

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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October 9, 2013
Start: 2:26 p.m.
Recess: 4:34 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
The President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Jessica S. Lappin
Fernando Cabrera
James Vacca
Margaret S. Chin
Peter A. Koo

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

Edwin Melendez
Director for Puerto Rican Studies
CUNY

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Okay

ladies and gentlemen, we're gonna begin the ceremonials for today's Stated Council; we're gonna ask all of our colleagues that wanna join us in this great celebration; we have the Center for Puerto Rican Studies who's celebrating their 40th anniversary in existence and the phenomenal work that they have done; they deserve a big round of applause.

[applause]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: The

Council has been a great partner to the Center for Puerto Rican Studies and the phenomenal work that they do and today we are honored to have them here to receive this Proclamation; we know my colleague here, Melissa Mark-Viverito wanted to put this together and along with my colleagues that are here we have this great event. So I'm gonna pass the mic over to MMV real quick.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you

Majority Leader and I wanna congratulate El Centro de Estudios Puertorriquenos on their 40 years; I thank all the colleagues, we have a lot of colleagues that have signed onto this; many of them are present, and as we all know, in the 1970's was a really difficult

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2 time, for there was a lot of focus on empowerment,
3 minority rights and in terms of having our studies
4 taught in a university system and it was through that
5 struggle that in February of 1973 the Center for
6 Puerto Rican Studies was born and it came out of the
7 urging of CUNY faculty as well, as a way of having a
8 repository of where our history, our contribution
9 would be available.

10 And so this year it's... the Center's
11 celebrating those 40 years, a place where the history
12 and the story of 4.7 million stateside Puerto Ricans
13 is held. And in this anniversary there's been a
14 whole series of events happening this year to
15 document it and we're very excited that we're able to
16 recognize those accomplishments here in the City
17 Council.

18 Focus of the Center is on research,
19 education; they have a wonderful library and
20 archives, which now has recently been moved to my
21 District in El Barrio East Harlem, also publications,
22 an incredibly thorough website where a lot of
23 research information can be found and obviously
24 events that are held.

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2 So for myself, personally; as a
3 Puertorriquena, as the first Puerto Rican woman to
4 represent my District, El Barrio East Harlem, which
5 is known as the cradle of the Puerto Rican community,
6 and now El Centro has moved and is located in the
7 community; it's really an honor for them to be here
8 today and to really thank El Centro for all the work
9 that they've done to really document our
10 contributions over the years.

11 So with that I would like to ask the
12 Clerk to read the Proclamation and then we would ask
13 the Director of Center, Edwin Melendez, to say a few
14 words.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council City of New
16 York Proclamation. Whereas during the social turmoil
17 of the early 1970's a group of visionary Puerto Rican
18 professors at CUNY, spearheaded by renowned scholar,
19 Frank Bonilla, urged the Board of Higher Education to
20 establish a venue for research that would galvanize
21 CUNY's fledgling Puerto Rican Studies Department.

22 On February 26th, 1973 El Centro de
23 Estudios Puertorriquenos, Center for Puerto Rican
24 Studies or Centro, made its debut. And whereas
25 guided by Dr. Bonilla as its founding Director for

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2 its first 20 years, Centro integrated many strands of
3 Puerto Rican study; history, politics economics and
4 cultural development, with the aim of exposing the
5 forces behind ethnic and racial prejudice, examining
6 the colonial relationship between Puerto Rico and the
7 mainland and analyzing the extensive post-world war
8 to migration.

9 Centro quickly grew into one of our
10 nation's top archives and research centers on the
11 Puerto Rican experience. Today Centro is the oldest
12 and largest Latino research and archival institution
13 in the Northeast United States.

14 And whereas now under the guidance of
15 Director Edwin Melendez, Centro is a critical venue
16 for policymakers, researchers, writers, historians,
17 educators and others seeking to discover the unique
18 stories of over 4.7 million stateside Puerto Ricans.

19 And whereas this year, as part of its
20 40th anniversary Centro embarked on a year-long
21 campaign entitled the 100 Puerto Ricans for
22 Historical Preservation. The campaign is designed to
23 encourage 100 Puerto Rican stateside individuals and
24 organizations to become part of our historical
25 resources by donating their personal papers and other

1
2 memorabilia and/or to video their experiences for
3 inclusion in the Centro archives, a goal which they
4 achieved this year.

5 Now therefore, be it known that the
6 Council of the City of New York proudly honors El
7 Centro de Estudios Puertorriquenos, The Center for
8 Puerto Rican Studies, in celebration of its 40th
9 anniversary and its enduring contributions to New
10 York City and the nation. Christine C. Quinn,
11 Speaker for the entire Council, Melissa Mark-
12 Viverito, Council Member 8th District, Manhattan and
13 Bronx, Joel Rivera, Majority Leader, Fernando
14 Cabrera, Co-Chair Black and Latino and Asian Caucus,
15 and many other Council Members.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you
17 and I will hand over the mic.

18 [applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: And as we
20 all know, November is Puerto Rican History Month, so
21 we wanted to make sure that we gave this Proclamation
22 on the eve of that, so Edwin.

23 EDWIN MELENDEZ: It's a great pleasure to
24 be here; I'd just like to thank all the Counselors
25 for your support throughout the years; this is not

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the first time that you honor us and we just wanna
make you proud of the Centers that you have, along
with the Dominican Center and others in CUNY; we just
work very hard to represent our communities within
academia and CUNY has been a great house for us;
there is still a lot of work more to do, but we're
getting there; I really appreciate all your support;
you've been going out of your way, especially some
people around this... of this crowd and I really, from
the bottom of our heart on behalf of all the staff
and on behalf of all the support at El Centro, I
really thank you from the bottom of my heart.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

Alright.

[applause]

[pause]

[Pledge of Allegiance]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.
COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.
COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.
Dickens.
COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan. Dromm.
MALE VOICE: Quiet in the hall please.
COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.
COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras. Fidler.
COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.
COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.
COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile. Gonzalez.
Greenfield. Halloran. Ignizio.
COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.
COMMITTEE CLERK: James.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell. Koslowitz.

Lander. Lappin. Levin. Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy. Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca. Thank you.

3 Vallone. Van Bramer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

20 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: We have a

21 quorum and we have a super quorum of a couple of

22 members who are early for the City Council; we have

23 Council Members elect, Inez Barron, Council Member

24 elect, Vanessa Gibson and Council Member elect, Mark

25 Levine with us today. They said not only are we

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2 gonna be here in the Council; we're gonna be here on
3 time. With that being said, let's have the
4 Invocation to be delivered today by Rev. Adriene
5 Thorne from Middle Collegiate Church.

6 REV. ADRIENE THORNE: Sisters and
7 brothers; let us pray. Holy God, how good it is to
8 turn to you in prayer, to make space in the business
9 of our living and working for your guidance to
10 sweeten, to breathe with one breath, to seek your
11 face in the momentous work that is ours to do, making
12 New York City work for all who love it. We ask your
13 blessings loving God on the work of this legislative
14 body, we thank you for their leadership and we pray
15 for their wisdom; we thank you for their dedication
16 and we pray for their creativity. We thank you for
17 their passion and we pray for their compassion.
18 Gather up all the gifts represented in these, your
19 servant leaders. Gather them up and use them for the
20 good, for we pray in the name of all that is good and
21 all that is holy. Amen.

22 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
23 very much. Council Member Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I make a motion
25 to spread the Invocation in full upon the Record.

2 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So
3 ordered. Adoption of the Minutes, Council Member
4 Williams. Council Member Williams, adoption of the
5 Minutes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Motion of the
7 Minutes of the Stated Meeting September 12, 2013 be
8 adopted as printed.

