

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED COUNCIL MEETING

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July 25, 2012  
Start: 2:52 p.m.  
Recess: 4:28 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Joel Rivera  
Christine C. Quinn  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
David Greenfield  
Daniel J. Halloran III  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
Letitia James  
Peter A. Koo  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Karen Koslowitz  
Brad S. Lander  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
James S. Oddo  
Annabel Palma  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Diana Reyna  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
James G. Van Bramer  
Mark S. Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Jeff Metzler

Jonathan Metzler

Cindy Gaston

Kameron Slade

April Grantham

Lee Slade

Lee Slade, Sr.

Rev. Susie Elliott  
Mt. Paran Baptist Church

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: We have two  
3 ceremonials today and a number of important  
4 minutes of silence. If I could ask Jeff Metzler  
5 from our General Counsel's office to come up to  
6 the front, and if, along with Jeff, could come his  
7 beautiful son Jonathan and the hero nanny of the  
8 City of New York, Cindy Gaston. I ask them to  
9 come on up.

10                   [Applause]

11                   SPEAKER QUINN: Hi, Jonathan. So,  
12 some of us may have read in the paper, last  
13 weekend or a little bit over that, a story about a  
14 heroic nanny who, when a stolen vehicle was  
15 plowing into the sidewalk, grabbed the little boy  
16 she was charged with caring and saved her life and  
17 herself sustained injuries.

18                   What folks may not have realized  
19 when they read that story, was that obviously you  
20 realized how brave Cindy is, how lucky adorable  
21 Jonathan is. But you may not have realized that  
22 Jonathan is the son of a member of our General  
23 Counsel's office, our chief litigator, a terrific  
24 lawyer and a great dad and a great Greenwich  
25 Village resident--if I add that in myself--Jeff

1

2 Metzler.

3

[Applause]

4

5 wanted to honor you regardless, because what you  
6 did really showed how much you care about  
7 Jonathan, how much you love children, how you put  
8 their wellbeing ahead of yours. But that you did  
9 it for Jeff Metzler's family really just means so  
10 much for all of us in the City Council. Jeff is a  
11 wonderful person, a total pro, a great and calm  
12 guy to work with. I need those around me, if you  
13 know what I'm saying. No need to clap, Julissa, I  
14 saw that.

15

16 Jeff really is someone who has  
17 taken on incredibly important issues for us in the  
18 Council and helped us, whether it's on behalf of  
19 homeless New Yorkers or LGBT families or others,  
20 made sure we did our job well. So we want to  
21 thank you so much for being so brave and such a  
22 wonderful person and just take this moment to  
23 thank you so much.

23

24 Jeff, let me give you the mike for  
25 a second. He doesn't like to talk if it's not  
before a judge.

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[Applause]

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JEFF METZLER: Well, I mean I don't

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know what else to say, other than I mean Cindy

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saved Jonathan's life. For those of you who

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didn't see the story, it's actually a very crazy

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story. It was a stolen vehicle that was coming

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down Fifth Avenue and ran a light, crashed into

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another car and shot off onto the sidewalk.

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Cindy was standing with Jonathan

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and scooped him up and put her own body between

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Jonathan and the car, and was obviously hit,

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sustained an injury. Jonathan was fine. I don't,

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you know, like to think about what would have

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happened, obviously, if Cindy hadn't been there

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and hadn't grabbed him. So I just want to say

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thank you so much to Cindy. We owe, I mean we owe

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you more than I'll ever be able to repay. Thank

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you.

20

[Applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Do you want to say

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anything?

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JONATHAN METZLER: Thank you.

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[Applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: If the clerk could

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please read the proclamation.

CLERK: Council, City of New York  
proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of  
New York is proud to honor Cindy--

SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] I'm  
sorry, Mike. If the other members of the General  
Counsel's office who are here--some I think are  
actually in court, a funny place for lawyers.  
Cindy's sister--give Bill the camera. He'll take  
it. Come on, get in the picture. Go ahead, Mike.

CLERK: The Council of the City of  
New York is--

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]. Sorry  
Mike, go ahead.

CLERK: The Council of the City of  
New York is proud to honor Cindy Gaston for her  
quick thinking heroism that saved many lives.

And whereas, on Thursday afternoon,  
July 12th, 2012, in Manhattan, Ms. Gaston and  
Jonathan Metzler were in Manhattan waiting for the  
bus bringing his sister home from a New York  
summer camp. They were waiting for the bus at the  
crowded corner of 13th Street and Fifth Avenue.  
Many pedestrians were on their phones or

1  
2 distracted in some other way. Fortunately, Ms.  
3 Gaston spotted the green Jeep suddenly flying  
4 towards them, shouted "run" at the top of her  
5 lungs, and just as the vehicle careened across  
6 traffic towards the sidewalk, she, in the blink of  
7 an eye plucked Jonathan up in her arms and out of  
8 harm's way.

9                   And whereas, by a matter of inches  
10 and seconds, the Jeep, a stolen vehicle, missed  
11 killing Ms. Gaston, Jonathan and countless other  
12 pedestrians. The high speed Jeep had jumped a  
13 curb, smashed a traffic signal, breaking it in  
14 two, and veered into some scaffolding, screeching  
15 to a halt. Ms. Gaston, still holding Jonathan in  
16 front of her with both hands, was hit on the back  
17 of her leg by the vehicle. If she had been  
18 distracted for a moment, the Jeep would have  
19 certainly crushed her, the child and others.

20                   And whereas: while good Samaritans  
21 came to Ms. Gaston's aid, the shoeless driver  
22 quickly fled the scene but was soon arrested.  
23 While Ms. Gaston was in the back of the ambulance,  
24 with her leg in intense pain, she phoned Ms.  
25 Metzler to tell her about the incident and to



1  
2 assure her that Jonathan was fine. Even then, Ms.  
3 Gaston was eager to reconnect with the boy and his  
4 older sister.

5           And whereas: in 2001, according to  
6 the most recent statistics available, New York  
7 City recorded the fewest traffic fatalities since  
8 records were first kept in 1910. Last year, there  
9 were 134 pedestrian fatalities in crashes with  
10 vehicles, an all-time record low and a 31 percent  
11 reduction since 2001. Yet many New Yorkers do not  
12 know that our city's standard speed limit is 30-  
13 miles-per-hour. While we have made excellent  
14 progress in every area of traffic safety, the need  
15 for all New Yorkers to look out for one another,  
16 as Ms. Gaston so valiantly demonstrated, remains  
17 as important as ever, not only for upholding our  
18 quality of life but for setting a positive example  
19 for our city's children.

20           And whereas, reporting about this  
21 dramatic close call, the *Daily News* called Ms.  
22 Gaston "Super Nanny."

23           SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

24           [Applause]

25           CLERK: And said she was "part

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Batman, part Mary Poppins.

[Laughter]

CLERK: And all hero, and we agree wholeheartedly. Now, therefore, be it known that the Council of the City of New York most gratefully honors Cindy Gaston for saving the lives of her fellow New Yorkers on July 12th, 2012. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you so much, Cindy.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: We wish you a very speedy recovery. Thank you very much.

[Pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: All right, so as Cindy makes her way out, we're going to have another ceremonial. If I could, ask for Kameron Slade and his family to make their way up to the front of the Council chambers. Here comes Cameron. If I could, ask my Council colleagues to come up to take a few pictures with us and Kameron. Here, Kameron, you stand in the middle.

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2                   What we're going to do, just so  
3 folks know, is we're going to take some pictures  
4 and then Kameron is going to step over to the mike  
5 over there by Carl and give a speech from that  
6 mike. Folks might remember that last month,  
7 Kameron wanted to, as part of a speech day at his  
8 school give a speech about marriage equality. In  
9 a way none of us really understood, the principal  
10 said he couldn't do that because of the sensitive  
11 nature of the material.

12                   All of us in the Council,  
13 particularly Council Member Dromm and Van Bramer  
14 and Rosie Mendez were obviously distressed by the  
15 terrible message this sent, particularly as we are  
16 coming up on the year of the passage of Marriage  
17 Equality. So we reached out to Kameron and his  
18 family and said we'd love to have you come to a  
19 Stated Council meeting, which just coincidentally  
20 ends up being the day after the year anniversary  
21 of Marriage Equality. So the timing is great. We  
22 asked him if he could come and deliver his speech  
23 for all of us.

