

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, May 11, 2023

Start: 2:53 P. M.

Recess: 4:11 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

Dr. Hamud Alsilwi, Bronx
Muslim Center located at 702 Rhineland
Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462

SERGEANT POLITE: Today is May 11, 2023. It is the Stated Meeting being recorded by Keith Polite.

CITY CLERK: Council Members, please take your seats, we are about to begin. Quiet on the floor, please! Quiet on the floor, please! Thank you! Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Mr. Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

[GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 11, 2023. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers, and I would like to thank everyone here for joining us today. If you would like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on The City Council website.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Please join us for the pledge of allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: (NO RESPONSE)

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Here

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannon?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: [INAUDIBLE]

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present!

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you

20 Council Member Cabán?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Fariás?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Present

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: [INAUDIBLE]

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [INAUDIBLE]

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Prezan

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: [INAUDIBLE]

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 8
2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordan?
3 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Here
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?
5 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera?
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?
9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: (NO RESPONSE)
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?
11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?
13 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?
15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?
17 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Williams?
23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: [INAUDIBLE]

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [INAUDIBLE]

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Present

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
11 have today's Invocation, which will be delivered by
12 Dr. Hamud Alsilwi of the Bronx Muslim Center located
13 at 702 Rhineland Avenue in the Bronx, welcome.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

15 DR. HAMUD ALSILWI: (SPEAKING IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE)

16 All praises are due to Allah. We praise Him. We
17 seek His help. We seek His forgiveness. And we seek
18 His guidance. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil
19 (INAUDIBLE) of ourselves and the sins of our actions.

20 We (INAUDIBLE) Allah guide the (INAUDIBLE) who can
21 mislead Him and (INAUDIBLE) of His guidance, the
22 reason who can guide him. (SPEAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE)

23 (INAUDIBLE) and I witness that Muhammad is his
24 servant and messenger. Oh, God, we seek refuge in
25 you from our worry and grief, from (INAUDIBLE) and

1 laziness, and from being heavy in debt, and from
2 being overpowered (INAUDIBLE) people. Oh, God, we
3 seek refuge in you from poverty except to you, from
4 humiliation except for you, and from fear, except
5 from you. Oh, God, we seek refuge in you from false
6 testimony from committing immorality, from
7 (INAUDIBLE) you, and we seek refuge in you from
8 malice of the enemies and from (INAUDIBLE) disease,
9 and from despair of hope. Oh, God, we seek refuge in
10 you from wicked people, and from (INAUDIBLE) of the
11 (INAUDIBLE) Oh, God, guide among those who are
12 guided, and grant us health among those who granted
13 health, too. And protect us among those who are
14 protected and bless us with what has been given to us
15 by you. And protect us from any evil you have
16 decreed for you decreed in truth and none have
17 decreed over you. None can disgrace who you support,
18 (INAUDIBLE) Oh, God, you are the forgiver, you will
19 have to forgive, so forgive us. Oh, God, take away
20 the greed, pride, and selfishness from our hearts and
21 replace it with a love and kindness so we can become
22 united as one. Oh, God, give us strength and guide
23 us to the path of justice and allow us to
24 contributing citizens and community builders. You
25

2 have the are blessed and exalted. You are the most
3 merciful. You are the law of (INAUDIBLE) Amen.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We are now
5 going to ask Council Member Marjorie Velázquez to
6 spread the Invocation on the record.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Good afternoon,
8 colleagues, thank you, Speaker Adams and Majority
9 Leader Powers.

10 I have the pleasure of representing Little Yemen
11 in the Bronx, a culturally rich enclave, home to a
12 vibrant small business community and popular
13 religious institutions, including the Bronx Muslim
14 Center. This is where Dr. Hamud Alsilwi and The
15 Bronx Muslim Center are. It is an honor to have him
16 provide today's invocation, as he is not only an
17 active member of the congregation, but of the broader
18 community where he is beloved by his friends and
19 neighbors, and shares his passion for learning and
20 teaching Dr. Alsilwi's family has played a key role
21 in his success. His role as a father, grandfather,
22 and husband has strengthened his convictions and
23 given more meaning to his life's purpose. Actually, I
24 went to school with his children, too. Dr. Alsilwi,

2 thank you for taking the time to join us today and
3 sharing your uplifting message with us all.

4 With that, I make Motion to spread the Invocation
5 in full upon the record by.

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

8 We will now hear the Adoption of Minutes by
9 Council Member Robert Holden.

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

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
14 Holden.

15 We will now hear Messages & Papers From The
16 Mayor.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: M 140 City Debt and Reserves.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and
19 Filed.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: M 141 through M 148, various
21 Budget documents.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M 149 through
24 Preconsidered M 152, TLC appointments.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Rules, Privileges and Elections

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communication From City,
3 County & Borough Offices?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: M 153 and 154 Budget
5 modifications.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
8 Communications?

9 COUNCIL CLERK: None

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

11 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
13 hear Communication from the Speaker Adrienne Adams.

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

16 I want to begin today by addressing the killing
17 of Jordan Neely. Jordan Neely stepped onto the train
18 that day, hungry, stressed, tired, and probably in
19 emotional distress. Due to possible fear and the
20 lack of a thoughtful alternative -- and very poor
21 judgement -- Jordan was subjected to violence by a
22 fellow subway rider, Daniel Penny, who took his life.
23 Jordan should be alive today, no one deserves what he
24 was subjected to on that train. The fact that Daniel
25 Penny was not charged after killing Jordan, stands in

2 stark contrast to the way that other New Yorkers,
3 especially people of color, are treated and certainly
4 would have been treated. There must be
5 accountability for Jordan's killing at the hands of
6 another person.

7 We have to be honest about Jordan's life being
8 devalued because he was a Black man, and that just
9 does not happen to apply to his being killed, but
10 also how authorities responded, how the media has
11 covered his killing and how the discussions of his
12 killing have proceeded. It also applies to his not
13 receiving adequate care and support before he ever
14 stepped onto that train. This should be a moment of
15 reflection for all of us about the systemic racism
16 and a call to action to change the inequities that
17 leave so many New Yorkers and communities without
18 safety and without the access to care, opportunity,
19 and resources for health and success. This may be
20 about mental health, but it is about much, much more
21 and the investments we make in the people of our city
22 are critical. That is why we cannot afford a budget
23 that fails to invest in the essential services our
24 communities and New Yorkers have been denied again
25 and again.

1 What does that say about us that instead of
2 investing in what people need, we allow the response
3 to be violence. What does it say to us as human
4 beings to witness such casual acts of brutal violence
5 time and time again? What will this tragedy do to
6 the witnesses of a murder on a subway train? Who
7 will monitor the long term trauma and PTSD that this
8 death has surely caused to these riders? This cannot
9 be our norm. This does not have to be our reality.
10 We can build a city and society that meets the needs
11 of all people.

12 As a government, it must be our priority to
13 bolster the infrastructure that delivers housing,
14 mental health care, food assistance, and economic
15 opportunity. That is what Jordan and so many New
16 Yorkers need and deserve.

17 The Council is fighting for a City Budget that
18 does not deny the people of our city the chance to
19 live in health, safety, and dignity. We are pushing
20 and calling for the Administration to join us in
21 delivering on this for New Yorkers.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 Over the past year and a half, our historic women
24 majority council has worked hard to advance the
25

2 health, safety, and wellbeing of women and families
3 across New York City. We have enacted groundbreaking
4 legislation to protect abortion rights, address the
5 maternal health disparities, increase access to
6 affordable childcare, and advance economic
7 opportunities and pay equity.

