want now ask Council Member Julie Won to spread the invocation on the recording.

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: thank you so much to Geshe Thupten Kungkhen. This month of Losar, which is Tibetan New Year, is widely celebrated by Tibetan, Himalayan, and other Buddhist residents across our city, and we are so grateful to have this historic moment to share this invocation and the celebration

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2 with our city today. Tibetan Buddhist immigrants are
3 one of the newest and fastest growing groups in our
4 district, and we are lucky to have the Tibetan
5 Community Center of New York and New Jersey in
6 Woodside.

7 Geshe Thupten Kungkhen has promoted compassionate
8 values in minds of individual communities as well as
9 spreading the global message of love and peace.

10 Thank you so much to the Public Advocate,
11 Majority Leader, and the Speaker, and to Geshe
12 Thupten Kungkhen, for being here today.

13 I make the motion for unanimous consent to spread
14 this invocation full upon the record, thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
16 Won.

17 We will now the Adoption of the Minutes by
18 Council Member Shekar Krishnan.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I make a motion that the
20 minutes of the stated meeting of February 2, 2023, be
21 adopted as printed.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

23 We will now have Messages & Papers from the
24 Mayor.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

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STATED MEETING

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MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from
City, County & Borough Offices?

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M's 125 and 126,
Council Budget.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 127, Transfer City
funds?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and
Filed.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 128 and M 129,
budget modifications.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will have Petitions
and Communications.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

We will now have Communication from the Speaker
Adrienne Adams.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader Powers,
and good afternoon, everyone.

Before we begin, I want to take a second to
remember the lives of several New Yorkers whom we

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2 have lost over a difficult past few weeks -- whether
3 it was those killed in traffic incidents within the
4 districts of Council Members Borelli, Brooks-Powers,
5 Joseph, Stevens, or Won, or by violence in various
6 parts of the City, we lose too many New Yorkers far
7 too soon. All New Yorkers deserve to be safe in
8 their communities, and we know these incidents create
9 trauma that must be addressed.

10 Behind every death is a family and community
11 impacted, so it is critical that we lift them up and
12 support them.

13 The Council is focused on advancing equitable
14 investments and policies that result in safer streets
15 and neighborhoods, and we have work to do as a city.

16 Last week, marked one year since Russia's
17 invasion of Ukraine. It has been a difficult year,
18 especially for our Ukrainian communities here in New
19 York and around the world. But as a city, we remain
20 united in supporting the 150,000 Ukrainian New
21 Yorkers who call our city home. We will continue to
22 stand in solidarity with Ukraine's right to peace and
23 serenity.

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2 March is here. And you know what that means?
3 That means, thank you for asking, that means, we are
4 celebrating Women's History Month!

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 I am honored to lead and be part of the City's
7 first women majority council. We have accomplished
8 so much in our first year - from addressing
9 disparities in maternal health and safe guarding
10 access to abortion care, to expanding services for
11 survivors of crime and domestic violence. We are
12 demonstrating what strong women's leadership looks
13 like, and we are not done yet.

14 As we celebrate the contributions and
15 achievements that women have made to our city and
16 nation all month long, let us continue to focus on an
17 enacting policies and securing investments that will
18 lead to safer, healthier, and more equitable place
19 for all women, and, thus, all New Yorkers.

20 Happy Women's History Month, and to the
21 approaching International Women's Day, colleagues.

22 On Monday, we celebrated Dominican Independence
23 Day! With a wonderful event right here in council
24 chambers, that highlighted the culture and
25 contributions of our Dominican communities. Thank

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2 you so much to Council Member De La Rosa, Council
3 Member Abreu, Council Member Farías, Council Member
4 Feliz, Council Member Marte, Council Member Sanchez,
5 and the Black Latino and Asian Caucus for hosting our
6 celebration.

7 This March, we are also celebration Greek-
8 American Heritage Month, Irish-American Heritage
9 Month, Bangladesh Independence Day, and Holy, the
10 Festival of Colors that welcomes the spring season.

11 I am excited that the Council will be welcoming
12 community members to this peoples' house, throughout
13 the entire month, for these cultural celebrations.

14 Yesterday, March 1st, was Independence Movement
15 Day, an important day for our Korean-American
16 communities, which honors the March 1st Movement for
17 liberation and independence. And I join our Korean-
18 American neighbors in celebrating this day of
19 commemoration.

20 March 6th is Ghana Independence Day, which marks
21 the country's Independence from the United Kingdom on
22 this day in 1957. To our Ghanaian New Yorkers, I
23 wish you a happy Ghana Independence Day!
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2 I also want to wish our Jewish friends a
3 neighbors a happy and joyous Purim, which is observed
4 this year on March 6th, chag Purim sameach!

5 Before we move on, please take a moment to join
6 me in wishing a happy birthday to our council's
7 majority whip, Selvena Brooks-Powers, who celebrated
8 yesterday, and Selvena, wherever you are, I know
9 where you are, I hope you had a great celebration
10 with your beautiful family.

11 Lastly, on Wednesday, March 8th, promptly at
12 11:00 A. M., I will be holding my 2023 State of the
13 City Address at the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community
14 Center in the Bronx!

15 [APPLAUSE]

16 I hope to see you all there.

17 Now, let's move onto our Stated Agenda.

18 First we will vote on the following Finance
19 Items:

20 Introduction 524-A, sponsored by Council Member
21 David Carr, would authorize a new interest rate that
22 would be charged to low and middle income primary
23 resident property owners who enter in property tax
24 payment plans with the city and state current on
25 those plans. This new rate would be set by the

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2 Council Resolution at a later date, after receiving
3 recommendations from the Banking Commission. This
4 would provide relief to working and middleclass home
5 owners actively taking steps to resolve their
6 outstanding debt to the City by enacting a lower
7 interest for them. We thank our staff, Emre Edev,
8 Andrew Wilber, Kathleen Ahn, and Michael Twomey.

9 We are also voting on the following:

10 A Preconsidered Resolution sponsored by Finance
11 Chair Justin Brannon, to authorize an Article XI
12 Exemption for one building in Harlem. A transparency
13 resolution approving new designations and changes of
14 certain organizations receiving funding in the
15 Expense Budget.

16 The Council's Fiscal 2024 Operating Budget and
17 accompanying OTP schedule, the Council's Fiscal 2024
18 proposed budget includes: \$75.7 million for personal
19 services; \$23.4 million for OTPS or other than
20 personal services.

21 And the Revenue Budget Modification, which
22 recognizes \$1.69 billion of new revenues in Fiscal
23 2023, and authorizes the appropriation of that new
24 revenue to increase the budget's stabilization
25 account by \$1.46 billion to prepay Fiscal 2024 debt

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2 service in Fiscal Year 2023, and increase the General
3 Reserve by \$225 million to maintain funding.

4 Next we will vote on the following Land Use
5 Items: The disapproval of 213-227 West 28th Street
6 Parking Special Permits, which sought to allow a pair
7 of pair of accessory off street parking facilities, a
8 combined maximum capacity of 77 automated spaces in
9 Council Member Bottcher's district.

10 We are also voting on the site selections of a
11 new 547-Seat Primary School in Council Member Won's
12 district. And a 659-Seat High School in Council
13 Member Paladino's district.

14 And we will be voting on four Landmark
15 designations:

16 Melrose Parkside Historic District, a remarkable,
17 cohesive, and distinctive group of row houses in the
18 Flatbush neighborhoods in Brooklyn, which has become
19 one of the City's major Caribbean communities in
20 Council Member Joseph's district.

21 The Lesbian Herstory Archives, an organization
22 that has been operating out of a three story
23 renaissance revival row house, built in 1908, within
24 Park Slope Historic District in Brooklyn. The
25 organization has operated out of this location for

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2 more than 30 years, carrying out their mission to
3 gather and preserve records of lesbian lives and
4 activities so that future generations will have ready
5 access to materials relevant to their lives, in
6 Council Member Hanif's district.

7 The Samuel Gompers Industrial High School; a
8 significant civic structure constructed around 1931
9 and named after the labor leader Samuel Gompers. It
10 was one of the first vocational high schools in New
11 York City devoted to electrical professions, in
12 Deputy Speaker Ayala's district.