24                   We want to thank you so much for  
25 saying you would come. We want to thank your

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2 family for bringing you down to see us. Why don't  
3 you introduce yourself?

4 APRIL GRANTHAM: April Grantham,  
5 Kameron's mother.

6 LEE SLADE: Lee Slade, Kameron's  
7 father.

8 LEE SLADE SR.: Lee Slade, Sr., his  
9 grandfather.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, it's a  
11 whole family affair here.

12 [Applause]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: His mom as not  
14 involved in the super nanny incident. It was a  
15 volleyball-related accident. But let me offer a  
16 moment to Council Member Dromm, Van Bramer and  
17 Mendez to see if they want to add anything and  
18 then we'll give the mike to Kameron, and then we  
19 will hear a very important speech. You may be the  
20 first--I think you are--the first student to ever  
21 deliver a speech to the New York City Council. So  
22 you are making history today, Mr. Slade. So,  
23 thank you.

24 [Applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you

1  
2 very much, Madame Speaker. Kameron, I was a New  
3 York City public school teacher for 25 years, but  
4 I gave a lot of homework. But you taught  
5 everybody in this City of New York a true and  
6 important lesson.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

8 [Applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: That lesson  
10 was a lesson of tolerance and acceptance and love  
11 for everyone. Sometimes even we, as Council  
12 Members, couldn't have done as good a job as you  
13 did by the words that you wrote when you wrote  
14 that essay. So we're here today to say thank you  
15 for teaching all of us one of the most important  
16 lessons in life. Thank you very, very much.

17 [Applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Danny.  
19 Jimmy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I just  
21 want to say thank you to Kameron. I am getting  
22 married on Saturday, in three days, to my partner  
23 of 13 and a half years. When I saw you on TV, I  
24 thought you were the most courageous and wonderful  
25 young men I've ever seen. So thank you for

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2 teaching everyone in the city and the world how  
3 important my marriage is going to be on Saturday.  
4 I also want to thank your parents.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, and grandpa.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: And  
7 grandparents.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

9 [Applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Because  
11 they, too, have obviously raised a very, very  
12 special young man who is a credit to the entire  
13 city. So you should be extremely, extremely  
14 proud. I know you are. So thank you very much.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Where's Rosie? If  
16 we could just ask mom, dad and grandpa to come  
17 over so you can get in the middle of the picture.

18 [Pause]

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Kameron, you ready?  
20 All right. Let's all the Council Members take  
21 their seat. I'm going to give dad the citation.  
22 Let's get everybody seated. Let everybody get  
23 seated.

24 [Pause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Whenever you're

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2 ready.

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KAMERON SLADE: President Barack

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Obama recently talked about same gender marriage

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with his wife and two daughters. Some people are

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for same-gender marriage, while others are against

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it. Like President Obama, I believe that all

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people should have the right to marry whoever they

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want. Marriage is about love, support and

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commitment. So who are we to judge? If we judge

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people like this, this is a form of prejudice. We

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must learn to accept and respect all differences.

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Last year, I had the opportunity to

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hang out with my mom's two friends. These two

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women are in a relationship together. They also

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have a beautiful 4-year-old daughter. Some people

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may disagree with their relationship. After

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spending a day with them at White Post Farms and

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having dinner at Chili's, my mother explained

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their relationship to me. This family seemed like

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any other family. They seem happy, and best of

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all, they seem to love each other. The only

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difference was that there were two moms instead of

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a mother and a father. Since this is a new

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experience for me, I was curious to learn more.

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2 My mom is very open with me about  
3 same-gender marriage. However, some adults may  
4 feel uncomfortable and think it's inappropriate to  
5 talk about this to children. I think adults must  
6 realize that as children get older, they become  
7 aware of these mature issues that are going on in  
8 the world. If children read or watch the news,  
9 they can also learn about things like same-gender  
10 marriage. So what's the point of trying to hide  
11 it?

12 In conclusion, I hope that everyone  
13 understands how important it is to respect  
14 everyone for who they are. Same-gender marriage  
15 is becoming more popular. I believe that same-  
16 gender marriage should be accepted worldwide and  
17 that parents and teachers should start to discuss  
18 these issues without shame to their children.  
19 Thank you for listening.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

21 [Applause]

22 SPEAKER QUINN: See that man right  
23 there; ask him how many same-gender couples he's  
24 given marriage licenses to in the past year. How  
25 many, Mike? Wow, right, isn't that nice? Thank



1  
2 you very much. Thank you. We're going to get  
3 started. We'll see you later. Take care.

4 [Applause]

5 [Pause]

6 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, could  
7 I have your attention please? Could I have your  
8 attention please? At this time, please place all  
9 cell phones and pagers to vibrate, all cell phones  
10 and pagers to vibrate. For those of you who are  
11 seated in the balcony, if you're holding a yellow  
12 sign, you cannot hold it over your head. You may  
13 hold it chest high. Please do not stand against  
14 the railing in front of you. Will all non-Council  
15 employees please leave the main floor of the  
16 chambers? All non-Council employees please leave  
17 the main floor of the chambers. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: My  
19 colleagues please rise for the Pledge of  
20 Allegiances.

21 [Pledge of Allegiance]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call?

23 CLERK: Arroyo?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [No  
25 response].

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CLERK: Barron?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

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CLERK: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I'm here.

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CLERK: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Chin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

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CLERK: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Present.

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CLERK: Crowley?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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CLERK: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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CLERK: Ferreras?

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response].

response].

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [No

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

CLERK: James?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
3 CLERK: Koo?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Here.  
5 CLERK: Koppell?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
7 CLERK: Koslowitz?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.  
9 CLERK: Lander?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
11 CLERK: Lappin?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.  
13 CLERK: Levin?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
15 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
17 Here.  
18 CLERK: Mealy?  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.  
20 CLERK: Mendez?  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
22 CLERK: Nelson?  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.  
24 CLERK: Palma?  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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CLERK: Recchia?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Rodriguez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Rose?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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CLERK: Sanders?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.

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CLERK: Seabrook?

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Ulrich?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

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CLERK: Vallone?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

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CLERK: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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CLERK: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

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CLERK: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

18

CLERK: We have a quorum. Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Quorum is

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present. My colleagues please rise for the

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Invocation being delivered today by Reverend Susie

23

Elliott from Mount Paran Baptist Church.

24

REV. SUSIE ELLIOTT: May we pray.

25

Our Father and our God, we thank you, Lord, for

1  
2 this day that you have given us. We will rejoice  
3 and be glad in it. We are grateful for all that  
4 you have done for us, that which you will do. We  
5 thank you for the City Council and every member  
6 and all connected to the Council. We ask that you  
7 would be the guiding force for all the decision  
8 made for this council and that these decisions  
9 will benefit the people of this great city. Bless  
10 now, Lord, as they go in session. Guide, direct,  
11 and help them to remember it is about the people  
12 they serve. God, we give you glory, we give you  
13 praise and we give you honor. Amen.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could ask my  
15 colleagues to rise for three different and  
16 separate minutes of silence that we'll be holding  
17 today.

18 First, 40 years ago, at the 1972  
19 Olympics in Munich, Germany, 11 members of the  
20 Israeli Olympic team were taken hostage and  
21 murdered by Palestinian terrorists. That shocking  
22 and despicable act devastated the Olympic  
23 community, the people of Israel and citizens of  
24 ever civilized nation in the world. This year's  
25 Olympic Games in London will mark the 40th

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anniversary of that terrible tragedy.

It therefore seems fitting that the International Olympic Committee should have used this opportunity to commemorate the lives that were lost that day to remind us all of our need to unite as an international community in a quest for peace and in our efforts against terror. They could have done that with a minute of silence at the opening ceremonies, as was requested. Yet the IOC continues to refuse this simple and humane request.

The Olympic Games have always embodied the pillars of ethics in sports: trustworthiness, sportsmanship, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Values that are a reflection, we hope, of our society as a whole. A minute of silence at the Olympic opening ceremony would have sent a strong message in that vein of tolerance and peace to the world.

The people of City of New York, we know all too well the devastation of a terrorist act and how the feelings and loss and pain never truly go away. Our thoughts and prayers go out to



1  
2 the victims and the families of the Munich  
3 Olympics and to all of the people of the great  
4 state of Israel.