8 Inside the Council, we have also sought to
9 empower women's leadership and accommodate working
10 parents by opening a new lactation room at City Hall.
11 Improving... Woo! Improving our EEO policies, and
12 requiring anti-discrimination training for every
13 employee.

14 In recognition of the process we have made for
15 New Yorkers -- and our own staff -- in April, the
16 Council was selected as a finalist in Crain's New
17 York Business' 2023 Women of Influence Awards under
18 the Women Forward Workplace category. Yes!

19 [APPLAUSE]

20 And, now, I am so proud to announce that our
21 Council has won Crain's Women-forward Workplace
22 Award!

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 Our Council! First ever. I want to thank the
25 co-chair of our Women's Caucus, Council Member Amanda

2 Fariás, for attending yesterday's luncheon and
3 accepting the award on behalf of all us, the New York
4 City Council.

5 We have done so much to improve the lives of
6 women in our city, and we are just getting started.

7 Our New York City Government Hiring Halls, which
8 we are hosting in partnership with the Administration
9 to recruit New Yorkers for city government jobs, are
10 continuing to take place throughout the five
11 boroughs. I recently had the opportunity to visit a
12 Hiring Hall at York College in my district. And I
13 was so impressed with the enthusiasm and drive of our
14 neighbors.

15 Earlier this week, we held a hiring hall at
16 BronxWorks Betances Community Center in Deputy
17 Speaker Ayala's district. And, today, there was
18 another Hiring Hall at the Gerard Carter Center in
19 Council Member Hanks' district on Staten Island. As
20 we continue to bring these events directly to our
21 neighborhoods, I urge all New Yorkers looking for
22 opportunities to join the City's workforce to check
23 them out.

24 Last night, most of you all weren't here, but we
25 had a time last night in these chambers, because we

2 packed the doors -- from the door, to the floor, to
3 the balcony, with members of The Divine Nine Black
4 Greek Letter Organizations for the Council's first
5 ever Pan-Hellenic Day. I want to thank Council
6 Member Nantasha Williams, Majority Whip Selvena
7 Brooks-Powers, Council Member Amanda Fariás, Council
8 Member Kevin Riley for cohosting a wonderful
9 celebration to highlight contribute -- to highlight
10 the contributions and impacts of The Divine Nine
11 sobrieties and fraternities.

12 Yesterday was National Small Business Day. Our
13 local small businesses are the backbones of our
14 communities. It is important that we continue to
15 shop local and support our neighborhood small
16 businesses. Happy Nation Small Business Day.

17 May 10th to May 16th is National Mental Awareness
18 Week. It is critical that we recognize and act to
19 address the mental health crisis facing our city to
20 ensure that all New Yorkers receive the appropriate
21 care they need to succeed. Last week, the Council
22 held a hearing on our mental health roadmap filled
23 with community based and preventative mental health
24 solutions. This body will advance evidence based

2 holistic solutions to improve mental health outcomes
3 in our city.

4 Next Tuesday, get ready, May 18th -- get ready,
5 it is Haitian Flag Day! I don't hear the Haitians in
6 the...

7 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

8 Thursday! That's better. We join our Haitian
9 community throughout New York City to celebrate the
10 culture and heritage of Haiti, the first country in
11 the western hemisphere to gain independence from
12 colonial rule. Sak Pase!

13 MEMBERS: Sak Pase!

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: I come from Haiti South Carolina.

15 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: May 19th, colleagues, is the
17 birthday of Malcolm X, a revolutionary civil rights
18 leader who fought fiercely to advance the rights and
19 welfare of our community.

20 [APPLAUSE]

21 This Sunday, though, is one of my personal
22 favorite holidays, it's Mother's Day!

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 And as the first mother and grandmother to serve
25 as speaker, this holiday is especially meaningful to

2 me and all of the mothers, daughters, mother figures,
3 and mothers to be in this great council. It is also
4 a special day for me, because my youngest
5 granddaughter was just born earlier this week! Hi,
6 Amani (sp?)!

7 [APPLAUSE]

8 To all of the mothers and grandmothers here who
9 are the heart and soul of our families and our
10 communities and this city, I want to wish you, and
11 all New Yorkers, a very Happy Mother's Day, moms.

12 Lastly, please join me in wishing a Happy Belated
13 Birthday to our colleague, Council Member Eric
14 Bottcher!

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 And we also owe a Happy Belated Birthday to our
17 very own photographer, John, whose in the front of
18 the room!

19 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

20 We appreciate you so much, John, Happy Belated,
21 I hope you had a great birthday, Eric and John.

22 Now, let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

23 First we will vote on the following Finance
24 items:

2 A transparency Resolution approving new
3 designations and changes of certain organizations
4 receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

5 A Preconsidered Resolution amending a previously
6 granted tax exemption for one building in Lower East
7 Side in Council Member Rivera's district.

8 Two Preconsidered Resolutions to authorize
9 Article XI Exemptions for two buildings in Bedford-
10 Stuyvesant in Council Member Ossé's district.

11 A Preconsidered Resolution to authorize and
12 Article XI Exemption for two buildings in Corona in
13 Council Member Moya's district.

14 A Preconsidered Resolution to authorize an
15 Article XI Exemption for one building in Bushwick in
16 Council Member Nurse's district.

17 And a Preconsidered Resolution to authorize an
18 Article 5 exemption for one building in Kips Bay in
19 Council Member Rivera's district.

20 Next we will vote on the following Land Use
21 Items:

22 23-10 Queens Plaza South, will facilitate the
23 enlargement of an existing four story building, which
24 will result in a 26 story commercial building that
25

1 will include office, retail, and community facility
2 uses in Council Member Won's district.

3
4 2560 Boston Road Rezoning will facilitate a new
5 nine story mixed-use development including
6 approximately 333 affordable housing units, a 15,000
7 square foot supermarket, and community facilities
8 space in Council Member Velázquez's district.

9 And The Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise
10 Agreement, a Department of Transportation request for
11 the Council's support in amending and extending the
12 current 20-year agreement to a 25-year term, with
13 franchise JCDecaux to facilitate the expansion of bus
14 shelters in automated public toilet installations
15 citywide.

16 Next, we will vote on the following pieces of
17 legislation:

18 First, we vote on Resolution 129, sponsored by
19 Council Member Eric Bottcher, which calls upon the
20 New York City Department of Education to provide
21 bicycle safety instruction in all New York City
22 schools. Thank you to our staff, Jan Atwell.

23 Next, we will vote on Resolution 156-A, sponsored
24 by, Council Member Carlina Rivera, calling on the New
25 York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to

1 sign the Treatment Not Jail Act. The state
2 legislation would expand eligibility for court-
3 involved individuals to receive treatment for mental
4 illness and substance abuse rather than be sent
5 further into a criminal justice system that is not
6 adequately equipped to address their underlying
7 health related issues. We thank our staff members
8 Jeremy Whiteman and Natalie Meltzer.
9

10 Next, we will vote on the following pieces of
11 legislation coming out of the Housing and Buildings
12 Committee, sponsored by Chair Pierina Sanchez.

13 Introduction 434-A, will expand the heat sensors
14 program, which was established in 2020, as an
15 additional tool for enforcing the Housing Maintenance
16 Code. Under the heat sensors program, The Department
17 of Housing Preservation and Development selects 50
18 multifamily buildings aimed at targeting the worst
19 offenders, to install heat sensors in the living room
20 of ever apartment in the selected buildings. The
21 devices help monitor indoor temperatures to ensure
22 that property owners are in compliance with the
23 Housing Maintenance Code. This legislation bill,
24 upon the existing heat sensors program, by expanding
25 the number of participating buildings selected,

2 improving notice to tenants, and increasing HPD's
3 inspection requirements.