13 And the Julius' Bar Building, which known as New
14 York City's most significant site of pre Stonewall
15 LGBTQIA+ activism in, in Council Member Bottcher's
16 district.

17 We will also vote on the following pieces of
18 legislation:

19 Introduction 536-A (sic) (*436-A), sponsored by
20 Council Member Althea Stevens, would create an
21 advisory board focused on juvenile justice issues,
22 consisting of representatives from City agencies, the
23 Council, parents, and youth. This would give
24 families a young people a greater voice, empowering
25 them to provide input on issues and concerns with

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2 juvenile detention. The board composition and
3 reporting requirements would increase transparency
4 and allow for a more holistic approach to juvenile
5 justice. We thank our staff member, David Romero.

6 Next, Introduction 522-A, sponsored by Council
7 Member Erik Bottcher, would require mental health
8 professionals to be available in each DHS shelter
9 serving families with children. The bill would
10 require a ratio of one full-time mental health
11 professional for every 50 families. As recently as
12 2020, less than 15% of all shelters had onsite
13 medical health services, and only 4% of shelters for
14 families with children had onsite mental health
15 services. The lack of mental health services in
16 shelters has been identified as a major issue facing
17 families. Access to mental health care is
18 unavoidable for too many New Yorkers when we know
19 that there is such a great need. This is
20 particularly true in communities of color, for those
21 living in poverty, low income New Yorkers, and
22 families living in homeless shelters. And we once
23 again thank our staff member, David Romero.

24 Introduction 556-A, sponsored by Public Safety
25 Chair Kamillah Hanks, Office for Neighborhood Safety

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2 and the Prevention Of Gun Violence to provide
3 training and operational support to not-for-profit
4 service providers participating in the City's crisis
5 management system. The Crisis Management System or
6 CMS, is a violence reduction program that aims to
7 prevent gun violence by using a holistic public
8 health approach. Established in 2012, CMS consists of
9 a network of community based anti-violence
10 organizations that serve communities across the five
11 boroughs including my own district.

12 Introduction 439-A, sponsored by Council Member
13 Nantasha Williams, would require The Mayor's Office
14 of Criminal Justice to evaluate the performance of
15 organizations that receive funding from the City for
16 criminal justice related services -- such as
17 alternatives to incarceration, reentry programs,
18 pretrial supervised release services, and violence
19 prevention programs. An annual summary of such
20 evaluations would then be required to be submitted to
21 the mayor and the council. We thank our staff
22 members Rachel Cordero, Rob Calandra, Josh Kingsley,
23 and Chad Benjamin.

24 Finally, we are voting on a package of Fire
25 Safety Legislation related to lithium-ion batteries

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2 used in powered mobility devices like e-bikes,
3 scooters, and other equipment. Last year, New York
4 City experienced over 200 fires caused by lithium-ion
5 batteries. These were preventable tragedies that
6 resulted in six fatalities and more than 150
7 injuries. This is a dramatic increase from 2020,
8 when there were 44 fires that resulted in 23 injuries
9 and no deaths. The toll that these fires are
10 increasingly having on families and communities
11 across the City is devastating and requires the
12 urgent attention of the city, state, and federal
13 governments.

14 Today, the Council is taking initial steps to
15 improve New Yorkers' abilities to keep themselves and
16 their loved ones safe. We must reduce the avoidable
17 fire tragedies caused by the wide proliferation of
18 uncertified lithium-ion batteries.

19 Many of the delivery workers, who's safety and
20 well-being must be our priority, rely on lithium-ion
21 batteries and the devices powered by them for their
22 livelihoods. We have a responsibility to support them
23 and their safety while keeping all New Yorkers safe.

24 These bills are an initial step to increase
25 public education, and reduce the growing commercial

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2 circulation of uncertified batteries that pose the
3 greatest danger. Our valued Deliveristas are not the
4 target of these restrictions, rather, it is
5 commercial sellers who profit from distributing those
6 devices that lack safety certification.

7 There is continued work to do with all
8 stakeholders, particularly Deliveristas, to switch
9 out dangerous batteries from circulation through
10 supportive programs. And we will continue to work on
11 this issue with them -- finding ways to support their
12 livelihoods and safety.

13 Introduction 663-A, sponsored by The Twin Parks
14 Citywide Taskforce on Fire Prevention, Chair Oswald
15 Feliz, would prohibit the sale, lease, or rental of
16 powered mobility devices, such as e-bikes and
17 electric scooters, and storage batteries for these
18 devices, that fail to meet recognized safety
19 standards. In order to be legally sold, these
20 devices and their storage batteries would be required
21 to meet UL safety requirements as certified by an
22 accredited testing laboratory.

23 Introduction 722-A, sponsored by Council Member
24 Robert Holden, would require the Fire Department to
25 submit five reports -- one per year, for five years -

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2 - relating to fire risks and powered mobility
3 devices, such as e-bikes and electric scooters. The
4 reports would be required to include data on fires
5 during the previous year caused by these devices, a
6 summary of actions taken by the Fire Department to
7 decrease this fire risk, and recommendations to
8 further decrease these risks.

9 Introduction 656-A, sponsored by Council Member
10 Gale Brewer, would require the Fire Department, in
11 consultation with the Department of Consumer and
12 Worker Protections, to develop an informational
13 campaign to educate the public on the fire risks
14 posed by powered mobility devices such as e-bikes and
15 scooters. The campaign would be required to include
16 guidance on how to identify safe products as well as
17 best practices for maintenance, storage, and
18 charging.

19 Introduction 572-a (sic) (*752-A), also sponsored
20 by Council Member Brewer, would prohibit the assembly
21 of and reconditioning of lithium-ion batteries with
22 cells removed from used batteries and their
23 commercial sale. It is worth noting that the bill
24 does not prohibit the sale of certified used
25 batteries, only the dangerous practice of assembling

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2 or reconditioning batteries with cells from used
3 batteries and selling them.

4 Introduction 741-A (sic) (*749-A), sponsored by
5 Council Member Alexa Avilés, would require that the
6 Department of Consumer and Worker Protection to
7 develop and publish educational materials on e-bike
8 safety risks and mitigation measure material for
9 delivery workers and require a third party delivery
10 app, such as Seamless and Uber Eats, to distribute
11 them to delivery workers. These materials would
12 include guidance on how to identify safe e-bikes and
13 other electric mobility devices as well as best
14 practices for maintenance, storage, and charging.
15 The bill would also cover restaurants that directly
16 employ delivery workers. Thank you to our staff
17 members Rachel Cordero, David Seitzer, Josh Kingsley,
18 and William Hongach.

19 Thank you for your attention, now I would like to
20 turn it back over to the majority leader.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker.

22 We will now move into the discussion of General
23 Orders.

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2 We are first going to hear from Council Member
3 David Carr, and he will be followed by Council Member
4 Julie Won.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader
6 Powers, good afternoon, colleagues.

7 I am speaking in support of Introduction 524-A,
8 which will finally end a longstanding policy dilemma
9 that has faced this council for decades.

10 Each year, the budget comes around and we have to
11 adopt interest rates for non-payment of really
12 property taxes, and we are forced to decide about
13 whether we want to set a high rate to deter or punish
14 -- frankly, tax [INAUDIBLE] who are looking to bilk
15 the city and not pay what they owe -- and set a low
16 rate in order to make sure that those who are
17 earnestly struggling to pay their property taxes,
18 have an easier time to get out of the tax hole that
19 they found themselves in.

20 And we all know people in the City who are
21 genuinely in need of some help -- individuals who are
22 struggling to pay their property taxes, or those who
23 have been in arrears; the senior on the fixed income;
24 the family who lost an income earner; or an
25 individual who just simply lost their job, bad

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2 financial year, circumstances that may have been
3 beyond their control, and they are trying to
4 earnestly make good with the City and pay their tax
5 bills. And the City makes it harder for them when we
6 set a high interest rate as we try to protect the
7 City's fiscal strength.