9 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So
10 ordered. Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA:
13 Communication from City, County and Borough Offices.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered, M 1257,
15 transfer City funds.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: M 1258 through M 1302
18 on Page 8, base station licenses.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

20 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Petitions
21 and Communications.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

23 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Land Use
24 Call-Ups.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA:

Communication from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We have a couple of exciting pieces of Council news to start with today before we move onto legislation and Land Use. First we have a visitor with us today, Lea Delong [phonetic], so we wanted to say hello. And so, let's everybody say hello.

[background comments]

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: And we have two new members of the City Council; we made one presentation during our Pre-Stated Council Meeting, but wanted to make the other one, we presented one of these to Council Member Julissa Ferreras, but I wanted to present the other to Council Member Dan Garodnick; it is an official NYC baby onesie for Council Member Garodnick and Council Member Ferreras, so.

[background comments]

SPEAKER QUINN: You're welcome; use them well and I assume wash them often, so.

And on another piece of good news, I think we all wanna congratulate our colleague, Council Member Tish James on her win-off in the

1 Public Ad... her win in the Public Advocate runoff.

2 Sorry 'bout that.

3 [applause]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Now to move onto
5 legislation from other fun topics. We have a package
6 of bills today that are a follow-up to an Oversight
7 Hearing conducted by Chair Arroyo and a package of
8 legislation we announced this summer; this package
9 will make the restaurant grading system fairer, more
10 supportive of small businesses and reduce fines on
11 restaurants by at least \$10 million.

12 I wanna thank Rob Newman, Alix Pustilnik,
13 Shannon Moruott [phonetic], Tim Matuvy [phonetic],
14 David Seltzer, Dan Hafetz, Crystal Gold-Pond;
15 Jennifer Mandalgo for all of their work, as well as
16 the staff; to Chair Arroyo; if we could give them a
17 round of applause.

18 [applause]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: These pieces of
20 legislation are sponsored by Chair Arroyo, Council
21 Member Gentile, Council Member Koo, Council Member
22 Reyna and Council Member Van Bramer and they run from
23 the creation of a ombudsperson's office in the
24 Department of Health to deal with restaurant issues,
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2 they also will require the Department of Health to
3 develop and disseminate a food service establishment
4 inspector code of conduct, a food establishment
5 advisory board, a consultative inspection program so
6 restaurants can have kind of a run-through inspection
7 before the final inspection, so I wanna thank
8 everyone for their work on this. Let me call on
9 Chair Arroyo, Council Member Gentile, Council Member
10 Koo, Council Member Van Bramer and Council Member
11 Reyna, if she'd like to say anything, in that order
12 and if we could get a little quiet for the Chair...
13 [crosstalk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yeah, for my... for
15 my neighbor next to me who's... thank you, Madame
16 Speaker and thank you for your leadership and your
17 commitment to making sure that the package of
18 legislation that we will adopt here today makes a
19 great deal of sense for our City and the small
20 businesses across our individual district. Those of
21 us who frequent our establishments in our district
22 get nothing but complaints about the letter-grading
23 inspection process; I think what we do here today
24 sets an incredibly strong framework moving forward

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2 and begins a conversation about how we can further
3 improve it in the future.

4 Thank you, Madame Speaker and my
5 colleagues for their support in this process and I
6 urge my colleagues to vote yes on all the bills.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair Arroyo.
8 Council Member Gentile.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you,
10 Madame Speaker and thank you for your leadership on
11 this issue also and to Chairman Arroyo.

12 Small businesses are the backbone of our
13 economy, so in order to help these businesses grow
14 and succeed, health inspectors must work with
15 restaurant owners rather than attempt to catch them
16 off guard and penalize them.

17 My bill develops an inspection code of
18 conduct pamphlet based on standards that exist in the
19 restaurant inspection process. As inspectors will be
20 required to distribute the pamphlet to all restaurant
21 owners and operators prior to an inspection, this
22 bill ensures that everyone is aware of how
23 inspections are to proceed and no one is caught off
24 guard; no more gotcha type of activity from the
25 Health Department. Thank you.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much.
Council Member Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: New York City
restaurant owners shall rejoice today; they finally
see light at the end of the tunnel. I'm not talking
about Lincoln Tunnel or the Midtown Tunnel; I'm
talking about this tunnel of bureaucracy,
inefficiency, inconsistency and unaccountability.
Thanks to the Speaker, Chair Arroyo and all the other
colleagues; I want today's package of bills passed
and we shall have real reform in the inspection
system. Now we have checks and balances; restaurant
owners don't have to worry when they see DOH
inspectors walk in. This is what I call good
government today; I'm really proud to be one of the
sponsors. Thank you all my colleagues and Speaker.
Thank you.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank Council Member
Reyna for her work on her legislation and call on
Council Member Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you,
Madame Speaker; I am grateful to you and to Chair
Arroyo for this package of legislation and my bill,
Intro 1146, will strengthen the restaurant grading

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2 system by allowing restaurants to voluntarily receive
3 non-punitive consultative inspections, allowing small
4 business owners, particularly new small business
5 owners, those who are newly opening restaurants, to
6 request that a health inspector come and walk through
7 the establishment with the owner and instead of
8 fining them and taking their money at one of the most
9 vulnerable points, actually teaching them and working
10 with them to do the right thing so that they don't
11 have to be fined and allowing them the opportunity to
12 correct any problems that they may be having and to
13 instruct them on how they can do things better. I
14 think this is a win-win; it's great for our
15 restaurants; they very much will appreciate this
16 opportunity to be inspected, but on a instructive and
17 educational basis, in a non-punitive way and our
18 long-standing restaurants will also be able to
19 request this educational inspection and this will
20 only make our restaurants better and most
21 importantly, keep the hard-earned dollars in the
22 pocket of our small business owners so they can
23 reinvest those in the communities in which they
24 operate. So thank you very much, Madame Speaker and
25 all my colleagues.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. And
3 we are also voting today on Intro 1049 A, a piece of
4 legislation that will expand service on the Staten
5 Island Ferry; I wanna thank Chair Jimmy Vacca for
6 moving this through the Transportation Committee,
7 Lyle Frank, Molly Murphy, Guy Ferzola [phonetic],
8 Jonathan Sermano [phonetic], Nathan Toth [phonetic]
9 and Chima [phonetic] Ochicheri [phonetic] for working
10 on this... Shima [phonetic], excuse me, Ochicheri, for
11 working on this piece of legislation.

12 I wanna congratulate the sponsor,
13 Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo and also congratulate
14 Council Members Vinny Ignizio and Debi Rose, members
15 of the Staten Island Delegation, in case you couldn't
16 pick that up, for their work on this bill and let me
17 call on the sponsor of the bill, Minority Leader
18 Oddo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you, Madame
20 Speaker. There is an unfortunate right of passage
21 for just about every Staten Islander and that's
22 racing to catch the boat and having those doors close
23 in your face and knowing that you now have to wait
24 for the next one. And on the weekends, from 7 p.m.
25 on, that wait was an entire hour and what this bill

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2 does is say that we're gonna give some immediate help
3 and additional service on those weekend hours and
4 we're gonna establish a date certain where we have 24
5 hours a day, 7 days a week half-hour ferry service.
6 So this is a pivotal juncture in the shaping of the
7 North Shore of Staten Island and Staten Island as a
8 whole, this is a huge victory for the commuters and
9 the residents of Staten Island and maybe a little bit
10 more subtly, this sends a very critical message to
11 the current small business owners on the North Shore
12 and those folks looking at the potential projects
13 slated for the North Shore and thinking about
14 investing; it sends them a very positive and powerful
15 message.

