

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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June 21, 2017
Start: 1:44 p.m.
Recess: 3:58 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joe Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohn
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson

David G. Greenfield
Barry Grodenchik
Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Bill Perkins
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Rafael Salamanca
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

Delivered by: Reverend Aimée Simpierre,
Editor-at-large, New York Nonprofit Media
The Potter's House Church Of The Living God
148-A Lewis Ave., Brooklyn N.Y. 11221

2 [sound check, pause, background comment]

3 [gavel]

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quite
5 in the Chambers, please.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] I'm
7 going to—I'm going to— [background comments]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
9 Chambers, please.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'm going to
11 leave my—my proclamation for this since it's going to
12 be the—the harder one to coordinate due to the large
13 number of people that we're happy are here, but
14 Council Member Espinal, this actually a really
15 exciting one I have to say. So, he is giving a
16 proclamation to Chelsea Babista. She's being honored
17 for her outstanding academic achievements including—
18 listen to this—acceptances to eleven medical schools.
19 [cheers/applause] Oh, my God. That is wow, wow, wow.

20 Everybody is that--[background comment/cheers]

21 Amazing. Wait, guys, her family. Come on up.

22 [background comments] Wait, wait now she's going—
23 she's going to tell us. Wait, she's going to tell
24 us—she'll tell who—which one she's going to go to.

25 Unless she hasn't made a decision. I don't know, but

2 I'm going to pass it over to Council Member Espinal,
3 but I have to say that's really, really amazing.
4 Very proud for you and your family. That is an
5 incredible achievement, and you're an inspiration to
6 a lot of other young women in particular that would
7 want to pursue that as a profession. My father was a
8 doctor. So, I know the importance of doctors, and
9 important work that has to be done. So, thank you
10 and--and I will give it over to Council Member
11 Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you. I
13 think the Speaker will be happy when she hears what
14 school she's going to, but [background comments] but--
15 but I--I--I really just want to say how great it is to
16 see a young Dominican female from the East New York
17 Bushwick communities to be able to fight all odds.
18 The neighborhood has been invested in in such a long
19 time, but really have a family that supports you, a
20 family that came here as immigrants from the
21 Dominican Republic, and was able to raise a daughter
22 who--who was dedicated in school, dedicated to making
23 sure she provided the best she can for not only her
24 family, but for the city, and this country. You
25 know, we're at a time where we have a federal

2 government that believes that immigrants don't have
3 anything to contributed to our city. You know, just
4 a few minutes ago we were out on the steps of the
5 immigration building a few blocks away from here
6 advocating for an immigrant that was—that is in the
7 stage of being deported because I guess the federal
8 government does not recognize the contributions they
9 make to our city, and this is just a prime example of
10 the epitome of what immigrants are capable of. So,
11 thank you for all the hard work you do. I'm really
12 proud to be here today with you. I never—I've never
13 done this before [cheers/applause] so you know this
14 was important for me to do this today. So,
15 congratulations. [cheers/applause] [background
16 comments]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We got to do out
18 of turn a little bit. Hold on. She's going to speak
19 first before we read the proc because we want to hear
20 where you're going to school

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] So,
22 tell her what—what schools—what—what three Ivy League
23 schools you—you were actually accepted to.

24 CHELSEA BATISTA: The three Ivy League
25 Schools I got accepted to were Cornell University,

2 University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of
3 Medicine and Columbia University College of
4 Physicians. [cheers/applause]

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And have you
6 chose one?

7 CHELSEA BATISTA: I am going to Columbia.
8 [cheers/applause]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Awesome. Do you
10 know what you want to specialize in?

11 CHELSEA BATISTA: So, I want to
12 specialize in pediatric oncology.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Wow, that's
14 amazing. Alright, so we'll read the proclamation.

15 CLERK: Council City of New York
16 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York is
17 proud to honor Chelsea Batista for her outstanding
18 academic achievement; and

19 Whereas, Chelsea was instilled with the
20 importance of education and public service at a very
21 early age. Both of her parents were born in the
22 Dominican Republic in large low-income families, and
23 yet both managed to become the first in their
24 families to get college degrees. When they arrived
25 in the United States they had similar aspirations to

2 countless other immigrants contributing to their
3 communities and working hard to ensure a brighter
4 future for their children. Today, Chelsea's mother
5 is a Director of the College Now Program at
6 Kingsborough Community College and her father served
7 our city as an NYPD detective. Like her parents and
8 grandparents, Chelsea recognized the priceless value
9 of academic achievement particularly for low-income
10 families and committed herself to her studies; and

11 Whereas, despite the frequent challenges
12 of studying, sometimes all night, Chelsea worked
13 tirelessly and committed to her goal of getting
14 accepted into medical school. Along the way, she
15 became a role model for her younger siblings and
16 opened their eyes to the many careers they could
17 pursue no matter their background. Teachers noted
18 how her transformational experiences such as studying
19 in Spain or holding workshops for breast cancer
20 awareness in New York also contributed to her
21 success. Before long Chelsea had made the Dean's
22 List; and

23 Whereas, now finishing her senior year at
24 Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn College,
25 Chelsea's dream of being accepted into a top medical

2 school was not only realized, but surpassed as she
3 began receiving letter after letter of acceptance.
4 To date she has received acceptances from 11 schools
5 including Albert Einstein College of Medicine,
6 Columbia University, College of Physicians and
7 Surgeons, Weill Cornell Medicine, Drexel University
8 College of Medicine, Hofstra School of Medicine,
9 Howard University College of Medicine, Icon School of
10 Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York University SUNY
11 Downstate College of Medicine, SUNY Stony Brook
12 School of Medicine, and Tufts University School of
13 Medicine, and

14 Whereas, in addition to many letters of
15 acceptance to medical schools have awarded Chelsea a
16 full tuition scholarship [cheers/applause]. She has
17 truly excelled in all her endeavors, and we wish her
18 continued success this fall as she become a freshman
19 at the medical school of her choice.

20 Now, therefore, be it known that the
21 Council of the City of New York is very proud to
22 honor Chelsea Batista for her outstanding academic
23 achievements. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
24 Entire Council [cheers/applause] Raphael Espinal

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2 Council Member 37th District Brooklyn. [cheers/
3 applause]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [Speaking
5 Spanish] Do you want to say a few words, Chelsea?

6 CHELSEA BATISTA: I just want to—I always
7 do this, I always thank my family. I came—I come
8 from a family of very strong people, very strong
9 women, and my mom has always been there for me,
10 supporting me in my tasks, and my cousins. I'm
11 grateful to everyone who has ever supported me
12 because everyone is the culmination of the people who
13 support them to their goals. You are not just
14 yourself. I may have done all the tests and all the
15 studying, but if my family wasn't here for me, I
16 wouldn't be where I am today so-- [cheers/applause]

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Congratulations.
18 [background comments, pause] For our second
19 proclamation, you guys. [background comments] Okay,
20 so this is Council Member Danny Dromm and we have
21 Council—and our Majority Leader Van Bramer in
22 celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
23 Transgender Pride Month. RUSA LGBT is being honored
24 for its work support supporting Russian-Speaking
25 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and

2 Intersex immigrants throughout the city. Wow. That's
3 wonderful. [cheers/applause] Thanks to all the
4 colleagues that are up here, in-in support and I'll
5 pas it off to Council Member Dromm.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
7 much, Madam Speaker. Did you know that in a 2015
8 survey, only 3% of Russians thought LGBT people
9 should raise children, and did you know that Chechnya
10 is rounding up gay men to imprison, torture and to
11 kill. Even Russian speaking areas of New York City
12 LGBT immigrants often confront homophobic and
13 transphobic attitudes from the old country. In
14 response, RUSA LGBT started Brighton Beach Pride.
15 Last month hundreds of LGBT individuals and our
16 allies marched down the boardwalk of Brighton Beach
17 [cheers/applause] to claim our rightful place in that
18 neighborhood. Tish James were there, and everywhere
19 in New York City. Pride is as important today as it
20 was during the first celebration in 1970, one year
21 after the Stonewall uprising. Brighton Beach Pride
22 proves that it's bringing LGBT visibility into the
23 places where it is needed the most. New York City is
24 a haven for refugees and, in fact, yesterday was
25 World Refugee Day. Our city has an especially

2 valuable place in the global LGBT Rights Movement by
3 helping to foster groups such as RUSA LGBT, which has
4 had a tremendous impact here in New York City and
5 across the Russian speaking world, and for that we
6 are most gratefully presenting this proclamation to
7 you, and I might mention as well after Brighton Beach
8 Pride they had a fantastic story in the New York
9 Times, which described the trials and tribulations of
10 Russian speaking LGBT people here in this city.

11 There is still a lot of work to do, and I
12 congratulate you and tell you we admire here in the
13 City Council your courage and your forthrightness in
14 terms of fighting for everybody's right including
15 LGBT people. God bless you and thank you very much.

16 [cheers/applause] Now, we're joined by several
17 representatives, but we're joined here by Yelena
18 Goltsman. Hope I said it right.

19 YELENA GOLTSMAN: You did.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Alright, good the
21 sounder and also by Lyosha Gorshkov from Brighton
22 Beach Pride who want to say a quick word. [background
23 comments]

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We can hear all
25 your wonderful work and then we can hear from you.

2 CLERK: Council, City of New York
3 Proclamation.

4 In celebration of the Lesbian, Gay,
5 Bisexual and Transgender LGBT Pride Month, the
6 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor
7 RUSA LGBT, an organization dedicated to supported
8 Russian speaking Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
9 Intersex and Queer [background comments] LBGTIQ
10 immigrants throughout the city; and

11 Whereas, established in 2008, RUSA LGBT
12 works to ensure that Russian speaking people can
13 claim and enjoy the full and equal rights due to
14 them. RUSA LGBT has embraced and include LBGTIQ
15 immigrants from many countries that were once part of
16 the former Soviet Union including Russia, Ukraine,
17 Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and
18 Azerbaijan. The organization facilitates their full
19 participation in the civil, religious and political
20 life in their new country; and

21 Whereas, RUSA LGBT regularly organizes
22 social, political and cultural events to united the
23 Russian speaking LBGTIQ community in America and to
24 increase acceptance and inclusion of LBGTIQ people
25 within the Russian speaking immigrant community.

2 RUSA LGBT advocates for social justice, human and
3 civil rights for LGBTIQ people in America; and

4 Whereas, RUSA LGBT's most recent and most
5 significant achievement was Brighton Beach Pride,
6 which took place on May 20, 2017. At this historic
7 event Russian LGBTIQ residents and their allies
8 marched in celebration of diversity and demanded
9 equal rights for all people regardless of sexuality,
10 gender identify, ethnicity, race or religion. It was
11 a crucial point in bring visibility to the Russian
12 speaking LGBTIQ community. Brighton Beach is a
13 center for individuals looking to maintain a
14 connection to Russian language and culture. Sadly,
15 homophobia and transphobia remain a significant
16 challenge to its LGBTIQ residents. Everyday these
17 individuals face discrimination and abuse in their
18 homes, workplaces and medical facilities. Concerns
19 with immigration status compound problems for this
20 already vulnerable population. RUSA LGBT has been
21 successful in combatting ignorance and fear in the
22 community; and

23 Whereas, by organizing groundbreaking
24 events such as Brighton Beach Pride, RUSA LGBT has
25 begun to break through the silence and taboo

2 surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity in
3 the Russian speaking community. Little by little they
4 are uniting the Russian speaking community with other
5 New Yorkers in acceptance and tolerance of
6 minorities.