4 Introduction 875-B, will amend the administrative
5 code of the city of New York, the New York city
6 plumbing code, the New York city building code, the
7 New York city mechanical code and the New York city
8 fuel gas code, in relation to technical corrections,
9 clarifications and modifications to provisions of the
10 New York city construction codes. Thank you to our
11 staff, Audrey Son.

12 Next, Introduction 583-A, sponsored by Public
13 Advocate Jumaane Williams, will increase penalties
14 for violations issued by the Department of Housing
15 Preservation And Development and requires HPD to
16 maintain a Certification of Correction watchlist of
17 violations in multiple dwellings. Any listed landlord
18 on this list would be prohibited from certifying
19 correction of violations in multiple dwellings unless
20 HPD has attempted at least two reinspections or those
21 violations are excluded from the calculations that
22 identified buildings on the watchlist. We thank our
23 staff Audrey Son.

24 Introduction 644, sponsored by Council Member
25 Nantasha Williams, would require the New York City

2 Department of Education to provide the information
3 and guidelines necessary to establish afterschool
4 programs. Thank you to our staff, Mark Chen and Nadia
5 Jean-François.

6 Introduction 868, sponsored by Council Member
7 Althea Stevens, This bill would require the
8 Department of Education (DOE) report annually on the
9 number of students in each school building that
10 provide the District 75 program and criteria that the
11 DOE considers to determine where to establish a
12 District 75 program. Thank you to our staff members
13 Brenda McKinney and Nadia Jean-François.

14 Introduction 725-A, sponsored by Council Member
15 Linda Lee, this bill would require the Department of
16 Education to create a centralized place on its
17 website where schools may list their surplus school
18 supplies for the purpose of allowing other schools to
19 claim such supplies. Thank you to our staffers Nell
20 Beekman and Nadia Jean-François.

21 Next, we will vote on Introduction 209-A
22 sponsored by Council Member Shaun Abreu, that would
23 amend the New York City Human Rights Law to prohibit
24 discrimination based on an individual's height or
25 weight in employment, housing, and public

1 accommodations. This bill would allow e employers
2 needing to consider height or weight in employment
3 decisions only where required by federal, state, or
4 local laws or regulations require it. The Commission
5 on Human Rights could also permit considerations of
6 height or weight should they prevent a person from
7 performing essential requirements of a job and no
8 alternative is available or this criteria is
9 reasonably necessary for the normal operation of the
10 business. This bill would similarly permit
11 consideration of height or weight by operators or
12 providers of public accommodations. Thank you to
13 staff Jayasri Ganapathy, Wiam Diouri, Tanveer
14 Singh, Rachel Cordero and David Seitzer.

16 Finally, we will vote on several bills sponsored
17 by our Criminal Justice Committee Chair, Council
18 Member Carlina Rivera, which will help our city move
19 towards lowering our jail population as we approach
20 the legal deadline of 2027 to close Rikers and
21 transition to a borough based jail system. It is
22 abundantly clear that Rikers is undermining public
23 safety for New York City. It exposes everyone there,
24 the staff, and people who are detained to violence
25 and trauma, and exacerbates existing challenges for

1
2 people to successfully reenter their communities. We
3 cannot allow Rikers to remain open past these legally
4 mandated deadline, and the City must take active
5 steps to ensure we move forward in a timely fashion.
6 Today's legislation is another step to help address
7 these issues in our jail system and get us to an
8 effective one.

9 Introduction 589-A would require the Department
10 of Correction, in consultation with relevant
11 agencies, to report annually on medical care and
12 outcomes for incarcerated pregnant persons. This
13 report includes specific information on the number of
14 pregnant persons in custody, prenatal, and postnatal
15 care, and maternal mortality data.

16 Introduction 806-A, would establish a
17 comprehensive jail population review program to
18 assess whether people being detained ahead of trial
19 can have their cases resolved or be safely released.
20 The legislation would help facilitate reducing
21 unnecessary pretrial detention that can lower the
22 excessively high jail population and ensure the
23 successful closure of Rikers. Thank you to our staff
24 members Jeremy Whitman and Natalie Meltzer.

2 Thank you all for your attention. Now I turn it
3 back into the hands of our Majority Leader.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.
5 We will now move into the Discussion of General
6 Orders.

7 We will begin with Council Member Velázquez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: One of the top concerns
9 regarding housing surrounds the affordability of
10 units and their compatibility with the average median
11 income. The Project at Boston Road is no different.
12 I am happy to share that the applicant team is
13 committed to pursuing a 100 percent, that is correct,
14 100 percent affordable HPD's term sheet. This means
15 incomes are capped at 90 percent of AMI with most
16 units targeting incomes below the max threshold. By
17 utilizing HPD's Mix and Match Program families with
18 incomes of all ranges can reside in this new complex.
19 To be clear, most units are below 90 percent of AMI
20 including 20 percent for households earning between
21 \$37,000 to \$53,000, which is 40 percent AMI; 25
22 percent for households earning between \$47,000 and
23 \$67,000, and 40 percent for households earning
24 between \$82,000 to \$120,000. That means the average
25 public school teacher in New York City who earns

2 \$66,000 and health care workers earning an average of
3 \$69,000, and other occupants can reflect our
4 community, and we will be able afford these units.

5 There is no evidence to show that 100 percent
6 affordable housing development will impact market
7 rates in this neighborhood. In fact, an increase in
8 available units will actually lessen the demand and
9 limit the rates of increased rents. This is a simple
10 case of supply and demand allowing residents to
11 thrive in the communities they helped build. With 50
12 percent of the units being prioritized for the
13 community, we are addressing a desperately needed
14 opportunity for our families. The growing need for
15 our housing in our community is a daily struggle for
16 many, and I know the full board and the public are
17 not against affordable housing in my district. As a
18 community, we must ensure our neighbors have safe,
19 affordable housing that meets their unique needs. I
20 look forward to working with my community as this
21 project unfolds, and bring in much needed housing and
22 commercial and community spaces to benefit everyone,
23 thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

2 We will now hear from Council Member Carlina
3 Rivera.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Majority
5 Leader.

6 Today we will vote on three items of legislation
7 that I am honored to have sponsored.

8 Introduction 589 will mandate new reporting
9 requirements on medical care and outcomes for
10 pregnant people who are currently incarcerated. I have
11 seen mothers holding their babies on Rikers Island,
12 and their care leading to that point and postpartum
13 should never be in question. This weekend families
14 across the five boroughs will celebrate yet another
15 Mother's Day, and I would like to acknowledge the
16 mothers at Rosie's who will be excluded.

17 Introduction 806 will establish jail population
18 review teams for each borough to identify people in
19 DOC custody whose cases can be resolved or who could
20 be safely released into their communities.

21 Streamlined case processing is a critical way that
22 the City Council can reduce unnecessary, even
23 harmful, jailtime imposed on New Yorkers. Detainees
24 at Rikers Island spent an average of 115 days locked
25 up at the jail last year, four times the national

2 average, according to a federal monitor report
3 published last month. Population review teams will
4 bring all stakeholders to the table to make expert
5 recommendations to streamline case processing to keep
6 all New Yorkers safe.

7 Resolution 156, calling on the New York State
8 Legislature to pass the Treatment Not Jail Act,
9 legislation which will ensure that New Yorkers with
10 disabilities and other health related challenges are
11 provided the opportunity to obtain treatment and
12 support in their communities. Let me be clear,
13 Rikers Island keeps no one safe. A crucial part of a
14 just transition is reducing New York City's reliance
15 on criminalization and ensuring that people who don't
16 belong in jail don't end up there, and instead get
17 the services and care that they need. The City
18 Council has the tools we need today to responsibly
19 build a more fair criminal legal system and safer
20 communities. We must center humanity in our actions
21 and follow the data not the fear.