5 I want to thank the Consul General  
6 of Israel to New York, Ido Aharoni, who was with  
7 us earlier, the other representatives of the  
8 Consul General's office, who are with us. I want  
9 to thank the represents from JCRC of New York, the  
10 Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, who are  
11 with us, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik from the Board of  
12 Rabbis, who is with us.

13 We will have a moment of silence  
14 here today in the New York City Council,  
15 regardless of whether or not the IOC changes its  
16 position. We'll have that moment of silence, as  
17 another city that suffered a terrible terrorist  
18 attack, a city and a City Council that has always  
19 stood in solidarity with the State of Israel  
20 because Israel is New York and New York is Israel.

21 We'll also stand here because I  
22 think we all--I know I can remember so clearly  
23 seeing Jim McKay on television in his Wide World  
24 of Sports blazer, looking right in the camera and  
25 say they are all gone. The way we make sure we

1  
2 never forget them and that no others are lost is  
3 moments of remembrance like this and moments where  
4 we recommit as Americans and international  
5 citizens to our quest to end terror and violence.

6 [Pause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: On July 20th, in  
8 yet another senseless inexplicable and tragic act  
9 of gun violence. Twelve innocent people were  
10 murdered, and 58 injured, some very critically  
11 when a gunman opened fire in a crowded movie  
12 theater in Aurora, Colorado. The gunman, carrying  
13 legally obtained automatic weapons and ammunition  
14 that he was easily able to purchase, some of it  
15 online, went into that movie theater and killed  
16 all of those individuals.

17 These 12 Americans were lost as we  
18 have had other New Yorkers lost over very close to  
19 the date of that incident. Our thoughts and  
20 prayers go out to all of those who have been lost  
21 recently in the City of New York to gun violence,  
22 including the young 4-year-old Lloyd Morgan, who  
23 Council Member Foster and I commemorated his life  
24 recently, all of the victims in Colorado and all  
25 of the others we've lost this summer in New York

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City to gun violence.

[Pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Finally, on July 19th, Harlem and our entire city lost an icon, with the passing of Sylvia Woods at 86 years old. She was, of course, the owner of the world renowned restaurant bearing her name, Sylvia's. The Queen of Soul Food was born in 1926 in segregated South Carolina and moved to New York in part to escape the rampant prejudice of the south. She said, "I didn't understand why people would not let me drink out of the same water fountain, but they would trust me to cook for them and take care of their dearest things, their babies."

After a stint as a hairdresser and a factory worker, Sylvia became a waitress at Johnson's Luncheonette on Lennox Avenue and 127th Street. In 1962, she bought the business with some borrowed money and savings she and her late husband Herbert had accumulated.

Sylvia's became a must stop for locals, luminaries, politicians and tourists from around the world, who flocked to its doors to try some of Miss Sylvia's delicious food. Her most

1  
2 popular items were often the richest dishes and  
3 lowest calorie items did not succeed. She said,  
4 in 1991, "We tried diet food. We had to throw it  
5 into the garbage. The best diet you can have is  
6 to back up from the table," she said.

7 After suffering from Alzheimer's  
8 for several years, Ms. Woods passed away at her  
9 home, surrounded by her family, her loved ones,  
10 which include four children, 18 grandchildren, 7  
11 great grandchildren and 2 great-great-  
12 grandchildren. Her funeral was held this morning  
13 in Mt. Vernon. I would like to call on a friend  
14 of Miss Sylvia's, Assistant Majority Leader Inez  
15 Dickens, to say a few words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
17 Madame Speaker. I am friends with the Woods  
18 family. Sylvia's daughter Bedelia and I are very  
19 good friends. Yes, the entire family, they are  
20 icons. They are pillars in the Harlem community.

21 Sylvia chose to become an  
22 entrepreneur, choosing to be a job creator rather  
23 than looking for employment, a woman who fought to  
24 own a business, who chose to buy the building that  
25 that restaurant would ultimately occupy.

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2 She was an owner with a triple-edge  
3 sword. She was a woman. She was a black woman.  
4 And then she was a black woman who chose to invest  
5 in the Harlem community when everyone was fleeing  
6 Harlem due to the drug infestation, due to the  
7 robberies, due to economics, due to a lot of  
8 things.

9 Harlem as a community, New York  
10 City, the state, the United States and now  
11 internationally because that family business, Van  
12 Woods, one of the sons, took it to an  
13 international status where you can buy the  
14 renowned barbecue, because she had finger-licking  
15 ribs, and she had pig feet. Some of you in here  
16 may not know what I'm talking about. She had  
17 chitlins, and some of you may choose not to know  
18 what I'm talking about.

19 [Laughter]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: And she  
21 had collard greens. And she was renowned. Now  
22 you can buy her food products and her seasoning  
23 throughout the world.

24 That family, the Woods family  
25 raised the economic base of the Harlem community

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2 and she started that foundation at a very  
3 difficult time. The world is grateful to her  
4 because of her spirit and her teachings that she  
5 has given to her four children: Van, Bedelia,  
6 Kenneth and Crizette, because what is making that  
7 business a success is because all of her children  
8 have now invested and are a part of it.

9 Sylvia, thank you. I ask for a  
10 moment of silence on behalf of a great spirit, a  
11 wonderful woman who greeted you and said goodbye  
12 with bless, bless, bless.

13 [Pause]

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Majority Leader.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
17 very much, Madame Speaker. Council Member Mealy,  
18 to spread the Invocation. Council Member Dilan?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Motion to  
20 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.  
22 Adoption of the minutes, Council Member Ignizio?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I make a  
24 motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
25 June 13th be adopted and printed.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.  
Messages and papers from the Mayor?

CLERK: Preconsidered M 851,  
submitting Richard Stabile for reappointment to  
the Tax Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

CLERK: Preconsidered M 852,  
submitting Kyriakos P. Tzanides for reappointment  
to the Tax Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Can we get  
some silence in the chambers? Communications from  
City, County and Borough Offices?

CLERK: M 853, submitting Joseph  
Douek for appointment to the City Planning  
Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
and Elections.

CLERK: M 854 through M 867, base  
station licenses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions

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and communications?

CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land Use

Call-ups?

CLERK: M 868 through M 873.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could, have a roll call on the coupled Land Use call-ups please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [No response].

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [No response].

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [No response].

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley?



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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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CLERK: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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CLERK: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: I'd like to

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vote aye on all Land Use orders and vote aye on

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all general order calendar items and everything

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else on the agenda today please.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.

23

CLERK: Garodnick?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gennaro?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yeah.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

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CLERK: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

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CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

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CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

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CLERK: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

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CLERK: Koo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Mr. Majority

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Leader?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I'd like to

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have permission to vote on today's general

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calendar orders and land use call-ups and all the

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resolutions.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

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CLERK: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Lander?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

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CLERK: Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye, and I

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request permission to vote aye on the general

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order calendar as well.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Levin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [No

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response].

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

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CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Mr. Majority

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Leader, may I have your permission to vote on all

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land use and--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: All land use items and all general calendar orders?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you, Majority Leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: How do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No response].

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

And I would like permission to vote aye on all general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

CLERK: Seabrook?

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I would like permission to vote on land use items and--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Yes. How do you vote, just say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'd

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like to request permission to vote aye on all coupled general orders, land use call-ups and resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I'd like to ask permission to vote aye on all coupled general orders, which I already, and land use call-ups and resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's Land Use Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative. We now move on to communications from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We're voting on a number of important pieces of legislation today. First, I want to thank the Rules, Privileges and Elections Committee, Chairperson Rivera, Chuck Davis and the others on the appointment of Richard Stabile and Kyriakos Tzanides for their reappointment to the New York City Tax Commission.

I want to thank the chair of our Housing and Buildings Committee for the two pieces of legislation that are coming out of his committee, Intro 807-A and Intro 730-A. The first bill, 807-A, which was sponsored also by the Chair Erik Dilan, regards a major update, about 200 different updates to our Plumbing Code. I want to thank Laura Rogers, Ed Atkin, Laura Popa and Baaba Halm for their work on the Plumbing Code. This piece of legislation is highly technical, very complicated but will simplify problems that have

1  
2 existed between the Department of Buildings and  
3 the Environmental Protection Agency, confusion for  
4 contractors and plumbers around permitting and  
5 different issues with different agencies as well  
6 as make 200 different updates to the plumbing  
7 code. I want to thank Chair Dilan for his work on  
8 this issue. I don't know if the chair stepped  
9 out, if he wanted to say anything on this bill.  
10 No? Okay.