7 Now, therefore, be it known that the
8 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
9 RUSA LGBT for their steadfast commitment to security
10 equality and justice for Russian speaking LGBTIQ
11 people in New York City. Melissa Mark-Viverito
12 Speaker for the Entire Council; Daniel Dromm Council
13 Member 25th District, Queens; Rosie Mendez, Chair
14 LGBT Caucus, Council Member 2nd District, Manhattan;
15 Corey Johnson, Council Member 3rd District Manhattan;
16 James Vacca, Council Member 13th District, Bronx;
17 Ritchie Torres, Council Member 15th District the
18 Bronx; Jimmy Van Bramer, Majority Leader, 26th
19 District, Queens; Carlos Menchaca, Council Member,
20 30th District, Brooklyn. [cheers/applause]

21 LYOSHA GORSHKOV: On behalf of our
22 Russian speaking LGBT community of the New Queer
23 Immigrants from Russia who were forced to leave in
24 2014, and I see that we have a lot of work ahead here
25 to do to fight on behalf of our community because

2 even though we got to New York, we still have some
3 issues with which we have to deal, and that's why
4 Brighton Beach was crucial, and we thrilled to be
5 here and honored by City Council, by the Public
6 Advocate and all the City of New York, and I guess we
7 have to continue. We have to fight back especially
8 during recent political climate. Thank you very
9 much. [applause]

10 YELENA GOLTSMAN: Thank you very much for
11 this incredible honor. We really, really appreciate
12 that you are honoring our work in such a significant
13 way. In 2008, when I started this group it wasn't
14 for that that it was done. It was for work that was
15 done so far, and it is especially important to me
16 that you're honoring this work as this group grows,
17 and—and many young new people come and they say, no
18 more discrimination for me in my own neighborhood.
19 Thank God Lyosha had a vision of doing Brighton Pride
20 that actually turned out to be a wonderful success,
21 and it is a success when we say we are here and we
22 are queer, which was said before, 40 years ago by the
23 general New York community, but it didn't really
24 penetrate in the Russian speaking immigrant community
25 just yet. So, this is the first time we've actually

2 out loud said no more, no more. Now, that's the
3 start. That's the statement we made, but this is the
4 start. We will be going to members of this body who
5 are specifically from South Brooklyn, and we will be
6 working with you hopefully soon enough right up to
7 the Pride celebration. We will be coming to you, and
8 asking you to help us do more so the—the opportunity
9 of equality of freedom will actually also be in the
10 Russian speaking community for gay people as well.
11 Thank you very much. Thank you. [applause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you and
13 congratulations. [pause] Okay, we have one more
14 ceremonial, and this one will be a—

15 MALE SPEAKER: [interposing] A long one.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yeah, well, not a
17 long one, just a crowded one. So, we're going to
18 ask—this is myself and Jumaane and Cabrera and all
19 the colleagues that are here, but we're going to be
20 giving a proclamation to the Cure Violence providers.
21 [cheers/applause] We really want to thank them.
22 [cheers/applause] If we can have them come up and
23 join us. I think we have just about 16 providers. I
24 think we have reps from all the groups here, and as
25 you all know, this is the such an incredibly

2 important initiative that we really have put a lot of
3 effort into and resources. [background comments] So,
4 in our—in observance of Gun Violence Awareness Month,
5 Cure Violence providers are being honored for their
6 work saving lives by reducing gun violence in
7 communities throughout the city of New York.
8 [background comments] This is more of a holistic
9 approach in the way that we look at violence and gun
10 violence. I'm going to have Jumaane. I don't know
11 [background comments] So, I'll have Council Member
12 Jumaane Williams say a few words, but we really—
13 before we read the proclamation, yes we can just—
14 we're taking over the council today, yes.
15 [background comments] Yeah, there's space on the
16 left. I got my two groups here. I have to in my
17 district, one in the Bronx and one in East Harlem,
18 and thank you all and we have all the organizations
19 here. [background comments/applause] Okay. So,
20 again, personally and—and Jumaane can speak much more
21 to this obviously. Hey, how you guys doing? But I
22 have to say that—that, you know, you are saving
23 lives, and when we look at crime prevention in this
24 city, right, we definitely need to see you all as
25 partners in that work. You are really saving lives.

2 I know in my district in which I have two the Cure
3 Violence programs I—I really appreciate it, and it
4 means so much the work that you do, and this is a
5 small token of our appreciate that we can show to all
6 of you for what you do, and this approach of—of
7 looking at this issues of gun violence
8 comprehensively, holistically is—is really important.
9 And I really want to commend Jumaane for his efforts
10 in really pushing and being an incredible advocate
11 for this, and we've taken it as far as we've taken
12 it. We're working alongside the city thanks to the
13 efforts of this Council, and Jumaane was a big part
14 of that. So, I'm going to hand it off to him, but
15 yes, I—I might as go this way so we can talk to all
16 of you because it's hard to do it the other way. So,
17 Jumaane, just say a few words.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
19 Yeah, this looks dolt for real, man. You all look
20 good out here taking over City Hall. [cheers/
21 applause] I want to congratulate. This is the heart
22 and soul of the crisis management system of which The
23 Cure Violence is a part of. It's a holistic approach
24 to gun violence that is working in New York City.
25 There's a lot of talk about murders and shootings

2 going down, but not often enough of these folks given
3 the credit for that. It is actually going down
4 [applause] even at a faster pace in the catchment
5 areas that they represent than the city at whole.
6 So, while the officers NYPD have their job to do, and
7 we're thankful for that, we are thankful for the job
8 that you're doing in making sure that crime goes
9 down, and we have an orange man in the White House
10 who's talking about bringing the abuses of Stop,
11 Question and Frisk across the country. That did not
12 have an effect that we wanted. This actually has the
13 effect that we want, and we want to make sure New
14 York is looking-- I mean the country is looking at
15 what New York City is doing and be proud, and it is a
16 small token. One of the Cure Violence workers was
17 shot a few months back intervening in a--in getting to
18 make sure that the gun violence was not spread. They
19 weren't recognized that the way that they should
20 have, but we appreciate you so much. This Council
21 under the leadership of Melissa Mark-Viverito has
22 really put a lot of resources in here. I thank the
23 Mayor for keeping his word. I want to shout out to
24 Laurie Cumbo, who was a co-prime and Council Member
25 Vanessa a co-prime in starting the anti-Gun Violence

2 Prevention Office—the Office of Gun Violence
3 Prevention as the first one ever, and we should give
4 a round of applause for that. [cheers/applause] So,
5 we obviously couldn't have everybody speak, but we
6 wanted to pick one person, and so I spoke to most of
7 you and I want to thank you. We're going to A. T.
8 Mitchell to speak in just a second. He was on the
9 original taskforce that put the report out to help
10 create this, and one of the original groups that were
11 funded. That, you know, sometimes when we look like
12 this, they don't want to just give the money right
13 away. So, we made sure that we can show that this
14 actually works. Before I do that, I make sure I
15 shout out Eric Cumberbatch who is--[cheers/applause]
16 the Executive Director of MOCJ, and since I have the
17 mic, I'm going to shout out G. Mack from East
18 Flatbush [cheers/applause] and Kay Bayne 696, my
19 brother.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: East Harlem and
21 that's South Bronx right next to each other my
22 district. [cheers/applause] My district. Okay, Ed,
23 we probably should read them. I'll get the, but we—
24 let's have the proclamation read. We'll get the list
25 of all the organizations so we can name you, and then

2 we'll have the spokesperson, right, speak on behalf
3 of the group. So the proc—the clerk can read the
4 proc.

5 CLERK: Council City of New York
6 Proclamation.

7 In observance of Gun Violence Awareness
8 Month, the Council of the City of New York is proud
9 to honor the Cure Violence providers across our five
10 boroughs for their excellent work saving lives and
11 their great progress in reducing gun violence in our
12 communities; and

13 Whereas, every year in America over
14 30,000 people have their lives cut short by guns. On
15 an average day in America guns kill more than 90
16 people. For each person killed with a gun, two more
17 are injured. Countless others not at the scene are
18 mentally scarred by the loss or impairment of their
19 loved ones. Incredibly, even the horrific events at
20 Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, Pulse
21 Night Club in Orlando, and so many other mass
22 shootings seemed to be addressed with little more
23 than thoughts and prayers. The City of Newark—New
24 York, however, has embraced the unique approach that

2 has helped us become the safest big city in the
3 nation and a leader for other cities to follow; and

4 Whereas, the Council—the New York City
5 Crisis Management system supported by the City
6 Council and the Office of the Mayor is a citywide
7 initiative to reduce gun violence in the 17th
8 Precincts accounting for 51% of shootings citywide.
9 Knowing that reduction in violence requires a variety
10 of coordinated strategies, the Crisis Management
11 System works closely with communities, city agencies
12 and law enforcement to target hot spots and support
13 those communities with resources that have proven
14 their effectiveness; and

15 Whereas, with funding from the City of
16 New York, the Crisis Management system has made great
17 progress through Cure Violence providers in 17
18 precincts. Cure Violence is a evidence based public
19 health approach that identifies and engages
20 individuals most likely to be involved in gun
21 violence, especially when at-risk or engaging in
22 retaliatory shoots, and deploys interventions aimed
23 at curbing that behavior before it occurs. Cure
24 Violence providers intervene before escalation turns
25 to gun violence by employing violence interrupters

2 often former gang members who have turned their lives
3 around to end street disputes and connect potential
4 shooters to case management and supportive services;
5 and

6 Whereas, recognizing gun violence as a
7 public health issue, the Crisis Management System
8 also offers expanded wrap-around community based
9 preventive services in each of the 17 precincts
10 targeted. In addition to the Cure Violence programs,
11 area residents can turn to these providers for a wide
12 range of vital services including hospital based
13 programming, legal services, school based conflict
14 mediation, job readiness training, mental health
15 services, and community therapeutic services; and

16 Whereas, New York City's domestic
17 violence providers have proven their effectiveness.
18 Overall, our city continues to experience
19 historically low crime rate with less than 1,000
20 shooting incidence—incidents in 2016. Between 2010
21 and 2013, homicide rates were up 69% yet down 18% in
22 Cure Violence areas. When comparing 2015 to 2014,
23 shootings decreased 2% overall yet 9% in the areas
24 with Cure Violence program. [cheers/applause] Last
25 year—last year shootings were down 10% and murders

2 were down 6% in these areas. As of March 2017,
3 murders are down by 36%, shooting victims are down by
4 40% [applause] and shooting incidences
5 [cheers/applause] are down by 30% compared to the
6 same period in the year before; and

7 Whereas, the New York City Council is
8 proud to support these Cure Violence programs for
9 each has proven itself as a powerful catalyst for
10 positive changes in our communities. They continue
11 to make great strides in changing the focus from
12 pros-prosecution to the prevention of violence. As we
13 reaffirm our commitment to increasing awareness of
14 gun violence, let us also educate others about the
15 public health problem it is so that we can reverse
16 the epidemic nationwide and one day also cure it.

17 Now, therefore, be it known that the
18 Council of the City of New York is proud to honor the
19 specific Cure Violence programs: Getting Out and
20 Staying Out's SAVE, which stands for Standing Against
21 Violence East Harlem; Street Corner Resources; Bronx
22 Connect Urban Youth Alliance; Gangs Release the Grip;
23 Good Shepherd Services, Inc.'s BRAG, which stands for
24 Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence Program; the Center
25 for Court Innovation Force Save our Streets, SOS

2 programs in the South Bronx, Morrisania, Bed-Stuy and
3 Crown Heights. [cheers] Jewish Community Council's
4 Operation Hood, which stands for Helping Our Own
5 Develop; Gangsters Making Astronomical Community
6 Changes, Inc.; CAMBA Inc's Violence at Groundsville.
7 [cheers] Manup, Inc. [Cheers]; Safe Space, Inc's
8 Sheltering Arms and Children and Family Services;
9 Jacob Reese Neighborhood Settlement 696; Build
10 Queensbridge; Central Family Life Centers True to
11 life [cheers] and I Love My Life's Program Life Cam.
12 [cheers] All of these honorees have made great
13 strides in the reduction of gun violence in New York
14 City, and we wish them continued success. Melissa
15 Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council,
16 Jumaane D. Williams, Co-chair, Gun Violence
17 Taskforce, Fernando Cabrera Co-Chair, Gun Violence
18 Taskforce, and all of the Council Members
19 representing these communities. [cheers/applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I want to shout
21 out all of the Council Members. Two, of course,
22 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member Perkins,
23 Council Member Gibson, Council Member Cabrera,
24 Council Member Treyger, Council Member Mealy, Council
25 Member Barron, Council Member Cornegy, Council Member

2 Richards, Council Member Miller and Wills, Council
3 Member Van Bramer, Council Member Rose who are all on
4 your each specific proclamations. [background
5 comment] I said Council Member Treyger. Yeah, yeah,
6 so thank you very much, and I think Erica Ford and
7 Ayesha De Koo (sp?) are also on the original
8 taskforce as well. SO, and Erica has been doing this
9 for a long time. So I want to make sure we give them
10 a shout, and now we're going to ask A. T. Mitchell to
11 say a few words on behalf of everybody. Thank you.
12 [cheers/applause]

13 A. T. MITCHELL: Yes, good afternoon
14 everyone.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
16 down, please, keep it down.