22 I want to thank all of the staff that helped make
23 this possible. I especially want to thank Isabelle
24 Chandler who has been on my team for many, many years
25 [TIMER CHIMES] and who worked on this legislation,

2 and I am so honored and excited to see through with
3 you Isabelle, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

5 Do we have anyone else who would like to speak on
6 today's... We have Council Member Sanchez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

8 As it gets warmer out, I want to acknowledge that
9 our speaker and this council is thinking about next
10 winter. Introduction 434 on the Agenda today will
11 expand a heat sensors program, which was established
12 in 2020, selecting a number of buildings, 50
13 buildings, with a history of heat and hot water
14 violations, to install internet-capable temperature
15 reporting devices that report to HPD.

16 So, there were early successes in this program,
17 despite pretty serious implementation challenges.
18 But, even just the existence of the program and those
19 that complied and installed the devices saw really
20 meaningful changes and differences for the tenants.

21 So, I urge my colleagues to join me and vote yes
22 in support of 434 today. And keep your eyes on the
23 prize with me, and make sure that ,you know, tenants
24 are receiving the heat that they deserve next winter.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
3 Sanchez.

4 Do we have anyone else who would like to speak on
5 General Orders?

6 Okay, in that case, we will move to the Report of
7 Special Committees.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: None

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing
10 Committees.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Civil
12 and Human Rights, Introduction 209-A, appearance
13 based discrimination.

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

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
17 Criminal Justice, Introduction 589-A, medical care
18 for incarcerated pregnant people.

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

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 806-A, Jail
22 Population Review program.

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

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee Education,
3 Introduction 644-A, afterschool programs.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
5 Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 725-A, surplus school
7 supplies.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
9 Orders.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 868-A, District 75
11 Schools.

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

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Finance
15 Preconsidered Resolution 607, Transparency
16 Resolution.

17 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered LU 201 and
19 Resolution 626 through Preconsidered L U 206 and
20 Resolution 631, property tax exemptions.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Housing
23 and Buildings, Introduction 434-A, heat sensors
24 program.

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

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 583-A, HPD
5 violations.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
7 Orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 875-B, New York City
9 Construction Codes.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
11 Orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Land
13 Use, Preconsidered Resolution 625, Street Furniture
14 Franchise.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 184 and Resolution 632 and L U
17 185 and Resolution 633, 560 Boston Road Rezoning.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 186 and Resolution 634 through
20 L U 188 and Resolution 636, 3-10 Queens Plaza South.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 189 through L U 191, Paperific
23 Rezoning.

24

25

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

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

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Abreu?

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

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Majority Leader.

17 Today, I am overjoyed that this council will have
18 the chance to take a stand for size freedom by
19 banning discrimination on the basis of height or
20 weight in employment, housing, and public
21 accommodations.

22 Every year, 2 million New Yorkers are affected by
23 size discrimination, and we have heard from plenty of
24 them. A luxury brand specialist was sent to the
25 stockroom after giving birth, because baby weight

2 didn't fit the company image. A sales associate took
3 some time off to care for her family and put on a few
4 pounds. She was met with snide remarks and questions
5 about her "energy level" when trying to reenter the
6 workforce. A student was made to feel like she
7 didn't belong, or was an inconvenience, for
8 requesting an accessible desk to take notes during
9 her college lecture class. People with different
10 body types are not only denied jobs and promotions
11 that they deserve, their whole existence has also
12 been denied by a society that has offered no legal
13 remedy for this prejudice until today.

14 With today's vote, New York City will become the
15 largest municipality in the country and the world
16 with these protections. With this bill passing
17 today, we are going a long way towards changing the
18 culture around weight.

19 I want to especially thank Speaker Adams and her
20 team, including Jeff Baker, Andrea Vasquez, and
21 Jeremy John for their support, as well as Civil and
22 Human Rights Chair, Nantasha Williams, and committee
23 staff, Jayasri Ganapathy and Wiam Diouri. And, of
24 course, I thank the advocates who I have been working
25 with closely to get this over the finish line; The

2 National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance,
3 RWDSU, the Retail Action Project, Tigress Osborn,
4 Josh Kellerman, Eno Awotowe, Lydia Green, De. Gregory
5 Dodell, and everyone who spoke with us about they
6 have been impacted and what this legislation will
7 mean to them.

8 And, finally, I have to thank my staff Jalissa
9 Quigley, Amber Moorer, and Milo Gringlas for their
10 work on the historic piece of legislation.

11 I proudly vote aye, thank you. [TIMER CHIMES]

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Ariola?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all with the
15 exception of Intros 209, 583, and 806.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Avilés?

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

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all with the
22 exception of Preconsidered 151. I would note the
23 Brooklyn Delegation should be appointing drivers with
24 direct experience to the Taxi and Limousine
25

2 Commission. And all commissions should include
3 people with direct experience. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all except
8 for L U 202 with accompanying Resolution 627. I know
9 that is supposed to be a tax exempt, so they can get
10 to affordability, but it doesn't seem like they
11 started with affordability, and I have no confidence
12 that they will get there. So, I vote no on L U 202
13 and Resolution 627.

14 Aye on all the rest.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Bottcher?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all with the
3 exception of Preconsidered M 151 on which I abstain,
4 thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'll vote no on
7 Introductions 209-A, 583-A, and 806-A, and aye on the
8 rest.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all, and
11 congratulations to my colleagues.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all, with the
22 exception of Preconsidered M 151, for which I vote
23 no.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye on all, except
6 for Preconsidered M 151, which I vote no to remain
7 consistent with how I have participated in the
8 Brooklyn Delegation on this appointment.

9 The Taxi and Limousine Commission has never had a
10 single driver or former driver commissioner.
11 Removing drivers from the conversation is how we
12 ended up with horrific public policy that
13 artificially inflated the price of medallions and
14 bankrupted drivers and their families -- many of whom
15 live in my district. I look forward to having driver
16 representation on the TLC very soon. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. I just wanted
18 to make a clarification on the Agenda. We are not
19 voting on the Taxi and Limousine Commission for
20 nominees today. We had a hearing on them this week.
21 They are... The Messages & Papers from the Mayor are
22 their submitted nominations. So, there will be
23 potentially an opportunity ahead to vote or comment
24 on them.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all with the
5 exception of 209-A, 583-A, and Introduction 806-A,
6 which I vote no.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Hudson?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: No on Intro 583-A and 806-

14 A. And, yes, on everything else.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Krishnan?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: (NO RESPONSE)

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Narcisse?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all except
15 for 209, 583, and 806, which I vote no.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

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

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye on all, and
21 enthusiastically for Intro 806-A, sponsored by
22 Council Member Rivera. Population Review Teams are
23 an evidence based, successful model for us to shorten
24 length of stay, drive down unnecessary incarceration
25 in the city of New York. Rikers Island is a

2 humanitarian disaster, and PRTs have worked well in
3 New York City when they have been applied before. I
4 am excited to see them implemented into Local Law and
5 implemented at scale. This legislation by Council
6 Member Rivera is going to make a huge difference in
7 moving us a step closer to the closure of Rikers
8 Island. I want to applaud her personally for her
9 leadership on this bill. And I enthusiastically
10 support its passage. Thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
12 Jordan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I would like to
14 abstain on Preconsidered M 151, and to be associated
15 with the remarks of Council Member Avilés. Aye on
16 all the rest.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thanks.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Just a clarification
19 again. Today we are not voting on M 151 -- TLC
20 appointees, those are being referred to committee,
21 and we had a hearing on them this past week. There
22 will be a opportunity ahead to comment and vote on
23 them.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Congratulations to all of
4 my colleagues. I proudly vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: (NO RESPONSE)

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ung?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all, with the
15 exception of Intro 806-A, which I abstain.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

17 Council Member Velázquez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all with the
19 exception of 806-A, which I abstain.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Won?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the
3 exception of Intros 434, 583, and 806, thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all except Intros
6 209, 583, and 806, thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Adams... Excuse
8 me, Council Member Powers?