11                   The second piece of legislation is  
12 Intro 730-A. I also want to thank Laura Popa,  
13 Laura Rogers, Ed Atkin and in particular Baaba  
14 Halm for their work on this piece of legislation.  
15 I want to thank the sponsor of this bill, Council  
16 Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., and also the chair  
17 of the Housing Committee, Erik Dilan.

18                   Intro 730-A is a bill which for the  
19 first time will bring transparency to the city's  
20 Affordable Housing Preservation and Development  
21 program. It will answer simple questions about  
22 how contractors are getting chosen to build  
23 affordable housing. It'll answer simple questions  
24 like how many inspections, how many problems have  
25 there been with the affordable housing that we



1  
2 have built. It'll answer questions about what  
3 workers are getting paid or are not getting paid.  
4 It'll answer questions about how many units are  
5 being developed and preserved.

6 Why are we doing this bill? One:  
7 because that is information we as City Council  
8 Members and we as New Yorkers should be able to  
9 access. People who buy homes through the city's  
10 Affordable Housing Program should be able to get  
11 blueprints of their homes and their buildings.  
12 Believe it or not, that cannot now happen.

13 We're also passing this legislation  
14 because we have heard horror stories from  
15 homeowners, people who scrimped and saved to buy  
16 homes through the city's Affordable Housing  
17 Program, some of them with us today.

18 One is a woman who is an NYPD  
19 civilian employee. Her home is so poorly built,  
20 with out taxpayer dollars, that she had sewage  
21 backing up into her bedroom. Her home was in such  
22 disrepair that at the end of the day our taxpayer  
23 dollars had to be salvaged by George to the  
24 Rescue. You know that Channel 4 NBC TV show where  
25 he comes in at the end of open house and fixes

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2 somebody's house up? That's what had to happen  
3 for this woman and her home which all of us paid  
4 for. That's simply wrong. That's a waste of  
5 taxpayer dollars.

6           It's a promise to New Yorkers that  
7 if they save and work hard they'll get a good  
8 home. It's a promise we are not fulfilling. With  
9 this bill, we'll bring transparency and sunlight,  
10 the best disinfectant to a process that is in  
11 desperate need of it.

12           I want to thank everyone who worked  
13 on in, but in particular the sponsor of the  
14 legislation. I also want to thank the Association  
15 for Neighborhood and Housing Development, the  
16 Urban Justice Center, the Mason Tenders District  
17 Council. It is important that when we spend  
18 taxpayer dollars we spend them well.

19           It is also important that we erase  
20 the idea in the City of New York that the only  
21 kind of affordable housing we can create is  
22 substandard affordable housing. That is simply  
23 not true. We have a community of people, from  
24 advocates to New Yorkers to organized labor who  
25 are willing to work with us to get to a fair

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2 contracting price so this will no longer be the  
3 reality. I want to thank everyone for their work.

4 Let me just note, finally, the cost  
5 to implement this bill to the City of New York is  
6 \$324,000. Check the record. It's a number put on  
7 the record by the Bloomberg Administration. The  
8 cost to developers should be close to nothing.  
9 This is already the reporting they have to do  
10 under the State's Wage Theft Act and any  
11 additional tweak is something that could be easily  
12 done by ADP and any other salary entity out there  
13 that does paychecks.

14 I want to thank the Chair of our  
15 Finance Committee for his fortitude and hard work  
16 in this bill, and call on Council Member Domenic  
17 M. Recchia Jr.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you,  
19 Madame Speaker. Today, we mark a very important  
20 day for the entire city. We are voting on a piece  
21 of legislation that will prove to be beneficial  
22 for New York City and all of its residents. Intro  
23 730 encompasses all the factors that promote  
24 transparency. It will be used as an effective  
25 tool to guard from wrongdoing and increase

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openness throughout HPD.

In addition, the concept of reporting on wages certainly is not foreign to the city, and I'm ecstatic that this piece of legislation includes the requirement to report wages. I'm so proud to be the prime sponsor to this bill and would like to send a heartfelt thanks to the entire staff who worked so hard on this bill. I want to thank Rob Newman, Laura Popa, Jim Caras, Laura Rogers, Ed Atkins, Baaba Halm, Ben Goodman, Preston Niblack and Nathan Toth.

In addition, when people say this is going to cost millions of dollars to implement, this is totally false and wrong information. This bill will help all of those people who came before the committee and who came to the hearing, screaming and shouting out "we need help." We purchased these affordable houses that were not built properly and there's no one left to help us." Well, the City Council is stepping up to the plate today to help all of those people. Thank you very much and thank you, Madame Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council

1  
2 Member Recchia. Lastly, we are voting today on a  
3 number of different Land Use items, the most  
4 significant of which is the one dealing with the  
5 New York University expansion. I want to thank  
6 the staff who worked on this, particularly Ramon  
7 Martinez, Gail Benjamin, Danielle Decerbo,  
8 Christian Hylton and our new general counsel to  
9 Land Use. I want to thank the Chair of our Land  
10 Use Committee, Leroy Comrie, the Chair of our  
11 Zoning Subcommittee, Mark Weprin, and the Council  
12 Member whose district NYU is in, Margaret Chin.

13 This action we will take today,  
14 which reflects a 27 percent reduction in height  
15 and density from when NYU's original proposal came  
16 out.

17 CLERK: Quiet please.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to need  
19 quiet in the chambers.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We need to  
21 have silence in the chambers.

22 [Background noise]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to ask  
24 for quiet one more time and then we'll have to  
25 clear the balcony.

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[Background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to ask for quiet. This is a 27 percent reduction from the original plan, significant reductions in buildings from 11 stories to 4 stories.

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] Liar.

SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're going to have to clear the balcony. Can the sergeants please clear the balcony.

MALE VOICE: [off mic] Easy for you.

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] Yeah, really.

MALE VOICE: [off mic] Democracy dies.

SPEAKER QUINN: Let's clear the balcony please.

[Background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: All right, there we go. Absolutely.

As I said--

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

SPEAKER QUINN: Halloran, don't make us kick you out too.

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[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Yes,  
ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

SPEAKER QUINN: We are voting, as  
you could pick up today, on the NYU expansion.  
And let me just say, I understand the concern and  
the frustration, as I think Council Member Chin  
does, about folks in the neighborhood. This  
action today reflects an attempt to balance the  
need of a great university to grow in a way that  
will allow it to teach more people, allow it to be  
an even more important force in research and  
debate around public policy, an even greater force  
to bring people to New York City to study, to  
balance that with the need to preserve the  
integrity of Greenwich Village.

That's why this plan is an over 25  
percent reduction in bulk and height from the  
original plan. That's why the Mercer building and  
the Zipper building have been changed in this  
plan. That's why there is public space that will  
be preserved. That's why there will be funds to  
maintain public space as well as other public and  
community amenities.

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2 Often at the end, as other Council  
3 Members, Inez and others can tell you, at the long  
4 land use procedures, not everyone can be happy.  
5 But I think when this is all said and done, in  
6 2031, people will look back and know that Margaret  
7 Chin led a fair and balanced inclusive negotiation  
8 that led to a process by which NYU could grow and  
9 Greenwich Village could continue to thrive. So I  
10 want to thank her.

11 I again want to thank the staff. I  
12 want to thank Subcommittee Chair Mark Weprin and  
13 Land Use Committee Chair Leroy Comrie. Let me  
14 call on the chair and then the Council Member  
15 Margaret Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'll be  
17 brief. I just want to congratulate Council Member  
18 Margaret Chin for her patience, her understanding,  
19 willing to meet with all sides, as she drilled  
20 down into what was necessary to make sure that we  
21 came to the agreement that we came today, trying  
22 to meet all of the needs of the community board  
23 and their decisions and their actions and the  
24 things that they've asked for.