8 And, so, finally, uh, we are going to, this year,
9 allow for a separate interest rate to be recommended
10 by the Banking Commission and then set by this body
11 in the future in order to make sure that those who
12 are looking to pay their bills, and are doing so on
13 time, have an ability to do so without a high
14 interest rate. And I thank the speaker, for making
15 good on her commitment that we had last June with her
16 and Chair Brannen, Minority Leader Borelli, and
17 myself, in order to make sure that that was the last
18 year that we as a body faced that dilemma. And this
19 bill will do just that.

20 And, so, I just wanted to say a thank you, with
21 the time I have remaining, in particular to Emre Edev
22 from the Finance Division, for the hours of work that
23 he put in talking to the administration and to myself
24 and other council stakeholders, to get this to the
25 finish line, as well as other Finance Division

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2 colleagues, Ray Majewski, Michael Twomey, Andrew
3 Wilber, Kathleen Ahn, and of course, Tanisha
4 Edwards, [TIMER CHIMES], Jonathan Yedin from Chair
5 Brannon's team, Peter Spencer from the minority
6 leader's office, and my Chief of Staff, Giuseppe
7 Deserio. I also want to thank former Finance Chair,
8 Danny Dromm, and former Committee Counsel Chasan for
9 their work on this issue in past years. And I want
10 to thank Chair Brannan in particular for his personal
11 support through the negotiation process on this
12 particular piece of legislation, and I thank the
13 mayor and his team at City Leg and City DOF for their
14 engagement and support of this bill. And, thank you
15 again, Madam Speaker. And thank you so much,
16 Majority Leader.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
18 Carr.

19 We will now hear from Council Member Julie Won,
20 followed by Council Member Althea Stevens.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much, Majority
22 Leader Powers. And thank you so much to Speaker
23 Adams, and to the Mayoral Administration and the
24 School Construction Authority for addressing the
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2 needs of my students and the families of Long Island
3 City and Western Queens.

4 Court Square has predominantly been...
5 historically zoned as a commercial district that
6 transitioned into mixed use, and now we have so... We
7 have had such a high need of schools in the district
8 where our population has surged the last 25 years.
9 And we have heard over and over again, the need for
10 school seats. So, I urge my colleagues to support
11 that application for Preconsidered Land Use Item 176
12 and Resolution 526 for a 547-seat elementary school
13 in Court Square, where we were promised this in 2018.
14 So, I thank my community for their patience and
15 determination to make sure that this elementary
16 school was built as promised. And, thank you to our
17 speaker again, for making sure that our promises from
18 the City and the government are kept. Thank you so
19 much.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 We will now hear from Council Member Stevens
22 followed by Council Member Barron.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: When I worked with youth,
24 many of them felt that their voices didn't matter or
25 the candidates didn't care about them. Today I am

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2 here to tell youth that all of their voices matter,
3 and you have elected officials who fight for your
4 voices to be heard.

5 I am so excited to be voting on Intro 436 with my
6 colleagues to create a Juvenile Justice Advisory
7 Board to ensure that justice involved youth and their
8 families have a seat at the table when decisions are
9 being made. It is also important for the actions of
10 our agencies and administration to be informed by the
11 lived experience of friends, neighbors, and
12 especially, our young people.

13 Although I am so proud to be passing this bill,
14 this is just the first step, and I look forward to
15 working with the advisory board in developing diverse
16 strategies that we can have in place to ensure that
17 we are investing in our young people on the front end
18 so that we do not have to wait until they are in the
19 juvenile justice system.

20 I would like to thank the speaker and the
21 committee staff, David Romero, and my Chief of Staff
22 Kate, for making all of this happen. And thank to my
23 colleagues for voting on this today.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.
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2 We will hear from Council Member Barron, followed
3 by Council Member Feliz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I wanted to
5 bring attention to Intro 756-A, which is calling on
6 the Office for Neighborhood Safety and the Prevention
7 of Gun Violence by training and operational support
8 for the Crisis Management System. That is a move in
9 the right direction, but in our local communities,
10 these Crisis Management Systems Teams, they need
11 much, much more. A young man who was doing his duty
12 in my beloved community was coming home, and when he
13 went up the stairs, he was greeted with a gun shot in
14 his chest. And he had to spend days at Brookdale
15 Hospital. Who's going to pay for those bills? Our
16 Crisis Management System Teams, they need health
17 care. They need something more than just the
18 traditional training and verbiage towards operational
19 support. They need health care, and they need more
20 funding, so that they can take care of their
21 families.

22 So, I just want you to remember during this
23 budget negotiating process, The Crisis Management
24 System Teams, who in many of our areas, actually
25 brought crime down.

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2 So, while we go forth with this piece of
3 legislation, let's just remember that the Crisis
4 Management Team needs health care and much, much
5 more.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 We will not go to Council Member Feliz, followed
8 by Council Member Bottcher.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you, Majority
10 Leader.

11 New Yorkers are concerned about the rise in fires
12 related to e-bike batteries. New Yorkers are
13 concerned and their concerns are legitimate.

14 Last year, we had approximately 220 fires caused
15 by e-bikes. That is a fire every day and a half.
16 And this year, we've had similar numbers. We just
17 concluded the month of February, and we have already
18 had nearly 30 fires.

19 These fires are scary; these fires quickly and
20 fully develop, they're powerful, and they are
21 destructive. They destroy our homes; they displace
22 our families, and they put all of us at risk.

23 We cannot wait for another tragedy like the one
24 that we saw in the Bronx last year. We cannot wait
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2 for a fire to turn into the tragedy that we saw. We
3 need action now.

4 Now, not all batteries have created fire safety
5 challenges. We know that those that are certified
6 generally have tools that prevent malfunctions which
7 lead to fires. And that is exactly what my bill will
8 require. It will require that batteries be certified
9 in order for them to be sold to our families, to our
10 Deliveristas, and to all of us.

11 Now, this is an important step, but more is
12 needed. And I want to congratulate you, Majority
13 Leader, Keith Powers, on making sure that we are
14 moving fast on that second legislative package,
15 introducing the bill today which will require the
16 battery swap program.

17 This is very complex stuff, but we are going to
18 get on all the issues including the battery swap
19 program, including safe disposal, and all of the
20 other issues that are raised. And I am very much
21 looking forward to working with all of you and all of
22 our Deliveristas. And I want to thank our speaker,
23 Adrienne Adams, for making fire safety a priority.
24 And I also want to thank everyone who worked behind
25 the scenes. They worked very hard to get this right

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2 and make this possible -- including our good friend
3 Jeremy John, Carlos Beato, Josh Kingsley, Andrea
4 Vasquez, Rachel, Faiza, my team, Guillermo, George,
5 Esperanza, who are somewhere around here today in
6 City Hall, also [TIMER CHIMES] also the chair of our
7 Fire Committee, Joann Ariola, it has been a
8 pleasure working with all of you on these bills,
9 thank you so much.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you,
11 congratulations, Council Member.

12 We will now go to Council Member Bottcher,
13 followed by Council Member Holden.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Today, I am so proud to
15 be a member of this body. We are passing legislation
16 today that will put mental health services in every
17 family shelter in New York City. This is going to
18 have a profound impact on thousands and thousands of
19 New Yorkers lives. Thirteen- thousand families slept
20 in the family shelter system. That is over 22,000
21 children. But, right now, only nine of this city's
22 247 family shelters have onsite mental health
23 services. That is totally unacceptable. We are
24 passing legislation today that will change that. And
25 the reason we have to pass legislation , is because

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2 our society has failed so badly at valuing mental
3 health and investing in mental health. We have
4 starved our mental health system for decades, to the
5 point that the biggest provider of mental health
6 services in our country is prisons and jails.

7 We have a two tiered system of mental health. A
8 system for people of means, people with insurance,
9 and a system for everyone else. This often means no
10 mental health systems at all -- no mental health care
11 at all.

12 So, I want to thank everyone who helped make this
13 happen, Christine Quinn (sp?), the largest provider
14 of family shelter services. This came out of a panel
15 discussion that she had last spring, and we met with
16 them, and a year later, here we are passing this
17 legislation. I want to thank the speaker, Deputy
18 Speaker Ayala, Council Member Linda Lee, and from the
19 staff, David Romero, Nicholas Connell, Sara Liss,
20 Smita Deshmukh, and everyone else who helped make this
21 possible. [TIMER CHIMES]

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Right on time.