16 I wanna thank Chairman Vacca, I wanna
17 thank the staff that the Speaker alluded to, and
18 including; I don't know if she mentioned, Laura Popa
19 for her assistance; Chris DeCicco, my legal counsel.
20 Obviously I wanna thank Council Members Ignizio and
21 Rose for the united effort in getting our colleagues
22 to sponsor.

23 I'd like to thank Nicholas and Rashenda
24 [phonetic] from the... Nicholas and Rashenda, who came
25 to visit my office several months ago from the Ferry

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2 Riders Committee and the St. George Civic
3 Association, who really, with the impetus with
4 fighting this fight once again.

5 And I would just like to close on this.
6 In 1999, when I was first elected, 15 years ago,
7 women on Staten Island faced the longest waits for
8 mammographies in the City. And not only did women
9 not get timely mammographies, many of them chose not
10 to get mammographies at all and 15 years ago I
11 enlisted the help of my new colleague, Christine
12 Quinn and for 15 years in this body as the Health
13 Chair and as a Speaker she has been my friend and she
14 has been a friend to my community. And as we end our
15 Council tenure together, it's really a remarkable
16 legacy she leaves and to leave it on this high note
17 with this really critical bill that will help people
18 long after she's not longer the speaker, it's very
19 fitting, so I just wanna publicly thank my friend,
20 Chris yet again. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,
22 Jimmy. We are also voting today in the Finance
23 Committee on the SoHo BID; wanna thank Council Member
24 Chin and Chair Recchia for their work on that. I
25 wanna thank Tanisha Edwards who worked for many

1
2 months to achieve an agreement on the SoHo BID and I
3 don't know, Council Member Chin, if you wanted to
4 say... do you wanna say anything about the SoHo BID?
5 Sure.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madame
7 Chair, Speaker, thank you for your leadership and
8 your support and this has been a long time coming,
9 it's almost two-and-a-half... more than two-and-a-half
10 years and I really wanted to thank all the Steering
11 Committee members and also all the staff of the
12 Department of Small Business Services working
13 together with Chair Recchia and Tanisha Edwards.
14 We've crafted this SoHo BID that is almost like a
15 residential business improvement district, because
16 residential property owners will have 50 percent on
17 the governing board and I think this is really
18 historic and I really wanna thank all the residents
19 and everyone that worked together on this and I urge
20 my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are also
22 voting on a pre-considered resolution that deals with
23 having the City of New York adopt the provisions of
24 the State legislation on the New York City of
25 Hurricane Sandy filing fee exemption and

1 reimbursement act. I wanna thank Chair Recchia and
2 the Finance Committee for moving quickly on this to
3 make sure that we would make the opt-in date once the
4 Governor had signed the bill and let me call on the
5 sponsor of this, Council Member Lew Fidler, to say a
6 few words.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you,
9 Speaker Quinn. You know, we found out that 25 days
10 ago Governor Cuomo signed a piece of legislation that
11 would exempt those who got Small Business
12 Administration loans as a result of damage sustained
13 in Hurricane Sandy from having to file... pay recording
14 taxes, when they recorded the documents that were
15 required by SBA. It's not a lot of money, but it's
16 the right thing to do and even though it's a small
17 gesture, the money will be refunded to those who've
18 already expended it and for those who haven't done so
19 yet, they will not have to pay it.

20 I wanna thank Speaker Quinn for moving on
21 this so quickly, because we were really up against a
22 deadline in the Mayor's Administration as well. I
23 wanna thank the Finance Committee and I want to also
24 thank Tyra Zenassa [phonetic], Assemblywoman Helene
25 Weinstein, who passed this enabling legislation in

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2 Albany and I wanna give a shout out to my counsel,
3 Brad Reid, who realized we had another five days to
4 pass it or lose it. So thank you, Speaker again and
5 I appreciate the support of my colleagues on this
6 Reso.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much,
8 Council Member Fidler. And then we... well I wanna
9 take a moment to thank all of the members of the Land
10 Use staff who had a lot of work on a lot of different
11 items, some of which we will discuss, some of which
12 we won't today, but if you worked on any of the items
13 we'll discuss, thank you; if you work on any of those
14 we didn't discuss, thank you as well. Particular I
15 wanna thank Amy Levitan, Ann McConnaughey [phonetic]
16 of Land Use and with super, super, particularly,
17 Ramon Martinez of the Speaker's Office for all of his
18 work and Amy and Anne's work on what we're gonna talk
19 about today.

20 I wanna thank the Chair of the Committee,
21 Council Member Leroy Comrie, the Chair, in this case,
22 the Zoning Subcommittee, Council Member Weprin, for
23 his work. Three of the major proposals we're voting
24 on today, one deals with a proposal in Halletts Cove
25 in Council Member Vallone's district, the Five Points

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2 Development in Council Member Van Bramer's district,
3 and Willets Point in Council Member Ferreras'
4 district. Let me first call on Chair Comrie, then
5 Chair Weprin, then Council Member Vallone, Council
6 Member Van Bramer and Council Member Ferreras.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you Madame
8 Speaker, I just wanted to take an opportunity to
9 congratulate all of the council members that were
10 involved the project, Council Member Vallone for
11 working on the Halletts Point project, which will
12 make a major improvement over a \$1 billion investment
13 in the Astoria area, Council Member Garodnick who had
14 to deal with a difficult situation on East 96th
15 Street, dealing with an expiration of an Urban
16 Renewal project and tryin' to make sure that the
17 needs of the community were met as far as maintaining
18 public space, Council Member Van Bramer with the Five
19 Points Project where it had been a traditional
20 artists location and artists had come in and squatted
21 in the property and turned it into a destination
22 point, where it actually was just featured in a
23 movie, Five Points, and working with to make sure
24 that the developer that had the actual right to the
25 property created an opportunity to make sure that it

1
2 stays a destination for artists and artists have a
3 chance to use it, and also creating more affordable
4 housing in the project and creating opportunities for
5 the community to have a piece of the project as well
6 and increasing the level of affordability. But to,
7 especially Council Member Ferreras and her staff, I
8 wanna congratulate her staff as well who put in a
9 yeoman effort working with her to change the Willets
10 Point project from what it was going to be a project
11 that is gonna very inclusive for opportunities for
12 the community, opportunities for the existing workers
13 that work in the Iron Triangle, opportunities for
14 making... increasing the affordable housing and
15 building all types of affordable housing, creating a
16 school, creating a sustainable farm, creating
17 opportunities for local vendors to be part of the
18 retail complex that will be there, creating major
19 construction and permanent jobs. You know for
20 decades Willets Point has served as an ash dump for
21 the City and now as the Iron Triangle has still been
22 a difficult area. During this time the City failed
23 to create the proper infrastructure for this
24 industrial zone and missed many opportunities to
25 bring resources to the community. Now, thanks to

1
2 Council Member Ferreras we have a real opportunity to
3 remove the blight and to ensure that that now is a
4 destination point for the entire city to be proud of.

5 Additionally, Council Member Ferreras has
6 worked to create marketing plans for the existing
7 workers, the businesses had already been dealt with,
8 marketing plans and job training opportunities and
9 business relocation opportunities for the workers and
10 no small endeavor; she was able to make sure that
11 Flushing Meadow Park had a major contribution to
12 increase the ability to maintain and improve their
13 park in perpetuity. So I wanna thank her, thank all
14 of the people; I wanna thank Council Member Mark
15 Weprin for holding all of these long hearings to make
16 sure that the projects were full vetted. I wanna
17 thank all of the advocates for making sure that they
18 had an opportunity to be totally heard, because none
19 of this would've happened.