17 A. T. MITCHELL: So, on behalf of the
18 citywide Crisis Management System, Cure Violence
19 organizations and agencies and providers, we are
20 really honored to be here this afternoon, the last
21 session before the Council goes into recess in June,
22 which is Gun Violence Awareness month. We work
23 really hard and long in between the days and the
24 nights when no one else is outside to make sure that
25 our neighborhoods are safe so when you all come to

2 work or go to school in the morning that there's no
3 yellow tape. And so, these men and women that stand
4 alongside of me to us the bravest individuals in the
5 city because we don't have the amount of resources
6 that other city agencies have. We do into places
7 where we don't wear vests. We don't have badges, we
8 don't have guns, we don't have helicopters. We have
9 hearts, we have souls, [cheers/applause] and we have
10 love most importantly for our communities that we all
11 represent, and that we have a lot of pride in, and
12 that's why for us to go back into our neighborhoods
13 where we were raised and growing up and probably did
14 some of the problems it's easier for us to now create
15 this model where we deploy that same individual,
16 train him up or her up, and put them right back out
17 to go look after the guys or girls that reminded them
18 of themselves, and so that's how we really do our
19 work. We're in the schools, we're in the jails,
20 we're in the hospitals, and we're in the housing
21 developments where we need to be, and we are really
22 excited to be recognized. So, I want to thank the
23 Speaker and all the Council Members but especially my
24 Council Member as well Mrs. Inez Barron from my
25 Council District because without your support,

2 without your commitment, without your belief in us,
3 we would not be able to stand in front of you as
4 taxpaying citizens, law abiding individuals, degrees.
5 We're going and where fathers and mothers of our
6 families, and we feel good at the head of households
7 because of the pride that we feel, and we want to
8 thank you all. And we really appreciate the support
9 [applause] that you give us, and that hopefully it
10 increase because we still have other neighborhoods
11 that can benefit from this Cure Violence model versus
12 those other models that are out there. We're not
13 taking nothing away from what anybody else does, but
14 nobody does the type of work that we do, and our
15 statistics and our data now that we have to showcase
16 represents that. Thank you so much. We appreciate
17 this opportunity. [cheers/applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Just one thing,
19 I forgot to shout out—I wanted to shout out David and
20 Tiffany from Wise or West, the Western New Christ
21 (sic) apparently. [cheers] They saved a man's life
22 today on the way here. He was having a seizure.
23 They jumped on the tracks to bring him up and save
24 his life while a train was coming. [cheers/applause]
25 So, I just wanted to give them a shout out today.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That's a whole
3 other proclamation.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: That's a whole-
5 the Speaker said that's a whole other proclamation
6 that's needed. So, God bless you all. You all, City
7 Hall is yours. Thank you all so much, man, we're
8 going to take a photo. [background comments, pause]

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And that ends
10 ceremonials. [background comments, pause]

11 CLERK: Okay, ladies and gentlemen, we
12 need to clear the floor of the chambers, please.
13 [gavel] We need to clear the floor of the chambers
14 please. We need this center aisle clear. Please
15 exit the Chambers. Quiet please, quiet please.
16 Sergeant-at-Arms can you please help administer-
17 remove these people from the floor, please. Thank
18 you. [background comments, pause] Quiet, please.
19 Quiet on the floor, please. Quiet on the floor,
20 please. At this time, please place all electronic
21 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all
22 non-Council employers, that means if you do not have
23 a Council identification you must leave the main
24 floor of the Chambers. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you all for
3 coming. Be safe. Please close the doors. Members
4 please have seats. Everyone—all the visitors please
5 have a seat in the Chambers as well, and in the
6 Rotunda. Thank you. Please have a seat. Thank you
7 all. May we close those doors in the back? Thank
8 you. The recessed meeting of June 15 held on June
9 21' 2017 is now called to order. Roll call. Quiet
10 in the Chambers, please.

11 CLERK: Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

13 CLERK: Borelli.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] Here.

15 CLERK: Cabrera.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic] Here.

17 CLERK: Chin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

19 CLERK: Cohen.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

21 CLERK: Constantinides.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

23 CLERK: Cornegy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 [shushing for quiet]

4 CLERK: Crowley.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please quiet
7 down.

8 CLERK: Cumbo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

10 CLERK: Deutsch.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

12 CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

14 CLERK: Espinal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Eugene.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

18 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland. Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

20 CLERK: Gentile.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

22 CLERK: Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

24 CLERK: Greenfield.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

2 CLERK: Grodenchik.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

4 CLERK: Johnson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

6 CLERK: Kallos.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

8 CLERK: King.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Here.

10 CLERK: Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Koslowitz.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Lancman.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

16 CLERK: Lander.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

18 CLERK: Levin.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

20 CLERK: Levine. Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

22 CLERK: Mealy.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

24 CLERK: Menchaca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

2 CLERK: Mendez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

4 CLERK: Miller.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

6 CLERK: Palma.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

8 CLERK: Perkins.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Presente.

10 CLERK: Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

14 CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

16 CLERK: Rodriguez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Present.

18 CLERK: Rose.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

20 CLERK: Rosenthal.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

22 CLERK: Salamanca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

24 CLERK: Torres.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

2 CLERK: Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

4 CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

6 CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

10 CLERK: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

12 CLERK: Wills.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

14 CLERK: Matteo. Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

16 CLERK: Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I adjourn the

19 recessed meeting of June 15th and now call the Stated

20 Meeting of June 21st to order. All rise, please for

21 the Pledge of Allegiance.

22 CLERK: All rise.

23 [Pledge of Allegiance]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

25 [off mic] Roll call. [on mic] Roll Call.

2 CLERK: Barron.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

4 CLERK: Borelli, Cabrera.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

8 CLERK: Cohen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

10 CLERK: Constantinides.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

12 CLERK: Cornegy.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

14 CLERK: Crowley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

16 CLERK: Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

18 CLERK: Deutsch.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

20 CLERK: Dromm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

22 CLERK: Espinal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [background

24 comments]

25 CLERK: Thank you. Eugene.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

3 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

5 [shushing for quiet]

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down. Keep it
7 down.

8 CLERK: Garodnick.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

10 CLERK: Gentile.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

12 CLERK: Gibson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

14 CLERK: Greenfield.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

16 CLERK: Grodenchik.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

18 CLERK: Johnson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

20 CLERK: Kallos. King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Here.

22 CLERK: Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

24 CLERK: Koslowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

4 CLERK: Lander.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

6 CLERK: Levin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

8 CLERK: Levine. Maisel.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

10 CLERK: Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

12 CLERK: Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

16 CLERK: Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

18 CLERK: Palma.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

20 CLERK: Perkins.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Here.

22 CLERK: Reynoso.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

24 CLERK: Richards.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

2 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

4 CLERK: Rosenthal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Salamanca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

8 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

10 CLERK: Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

12 CLERK: Vacca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

15 CLERK: Vallone.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

17 CLERK: Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

19 CLERK: Wills.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

21 CLERK: Matteo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic]

23 Present.

24 CLERK: Van Bramer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

2 CLERK: Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: In the back row areas,
5 please fill the empty area in the back row. (sic)

6 CLERK: We have a quorum

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. We do
8 have some seats in the balcony. Please find a seat
9 if appropriate. Please find a seat. I see some
10 seats in the middle. Gentlemen, if you would remove
11 your hats that would be greatly appreciate. Thank
12 you. There are seats right in the middle, second
13 row. All rise for the invocation.

14 CLERK: All rise.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation
16 will be delivered by Reverend Aimée Simpierre, the
17 Editor-at-large of the New York Nonprofit Media, The
18 Potter's House Church Of The Living God, 148-A Lewis
19 Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant in the great Borough of
20 Brooklyn.

21 AIMEE SIMPIERRE: Let us pray. Sweet
22 Jesus my savior and giver of life. I thank you for
23 the opportunity to invite your holy presence into
24 this gathering of decision makers in one of the
25 greatest cities in the world. I thank you that the

2 respect and need for prayer in all of its forms is
3 recognized by this body because it speaks to an
4 acknowledgement that intellect and material resources
5 and even negotiation skills alone are not enough to
6 best handle the task that is before them. It also
7 takes the presence of the divine. God and the beauty
8 of the Statue of Liberty and the grace of the
9 cloisters remind us that when humans of clay are
10 inspired by their creator, the simplest elements can
11 be melded to make miracles. Today, God, we present
12 to you the simple elements of our hearts and minds,
13 and we ask for miracles. At a time when our values of
14 respect and compassion and unity being tried and
15 stretched nearly to their limits, I pray that these
16 gathered here today would through their decisions co-
17 create with you the kinds of miracles that remind us
18 that all things are possible when we believe. Help
19 us to honor the fact that each one of us here is a
20 miracle, a melding of the persistent dreams and hopes
21 of immigrants and refugees, craftsmen and merchants,
22 young soldiers and slaves. We are all simple
23 elements of clay touched by the love of God. Breathe
24 on us now, clear our minds, embolden our hearts,
25 focus our attention on what matters most at this

2 moment, the choices being made in the lives affected.
3 Live like mine born a black girl raised in vibrant
4 East Harlem, raised by a single mom in a rent
5 stabilized tenement above a non-profit. These music
6 classes kept me off the street, and who grew up to be
7 a Columbia University educated journalist. God, for
8 everyone in this room and all those who came before
9 and made decisions that make life easier for me,
10 thank you. For the city that accepted and permits me
11 marry my wife and partner of 22 years who I am
12 blessed to minister with as Christian championing the
13 unconditional love of Christ within the LGBT
14 community. Thank you for the legislation that
15 provides a quality pre-school education for our five-
16 year-olds, and for the health system that is already
17 helping to care for a sibling that I carry. Thank
18 you and for the neighborhoods, communities and loved
19 ones that have taught all of us here how to take care
20 each other and work together, thank you. And lastly,
21 we thank you for the miracle of your presence that
22 will help these gathered here with open hearts and
23 minds to honor the lives of the some eight million
24 miracles in this city, all your sons and your
25 daughters whether wealthy or homeless, elderly, or

2 newborn, citizen or undocumented, straight, gay,
3 transgender, Muslim or Jew, thank you. Into your
4 hands we commit these proceedings. I ask these
5 things in the name of the love of my soul, Jesus, the
6 Christ of God, and may all those who are committed to
7 the work of strengthening and uniting this great city
8 and its people say amen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
11 Yes. [interposing] [shushing for quiet] Quiet in the
12 Chambers.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: A motion to
15 spread that powerful invocation Council Member Robert
16 Cornegy representing Bedford-Stuyvesant and North
17 Crown Heights.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Yes, ma'am.
19 Reverend Aimée Simpierre serves as the Potter's
20 House—serves as the—serves at the Potter's House
21 Church of the Living God, one of the longest running
22 independent LGBTQ founded, non-denominal churches in
23 Brooklyn. Reverend Simpierre was born in Lennox Hill
24 Hospital, raised in East Harlem and started her faith
25 career as the Assistant Chaplain of the Cathedral

2 Choir of Greater Refuse Temple Church of Lord Jesus
3 Christ in Harlem, New York City. After attending La
4 Guardia High School of Music and Art as flute major
5 and Barnard College as a political science major and
6 received her master's degree from Columbia
7 University's Graduate School of Journalism, Reverend
8 Simpierre began ministering as choir director and
9 praise and worship leader at the Potter's House
10 Church of the Living God where she was ordained and
11 currently stands in for the pastor and founder Bishop
12 Barbara Caesar Stephenson in health related absence.
13 Reverend Simpierre spend nearly a decade working on
14 the national desk of the Associated Press and served
15 as Director of Development and Communications with
16 Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement in Long Island
17 City, Queens. She's the great granddaughter of Maud
18 Bascom Cummings Taylor who served as organist for
19 Bedford-Stuyvesant's Cornerstone Baptist Church--
20 which happens to be my church--for over 40 years and
21 she lives in the Bed-Stuy Brownstone out of which her
22 grandmother started a community music school in the
23 mid 1900s. Her grandfather is a reverend and
24 graduate of Union Theological Seminary who serves
25 among the clergy at Harlem's Riverside Church and

2 started a non-profit called Harlem Interfaith
3 Counseling Service. Reverend Simpierre is currently
4 the Editor-at-Large for the New York Non-Profit
5 Media, which is owned by city and state. She also
6 serves on the board of Manor House Workshops founded
7 by Gloria Bernard, which is the longest running
8 cultural arts Organization in East Harlem. Reverend
9 Simpierre lives in Brooklyn with her wife Miriam,
10 daughter Savannah and Tina, their turtle. Big shout
11 out to Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn, of course. [applause]

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen. Quiet in
13 the chambers. Adoption of minutes.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
15 down.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Adoption of
17 minutes, Council Member Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [pause]
19 [background comments] I move to adopt the minutes.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So-you just-so
21 moved. Messages and Papers from the Mayor. [laughs]

22 CLERK: M-521, Submitting Thomas
23 Sorrentino for appointment to the Taxi

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
25 [shushing for quiet]

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2 CLERK: --and Limousine Commission.

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
4 and Elections.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
6 from City, County and Borough Offices.

7 CLERK: None.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
9 Communications.

10 CLERK: None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
12 Ups.

13 CLERK: M-522 and 523.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-
15 up vote. I ask for a roll call on all call-up votes.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
17 chambers for a roll call.