25 She made sure that the major



1  
2 concerns of the community were kept, which was the  
3 maintenance of parkland, the ability of people to  
4 have a safe access and to make sure that there was  
5 as much green space possible within the plan,  
6 along with maintaining and expanding community  
7 facilities and community access to community  
8 facilities as well. I think Margaret Chin  
9 deserves a great round of applause. This was a  
10 major project.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

12 [Applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And as you  
14 can tell from the passions of the people that are  
15 impacted that wanted nothing. I don't know how a  
16 New Yorker cannot want anything to happen in New  
17 York City, that New York City can stay the same as  
18 it was 20 years ago. You know, my daughter  
19 snuckered me to go to SOB's last night. So I  
20 wound up being in the Village. The Village is as  
21 vibrant, active, nightlife, night clubs. I drove  
22 around NYU's campus. I drove around the  
23 footprint. It's more active than anywhere in the  
24 city almost. It's almost as active as any  
25 nightlife area, any restaurant area. It's not a

1  
2 quiet area. It's not a passive area. It's not  
3 the Village of the 60s or the 70s. It's not a  
4 place where people are going to bed at 8:00 at  
5 night. She didn't get done until 12:30. There  
6 were people still all over the place down there.

7 So, you know, for people to act  
8 like the Village is not an active place, a place  
9 for people to enjoy themselves, or a place where  
10 people have an opportunity to celebrate each  
11 other, where we have an opportunity to have a good  
12 meal or two, see a good concert or a small show,  
13 the Village is a very active place.

14 I want to congratulate Margaret  
15 Chin for everything that she did to work with all  
16 sides to come up with an agreement that people  
17 could work with. I think that we all should be  
18 proud of her with her patience and her  
19 determination and her focus to get to an agreement  
20 today. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
22 Chin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,  
24 Madame Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to  
25 speak on the NYU 2031 core proposal. First, I

1  
2 want to thank a moment to thank you and thank my  
3 colleague, Council Member Comrie and Council  
4 Member Weprin for their support throughout this  
5 process, and also for their staff working with my  
6 staff.

7 I also want to thank the Land Use  
8 staff. We have such great central staff in the  
9 Land Use Division: Gail Benjamin, Danielle  
10 Decerbo, Christian Hylton and Ann McCoy. I mean  
11 you guys work hard and you guys like really taught  
12 me quite a bit.

13 I also want to thank my own staff,  
14 Matt Vigiano [phonetic], who is my land use  
15 director, for going to practically I think every  
16 single community board meeting, and Kelly McGee  
17 [phonetic], my communications director, dealing  
18 with all the media and all the constituents that's  
19 been calling. My staff has a lot of patience to  
20 answer every question that they have raised. We  
21 have met with every group that asked for a  
22 meeting. All of them worked very hard to put into  
23 the proposal that you are going to be voting on  
24 today.

25 Last but not least, I wanted to

1  
2 thank Ramon for his support and his guidance and  
3 his patience, for not cursing.

4 [Laughter]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I know many  
6 of my colleagues, and I want to thank you because  
7 many of you attended the public hearing on this  
8 application and you have met with both sides, all  
9 the groups and you have gotten tons of calls in  
10 your district office. I just want to thank you  
11 from the bottom of my heart for taking such a  
12 proactive role in this process.

13 Today, the City Council will vote  
14 on this modified application that is 26 percent  
15 smaller than what NYU originally proposed. This  
16 is significant. It reflects that NYU is willing  
17 to engage in the public process. This is their  
18 first ULURP application. They have always done  
19 things as of right. But they are abiding by the  
20 public process. They're willing to accept change.

21 Most importantly, these  
22 modifications directly address the concern  
23 expressed by my constituents and ensure that NYU's  
24 growth will occur at a sustainable pace well into  
25 the future. This modified plan calls for

1  
2 substantially reduced building while improving  
3 open space and new community amenities that are  
4 sorely lacking in the Village.

5           This process is about striking the  
6 appropriate balance. As this plan unfolds over  
7 the next 20 years, I'm confident that it will not  
8 overwhelm the wider Greenwich Village community.  
9 The application before us today is a pathway  
10 forward. This plan marks the start of a new  
11 relationship between NYU and the Greenwich Village  
12 community. Under this proposal, NYU's growth on  
13 the super blocks will be subject by city agencies,  
14 elected officials and the local community. This  
15 is unprecedented and it is meant to correct the  
16 mistake of the past.

17           Today, I'm standing up and saying  
18 no more broken promises. I have made it clear to  
19 NYU and that I will accept nothing less. To my  
20 colleague, I urge you to vote yes on this  
21 application. I have gone to great length to  
22 modify this application. I fully support it and I  
23 call on you to do the same. Thank you very much.

24           [Applause]

25           SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council

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Member Chin. That concludes communications from the Speaker.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much, Madame Speaker. We now move on to discussion of general orders. Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. This project, I'm urging you to vote no for. We come here to represent the people who live in the community, not NYU. Even with the modified version, there will be a 17-story building, a 14-story building, a 5-story building and a 4-story building. Even with the modification and the commitment to open space, \$150,000 in an endowment which means you only get a percentage of that to maintain open space is unreal. And we're talking about a sewage system that the underground sewage system is going to be jammed. We're talking about human congestion, traffic congestion. We're talking about a community whose character will change forever.

None of us live there. Not the local Councilman, not the member, not the Speaker, no one, and Comrie who drove by and talked about

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2 it for five minutes after driving in and out of it  
3 is not an evaluation of a community. People live  
4 there.

5 I don't appreciate us throwing  
6 people out. You have to have patience with  
7 frustration. They are going to live under 20  
8 years of construction. Instead of taking it piece  
9 by piece, little by little so that the whole place  
10 won't be under construction for the next 20 years.  
11 That's why the frustration. Community Board 2 had  
12 an extensive response to this and they were  
13 ignored by NYU. Those modifications, they didn't  
14 accept and we shouldn't accept.

15 This is not a body that's supposed  
16 to be protecting and representing NYU, extending  
17 its campus, turning a community, a neighborhood  
18 into an extended campus. This is for people to  
19 live. We don't have to live there. If there's a  
20 priority, we have to represent--this is supposed  
21 to be a representative democracy where you  
22 represent the people. You don't put them out  
23 because they're frustrated at what you're doing to  
24 their neighborhood where you don't have to live.  
25 I want to encourage my community--the faculty is

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even against this--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to encourage you to vote against this. Let them go back to the people--

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

[interposing] Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --and revise a plan that's more acceptable for the people.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. Council Member Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I'm requesting permission to vote aye on all general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you very much. I vote aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. We now move on to Council Member Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: At the Land Use hearing regarding NYU, much is made of



1  
2 the fact that this is going to be a balancing act,  
3 and I think Margaret did a great job in balancing.

4           However, the land use process in  
5 the City of New York needs to be reformed. We  
6 need to comprehensively look at the criteria we  
7 are using to evaluate these issues, to set more  
8 rigid standards in place so that when we are  
9 violating the very laws that we created in the  
10 zoning rules by creating these exemptions that  
11 we're doing so in a manner that reflects the  
12 intention of the plan that we passed in our zoning  
13 resolutions.

14           We have several items on the  
15 calendar today, including some landmarking items  
16 which in and of themselves are good ideas, but the  
17 lack of structure, the lack of definition, the  
18 lack of consistency in the application are going  
19 to be problems. The more often we use these  
20 powers to displace or to economically damage our  
21 citizens, the harder and harder it will be for  
22 them to have faith in us.

23           So while I will certainly to the  
24 Council Member of the district of NYU and vote in  
25 favor of her plan that she's put together and

1  
2 worked so hard on, I still think this body needs  
3 to take the bull by the horns and begin to  
4 seriously examine the issues related to land use  
5 in the City of New York and comprehensively reform  
6 our policies, our zoning rules and the way we  
7 apply them in everything from landmarking to  
8 public siting. Thank you very much, Mr. Majority  
9 Leader.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
11 very much. Seeing no others, we'll now move on to  
12 reports of special committees.

13 CLERK: None.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of  
15 standing committees.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
17 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1438, organization  
18 funding.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
22 Housing and Buildings, Intro 804-A, Plumbing Code  
23 amendments.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
25 on General Orders.

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2 CLERK: Intro 730-A, disclosures  
3 regarding construction projects.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
5 on General Orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
7 Land Use, LU 622 and Reso 1444 through 625 and  
8 1447, landmark designations.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
10 Orders.