20 And finally, I wanna thank all of the
21 members that supported Council Member Ferreras to
22 make sure that whatever she decided at this project
23 that she had the full support of the entire body to
24 make sure that this happened. Thank you, Madame
25 Chair.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much Chair
3 Comrie. Chair Weprin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I'll try to keep
5 it brief, Madame Speaker, thank you very much.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, it's been a long
7 time coming on these projects and there was a lot of
8 effort put into each one of them and the thing that
9 really does my heart proud is that we did have an 8-
10 hour hearing on these projects and heard from
11 hundreds and hundreds of people with many different
12 concerns and you know, the thing that works around
13 here is when you hear the concerns you're able to
14 incorporate them into the individual projects and
15 that's our job; that's what we're out here to do and
16 we heard from everyone who wanted to testify right to
17 the end, into the evening, anyone who wanted to speak
18 on these issues and have their voice heard and they
19 were heard. Now not everyone got everything they
20 wanted, but issues in Willets Point in particular to
21 do with housing, to do with the workers, with the
22 businesses, to do with the park advocates, money for
23 the park, it really was amazing that we were able to
24 take care of so many diverse interests and I've gotta
25 give Council Member Ferreras an enormous amount of

1
2 credit for that, she really worked so hard during a
3 very busy time in her life.

4 I also just quickly want to acknowledge
5 the other... we had four controversial items on that
6 same hearing and Five Points, where Jimmy Van
7 Bramer's district has managed to increase affordable
8 housing and also to increase artist space, which was
9 the big discussion there; what to do with this
10 project that the developer had given to the community
11 as far as an artist space and now was continuing,
12 trying to figure out ways to keep them happen, and
13 then I see my colleague for 92nd Street, Dan
14 Garodnick, who also had a bit of a negotiation on an
15 unusual project of parkland that was owned by a
16 development who might've done too good a job of
17 making it a park. And lastly, Peter Vallone, Jr. on
18 Halletts Point, who insisted on having access to a
19 ferry service and to look into that project in what
20 is a community supported project.

21 So the process works ladies and gentlemen
22 and it is great when the community voices can be
23 heard and that the members can sit there and advocate
24 on behalf of their constituents, so it's one of those
25

1
2 times I'm proud to be a member of the City Council.
3 Thank you very much.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much Chair
5 Weprin. Council Member Vallone.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you. As
7 Mark said, Halletts Point is a community supported
8 project; it's been in the works for five years now;
9 it's going to being development to an area, one of
10 the few areas left that sorely, sorely needs it, an
11 area that is an actual peninsula where the Astoria
12 houses exist now that doesn't have a bank, doesn't
13 have a supermarket and until this development didn't
14 have much hope of getting those.

15 In the last five years I've worked with
16 the people in this room and with the developers to
17 cut this project down half the size that it was to
18 create a beautiful waterfront park and promenade,
19 bring a supermarket, bring a bank, provide space for
20 a K-8 school, provide better sightlines for the
21 community to the water; more integration into the
22 existing community. The developers who did an
23 excellent job went out got the support of,
24 unanimously of the Community Board of every community
25 group of every elected official, other than myself,

1 up until last night and of the Borough President.

2 And last night we did get an agreement with the help
3 of Chair Weprin and others to provide over \$500,000
4 to a study regarding the feasibility, the engineering
5 and the design of ferry service to that peninsula,
6 because if you're gonna put this many people onto a
7 peninsula you're gonna have to put a way for them to
8 commute that doesn't overburden existing facilities.
9

10 So I wanna thank everyone in the room for
11 their assistance and look forward to this needed
12 development for this area. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much
14 Council Member Vallone. Council Member Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
16 very much, Madame Speaker and I congratulate all of
17 my colleagues, particularly my dear friend, Julissa
18 Ferreras, to my right. I wanna thank Speaker Quinn
19 and Chairs Weprin and Comrie for their support and
20 all the members of their committees. I wanna thank
21 Amy Levitan and Rob Miraglia from the Land Use staff.
22 I wanna thank our Chair of Community Board 2, Joe
23 Connolly, and its Land Use Committee Chair, Lisa
24 Deller, for their work on this issue. I particularly
25 wanna thank Matt Wallace, my Chief of Staff, for all

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2 the work that he's done on this. I'm pleased that we
3 were able to come to an agreement on 2244 Jackson
4 Avenue, known popularly to some as Five Points in
5 Long Island City and the compromise that we've
6 reached will benefit Western Queens residents and
7 artists for a wide variety of reasons well into the
8 future. I'm very pleased that we were able to
9 increase affordable housing and artist space in
10 significant ways. We were able to triple the amount
11 of affordable housing initially offered in this
12 project, making sure that there's a preference for
13 local residents in the affordable units, as permitted
14 by law.

15 Also, there'll be 12,000 square feet of
16 internal artist studio and gallery space. Initially
17 what was offered was 2,000 square feet; that's 12,000
18 square feet for artist studio and gallery space, with
19 a written agreement that those who are dislocated
20 will be invited back; those will be the first artists
21 invited back into the new facility.

22 In addition to the 12,000 square feet of
23 internal artist space there'll be nearly 10,000
24 square feet of external art panels and walls on the
25 facade of the building that will be reserved for

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2 graffiti and aerosol art, true to the heritage and
3 the legacy of Five Points, and there is a written
4 agreement that the founder of Five Points will be
5 invited to curate these panels, which is very, very
6 important to me and to the community as well.

7 In addition to these amenities for the
8 artistic and cultural communities of Long Island
9 City, I am so please that there'll be an over 32,000
10 square foot public park as a part of this project,
11 over 50,000 square feet of retail space and this
12 project will create over a 1,000 jobs, a 1,000 jobs
13 and there is now an agreement as a result of our work
14 with the Building Trades Council and SEIU 32BJ, all
15 1,000 of those jobs will be union jobs and that is so
16 important to me as the son of union parents, nothing
17 is more important to me than building pathways to the
18 middle class for our residents.

19 So there's a tripling of affordable
20 housing in this project as a result of our
21 involvement, over a 1,000 jobs, including over 200
22 permanent jobs that will be union jobs that will
23 benefit the working middle class residents of my
24 district and we have managed to secure over 20,000
25 square feet of space for artists, including aerosol

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2 and graffiti artists to display their work. And I
3 wanna thank everyone who's had a hand in this and
4 thank the community members in Community Board 2, who
5 had numerous hearings about this, for their work in
6 this. This is a good deal that will benefit Long
7 Island City and our community for years to come,
8 generations to come and I'm grateful for all who
9 contributed to it, and now onto the next one. But
10 thank you so much, Madame Speaker.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you Council Member
12 Van Bramer and as I call on Council Member Ferreras I
13 wanna say that to have negotiated Willets Point in
14 the form that it ends up today would be a remarkable
15 accomplishment for a council member at any time of
16 the year ever, but I wanna just add, Council Member
17 Ferreras, what you did, negotiating all through your
18 pregnancy on this and then starting again four days
19 after your beautiful son was born, makes this
20 accomplishment even more significant and even more
21 remarkable, so on behalf of all of us,
22 congratulations.

23 [applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you.
25 Thank you, Madame Speaker. I'd like to thank my

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2 colleagues for allowing me the opportunity to be able
3 to negotiate on this project, for respecting my
4 wishes and for supporting this project, well I ask
5 that you support this project.

