

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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June 11, 2014  
Start: 1:27 p.m.  
Recess: 3:21 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Margaret S. Chin  
Rosie Mendez  
Corey D. Johnson  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Ben Kallos  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Mark Levine  
Inez Dickens  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Andrew Cohen  
Andy L. King  
James Vacca  
Fernando Cabrera  
Ritchie J. Torres

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

## Council Members:

Vanessa L. Gibson  
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Annabel Palma  
Paul A. Vallone  
Peter Koo  
Julissa Ferreras  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Mark S. Weprin  
Rory I. Lancman  
Daniel Dromm  
James G. Van Bramer  
I. Daneek Miller  
Ruben Wills  
Karen Koslowitz  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Donovan Richards  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Stephen T. Levin  
Antonio Reynoso  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Robert E. Corengy, Jr.  
Rafael Espinal, Jr.  
Carlos Menchacca  
Bradford S. Lander  
Mathieu Eugene  
Darlene Mealy  
Inez D. Barron  
Vincent J. Gentile  
David G. Greenfield  
Jumaane Williams  
Alan N. Maisel  
Mark Treyger  
Chaim M. Deutsch

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

Council Members:

Deborah L. Rose

Steven Matteo

Vincent M. Ignizo

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright, so good afternoon to everybody that is here joining us. I think we have a great ceremonial. We only have one today, so it's extra special. All the focus is on this one ceremonial. We have a proclamation that--one of the things that we do through these events is always kind of honor local heroes, and our colleague Costa Constantinides has a local hero that he would like to recognize here in the Chambers today. I will leave it there so that he can explain a little bit more of his honoree. So any of the colleagues that are here that would love to join us, particularly those from Queens, it'd be great if you could join us and our colleague here today. So Costa, here you go.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES:

Thank you, Madam Speaker and for all your great leadership, thank you. You know, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, postal carrier Mr. Joseph Rabina [sp?] was carrying out his duties as a postal service worker when he heard cries for help coming from a 41<sup>st</sup> Street building in Astoria. Upon hearing the cries, Mr. Rabina ran into the

1  
2 building and helped save a young girl and her  
3 family from their burning apartment. After  
4 rescuing his family, Mr. Rabina called 911 to  
5 alert the authorities and then with further  
6 disregard for his own safety, he raced back  
7 into the building and begun yelling and banging  
8 on doors to make sure that everyone in the  
9 blood would be alerted to the fire. You know,  
10 because of Mr. Rabina's heroic actions on that  
11 day, Mr. Rabina saved countless lives. After  
12 Mr. Rabina's bravery he just went back to work  
13 as if nothing had happened, and you know, we  
14 applaud him for his courageous actions. You  
15 really exemplify what is great about this city,  
16 helping one another, reaching out your hands  
17 and, you know, going above and beyond to help  
18 your fellow neighbor. So we owe you a debt of  
19 gratitude and we appreciate all of your great  
20 work. The clerk, would you please read the  
21 proclamation?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council City of New  
23 York Proclamation, whereas the council of the  
24 City of New York is proud to honor Joey Rabina  
25 for his quick thinking heroism that saved the

1  
2 lives of many New Yorkers, and whereas on March  
3 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mr. Rabina a 27-year veteran of the  
4 United States Postal Service was delivering  
5 mail in Astoria. When he reached 25-70 41<sup>st</sup>  
6 Street he heard cries for help coming from  
7 above, then ran into the building and saved a  
8 young girl and her family from the fire raging  
9 inside their fourth floor apartment. He then  
10 called 911 and raced back into the building. He  
11 knew other residents were still inside. And  
12 whereas, with the fire still growing, Mr.  
13 Rabina returned to the fourth floor and yelled  
14 for everyone to get out. Putting the lives of  
15 strangers before his own, he continued yelling  
16 and banging on all 24 doors of the building  
17 with his handheld scanner. Some residents had  
18 been sleeping and were at serious risk had it  
19 not been for his swift response. By the time  
20 the FDNY arrived, Mr. Rabina had evacuated  
21 everyone to safety in an adjacent building.  
22 And whereas after saving everyone in the  
23 building from the fire, Mr. Rabina did  
24 something equally remarkable, he simply went  
25 back to delivering his route as though nothing

1 had happened. At the end of his work day he  
2 went home without telling anyone at the office  
3 about the incident. When building tenants  
4 sought him out at the Steinway Post Office to  
5 thank him a few days later, others learned the  
6 story of this humble hero. And whereas Mr.  
7 Rabina's heroic action showed how one person  
8 can truly make a difference in this world. His  
9 actions during and after this event truly  
10 revealed the strength of his character and the  
11 depth of his courage. He has reminded everyone  
12 of the need for all New Yorkers to look out for  
13 one another as he so valiantly demonstrated.  
14 Not only to safeguard our quality of life but  
15 to set a positive example for younger  
16 generations. He has truly distinguished himself  
17 and has earned our enduring gratitude. Now,  
18 therefore, be it known that the Council of the  
19 City of New York gratefully honors Joey Rabina  
20 for saving the lives of his fellow New Yorkers  
21 on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Melissa Mark-Viverito,  
22 Speaker for the entire Council, Costa  
23 Constantinides, Council Member 22<sup>nd</sup> District  
24 Queens.  
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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright.

[applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I want to thank Senor [sic] Rabina, gracias. Thank you so much for everything, because you know, we are doing Council Member for a day here. We have young people here today listening to your story which is very inspiring to us, but it can serve as such a wonderful and powerful lesson to young people that we live in this dense urban environment that sometimes can feel so isolated, but we still in neighborhoods and in communities, and if something like this, you know, we always think about well, if something terrible were to happen to me, would someone help me? And I think that your story is very powerful and it's one that reminds us each and every day that we have a responsibility to others as well to ourselves. And so I'm glad that you're here. I'm glad that our colleague is commending you. It's an honor to meet you and serve as a powerful example to these young people, and with that, if you would say a few words.



1  
2 JOSEPH RABINA: Thank you very much.  
3 I appreciate Mr. Costa Constantinides and the  
4 City Council for honoring me today, but I just  
5 want to say that God just put me in the right  
6 time at the right place and I had the right  
7 frame of mind to do the right thing. We as  
8 postal carriers consider you as our extended  
9 family. We are there for you every single day,  
10 and I just want everyone to know why God put  
11 you on this earth. He put you here to serve  
12 your fellow man. And so I want to thank  
13 everyone, and remember do what my mother said,  
14 "Do a good deed for the day." Crossing an old  
15 lady, taking the bags of an elderly person; you  
16 don't have to fight fires. I hope I never have  
17 to fight another one. But remember, it all adds  
18 up. It all adds up. He's working hard for the  
19 people of Astoria, and I want to thank him for  
20 that. You know, and I could see that he's  
21 truthful about this because he spoke to me  
22 about it. And so I just want to thank  
23 everyone, the City Council, Costa, and you,  
24 Madam.

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so much. Thank you again.

[applause]

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Have a good one.

UNIDENTIFIED: Ladies and gentleman, can I have your attention, please? Can I please have your attention? Quiet on the floor, all quiet on the floor. At this time, please place all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers and have a seat upstairs in the balcony with the exception of the parents for Council Members of the day. You can stay on the floor. That's okay. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise for the pledge of allegiance. Quiet in the chambers. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which is stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all. Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 11

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

5 chambers, please. Quiet in the chambers for

6 roll call. Please take your seats. Thank you.

7 Roll call continue.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrerea?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

13 Constantinides?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy? Crowley?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 12  
COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene? Ferreras?  
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick?  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile? Gibson?  
Greenfield? Johnson?  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: King?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Levin? Levine?  
Maisel?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 13  
COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? MENCHACCA?  
Mendez? Miller? Palma? Reynoso? Richards?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rose?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal? Torres?  
Treyger? Ulrich?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca? Vallone?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Wills? Vacca?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio?  
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer? Speaker  
Mark-Viverito?

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please rise  
3 for the invocation delivered by Aisha Al  
4 Adawiya representing women in Islam. Quiet in  
5 the chambers for the invocation.

6 AISHA AL ADAWIYA: Peace be unto  
7 you. [speaking Arabic] In the name of God, most  
8 gracious, most merciful. [speaking Arabic]  
9 Praise be to God, Lord of the Universe.

10 [speaking Arabic] Most gracious, most merciful.

11 [speaking Arabic] Master of the day of

12 judgment. [speaking Arabic] You are alone we

13 worship. You alone we ask for help. [speaking

14 Arabic] Guide us in the right path. [speaking

15 Arabic] The path of those whom you blessed, not

16 of those who have deserved wrath, nor those who

17 have gone astray. In memory of our sister,

18 freedom fighter for the oppressed, protégé,

19 friend and supporter of Malcolm X, El-Hajj

20 Malik El-Shabazz, and bridge builder, Yuri

21 Kochiyama, let us offer this prayer. May God

22 bless you with discomfort and easy answers,

23 have truths and superficial relationships so

24 that you may live deep within your heart. May

25 God bless you with Anger at injustice,

1  
2 oppression, exploitation of people so that you  
3 may work for justice, freedom and peace. May  
4 God bless you with tears to shed for those who  
5 suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war  
6 so that you may reach out your hand to comfort  
7 them and to turn their pain into joy, and may  
8 God bless you with enough foolishness to  
9 believe that you can make a difference in this  
10 world so that you may do what others claim  
11 cannot be done, and it is our blessing for the  
12 members of this council as they seek to do the  
13 astounding work for this community for the  
14 people of the city of New York. Thank you so  
15 much. [speaking Arabic].