23 We will now go to Council Member Holden.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Majority
25 Leader.

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2 And today we are voting on a bill Intro 722-A,
3 which is my bill, as part of a package of bills
4 addressing the tragic fires caused by unregulated
5 batteries, in e-bikes, e-scooters, and other powered
6 mobility devices.

7 My bill would require the FDNY to report annually
8 on each fire involving a powered mobility device, an
9 annual review of existing fire codes and regulations
10 pertaining to power mobility devices, and a summary
11 of the actions taken by the FDNY to reduce these
12 types of fires that have been so tragic in New York
13 City.

14 And I want to thank the speaker, and of course,
15 Committee Chair Ariola, and the 11 co-sponsors who
16 have helped move this bill through the process. I
17 also want to thank the Legislative Division and my
18 staff for their help. The Council is taking an
19 important step today to prevent future fires from
20 occurring, but more needs to be done.

21 And we need Albany to pass legislation requiring
22 these devices to be licensed, insured, and registered.
23 This is why I have also introduced Intro 758,
24 requiring that every bicycle with electric assist,
25 electric scooters, and other legal motorized vehicles

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2 that are not otherwise required to be registered by
3 the DMV, be registered with the DOT and receive a
4 number or some kind of plate that would be visible to
5 the vehicle. And this is very, very import that we
6 have this done, otherwise we still are going the
7 mayhem in our streets. And that is what is
8 happening. But, more importantly, this package of
9 bills are very, very important today to try to really
10 keep our New Yorkers safe. And certainty it's...
11 How many deaths, uh, 10 or 11 deaths already from...
12 since we passed... this council passed in 2020, the
13 bills to legalize them.

14 Thank you, Majority Leader Powers. Thanks so
15 much.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

17 Do we have anyone else signed up or would like to
18 speak? We have Council Member Brewer.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

20 I am here to talk specifically about two bills.
21 As the speaker mentioned, uh, 656, which is The
22 Public Information, and basically, it says, in every
23 used second... used refurbishes batteries, they are
24 going to be banned under Intro 752, which is part of
25 this package. And when a batter overheats, as you

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2 know, it violently ejects gas, and projectiles, and
3 flames. And they can spread without warning. And
4 they can break out fire in seconds. And they are
5 very dangerous.

6 Fires have started because people have used
7 chargers that are not comparable, not... they are
8 incompatible with a battery, and one might continue
9 to charge the battery to the point of overheating.
10 These lithium-ion batteries show signs that they need
11 to be replaced if they got hot or they expand.

12 And all of this to say, is that the bill, 752,
13 would, as the speaker indicated, prohibit the sale of
14 these batteries that use cells removed from used
15 storage batteries. And make it unlawful to assemble
16 a lithium-ion battery using cells removed from used
17 storage batteries. I will say it over and over
18 again.

19 I want to thank the FDNY for partaking, already,
20 in education. I want to thank, certainly, the Worker
21 Justice Project, and all of the Deliveristas who are
22 working with us. This is a beginning of a longer
23 conversation, so that they get to use affordable safe
24 batteries -- I know they use three a day -- and also
25 that they are able, as time goes on, to get some

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2 funding and support both from the bills that Council
3 Member Powers in going to introduce, but also from
4 the apps, which are multibillion dollar corporations,
5 and should be doing much more for their employees.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We will go to Council Member Hanks.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

10 Good afternoon, everyone. I want to take a
11 moment to encourage all of my colleagues here today
12 to vote in favor for Intros 756, which was introduced
13 late last year, and it seeks to provide Crisis
14 Management Systems support that they need to continue
15 to do their important work.

16 As our city grapples to... excuse me, grapples
17 with how reduce instances of crime within our
18 communities, Cure Violence providers offer an
19 effective alternative to crime reduction in which
20 credible messengers work with high risk individuals
21 to provide them with support and assistance they
22 need. These credible messengers work diligently to
23 offer services such as job training, employment
24 opportunities, mental health and legal services, to
25 individuals as a valuable alternative to violence.

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2 With an average rate of 40% reduction in shootings
3 across program areas, Cure Violence programs have
4 proven to be statistically significant. Therefore, I
5 am proud to be sponsoring Intro 756, which would
6 provide the Crisis Management System with the
7 assistance they need with capacity building and
8 training.

9 In conclusion, I would like to thank the speaker,
10 my staff, and committee counsel, and I encourage my
11 colleagues to vote yes in this absolutely important
12 piece of legislation.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and
14 congratulations, Council Member Hanks.

15 We will now move... Is there anyone else signed
16 up to speak?

17 Okay, we will now move to the Reports of Special
18 Committees.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing
21 Committees?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
23 Finance: Intro 524-A, property interest rates.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
25 Orders.

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Resolution 508,
Transparency Resolution?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 125 in Resolution
516, and Preconsidered M 126 in Resolution 517,
Council Operating Budget?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 128 in Resolution
518, Budget Modifications?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 174 in Resolution 519, Tax
Exemption?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire
and Emergency Management, Introductions 656-A, 663-A,
722-A, and 749-A, Powered Mobility Devices?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 752-A, Lithium-Ion
Batteries?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
Orders.

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on General Welfare, Intro 436-A, Juvenile Justice Advisory Board?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 522-A, Family Shelters?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Land Use, L U 165 in Resolution 520, and L U 166 and Resolution 521, 213-227 West 28th Street Parking Special Permits?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Motion to Disapprove.

COUNCIL CLERK: L U 167 in Resolution 522 through Preconsidered L U 75 and Resolution 525, Various Landmark Designations?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered L U 176 and Resolution 526, and Preconsidered L U 177 and Resolution 527, Site selection for two new schools?

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Public Safety, Introduction 439-A, Criminal Justice Program?

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
3 Orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 756-A, City's Crisis
5 Management System?

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
7 Orders

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Rules,
9 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered Resolutions
10 528 and 529, Council Committee Changes?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar,
13 Resolution appointing various persons, Commissioner
14 of Deeds?

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

16 And I now ask that the clerk take a roll call
17 vote on all of the items coupled on today's General
18 Orders Calendar.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all, except
23 Resolutions 528 and 529, thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to explain my
3 vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye on all. The
6 suite of fire safety bills relation to lithium
7 batteries is a positive start. And moving forward,
8 we need to remain committed to addressing this issue.
9 Micro mobility options are expanded in here to stay,
10 our policies must reflect this reality. We must
11 center the voices and experiences of the delivery
12 workers who use e-bikes, many of whom are my
13 constituents. Workers cannot be on the sidelines of
14 policy conversations that directly impact them.

15 The implementation of this package and future
16 legislation needs to ensure that delivery workers are
17 not penalized. Far too many times we have seen the
18 New Yorkers who keep our restaurants open and our
19 neighbors fed, be demonized and criminalized. I
20 encourage this body to prioritize bills that help
21 this workforce, like Introduction 927, by Council
22 Member Gutiérrez, which would build our charging
23 infrastructure citywide; Introduction 950, by
24 Majority Leader Powers, which would establish a safe
25 battery distribution program; and my own,

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Introduction 617, which would extend paid sick leave to these workers.

I am deeply grateful to all of the workers who have reached out to me and Workers' Justice Project, DRUM, and Transportation Alternatives for their continued advocacy and organizing. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [INAUDIBLE]

Council Member Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you.

I am aye on all, and except for, no, on Resolution 529. But, I do have reservations about Introductions 439-A and 726-A [INAUDIBLE] changing The Charter, may ultimately, in the long term, intersect with the responsibilities of The Police Commissioner without input.

But, otherwise, aye on all, except for Resolution 529, of which I am a no.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

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Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Permission to explain my
vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: First, I want to thank all
of my colleagues for considering legislation
Introduction 749, but mostly I want to thank my
colleagues, Council Member Gutiérrez, Council Member
Brewer, Council Member Nurse, Council Member Hanif,
and Council Member De La Rosa who have worked
tirelessly to center and ground realities of the
communities most directly impacted, to begin
advancing bills related to fire safety and lithium -
ion batteries.