6 I'd like to thank my colleagues, Council
7 Member Leroy Comrie, Council Member Mark Weprin,
8 Council Member Peter Koo, the Land Use Committee, the
9 Land Use Committee staff, Ramon Martinez, who
10 practically moved into my house in these
11 negotiations, and the administration and of course my
12 staff, my Chief of Staff, Yoselin Genao, who has been
13 working on this for the last five years, all of my
14 staff, even my district office staff is here today,
15 because they too had to bear the brunt of a lot of
16 these negotiations, fielding a lot of calls, so this
17 is also a thank you to all of them, so I think you to
18 all my staff, to Community Board members from
19 Community Boards, 3, 4 and 7. I would also like to
20 thank Make the Road New York, the Fairness Coalition,
21 the Housing Advocates, Sunrise Co-op, the Park
22 Advocates, Faith New York, New Yorkers for Parks, the
23 Queens Chamber of Commerce, the Joint Venture, and
24 yes, the Mayor's Office for helping us come to this
25 point today.

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2 For those of you who are unfamiliar with
3 my district, Willets Point has long been known as the
4 Iron Triangle or the Valley of Ashes and it too has
5 been in the movies. If anybody has watched The Great
6 Gatsby, there's shots of what Willets Point was then.

7 Because of the industrial network of the
8 auto shop junkyards and factories that have occupied
9 this space and land, for years this area has gone
10 without many of the resources the rest of the City
11 has regularly received, such as sanitation, paved
12 roads and proper sewage and flood drainage.

13 Before us today is a proposal that seeks
14 to address these issues. Between the City agencies
15 and developers we have the potential to vote in favor
16 for a plan that will forever become a new benchmark
17 not only for my district, but for all of New York
18 City.

19 After many long years of reviewing this
20 proposal and taking my constituents' concerns into
21 account, I have found that this ambitious proposal
22 will bring affordable housing; 35 percent of all
23 units being constructed at Willets Point will be
24 affordable.

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2 Additionally, the Administration has
3 agreed to release a Request for Proposal for two lots
4 of land that are located in and around my district
5 and I'd also like acknowledge that a plot of land in
6 Corona is in Council Member Dromm's district and that
7 was from some oversight that we had, so to
8 acknowledge him, and will be in my new delineated
9 council district starting January 2014.

10 It is important to note that never before
11 has the council district seen this much affordable
12 housing; we are talking about over a 1,000 units that
13 will help make a difference now.

14 Another portion of the proposal includes
15 good service employee jobs, building trades and hotel
16 workers, supermarket workers. This project is set to
17 create 19,000 jobs that are so desperately needed in
18 Queens and in New York City.

19 In addition, a prevailing wage will be
20 paid to contractors, building service workers and
21 security workers, 25 percent of construction contract
22 values will go to MWBEs and a \$930,000 fund has been
23 created to strengthen the ability for MWBEs to
24 compete for the Willets Point contract.

1
2 This plan also calls for more school
3 seats; this development will include the construction
4 of a new public school at the site, which will
5 deliver a 1,000 seats for our children, a new library
6 and a day care center.

7 A thorough environmental cleanup of toxic
8 soil is also a major factor that the developers and
9 the Administration have jointed agreed to finance.

10 An achievable traffic plan will be part
11 of this proposal; it includes improvements in safety
12 and mitigation, as well as the creation of new
13 highway ramps, \$66 million in the City's budget will
14 be allocated for the design, construction and build-
15 out of the new ramps off the Van Wyck Expressway.
16 The developers will contribute an additional \$7.37
17 million for traffic improvements and mitigation.

18 A business and worker relocation plan has
19 been created to assist the existing tenants at
20 Willets Point with the continued operation of their
21 business. The City will pay \$15.5 million for the
22 relocation, moving expense and support of the Willets
23 Point businesses, including those businesses that
24 want to move together. The City will also assist
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1
2 relocated businesses with marketing in new location
3 and a job skills training program.

4 Lastly, an agreement on park investment
5 has been reached; the developers have made an
6 agreement to make a contribution totaling just under
7 \$17 million towards the maintenance and upkeep of
8 Flushing Meadow Park and the creation of a green farm
9 on the rooftop of the Entertainment Center.

10 Although there are other details of this
11 proposal that would also benefit, due to time and
12 because I wanna get back to my baby... [interpose]

13 [laughter]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I'll keep it
15 short. But to be clear, I am confident that after
16 carefully taking my constituents' needs into
17 consideration this deal will be a win for my
18 constituents, a win for Willets Point and a win for
19 New York City. Our district deserves to have the
20 same treatment as the rest of New York City; we
21 deserve to have access to every single deliverable
22 this plan will bring.

23 I realize that not everyone may view this
24 proposal the same way that I view it, however I'm
25 strongly committed to improving the livelihood and

1
2 quality of life for my community. This vote has
3 always been about improving the needs of our
4 constituents and it is for them that today I ask you
5 all to vote yes. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you and that
7 concludes communications from the Speaker and
8 congratulations to everyone on the legislation and
9 the Land Use.

10 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
11 very much, Madame Speaker; we now move onto
12 discussion of General Orders.

13 Seeing none, we now move onto Reports of
14 Special Committees.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

16 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Reports of
17 Standing Committees.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
19 on Finance, Intro 0598, SoHo BID.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
21 Orders. I just wanna remind folks, there is a
22 resolution at the end of the meeting as well.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Reso
24 1955, Hurricane Sandy exemption act.

2 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
3 Orders.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Reso
5 1957, organization funding.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
7 Orders.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered M 1257
9 and Reso 1959, transfer of City funds.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
11 Orders.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
13 on Health, Intro 1129 A, food service ombuds office.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on
15 General Orders.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1132 A, food
17 service inspection code.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on
19 General Orders.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1134 A, Food
21 Service Advisory Board.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on
23 General Orders.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1141 A, Food
25 Service Establishment Sanitary Inspection Data.

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CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Intro 1146 A, food
service inspection program.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
on Land Use, LU 0876 and Reso 1960 through LU 0881
and Reso 1965, Willets Point.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0885 and Reso 1966
through LU 0890 and Reso 1971, Memorial Sloan-
Kettering.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0891 and Reso 19792,
Zoning Resolution.

SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to disapprove.

COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0892 and Reso 1973
through 0893 and Reso 1974, City Map amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0902 and Reso 1975,
3 Zoning Amendment.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
5 Orders.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0903 and Reso 1976,
7 Five Points.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
9 Orders.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 094 and Reso 1977
11 through LU 0909 and Reso 1982, Halletts Point.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
13 Orders.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0919 and Reso 1983,
15 UDAAP Queens.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0921 and Reso 1984,
19 Zoning Resolution amendments.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0934 and Reso 1985
23 through LU 0935 and Reso 1986, Zoning Map amendment.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
25 Orders.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: LU 0943 and Reso 1987,
3 UDAAP Bronx.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
5 Orders.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee
7 on Transportation, Intro 1049 A, Staten Island ferry
8 service.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on
10 General Orders.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: General
12 Order Calendar.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution appointing
14 various persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders
16 and at this time I'd like to ask for a roll call on
17 all the items that have been coupled on General Order
18 Calendar and just remind folks there's also a
19 resolution dealing with the Housing Authority's
20 infill proposal at the end of the meeting.

21 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So
22 ordered.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo. Barron.

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

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2 Mayor Bloomberg has given this City away
3 to rich developers for \$1 and while our Council
4 Members have done well in negotiating things for the
5 constituents, this has been a big decade of land grab
6 by the Mayor and rich developers; we have to stand
7 for the people of New York City and these deals that
8 sound good and sweet have to be much better. I'm
9 hoping when the new City Council comes in that they
10 will be... get much more out of developers and not give
11 the City up so easily for the deals that are being
12 made.

13 So with that I say no on LU 0876 through
14 0881, that's Willets Point and its accompanying
15 Resos, no on LU 0902 and no on Halletts Point, 0904
16 to 0909 and its accompanying Resos. Thank you.