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
17 Motion to spread the invocation in full upon  
18 the record. Council Member Dickens.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you  
20 so much, Madam Public Advocate. [speaking  
21 Arabic] my sister. I would like to thank Sister  
22 Aisha--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
24 Excuse me, Council Member. Quiet in the  
25

1 chambers, please. Quiet in the chambers.

2 Please have your seats. Council Member Dickens.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
4 Madam Public Advocate. [speaking Arabic] my  
5 sister. I would like to thank Sister Aisha Al  
6 Adawiya for today's invocation. She has been a  
7 strong voice in our community and is a social  
8 justice and human rights activist. As the  
9 founder of Women in Islam she has organized and  
10 participated in conferences, symposia and other  
11 forums on Islam, gender equity, conflict  
12 resolution, cross-cultural understanding and  
13 peace building. She is truly a phenomenal  
14 woman. And still, I rise. With that I move to  
15 spread the invocation in full upon the record.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved.  
17 Adoption of minutes. Council Member Johnson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Madam  
19 Public Advocate, I would like to make a motion  
20 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of April  
21 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 be adopted as printed.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So moved.  
23 Messages and papers from the Mayor?  
24



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 17

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M70,

3 speed limits.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and

5 Federal Legislation.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M71,

7 Civil liability of vehicle owners.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: State and

9 Federal Legislation.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication

11 from City, County and Borough Offices?

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and

14 communications?

15 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use

17 call-ups?

18 COUNCIL CLERK: M72.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Roll call.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera? Chin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 18

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

3 Constantinides?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on Land

15 Use call-ups and permission to couple all the

16 votes and vote aye on all items.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 19  
COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick?  
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile? Cohen?  
COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson? Greenfield?  
Johnson?  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: King?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Levin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Levine? Maisel?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 20

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo? Mealy?

3 Menchacca?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACCA: Presente.

5 Yeah, presente and aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez? Miller?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you

9 vote?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote yes.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Palma? Reynoso?

12 Richards?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye, and I

16 would like to vote on Land Use on general

17 orders.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres? Treyger?

25 Ulrich?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 21

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Wills?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [off mic]

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio? Van Bramer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Present

15 and aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you

19 vote?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Mark-

22 Viverito?

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land

25 Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 39 in

1 the affirmative, zero in the negative.

2 Communication from Speaker Mark-Viverito.

3  
4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I was taking  
5 care of Bensley [sp?] here on behalf of my  
6 colleague. So good afternoon everybody. Buenos  
7 tardes. I want to begin today by extending my  
8 sincere gratitude to all my colleagues and  
9 staff who volunteered their time and effort  
10 this weekend at the National Puerto Rican Day  
11 Parade. Marching as Grand Marshall in the  
12 parade was a great honor and having so many  
13 friends from this institution alongside me made  
14 that day a wonderful experience. It really  
15 means a lot to me personally, and great to say  
16 that that parade was a wonderful, wonderful  
17 success. So thank you very much. Today we're  
18 going to vote on proposed introduction 12A  
19 sponsored by Council Member Andy King. This  
20 legislation would require the Department of  
21 Education to report academic and demographic  
22 information on co-located schools in New York  
23 City. Co-location of schools can be a good  
24 tool for making the most of the education  
25 facilities we have available, but we also need

1  
2 to ensure that our students aren't subject to  
3 overcrowding and insufficient resources. Under  
4 this law, Department of Education will provide  
5 an annual report to the council by August 30<sup>th</sup>  
6 of each year. Additionally, this report will be  
7 posted on the Department of Education website  
8 so the public can access its findings. So I  
9 want to thank Laura Popa [sp?] Tiers Anasir  
10 [sp?] and Aisha Schamburg [sp?] for legislative  
11 and--from legislative staff for their excellent  
12 work on this bill, and I'd like to call on  
13 Council Member Andy King to say a few words  
14 followed by Council Member Dromm, Chair of the  
15 Education Committee.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you,  
17 Madam Speaker. Again, I want to thank you for  
18 your leadership in leading the Council here.  
19 Today's Intro 12, as I said in earlier  
20 meetings, has a special feeling for me. It's  
21 the 12<sup>th</sup> piece of legislation in calendar year  
22 of 2014, as I represent the 12<sup>th</sup> District, and  
23 as well as my birthday's on the 12<sup>th</sup>. So this  
24 means so much to me, but I want to say thank  
25 you to Asia Schamburg [sp?] who helped me put

1  
2 pen to paper as well as Eric Henry, my  
3 Legislative Director who helped me be the brain  
4 trust of this idea. Again, this piece of  
5 legislation allows us to have a conversation  
6 and collect data that'll allow all our specific  
7 high schools who are co-located to get on the  
8 right page when it comes to education. I've  
9 talked to parents, educators, and we've had the  
10 challenge of trying to figure out how do we  
11 make sure that our children receive the best  
12 and equal education. While collecting all this  
13 data to find out why a school on the third  
14 floor might be better than the school on the  
15 first floor will help us get back on the road  
16 of ensuring that we have one educational system  
17 for all. So I want to thank everyone who had a  
18 part of making today a reality and I'm thanking  
19 all my colleagues in advance for voting for  
20 this piece of legislation, and thank you again.  
21 Thank you, Madam Speaker.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And just to  
23 be clear, Andy and I did not coordinate our  
24 outfits today, although we seem to be a mirror  
25



1  
2 reflection of each other right now. Council  
3 Member Dromm?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Well, thank  
5 you very much, Madam Speaker, but you do make a  
6 nice couple. I must say that, so.

7 Congratulations and thank you, Madam Speaker.

8 Thank you Council Member King for this

9 important piece of legislation. As many of us

10 know, the co-location of schools into certain

11 buildings has caused a number of educational

12 issues, the one of cooperation between the

13 building principals, the use of shared space,

14 cafeterias, gymnasiums, the use of trailers,

15 all of these issues really need to be seriously

16 examined and looked at. And on many cases

17 we've seen an awful lot of problems and issues

18 arise out of that. I'm glad to be able to say

19 also that we're working closely with the

20 Department of Education on how to negotiate

21 some of the issues that arise out of these co-

22 locations, but having the information that

23 would be required in this bill before us to

24 know exactly the numbers and the figures that

25 relate to these co-locations is something that

1  
2 is highly desirable. So I again want to just  
3 say thank you and I look forward to us passing  
4 this piece of legislation here in the council  
5 today. Thank you very much.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
7 Council Member. Can we please keep some  
8 silence in the room? Thank you. We have a  
9 resolution sponsored by Council Member Kallos,  
10 calling upon the state government to allow 16  
11 and 17 year olds to serve on Community Boards.  
12 There are many young people in this city who  
13 are dedicated to public service as active  
14 members of their community. This resolution  
15 calls for them to be given an official avenue  
16 to have their input heard through their local  
17 Community Boards. And we have a lot of young  
18 people here learning about our government for  
19 the first time, hoping that we can encourage  
20 them to become civically engaged and having  
21 opportunities and avenues for them to explore  
22 their leadership is critical in Community Board  
23 are important for that reason. So Council  
24 Member Kallos, if you could say a few words?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you,  
3 Madam Speaker. This is the outcome of a larger  
4 community board reform initiative that we've  
5 had, and one of the things that came out of it  
6 was testimony from all five boroughs about the  
7 importance of having youth on the community  
8 boards. I'm proud to be putting forward this  
9 resolution today in support of allowing 16 and  
10 17 year olds to serve as full voting members of  
11 their community boards. Twenty percent of our  
12 city under the age of 18, and our youth  
13 deserves a voice on their local community  
14 boards. These boards deal with issues affecting  
15 their daily lives and the neighborhoods they  
16 live in. Sixteen and 17 year olds bring energy  
17 and diverse perspective. When I served on  
18 Community Board Eight, I served with a 16 year  
19 high school student, and that board hadn't had  
20 a youth and education committee previously. We  
21 were able to actually start one and make sure  
22 that we started addressing needs in education  
23 and out of school time in the district. These  
24 are some of the most hard working civically  
25 engaged young people that you will ever meet.

1  
2 One of them, in fact, in the 1970's was Scott  
3 Stringer who is now our Comptroller. I think  
4 New York City is ready for a lot more stories  
5 like this one. This was introduced at the  
6 request of Manhattan Borough President Gale  
7 Brewer who carried this resolution before I did  
8 and is cosponsored by Council Member Mark  
9 Levine, Council Member Ritchie Torres, who is  
10 the youngest elected official in New York City,  
11 and Council Member Jimmy Vacca with whom  
12 Ritchie Torres interned while he was a District  
13 Manager, and he's--all three of us have been  
14 able to work together on getting this pushed  
15 and we're incredibly happy that it's coming to  
16 the floor today and we encourage all of you to  
17 please vote. Please know that this is an  
18 option. All of you can still recommend whoever  
19 you want and the Borough Presidents can still  
20 appoint whoever they want, but at the end of  
21 the day it's an option. It's not a mandate.  
22 This bill has bipartisan support in Albany from  
23 Assembly Neily Rosic [sp?] in the Assembly, and  
24 this is actually her bill there, and State  
25 Senator Andrew Lanza [sp?] and we're hoping

1  
2 that following our resolution we will see quick  
3 passage in Albany. And I'm also hoping that my  
4 fellow colleagues who are Council Members for a  
5 day will be pledging to support and vote for  
6 this and apply to their Community Boards when  
7 they turn 16. Thank you.