18 CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Borelli.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [off mic] I vote
22 aye. (sic)

23 CLERK: Cabrera. Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I would like to
3 vote aye on all call-ups and with permission I would
4 like to vote on all coupled items on the General
5 Order Calendar and all resolutions.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye on all.
8 Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Can we—Council
10 Member Barron did you--? No, okay. Sorry.

11 CLERK: Constantinides.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]
13 Aye.

14 CLERK: Cornegy.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
16 Cornegy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [pause] Aye.

18 CLERK: Crowley.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Madam, Public
20 Advocate, can I ask permission to vote on all Land
21 use Call-ups and all calendar items?

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Cumbo.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Deutsch.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'd like to ask
5 a very moving permission to vote on all Call-ups and
6 Land Use items.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Dromm.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] How do
11 you vote. [on mic] How do you vote, Council Member
12 Deutsch?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Dromm.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

17 CLERK: Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

19 CLERK: Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland. Garodnick.

22 CLERK: Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

24 CLERK: Gentile.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I would ask
3 permission to vote on all General Orders. I vote yes
4 on all Land Use Call-Ups and ask permission to vote
5 on General Orders and Resolutions.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With
8 congratulations to Rosie Mendez on Intro 1233-A, I
9 vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [pause] Sorry, I
13 pass

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

15 CLERK: Greenfield.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you. I
17 vote aye on all call-ups but also request permission
18 to vote on the General Order calendar and all coupled
19 items including resolutions.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote aye.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Grodenchik.

24

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I vote aye on
3 all call-ups and the General Calendar and I ask
4 permission to vote on all.

5 PATRICIA JEWETT: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: The first
7 time I'm doing this. I'm a little nervous.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [laughs]
10 Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Johnson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye

17 CLERK: King. Koo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Public
19 Advocate, may I have permission to vote on all
20 General Orders and Land Use Call-Ups?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes sir.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah. I vote aye on
23 all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Koslowitz.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I would like to
6 vote aye on all Call-Ups, and with permission I'd
7 like to vote on all coupled items on the General
8 Order Calendar and all Resolutions.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I vote aye.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 [shushing for quiet]

13 CLERK: Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] For me,
15 aye.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Levin.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Levin.

19 CLERK: Levine.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Levine.

21 CLERK: Maisel.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

23 CLERK: Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Menchaca.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Menchaca now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
3 vote on General Orders and Land Use Call-Ups.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I vote aye on
6 all. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Mendez.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Palma.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye on all
16 Land Use Call-Ups and with permission I would like to
17 vote on all General items on today's calendar and
18 resolutions.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Perkins.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Reynoso.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Madam Public
3 Advocate permission to vote on General Orders and all
4 Land Use Call-Ups.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
7 all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

13 CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

17 CLERK: Salamanca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Madam Public
19 Advocate, I would like to vote aye on all Call-Ups
20 and with permission I would like to vote on all Call-
21 Up items on the General Order Calendar and all
22 resolutions.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I vote aye.

24 Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye,
3 thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Torres.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With permission,
10 Public Advocate, I would like to vote on all Call-Ups
11 and General Order items.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

14 Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Levin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 CLERK: Ulrich.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member

21 Ulrich. [sneezing] Bless you.

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all

24 Land Use Call-Ups and I ask permission to vote on all

25 general order calendar items.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye on all
4 except 1541, I vote no.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Vallone.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission to
8 vote aye on all matters on today's calendar including
9 Call-Ups.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

15 CLERK: Wills.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Madam Public
17 Advocate, Leticia Tish James from Brooklyn, I would
18 like permission to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups and
19 coupled items on the General Order Calendar.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
21 Council Member Wills from the State-Queens, Southeast
22 Queens in particular. Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [laughs] With
24 thoughtful discussion for an amendment for the
25

2 extension of effective date on Intro 1233, I vote aye
3 on all. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Gibson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Matteo. Van Bramer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With
10 permission, I would like to vote aye on all Land Use
11 Call-Ups and General Orders.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] [pause]

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
18 members who have voted, could you please remain in
19 your seat until we do a vote. We need to make sure
20 that we have maintained quorum. Please do not leave
21 the Chambers. I apologize. [pause] The Land Use
22 Call-Up vote is 44—oh, there we go. Today's Land Use
23 Call-Ups are a vote—adopted by a vote of 44 in the
24 affirmative and 0 in the negative. Quiet in the

2 Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker Melissa
3 Mark-Viverito. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
5 Public Advocates and good afternoon to everyone.
6 Happy first day of summer. Happy early Fourth of
7 July. We do have a long agenda today so, I'm going
8 to not speak too much on the bills and allow the
9 Council Colleagues that are sponsoring the bills to
10 speak on them, but first of all before begin I want
11 to take a moment to welcome Dr. Lawrence Joseph to
12 the Chambers. Dr. Joseph is the Uncle of Council
13 Member Jumaane Williams, and he's here. As the
14 former Attorney General, former House Speaker, form
15 Senate President and current Deputy Governor General
16 of the nation of Grenada. So, welcome. [applause]
17 Speaker to Speaker. [laughs] He is also Knight
18 Commander of the Order of the British Empire granted
19 to him in 2015 in recognition of his significant
20 contributions the Granadian community. We are now
21 honored to have you here, Dr. Joseph. Thank you. We
22 welcome you to City Hall and I'm sure you can, with
23 Jumaane's mom be very proud as will oversee
24 [applause] what your nephew is doing today in his
25 service to the city. So, today the Council is going

2 to begin by voting on the rezoning of Broad Channel
3 and Hamilton Beach in order to combat the anticipated
4 effects of sea level rise. On the legislative side
5 our first vote will deal with expanding an exemption
6 to the Commercial Building Air Conditioner Law. This
7 is Introduction 1503-B sponsored by environment-
8 environment-Environmental Protection Committee Chair
9 Costa Constantinides who will speak about the bill.
10 On staff I want to thank Samara Swanston, Bill
11 Murray, John Seltzer, Jim Wilcox and Ed Adkins, and
12 with that Council Member Constantinides if you could
13 say a few words.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank
15 you, Madam Speaker. Two years ago we passed Local
16 Law 92 of 2015, which strengthens the requirement to
17 the landmark Air Conditioning Law in 2008.
18 [background comments] That bill required that all
19 retail establishments--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: --
23 regardless shut the front door--

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
25 down, please.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 Excuse me, Council Member. May we have quiet in the
4 Chambers, please, out of respect for the Council
5 Member. Thank you. I apologize.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: And—and
7 not let air conditioning blow out onto the sidewalk.
8 As tempting as it may be on hot days like this, the
9 increased fossil fuel burden and across the energy
10 grid far outweigh the benefits of luring one or two
11 additional customers into a store. At that time,
12 though, we included several exemptions including for
13 restaurants with sidewalk cafes or where a sidewalk
14 café isn't allowed, restaurants with French doors and
15 windows. This amendment 1503-B simply clarifies the
16 latter part of these restaurants were never intended
17 to be captured by the air conditioner law. For these
18 restaurant where the draw of an open door or window
19 is the essential part of their business, the thing
20 that—they're part and parcel of who they are, and it
21 keeps their doors open literally. We want to ensure
22 that they are treated no differently than a
23 restaurant a block or two away that's able to get a
24 sidewalk café license. This will not weaken our
25 environment impact of or air conditioning law. We've

2 conducted and environmental review and found it to
3 have no detrimental impact on our commitment to
4 reducing carbon 80% by 2050. All this does is
5 protect our small businesses and restaurants in our
6 neighborhoods that need to keep the doors open in
7 order to keep the doors open. So, thank you, Madam
8 Speaker. Again, I thank all of my council colleagues
9 for considering this bill, and I want to thank Samara
10 Swanston, Bill Murray, Ed Adkins, and Nick Majewski
11 (sp?) and my staff. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
13 Council Member. Next the Council will vote on
14 Introduction 1347-A, sponsored by Council Member
15 Robert Cornegy. This has to do with the DOE, and
16 distribution of information regarding the Gifted and
17 Talented Programs, and I want to thank Matt Carlin,
18 Samita Deshmuckh, Asia Schaumburg and Terzah Nasser
19 for their work on this, and Council Member Cornegy
20 will speak to the bill.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madam-- Speaker
22 I'm trying to gather my notes.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, sure.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Can you come
25 back to me.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No worries, no
3 worries, coming back.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Next on the
6 agenda traveling circuses subject performing animals
7 to extensive travel, which limits their movement and
8 restricts natural behaviors. Introduction 1233-A is
9 sponsored by Council Member Rosie Mendez. She's been
10 working on this bill for a long time. I'm glad that
11 we're seeing it being voted on today. It prohibits
12 the use of certain wild and exotic animals in
13 circuses including elephants, big cats, giraffes,
14 apes, and bears. Just to know that we are voting on
15 this bill today. We're also going to vote on the
16 bill at a later time in July to extend the compliance
17 period to allow circuses additional time to adjust
18 their business model, and with that I'd like to ask
19 Council Member Mendez to say a few words.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
21 Speaker. I am pleased to introduce and get this
22 Intro 1233 voted on today. I want to thank all of my
23 colleagues, and I want to thank my five staff members
24 through the 11 years we have worked on this bill.
25 Lisa Kaplan, Janice Martin, Christopher Lobarge,

2 Jasmin Torres, and John Blasco who is currently
3 working with me who helped me get this over the
4 finish line. I want to thank John Phillips, my
5 friend, my constituent who has worked on this bill
6 with me prior to me getting into the Council and has
7 trusted me to shepherd this bill through the Council.
8 I want to thank Christina Syringe (sp?) from Animal
9 Defenders International who worked with me and my
10 staff during the past few years on some of the
11 language. David Seitzer from the Housing Committee.
12 Ramon, I will thank you, too. Thank you for
13 everything. Council Member Johnson for your
14 assistance and being the co-sponsor on this bill.
15 It's taken a long time. We've made a lot of changes
16 to the bill. So, I want to thank the people who have
17 supported it, and the people who are opposed because
18 some of that process I think we've made this a better
19 bill. I will also be introducing a preconsidered
20 intro with other members that will change the
21 implementation date of when this bill becomes
22 effective. I think that it is correct to allow
23 current businesses to adjust their business model in
24 light of this legislation being passed. And I want
25 to thank all my colleagues. Thank you very much.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
3 council member, and coming from the Committee on Land
4 Use Introduction 1219-A, sponsored by Committee Chair
5 David Greenfield regarding privately owned public
6 spaces. I'll leave it at that, and he speak to the
7 bill, and all the details regarding it. Council
8 Member Greenfield.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
10 Speaker. There are 3.2 million square feet of public
11 space in New York City that are known as POPS, These
12 privately owned public spaces are at 500 different-
13 500 different sites and 300 different locations
14 across the city, and so the obvious question is where
15 do they come from? And the answer is that developers
16 made a deal with the city that in return for the
17 ability to build more private commercial and
18 residential floor area, they would give something
19 back to the city, which is private space.
20 Unfortunately, most developers have not been keeping
21 that deal, and the hearing that we had as well as
22 follow-up audit by the Comptroller's Office, the
23 majority of these POPS were not allowing people in or
24 were violating the public space that they had agreed
25 to give in some other way. Our bill today is going

2 to solve this problem in three distinct, but
3 important ways. The first is that the bill will now
4 require for the city to have a database on where
5 exactly these POPS are and what exactly you can do in
6 these public spaces. In fact, right now we don't
7 even know where all these public spaces are, and so
8 we can't even utilize them. The second thing this
9 bill does is require signage at those public spaces
10 to be clear as to what you can and cannot do at that
11 public space, and what times you can use the space
12 and what sort of amenities are provided in the space
13 as well. And the third and most important part of
14 the bill will require regular inspection of these
15 public spaces to make sure that the developers are
16 keeping the deal that they made with the city. To
17 give you an example of just how egregious this is,
18 there is actually a publicly owned private space
19 located at 410 East 58th Street that actually
20 disappeared when the building owner built a hotel
21 lobbing on top of the space that was meant for the
22 public. That's just insane, and so the law that we
23 are passing today will make sure that the public will
24 be able to reclaim literally 80 acres of public
25 space. I would like to thank my outstanding Land Use