17 [applause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

19 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Can we
20 get... can we get silence in the audi... in chambers?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm voting yes on
22 everything. Congratulations to the folks from
23 Queens, but I am voting no on LU 0902 and then
24 LU 0885, 0886, 0887, 0888, 0889, and 0890. Thank you
25 very much.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission to explain my vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I wanna congratulate Council Member Ferreras; it's a very difficult thing that we're faced with when we have these extraordinary rezonings and changes to our community in any of the excessive land use items.

The art is the ability to negotiate and I think that the Council Member demonstrated a great way of trying to bring together a community, a diverse community with various needs. Although 35 percent does not sound great as far as affordable housing, it actually is a good percentage, a great percentage that she was able to negotiate. The fact

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2 that she's getting a ramp built; the fact that the
3 workers are getting are getting \$15 million in order
4 to relocate shows that she fought hard for her
5 community, for her entire community. So with that I
6 say congratulations; it was difficult, I know it was
7 hard, I've been through it myself; I know that you
8 may not have gotten everything that everyone wanted,
9 because you cannot be everything to every person at
10 any given time, but that you stood tall to represent
11 your community. And with that I vote aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote no on Land
16 Use 0876 to 0881 and no on Reso 1960 to 1965 and aye
17 on all the rest.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would like
20 to vote aye and including on the resolution I ask
21 permission, since I have to go and pick up my
22 daughter from school.

23 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

25 Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler.

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

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I wanna
congratulate the sponsors of all the legislation
today, particularly the Land Use items, which are
extraordinarily difficult to navigate and
particularly wanna thank Councilwoman Ferreras for
educating me today; I had always thought that Willets
Point was called the Valley of the Ashes because my
beloved Mets play there...

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: and along those
lines I know that Council Member Oddo, in his
enthusiasm for today's ferry bill neglected to
mention that I beat him like a rug in our fantasy
baseball league this year... [interpose]

[laughter]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: with that I vote
3 aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: As one of the
10 leading advocates in Brooklyn for commuter ferry
11 service, I congratulate my colleagues in Staten
12 Island on their ferry service bill today and I vote
13 aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield. Halloran.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Request
16 permission to explain my vote.

17 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yeah.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: I believe
19 Council Member Ferreras has done an incredible job
20 against an almost immovable object, but I will
21 respectfully be voting no on 0876, 0877, 0879, 0880
22 and 0881 and their accompanying resos.

23 The threat of eminent domain has hung
24 over these businesses since 2008. Any time the
25 government wants to redistribute the wealth by taking

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2 it from one person and giving it to another business
3 as opposed to the City, we have thwarted the very
4 meaning of eminent domain and the reason our framers
5 made such careful use of it.

6 We have in this particular instance
7 gotten two ramps which I'm amazed that the
8 Councilwoman was able to obtain, because according to
9 the Department of Transportation they're unnecessary.
10 A study was faked and I use that term, faked, by the
11 City in which traffic patterns were improperly
12 counted in order to demonstrate how we didn't need
13 ramps at that location. But meanwhile, anyone who's
14 been on the Grand Central, the Van Wyck or the
15 Whitestone Expressway, Main Street, Roosevelt Avenue
16 or College Point Boulevard in and around either rush
17 hour would tell you something quite different.

18 I don't know exactly why we need a mall,
19 considering the Sky View Mall is approximately 1500
20 yards away, which contains retail space which is
21 currently being underutilized; parking space which is
22 current being underutilized. I don't understand how
23 we can say these businesses are blighted but then
24 relocate them into my Council District in the College
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2 Point Corporate Park, which is exactly what has
3 happened.

4 In this case a ULURP was done in 2008;
5 the process should've started from scratch again
6 because the plan isn't in any way shape or form the
7 same that this body voted on in 2008. I think this
8 City has a real obligation, considering the Police
9 Academy is going to be sitting here on the hub of
10 Main Street, Flushing without infrastructure
11 development, to take a look at the entire package of
12 surrounding 19th and 20th Council District impact
13 that will be caused by this, so I will vote no on
14 those... with all due respect to the Council Member,
15 who I think did a great job of forcing the
16 administration... [interpose]

17 FEMALE VOICE: Council Member...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: to the table,
19 but it was a day late and dollar short.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Hello. I
22 would like to congratulate the good folks from Queens
23 on their fine work; of course especially the Chair,
24 Subcommittee Chair as well; the hardest-working
25 Council Member that we have now, Julissa Ferreras,

1
2 thank you for your leadership and I am certainly one
3 who defers to my local colleagues and with that I
4 would go for a vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: May I be excused
9 to explain my vote?

10 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you. So
12 while I know that negotiations have been tough and
13 that's why for example that the Zoning and Franchise
14 Committee was scheduled for about 9:45 this morning
15 and we didn't meet till about one-something and quite
16 frankly, Julissa, I've been there before, where you
17 as one of my colleagues waited in order for a
18 negotiation to be completed on other matters that
19 dealt with, for example, the Columbia's expansion.
20 And while I do know that you cannot get everything
21 that you want, but it's about negotiating what's best
22 overall, all things considered and not where you can
23 se we're not gonna vote on it today because if we
24 don't vote on it, then the proposals put forward by
25 the City Planning Commission goes forward.

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So I compliment you and my other colleagues that have done the best that you could do under the circumstances that you faced in order to come up with an agreement with either the developers and/or the Administration. With that I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I'd like to request unanimous consent to vote on all of Land Use items of General Order Calendar.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

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

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yeah.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I've lived in
3 Queens for 50 years and Willets Point was always a
4 blight to the Borough and to the community that it
5 surrounded. I have to say that Julissa Ferreras did
6 a spectacular job; we've been talking about Willets
7 Point for over 30 years, trying to get something done
8 there.

9 Julissa, you should be very proud of
10 yourself and you take Julian to Willets Point and
11 tell him, mommy did this. Congratulations and I vote
12 aye.

13 [applause]

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote aye and I
16 request permission to vote aye on all items on
17 today's General Order Calendar.

18 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: With
22 congratulations to my colleague, Julissa Ferreras on
23 a job well-done and for hanging tough and doing the
24 right thing by her constituents, I vote aye on all.
25 Congratulations, Julissa.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: If I could
4 be excused to explain my vote.

5 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I'll be
7 voting aye on all matters and you know it has been
8 said and it can't be said enough in this body; you
9 know we are a collegial body and tough decisions have
10 to be made each and every day and negotiations are
11 always difficult ones, but I really wanna commend
12 Council Member Ferreras for her great advocacy on
13 behalf of her constituency. I also wanna thank
14 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; having been out at
15 Five Points recently and really come to appreciate
16 street art and the value that it is to the artistic
17 community, understanding that this project was as of
18 right and that Council Member Van Bramer was able to
19 negotiate a level of preservation of this artwork and
20 the ability for it to continue to be expressed in
21 this area I think is to be commended.

22 So again, we all know the difficulty that
23 any type of Land Use item and decision-making is in
24 the City of New York, but our colleagues live and
25 breathe their districts each and every day, they

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2 interact with their constituents and with all of the
3 entities that have any sort of say and we always
4 think it is always the best interest to defer to
5 their advocacy and to their knowledge. So I will
6 vote aye on all and I'd also like to vote aye on all
7 matters on the calendar.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my
10 vote?