11 CLERK: LU 629 and Reso 1448,  
12 sidewalk café.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to file,  
14 pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

15 CLERK: LU 630 and Reso 1449 and  
16 631 and 1450.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
18 Orders.

19 CLERK: LU 632 through 635, New  
20 York University.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Approved with  
22 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
23 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules  
24 of the Council and Section 197(d) of the New York  
25 City Charter.

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CLERK: LU 636 and Reso 1451, Park Slope Historic District.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 637 and Reso 1452 through 646 and Reso 1457.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 649 and Reso 1458, landmark designation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 650 and Reso 1459 UDAAP Bronx.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 651 ad Reso 1460 through 653 and 1462, property dispositions.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M 851 and Reso 1463, approving the reappointment of

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Richard Stabile, Tax Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered M 852 approving the reappointment of Kyriakos P. Tzanides, Tax Commission.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General Order Calendar?

CLERK: LU 621 and Reso 1465, zoning map amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: LU 632 and Reso 1466 through 635 and Reso 1469.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders, and at this time I'd like to ask for a roll call on all items that are coupled on the General Order Calendar please.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no on LU 632, LU 633, LU 634, LU 635 and I vote aye on all the rest

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I'm going to vote aye on all. I did want to mention, regarding the NYU expansion, and I think we will all share in the fact that Council Member Chin has done a yeoperson's job, as somebody who has been through quite a few of these ULURPs and rezonings, I know the pressure and the challenges. I know that she will work really hard on the advisory group which does include the community board, for all the many issues that will come up. I respect the fact that she has put this kind of time into it.

I also respect Andrew Berman and the work that he does in the neighborhood. We all have a lot of admiration for the tremendous amount of issues that he brings to our attention. Regarding 730-A, which is certainly a good bill in the sense that it talks about wage transparency,

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2 as somebody who's been working on a bill, as you  
3 know, regarding the role of payroll companies in a  
4 sense, I feel really strongly that the payroll  
5 companies will be able to take the wage issues and  
6 make a streamlined process.

7 I do wish that we'd had more time  
8 and it's my fault for not requesting it, regarding  
9 the ability to ask questions maybe about the  
10 complaint driven process, 8020s and things like  
11 that. But certainly Laura Rogers, attorney to the  
12 committee, gave us great preparation. I, too,  
13 have several friends who live in the buildings  
14 that the Speaker mentioned, and they have been  
15 able to get no answers as to why they have mold  
16 and many other issues in their privately owned  
17 homes which they worked extremely hard to  
18 purchase.

19 So I vote aye on all, with the  
20 caveats that I just mentioned. Thank you.

21 CLERK: Cabrera?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [No  
23 response].

24 CLERK: Chin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I want to  
congratulate Council Member--thank you so much--I  
want to congratulate Council Member Margaret Chin.  
I know it was difficult. It was like déjà vu when  
I spoke to my colleagues, Council Members Jackson  
and Mark-Viverito on the rezoning. I know it's  
difficult. I know it's hard. You were dedicated.  
You worked hard. You cannot be everything to  
every individual. Having said that,  
congratulations, Council Member Chin, and I vote  
aye on all.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler?



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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority Leader Rivera, may I be briefly excused to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: First, I just want to point out again and say thank you. The finance resolution that we're passing today contains the designation of over \$7 million for shelter bed services for runaway and homeless youth in the city. I want to again thank the Speaker and I want to thank each and every one of you for not just keeping those kids in your hearts but in the budget. Thousands of children will not sleep on the streets of our city because of the action that we are taking today. You all know how much it means to me. I think it means a tremendous amount to thousands of people you probably will never meet and don't know but who need your help.

Second, on the NYU subject, again I don't know if it's necessary that I disclose it, but I feel that I need to disclose my son Harry is now an enrolled student in NYU Law School. He is registered for housing at NYU. Of course, he's

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still on the waiting list at Harvard, in case anyone...

SPEAKER QUINN: Don't berate it.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Probably.

You know, NYU is the best law school in New York. But I do want to say, and I hadn't been planning on saying this, but after listening to Councilman Barron talk about people who live in the neighborhood, I lived in the neighborhood for three years while I attended NYU Law School. This is not a quiet little neighborhood. This is not changing the character of this community. There are a lot of tall buildings in Greenwich Village. I lived on Washington Square West and the city never slept.

We do this city a service, and I give kudos to Council Member Chin for coming to this resolution. We do this city a service, both to our economy and to our culture and to our future when encourage our top institutions of learning to grow and expand. NYU is one of those. This is part of this community. NYU is an inextricable part of Greenwich Village and it always will be. People who moved in there less

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than 50 years ago should have known that. I vote  
aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
very much.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN:

Permission to explain my vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Now I'm  
explaining something else now. Richard Stabile is  
being appointed. He's a member of my community.  
Congratulations to him. I'm lucky to have a lot  
of interns working in our Council office. Some of  
them are here today, Kevin Tzu [phonetic],

1  
2 Christiana Lazanzo [phonetic] and Joanna Yang  
3 [phonetic], who are with my chief of staff,  
4 Christie Vashkurisian [phonetic] in the back. And  
5 in addition, I would just like to say with regards  
6 to the people on Dominick Street, which is Land  
7 Use 623, 624, Resos 1445 and 1446, I will be  
8 voting no and aye on all the rest.

9 CLERK: Ignizio?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. I  
11 don't know why Lew Fidler was picking on Charles  
12 Barron. He's such a peace loving guy. He also  
13 has nothing but nice things to say about all of  
14 us, concerned about the village. I mean, I don't  
15 know. You're welcome.

16 I'm voting no on Land Use 622, 623  
17 and 624 and aye on all others.

18 CLERK: Jackson? Jackson?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on  
20 all.

21 CLERK: James?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be  
23 excused to explain my vote?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So it's

1  
2 important that we all remember that two days ago  
3 was the ninth commemoration of Council Member  
4 James Davis. It's really important that we  
5 continue to keep him in our hearts and in our  
6 minds, particularly as we experience all of this  
7 violence on the streets of New York City and in  
8 the Borough of Brooklyn. I would hope that we  
9 would recess this session in memory of the late  
10 James Davis, who died in these chambers two days  
11 ago nine years ago.

12 In regards to Intro 730, let me  
13 just say that I am very much concerned about Intro  
14 730 and its impact on small and local WMBE  
15 contractors, subcontractors and employees. I'm  
16 also very much concerned about the burdensome and  
17 duplicative administrative requirements and its  
18 impact on affordable housing in general.

19 I would hope that we would continue  
20 to monitor this bill, but I believe in its goals  
21 and believe that it will increase transparency and  
22 that it's critically important that we report  
23 wages, particularly for those employees who have  
24 been historically exploited in this industry.

25 In regards to NYU, I want to thank

1  
2 and congratulate my very good friend Council  
3 Member Chin. Although I have been in the  
4 forefront of overdevelopment, particularly in my  
5 district as it relates to Atlantic Yards, at least  
6 Council Member Chin had the opportunity to voice  
7 her opinion and to come to a compromise as a  
8 result of the land use process, which I did not.

9 As a result of that, I vote aye on  
10 all. Again, keep James Davis in your prayers, and  
11 his family.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Koslowitz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I  
15 explain my vote?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Go ahead.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: First of  
18 all, I want to recognize my intern, David Aronov  
19 [phonetic] who's been with me for the last two  
20 months, and he's leaving the middle of August.  
21 I'm going to miss him, he does great work.

22 I want to say to Margaret Chin,  
23 great job. I also want to say to Leroy Comrie,  
24 the Village was great in the 60s. I used to go  
25 there to meet men.

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[Laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: To meet men at NYU, so it was great. And I vote aye.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you very much. I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Permission to explain my vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. One of the items on today's calendar is the extension, the expansion of the Park Slope Historic District, something that members of my community, especially the Park Slope Civic Council worked very hard to organize for many years. So I want to give them credit and thank all my colleagues for voting for it.