8           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
9 Council Member. Today we're also voting on a  
10 resolution to recognize June as Gun Violence  
11 Awareness Month in New York City. In 2012, 57  
12 percent of all murders in New York City were  
13 gun-related. We can't continue to wait until  
14 another tragedy occurs to recognize the grave  
15 threat that gun violence poses to our  
16 communities, and with this resolution we are  
17 encouraging a proactive stance on the tragic  
18 and senseless hazards that gun violence  
19 presents to this city. I want to thank all the  
20 council staff for working on both these  
21 resolutions and obviously the leadership of  
22 Council Member Jumaane Williams. We're also  
23 voting on home rules today. We're requesting  
24 that we be given the authority to establish a  
25 25 mile per hour citywide speed limit. We're

1  
2 also making it easier for the city to establish  
3 20 miles per hour as a speed limit in select  
4 locations. We're also requesting that our  
5 authority to use red light cameras which is set  
6 to expire at the end of 2014, be extended for  
7 an additional five years with an additional  
8 request to give the city full autonomy on the  
9 specifics of our red light camera program. The  
10 last home rule we'll be voting on would request  
11 that our fire fighters be given more extensive  
12 field training on building and fire codes. And  
13 finally, we have eight students from the New  
14 York City schools here today with the Queens  
15 delegation as part of our Council Member for  
16 the day program, and I'd like to recognize each  
17 of them individually. Joining Rory Lancman is  
18 Council Member Phillip from PS 164 in Queens  
19 Valley. Joining Jimmy Van Bramer, our majority  
20 leader, is Council Member Jenaya [sp?] from PS  
21 111 Jacob-Blackwell School. Joining Daneek  
22 Miller is Council Member Bensley [sp?] who  
23 voted on behalf just a little bit ago from IS  
24 192 The Renaissance School. Joining Council  
25 Member Eric Ulrich is Council Member Ingrid

1  
2 from St. Thomas the Apostle School in  
3 Woodhaven, right? Joining Costa Constantinides  
4 is Council Member Scarlet from IS 126 The  
5 Albert Schenker [sp?] School of Visual and  
6 Performing Arts which is in Astoria. Joining  
7 Elizabeth Crowley is Council Member Christopher  
8 from PS 128 in Middle Village. Joining Julissa  
9 Ferreras is Council Member Minal [sp?] from IS  
10 227. Joining Mark Weprin is Council Member  
11 Sean from PS 135 in Queens Village. And I know  
12 that we also had here Wright Tristan [sp?],  
13 Council Member Vallones Council Member for the  
14 day was Council Member Tristan, who I hope is  
15 feeling better. We're sending him a little get  
16 well card. This is a great, great day for these  
17 young people. It's a great exercise in really  
18 having our young people understand government  
19 and hopefully they will be the next ones  
20 joining Community Boards. So, if our minority  
21 leader would like to say a few words?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIIZIO: Yes, I would  
23 just like to introduce my Council Member for a  
24 day coming in the back Mr. Oddo, Borough  
25 President Oddo. Council Member for a day for

1  
2 me. Congratulations to him. Thank you, Speaker  
3 for indulging me.

4           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's always a  
5 good day to see a former colleague, our former  
6 minority leader and now our Staten Island  
7 Borough President, Jimmy Oddo. It's great to  
8 see you here. The last thing I'll just say is  
9 obviously due to the exigencies of the budget  
10 adoption and the impending adjournment in  
11 Albany, meetings of the Finance and State and  
12 Federal Legislation Committees and the Stated  
13 Meeting of the Council are recessed subject to  
14 call, and we will keep you advised accordingly.  
15 We all know that--excuse me, colleagues. We all  
16 know that as we're in the last stages of  
17 adopting our budget we may have to have  
18 meetings calendared at the last minute. We  
19 really do ask that you have flexibility within  
20 your schedules and that you plan accordingly.  
21 So I just wanted to make that message known.  
22 And with that, we end communications from the  
23 Speaker.

24           UNIDENTIFIED: Discussion of General  
25 Orders.



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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Seeing none.  
Report of special committees.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of  
standing committees?

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
Committee on Education, Intro 12A, information  
on co-located schools.

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

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
Committee on Finance, preconsidered reso 277,  
organizations to receive funding.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered Land  
Use 84 and Resolution 285 and pre-considered  
Land Use 85 and Reso 286, tax abatement,  
affordable housing.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
Committee on Land Use, LU 57 and Reso 287 UDAP.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 61 and Reso 288  
and LU 79 and Reso 289 on enclosed sidewalk  
cafes.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 81 and Reso 290  
and LU 82 with Reso 291 granting real property  
tax exemption.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections,  
M67 and companion Reso 292 proving the  
appointment of Meenakshi Srinivasan as a member  
of the New York Landmarks Preservation  
Commission.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the  
Committee on State and Federal Legislation Pre-  
considered M70, speed limits.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 35

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

3 General Orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M71,

5 civil liability of vehicle owners.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

7 General Orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered SLR1,

9 traffic control indications.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

11 General Orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered SLR2,

13 training of fire officers.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

15 General Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: General Order

17 calendar resolution appointing various persons,

18 Commissioner of Deeds.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on

20 General Orders, and at this time I ask for roll

21 call on items on the coupled General Order

22 calendar.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron? Cabrera?

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 36

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye. And I  
also ask permission to speak?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Traffic in  
the city is dangerous and by lowering the speed  
limit from 30 to 25, police can ticket more  
people who speed, thus keeping the streets safe  
and sending a message to those who dare to  
disregard the law. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 37

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: By the time

3 he's 18, we re-elected.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Quiet in the chamber.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Espinal?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile? Gibson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye

17 and with permission I vote aye on all general

18 orders and call-ups. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I

21 explain my vote?

22 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you,

24 Madam President. I appreciate it. One of the

25 items that we're voting on today is to appoint

1 Meenakshi Srinivasan to be a member of the  
2 Landmarks Preservation Commission, and in  
3 anticipation that she will be appointed as  
4 Chair of said Commission, I just wanted to  
5 specifically speak on this just for a moment. I  
6 have had some criticism of the Landmarks  
7 Preservation Commission as the Chairman of the  
8 Land Use Committee and the City Council. I've  
9 been concerned about what we've seen as an  
10 incredible increase in land marking especially  
11 in Manhattan where over 27 percent of Manhattan  
12 is land marking. I've also raised concern about  
13 some landmarks that many of us believe don't  
14 really make sense, and further I've raised  
15 concern about the practice of calendaring an  
16 item where many items have been on the calendar  
17 since 1966, and so I'm actually very excited  
18 today about Meenakshi's nomination and I'm  
19 proud to support her nomination. I've had a  
20 chance to speak with her and to hear her out,  
21 and I think that she will be a necessary  
22 visionary leader of the Landmarks Preservation  
23 Commission and will take into account all of  
24 the concerns that we here in the Council have,  
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especially as we pursue the goal that the Administration has set out in preserving and building 200,000 units of affordable housing. So I enthusiastically vote aye on Meenakshi's nomination, and I vote aye on all other items as well. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on all Land Use call-ups and aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Johnson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to explain my vote?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote yes on--aye on all Land Use call-ups as member of the Landmarks Committee in a district where we just defeated a hardship application for a landmarks building that over 110 units kept off the market for over a generation. I'm hoping that the new landmarks Commission is actually does more to protect our affordable housing in our landmark buildings and preserves the

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history and character of our neighborhoods so that we don't have to worry about losing our light and air, things that were previously considered sacrosanct and fundamental for our neighborhoods. I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request permission to explain my vote?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I vote aye on all and I just want to second the enthusiasm for Meenakshi Srinivasan who we confirmed this morning in the Rules Committee for nomination to Chair of the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission. As the prior chair of the Landmarks Subcommittee, now ably chaired by



1  
2 Council Member Peter Koo, we look--we are  
3 looking forward to working with Ms. Srinivasan.  
4 I think she has extraordinary professional  
5 expertise, knows the field well, knows the  
6 building's history, knows the city's history,  
7 but also will serve to really bring a balance  
8 there as Council Member Greenfield and others  
9 said, defending and protecting the idea of  
10 Landmarks and protecting and preserving the  
11 sense of place in our neighborhood, but  
12 balancing that smartly and thoughtfully with a  
13 wide range of other essential considerations. I  
14 proudly vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic]

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on pre-  
23 considered M70, M71, and SLR 1, and aye on the  
24 rest.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menchacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACCA: Aye on  
all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all,  
and permission to vote on all Land Use call  
ups?  
UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on  
all. Thank you.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Miller?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Palma? Reynoso?  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Richards?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal? Rose?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Torres?  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger?  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye on all  
and aye on all previous Land Use call ups as  
well.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich?

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

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: So before I  
6 vote no on some of the pre-considered measures  
7 here, I know the Speaker recognized all the  
8 Council Members for a day, but I want to also  
9 acknowledge Ingrid Carmizinas [sp?] from St.  
10 Thomas the Apostle School from my district.  
11 She's in uniform here, and in the eighth grade  
12 she'll be--and she's going next year to Malloy  
13 High School, which is great, because when I was  
14 applying for high school, Malloy was only for  
15 all boys and now it's co-ed. So she is breaking  
16 the glass ceiling and paving the way for the  
17 next generation of young leaders in our city.  
18 We're very, very proud of her. We're proud that  
19 she came to City Hall with her father today,  
20 and I do want to put a plug in as I often do  
21 for the important role that Catholic Schools,  
22 Ushiva's [sic] and other private and parochial  
23 schools play in our city and in our state. They  
24 play an invaluable role. They're educating our  
25 young people and they're doing a great job. So

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kudos to St. Thomas School, to Ingrid, and with that I vote no on pre-considered M70, 71 and SLR 1, and aye on all others. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to explain my vote?

UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I just wanted to thank my fellow Council Members for coming to my young Council Member's aid today. Tristan Tocar [sp?] got ill during the press conference that Margaret and I were having for senior rights. The security staff and Chiam Deutsch and everyone called 911, came, ambulance was there in five minutes. His father has taken him home. Tristan is doing well. He really wanted to stay for the rest of the day, but I wanted to personally thank all of you for signing the get well card for him. It's going to mean the world to him to have the Speaker and all the Council Member's signature on there to get well. And I guess that goes to show how

1  
2 hard it is to be a Council Member. See that?  
3 Our junior Council Member passed out on us. But  
4 he's doing great, and aye on all. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: May I explain  
7 my vote, please?

8 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you.  
10 Thank you, Madam Advocate. I just wanted to  
11 thank all my colleague for who participated in  
12 Council Member for a Day Contest. Sean Kaplan  
13 who is our winner from our district and all the  
14 Queens delegation that joined in with us on  
15 doing this, but I especially wanted to thank  
16 the Speaker for the hospitality she's shown us,  
17 because I've been doing this a lot of years. I  
18 did it up in Albany for many years. I've done  
19 it in the City Council, and it's always so much  
20 better when everyone participates and really is  
21 welcoming to the new Council Members and you  
22 have gone above and beyond anything we could  
23 have asked for. Madam Public Advocate, you as  
24 well, treating our young people as colleagues  
25 and even better than colleagues in many

1  
2 circumstances. So that has been great. So thank  
3 you all and thank you everybody else for doing  
4 this. It's a great thing that I've always  
5 enjoyed the student field part of government--

6 UNIDENTIFIED: [interposing] Please  
7 end your comments.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: and they go  
9 back and talk to their--

10 [laughter] [applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Touché. And  
12 they'll go back to their classes and spread the  
13 word. Thank you very much. I vote--oh, excuse  
14 me. I vote. Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
17 excused to explain my vote?

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
20 I'm voting no on pre-considered M70. I am very  
21 much in support of the vast majority of vision  
22 zero, but I'm still not convinced that we need  
23 to lower the speed limit across the entire  
24 city. I'm also in favor of the slow zones in  
25 areas like schools that we can also get more

1  
2 information. I do know if someone is struck at  
3 25 miles per hour, obviously, they have a  
4 greater chance of living, but that is also true  
5 at 20 miles, at 15 miles, at 10 miles, at 5  
6 miles and at one mile. I'm not convinced that--  
7 it is not an issue of enforcement and hopefully  
8 we do step up enforcement. I think we do  
9 enforce the current laws much harder than we  
10 have. We can achieve the same results. And in  
11 committee I vote--I abstained from Land Use 81.  
12 I will be voting on aye. I wanted to explain,  
13 but I had long conversation with Council Member  
14 Dickens that helped dissuade some of my  
15 concerns and I'm looking forward to continuing  
16 that conversation. I vote aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Wills?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: May I please  
19 have unanimous consent, Madam Public Advocate,  
20 to vote on all General Orders.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Oh, Mr.  
23 Public Advocate. I'm sorry.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Thank you. I  
3 vote aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. I just  
6 want to associate my comments--associate my  
7 comments my colleague made, Council Member  
8 Williams regarding the speed zones and the  
9 legislation today. I'm voting no on M70, M71  
10 and SLR 1 and aye on all others. And  
11 congratulations to all the Council Members for  
12 a day.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER:

15 Permission to explain my vote?

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank  
18 you very much. I just wanted to congratulate  
19 Council Member Kallos on encouraging young  
20 people to get involved. And speaking of that, I  
21 wanted to in particular talk about my Council  
22 Member for a day, Jiayna Bonham [sp?] is a  
23 third grader at PS 111. She is a proud resident  
24 of the Ravenswood Houses in my district, and  
25 she won our essay contest, what is the best



1  
2 thing about Queens, what is her favorite thing  
3 about Queens. She wrote museums and libraries.  
4 Museums and libraries. I do not know if she  
5 new what committee I chaired, but either way,  
6 we think she's pretty smart and pretty shrewd.  
7 So I want to say to Jiyana who's had a great  
8 day, I think, as she just had lunch right next  
9 to the first lady of the City of New York. She  
10 reminds us every day as she has today for every  
11 minute why we do what we do and why I work the  
12 way I do. Everything we do I about young people  
13 like Jiyana who's going to go on and do great  
14 things. Her mother Kesha Robinson [sp?] is  
15 here. I want to thank her mom and thank  
16 everyone for being so kind. Jiyana is going to  
17 be a rock star. She's already a rock star, but  
18 she's going to do great, great things in the  
19 future. Thank you very much. And we--aye on  
20 all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Mark-  
22 Viverito?

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye on  
24 all.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All items on  
3 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by  
4 a vote of 48 affirmative, zero negative and  
5 zero abstentions with the exception of M70,  
6 which was adopted by a vote of 44 affirmative,  
7 four negative and zero abstentions, and M71  
8 which was adopted by a vote of 45 affirmative,  
9 three negative, and zero abstentions, and SLR 1  
10 which was adopted by a vote of 45 affirmative,  
11 three negative, zero abstentions and LU 81 and  
12 Resolution 290 which was adopted by a vote of  
13 47 affirmative, zero negative, one abstention  
14 and three excused, and the revised Land Use  
15 call-ups vote was revised 48 in the affirmative  
16 and zero negative.

17 [applause]

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Introduction  
19 and reading of bills.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are  
21 referred to committees as indicated on the  
22 agenda.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
24 Member Mealy.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on  
3 all and all Land Use call-ups.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussions  
5 of resolution. Does anyone want to speak on  
6 Resolution 115, a resolution calling upon the  
7 New York State Legislature to pass and the  
8 Governor to sign into law A2448 and S4142,  
9 which would allow 16 and 17 year olds to be  
10 appointed by the New York City Community  
11 Boards? Council Member Levine?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you,  
13 Madam Public Advocate. I do want to say a word  
14 on Reso 115. I just first want to express  
15 outrage, which I know my colleagues in the  
16 chamber are experiencing today in the wake of  
17 this week's fatal school shooting in Idaho,  
18 which marks the 74<sup>th</sup> school shooting since the  
19 Columbine massacre, and as President Obama so  
20 eloquently put it today--

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]  
22 I think you're speaking to Reso 11--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
24 121.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right, did you ask for 115 or 121?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member, about 115 first which is the legislature passed--

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] For Community Boards.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: the Community Boards. We'll call upon you again.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Apologies. Okay, thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: That's okay. Anyone else speaking on Resolution 115 with regards to Community Boards? Seeing none, all of those in favor say aye.

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those opposed, say no. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. Now we're going to vote on Resolution 121, resolution recognizing every June as Gun Violence Awareness Month in New York City. Now, Council Member Levine. Williams, Council Member Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: It's okay. I actually was speaking on 115. But I'll yield the floor to my colleague. You missed my extremely eloquent point on gun violence, but I know you all share my sentiments that this should not be a country where once a week there's a school shooting. I want to speak on 115. I'm proud to be co-sponsoring this with Chairman Kallos as well as our colleague Council Member Torres. This would expand the talent pool that our Community Boards will have access to. This will allow us to hear youth voice on issues not only related to schools of education or on wide variety of topics on which they have a valuable perspective, ranging from public safety to urban planning to parks, and we're not lowering the standards here. We're going to require the same excellence of any candidates regardless of their age. We're simply looking to bring the valuable youth perspective into Community Boards. And I want to congratulate some of the activists who've been laboring for years to make this possible including two Uptown activists, Al Curlan [sp?]

1  
2 and Dave Crenshaw [sp?] and city wide nonprofit  
3 Generation Citizen, which have help put this on  
4 the front of our agenda. I'm proud to be  
5 helping support this great piece of  
6 legislation. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
8 Member Williams?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
10 I was reading an article--you get one minute  
11 for this? Oh, man. I was reading an article in  
12 February buried the fourth of her four children  
13 that she lost to gun violence in Chicago. My  
14 Council Member just referenced another mass  
15 shooting that occurred. In this city we have  
16 spiked in shootings. We are failing as a nation  
17 and as a city when it comes to gun violence,  
18 and in collaboration with Tameka Mallory [sp?]  
19 who is the co-chair and many other  
20 organizations such as GMAC, Manna Pink [sic],  
21 YOSOS [sic], I Love My Life and many others  
22 have designated, and Kareem Kamara [sp?] who's  
23 doing it also in the city, I mean in the state,  
24 we'd like to designate this as Gun Violence  
25 Awareness Month to raise awareness of the

1  
2 issues and to give people an opportunity to do  
3 something about it. I have--the color of the  
4 month is orange. I'm going to ask everyone if  
5 they can wear at least for the day, possibly  
6 for the month to remind us of what is going on.  
7 There is legislation we'd like to get passed.  
8 There is funding we'd like to see come to  
9 community groups. I want to thank the Speaker  
10 for her support of that thus far, and I know  
11 my time has ended, but we have to do right on  
12 this issue because people are dying. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Seeing none  
14 other--Council Member Cumbo? Council Member  
15 Gentile?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: That's  
17 okay. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Public  
18 Advocate and surrogate also thank you. I also  
19 speak in favor of Reso 121 making June as Gun  
20 Violence Awareness Month. And just mention  
21 that as part of Gun Violence Awareness Month,  
22 the Oversight Investigations Committee will be  
23 conducting live interviews with different  
24 groups throughout the city on youth gun  
25 violence and we will be doing that in

1  
2 conjunction with a study that was done by this  
3 Council 20 years ago under Speaker Peter  
4 Vallone, and we will see based on the  
5 interviews we do this summer with the youth if  
6 there's any correlation that we can make and  
7 how gun violence has changed or not changed in  
8 the 20 years since the 1994 study by the City  
9 Council on the very same issues. So we will be  
10 doing that over the summer and reporting back  
11 in September.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Councilman  
13 Cumbo?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. At  
15 this time, I just want to thank all of you  
16 today for participating in the Father's Day  
17 pledge. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring  
18 all of our--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
20 Member Cumbo, you have to speak at General  
21 Order. I'm sorry, you're out of order at this  
22 moment.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay, then I  
24 will speak at another time. Thank you.