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Just wanna say
13 kudos to my sister and her newborn. Willets Point
14 will remember this forever, so I salute you and
15 congratulate you and I vote aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on
18 all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Nelson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye and I just
wanna commend Julissa; I know how stressful the
process is; I'm going through it, and to be a mother
of a newborn, I give you big kudos. God bless you,
thanks.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Permission to
explain my vote.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: First I'd like to
vote no on Land Use Item 0921 and accompanying Reso
1984 that is regarding the resiliency flood text
amendment that the City Planning Commission is
proposing; I'm very concerned about some of the
unintended consequences this might have on insurance
premiums for many of my constituents who are either
rebuilding or building in the future their homes
again as a result of Hurricane Sandy and I'm not sure
that all those questions have been addressed. I've
raised this issue at the Borough Board meeting and
I'm very appreciative of the fact that at the time my
colleagues, particularly Council Member Danny Dromm,

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2 were very supportive and helped me push this issue
3 with City Planning and the Buildings Department until
4 we got more information. I'm just hoping that when
5 this does go into effect that this is not going to
6 hinder or hurt people financially in any way and for
7 that reason and because I did not get the answers
8 that I asked for, I'll be voting no on LU 0921,
9 accompanying Reso 1984.

10 I do also wanna commend and join my
11 colleagues in commending the phenomenal job done by
12 Julissa Ferreras negotiating the Willets Point
13 Agreement and the item that we are voting on today.
14 Julissa and I were elected on the same day in a
15 Special Election on February 24, 2009 and we became
16 friends every since; more importantly, I think for us
17 as a body, it is important that we remember that we
18 are only as effective when we stick together and so
19 if there is an important Land Use item pending before
20 this body that is in her district, then we oughta
21 extend that professional courtesy and respect her
22 wishes and her judgment and follow her advice when it
23 comes to that, similar to the way that I would want
24 and expect my colleagues to respect my constituents
25 and the needs and the concerns that my constituents

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2 have if I had a Land Use item in my district and so
3 I'm very proud to vote in favor of that and I know
4 how hard she worked and I'm glad that this is off her
5 shoulders now and I'm sure she is as well.

6 Congratulations. Aye on all others.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to
11 explain.

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I originally
14 supported the development at the Willets Point
15 location, which, as Karen Koslowitz said, was
16 blighted; still is, but it was a very difficult vote
17 because of the businesses that are there. Since that
18 vote however, as Dan Halloran said, this is a
19 different project; it's increased in size and
20 encompasses what there is a legal argument to be made
21 is technically parkland. I also believe this process
22 should have started over from the beginning.

23 However, this proposal is much better than it was
24 even a month ago and that's due to the hard work of
25 Julissa and Leroy and Mark Weprin and Peter Koo and

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2 the staff here at the City Council. So out of
3 respect to them I will not oppose it, but I will not
4 vote it; I will abstain on LU 0876 through 0881 and
5 the accompanying Resos and vote aye on the rest.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I wanna thank
8 Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito for reminding
9 everyone that my project was as of right; I forgot to
10 mention that, so we were able to get a lot for the
11 community and I appreciate that. And I wanna
12 congratulate my seat mate and one of my dearest
13 friends, Councilwoman Ferreras for this amazing
14 victory for her community and I was proud to stand
15 with her through the entire process, as I would any
16 time, any day and I with that I vote aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Congratulations to
19 Julissa and others who negotiated the Land Use items;
20 I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

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

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PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So I...

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: You said
no...

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm gonna vote
aye on all. I was very concerned about a few things,
and I know we have the policy to defer to Council
Members; I try not to do that without having
conversation about things I was particularly
concerned about with Willets Point; the affordable
housing, though we need to define a little better,
but affordable housing and the park space was
important to me and learned that this park space was
actually never used as park space and is still
asphalt and when it comes to the affordable housing,
not only did we get some for the future; Council
Member Ferreras was good enough to make sure that we
got some immediately; I've learned that these
negotiations are very difficult to get everything
that you want and I want to say congratulations for
negotiations she did do.

To Five Points, having been and still
being a hip hop head, I was concerned about the
legacy that was there; I also knew that the project

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2 probably would not be able to remain the same; I
3 wanna thank Council Member Van Bramer for making sure
4 that there is 10,000 square feet there and that a
5 mares and the artists have first dibs to make sure
6 that it's created with the respect that I think that
7 it deserved with hip hop legacy that was there and I
8 vote aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: May I be excused to
11 explain my vote?

12 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I only have three
14 more months left to work with Charles; I wanted to
15 have a little fun with him and tell him that I want
16 to associate myself with his comments to the extent
17 that he voted for my ferry bill, but he's out. I
18 wanna say tha... oh, is he there? Charles, I wanna
19 associate myself with your comments to the extent
20 that you voted for my ferry bill.

21 I wanted to commend Julissa on a job well
22 done; I want to thank everyone associated with the
23 various bills regarding the restaurants; it's sort of
24 getting a little bit of short shrift today,
25 considering the important Land Use matters and our

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2 ferry bill, but in a quintessential New York moment,
3 this past Sunday Council Member Ignizio and I were at
4 the Egyptian Coptic Church talking to one of the
5 churchgoers who has a pizzeria on Staten Island and
6 he was bemoaning the inspection process and we told
7 him that help was on the way and I certainly think
8 that it is.

9 And lastly, I will say to my friend Lew
10 Fidler, you better than anyone should know that when
11 it comes to rotisserie titles I have more rings than
12 Liberace and... [interpose]

13 [background comments]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: and in the words of
15 the great...

16 [laughter]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: in the words of the
18 great Walter Payton, sweetness, when you get in the
19 end zone act like you've been there before. I vote
20 yes on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

22 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: I vote aye
23 on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn.
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2 SPEAKER QUINN: With no comment on
3 rotisserie baseball at all, I will vote aye on all.
4 I wanna congratulate everyone taking part in the
5 ferry legislation, the restaurant legislation, all
6 the Land Use decisions that are being vote on today,
7 but particularly Council Member Ferreras, who did
8 this against incredible odds and a very, very tough
9 time and did not miss a beat at all; in fact pushed
10 the envelope further than anyone could have imagined,
11 so congratulations to everyone, but particularly
12 Julissa and I vote aye on all.

13 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
14 very much. All items on today's General Order
15 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 46 in the
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative, 0 abstentions, with
17 the exception of Land Use Items 0876, plus Reso 1960
18 through LU 0881, plus Reso 1965, which was adopted by
19 a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 3 in the negative
20 and 1 abstention and LU 0902, with Reso 1975, which
21 was adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 2 in
22 the negative and 0 abstentions and LU Items 0904 with
23 Reso 1977 and LU 0909 and Reso 1982, which was
24 adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1 in the
25 negative and 0 abstentions and LU 0885, plus Reso

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2 1966 through LU 0890, plus Reso 1971, which was
3 adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 1 in the
4 negative and 0 abstentions and LU Item 0921 with Reso
5 1984, which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the
6 affirmative, 1 in the negative and 0 abstentions.

7 We now move onto Introduction and reading
8 of the bills.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to
10 committees, as indicated on the agenda please.

11 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Okay.
12 Discussion of Resolutions; we have one resolution on
13 today's calendar; it's Preconsidered Reso 1953,
14 resolution authorizing the Speaker to bring or join
15 in litigation or to file or join an amicus brief on
16 behalf of the Council, for the purpose of challenging
17 the Land Lease Initiative Request for Expressions of
18 Interest... [interpose]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: So if we could get a
20 little quiet for the resolutions please.

21 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: for
22 Expressions of Interest issued by New York City
23 Housing Authority on August 16, 2013. Anyone wanna
24 speak on this matter? 'Kay all in... we'll now take a
25 vote; all in favor say aye.

[collective ayes]

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: All
opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

We now move onto General Discussion; we
have Council Member Williams. Council Member
Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Sorry. Uh...
Yeah, come on.