With that said, I vote in favor of all, with the
exception of Introduction 663-A, while Introduction
663-A, is well intentioned, and I know my colleagues
all deeply care about this issue, blanket bans simply
drive items underground. We have mountains of
evidence to prove this, and in this area, is where we
need sunlight. To drive them underground and raise
false expectations that banning these batteries will
somehow mitigate the risk of their existence in
community is terribly unfortunate. One thing I would

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2 like to... An area of concern I would like to note,
3 is about the material impact... of impact of
4 rendering an entire inventory of some of our
5 immigrant-owned businesses entirely illegal. We
6 still don't know how many businesses are out there,
7 how this will impact them, and how we will do this
8 responsibly.

9 And, lastly, we have no plan for safe disposal of
10 such inventory. We have no plan for public charging
11 infrastructure. And I know my colleagues are
12 committed to providing a comprehensive set of
13 responses. A think a ban devoid of a comprehensive
14 response is simply driving... will drive these very
15 dangerous batteries underground, thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Ayala?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I explain my vote?

21 I vote aye on all, on Introduction 663, I
22 abstain, because of the issues that are raised by my
23 colleague, I think need to be addressed and looked
24 at.

25 Aye on all of the rest.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Bottcher?

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye on all. I do
want to thank Elliot Heisler and Josh Kingsley from
the Speaker's Office for all of their drafting, and
Sam Goldsmith from my office. And we look forward to
working with everyone on the fire issues with the
Deliveristas and our colleagues. Thank you

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (NO RESPONSE)

Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Permission to explain my
vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: So, it is no secret that I
consider ample investment in mental health services a
key pillar of the New York City we need and deserve.
And at, every step of the way, in my public life, I
have pushed for more mental health services as good
public safety policy, as good public health policy,

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2 and that the key to a city that treats all of its
3 residents as dignified and valued neighbors. And the
4 circumstances that land families in homeless
5 shelters, and indeed their experiences in shelters,
6 have deleterious affects on their mental health. So,
7 it is especially important that comprehensive trauma
8 informed mental health services be readily available
9 to them. However, I can confess that I feel torn
10 about the program we are passing today as the New
11 York Family Policy Project and others have made
12 clear, there is a real danger that these well
13 intended services will put even more families
14 experiencing poverty into contact with ACS Family
15 Policing System. And this points to a pressing need
16 for a change for mandated reporter laws. The fact
17 that is under the current system, not just mental
18 health counselors in shelters, but practically all
19 human service workers are mandated reporters. And
20 that means under penalty of losing their professional
21 licenses, they are compelled to report as instances
22 of neglect, many reliable results of poverty. And
23 all too often, this leads to forced family separation
24 as a punishment for living in poverty.

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2 So, I vote aye on Introduction 522 today
3 alongside a commitment to work with impacted
4 families, The Family Defense community, and others to
5 fight for changes to our mandatory reporter laws to
6 prevent these badly needed mental health services
7 from inflicting harm, rather than healing.

8 So, I vote aye on all, and I just wanted to share
9 that. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Carr?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I vote no on Preconsidered
13 Resolutions 528 and 529, and I vote aye on the rest.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

15 Council Member De La Rosa?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: May I have permission
17 to explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead... (CROSS-TALK)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much.

20 I want to thank my colleagues for the leadership
21 in trying to address the devastating fires we've had in
22 our communities. My community is a community that is
23 not exempt from tragic fires. But, I do want to
24 center the need for us to have continued conversation
25 and appreciating and highlighting to the commitment

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2 for a followup package that will center and actively
3 listen to the voices of the immigrant workforce that
4 is symbolized by the Deliveristas who will be
5 impacted by unintentional consequences and
6 prohibitive costs of some of these devices.

7 And, so, I look forward to working with my
8 colleagues. I congratulate the colleagues who have
9 passed bills today. And I look forward to continuing
10 to support a package of legislation that follows up.
11 Specifically, I am excited to support our majority
12 leader's swap package, and others that are introduced
13 today.

14 So, I vote aye on all, thank you.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Dinowitz?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Permission to explain my
18 vote?

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thanks.

21 I just want to take a moment to congratulate
22 Council Member Feliz on the passage of his bill, Bill
23 663, which is going to save a lot of lives. I know
24 he worked very hard on this and worked very hard in
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1
2 order to keep people safe, and make sure people's
3 homes and their lives are not taken by fires.

4 And, with that, I vote yes on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

6 Council Member Fariás?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all. And I want to
10 congratulate all of my colleagues with fire safety
11 bills. This is very complex stuff, and I look very
12 forward to working with all of you to get this right.
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

15 Council Member Gennaro?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Permission to explain
19 my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: A devastating fire
22 ripped through two homes in my district a few weeks
23 ago, and reports say that 50 lithium-ion batteries
24 were found at the scene, and most likely it was
25 unsafe repair work that caused the fire. It was not

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2 the first fire of this kind in my district, and
3 sadly, it will not be the last.

4 So, I voting today on this package of bills is
5 something that I take very seriously, and it is
6 deeply personal.

7 These bills are a critical step in the right
8 direction. And other members here know that I and my
9 staff have spent significant time organizing with
10 other members and advocates to move these bills.
11 Compliance will take time, and I support the push for
12 better regulation of safe batteries. In fact, I also
13 have a bill sitting in committee right now that would
14 require there to be a certification and license to
15 work on batteries like this. I aim to keep working
16 with the coalition, my colleagues, and especially our
17 advocates, the Deliveristas, to continue to think
18 critically about how we can address this endemic
19 across our city in a way that does not penalize our
20 immigrant workers, and I celebrate the other bills
21 being voted on today, congratulations, and I vote
22 aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER Hanks.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I am voting aye on all, except for Resolutions 528 and 529.

I do appreciate Council Member Feliz's bill 663-A, but there is one problem with it, in which I had addressed earlier at committee and certainly at conferences, that I feel 180 days to dump dangerous batteries on the streets of New York City -- and in the homes of New York City -- is a gamble. And I don't think 180 days -- six months -- should be acceptable. And I think we hear... you know, if we could do something, but these, uh, you can't put dollars before lives. And giving somebody six months to sell these batteries that will explode, they're really ticking time bombs. We are gambling with lives here.

So, I am going to support the bill, obviously, but this shouldn't be the best we can do, though, thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all, and I would
3 like to echo the sentiments of many of my colleagues
4 who have, uh, made commitments to ensuring that we
5 can do even more to prevent these fires from
6 happening and address the needs also for the folks
7 who are using these batteries daily. Thank you

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: permission to explain my
12 vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

15 Committee of Resilience and Waterfronts was
16 created by New York City Council in 2014. As the
17 Chair of the Committee on Waterfronts and Resiliency
18 Committee last year, I hosted important hearings
19 about New York City preparedness for storms from
20 hurricanes, horrible conditions of the Coney Island
21 Boardwalk, maritime debris in City waterways, and
22 many others. Since I switched to the Republican
23 Party and was forced to resign from my chairmanship
24 position, since the Council did not host a single
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2 hearing of that important committee in three months,
3 now it would be completely dissolved.

4 That decision, in my opinion penalizes waterfront
5 communities like Coney Island, Brighton Beach,
6 Rockaway Beach, [INAUDIBLE] Beach, Staten Island, and
7 many others. It also shows the hypocrisy of those
8 who blasted me as a climate denier in December, while
9 ignoring serious concerns of waterfront communities.

10 So, I am voting no on Resolutions 528 and 529.
11 And aye on everything else.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Permission to explain my
14 vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I vote aye on all, and I
17 just wanted to call attention to the important fire
18 safety legislation package that we are passing today
19 -- crucial steps forward for both fire safety and
20 prevention. But, also want to urge and emphasize
21 that as we are doing so, particularly with respect to
22 Introduction 663-A, that we also recognize the
23 impacts that it could have if we don't take steps to
24 also support our delivery workers. Our Deliveristas
25 are some of the most essential workers in our city --

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2 so, ensuring that we expeditiously pass legislation
3 and implement programs to make sure that we expand
4 recourses and education around fire safety and other
5 ways to support our Deliveristas. I am encouraged to
6 see Majority Leader Powers' bill today, that is
7 calling for a battery swap program that will help
8 with this situation, too -- and including studying
9 ways to have more battery charge stations and other
10 measures to ensure that as we implement these
11 measures for fire safety, we also take steps to make
12 sure that our essential immigrant workers also have
13 the support they need for compliance with these laws
14 that we pass today.