2 staff for their really wonderful work especially Raju
3 Mann and Amy Leviton, and Julie Lubin, Jeff Campagna
4 who spend hours working on this, and stayed the other
5 night until midnight including my own outstand Chief
6 of Staff Danny Palstein (sp?) and my terrific Counsel
7 Elaine Esecheva who spent dozens of hours on this
8 bill as well and, of course, I want to thank the
9 Speaker and I want to thank Council Member Ben Kallos
10 for partnering with me on this, and the future bills
11 that we're going to be working on as well, and
12 finally I want to thank Professor Jerald Kayden who o
13 literally wrote the book on POPS. He came down, he
14 testified, and he helped us develop this bill, and
15 for the first time once this bill passes, we will now
16 where the public spaces, we will have access to that
17 public space and we will have enforcement to make
18 sure that all New Yorkers can uses millions of square
19 feet in public space that were promised, but
20 unfortunately those promises kept. Thank you very
21 much.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
23 Council Member. Introduction 1304-B and 1649 are
24 sponsored by our Minority Leader Steve Matteo and it
25 has to do with the Alternative Exemption for

2 Veterans, which is a real property tax exemption.
3 There are some adjustments. We're going to be
4 providing greater relief to veterans. I want to
5 thank Matteo for his leadership and to this Council
6 for really advocating strongly for this happen.
7 Staff, I want to thank Latonia McKinney, Ray
8 Majewski, Emre Edev, Eric Bernstein, Maria Anache
9 (sp?) and Rebecca Chasen, and to Council Member
10 Matteo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam
12 Speaker. Today is a great day for veterans in New
13 York City. It wasn't easy to get here. It took a
14 lot of negotiation and some compromise to make this
15 day a reality, and for that I want to thank the
16 Speaker, my colleagues for working with me on this
17 veterans property tax exemption. A lot of people
18 talk about the debt we owe our veterans, but today
19 the New York City Council is doing much more than
20 paying lip service to that debt. The Alternative
21 Property Tax Exemption for Veterans we are voting
22 makes it possible for us to provide veterans with
23 further saving on their property taxes. It allows
24 New York City to exempt them from most or all of the
25 school portion of the property tax as many of the

2 municipalities in the state already do. As part of
3 our budget agreement with the Administration, we are
4 capping the exemption to control the cost to the
5 city, and give us some fiscal certainty in the years
6 to come, but most importantly this new exemption will
7 save the average veteran household more than \$500
8 more on their property tax bill each year for a total
9 average savings of more than \$1,100 when combined
10 with the existing exemption. This is about to have a
11 real impact on the lives of tens of thousands of
12 veterans and their families most of whom are seniors
13 at or near retirement and living on a fixed income.
14 Nearly 70% have served during a time of war, and the
15 majority are also homeowners. This money will be a
16 lifeline for them, and help them remain a vital part
17 of our communities. I believe as many others do that
18 we need to provide more property tax relief to more
19 families to help them remain in the city, and we need
20 a more fair and equitable property tax system. But
21 until we can pass real property tax reform, we must
22 pass legislation and other measures like this. I
23 cannot think of a better place to start than with a
24 bill that helps those New Yorkers who served and
25 sacrificed to preserve our freedoms and our great

2 democracy. I also want to thank the Council Finance
3 staff led by Latonia McKinney. I also want to thank
4 Ray Majewski, Emre Edev and Eric Bernstein for
5 helping pull this bill over the finish line. I want
6 to thank my staff particularly David Karr and Peter
7 and Spencer. I want to thank my colleagues with the
8 Speaker, my Staten Island Council Delegation, and
9 Jimmy Vacca for his strong support, and finally I
10 want to thank Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
11 for her early support and leadership and partnership.
12 Again, it's a great day for veterans and I urge my
13 colleagues to vote yes. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
15 Additionally, continuing our work to make New York a
16 more accessible city for our nation's service men and
17 women. Intro 1259-A sponsored by Council Member
18 Jumaane Williams would prohibit discriminating on the
19 basis of uniform service and provide local recourse
20 for veterans who have been victims of discrimination.
21 On the staff side, I want to thank Eric Bernstein,
22 Manuel Halu (sp?) and Rachel Cordero. Council Member
23 Williams will speak to the bill.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
25 Madam Speaker. I realize that I was going to be in

2 support with Council Member and Ulrich almost changed
3 my mind, and especially Borelli almost changed my
4 mind, but our decided to keep going with it anyway.
5 I want to thank the Speaker for her leadership and
6 Council Member Mealy who chaired the committee this
7 came out of, and the Public Advocate who is the co-
8 prime sponsor with the Administration of Intro 1259.
9 This bill will give veterans an active military
10 members direct protection on this law against
11 discrimination in housing, employment and public
12 accommodations. I believe people will be shocked to
13 learn how many veterans are discriminated against in
14 those areas, people who are concerned that they'll be
15 called up to duty. Others who will be—who are the
16 false perception that everyone suffers PTSD. We have
17 a tendency to prop veterans and uniform services
18 members up when it suits us, but we don't fulfill the
19 other end of the bargain, which was the protections
20 that were promised when they need to risk their life
21 for their country. New York State is home to nearly
22 900,000 veterans, 225,000 of whom are calling New
23 York City home. According to New York's Department
24 of Labor nearly 14,000 veterans are unemployed across
25 New York State and—and there's a huge issue as I

2 mentioned—this is I want to make it clear I don't
3 support many of the wars that this country has gone
4 to, but I do support the human beings that were sent
5 to those wars and the promises that were made
6 including many of my friends and family. My cousin
7 was injured when a building blew up as his team was
8 searching for bombs, and my little brother in few
9 months who will be joining the U.S. Navy. So, with
10 that, I'm proud of this bill to provide the
11 protections to them. Again, I thank all of the
12 staff that the Speaker mentioned, my staff, the
13 Administration, the Public Advocate, Commissioner
14 Laurie Sutton a Brigadier General and retired U.S.
15 Army and Veterans Alliance Christine Rouse.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
17 Council Member and—and you just said you didn't think
18 you'd find yourself on the same side on an issue with
19 Council Member Matteo. Well, look, and just found
20 out that Eric Ulrich is half Puerto Rican. Who would
21 have thought. [laughter] Well, you know, what do we—
22 what a call we see. He shared his ancestry DNA
23 lineage there and wow.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm going to
25 joint the BLAC now. [laughter] I'm just letting you

2 all know. [applause] I have a DNA test to prove it.
3 I don't want to hear a peep, alright.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [Speaking
5 Spanish] [laughs] Oh, that's funny, but it's true.
6 I wasn't joking about it. He is—he is half Puerto
7 Rican, and we can finish. As we continue following
8 up on initiatives like our successful Summer Youth
9 Employment program, I'm happy to note that the
10 Council will be voting on Introduction 709-A,
11 sponsored by Youth Services Committee Chair Mathieu
12 Eugene, which would establish a Disconnected Youth
13 Workforce Development program for youth age 18 to 24,
14 and run through Department of Small Business
15 Services. I want to thank Council Member Eugene, and
16 he will speak to the bill.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
18 much, Madam Speaker. I am very excited that today we
19 will pass Intro 709-A. This bill is a continuation
20 of our efforts to improve the quality of services
21 available to the disconnected youth in our city, and
22 our cause to end the disconnected youth crisis in New
23 York. Many advocate for disconnected youth allotted
24 at the Department of Small Businesses, SBS The
25 Disconnected Youth program was not comprehensive

2 enough to meet the demands and disconnect-of
3 disconnected youth. SBS provides job placement
4 services through its Workforce 1 career centers,
5 which are designed to serve adults, a lot better
6 suited to serve adults while being in the workforce,
7 but does not provide specialized services for young
8 people. This legislation requires SBS to provide
9 services such as referring disconnected youth to
10 agencies, a community based organization that we had
11 them deal with issues such as mental health, child
12 care, criminal justice issues, and transportation.
13 Additionally, the legislation requires SBS to develop
14 and implement education and adjustment in the program
15 including its component of skilled training to
16 provide follow-up services and finish our literacy
17 education. It is important to note that DYCD, the
18 Department of Education, the Human Services
19 Administration and the Mayor's Office will be
20 involved in this implementation of the program. I am
21 truly delighted that this bill ensures that SBS
22 Disconnected Youth Program will provide targeted
23 services that promise to equip our disconnected youth
24 with an education and work skills better suited to
25 meet the challenges of the 21st Century because them,

2 too, deserve the opportunity to succeed. We want to
3 equip our young men and women who have struggled to
4 make the transition into workforce to attend job
5 training, financial literacy and entrepreneurial
6 skills. This bill aims to give young people new
7 opportunities that—that will promote a sense of
8 accomplishment and the responsibility. In the good
9 city of New York there is no reason why our talented
10 young people should not be able to—to secure better
11 futures for themselves and their families. I believe
12 that Intro 709 is an integral part of improving how
13 we work with the disconnected youth. I want to thank
14 the Speaker for her leadership, and I want to thank
15 also the committee staff led by our Counsel Kemu
16 Gusharu (sp?) the Policy Analyst Michael Benjamin;
17 Senior Financial Analyst Jessica Ackerman, and also
18 my Legislative and Budget Director Ethan Tucker, and
19 thank you to all of you, each one of you for what you
20 are doing every single day for our young people in
21 New York City. Thank you very Madam Speaker.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. Thank
23 you, Council Member and now the Council is going to
24 be voting on two sets of legislation today aimed at
25 addressing the health needs of some of New York

2 City's most vulnerable communities. Intro 1225-A is
3 sponsored by Council Member Ritchie Torres, which
4 would mandate that the Department of Health and
5 Mental Hygiene in consultation with Office of the
6 Mayor and other agencies create and submit to the
7 Mayor and the City Council a plan to serve the
8 behavioral health needs of LGBTQ persons including
9 young people under 24 and elders over 65. The staff,
10 I want to thank Terzah Nasser, Asia Schaumburg,
11 Nicole Abene and Janette Merrill. Council Member, do
12 you want to speak on the issue?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yes, thank you,
14 Madam Speaker. This legislation would create—would
15 require the city to create the first ever
16 comprehensive mental health plan for the LGBTQ
17 community with a particular focus on LBGT youth and
18 LGBT seniors who face some of the highest rate of
19 isolation, depression, and tragically suicide. But
20 trauma of eviction from one's home at the hands of
21 one's own parents, estrangement from one's family,
22 ostracism from one's culture and society. These
23 traumas remain epidemic in—in the LGBT community and
24 the city should be better equipped to address the
25 complex needs of some of our most vulnerable

2 populations. And so a plan for the mental health
3 needs of the LGBT community at its core is a plan to
4 save lives, and a huge debt of gratitude to you,
5 Madam Speaker, to Council Member Cohen, the Chair of
6 the Mental Health Committee, to the LGBT Caucus and
7 to everyone who had a role in passing the
8 legislation. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
10 Council Member. I think Robert Cornegy, Council
11 Member Cornegy is ready to speak on his bill
12 regarding Gifted and Talented programs.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam
14 Speaker, and thank you for your indulgence. So, in
15 2014 Mayor de Blasio chartered a very aggressive
16 course to ensure educational opportunity was
17 universally accessible to all New York City's
18 children regardless of the neighborhood in which they
19 lived. At the beginning of 2014, there were 20,000
20 free full-day Pre-K seats available to 4-year-old New
21 Yorkers. Today there are 70,000 with plans to expand
22 Universal access to pre-kindergarten to 3-year-olds
23 as well. Intro 1347 marks another significant step
24 forward in providing young New Yorkers equal access
25 to educational opportunities that will play a vital

2 role in shaping their futures. For too long Gifted
3 and Talented programs were unavailable in school
4 districts serving primarily minority communities.
5 Worse, information regarding how parents in these
6 communities would opt into an advanced level of
7 education for their children was incredibly hard to
8 obtain. After Intro 1347 becomes law the parents of
9 children enrolled in the city's Universal Pre-K
10 program will be provided with information regarding
11 the DOE Gifted and Talented Program exam and
12 application process so that all of New York City's
13 children have access to an advanced level of
14 education. I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-
15 Viverito Chair of the Education Committee, Council
16 Member Danny Dromm, and the members of the Education
17 Committee Asia Schaumburg, Terzah Nasser, Rob Newman,
18 Jan Atwell, Joan Povolny, my staff and the many other
19 council members who signed onto this—to sponsor this
20 important piece of legislation. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
22 Introduction 929-A is sponsored by Health Committee
23 Chair Corey Johnson requiring DHS to do some online
24 reporting, and also on Introduction 932-A, which is
25 General Welfare Committee Chair Steve Levin, which

2 will require DHS to provide some information on site
3 on its website. Annual Reports regarding mental
4 health services provided to individuals in the
5 shelter system. I want to thank Andrea Vasquez,
6 Tonya Cyrus, Asia Schaumberg and Terzah Nasser. I'll
7 start off with Council Member Johnson and then if
8 Council Member Levin could speak to his bill.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
10 Speaker. Homelessness, as everyone knows, is one of
11 the most pressing and heartbreaking issues that we as
12 a city deal with nearly every single day. The crisis
13 that we're facing with over 60,000 people sleeping in
14 our shelter system, 24,000 of whom are children
15 requires us to address both the short-term problems
16 we face on a daily basis, and the larger systemic
17 issues behind them. This legislation is fairly
18 simple. It arises from the startling lack of data
19 regarding the health needs of our city's homeless
20 population and the lack of data around the services
21 available to them. It's impossible to address health
22 issues facing our most vulnerable citizens if we
23 don't know what those issues are, and the current
24 efforts that are undertaken to address them. If
25 we're going to do right by the homeless population in