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council
Member Reyna is next.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you so much.
My colleagues, I ask you to join me in signing onto
Introduction of Intro 1169, the Safe Jobs Act will
reform economic development in New York City in two
specific ways; this bill is other known as the bunny
bill, greater transparency in subsidized projects and
requiring training for construction employees. The
reasoning behind pushing for transparency and
training is simple; New York City gives out an
estimate \$2 billion each year to incentivized
development, major project subsidized by the City or
built on City-owned land should be built with the
highest standards; the public should know whether the
contractors benefiting from these projects comply

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2 with the law, participate in industry standards,
3 safety and apprenticeship programs, whether they have
4 good health and safety records and their history with
5 complying with industry regulations. Furthermore,
6 construction is inherently a dangerous industry.
7 According to OSHA in 2012, 28 out of 35 total
8 workplace fatalities were construction-related;
9 providing adequate safety training can literally be a
10 matter of life and death. For this reason it is
11 crucial to ensure that construction workers as well
12 as building operations and security workers are
13 provided vital safety training that protects workers
14 and the public.

15 And I would like to just thank the robust
16 coalition of labor and industry advocates that have
17 advocated for this legislation, Build Up NYC, New
18 York City Building Trades, 32BJ, Hotel Trades
19 Council, the Central Labor Council and the Working
20 Families Party, thanking them for making sure that
21 projects like this will continue to have the greatest
22 level of safety for all New Yorkers.

23 And in addition I'd like to draw your
24 attention to Intro 1170. As of today nearly 75
25 percent of all waste processed in New York City is

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2 trucked to and from three specific communities, North
3 Brooklyn, the South Bronx and Jamaica Queens. Every
4 day these neighborhood receive tens of thousands of
5 tons of garbage which is hauled in by thousands of
6 diesel-spewing trucks. The impact from processing
7 the City's waste is undisputable. In my community
8 children ages 5 to 14 are hospitalized for asthma at
9 twice the City's average, in the South Bronx that
10 rate is almost three times the City's average. For
11 far too long working class communities of color have
12 been forced [chime] to deal with New York City's
13 garbage. I ask... [interpose]

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council
15 Member.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: all my colleagues
17 to join me in our efforts to reduce the permanent
18 capacity for putrescible and non-putrescible solid
19 waste transfer stations in over-burdened districts..
20 [interpose]

21 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council
22 Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: by signing onto
24 Intro 1170. Thank you... [crosstalk]

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2 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
3 very much. Council Member Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

5 One, I forgot to thank... I had a Land Use matter from
6 Brooklyn College and I want to thank them for working
7 with me to make sure all of the community and my
8 issues were resolved and I'm glad that it passed
9 today; I do wanna draw my colleagues' attention to
10 Reso 1958; the description I'm not particularly happy
11 with; I think people are gonna stop at the word
12 reparation, but it's asking for us to sign onto
13 Congressman Conyers' H.R. 40 to acknowledge the
14 fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and
15 humanity of slavery in the U.S. and the 13 American
16 colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a
17 commission to examine the institution of slavery,
18 subsequently de jure and de facto racial and economic
19 discrimination against African-Americans and the
20 impact of these forces on living African-Americans
21 and to make recommendations to Congress on
22 appropriate remedies and for other purposes.

23 The four things that it does; it
24 acknowledges the fundamental injustice and inhumanity
25 of slavery, it establishes a commission to study

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2 slavery, subsequent racial and economic
3 discrimination against free slaves, it studies the
4 impact of those forces on today's living African-
5 Americans and it would make recommendations to
6 Congress on appropriate remedies to address the harm
7 inflicted on living African-Americans. I would ask
8 everybody to sign onto that. Thank you.

9 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
10 very much. Council Member Vann.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: My colleagues,
12 please sign onto Intro 1171. This is legislation
13 that revises the City's lien sale law. You may
14 recall in 2011 we passed legislation that made
15 significant changes to the City's lien sale program,
16 making it more difficult for economically vulnerable
17 homeowners to end up in the lien sale.

18 1171 builds on these reforms by adding
19 three additional provisions that empower homeowners
20 and provide greater protections to avoid the lien
21 sale. Under current law, only persons listed on the
22 deed can enter into payment agreement regarding the
23 lien sale debt. In communities like Bed-Stuy this
24 narrow provision threatens to destabilize
25 neighborhood across the City and jeopardizes the

1 housing security of many long-term tenants living in
2 their family's home, and again, who are not
3 necessarily on the deed, but who have been
4 responsible by the paying the bills and paying the
5 taxes. Without access to affordable payment
6 agreements, persons living in lien sale affected
7 properties cannot afford to settle the lien sale
8 debt, placing these properties at risk to enter the
9 foreclosure pipeline.
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11 1171 also requires all tax lien
12 statements and bills to include the status of any
13 disputed charges that are subject to the lien sale.
14 This change will empower homeowners to advocate more
15 effectively on their own behalf to resolve the issues
16 surrounding the disputed charges.

17 And finally, Intro 1171 requires the
18 Department of Finance to post on their website the
19 exemption eligibility checklist. Within my
20 community, this exemption, the eligibility checklist,
21 has been an invaluable tool by the Brownstoners and
22 other organizations who go door to door each year to
23 help seniors, veterans and disabled homeowners
24 [chime] to fill out the Department of Finance land
25 sale exemption application. 1171... [crosstalk]

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2 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Council
3 Member...

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Intro 1171. Thank
5 you.

6 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
7 very much. We now move onto Council Member Brewer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
9 much. I have Reso 1954 and what it is is that at our
10 airports, our three airports, we're one of the few
11 airports in the country that charges for Wi-Fi, we
12 charge \$4.95 per hour for access; other airports are
13 free. There is a company that is about to
14 renegotiate another 10 years for a contract that
15 would be charging, as it has in the past, for Wi-Fi.
16 So I'm just urging the Port Authority to change their
17 procedure and to make it free and that's what other
18 airports have.

19 Number two, thanks to Council Member
20 Fernando Cabrera, Chair of the Technology Committee,
21 in November we will have an Oversight Hearing of my
22 Open Data bill, the Open Data bill to the credit of
23 DoITT and to the transparency advocacy group and to
24 many advocates who care about this issue now has huge
25 numbers of City agency databases that are now at

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2 www.nyc.gov/data; thousands of databases are now in
3 this particular portal, many more to come and we need
4 to have an oversight to see what's there, how it can
5 be used and what the community and people who care
6 about this technology feels we need to do in the
7 future. Thank you very much.

8 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
9 very much. We have Council Member Levin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
11 much Mr. Majority Leader; my colleagues, I ask you to
12 join me in signing Resolution Number 1956; this a
13 resolution calling on the New York State Senate and
14 the New York State Assembly to introduce and pass and
15 the Governor to sign Senate Bill 224, legislation
16 that would amend the Real Property Tax Law to allow
17 active military personnel who have been deployed...

18 [interpose]

19 [background comments]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: to the Persian
21 Gulf, Afghanistan or Iraq wars to qualify for the
22 Veterans' Property Tax Exemption. As it currently
23 stands, veterans of those wars... [interpose]

24 SPEAKER QUINN: So if we could just get a
25 little quiet for Council Member Levin. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: veterans of those
3 wars and conflicts who have served our country
4 admirable over the last 20 years are not qualifying
5 for a Veterans' Property Tax Exemption, while
6 veterans of other wars, going back to World War II,
7 to in fact quality. We need to create parody and
8 honor the military service of our veterans and honor
9 the sacrifices that they have made on behalf of our
10 country, so I call on my colleagues to join me in
11 signing Resolution 1956, to allow those veterans to
12 receive property tax exemption like all others.
13 Thank you.

14 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE RIVERA: Thank you
15 very much. Seeing no others, this meeting is now
16 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 that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date _____ October 22, 2013 _____