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Now I vote aye.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
13 General Order... We are just going to hold on for
14 one second.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: (NO RESPONSE)

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Hold on.

18 Council Member Moya?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Apologies, just having some
20 trouble with the Zoom link. I just wanted to... I
21 just needed to correct my vote.

22 I am abstaining on Introduction 806.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, all items on
25 today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote

2 of 49 in the affirmative, 0 negative, and 0
3 abstentions, with the exception of: Introduction 209-
4 A adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 5
5 negative, and 0 abstentions. Introduction 583-A,
6 adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmation, 7
7 negative, and 0 abstentions. Introduction 806-A,
8 adopted by a vote of 39 in the affirmative, 7
9 negative, and abstentions. Land Use Item 202 and
10 Resolution 627 and Introduction 434-A, both adopted
11 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 1 negative, 0
12 abstentions.

13 And we will now move into the Introduction and
14 Reading of Bills.

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

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We are going to move into the Discussion of
19 Resolutions.

20 Do we have anyone who would like to speak on
21 today's resolutions?

22 Okay, we will now have a voice vote on today's
23 resolutions. If you wish to vote against or abstain
24 from either of today's resolutions, please notify the
25

2 Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching
3 the dais before the vote.

4 I will now read the Resolutions into the record.

5 Resolution 129 Resolution calling upon the New
6 York City Department of Education to carry out
7 instruction in bicycle safety in all New York City
8 schools.

9 All those in favor, please say aye?

10 [AYES]

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed, please say,
12 nay.

13 Any abstentions?

14 The ayes have it.

15 Resolution 156-A calling on the New York State
16 Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign the
17 Treatment Not Jail Act (S1976A/A1263A), which would
18 amend Criminal Procedure Law Article 216 of the
19 judicial diversion law in order to expand eligibility
20 for treatment for court-involved individuals and
21 shift the presumption from incarceration to community
22 support.

23 Will all those in favor say please say aye?

24 [AYES]

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed, say nay?

2 Any abstentions?

3 The ayes have it.

4 We will now move into General Discussion.

5 We will first hear from Council Member Mercedes
6 Narcisse.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Good afternoon,
8 everyone. I am happy to have a moment, and thank
9 you, Madam Speaker, thank you for the Majority Leader
10 for giving me the opportunity to speak.

11 I am delighted to speak today to recognize May
12 18th for, we're going to celebrate, but May as a
13 Haitian Heritage Month. The impact that Haitian
14 Americans in The Big Apple have been tremendous --
15 and around the United States of America.

16 Right now the Harvard President, by July 1st,
17 will be a Haitian young woman, by the name of
18 Claudine Gay. If you look at so many universities
19 around the USA, the Rice University President happens
20 to be of Haitian descent. So many elected officials
21 around the United States of America, I cannot even
22 count anymore, because every state, every city, you
23 will have Haitian representatives.

24 This week, we have a robust schedule of events
25 planned to showcase and commemorate all of the

2 vibrant culture that Haiti has to offer. I invite
3 you to join me and my Haitian American colleagues,
4 which are Council Member Farah Louis, Council Member
5 Chi Ossé, Council Member Rita Joseph -- we will all
6 be there to receive you next Thursday at Brooklyn
7 Children's Museum for our annual Flag Day
8 celebration.

9 But, as I am sure many of you know of severe
10 problems persisting in Haiti. We have a lot of
11 problems. We have gangs controlling our streets.
12 There is severe hunger issues. The forestation has
13 caused devastating environmental problems. Access to
14 health care is not even in existence. Education is
15 nearly inexistant. It does not exist anymore.
16 People that get health care are the most wealthy go
17 across or travel -- it is bad. Haiti, once upon a
18 time, was the Pearl of the Islands. So, I hope this
19 celebration can serve as a call to action for all New
20 Yorkers to support and help our neighbors, [TIMER
21 CHIMES] which is just a short distance away.

22 But, before I go, Mr. Majority Leader, can you
23 give me on second?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please...

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I have to tell you a
3 trivia... (CROSS-TALK)

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I will give you one more
5 second.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Some trivia about Haiti.
7 About 750 Haitians, free men, came along the side of
8 Colonial Troops against the British in Savannah,
9 Georgia in 1779 to force the Louisiana Purchase,
10 which is another one in 1803 -- Haitians being here,
11 America was able to purchase, because of the Haitian
12 force with the biggest army, of [INAUDIBLE]
13 Napoleon... (CROSS-TALK)

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Council Member.. (CROSS-
15 TALK)

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: [INAUDIBLE] died for
17 this... (CROSS-TALK)

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead and close out
19 your remarks, please.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: So, I just want to say,
21 we are going to celebrate, but I want my... (CROSS-
22 TALK)

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you... (CROSS-TALK)

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: brothers and sisters to
3 help me to make sure that we at least help with the
4 planting of trees... (CROSS-TALK)

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Council
6 Member... (CROSS-TALK)

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: one million trees for
8 Haiti. I love you guys, thank you... (CROSS-TALK)

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you... (CROSS-
10 TALK)

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Let's celebrate the
12 history.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay, thank you, Council
14 Member.

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We are now going to call
17 on Council Member Ariola, is going to follow that.

18 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: (LAUGHING) Tough act to
20 follow... (CROSS-TALK)

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: who will be followed by
22 Council Member Gennaro.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Today I am introducing a
24 bill that will greatly improve public safety
25 throughout the city by enhancing communication

1 between The Department of Transportation and the
2 FDNY. Introduction 1033 requires the DOT to provide
3 notification to local firehouses before granting
4 approval for open street applications as well as
5 before initiating bicycling projects and major
6 transportation endeavors. By doing so, we ensure that
7 our firehouses are prepared and equipped to face any
8 challenges that may arise due to changes in our
9 transportation landscape. Picture if you will a
10 scenario that our brave first responders race against
11 time to reach a blazing inferno, only to find their
12 path blocked or delayed due to sudden street
13 closures, or they are unable to get close to a
14 hydrant due to newly constructed double-width
15 protected bike lanes. In those precious moments,
16 lives hang in the balance, and we cannot afford to
17 led bureaucracy hinder lifesaving efforts. This bill
18 is our safeguard against such circumstances, ensuring
19 that our firehouses are kept informed and able to
20 respond swiftly and efficiently in any situation.
21 Not only does the bill require the DOT to notify
22 firehouses about any changes to the transportation
23 infrastructure in any given area, it also requires
24 the DOT to consult the FDNY before any changes are
25

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2 made as well. Through these consultations the Fire
3 Department can share their expertise and insights
4 regarding any potential hazards that might possibly
5 arise from new transportation projects. I understand
6 this legislation may raise concerns about potential
7 delays to DOT plans in the future, but let us
8 remember that the safety of our citizens must always
9 remain our priority. It is certainly important that
10 we continue to improve New York City's
11 infrastructure, but we cannot under any circumstances
12 compromise the safety and responsiveness of our
13 firehouses. For this reason, I ask my fellow council
14 members to support this bill, sign on, and stand firm
15 in our collective commitment to the well-being of our
16 communities.