With real deep admiration for the integrity land use smarts, sage ability to balance and compromise but also real toughness of my colleague Margaret Chin, I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission

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2 to explain my vote. I want to echo the sentiments  
3 expressed by Council Member Lander regarding the  
4 Park Slope Historic District. I also want to  
5 congratulate Margaret Chin on a very difficult but  
6 very dignified process that you allowed to go  
7 through. You did it with remarkable integrity,  
8 savviness, and I do congratulate you. It's not  
9 easy but you did a remarkable job. I want to,  
10 with that, vote aye on all and aye on all land use  
11 call-ups. Thanks.

12 CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

14 Thank you. I'm going to be voting aye on all, but  
15 I did want to again congratulate Margaret Chin.  
16 As Inez Dickens was saying, you know, we have  
17 flashbacks going back to the hard negotiations  
18 around the Columbia expansion. But since also  
19 people are giving their geographic credentials, I  
20 lived on West Fourth Street between Sixth Avenue  
21 and MacDougal for 12 years, right around the  
22 vicinity of NYU. So I'm very familiar with the  
23 area. I'm very familiar with some of the  
24 arguments that have been raised by Lew and others  
25 with regards to the character of that immediate



1  
2 area. So I want to congratulate her for being  
3 able to balance all those interests. I'm sure at  
4 the end of the day people will not be so concerned  
5 about the original pushback that was being given,  
6 so, aye on all.

7 CLERK: Mendez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Come back.  
9 Can you come back to me?

10 CLERK: Palma?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Recchia?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

14 CLERK: Reyna?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all  
16 and congratulations to Council Member Chin.

17 CLERK: Rose?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

19 CLERK: Ulrich?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

21 CLERK: Vallone?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.  
23 I'd like to disclose that I went to Fordham and we  
24 never liked NYU.

25 [Applause]

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And just  
3 thank all my interns who are here today: Iman,  
4 Valerie, Carol, Luke and Joshua.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER: We're supposed to  
6 do interns during the general discussion. Folks  
7 have been getting away with it, but go ahead.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm glad  
9 they weren't sitting in the balcony. But I vote  
10 aye on all. Thank you.

11 CLERK: Weprin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Permission  
13 to explain my vote. Just briefly on NYU also, I  
14 want to thank the Land Use staff but also the  
15 members of the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee.  
16 We sat through a nine-hour hearing where we heard  
17 a lot of community concerns. Margaret Chin did  
18 more than just listen to those concerns. You  
19 know, she's small in statute, but in a street  
20 fight I want her on my side. Because she sat in  
21 those meetings with NYU and she told them what  
22 they're doing and what they had to change in order  
23 to address the concerns that we heard from those  
24 communities about open space and about the size of  
25 the buildings and shadows. So, many of these

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2 changes were done just because of the fighter that  
3 Margaret is. So while she is a good listener, I'm  
4 sure she was a fighter in this one, and listened  
5 to what the people wanted and went and made sure  
6 we got a lot of those things done on this land use  
7 item. So I congratulate her and thank you and I  
8 vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Williams?

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

12 COUNCIL MEMBER: [off mic] Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you  
17 very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Sorry; I  
19 didn't hear you. I didn't hear you, sir.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: First, a  
21 very happy birthday to Speaker Quinn and Council  
22 Member Domenic Recchia.

23 [Applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I want to  
25 vote aye on all, with the exception of Land Use

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623, 624, which I abstain.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: (Singing)

Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you.  
Happy birthday. Happy birthday to you. Happy  
birthday to you. Happy birthday. Here we go.  
Happy birthday, happy birthday. All right.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Can I get  
my time back, Madame Speaker?

[Laughter]

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
you.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I did  
just want to say I'm very grateful at this  
transparency reso. The first payment to some of  
the great people who are going to be doing work  
from the recommendation of the Gun Violence Task  
Force is made today. I know there are going to be  
some more payments in the future. I want to thank  
the Speaker for her leadership on this, my co-  
chair Council Member Cabrera, and all the people

1  
2 who were on the task force doing the work. I  
3 really hope these pilot programs will show that we  
4 can suppress some of this gun violence. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 CLERK: Mendez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission  
8 to explain my vote.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you.

11 I voted yes on the Land Use Committee on this item  
12 and at the time I said that the easy thing would  
13 be to vote no. At that time, I also asked NYU to  
14 work on a couple of things outside of the scope of  
15 the ULURP which are very important to me. And I  
16 think we're making some progress but we're not  
17 there yet.

18 So I find myself very conflicted,  
19 because one of those things is a union that I was  
20 a member of, UAW, and so today I am asking NYU to  
21 let the graduate students have an election and  
22 unionize. I know it's open for another NLRB but  
23 it would be great if it came from them. They  
24 could show their support to the community as well  
25 as the students that's part of that community.

1  
2 Margaret, you know in the three and  
3 a half years you've been in the Council you've  
4 been an awesome colleague, you've been my sister.  
5 We've been there almost shoulder to shoulder. I'm  
6 a little bit bigger than you are, just saying.  
7 Just saying. When it came to saving daycare slots  
8 and not letting charter schools expand in our  
9 public school buildings, whether it was your  
10 building or mine, we were there on those struggles  
11 together.

12 So, today, while a lot of my  
13 constituents are going to be unhappy and I am very  
14 conflicted, I will vote yes because you've worked  
15 really hard and you've made this better than what  
16 it is. And I want NYU to come forward on those  
17 other issues that we've raised. Thank you. This  
18 is for you. I vote aye on all.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

20 CLERK: Oddo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote aye on  
22 all. I just want to mention on the NYU vote that  
23 we were all excited to learn that they're doing a  
24 movie on Council Member Koslowitz's life. I just  
25 want everyone to know that it was precisely her

1  
2 time around NYU in the 60s that bumped the rating  
3 of the movie from PG-13 to R. So I just want  
4 everyone to be forewarned.

5 [Laughter]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote aye.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic].

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I vote aye on  
9 all.

10 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Further evidence  
12 why we were all so happy when the Koz was brought  
13 back to us in City Hall. I vote aye on all.

14 [Pause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Where am I  
16 starting? Right here? All items on today's  
17 General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of  
18 45 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
19 zero abstentions, with the exceptions of Land Use  
20 items number 632, 633, 634, 635, which was adopted  
21 by a vote of 44 in the affirmative, 1 negatives or  
22 abstentions; and Land Use item 623, Resolution  
23 1445, which was adopted by a vote of 42  
24 affirmative, 2 negative and 1 abstention; Land Use  
25 item 624 and Resolution 1446 was adopted by a vote

1  
2 of 42 affirmative, 2 negative and 1 abstention;  
3 Land Use item 622 and Resolution 144 which was  
4 adopted by a vote of 44 affirmative, 1 negative  
5 and zero abstentions. Now we have introduction  
6 and reading of bills.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: All the bills are  
8 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.  
9 I want to remind my colleagues we're voting on a  
10 resolution in a moment.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And we have  
12 a resolution to vote on, Resolution 1390. Oh,  
13 discussion of Resolutions? Any discussion on  
14 1390? Council Member Dromm?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
16 very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Quiet  
18 please, we still have votes to do.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: By filing  
20 and amicus brief in Windsor versus the United  
21 States, we add our voice to the growing consensus  
22 throughout this country against the so-called  
23 Defense of Marriage Act. Even though President  
24 Obama and the Justice Department are no longer  
25 defending this discriminatory and unconstitutional



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2 law, taxpayer dollars are being wasted to fight  
3 this, to fight against the civil rights of the  
4 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender  
5 communities.

6 The enduring love of Edie Windsor  
7 for Thea Spyer is no less true--

8 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] If we  
9 can get quiet. Hang on for a second, Danny.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Quiet  
11 please. If you're walking out, walk out quietly.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Let's add the 30  
13 seconds back onto the clock for the Council  
14 Member. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you.  
16 The enduring love of Edie Windsor for Thea Spyer  
17 is no less true and deep than any other couple. I  
18 am proud to support the efforts of Edie and her  
19 lawyers to challenge DOMA. Thank you, Edie for  
20 your courage and tenacity.