2 New York City and address health issues facing
3 homeless New Yorkers, we need a better understanding
4 of services currently available, which shelters
5 they're available in and where there may be gaps. We
6 have a responsibility to safeguard the health and
7 safety of our most vulnerable citizens. That is a
8 promise our city has made to New Yorkers and it's a
9 promise we must keep. This legislation will be an
10 important step in this endeavor. I'd like to thank
11 my very good friend and the Chair of the General
12 Welfare Committee Steve Levin for his leadership and
13 partnership on this issue, and on everything related
14 to homelessness in New York City. This is a package
15 of bills that he and I have worked on together. We
16 had a great hearing on these bills, and I really want
17 to thank you. I also want to thank David Seitzer,
18 Crystal Pond, and my Deputy Chief of Staff Louis
19 Cholden Brown. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor
20 of this legislation. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
22 Speaker. I would like to also ask my colleagues to
23 support Intro 932-A. I also want to thank my
24 colleague Corey Johnson on his partnership on these
25 pieces of legislation to ensure that those people

2 that are most vulnerable in New York City, those that
3 are living in the shelter system have adequate health
4 and mental health services. Intro 932-A is-is going
5 to require that the Department of Homeless Services
6 provide information on the number of DHS shelter-DHS
7 shelters, HASA facilities and domestic violence
8 shelters with on-site mental health services and a
9 description of those services; the description of the
10 mental health services at each intake center; a
11 description of mental health services provided at
12 Drop-In Centers and Safe Havens; a description of the
13 mental health services provided to unsheltered
14 homeless population directly and by referral, and
15 including the number of removals initiated pursuant
16 to Section 958 of the Mental Hygiene Law. A list of
17 the most ten-the ten most commonly occurring mental
18 health issues for adults living in shelter, and the
19 ten most commonly occurring health problems for
20 children living in shelter as self-reported at
21 intake. A list of the ten most common mental health
22 issues for adults living in shelter, and the ten most
23 common mental health issues for children living in
24 shelter as reported by providers under contract or
25 similar agreements with the Department to provide

2 mental health services as well any metrics, relevant
3 to provision of mental health services reported
4 directly to the Department by an entity providing
5 those services. This is a comprehensive piece of
6 legislation that will really speak to the great need
7 in our city to provide mental health services which
8 especially children, but families as well as they are
9 going through the intense trauma of homelessness and
10 through the shelter system. I want to thank the
11 Speaker for her support. Again, I want to thank my
12 colleague Corey Johnson for working with me on this
13 legislation as well as Committee staff Andreas
14 Vasquez; Committee Counsel Tonya Cyrus; Senior Policy
15 Analyst Stacey Ward; our legal fellow as well as my
16 Chief of Staff Jonathan Boucher, and former Deputy-
17 our former Legislative Director Jay Barrow (sp?) for
18 working on this legislation, and with that, I urge my
19 colleagues aye. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: They weren't a
21 factor. Alright, our final legislative package deals
22 with reforms through the Department of Correction
23 bail posting process, an initiative that was
24 originally announced in my February State of the City
25 Address. This packages-package looks to prevent

2 individuals from being sent to Rikers erroneously, or
3 due to bureaucratic inefficiencies. By simplifying
4 the bail posting process we are aiming to reduce the
5 number of people--

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
7 down.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 [shushing for quiet]

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --who end up
11 entrenched in the system in the first place, a goal
12 that will serve us well as we organize to close
13 Rikers in the next ten years. Currently, those who
14 wish to post bail on behalf of those in in the
15 custody of the Department of Correction face numerous
16 obstacles in doing so. These can include black-out
17 periods in which the DOC will not accept bail,
18 individual in custody being transferred to Rikers
19 Island without the notice required to post bail in a
20 timely manner, and antiquated systems that may delay
21 and individual's release after the posting of bail.
22 This package of five bills seeks to improve and
23 reform this system. I want to thank Brian Crowe and
24 Will Hongatch (sp?). I hope I pronounced it right.
25 Introduction 1531-A, which I sponsored, would address

2 these issues by requiring the DOC to immediately and
3 continuously accept bail, release incarcerated
4 individuals for whom bail is posted within five hours
5 in most circumstances, and within three hours by
6 October of 2018, and accept bail for individuals in
7 DOC custody either online, in courthouses or in
8 locations within half a mile of a courthouse. Those
9 on any side of the criminal justice system deserve
10 exactly that. They're due justice. This legislation
11 seeks to add additional transparency to that process
12 here in New York City by enabling those who have
13 followed bail guidelines to avoid harmful and
14 unnecessary additional time in incarceration.

15 Introduction 1341-A sponsored by Public
16 Safety Chair Vanessa Gibson would permit the DOC to
17 delay the transfer of the incarcerated from
18 courthouse facilities to Rikers Island in order to
19 facilitate posting. Council Member Gibson, if you'd
20 like to speak to your bill?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
22 much, Madam Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues.
23 This bill really provides a lot of equity in the
24 Criminal Justice System from our overburdened jails
25 to families that are impacted by a breadwinner having

2 to spend the night on Rikers. Fixing our broken bail
3 system will benefit everyone. Thanks to the common
4 sense and reasonable approaches made through this
5 legislative package today, we are promoting fairness
6 in the justice system as well as lowering the
7 population of detainees in jail across our city. The
8 bill I've introduced 1541 will make an important and
9 overdue correction to the Department of Corrections
10 handling of detainees who have just had their bail
11 set. This bill requires an individual who meets
12 certain qualifications such as being accused of a
13 non-violent offense and having bail less than \$10,000
14 be kept at the courthouse for at least four hours and
15 no more than twelve hours giving their family and
16 friends time to collect and post their bond.
17 Automatically transferring individuals after bail is
18 set makes no sense. It's costly and it adds to the
19 prison population. It required a costly intake
20 process as well as furthering individuals who are
21 able to post bail do so within 24 to 48 hours.
22 That's the typical timeframe. This bill identifies
23 those most likely to post bail, helps to speed up the
24 process, and saves the city money along the way. It
25 cuts the red tape and improves efficiency at the DOC,

2 and they need efficiency at the DOC. I want to thank
3 our Speaker for her continued advocacy and leadership
4 for an improved and reformed bail system. I want to
5 thank our Chair of Fire and Criminal Justice Chair
6 Elizabeth Crowley. I want to thank Brian Crowe and
7 Rob Newman and the entire team because Intro 1541
8 will create a simple procedural change that will have
9 a significant and broad impact, and I urge all of my
10 colleagues to vote yes on Intro 1541. Thank you,
11 Madam Speaker.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
13 Council Member Gibson. Intro 1561-A is sponsored by
14 Fire and Criminal Justice Chair Elizabeth Crowley.
15 It has to do with notification of bail options. I'm
16 going to leave it up to her to explain the bill, and
17 Council Member Crowley. Oh, she left. Okay. So it
18 has to do with bail notification for individuals and
19 a written summary of their bail and options for
20 paying the bail including option to post bail for
21 themselves. I want to thank her for her leadership
22 on this bill. Also, then the next one is
23 Introduction 1576 sponsored by Council Member Rory
24 Lancman. It has to do with access to personal
25 information. If Council Member Lancman could speak

2 to his bill. He left as well. Alright. Individuals
3 arrested by the New York City Police Department are
4 brought to criminal court within 24 hours to be
5 arraigned before a judge. It's important that these
6 individuals have contact information for their
7 friends and families for a variety of reasons.
8 Presently the NYPD does not consistently permit
9 arrestees to access their mobile phones or other
10 sources of contact information. So, that's what
11 Intro 1576-A would do. It would permit such access
12 unless the property is arrest evidence or is relevant
13 criminal evidence, and last up is Intro 1581-A
14 sponsored by Council Member Antonio Reynoso, who I
15 think also left. It would require the Mayor's Office
16 of Criminal Justice to make reasonable efforts to
17 work with the court system to ensure that complete
18 and accurate information regarding posting bail is
19 posted in courthouses or communicated directly
20 through the use of bail kiosks that are currently
21 operational in the Bronx Criminal Courts. And before
22 concluding, I want to take a moment to highlight the
23 vote that will be happening today regarding
24 Resolution 1415-A, which is sponsored by myself and
25 Council Member Annabel Palma. Thank you, Council

2 Member. Described in my February State of the City
3 Address this resolution calls upon the New York State
4 Education Department to convene a taskforce to affect
5 the cultural relevance of state learning standards
6 across subject areas in elementary, middle and high
7 school, and to explore the grounding standards and
8 core content that challenges racism, ableism, sexism,
9 and is inclusive to LGBTQ and TGMC lifestyles. Our
10 children deserve an education that reflects the lives
11 and worlds they experience everyday, and I'm proud to
12 be sponsoring this resolution today with colleague
13 Council Member Palma, and with that, I end the
14 communication from the Speaker.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you so
16 much. We thank those members who voted early and who
17 remained for the purposes of maintaining quorum. If
18 you have to leave now, you may do so, and we thank
19 you for that. For General Orders discussions
20 beginning with Council Member King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon,
22 Madam Speaker and all. I just want to address us a
23 Council. I know we're responsible for passing
24 legislation that improves the quality of life in the
25 City of New York. However, I am troubled and

2 dismayed at one piece of legislation that we'll be
3 voting on today. As a child I've had the privilege
4 of being able to attend the circus where I got to
5 acts whether they were animals or humans who
6 performed on quite—with unique abilities. I think
7 that today we're getting ready to vote on the bill
8 that may be somewhat discriminatory because we have
9 rules in place. If you violate those rules in the
10 city of New York when you provide a circus, you
11 cannot do this, i.e. Ringling Brothers. So, right
12 now we have one circus that still exists and that is
13 the Universal Soul Circus that still exists that's
14 been performing across the United States for 25 years
15 and they have followed the rules. They have not
16 broken any of the city rules. So, I find it a little
17 bit bizarre that in this day and age that we'll
18 create a rule that will eliminate them from coming to
19 the city of New York and deliver the services that
20 they have been delivering. In the Progressive
21 Council we've always talked about being progressive.
22 The Universal Soul Circus is the only black owned—
23 minority owned circus in the United States of America
24 and we're getting ready to shut them out of New York
25 City with Intro-Bill 1233. I don't think it's fair.

2 I don't think it's right, and I really hope that we
3 reconsider when we vote today to give our children
4 the opportunity to enjoy the same experiences that we
5 enjoyed as children when we went to the circuses, and
6 remember again, we're the ones that promote business.
7 We know in communities of color where the Universal
8 Soul goes. There are jobs that get created. There
9 is entertainment that's duly noted, and it has an
10 impact on the boroughs of the Bronx, Queens and
11 Brooklyn. So, I ask us all to reconsider. When we
12 take our voted today to be real careful what we're
13 getting ready to do because what will be next? We
14 talk about mistreating animals in the circus. There
15 is no proof that the Universal Soul Circus has ever
16 done this, and then if we're talking about the
17 mistreatment of animals we all have to correct our
18 own animals at home to discipline the, and we're
19 going to do that, do we get rid of our own pets.
20 [crowd protests] If adults—if adults--.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 Quiet. May we have---

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: If adults abuse
24 our children--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 Quiet in the balcony. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: --do we get rid of
5 all our children? No, we don't. So, if someone is
6 following the rules, why do we create new rules to
7 get rid of them? So, I'm saying we should be really
8 paying attention to what's going on right here, and
9 not play politics and do the right thing, and I vote--
10 I ask everyone not to vote for Intro 1233. Thank
11 you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
13 Johnson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Madam Public
15 Advocate, I'll wait for the roll call instead of
16 speaking now. Sorry about that.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
18 Council Member Dromm.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you. I just
21 want to make reference to the report from the Council
22 from the Committee, and they found that traveling
23 circuses are detrimental to animal welfare due to the
24 adverse effects of frequent transport, extended
25 periods of confinement and physically abusing