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Thank you so much. Council Member Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I too  
will speak a little bit later. Thank you. We  
all live in fear of Tish James. She rules that  
gavel with an iron fist.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Any other member wishing to speak on Reso 121,  
the Gun Violence Awareness Month? Council  
Member King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I rise and I  
want to thank Council Member Williams for his  
leadership in putting forth and making sure  
this resolution gets passed. I too, my district  
has suffered from tremendous gun violence. Over  
the last 45 days we've had eight killings, and  
in an effort to make awareness of this, the  
schools in the 12<sup>th</sup> District tomorrow are all  
wearing orange in solidarity as well as hosting  
a press conference and working together with  
the police department to bring awareness that  
NYPD and our youth will be working together to  
deter crime. Congratulations Council Member

1  
2 Williams, and we're looking forward to passing  
3 this resolution. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Seeing no  
5 other speakers, all of those in favor say aye.

6 ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
8 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it.  
9 Today's General Order Calendar were adopted by  
10 a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero negative  
11 and zero abstentions with the exception of M70  
12 which is adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
13 affirmative, four negative and zero  
14 abstentions, and M71 which is adopted by a vote  
15 of 46 in the affirmative, three negative and  
16 zero abstentions, and SLR1 which was adopted by  
17 a vote of 46 in the affirmative, three negative  
18 and zero abstentions, and Land Use 81 and  
19 Resolution 290 which was adopted by a vote of  
20 48 in the affirmative, zero negative and one  
21 abstentions. The revised Land Use call-ups, the  
22 vote is 49 in the affirmative, zero negative.  
23 Now General Order, the first speaker is Council  
24 Member Rosenthal.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you  
3 very much, Public Advocate James. I rise today,  
4 sort of, to talk about Resolution 282 which  
5 would put SCHRIE [sic] and DRIE on equal  
6 footing with SCRIE. So we all very proudly just  
7 passed into law and asked the city to fund  
8 increasing the cap for all SCRIE residents, all  
9 of your constituents who are SCRIE applicants  
10 to get to have the higher cap. What the state  
11 neglected to do was also provide funding for  
12 the DRIE and the SHRIE [sic] residents and I  
13 urge you to sign on to Resolution 282, which  
14 would call on the state to do the same for  
15 those constituents as well. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
17 Member Vacca?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, thank  
19 you, Madam Public Advocate and Mr. acting  
20 Public Advocate. I'm rising today because I  
21 wanted to take a moment to reflect. I wanted to  
22 take a moment to reflect on the death of a six-  
23 year-old boy in Brooklyn and the critical  
24 condition of a seven-year-old girl in Brooklyn.  
25 Both incidents as you know, happened just last

1  
2 week. This meeting would not be a real meeting  
3 unless we reflected and prayed and made note  
4 that we in the council are offended. I think  
5 those of us who are pushing for cameras in  
6 public housing should continue to push. I  
7 myself have funded those cameras. They are  
8 important, but ladies and gentleman, I only  
9 want to take one minute to read you the record  
10 of the individual who is accused in these  
11 crimes. This is public record. The individual  
12 accused in these crimes, his name is Daniel St.  
13 Hubert. He has a history of violence, nine  
14 arrests including serving five years for  
15 assault and attempted murder. He tried to  
16 strangle his mother with an electrical cord in  
17 2009. He was disciplined a dozen times during  
18 his stents in three state prisons, repeatedly  
19 defied his jailors, was caught with a weapon  
20 and stolen property and he attacked a guard. He  
21 received mental health treatment after he tried  
22 to strangle a Department of Correction officer  
23 in 2010. He was diagnosed with paranoid  
24 Schizophrenia but released on May 23<sup>rd</sup> without  
25 being given any medication or any psychiatric

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2 referral. Days later we have a six-year-old boy  
3 dead and a seven-year-old girl struggling. I  
4 bring this up because something is wrong with  
5 our criminal justice system, that someone like  
6 this is on the streets. Something is wrong with  
7 our mental health system that what happened  
8 happened. We cannot think or indulge ourselves  
9 and think that cameras are the total answer.  
10 Recidivism in this city is real and it happens  
11 every day on the streets. Our jails are meant  
12 to punish and to rehab, but we cannot continue  
13 along this path. We have to do something about  
14 the criminal justice system. We have to  
15 investigate the--

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
17 Council Member--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD:  
19 [interposing] investigators.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Bring your  
21 comments to a close.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I thank  
23 you for your time, but I want this incident to  
24 galvanize this city, because for too long these  
25 incidents happen and we go on with our business

1  
2 the next day. We can't. It's gone on for too  
3 long and it's become too serious a threat to  
4 our most vulnerable people.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,  
6 Council Member. Council Member King?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you. I  
8 rise. Two things I just wanted to bring to the  
9 floor again. Everyone received a packet in  
10 regards to legislation, a number of pieces of  
11 legislation that I've put forth. I'm asking to  
12 take a look at those folders. Everyone's  
13 folder's different because some sign onto some,  
14 some haven't signed on the others. I'm asking  
15 everyone to take a look at them, please if it's  
16 something that interests you. Please sign it so  
17 we can move the city forward together and  
18 return it to my legislative director Edward  
19 [sic] Henry. In addition to that, for all the  
20 BLAC meetings, there's a meeting directly right  
21 after this in the committee hearing room next  
22 door. So thank you again and thank you young  
23 man for being a great Council Member and Public  
24 Advocate for the day.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
3 Member Cornegy?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you,  
5 Sir Public Advocate. First of all, I'd like to  
6 just say that I'm very proud that my wife is  
7 here today, Michelle Cornegy.

8 [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So I ask  
10 all my colleagues to be very nice to me, don't  
11 make fun of me or mock me while my wife is  
12 here. I'd like to--but in reality I'd like to  
13 take a moment to speak about something  
14 happening tomorrow that I'm both grateful and  
15 hopeful about. At 10:00 a.m. tomorrow in this  
16 chamber, the Education Committee will hold a  
17 hearing on the audible alarms bill which I  
18 introduced in March. Forty-six of you have  
19 signed on as sponsors of the bill and I thank  
20 you for that support. The list of co-sponsors  
21 includes Council Member Danny Dromm, the  
22 Education Committee Chair who I respect so  
23 much. Council Member Dromm, I thank you for  
24 your support and for allowing the bill to be  
25 heard. The audible alarms bill aims to correct

1 a simple in problem. In buildings throughout  
2 our school system there are doors, unguarded  
3 doors that connect corridors and stairwells to  
4 the street. No one can and no one does have  
5 their eyes on these doors, these exit doors at  
6 all times. Even in our elementary schools and  
7 buildings with special needs. In some  
8 buildings, cameras are in place, but believe  
9 me, no one is watching those monitors at all  
10 times. Employees get occupied with other  
11 things. They go to the restroom, and during  
12 those moments a child can and has slipped out.  
13 We know this because it's happened, not once,  
14 not twice, at least eight times this very  
15 school year. We're talking about pre-k  
16 students, kindergarteners, first graders and on  
17 up, very young children and disabled children  
18 slipping out of school buildings and no one in  
19 those buildings knew. In some instances, they  
20 were intercepted by strangers, and others, they  
21 made their way home sometimes to find their  
22 parent and sometimes to find an empty house or  
23 apartment. And all of these children weren't  
24 intentionally running away. They slipped out of  
25



1  
2 the door accidentally looking for their teacher  
3 or looking for the playground and got stuck  
4 outside when the door locked behind them, and  
5 no one in the building saw and no one knew. No  
6 one went to check that door and let the baby  
7 back in. I can't walk out of a wrong door in a  
8 subway station without everyone in the vicinity  
9 being blasted with the sound of an alarm, but  
10 an autistic child can run out of a door, a four  
11 year old can be locked out with his little  
12 pants down around his ankles, and that's not  
13 emergency worth sounding an alarm about?  
14 There's no way that we can be comfortable with  
15 this risk. It's unacceptable and we can do  
16 better. We have to do better. It doesn't  
17 require changing every door in every school in  
18 the system, but where the risk exists we should  
19 mitigate it. I encourage each of you to be a  
20 part of tomorrow's hearing. Come and hear from  
21 the parents and from the advocates who will  
22 speak. I'm more determined than ever to see  
23 this change made before the start of universal  
24 pre-k--

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
Council Member, please bring your comments to a  
close.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Parents  
will be rallying on the steps of city hall  
beginning at 9:30 tomorrow morning. Join them  
there and then come inside for the hearing and  
continue your support for this critical common  
sense change. Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
Council Member Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.  
Madam Public Advocate, I apologize for speaking  
out of turn previously. I want to go ahead with  
my comments. Again, I want to thank everybody  
for participating today in the Father's Day  
Pledge. It was really very inspiring to see all  
of you men and women together to end domestic  
violence, sexual assault and so many other  
forms of violence that impact women. I'm also  
very proud that this movement has spread  
nationally, something that started here under  
Council Member Julissa Ferreras' leadership has  
gone on to start a national movement, and