15 And, again, I vote aye on all, thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: (CROSS-TALK)

UNKNOWN: [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE]

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to explain my
vote. I will say aye on all... (CROSS-TALK)

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: [BACKGROUND NOISE] Go
ahead... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: except the 663-A. As a
nurse, my top priority is to save lives -- it is a
safety issue, and there is no dollar amount that we
can put over a life. So, I am looking for more
educational processes to educate the workers.
Because we need them, but we have to make sure that
people are safe.

So, I will vote aye on all, and looking forward
to a package that is coming up to bring more
clarification and support for the workers. Thank
you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Permission to explain my
vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.

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2 Just in addition to also having a fire in my own
3 building last year from an e-bike battery, I just
4 wanted to note that there have been fires in
5 sanitation trucks and at waste transfer facilities,
6 uhm, and, so, those are also places of a real danger
7 where hazardous materials - chemicals - are present
8 in abundance. And, so, I am hoping for this next
9 package that we really, really focus on the
10 disposal of these batteries. I have a bill,
11 Introduction 846, which would require Sanitation to
12 come up with a plan for this. And I know that we at
13 one point were all moving together, and things got
14 broken up, but I hope that for this second round that
15 we work more comprehensively to center the workers,
16 to center the local businesses in the new policies and
17 programs that are going to move forward, and hold
18 accountable the manufacturers of these batteries.
19 These companies that are largely exploiting these
20 workers, we need to make sure that they are footing
21 the bill for these changes and the costs of these
22 programs. So, I am looking to working with you all.
23 Congratulations, Council Member Feliz, Council Member
24 Brewer and whoever else had e-bike packages. Thank
25 you so much.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all, and I am glad to see that some of the worst among us are leaving some of the most critical committees in this council.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all, except for Resolution 528 and 529.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Just briefly, I vote aye on all, but I do think that the package today on e-bike batteries is incomplete and that we have much more work to do. And I hope as a council we will come back and revisit these issues very quickly -- including the legislation that Majority Leader Powers is introducing, disposal issues that Council Member Nurse mentioned, and I do think this package will require us as a council and mayoral agencies to do significant outreach to the immigrant businesses that sell these batteries and engage them proactively. And

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2 I look forward to doing that work together. Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordan?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: (NO RESPONSE)

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Permission to explain
10 my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I would like to
13 congratulate all of my colleagues on the package of
14 bills, and a special shoutout to my Bronx colleague,
15 Council Member Feliz, on his bill in focusing on fire
16 safety for all New Yorkers.

17 And, with that, I vote aye on all.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: [BACKGROUND NOISE] I just
19 want to take a second before we go ahead and vote.

20 Just to address that -- whatever you are voting
21 today, please do not make comments about other
22 members and things about being removed from
23 committees or anything like that. We have to
24 maintain decorum in this chamber. I know there are
25 disagreements about people and ideological positions

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2 and things like that, but we do have to maintain
3 decorum. We are colleagues and we need to respect
4 each other, thank you. And, so, I am going to ask
5 that as we move forward in, obviously, at every
6 stated meeting.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

10 Council Member Stevens?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Permission to explain
16 my vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: I want to disclose, uh,
19 my brother is a board member of Samaritans of New
20 York, and my husband is a Deputy Commissioner of DEP.

21 And I want to give a great shoutout to Council
22 Member Feliz, who had to deal with the trauma early
23 in his role as council member of fire within his
24 district... and seeing that... and protecting all
25 of New York City and fighting really hard to get this

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bill passed... and working with a all of us to make
sure that we are protecting all of New York City.
Thank you for that. And I am very proud to call him
a colleague. Aye on all.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please call on Council
Member Carr, who needs to do a disclosure.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader,
I would like to disclose on the record that we are
funding CUNY in this transparency Resolution, and my
spouse is a student at CUNY. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

Can you call on Council Member Riley as well? I
believe he may have a disclosure.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Yes, uh, I just want to
disclose for the record that both of my daughters are
students for the Department of Education.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Vernikov?

COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all, except no on
528 and 529. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Williams?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to explain my
3 vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I would like to disclose
6 for the record that I am a CUNY student receiving
7 funding for CUNY as well to myself.

8 And, then, I am just really excited to be voting
9 on Introduction 439-A. As a former board member of a
10 crisis management organization, I know the importance
11 of their work, but also the importance of evaluation
12 and transparency. So, I want to thank Nader from my
13 team, and Josh, uh, and the ledge team for all of
14 their hard work on the bill. And, of course, uhm,
15 the chair of the Public Safety Committee, thank you.

16 And, I vote aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: And, can we just call on
19 Council Member Holden? I think he has a disclosure
20 as well.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN. I want to disclose on the
22 record, that my son is an adjunct lecturer at CUNY,
23 and that's it, thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
25 Holden.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Yes, Mr. President, may I be excused to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very much.

I just want to speak very briefly about Council Member Carr's Introduction 524. And, thank you very much for, uh, presenting this bill, and I am glad that we are adopting it today.... And to Chair Brannan for his support and the speaker, of course.

As those who have unfortunately had to follow my words for the last several years, this is a drum that I have been banging for a very long time. The interest that we charge as a city to people who are small home owners, small property owners that just simply cannot make the payments -- In particularly the last two to three years of devastation, where people just simply have not had the money to make the tax payments or the water payments that are necessary. I continue to believe that when a small home owner doesn't make their tax payments on time, it is not because they don't want to, it is because

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2 they can't. It is not that people chose to not pay
3 their bills.

4 So, I am raising this now, simply because in
5 several months, as previous people have spoken here,
6 we are going to have a Banking Commission give us a
7 recommendation, and that recommendation is going to
8 have an interest rate for this lower class level of
9 properties -- those who have entered into payment
10 agreements. It is still going to recommend an
11 interest rate, and I would suggest now that we should
12 think very deeply about whether or not that interest
13 rate should be anything more than zero.

14 If somebody is legitimately in a payment plan,
15 and they are working to make those payments, they
16 should not be charged any interest during the course
17 of that payment if they are working with the City to
18 meet their obligations. And that is the drum I have
19 beat for the last several years. It is the one I
20 will continue to beat, and hopefully see you all here
21 in June doing that.

22 And, I vote all, with the exception of M 125, M
23 126 Resolution 516 and 517. I have spoken in the
24 past why I vote no on these items.

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2 And, also, L U 175 and Resolution 525, I have
3 spoken about that in the past as well.

4 I vote on Resolution 529, I have had the change
5 in my life to speak about that as well.

6 And, I abstain on [TIMER CHIMES] Resolution 508.

7 Thank you very much, Mr. President.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

9 Majority Leader Powers?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Before I vote, can you
11 just call on Council Member Sanchez to do her
12 disclosures?

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, so much,
15 Majority Leader Powers. I would just like to
16 disclose on the record that my brother is an adjunct
17 lecturer at CUNY [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE] Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

20 Majority Leader Powers?

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I am voting aye on all,
22 and I want to congratulate Council Members Feliz,
23 Brewer, Holden, and others for their bills today on
24 e-batteries. And, also, in particular, since I have
25 introduced two bills, that I think will compliment

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2 those today. I hope we will move on those as well,
3 because I think they are a good compliment to the
4 packages that we are voting on today.

5 With that, I vote aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: With deep congratulations to all
8 of my colleagues who are passing legislation that is
9 so very important to fire safety for all New Yorkers,
10 I vote aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, on items on today's
12 General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote of 47 in
13 the affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero
14 abstentions; with the exception of Resolution 528,
15 adopted by a vote of 48 yesses, six no's, and zero
16 abstentions; Resolution 529, 39 yesses, eight no's,
17 and zero abstentions; Intro 663-A, 45 yesses, one in
18 no, one abstention; Resolution 508, adopted by a vote
19 of 46 yesses, zero no's, one abstention; and M 125
20 and 26, with accompanying Resolutions, adopted by a
21 vote of 46 in the affirmative, one against, and zero
22 abstentions.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will now move to the
24 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

5 There are no Resolutions on today's calendar.
6 So, we are now going to move into General Discussion.
7 We are going to start with Council Member Barron,
8 followed by Council Member Won, followed by Council
9 Member Gennaro.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much, my
11 colleagues.