2 training techniques. The extended period of time in
3 vehicle and temporary facilities facilitated-util-
4 utilized by the circus industry restrict natural
5 behaviors and cause animals to suffer to be prone to
6 health, behaving and psychological problems. Tricks
7 that exotic and wild animals are forced to perform
8 require extreme physical coercion techniques
9 including the restriction of food, the use of bull
10 hooks and a heavy—which is a heavy bar with a
11 sharpened point and a hook, electrical shocks, metal
12 bars, whips and other forms of physical abuse.
13 That's why today I urge my colleagues to vote in
14 favor of this legislation.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Thank
16 you for those in the balcony. This is how we express
17 ourselves. Thank you so much. For a vote Council
18 Member Laurie Cumbo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to vote
20 on General and Coupled Orders and Resolutions.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 Council Member Miller.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
3 Public Advocate. I also want to talk about Intro
4 1233. While I'm sure that my colleagues who support
5 this legislation do so with the best of intentions,
6 what I'd like to talk about are the unintended
7 consequences of. The unintended—and in particular,
8 I'd like to talk about one great example, which is
9 the Universal Soul Circus, which for nearly 25 years
10 have served—which is an African-American owned
11 business, and a traveling circus, which has for more
12 than 25 years—for nearly 25 years has served our
13 community, not just communities of color, but
14 communities throughout the city with circus
15 performers from throughout the world. In particular
16 we have welcomed them into Southeast Queens, in
17 particular Southern Queens Park, which is run by the
18 city, which depends on these resources that come in.
19 They are the number one generator of revenue for the
20 Southern Queens Park Association. The—the—the
21 partnership that had—that we had is with not-for-
22 profits, community based organizations. In fact,
23 this past April we brought in nearly 3,000 families
24 from New York City shelters, which enjoyed a full day
25 at the circus, which enjoyed days with the

2 performers, the animals. We fed them and everything.
3 So while we should have learned from our experience
4 with horse carriages that they—whether or not to
5 consider these type of consequences, but to be able
6 to get better to resolve these, and instead of simply
7 imposing bans, we should be working on how to find
8 solutions that will keep these men and women
9 employed, and keep these animals safe. Intro 1233
10 does not allow for any middle ground, and takes
11 advantage of small minority owned businesses that is
12 only looking to continue to contribute to communities
13 and society as they have done in the past. I will be
14 voting no, and I ask my—my colleagues to do the same.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 Council Member Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Madam Public
18 Advocate, I want to speak today concerning the
19 property tax exemption for veterans in New York City.
20 Throughout our history we have been honored to have
21 selfless men and women of our armed services put
22 their lives on the line to server our country in war
23 time. From the GI Bill of 1944 to New York City's
24 successful efforts to place more than 2,300 veterans
25 in jobs in the last three years. Our government has

2 over the years made efforts to repay that debt.
3 Today, New York City is taking another step. One
4 current property tax laws provide partial property
5 tax exemptions to qualified veterans, but with an
6 exclusion for school property tax that leaves our
7 veterans with a bill that can reach up to \$400
8 dollars for a single-family homeowner. Today, we
9 close that loophole. At a time when we're surrounded
10 by fear and uncertainty of what government may do,
11 this bipartisan legislation led by Minority Leader
12 Steven Matteo is a true reflection of our common
13 values. Many thanks to Minority Leader Matteo for
14 his leadership and perseverance on this important
15 issue, and thank you to the Speaker for her support
16 of this during the budget negotiations, and Jimmy
17 Vacca. This bill is a very small price to pay for
18 the men and women who have risked their lives for us
19 and I urge all of you to support this today. Thank
20 you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Seeing no one
22 else on General Orders, Report of Special Committees.

23 CLERK: None.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of
25 Standing Committees.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil
3 Rights, Intro 1259-A prohibiting discrimination on
4 the basis of uniform service.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
6 Coupled on General Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Education, Intro 1347-A, Gifted and Talented
9 Programs.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
11 Coupled on General Orders.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
13 Environmental Protection, Intro 1503-B, Air
14 Conditioning Prohibitions.

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

17 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1561,
18 Environmental Review for Intro No. 1503-B.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
20 General Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the committee on
22 Finance, Intro 1304-B, Alternative Exemption for
23 Veterans.

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

2 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 1649, Maximum
3 Exemptions Allowable for Veterans.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
5 General Orders.

6 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1563,
7 Transparency Resolution.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
9 General Orders.

10 CLERK: LU 679 and Reso 1566 through LU
11 681 and Reso 1568 on page 4, Tax Exemptions.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Give me one
13 second. 1568. This one is a little confusing.
14 Coupled on General Orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire
16 and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 1531-A, 1541-A
17 and 1561-A, Processing of Bail Payments.

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

20 CLERK: Intro 1576-A, Contact Information
21 for Arrestees.

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

24 CLERK: Intro 1581-A, Office of Criminal
25 Justice and Posting Bail.

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

4 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
5 General Welfare, Intro 929-A and 932-A, Health
6 Services in Shelters.

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

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
10 Use Intro 1219-A, the reporting of privately owned
11 public spaces.

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

14 CLERK: LU 651 and 652 Zoning Amendments.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with
16 modifications and referred to the City Planning
17 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.76(b) of the Rules of
18 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City
19 Charter.

20 CLERK: LU 654 and Reso 1569, Mulberry
21 Street.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled to be
23 filed pursuant to letter of withdrawal.

24 CLERK: LU 654 and 655, Zoning
25 Amendments.

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved with
3 modifications and referred to the City Planning
4 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the rules of
5 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City
6 Charter.

7 CLERK: LU 659 and Reso 1570 through LU
8 672 and Reso 1575 on the next page, Tax Exemptions.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
10 General Orders.

11 CLERK: LU 677 and Reso 1576 and LU 678
12 and Reso 1577, Zoning Amendments.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
14 General Orders.

15 CLERK: LU 685 and Reso 1578 through LU
16 688 and Reso 1581, Special Coastal Risk District.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: LU 693 and Reso 1582, Property
20 Tax Exemption.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
22 General Orders.

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental
24 Health, Developmental Disability, Alcoholism,

25

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2 Substance Abuse and Disability Services, Intro 1225-
3 A, Behavioral Health Plan for the LGBTQ communities.

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

6 CLERK: On the General Order Intro 709-A,
7 Youth Workforce Program.

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

10 CLERK: Intro 1233-A, Exotic Animal
11 Circus Performances.

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

14 CLERK: LU 635 and Reso 1583 through LU
15 615 and Reso 1585.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
17 General Orders.

18 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
19 persons commissioner of deeds.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
21 General Orders, and I ask for a roll call vote on all
22 General Orders.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
24 Chambers for a roll call vote.

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All that is
3 coupled on the General Orders Calendar.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Please quiet down.

5 CLERK: Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye on all
7 with the exception of 1233-A, in which I'm voting no.

8 CLERK: Borelli.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
10 except 1531, 1541, 1561, 1576, 1581 and 1233-A.

11 CLERK: Chin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
13 explain my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I just wanted to
16 congratulate all my colleagues on their hard work on
17 all their important legislation, and especially to my
18 sister Council Member Rosie Mendez on Intro 1233-A.
19 She has worked so hard on it, and congratulations.
20 I'm proud to vote aye on all. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Constantinides.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
24 all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Madam Public
4 Advocate, permission to explain my vote, please.

5 CLERK: Yes, sir.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So, while I'm
7 grateful to the sponsor Rosie Mendez of today's bill
8 as well as to the Speaker for recognizing the
9 concerns that many of us have raised by-and-and
10 stakeholders regarding the information-the
11 implementation date, and their concern for the
12 information and the implement-implementation date as
13 it relates to the Universal Soul Circus. I looking
14 forward to supporting this bill as well as the
15 upcoming amendments that we've discussed. Aye on
16 all.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Dromm.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Permission to
20 explain my vote.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council
22 Member.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Again, I'd like to
24 congratulate all of the sponsors on today's
25 legislation especially Council Member Rosie Mendez on

2 a great victory for animal rights, and also to
3 congratulate Council Member Torres on his work on the
4 behavioral-the-the plan for behavioral needs of the
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning
6 persons, but to also mention that yesterday we held a
7 hearing at which the issue of conversion therapy was
8 discussed, and the Health Department came in totally
9 unprepared. And I think that's really evidence about
10 why Council Member Torres' legislation is so vitally
11 important, and I certainly hope that in the end when
12 the Health Department comes through with this plan,
13 that the issue of conversion therapy is totally
14 addressed in that plan. Thank you very much, and I
15 vote aye on all.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Espinal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye on
19 all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Eugene.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Garodnick.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
6 Public Advocate and I, too, want to join our
7 colleagues in congratulating everyone for passing
8 legislation today especially the Criminal Justice
9 bills that we're passing related to bail reform.
10 Council Member Ritchie Torres and certainly Council
11 Member Rosie Mendez for her hard work on Intro 1233,
12 and I hear many of the concerns. I am a sponsor of
13 the legislation, and certainly I appreciate the
14 efforts and the consideration for delaying the
15 implementation. We know that with anything we do
16 there are always unintended consequences that are,
17 you now, unpreventable at times, but certainly
18 representing many of those employees that are
19 impacted by any work we do particularly employees of
20 color. It's always very concerning to allow
21 individuals to be out of jobs, and—and that is very
22 concerning for me. But I do understand the overall
23 message, and all of the work that's been put into
24 Intro 1233, and that is why I am the sponsor, and I
25 do support, and I want to thank Council Member Mendez

2 and all the advocates for their hard work. Nothing
3 we do in this Council is always about the bottom line
4 and about common beliefs and common priorities, and I
5 truly believe at the end of the day that it is
6 passing for the right reasons. So, I look forward to
7 the amendment next month. I look forward to delaying
8 the implementation so that we can allow all those
9 parties the proper amendments so their industries can
10 be adjusted as well so business either can maintain
11 or can be changed. So, with that congratulations to
12 all of my colleagues and I vote aye on all. Thank
13 you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Johnson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I am pleased
20 that the Council is voting on the bill to prohibit
21 exotic animals in—at circuses to. I fully support
22 the amendment we'll be passing next month to allow
23 additional time for compliance, and with the rest of
24 my time I want to talk about something that's not on
25

2 the agenda that we're voting on today, and it is Gay
3 Pride Month. I want to stand up-

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
5 Council Member-

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to do it
7 during my time here because I can't stay for general
8 discussion afterwards. So, I'll be very, very quick.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to just
11 say that I am a proud member of this Council. I am
12 proud member of the LGBT Caucus. I am opening HIV
13 positive. I am proud of this Council for Ritchie
14 Torres's bill today that we're passing, and I am
15 proud of all the work that this Council has done.
16 And today I want to remember New Yorkers that are
17 sometimes forgotten. People like Marsha P. Johnson,
18 who was at Stonewall; Sylvia Rivera, Baird Rustin who
19 lived in Chelsea in my district and helped lead the
20 march in Washington. Audrey Lord, Michael Callon,
21 the living Larry Kramer and many activists that came
22 before me, came before many of us in this Council
23 that laid the groundwork for us to actually be in
24 elected office. Silence does equal death. We are
25 not silent any more. We are not silent in the wake

2 of what happened last November. Many are not silent
3 about being ourselves and being proud of who we are.
4 This Council Has seven openly LGBT members, and this
5 Council has been supportive not just for the last 3-
6 1/2 years that I've been in office, but even before
7 that. My predecessor Christine Quinn was an openly
8 Lesbian Speaker of the Council and her predecessor,
9 Tom Dwayne was one of the first openly gay men ever
10 elected in the State of New York. He was opening HIV
11 positive at the height of the AIDS epidemic when
12 people were dying. I stand on the—on the work that
13 they built. I am here today because of them, and I
14 am proud as an openly gay, openly HIV positive New
15 Yorker. I look forward to marching down Fifth Avenue
16 in solidarity with everyone this Sunday. Happy Pride
17 Month.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 [applause] Quiet in the Chambers. Quiet in the
20 Chambers. This is how we support and condone our
21 acceptance of the speeches. Thank you next roll
22 call.

23 CLERK: Kallos.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
25 explain my vote.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The best moment
4 for me in 2013 was marrying my wife who remains the
5 best part of my life. I love you Irene. Happy
6 Birthday. I vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 [background comments] Thank you, thank you.

9 [shushing for quiet]

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down please.

11 Keep it down.

12 CLERK: King.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: I vote aye on all
14 except for Intro 1233. Bronx Zoos, watch out because
15 here they come.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Koslowitz.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Than you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: --on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Lander.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Levin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you, Madam
6 Public Advocate. I just wanted to welcome—they have
7 left, but they were here earlier—the Hope Reichbach
8 fellows this year visiting the city and Council:
9 Nyla Tolbert, Asamia Diabi, Hadir Elton, Maria Jose
10 Delgado, Kyla Maria-Castro and Amira(sp?) Taveras,
11 and I just also want to welcome my interns Adelle
12 Clemmons, Michael Brittenham and Cameron Crane.
13 Thank very much. I vote aye on all.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Maisel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I love you.