1  
2 people all over the--excuse me--all over the  
3 country as well in Canada will be participating  
4 in the Father's Day Pledge. And so this will be  
5 happening Saturday in all five boroughs in New  
6 York City. So we're going to make sure that  
7 each and every one of you have a flyer and I  
8 hope that all of you will come out and bring  
9 your audiences because we have to make sure  
10 that this issue reaches the five boroughs and  
11 that we continue to be a leader in making sure  
12 that issues that impactly affect women,  
13 particularly issues of violence come to an end.  
14 And so I thank all of you for your leadership.  
15 I thank all of you for your support, and I look  
16 forward to working with you and I look forward  
17 to seeing all of you on Saturday in your  
18 perspective boroughs at 12 noon where this will  
19 be happening in cities across the United States  
20 as well as in Canada. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
22 Member Greenfield.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
24 you, Mr. President. Appreciate that. I want to  
25 thank my colleagues. I especially want to

1  
2 thank Robert Cornegy for his leadership apropos  
3 of having nothing to do with the fact that  
4 Michelle's here. I always say at every one of  
5 these Stated Meetings that he truly is one of  
6 the best and brightest Council Members we have  
7 in the New York City Council. So as I do at  
8 every one of these meetings, I'm just  
9 reiterating that now that Michelle is here. I  
10 actually have a piece of legislation that I am  
11 reintroducing. It's introduction number 382,  
12 it's a little bit more of a practical matter.  
13 You may not know this, but I discovered from my  
14 constituents in New York City that if you drive  
15 a car in New York City and you have stand your  
16 vehicle alongside a fire hydrant, if you're in  
17 the vehicle during daylight hours, you will not  
18 receive a ticket, which makes sense because you  
19 can hear the fire truck coming so you can pull  
20 out of the way. Oddly enough, perhaps having to  
21 do with a tradition going back hundreds of  
22 years, if it is during evening hours, you will  
23 get a ticket, and the way I found this out was  
24 because several constituents called and said,  
25 "Why did I get a ticket at night? I was simply

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2 standing by the fire hydrant waiting for my  
3 spouse or my children to come in. So this piece  
4 of legislation would bring our law back into  
5 the year 2014. If you can stand at a fire  
6 hydrant during the day, you should be allowed  
7 to stand at a fire hydrant during the night. I  
8 imagine this goes back to the times before we  
9 had lights and sirens. I guess they had bells  
10 on the trucks which weren't as loud, but  
11 certainly now we can hear them coming, and I  
12 certainly think that it's time that we change  
13 this legislation. It's really a gotcha piece of  
14 legislation where individuals get ticketed for  
15 standing at a fire hydrant while they're in  
16 their cars without knowing that they can do  
17 that during the daylight, but not during the  
18 night time. With that, I yield my remaining  
19 three seconds back to the Public Advocate.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
21 Member Miller?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,  
23 Madam Public Advocate and Sir Public Advocate  
24 there. I'm speaking this afternoon on  
25 Resolution 386. The members of the Civil

1 Service and Labor Committee here at the City  
2 Council under the Speaker Mark-Viverito's  
3 leadership have done a lot of work over this  
4 past six months around the issue of worker's  
5 rights and certainly working families. 386 is  
6 in the spirit of that. This is a matter of pay  
7 equity, that people throughout the city doing  
8 the same job should be compensated in the same  
9 matter, particularly as it pertains in this  
10 matter to our school cleaner and facility  
11 maintainers in the DOE. Some are paid less, as  
12 much as five dollars less per hour than others  
13 doing the same job in different buildings. So  
14 we hope that this Intro 386 will be supported  
15 by members of the council and that it will be  
16 addressed and voted on and approved. As a  
17 matter of equity, all cleaners deserve to be  
18 properly compensated. I have seen their hard  
19 work in my own school and fully support a  
20 prevailing rate. They deserve equal pay for  
21 equal work. Our city cannot afford to be cheap  
22 when it comes to the environment and health of  
23 our children, and you will all play a big role  
24 in that. Thank you so much, and I'd like to  
25

1  
2 thank so much Council Member Marsalis [sp?] for  
3 Council Member for a Day for representing the  
4 27<sup>th</sup> District in such a fine manner. Fine young  
5 man and to all the Council Members for the Day,  
6 congratulations and you represent us well. Our  
7 future is bright. Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
9 Member Constantides?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I  
11 want to begin by recognizing our Council Member  
12 for the Day from the 22<sup>nd</sup> District, Scarlett  
13 Spintamilla [sp?] from IS 126 in Astoria. She's  
14 from the sixth grade and she wrote an amazing  
15 essay about the cultural diversity of our  
16 borough of Queens and how that diversity, we  
17 celebrate it every single day in the 160  
18 languages are spoken and how we all live  
19 together. So Council Member Scarlett, thank you  
20 for your great work today and we're all very  
21 proud of you and the great work that you've  
22 done. We know our future's bright in District  
23 22. I also rise this afternoon to speak on two  
24 bills. One, Intro 378, which was sort of a  
25 common sense bill. We felt that if you had a

1  
2 legal curb cut and you wanted to delineate that  
3 to make sure that one was parking in front of  
4 it, that you should be allowed to paint a  
5 yellow line there. Currently, you can get a  
6 1,000 dollar fine for doing so, just by  
7 delineating what your particular legal curb cut  
8 for your driveway is. So we introduced 376. I  
9 hope my colleagues will support that. Also,  
10 Intro 379. As we look to the future of climate  
11 change--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]  
13 Quiet in the chamber.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: As  
15 we look to making our city more green, more  
16 resilient, we need to set higher goals and we  
17 need to ensure that we can reduce our  
18 greenhouse gas emissions to get our city where  
19 we need to be. So, Intro 379 would set that  
20 goal of 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050  
21 to make--to ensure our city is able to be more  
22 green, more resilient. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Councilman  
24 Barron to vote.

25



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
3 vote aye on all General Orders and all call-ups  
4 and Resolutions. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
6 Member Chin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,  
8 Public Advocate. First of all, I want to thank  
9 all my colleagues that were able to join us  
10 this morning. When the Aging Committee  
11 presented a proclamation to Bobby Sackman [sp?]  
12 and all the seniors and the advocates of the  
13 Council of Senior Center and Services to  
14 recognize that this coming June 15 is World  
15 Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It's really sad to  
16 see that this subject, Elder Abuse, is  
17 happening worldwide, so we got to keep working  
18 to make sure that we end Elder Abuse once and  
19 for all and this Council will have an  
20 opportunity to put more funding in this program  
21 so that we could do prevention and awareness.  
22 Also, I'm talking about a bill that I'm  
23 introducing today, it's Intro 377. It's a bill  
24 that would require food establishment to clean  
25 the liquid waste from trash off the sidewalks.

1  
2 We've all stepped around liquid that leaks from  
3 mountains of food waste put out by restaurants  
4 every night, but this is more than just smell  
5 or public hygiene. It's about the rats that  
6 lick the grease and the liquid waste. For rats,  
7 this is a big dinner for them and we are  
8 putting out every night. They can survive just  
9 from what they lick off the sidewalk. This bill  
10 will require restaurants to clean liquid off  
11 the sidewalk after the trash bag have been  
12 taken away, reducing major source of food for  
13 rats and hopefully mitigating the city's rat  
14 population overall. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
16 Member Williams?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
18 First, I wanted to just invite everyone, I  
19 don't know if the speaker said it, but Gun  
20 Violence Awareness month is [www.gunviolence--](http://www.gunviolence--)  
21 [oh.gunviolenceawarenessmonth.org](http://oh.gunviolenceawarenessmonth.org). So everybody  
22 can join there to see how they can get  
23 involved. They can also hashtag [gvamnyc](https://twitter.com/gvamnyc), and I  
24 wanted to thank my colleague, Council Member  
25 Vacca, who brought up the horrible issue that

1  
2 came in Council Member Barron's district. I did  
3 want to piggyback. He mentioned one part of the  
4 criminal justice system. We also have to really  
5 improve on the mental health system. The system  
6 failed in many points giving the needed  
7 services that that person needed and we need to  
8 correct that and that ties into Gun Violence  
9 Awareness Month because we do have to view it  
10 as a problem with mental health issues as well.  
11 We view it as a public health issue, and it has  
12 to be a collaborative effort with the police  
13 department but also with other departments  
14 across the city, and I'd like to ask my  
15 colleagues to join me in supporting Resolution  
16 284. I won't have time to read it all, but it  
17 is Resolution to commemorate the life and death  
18 of Doctor Maya Angelou for her legacy as a  
19 renowned and influential poet, novelist,  
20 educator, memoirist, dramatist, producer,  
21 historian, actress, film maker and civil rights  
22 activist. She passed away quietly in her North  
23 Carolina home on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 86.  
24 Doctor Angelou was a Harlem resident born in  
25 St. Louis on April 4<sup>th</sup>. She worked closely with

1  
2 Malcolm X and Martin Luther King which began a  
3 lifelong dedication to civil rights. She has a  
4 long history and a long resume to say the  
5 least. She served for two presidential  
6 committees. She won numerous awards. I believe  
7 our nation has lost a treasure, a true American  
8 icon. I was deeply saddened to hear of her  
9 transmission and despite never meeting her, I  
10 felt like an heirloom in my family transcended.  
11 Her voice and her work that had that kind of  
12 impact on my life as it did for so many others.  
13 I'll always remember her for her fortitude and  
14 strength, her brilliance and bravery and most  
15 of all her unparalleled talent for written  
16 words that captivated the world that seemed to  
17 come from the ancestors themselves, whom she  
18 just joined. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
20 Member Vallone.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Well, first  
22 I wanted to thank Council Members Jimmy Van  
23 Bramer for putting the spousal [sic] lunch  
24 today. I'm sorry, I had my junior Council  
25 Member crisis, so I couldn't swing over, and