12 You know, you heard about history - HIStory-,
13 well, this month is HERstory.

14 And I do want to salute the women of this body
15 and the women in history. I want to focus on some
16 women that you may not have realized that they did in
17 history:

18 Jo Ann Robinson, who was head of the Women's
19 Political Council, did you know she started the
20 boycott, the women started the boycott, the
21 Montgomery boycott, and it was successful for one
22 day. Then the men saw that, the reverends, and they
23 came in and took it over -- even though they were
24 fighting each other. But, it was the women who
25 started it all. And that is how Martin Luther King

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2 was catapulted into history, because, then, to solve
3 the battle, the Reverend said, let's get this young
4 guy, nobody's attached to him, let him lead the
5 Montgomery Improvement Association -- thanks to Jo
6 Ann Robinson.

7 Ella Baker, powerful sister, powerful Black
8 woman, started The Student Nonviolent Coordinating
9 Committee (SNCC), and the young people, said, look, I
10 don't care what the clergy, the Southern Christian
11 Leadership Conference (SCLC), the reverends are very
12 chauvinistic, so I am going to go straight out for
13 women and for young people.

14 And, how about, Fannie Lou Hamer? Not only did
15 she start an independent party, but she also started
16 a farmers cooperative and fed people in Mississippi,
17 and upstaged President Johnson, when he tried to
18 upstage her from talking.

19 And, then, my women in the Black Panther Party:
20 Afeni Shakur, Tupac Shakur's mother, defended 21
21 people. How dare they arrest Panthers for wanting to
22 blowup botanical gardens? Some Panthers were
23 botanists, I don't know what they're talking about.
24 But, she defended them, and they won; Angela Davis;
25 Assata Shakur, who is now in Cuba and needs to come

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back home and be liberated; Elaine Brown, the first chairperson, after Huey Newton, of The Black Panther [TIMER CHIMES] Party...

I will be finished in a second. This is for the women today!

Claudia Jones, a communist, socialist! A powerful Black woman! And Angela Davis, of course, and then, the baddest women I ever met, was Inez Barron.

[APPLAUSE/CHEERS IN CHAMBERS]

Inez Barron! The love of my life. I would not be here today, if it weren't for Inez Barron.

So, all the good that you like about me, you can attribute to her. The bad is all mine!

[APPLAUSE/CHEERS IN CHAMBERS]

Happy HERstory month!

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member, send our best to Inez Barron.

We will now go Council Member Won, followed by Council Member Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (NO RESPONSE)

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Oh, sorry, I think Council Member Won has left. We will go to Council Member Gennaro.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: It's me? I'm on? This
3 is it? Okay.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: You're up, sir!

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: All right, okay! Here we
6 go!

7 Council Member Lee, I am very happy to introduce
8 Resolution 509 today, declaring April to be Sikh
9 Awareness and Appreciation Month in New York City.

10 Sikh New Yorkers have certainly contributed
11 greatly to this City, partially Queens. Further,
12 Sikh-Americans have made contribution to our country,
13 for more than a century, in the fields of medicine,
14 business, academia, high-tech, and the military. And
15 there are more than 60,000 Sikhs in New York City,
16 and this community deserves awareness, appreciation,
17 and our respect. And 16 states, including our
18 neighboring states of Connecticut, New Jersey,
19 Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts already celebrate
20 Sikh Awareness Appreciation Month, but New York State
21 does not.

22 It is time for New York City to do the same as
23 these other states have done to honor this community.
24 I urge my colleagues to sign on to Intro 509. Thank
25 you very much.

1 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

2 And before we go forward, I just want to add to
3 our vote today, that we had Land Use Item 175 and
4 Resolution 525 adopted by a vote of 46 in the
5 affirmative, one negative, and zero abstentions.
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7 We will not go to Council Member Ossé, followed
8 by Council Member Gutiérrez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Majority Leader.
10 Today, I introduce Resolution 514, along with Council
11 Members Sanchez and Hudson, with calls on our State
12 government to extend greater housing protections to
13 those living with HIV. Our legislators should
14 immediately pass Senate Bill 183, sponsored by
15 Senator Hoylman-Sigal, and Assembly Bill 2418,
16 sponsored by Assembly Bronson, to amend the Social
17 Services Law to ensure HIV positive New Yorkers
18 receiving housing assistance, pay no more than 30% of
19 their income towards housing. This will be a small,
20 but critical step forward in fighting homelessness
21 and keeping roofs over the heads of the already
22 vulnerable.

23 I implore my colleagues to support this
24 Resolution, and I would also like to thank Ruwi
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2 Shaikh , HIV/AIDS Campaigns Coordinator for VOCAL-NY,
3 who helped our office with this Resolution.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
5 Ossé.

6 We will now go to Council Member Gutiérrez,
7 followed by Council Member Riley.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Majority
9 Leader.

10 Today in partnership with Council Member Riley
11 and so many of my other colleagues, we are
12 introducing Bill 941, which is a comprehensive plan
13 to create universal childcare. As a new mom,
14 creating this bill has been a labor of love. My team
15 and I have spent almost a year working with
16 advocates, parents, and providers, and we have talked
17 to people from San Francisco to Iceland. We want to
18 get this right.

19 New Yorkers leaders have been talking about
20 universal childcare for decades, but no one has
21 deemed it worthy of our time, our tax dollars, and
22 our resources. And that is because it has been seen
23 as a woman's problem or an issue that only infects
24 the working poor and people of color. But, this
25 council is different. We are the first ever majority

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2 female City Council, and we are the most diverse body
3 to ever grace these halls. Almost every caucus has
4 identified universal childcare as one of their top
5 priorities. So, I ask, if not now with this council,
6 then when?

7 The mayor has made it clear that he wants to
8 invests in childcare, but is only proposing fixes to
9 the broken system as it currently works.

10 This week, the BLAC [Black, Latino and Asian
11 Caucus] released a list of critical needs to keep
12 this system afloat. This is vitally important, but
13 this bill to create universal childcare, fully
14 reimagines the entire childcare industry to ensure
15 equity and access for all -- with a plan informed
16 directly by advocates and providers.

17 New York City loses \$23 billion every year in
18 economic output from women leaving the workforce.
19 The cost of childcare has reached new, unsustainable
20 heights, and at the same time, childcare providers
21 are in the bottom three percent of earners in New
22 York.

23 We have reached a breaking point. Families and
24 providers are in crisis, and decades of ignorance and
25 a lack of investment have gotten us to this point.

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2 Starting today, that changes, we are completely
3 reenvisaging the childcare system in our city -- an
4 entire supportive infrastructure that will be a road
5 map for other city, states, and hopefully, the
6 federal government.

7 As New York City and this historic council will
8 lead with the path forward, I hope you can join me by
9 signing on and joining this fight. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

11 We will go to Council Member Riley, followed by
12 Council Member Farías.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.

14 With the average cost of homebased care and
15 center based care being \$10,000 and \$19,000 a year,
16 child care has become significantly expensive and
17 inaccessible for many New York City families.

18 With inflation and food costs, housing and day to
19 day expenses, coming up with a comprehensive plan for
20 universal childcare in New York City is
21 transformative to not only supplying free, quality
22 childcare services, but also to ensuring that these
23 services are available to all families, regardless of
24 where they live of their immigration status.

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2 Universal childcare in New York City means
3 extended services that provide assistance to parents
4 who work nights and weekends. Universal childcare in
5 New York City makes the connection to agencies,
6 resources, and education to uplift families in need.

7 The historic piece of legislation, Introduction
8 941, seeks to focus on a holistic approach by
9 developing and equitable workforce, and supporting
10 opportunities for the economic development for our
11 underserved communities. Most importantly, it is
12 called to protect our amazing childcare providers,
13 who next to parents, are childrens first educators.
14 The bill would ensure that they will receive
15 equitable pay, developmental training, and access to
16 the support and recourses they need to enhance their
17 services.