17 I would also like to note that next week is
18 National Police Week, and it is a collaborative
19 effort of many organizations dedicated to honoring
20 America's law enforcement community. Thank you,
21 Majority Leader and Speaker.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. [TIMER
23 CHIMES]

24 We will now hear from Council Member Gennaro,
25 followed by Council Member Barron.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr. Leader. I
3 was having a lot of fun listening to Council Member
4 Narcisse, I wonder if I can give her some time back
5 or whatever.

6 I'm just kind of kidding; although, I did enjoy
7 what she had to say. Very passionate and very
8 much... much more exciting than what I have to talk
9 about.

10 I am going to talk about two resolutions that are
11 being put forward today.

12 The first Resolution 608, urges New York State
13 Legislature and Governor to enact legislation to that
14 will set up a permanent, citywide voluntary buyout
15 program to mitigate flood risks.

16 There already is a... There was a small program
17 that did this, but it was limited to two small
18 communities in the whole city. And we have to figure
19 out a way to kind of break the cycle of people being
20 flooded, people being displaced and having ,you know,
21 programs to build them back. And this is part of the
22 future of New York City's Resiliency. There is money
23 for this in the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs
24 Bond Act that was just passed. The Building Resilient
25 Infrastructure and Community Program is safeguarding

2 tomorrow through ongoing Risk Mitigation Act. There
3 is money out there. We should do it.

4 I also want to talk a little bit about Resolution
5 605 that is being put forward today. I am number two
6 on this Reso, uh, Council Member Avilés... Charles
7 [Barron] is waiting to get on here, he can't wait.
8 He can't wait. And, so I can't wait either. And so,
9 Resolution 605, Council Member Avilés is the lead on
10 this, I am the number two. But it is calling upon
11 the New York State Legislature to pass, and the
12 Governor to sign, A5338/S5181, in relation to
13 prohibiting the discharge of any radiological agent
14 into the waters of New York State.

15 That is probably a little broad, because there
16 are some waters that naturally have those kinds of
17 agents in it. But, the point is, that they are
18 decommissioning [TIMER CHIMES] Three Mile Island now,
19 and the Voltech (sp?) Corporation bought that, and
20 they should pay the full cost of... (CROSS-TALK)

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
22 Member... (CROSS-TALK)

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: remediating that plan.
24 Including the, uhm, radioactive discharge. Many of
25 you have read about. And, so, I would ask my

2 colleagues to support Resolution 605 and 608. Thanks
3 for letting me go over... (CROSS-TALK)

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Thank you, we
5 will go to Council Member Barron, followed by Council
6 Member Joseph... (CROSS-TALK)

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh, thank you very much,
8 my colleagues. I first want to say Happy Mother's
9 Day to all of the mothers, especially to my Black
10 Queen, Inez Barron, the mother of my two sons. I
11 want to say Happy Mother's Day to her. And also to
12 my 100-year-old mother-in-law, Margaret Smith...

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May she have a happy,
15 happy Mother's Day.

16 I also want to commend Council Member Ossé for
17 his strong stance for justice for Jordan Neely. Even
18 in light of a Black mayor, having a weak response for
19 a white male vigilante choking an innocent Black man
20 on the subways. We have a Black mayor that first
21 said he'll let the justice system take care of it --
22 which never happens -- and then he says it's "mental
23 health". Thank you, my colleague.

24 I also want to invite all of you to 125th Street
25 for Malcolm X's celebration, a Black shining prince.

2 We shut down 125th Street from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on
3 the 19th, twelve noon. I hope that all of you can
4 make it, so we can honor our Black shining prince,
5 one of the greatest revolutionary leaders we have
6 ever had.

7 Finally, on the 15th of this month, it will be
8 the Nakba. The Nakba, most of us should understand
9 that the racist, Zionist militia in 1948, expelled
10 750 Palestinians from their land, killed hundreds of
11 women and children, Palestinian woman and children,
12 and destroyed 535 cities. The Palestinians had to be
13 forced on to the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, and
14 they established these settlers State of Israel on
15 Palestinian territory. And I would like for us to
16 acknowledge and have their right to return from these
17 refuge camps [TIMER CHIMES] to their homes where
18 Israel is now a state. I know you want to cut me
19 real quick now, but you're going to give me a few
20 minutes just like you did the others... (CROSS-TALK)

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I gave you the same
22 couple seconds I gave everyone else... (CROSS-TALK)

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: It wasn't a couple
24 seconds...

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: [INAUDIBLE]... (CROSS-
3 TALK)

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That was pretty long
5 there. So, I know... (CROSS-TALK)

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: She got a little too much
7 time.... (CROSS-TALK)

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I know as soon as you
9 heard the state of Israel, I saw that gavel coming
10 up. But, anyway, we need to honor and... (CROSS-
11 TALK)

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thanks, Council Member...
13 (CROSS-TALK)

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And commend that that was
15 a catastrophic time in history that we should all
16 note.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We will now hear from Council Member Joseph,
19 Council Member Hanif, and Council Member Ossé.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority
21 Leader. I am honored today, as a proud Haitian
22 American during Haitian Heritage Month. Haiti has a
23 rich cultural heritage, and as Haitian Americans, we
24 carry that heritage with us wherever we go.

2 We are people of resilience, perseverance, and
3 pride. We have contributed greatly to the fabric of
4 American society, from our music, dance, to our food,
5 language Haitian culture is diverse and vibrant. Our
6 history is one of one triumph over adversity from the
7 Haitian Revolution to our continued struggles.

8 This month, let us celebrate the richness of our
9 heritage, honor the sacrifices of our ancestors, and
10 renew our commitment to creating a better future for
11 ourselves, our children, and future generations.
12 Thank you so much, colleagues, and let us continue to
13 celebrate Haitian Heritage Month with pride and joy,
14 thank you, Majority Leader Powers.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
16 hear from Council Member Hanif, followed by Council
17 Member Ossé, and Council Member Nurse.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

19 Jordan Neely should be alive. Thank you to the
20 BLAC [Black, Latino and Asian Caucus] for bringing us
21 together this afternoon to recommit ourselves to
22 Black New Yorkers and a just budget that ensures
23 dignity.

24 I urge this administration to make real
25 commitments to health centered, not law enforcement

1 centered, responses to mental health crises. I want
2 to uplift the Progressive Caucus' budget demand to
3 fully fund Intensive Mobile Treatment (IMT) teams,
4 Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Forensic ACT
5 (FACT) and The Health Education Action Team (HEAT).
6

7 Today I am introducing Introduction 1035,
8 alongside Criminal Justice Chair Rivera, Council
9 Member Ossé, Council Member Narcisse, Council Member
10 Bottcher, and Public Advocate Williams.

11 Since 2021, at least nine people have died of
12 over doses on Rikers. Narcan is extremely effective
13 in reversing opioid overdoses, and we must ensure it
14 is used when needed.

15 Intro 1035 would require Department of Correction
16 officers to be trained on how to use Narcan, carry it
17 on their person, and use it appropriately when
18 someone is experiencing an overdose. The bill also
19 requires the DOC to offer training to people who are
20 incarcerated. I encourage my colleagues to sign on.

21 I also want to use this opportunity to condemn
22 Executive Order 402, which the Mayor signed last
23 night to suspend parts of the City's Right To Shelter
24 Law. This sets an extremely dangerous precedent and
25 puts recent arrivals at immediate risk. The order

2 allows families with children to be housed in
3 congregate settings, which is a wholly unacceptable
4 arrangement. I urge my colleagues to join together
5 as the Council in fighting against this harmful
6 decision. The laws that we make in this chamber
7 exist for a reason. We cannot let the Mayor
8 unilaterally weaken the law that is the tent pole of
9 our social safety net. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

11 We will now hear from Council Member Ossé,
12 followed by Council Member Nurse, and followed by
13 Council Member Cabán.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Today I will speak on the
15 tragic killing of Jordan Neely, troubling reactions
16 from some parts of our city, and what I feel is a
17 misguided narrative from others.