1 Council Member Cumbo. Laurie, thank you for  
2 putting together today's rally. You know, I was  
3 there standing with you even though I couldn't.  
4 on the bottom of page four you'll see Intro  
5 387. So for 25 years I've fought for elder  
6 abuse in the court system, and something that  
7 came glaringly obvious to me is that our adult  
8 protective services, APS, does not do enough to  
9 protect our seniors. So Council Member Chin and  
10 I are asking for this senior task force, which  
11 would appoint members from the Mayor and from  
12 the Council to address this issue. I'm looking  
13 for everyone's support on this. This will give  
14 us an ability to evaluate what APS's rule in  
15 guardianship and in the courts is and how we  
16 can make those services better protected for  
17 our seniors since the APS provides the role of  
18 last resort. So our example, if you didn't do a  
19 power of attorney and now someone you know is  
20 loved is into a nursing home or a hospital,  
21 they cannot be discharged or given treatment  
22 unless someone is named guardian. This is where  
23 APS starts the guardianship preceding. There  
24 are many, many issues here. So, by putting this  
25

1  
2 task force in place we will start to look at  
3 how we could make this better for those who  
4 need our help. So thank you very much.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
6 Member Levine?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I  
8 want to express my appreciation to all  
9 colleagues who were able to join us today for  
10 our press conference on the critical issue of  
11 bringing about more fairness in housing court  
12 where so few tenants currently have attorneys,  
13 but I most importantly want to call attention  
14 of my colleagues to Intro 384, which I'm proud  
15 to be co-sponsoring with my colleague Council  
16 Member Lander. This is a critical component of  
17 the parks equity agenda that so many of you  
18 share in a city where a small number of parks  
19 receive millions of dollars in private funding  
20 and the rest of the parks system has been  
21 forced to survive on a stagnant public budget.  
22 We're never going to bring about true equity in  
23 this system unless we have full disclosure of  
24 the public and private money going into every  
25 park in New York City. So this legislation

1  
2 would amend current law to require disclosure  
3 of the amount of money being spent by  
4 conservancies and those parks getting private  
5 money. It would also disclose the agreements  
6 between the conservancies in the city so the  
7 public understands the financial and other  
8 terms of these contracts. As I mentioned, this  
9 is an essential part of a broader parks equity  
10 agenda. I also want to call your attention to  
11 Reso 279, which is in support of state  
12 legislation which would make a dramatic move  
13 towards justice for low wage workers in New  
14 York City and beyond by requiring that large  
15 chain retailers, so-called big box stores, pay  
16 a true living wage of 15 dollars per hour.  
17 Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
19 Member Crowley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good  
21 afternoon. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate,  
22 Mr. Public Advocate. I rise to continue the  
23 conversation that was started by Council Member  
24 Vacca and Council Member Williams. The  
25 unfortunate violent acts that took a young six

1  
2 year old and maybe more people we still don't  
3 know by Mr. St. Hubert should never have  
4 happened. The man was sick. He was mentally ill  
5 and he was violent. The state was in the  
6 state's jurisdiction and the State Department  
7 of Correction failed us. Tomorrow, I invite all  
8 my colleagues to a hearing that the Fire and  
9 Criminal Justice Committee is having across the  
10 street at one o'clock. We are co-chairing that  
11 with Mental Health, Council Member Andy Cohen  
12 and Council Member Corey Johnson who chairs the  
13 Health Committee. Nearly--on some estimates,  
14 nearly 40 percent or over 40 percent of the  
15 inmates on Riker's Island have a mental health  
16 diagnosis. They shouldn't be on Riker's Island.  
17 They need to be in a place where they're  
18 getting the care from physicians. Correction  
19 officers don't even know when somebody has a  
20 mental health diagnosis. They're protected by  
21 HIPPA laws. So, you know, we're having this  
22 hearing partly because the violence is  
23 spiraling out of control at Riker's. You're  
24 reading the stories in the newspaper day after  
25 day and there are people dying there. There are



1  
2 inmates who are hurting other inmates; inmates  
3 hurting staff, and we need to put an end to  
4 that violence. Part of the reason we're having  
5 this hearing, we need to make sure that if  
6 anybody has a mental health diagnosis that  
7 they're getting the care that they deserve on  
8 the island and that that care continues once  
9 they leave for their safety, for their health,  
10 and for the safety of all New Yorkers. So I  
11 please, I implore you to come to the hearing  
12 tomorrow and to be there as we try to make this  
13 city safer by making Riker's Island safer.  
14 Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
16 Member Gentile?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: We all know  
18 the destruction that illegal curb cuts cause to  
19 the streets on our city, so I ask you to take a  
20 look at Intro 381 and sign on as a co-sponsor.  
21 The bill would make it so that a person who  
22 cuts a curb without an approved DOT permit  
23 would have to either fix the curb cut within a  
24 time designated by the DOT Commissioner or have  
25 the DOT fix it themselves and then charge the

1  
2 homeowner for the repair. It would make, and  
3 also, this bill would also make it that the  
4 Community Boards would have to be notified of a  
5 permit request and could offer their  
6 recommendations on whether the curb cut is  
7 appropriate for that area. By forcing the  
8 repairs to be made to illegal curb cuts at the  
9 expense of the person who violates and cuts the  
10 curb illegally and by notifying Community  
11 Boards we make it so that fewer people will  
12 attempt such illegal modifications and disrupt  
13 our streetscape and take away valuable legal  
14 parking spaces. So it's Intro 381.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
16 Member Cabrera?

17 CHAIRPERSON CABRERA: Thank you so  
18 much. I rise--and you say Cabrera very well.  
19 Impressive. I rise because I first want to take  
20 notice that Council Member King, my colleague,  
21 should get the fashionista Council Member of  
22 the Day award, and I'm going to get to you  
23 Madam Speaker, but I'm going--I have a  
24 rationale behind it, because he is, you may not  
25 know this, but he is wearing the color of the

1 season. And none of--I don't see anybody else  
2 wearing yellow. So it's actually yellow. It's  
3 actually yellow, and so but--oh, she had the  
4 yellow shoes. Indeed. I apologize, apologize.  
5 So in another note, I want to bring notice to  
6 you on bill, an Intro bill number 376 that will  
7 call upon the New York City Board of Elections  
8 to begin the process of creating an online  
9 voting system in New York City. I don't know if  
10 you know, but right now we have over 20 other  
11 countries that have some kind of online voting  
12 system for elections. France, Switzerland,  
13 Australia, Mexico offer internet voting to  
14 particular regions, regions and sectors. In  
15 Toronto, Canada, for example, they are  
16 implementing online voting this October  
17 specifically for the disabled community. I  
18 would hope that we would not lag behind. This  
19 bill is explicitly at people, specifically  
20 people entitled to an absentee ballot or  
21 military ballot. I welcome discussion. I  
22 welcome how we could make this bill a better  
23 bill. Thank you so much. And thank you for  
24  
25

1  
2 announcing Cabrera with authority. Thank you  
3 so much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
5 Member Kallos?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I rise to  
7 speak to Resolution 281 introduced with Council  
8 Members Rosenthal and Levine that would  
9 institute a student voter registration day.  
10 Imagine living in a society where people  
11 actually voted, where we didn't have the lowest  
12 turn out in the country. There are 73,680  
13 seniors this year, and if we registered all  
14 them on a student voter registration day, four  
15 years from now there'd be over 380,000  
16 potential voters. Eight years from now we'd be  
17 looking at 680,000 18 to 26 year olds possibly  
18 voting, which means we'd be seeing more people  
19 18 to 26 voting than actually picked our  
20 current Mayor in the Democratic Primary. The  
21 goal here is if we can do this, we'll be able  
22 to roll this out. And I also want to thank  
23 Chairman Danny Dromm of the Education Committee  
24 who's been working very closely on this issue  
25 with me in trying to get a student voter

1 registration day. So thank you to all the  
2 colleagues, and hopefully we can make this  
3 happen and really change engagement and  
4 hopefully all our Council Members for a day  
5 will be able to register one day when they are  
6 16 or 17 while they are still in high school,  
7 but please vote early, vote often, vote as  
8 often as you can. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
11 Member Ferreras?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you.  
13 I just wanted to take this opportunity to  
14 acknowledge my Council Member for a Day, Minal  
15 [sp?] from IS 227, and what I just discovered  
16 that's really special is that Minal's teacher  
17 is my cousin, and I didn't--yes, so we actually  
18 sent her a face, a picture of us here on  
19 chamber--on the floor. And I also wanted to  
20 take this opportunity to thank--this is the  
21 first hearing, the first Stated that we've had  
22 since completing over 100 hours of hearings in  
23 the Finance Committee. So I want to thank you  
24 all. Thank you. Thank you. Clearly this is  
25 just a step in our final budget negotiating