21 I also want to recognize Speaker  
22 Quinn and Civil Rights Committee Chair Debi Rose  
23 for their leadership on this important issue.  
24 Thank you very much.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Any other

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speakers on Resolution 1390? Council Member  
Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to echo  
the sentiments of Council Member Dromm. I also  
want to thank the chair of our Civil Rights  
Committee, Council Member Debi Rose, for her  
leadership on this resolution, and just note that  
when this amicus brief is filed it'll be filed for  
an amicus brief on behalf of the City Council and  
also an amicus brief from Mayor Bloomberg. So  
it'll be a joint message from the entire  
government of the City of New York. Again, I want  
to thank Chair Rose for her leadership in helping  
make this happen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Any other  
speakers to the Resolution? Seeing none, all in  
favor of the resolution--

CLERK: [interposing] We have to  
read it first, the resolution.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Resolution  
1390, resolution authorizing the Speaker to file a  
joint amicus brief on behalf of the Council in the  
litigation captioned Windsor versus United States,  
currently on appeal in the United States Court of

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2 Appeals for the Second Circuit, for the purpose of  
3 supporting the Plaintiff's position that Section 3  
4 of the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines the  
5 terms "marriage" and "spouse" under federal law to  
6 mean only heterosexual unions and individuals is  
7 unconstitutional.

8 All those in favor, say aye.

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: All those  
11 opposed? Hearing none, the ayes have it. General  
12 discussion? Council Member Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
14 very much. There are three bills that are pending  
15 and introduced today. I hope you'll sign on. In  
16 addition, I waited my turn, as opposed to others,  
17 and want to mention some wonderful interns who are  
18 doing great work: Alzi Nuway [phonetic] who is at  
19 George Washington University, Milena Wellman  
20 [phonetic], who is at Barnard College; Andrew  
21 Kerluzi [phonetic], who is at Fordham Prep; Zach  
22 Bodgikan [phonetic], who is a graduate of the  
23 University of New Haven; Shochman Nolm [phonetic],  
24 who is at Manhattan Center for Science and Math;  
25 Dondi Martin [phonetic], who is at Beacon High

1  
2 School; Greg Cursap [phonetic], who is at the  
3 Professional Performing Arts School; and Rebecca  
4 Beor [phonetic], who's at Penn State. Those are  
5 just some who we're working with this summer. I  
6 thank each and every one of them for all of their  
7 support. Thank you very much.

8 [Applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
10 Member Williams and then Council Member Dromm.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
12 you. First, I want to recognize a bunch of my  
13 interns who are here, my great interns who help me  
14 do some much work. Some of them are here. I just  
15 want to call them out. Viola Agasordi [phonetic],  
16 Steve Obell [phonetic], Juliani Deshong  
17 [phonetic], Sortina Douglas [phonetic], Nicole  
18 Santora [phonetic], Joseph Warman [phonetic],  
19 Jacob Gold [phonetic], Thomas Green [phonetic],  
20 Demonti Guscet [phonetic], Jamilya Hays  
21 [phonetic], Tamara Heath [phonetic], Edneer Heslop  
22 [phonetic], Alexia Johnson [phonetic], Makaya  
23 Johnson [phonetic], Sonya Joseph [phonetic],  
24 Brandon Leecoch [phonetic], who's been with us for  
25 two years, Julia Neechay [phonetic], Carlos Penya

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2 [phonetic], Preeti Sancar [phonetic], Michael  
3 Toomay [phonetic] and Christine Wilson [phonetic].

4 Also, I wanted to just give a shout  
5 out to a rest in peace to Sherman Hemsley, who was  
6 a fantastic actor and a great icon on the  
7 television and in the black community.

8 I also debated whether I would  
9 bring this up, but I am. When I was watching, and  
10 it disturbs me as a young black man in this  
11 country, I was watching the shootings in Aurora,  
12 and not once was he referred to as a savage or an  
13 animal or any such. He was described as a grad  
14 student who may be suffering from depression.  
15 Whenever something like this happens and the  
16 person looks like me, we're quick to disparage  
17 them and take away their humanity. I don't think  
18 it's right for either and it shouldn't have been  
19 done for him as well. But let's try to remember  
20 that, people in the media, when the person is of a  
21 different color.

22 Similarly, I was watching a  
23 documentary on Colton Harris Moore, who stole  
24 planes and was arrested in the Bahamas. People  
25 may remember from two years ago. They ended it by

1  
2 saying the system failed him in so many ways and  
3 he'll never be able to regain his childhood.

4 There is many communities right here in New York  
5 City that the system is failing many young people.  
6 For some reason, when it's brought up, people say  
7 we're looking for excuses, we're looking for an  
8 out instead of people taking personal  
9 responsibility. All I'm asking is the media cover  
10 everything as equally as possible and let's  
11 provide the resources for everyone. My prayers  
12 and families go for the shooting victims in Aurora  
13 as well as the victims that are dying at an  
14 amazing rate from gun violence in New York City.  
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
17 Member Dromm?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
19 very much. I rise to ask my colleagues to support  
20 Resolution 1432, which was introduced today. The  
21 American people owe a debt to all our veterans,  
22 both native and foreign born. Unfortunately, our  
23 country has yet to fully recognize its debt to  
24 Filipino soldiers who fought and died alongside  
25 American servicemen against imperial Japanese

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forces in World War II.

While some moves have been made in recent years to honor the service of these brave soldiers, they are getting older and they deserve full recognition while they are still with us. Resolution 1432 calls on Congress and the President to right this wrong by enacting the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, which would grant full benefits to the Filipino veterans of World War II.

I want to take a moment to recognize the advocates for pushing for this resolution and the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act, especially Chevy Evangelista and Justice for Filipino American Veterans. I am proud to stand with our immigrant veterans and hope you will join me by signing on to Resolution 1432. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council Member Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank you. I would like to also recognize my intern who's leaving me today, and that's H.J. who did a wonderful, wonderful job. She was an intern

1  
2 through the counsel and she did a lot of work on  
3 my Economic Development Committee.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Council  
5 Member Levin?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.  
7 I want to ask my colleagues to join me in support  
8 several bills: Intro 903, Intro 904 and Resos  
9 1434, 1435 and 1436, all of which address the  
10 issue of accident investigations as it relates to  
11 cyclists and pedestrians, calling on the New York  
12 City Police Department to do a better job than  
13 they currently do on behalf of New Yorkers to  
14 investigate crashes, to investigate them  
15 thoroughly.

16 In addition, I want to thank Chair  
17 Vacca as well as Chair Vallone for working with my  
18 office as well as Council Member Lander working  
19 with my office on these measures. It's part of an  
20 entire package with bills being introduced by  
21 Council Member Lander as well.

22 I also want to thank my interns for  
23 the summer: Cerol [phonetic], Jack, Kaylee  
24 [phonetic], Amy, Sierra [phonetic], Charlie and  
25 Sam. They've all done fabulous jobs.



1  
2                   Lastly, I want to recognize a close  
3 friend in the administration, Carol Clark, who  
4 will be moving on to the New York State Parks  
5 Department in a very exciting new position as  
6 deputy commissioner. I had the pleasure of  
7 working with Carol as assistant commissioner to  
8 HPD. She presented frequently in front of the  
9 subcommittee which I chair of Dispositions and  
10 Concessions and Planning. Carol is a consummate  
11 professional, thorough and always did a fabulous  
12 job on behalf of New Yorkers. While we're very  
13 excited for her and her new position, we'll be sad  
14 to see her go. Thank you very much, Carol. Thank  
15 you very much.

16                   [Applause]

17                   COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Ditto that  
18 for Carol Clark. Council Member Rose?

19                   COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I  
20 first want to thank all of my colleagues for  
21 voting for Reso 1390 and for recognizing how  
22 important it is to stand up for everybody's  
23 rights. As the chair of the Civil Rights  
24 Committee, I thank you for that support and the  
25 Speaker's leadership on Reso 1390.

1  
2 I would really be remiss if I  
3 didn't thank my three interns who traveled all the  
4 way from Staten Island to the mainland to be a  
5 part of this session today. They are Robert Will  
6 Olivari [phonetic], Alexis Jaefert [phonetic], and  
7 Giovanni Alvez [phonetic]. They are special young  
8 people. I want to thank you for your good work.  
9 Thank you.

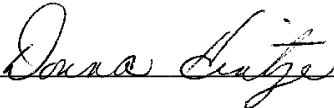
10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Seeing no  
11 others, the meeting for July 25th, 2002 is hereby  
12 adjourned.

13 CLERK: [off mic] 2012.

14 [Background noise]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature 

Date August 7, 2012