18 I want to start by, again, commending Speaker
19 Adams, who seems to be one of the only elected
20 officials in leadership in the state with some damn
21 sense, and my colleagues in this body for condemning
22 this act of violence. Your statements were strong,
23 and thoughtful, and necessary, and I thank you. But
24 other New Yorkers are missing the mark.

2 We have a reactionary segment saying that they
3 are fed up with people experiencing mental health
4 crises, that they don't fault Daniel Penny for the
5 killing. I have even seen him called a hero. On the
6 other hand, we have a well-meaning side that sees
7 this death as a tragic outcome of New York's failure
8 to fully invest in housing, mental health care, and
9 homelessness services.

10 But, I have to stress something in no uncertain
11 terms, Jordan Neely did not die of a mental illness
12 episode. He died of a chokehold. Jordan Neely was
13 not killed by homelessness, he was killed another
14 passenger.

15 There are deep systemic issues we need to
16 address. Folks across the political spectrum have
17 been calling and working for a systemic overhaul for
18 years. But, we cannot accidentally stumble into
19 victim blaming, sweeping this case in with the border
20 crisis facing our New York City.

21 If a person suffering from depression was
22 murdered, we would condemn the murderer before we
23 call for more anti-depressants. If a person with a
24 broken leg was murdered, we would condemn the murder
25 before we call for more casts. That "killing is

2 wrong" has to be a shared fundamental value.
3 Condemning murder has to be universal response.
4 Anything short of unanimous agreement represents a
5 moral decline in New York that we cannot accept,
6 thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We will now hear from Council Member Nurse,
9 followed by Council Member Cabán, followed by Council
10 Member Gutiérrez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.

12 I just want to start by expressing my condolences
13 to the family members... victims of a really bad fire
14 in my district. We had a mother who was pregnant and
15 who didn't make it out. There were four children,
16 one of which died on the way to the hospital, another
17 who is in a coma, and two others we are still waiting
18 to hear about. So, I just wanted to express my
19 condolences to the family, and thank you to Council
20 Member Barron's office and team for being supportive
21 and other members who have reached out.

22 Today I am introducing a legislative package to
23 crackdown on a terrible but daily occurrence in our
24 city, which is illegal evictions.

1 Unlawful evictions often fly under the radar.
2
3 They are the evictions we don't see in housing court.
4 They are often under reported, unenforced, and
5 therefore go unchecked. Law enforcement often favors
6 landlords, and makes it extremely difficult and
7 unlikely that tenants will get back into their homes
8 while property owners who break the law continue to
9 get away with lockouts and increased homelessness.

10 This legislative package creates strong
11 disincentives and real, tangible consequences that
12 will make landlords think twice before breaking the
13 law and illegally evicting tenants in the first place.

14 Taken together, these bills will increase the
15 financial penalties for illegal evictions, ban anyone
16 found guilty from accessing abatements, subsidies, or
17 exemptions for five years, mandate low income housing
18 set aside for those owners who want to correct an
19 unlawful eviction violation, expand the City's
20 harassment code to include unlawful evictions in
21 order to place a building into the City's Certificate
22 of No Harassment program, and finally make it easier
23 for tenants to access housing courts, and hold
24 landlords that break the law accountable.

2 These are crucial bills that I believe will
3 prevent landlords from negating our legal housing
4 system and illegally locking out and evicting people.
5 I am looking forward to talking with you all. I would
6 love your support and for you to sign on, [TIMER
7 CHIMES] so we can stem the tide of evictions in the
8 city and keep people in their homes. Thank you very
9 much.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

11 We will now hear from Council Member Cabán,
12 followed by Council Member Gutiérrez, followed by
13 Council Member Brooks-Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

15 I would like to take a couple of minutes to talk
16 about how we talk about poverty and public safety.
17 The way we talk about it has major consequences,
18 because the hard truth is, it wasn't just one person
19 who killed Jordan Neely. There were powerful elected
20 officials and media outlets, like the New York Post,
21 who have told us that people like Jordan are threats
22 to be contained by force rather than precious lives
23 worthy of care, compassion, and community.

24 And the way we think, talk, produce media about
25 our neighbors living in abject poverty, the polices

2 we have in place, are also what condemned Jordon
3 Neely to death.

4 And, so, let's clear this up. If someone is
5 starving, if they are homeless, and they are shouting
6 about it near me, I am not the one in danger, they
7 are. That is why it was so startling to see The
8 Mayor's inexcusable refusal to condemn vigilante
9 murder on Black folks living in poverty. And why it
10 was so inspiring, in contrast, with our Speaker's
11 clear-eyed, unapologetic message against racist
12 killings, so thank you.

13 It really calls in to question what people mean
14 by public safety. The way the Mayor and the Governor
15 talk, only Jordon's fellow passengers count as the
16 "public", and needed to be kept safe from him.

17 When we talk about public safety, we need to mean
18 everybody. Jordan Neely was a member of the public
19 as well. He deserved safety as well. And vigilante
20 murder is a threat to public safety. It is mind
21 boggling that it even needs to be said. Nothing
22 anyone can do to bring him back; the best we can do
23 now is make the investments necessary to save the
24 next Jordan Neely and the one after that. People
25 experiencing homelessness, mental illness, hunger,

1
2 and frustration need and deserve compassion and
3 trauma informed care. That cannot just be emergency
4 catchment. Jordon went to treatment voluntarily
5 nearly 20 times. So, instead, it is clear that we
6 need deep investment in targeted case management,
7 assertive community treatment [TIMER CHIMES] and
8 supportive housing for which there are huge wait
9 lists. And that is why it is imperative that we not
10 only defeat The Mayor's budget cuts, but we actually
11 allocate new funding into mental health, affordable
12 housing, and true public safety. And to conclude,
13 let's not just offer condolences or words of outrage,
14 but lets put our money where our mouths are. That is
15 how we save lives... (CROSS-TALK)

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
17 Member..

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: That's how we honor the
19 dead. And that is how we come closest to achieving
20 justice for Jordan Neely, thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Thank you,
22 will now hear from Council Member Gutiérrez , Council
23 Member Brooks-Powers, Council Member Avilés, Council
24 Member Brewer, and finally Council Member Restler.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you, Majority
3 Leader.

4 Before I give my remarks on my two bills, I just
5 wanted to really uplift the Speaker and her
6 leadership in being very unapologetic in the
7 realities of all of the dynamics that face New
8 Yorkers who are in desperate need of help, especially
9 our Black New Yorkers, especially Black men who are
10 often targeted, who do not live safety in a city
11 where public safety is at the focus and at the core
12 of so much of our conversations. And I stand in
13 solidarity with all the New Yorkers who have been
14 peacefully demonstrating and seeking justice for his
15 life. And I implore all of our colleagues here at
16 the Council to continue to push for justice and
17 demand that we do better as a city, we invest, and we
18 prevent another death like that of Jordan Neely --
19 another murder like that of Jordan Neely.

20 Today, I am introducing two bills. Uh, one --
21 they are both deeply personal for me, one is the
22 Newborn Navigator Act, that recognizes how
23 overwhelming the period after childbirth is, and
24 provides easy and expanded access to recourses that
25 new parents need from SNAP and WIC benefits to

1
2 postpartum recourses. This bill's inception was in
3 conjunction with my longtime district director and
4 friend, Angelica Colon, shoutout, who herself is a
5 two, and knows firsthand how challenging these
6 critical resources are. This bill would ensure that
7 recourses are directly delivered to new parents, and
8 builds a one-stop shop online resource available in
9 ten designated citywide languages. And thank you to
10 Council Member Narcisse for supporting this bill
11 alongside me.