1  
2 that we'll--we've already kicked off. So I also  
3 wanted to thank Madam Speaker for having a  
4 transparent and open process and I'm looking  
5 forward to our, you know, moment where we shake  
6 the hands on those steps. Thank you all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
8 Member Ulrich?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you,  
10 Madam Public Advocate and surrogate. Today, I  
11 rise my colleagues to invite all of you to join  
12 me, Council Member Richards and also Vinnie  
13 Gentile of Brooklyn to attend a press  
14 conference that's going to take place in just a  
15 few minutes outside on the steps of City Hall  
16 calling on the city to maintain and to make  
17 permanent Rockaway ferry service. Many of you  
18 know that following hurricane Sandy one of the  
19 best decisions that the city of New York made  
20 in helping the communities recover from the  
21 storm in supporting the small businesses, many  
22 of which are still struggling today was in fact  
23 the restoration of ferry service to the  
24 peninsula. It serves as a life line for so many  
25 of my constituents and Donovan's constituents

1 who rely on the ferry each and every day to get  
2 to lower Manhattan to get to good paying jobs  
3 to get to work every day, hundreds, thousands  
4 of people take the ferry every day, and  
5 unfortunately, the money that the city put into  
6 the ferry is set to expire this October. I know  
7 that we're in the middle of budget  
8 negotiations, but that should be high on our  
9 priority list. If you care about the  
10 revitalization of the Rockaways, about turning  
11 around the neighborhoods in the Rockaways,  
12 about helping victims and families and  
13 homeowners and residents who are affected  
14 profoundly by hurricane Sandy, then you will  
15 join us in this fight to put the money in the  
16 budget to force the Administration to remember  
17 how important this service is to so many people  
18 and more importantly to make it permanent so  
19 that we don't have to come begging with our hat  
20 in our hand every time we're afraid the money's  
21 going to run out. We need ferry service in  
22 Rockaways. We need ferry service throughout the  
23 five boroughs. We should expand ferry service  
24 to other parts of this city as well, but we  
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cannot leave the people of the Rockaways stranded this October. So thank you, and please feel free to join us on the steps in a few minutes.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you to the Public Advocate and to the surrogate today. Tomorrow we're having a hearing, a CUNY higher ed hearing about needs, awards and scholarship awards based on merit, and I invite you all to be there. The former Speaker, Peter Vallone, will be here giving testimony as will CUNY representatives and student representatives. And then on next Friday, I invite everyone to come to the June Teenth [sic] celebration that will be held here in the chambers beginning at 5:30. We're very pleased to say that Miquela Copeland, the other victim of the stabbing has been released from the hospital today. So she's home. We're sad to say that the funeral services for the 18 year old Tinaya [sp?] will be held this evening, but we're pleased to say that earlier today Mayor de Blasio and the



1  
2 Chair of NYCHA had a press conference and  
3 announced that they have begun installation of  
4 cameras at boulevard and we actually went and  
5 saw the wires that are being installed. So  
6 we're very pleased to see that. And as we go  
7 forward, I'm asking my colleagues to join me. I  
8 plan to introduce a resolution that will call  
9 on the state to give us a one million dollar  
10 grant as was done in the previous instance  
11 where a young eight year old Hasidic boy was  
12 killed in Borough Park. The State did give a  
13 one million dollar grant for cameras, 100  
14 cameras to be installed in that community. So I  
15 will be introducing a resolution asking for the  
16 state to do that as well and get some sponsors  
17 in the state to put that forward. And once  
18 again, I want to remind us that we still have  
19 not been able to secure the release of the 300  
20 African girls in Nigeria, and let's keep them  
21 in our thoughts and in our prayers. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
23 Member Dromm?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
25 very much. I also want to address the situation

1  
2 regarding mentally ill in our city jails and in  
3 our state jails, and I want to thank Council  
4 Member Crowley and Council Member Cohen for  
5 agreeing to have the hearing tomorrow on the  
6 issue of violence and mental illness in our  
7 city jails as well as my piece of legislation  
8 to collect data on the use of solitary  
9 confinement as it relates to mental health  
10 services and provisions on Riker's Island. It's  
11 a known fact that only 47 percent of those who  
12 are mentally ill or substance abusers are  
13 receiving treatment from the City's Department  
14 of Health and in fact all of the others who  
15 leave the system are coming right back onto our  
16 streets and that we have potential for many  
17 more of these types of situations to occur. So  
18 I hope that others will also sign onto my Intro  
19 292 and so we can begin to collect numbers and  
20 we can get a feel for what is actually  
21 happening on Riker's Island and begin to deal  
22 with the situation. Unfortunately, Riker's  
23 Island has become the place where less  
24 fortunate receive their mental health services  
25 or do not receive their mental health services.

1  
2 Riker's Island was never intended to be that  
3 way. Our corrections officers are not trained  
4 for that. They need to have assistance in this  
5 matter, and that's the purpose of this bill.  
6 So, I look forward to that hearing tomorrow,  
7 and I thank the Chairs again. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
10 Member Torres?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you,  
12 Public Advocate for a day. I actually got my  
13 start in politics as a District Manager for a  
14 Day in a Community Board when I was 16, and  
15 that's why I'm so proud to support Resolution  
16 115, and I'm looking forward to hopefully  
17 introducing a law and eventually passing a law  
18 that will allow for 16 and 17 year olds in our  
19 Community Board. I feel learning, you know, we  
20 have a vested interest in promoting civic  
21 engagement among everyone, but especially our  
22 youth, and in my opinion, learning how to be  
23 civically engaged is a little like learning a  
24 language. The best time to do it when you're  
25 young. So I'm proud to support Resolution 115.

1  
2 I also want to announce that tomorrow I'm,  
3 along with Robert Cornegy and Council Member  
4 Cumbo, I am holding a rally regarding 57 NYCHA  
5 run community centers and senior centers that  
6 are in danger of closing. It will have an  
7 impact on 25 council districts. Fourteen  
8 percent of NYCHA's stock of support services  
9 for our youth and our elderly are in danger of  
10 closing overnight and that's something that we  
11 have to prevent because it's an unacceptable  
12 outcome. And obviously, the stabbings in  
13 Boulevard Houses was an act of unspeakable  
14 horror, and I want to commend the Mayor for  
15 personally getting involved and playing a role  
16 in expediting the installation of cameras, but  
17 it's worth pointing out that the source of  
18 funding for CC TV and layered access control is  
19 City Council funds. And so when you attack  
20 member items, you're attacking the only source  
21 of funding available for enhanced security in  
22 our public housing developments, and I think  
23 that's something that should be noted. Thank  
24 you.

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
3 Member Van Bramer?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Very  
5 good. Thank you very much. I want to also speak  
6 to the issue that Council Member Torres just  
7 spoke to, the Woodside Senior Center and the  
8 Woodside community are on that list of possible  
9 closures, and obviously we know what a lifeline  
10 the Woodside community center is to the young  
11 people of the Woodside Houses. So it cannot  
12 happen. We cannot close those lifelines, and I  
13 want to thank Council Member Torres for that  
14 fight. I also want to thank in absentia my  
15 spouse and the First Lady of the City of New  
16 York for the luncheon and all my colleagues who  
17 went to that and those who couldn't but their  
18 spouses came. Council Member Greenfield wasn't  
19 able to make it, but his wife told a wonderful  
20 story about their three month old infant, and  
21 it's something that our Council Member for the  
22 Day and I share in common when I asked her what  
23 her favorite part of the day was today, she  
24 said it was having lunch with the First Lady of  
25 the City of New York. I agree. So, a thank

1  
2 you to all participated and especially to my  
3 spouse for organizing it and making it happen.

4 Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council  
6 Member Richards to close.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alrighty.  
8 Good afternoon, colleagues. Today I ask you to  
9 sign onto resolution 280, which is calling on  
10 the state legislature to fully fund its  
11 Brownfield Opportunity Area Program. All around  
12 the state and in a number of our districts  
13 there are sites where the ground soil is  
14 contaminated with toxins, usually from prior  
15 industrial use. These contaminants are not only  
16 a risk to our ground water or our respiratory  
17 system, but they pose threats to our children  
18 playing outdoors. This state program helps us  
19 to infuse much needed capital into sites that  
20 ordinarily would deter investment by developers  
21 because of the associated cost and liability.  
22 There are a number of sites throughout the city  
23 where remediation led to community renewal and  
24 the benefits are still realized today,  
25 especially in the Bronx. This resolution calls

1  
2 on the state to incorporate the clean up of  
3 Brownfields and their budgets which as we know  
4 is set to be finalized within a matter of days.  
5 I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort  
6 to make a push calling on the state to support  
7 these projects. They are in the best interest  
8 of our health, environment and the fabric of  
9 our communities. Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Revised tally  
11 on all items on today's General Order Calendar  
12 were adopted by a vote of 50 in the  
13 affirmative, zero in the negative and zero  
14 abstentions with the exception of M70 which was  
15 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative,  
16 four negative and zero abstentions, and M71  
17 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the  
18 affirmative, three negative, zero abstentions,  
19 and SLR1 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in  
20 the affirmative, three negative and zero  
21 abstentions, and Land Use call up 81 and  
22 Resolution 290 which was adopted by a vote of  
23 49 in the affirmative, zero negative and one  
24 abstentions. And I thank all my Deputy Public  
25

1  
2 Advocates for their assistance today. Madam  
3 Speaker to close.

4           SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I just want  
5 to again thank all my colleagues, but remind  
6 everyone as I did at the beginning that we are  
7 in the last phase of adoption of our budget and  
8 also the state is at near the end of its  
9 adjournment in Albany. So meetings of the  
10 Finance, State and Federal Legislation  
11 Committees and the Stated Meeting are recessed  
12 subject to call. We will keep you all advised  
13 accordingly. Please keep your calendars  
14 flexible. We really may need you to come in at  
15 the last minute. So thank you all again, and at  
16 about 3:12 we are adjourned.

17           [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date 06/16/2014