18 As a son of an immigrant single mother, who was
19 the sole provider of our household -- working
20 numerous jobs to provide for her children -- as a
21 husband and a father of three beautiful, young
22 children in a household with two working parents, I
23 understand the significance of reliable childcare and
24 what it means for the families of our cities. I
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1
2 value this special work from our providers and the
3 role that they have in keeping our city running.

4 Thank you to Council Member Gutiérrez, my
5 colleagues, and all of the advocates for their
6 efforts in promoting universal childcare for our
7 communities. I encourage and continue to encourage
8 my colleagues to support and sign in to Intro 941 --
9 Legislation that seeks to establish an Office for
10 Childcare, rooted in changing the childcare system
11 and creating equity for all. And I just want to give
12 a special shoutout to my wife, whose birthday [TIMER
13 CHIMES] is tomorrow. She is going to be 35. So, I
14 just want to give a special shoutout to her. Thank
15 you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Happy Birthday!

17 We will now hear from Council Member Farías,
18 followed by Council Member Paladino.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Majority
20 Leader.

21 New York City is know for being a pioneer for
22 equal rights and progress. Last year, we continued
23 that legacy when we made history by electing the
24 first woman majority council.
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2 This year, will be the first time that the
3 Council hosts a Women's History Month celebration
4 since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. And as
5 the co-chair of the Women's Caucus, I could not be
6 more excited to celebrate with all of you.

7 I hope everyone, including all of my male
8 colleagues, can join us March 29th at 6:00 P. M. to
9 celebrate the achievements of women across the City
10 and all that we have been able to accomplish so far.
11 Happy Women's History Month, everyone.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and we will
13 now here from Council Member Paladino, followed by
14 Council Member Louis.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Good afternoon,
16 everybody. I am very excited to announce a new 659-
17 seat high school here in district 19. The site is
18 the former St. Agnes High School, which was around
19 for a 100 years. I am happy to say that it will not
20 be demolished.

21 The renovations will deliver critical updates and
22 alleviate a great deal of overcrowding in our already
23 overcrowded high schools in my district.

24 College Point is a largely working class,
25 immigrant community, and currently has elementary

1 schools and a middle school, but no high school.
2 This must change as the community deserves a local
3 high school of their own. The kids should not have
4 to travel outside of their community to an
5 overcrowded high school elsewhere. We are hopeful
6 that this new high school will be part of the
7 solution.
8

9 The response of Community Board 7 and the public
10 has been extremely positive. As a community, we will
11 work together with School Constructing Authority and
12 the Department of Education to ensure an innovative
13 and appropriate space for high school learners in
14 College Point... And to deliver full transparency
15 throughout the process.

16 We are looking forward to a grand opening in late
17 2026, early 2027.

18 I would also like to add... I've got 46
19 seconds... It is Women's Month, I would like to
20 thank my mother, she's gone 25 years, if it weren't
21 for my mother, single mom -- my mother was a widow at
22 39 years old... [TIMER CHIMES] She raised five kids.
23 She worked in a factory. I know what it is like to
24 do this, this is hard work. One lesson she taught
25 me, and that was, "It's a good life if you don't

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2 weaken," and Vickie Paladino does not weaken. Thank
3 you very much.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
5 hear from Council Member Louis, followed by Council
6 Member Lee, followed by Council Member Restler.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Speaker Adams,
8 and Majority Leader Powers for the opportunity to
9 introduce Intro 948, along with my colleagues Council
10 Member Barron and Council Member Williams. A local
11 law that would require the New York City Police
12 Department, also known as the NYPD, to report
13 information and data regarding their operations. The
14 bill would expand the scope and increase the
15 frequency of existing reports required by the NYPD -
16 which includes information about their use of Stop,
17 Question, and Frisk, deployment of officers, use of
18 overtime spending, and crime status information. All
19 of these reports would be publicly posted on NYPD's
20 website.

21 The bill guarantees several crucial aspects: It
22 establishes public trust and transparency, by
23 requiring the NYPD to report information and data
24 about their operations; it helps identify systemic
25 racial disparities and issues within NYPD policies,

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2 which would force the agency to improve their
3 operation practices and overall performance; it will
4 also assist with promoting and fostering public
5 confidence, so that the NYPD can better serve the
6 needs of the public.

7 Overall, this bill enforces transparency,
8 accountability, and community trust.

9 I urge my colleagues to support and sign on to
10 Introduction 948. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

12 We will now here from Council Member Lee,
13 followed by Council Member Restler.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Thank you, good afternoon,
15 Madam Speaker, Majority Leader, and colleagues.

16 I just wanted to talk about two Resolutions that
17 I am helping to introduce.

18 The first Resolution is alongside Council Member
19 Gennaro, Council Member Krishnan, Council Member
20 Schulman, and Council Member Ariola. And we are
21 introducing Reso 511 to support state legislation by
22 Assemblyman David Weprin and Senator Leroy Comrie,
23 which would direct the Queens Board of Elections to
24 provide language assistance in Bengali, Punjabi, and
25 Hindi.

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2 Language assistance would include ballots, signs,
3 mailings, employee and volunteer training materials,
4 and information on the board's website.

5 The legislation would also require the Queens BOE
6 to produce and distribute a booklet containing
7 information about how to register to vote,
8 instructions for obtaining and absentee ballot, as
9 well as other general voter information.

10 As Queens representatives, we are proud of the
11 linguistic diversity of the World's Borough. It
12 comes with a moral responsibility to ensure that all
13 of our voters, regardless of their preferred
14 language, are able to exercise their franchise.

15 The US Census Bureau has confirmed that Queens
16 County is required to provide election materials in
17 Asian-Indian languages, under the Federal Voting
18 Rights Act, and that Bengali, Hindi, and Punjabi are
19 the most spoken languages among Asian-Indian
20 individuals in Queens.

21 So, I hope that you will join us in this effort.

22 And, I also just wanted to note that I am very
23 proud also to be on the Reso 509, alongside Council
24 Member Gennaro, to declare April as Sikh Awareness
25 and Appreciation Month in New York City. I also have

1
2 a large Sikh community, and Sikhism has contributed
3 so much to our city and our borough, and I am very
4 exited to support this Resolution. So, thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

6 We will now hear from Council Member Restler.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you so much.

8 Firstly, I just want to congratulate Council Member
9 Gutiérrez and Council Member Riley on the universal
10 childcare legislation. It is really exciting
11 [INAUDIBLE] for this council to take on.

12 I am introducing Introduction 951 today. And I
13 want to thank co-sponsors Jim Gennaro, Alexa Avilés,
14 and Oswald Feliz for partnering with me.

15 We all know that our buildings are our largest
16 source of emissions in New York City. And one of the
17 critical components that we need to expand on to
18 decarbonize our buildings effectively, is more solar
19 installations. There are generous incentives for
20 homeowners. There are federal and state tax credits.
21 There are property tax abatements. The Biden
22 administration recently extended in the IRA, solar
23 tax credits. Solar lowers energy bills. Our biggest
24 obstacle to expanding solar are government
25

1 regulations, that are overly restrictive, and painful
2 government bureaucracy.
3

4 We can do better. We must do better. And, so
5 our legislation would reduce the clearance path on
6 rooftops for solar from six feet down to four feet.
7 And for smaller buildings, it would allow for home
8 owners to have a three-foot wide path. And it also
9 allows home owners to apply with their neighbors on
10 adjoining rooves to expand the footprint for rooftop
11 solar.

12 We are way behind as a city in reaching our solar
13 goals. As of... We are supposed to create a 1,000
14 megawatts of solar capacity by 2030. But we have
15 only accomplished 16% of that goal. If we are going
16 to actually install the solar that we need to achieve
17 the renewable economy that we must, it requires us to
18 clean up outdated bureaucracy and restrictive codes
19 and get more solar installed.

20 Let's pass Introduction 951. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 Do we have anyone else signed up to speak?

23 Seeing no one else signed up, I will now call on
24 Speaker Adrienne Adams to close out today's Stated
25 Meeting.

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STATED MEETING

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

The Stated Meeting of March 2, 2023, is hereby
adjourned.

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 March 19, 2023