12 And just as vital as providing access to people
13 who choose to have a child, we need to expand access
14 to those that don't want to. And that is why I am
15 also introducing Resolution 609 in support of a bill
16 in the state that requires CUNY and SUNY institutions
17 to have vending machines with emergency
18 contraception, commonly known as Plan B. This was a
19 project developed directly from student advocates who
20 are involved in the reproductive justice fight. And
21 I couldn't be more excited to support it alongside my
22 colleagues Council Member Dinowitz and Council Member
23 Rivera. With this resolution, the Council, a
24 historic female majority body, is recognizing the
25 treats to women's health care across the City, and

2 affirming that we will unapologetically expand access
3 to emergency contraception and... (CROSS-TALK)

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: destigmatize the
7 essential part of health care. Thank you

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will now hear from Council Member Brooks-
10 Powers.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: First, I would like
12 to associate myself with the remarks by the Speaker
13 and my colleagues surrounding the untimely murder of
14 Jordan Neely. My thoughts and prayers go out to his
15 family and loved ones.

16 I am excited to join as a co-prime sponsor on
17 Introduction 1032, which would require The Department
18 of Sanitation to remove abandoned vehicles within
19 three days of notice. In my district there are too
20 many derelict vehicles that slowly rot on our streets
21 for long periods of time. They become an eyesore and
22 a safety hazard for all community members. This will
23 bill would hold the administration accountable for
24 removing these vehicles more quickly, and will help
25 clear out communities of unnecessary debris. I thank

1 Council Member Abreu for leading the way on this
2 issue, and I hope everyone will sign onto this
3 important piece of legislation.
4

5 I also am excited to join as a co-prime sponsor
6 on Resolution Number 618, with calls on the MTA to
7 adopt federally-recommended measures to ensure that
8 access-a-ride service and ADA compliance. Access-a-
9 ride is supposed to be an alternative for those who
10 cannot access the subway. It is an affordable,
11 reliable option for riders with a disability or
12 elderly riders. But, access-a-ride has too often
13 failed New Yorkers. On too many occasions, they've
14 waited hours after a scheduled pick up from work or
15 school or a friend's place before an access-a-ride
16 van arrives. That is why the Department of Justice
17 investigated this program. They found that access-a-
18 ride fails to provide service that is comparable to
19 the level provided to individuals without
20 disabilities. I know the MTA has focused on efforts
21 on improving access-a-ride, and I acknowledge recent
22 improvements in service and customer satisfaction.
23 But, I also note that the City will be picking up a
24 larger share of the bill to fund paratransit in the
25 coming year. It is MTA's responsibility to ensure

2 [TIMER CHIMES] access-a-ride promises dignity to
3 those New Yorkers who rely on it. I thank Council
4 Member Lee for her work on this resolution and I look
5 forward to advancing it in my committee. Thank
6 you... (CROSS-TALK)

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you

8 We will now hear from Council Member Avilés.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you.

10 As a daughter of Puerto Rico, I have seen
11 firsthand the devastating harm vulture funds, which
12 are run by billion dollar hedge fund companies, have
13 had on people living on the Island -- what is often
14 called the sixth borough. Debt is big business. We
15 know this with student loans and medical debt.
16 Vulture funds crush struggling countries and
17 communities by making governments gut essential
18 services, pulverize minimum wage standards -- In
19 Puerto Rico, the minimum wage was lowered to \$4.25 an
20 hour, and bench pensions for retirees who may
21 desperately need those recourses.

22 The people of Puerto Rico, of Greece, and many
23 countries in South America, have had to endure the
24 hardship of severe recessions and crushing austerity
25 measures, while vulture fund companies make profit

2 hand over fist. This is not accidental, but very
3 much by design. We can and must stop this. I am
4 proud to stand in support of bills 5623 and 5290 and
5 that this is not a game campaigns effort to end these
6 crimes against people by creating a framework for
7 restructuring unsustainable debt and strengthening
8 the existing laws to prevent predatory financial
9 practices. I ask my colleagues to support Resolution
10 604 being introduced today. We must audit the debt in
11 Puerto Rico, dissolve the unelected, undemocratic
12 Fiscal Control Board compromised of some of the very
13 vulture fund reps that created the problem to begin
14 with. [INAUDIBLE] viva Puerto Rico libre.

15 And, lastly, I would also like to take a moment
16 to hold space for Jordan Neely, who was murdered on a
17 New York City subway. Thank you, Speaker, for your
18 courageous leadership and connecting all the dots to
19 this situation, uh, and how it [TIMER CHIMES]
20 directly ties to the budget.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 We will now hear from Council Member Gale Brewer,
23 followed by Council Member Restler.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I
25 just want to mention that today at 5:30 in this room,

2 our desks will be occupied by teens. The Y runs
3 Teens Take the City, which I have sponsored for many
4 years. They will become council members and they do
5 a great job, and I hope you can join us.

6 Second, I know we are all concerned about
7 housing... temporarily for those who are asylum
8 seekers. I believe strongly in rights to shelter. I
9 am contacting all of the faith based institutions in
10 my district asking them to house individuals. And I
11 just hope others do the same. If anyone needs more
12 information, I know you can let the Mayor's Office
13 know or let us know. I believe it is certainly
14 something that people have to participate in.

15 And I do want to thank the Speaker for her
16 courageous stand regarding Mr. Neely in what I would
17 consider a murder in his case, and hope that this
18 will not ever happen again. Thank you very much.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. And we will
20 finally hear from Council Member Restler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you so much,
22 Majority Leader.

23 First, I want to congratulate the Speaker on the
24 housing package. It is exciting to see some progress
25 there and the broad support from across the chamber.

1 You know, yesterday, The Mayor spoke about the
2 death of Jordan Neely. And he said, "Our work starts
3 with acknowledging that we must reverse the effects
4 of decades of disinvestment in housing, health care,
5 and social services." And, yet, time and again, we
6 have experienced four rounds of exceptional,
7 unnecessary budget cuts to housing, health care, and
8 social services by him. We cannot accept it. We
9 must fight back. If we are to honor the death, the
10 murder, of Jordan Neely at the hands of a vigilante
11 on our subway, the town square of the city of New
12 York, then we must double down and deepen our
13 investments in housing, health care, and social
14 services. I want to thank The Speaker for her
15 leadership on this issue, and many of my colleagues,
16 especially Council Member Ossé, for being so eloquent
17 and outspoken in light of this tragic murder.

19 I also just want to call attention to
20 Introduction 1044, a bill that I am proud to have
21 introduced today with Council Member Stevens, Council
22 Member Williams, and Council Member Gutiérrez. When
23 a council member is expelled from this body, they
24 should be subsidized in their effort to return to it
25 with taxpayer matching funds. If we... Oh, excuse

2 me, thanked Council Member Gutiérrez, when I meant to
3 thank Shahana Hanif. Thank you, Council Member Hanif
4 for cosponsoring this, I apologize. But, when a
5 council member is expelled from this City Council,
6 they should not be permitted to run again for office
7 with taxpayer recourse incentivizing it. We should
8 have real consequences and accountability [TIMER
9 CHIMES] when people misuse taxpayer resources, abuse
10 their staff, just as the former council member from
11 the Northeast Bronx did. And I hope that we will
12 pass Introduction 1044 to prevent that person and
13 other people who are expelled from the Council from
14 ever accessing matching funds. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Do we have anyone else?
16 Is there anyone else?

17 I will now call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to
18 close out today's meeting.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

20 The Stated Meeting of May 11, 2023 is hereby
21 adjourned.

22 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

23

24

25

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 May 31, 2023