18 [laughter] Next. [laughter]

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.
20 Keep it down.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
22 [shushing for quiet]

23 CLERK: Mealy.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Mendez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Miller. [pause]

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Miller.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Congratulations

7 to Council—my colleagues from Staten Island, Council
8 Member Matteo on the passage on the legislation on
9 the Veterans tax credit. It is long overdue and
10 we're hoping that the homeowners could receive
11 additional relief, but if we have to start somewhere,
12 we want to start with the men and women who have
13 served our communities and our country do admirably.
14 I'll be voting aye on all except for 1233-A.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you, thank
16 you. Next.

17 CLERK: Perkins.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all
19 including 1233-A.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Richards.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye with
23 the understanding that implementation will be
24 delayed. So, I vote aye.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Rodriguez.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ:

4 Congratulations to my colleague Mendez and other
5 advocates for this bill. You've been a champion not
6 only on this bill, but also animal rights, and as a
7 father of two daughters I want to be sure that my
8 daughter are born and being—have been born and raised
9 knowing that animals have feelings, too and thank you
10 to the Speaker for also—for helping to get a
11 compromise and with that I vote aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 CLERK: Rose.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all except
15 1233-A.

16 CLERK: Rosenthal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: At the risk of
18 not being in Camp Maisel, permission to explain my
19 vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Council
21 member. [laughs]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
23 all. I do want to give a particular shout-out to
24 Council Member Torres with his very smart and
25 thoughtful legislation to require a plan to support

2 our LGBT youth. Also, to Council Member Matteo who,
3 you know, won't take no for an answer when it comes
4 to that--

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --and really--

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
9 down, please, keep it down.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Pardon me,
11 Council. Quiet in the Chambers, please. We're still
12 in session.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Please don't talk.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Sorry, Council
15 Member.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: --did a
17 yeoman's job on this work, and very impressive.
18 Council Member Greenfield, you--your legislation will
19 answer the questions that my community board has been
20 asking for the last 17 years. So, thank you for
21 that. Council Member Constantinides, thank you for
22 helping to keep the small businesses on the Upper
23 West Side alive, and finally, with admiration to
24 Council Members Barron and Mendez. I'm so proud to
25 both sponsor and support Intro 1233. Congratulations

2 to all in particular to John Phillips who knows how
3 to hang in there for an issue that matters. Thank
4 you very much.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Cabrera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all and
8 I'd like to congratulate Rosie Mendez for your
9 advocacy and leadership on 1233, and John Phillips,
10 you waited eleven years. It's a long time, but today
11 it has become a reality and, of course, it's reality,
12 and with that I vote aye on all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Torres.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
16 explain my vote.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I will vote for
19 1223-A. I want to thank the Speaker and—I'm sorry
20 1223. I'm sorry I'm reading. I looks like 1233. I
21 mis—I mis—I miswrote the-the bill. I want to thank
22 the Speaker and Council Member Mendez for their
23 openness to compromise. I know within the BLAC
24 opinion about the merits about the bill did vary.
25 Some members were supportive on principle, some were

2 against, but there was broad agreement in favor of an
3 amendment delaying the implementation to allow for an
4 orderly transition, and I'm fully supportive of that
5 compromise. So, with that said, I vote aye on all.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Madam Public
9 Advocate, I'd like to explain my vote.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, Enrico
11 Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, and
13 well, I have to learn Spanish now [laughter] first of
14 all. You know, I played a pretty important role in
15 the Speaker's race and I intend on playing a very
16 important role on who heads the BLAC. [laughter] So,
17 just I'm warning you when that does happen, I will be
18 the Sandra Day O'Connor of the BLAC. Anyway the
19 swing vote there. I first want to start by thanking
20 the Land Use Committee and the Zoning Subcommittee,
21 my good colleagues and my friends Donovan Richards
22 and David Greenfield for helping me and my community
23 get this resiliency zoning passed through the Council
24 Particularly for Broad Channel and Hamilton Beach,
25 two areas which are still struggling to recover since

2 Hurricane Sandy, and as those communities continue to
3 rebuild, we want to make sure that they are
4 rebuilding in the most resilient fashion, and that
5 homeowners who are—who have been left and many
6 generations cannot only rebuild their lives and
7 rebuild their homes. But also get finality from the
8 Buildings Department and get a C of O for their
9 property so that when they go to sell it, or transfer
10 it to a family member they don't encounter
11 longstanding problems because they find that their
12 homes are not in compliance with the zoning, and
13 businesses, too, which have also been affected. I
14 also want to commend Steve Matteo, the Minority
15 leader who has done a phenomenal, phenomenal job
16 pushing this to the finish line along with all the
17 co-sponsors for the Veterans Property Tax Exemption.
18 This is real money that will make a real difference
19 for veterans in our city many of whom are living on
20 fixed incomes, and who desperately need to stay in
21 the homes that they already have. If we want to talk
22 about helping homeless veterans well that's—that's
23 good and we should do everything that we can as a
24 city to end veterans homelessness particularly
25 chronic veteran homelessness, and I know that the

2 Administration has done a great job doing that. But
3 we should also have a very coherent strategy for
4 preventing more veterans from becoming homeless, and
5 in doing so, making sure that veterans can stay in
6 the homes or the apartments that they're already in.
7 This is a big step in that direction, and 5 of \$600
8 may not seem like a lot of money to some people, but
9 for a veteran who is on disability or Social Security
10 or receiving a small pension, this is going to make a
11 difference. I want to thank the Public Advocate as
12 well. She's always been a strong champion for
13 veterans. It's a bipartisan issue. It's the right
14 thing to do, and I want to tip my hat to Steve. You
15 did a great job. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
17 Council Member Enrico Ulrich. [background comments]

18 CLERK: Williams.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: My I be excused
20 to explain my vote?

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: They left
23 already, but I want to make sure—I wanted to shout
24 out my mother Patricia Williams and Dr. Sir Lawrence
25 Joseph, who I just call Uncle Larry and thank him for

2 coming. I am-want to shout out my colleagues for
3 their bills today, and particularly Council Member
4 Greenfield. He failed to-I don't know if he knew. I
5 mentioned it. It kind of troubles me how do POPS do
6 an Occupy Wall Street where they were closing and
7 opening them at their will. They were taking signs
8 off or they didn't have signs posted. I believe the
9 work you're doing will go greatly for other types of
10 uses for POPS. When it comes to 1233, this really
11 wasn't a-a hard thought process for me. I do care
12 about jobs very much. I when I was younger stopped
13 eating meat because I didn't like the way they were
14 killing animals. I'm now Pescatarian. I stopped
15 going to circuses in my late teens, early 20s because
16 of the way I learned that animals were being abused
17 at those circuses. So, this to me was just a
18 continuation of what I've always believed, and so I
19 fully support 1233. I congratulate Council Member
20 Mendez and the work that she is doing, and I
21 appreciate her willingness to make sure they weren't-
22 three was an easy transition by supporting the
23 amendments that we're going to make sure this Council
24 comes on. So, if there are any transition in the
25 implementations state-in the implementation stage.

2 So that people are not unduly hurt. We can't just
3 sit by and say that animals can be hurt, and that's
4 just okay, and so I appreciate her thoughtfulness and
5 the discussion that had occurred in this body, and
6 with that, I'm proud to vote aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Council Member Ulrich.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm sorry. I
10 forgot to vote I was talking so much. [laughter]
11 Anyway, but I'm voting aye on all proudly.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes on
14 everything. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I want to thank
18 my colleagues for their support, and I opened up what
19 is a great day for veterans. I'll finish my remarks
20 that it's a great day for veterans in terms of
21 voting. I'm voting no on 1531, 1541, 1561, 1576,
22 1581, and 1233-A, and aye on the rest.

23 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I
3 thank all of the advocates and all of those who were
4 in the balcony. Thank you for following the
5 instructions. I really appreciate it. Thank you for
6 engaging democracy. As we await—await the vote.
7 [pause] Thank you. [pause] Again, I want to thank the
8 Clerk and all of the staff for doing an amazing job.
9 All items on today's General Order Calendar were
10 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0
11 negative and 0 abstentions with the exception of
12 Intro 1541-A, which was adopted by a vote of 46 in
13 the affirmative, 3 negative and 0 abstentions, and
14 Intro 1431-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in
15 the affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions. and
16 Intro 1561, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
17 affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro
18 1576-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
19 affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro
20 1581-A, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the
21 affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and Intro
22 1233-A, which was adopted by a vote of 43
23 affirmative, 6 negative and 0 abstentions, and the
24 revised—Oh, I'm not finished. The Revised Land Use
25 Call-up vote is 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the

2 negative. Let it rip. Go. [cheers] [pause]
3 [cheers/applause]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're almost-
5 we're almost done with our meeting so let us-

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] In
7 the balcony-

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]
9 yeah.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --please we're
11 not-we have not concluded. Sit down. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Alright.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And you've got it
14 out. Okay, now hold it. [background comments]
15 Introduction and reading of bills.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All items have
17 been referred to a committee as indicated on the
18 agenda.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now
20 discussion of resolutions beginning with this
21 resolution sponsored by Council Member Eugene, a
22 resolution declaring June 22nd, Veterans Tribute and
23 Advocacy Day in New York City. Any speakers? All
24 those in favor say aye.

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

2 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
4 opposed? Any abstentions? The ayes have it, and
5 Resolution 1415-A, sponsored by Council Member Palma.
6 Any speakers? An amended resolution calling up the
7 New York State Education Department to convene a
8 taskforce to assess the cultural rel-relevance of
9 State Learning Standards across subject areas in
10 elementary, middle and high school and explore the
11 grounding of standards in core content that allows-
12 that challenges racism, ableism and sexism and its
13 LGBTQ and TGNC affirming. All of those in favor say
14 aye.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
18 opposed? Any abstentions. The ayes have it, and now
19 to general discussion beginning with Council Member
20 Espinal. All of those in the balcony, if you are
21 exiting, please exit quietly and thank you for
22 coming.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I would just like
24 to turn everyone's attention to Intro 1652. It's the
25 repeal of the archaic Cabaret Law. The Cabaret Law

2 for those of you who don't know, it's a law that was
3 introduced in the late '20s and used to go after
4 Harlem Jazz scene--

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
6 [shushing for quiet]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: --and against
8 the LGBT community night scene as well. It's-it's
9 homophobic and racist in its legacy and its history
10 and I-this law has no place in the books. Right now
11 it's used to regulate dancing across our city, and
12 statistics have shown that again establishments of
13 color, establishment also patroned by the LGBT-the
14 LGBTQ community, continue to be targeted. It's time
15 that this law is taken off our books, and that this
16 city moves to the 20-the 2017, and make sure that
17 we're doing right by all communities, and make sure
18 that dancing is legal in the city of New York. I
19 really want to give a shout-out to the Dance
20 Liberation Network and the New York City Artists
21 Coalition for all of the work they've being doing on
22 the ground to bring light to this bill, and again, I
23 urge my colleagues to please sign on, and let's get
24 this archaic law off our books. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And let's dance.
3 Council Member Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
5 Public Advocate. I want to call my colleagues'
6 attention to Reso 1560, which relates to
7 acknowledging the fundament injustice, cruelty,
8 brutality and inhumanity of slavery--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
10 [shushing for quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --in the City of
12 New York and the State of New York and establish a
13 commission to study reparations for African-Americans
14 and to recommend remedies. So, I guess perhaps more
15 people will check out their ancestry. We know that
16 in 1991, there was construction of a federal
17 building, which unearthed the intact--the intact
18 remains of 400 men, women and children of African
19 descent. We know that at least since 1625, African-
20 Americans were here clearing the forests and
21 woodlands. They built the wall that was at Wall
22 Street. They built the roads. They were iron
23 workers, craftsmen, blacksmiths, and we know that in
24 New York State--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 [shushing for quiet]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: --in 1799 the
5 gradual Emancipation Act was enacted, which freed
6 slave children born after that date, but in
7 indentured them until they were adults. And we know
8 that on the threshold of that widespread
9 emancipation, the State Constitutional Convention of
10 1821 removed the property qualifications for ballot
11 access for white men, but imposed a property
12 qualification of \$250 for blacks that effectively
13 disenfranchised them. So, we're asking that this
14 commission be formed, and that they consider whether
15 any form of compensation to the descendants of
16 African slaves is warranted and offer recommendations
17 accordingly. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
19 Council Member Rodriguez.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] I
21 just want to thank my colleagues who made it count,
22 and my government, I would like to--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
24 [shushing for quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [on mic] I
3 would like to—I would like to thank my 28 colleagues
4 at the Council and the Public Advocate for being
5 colleagues with the other new bill that we introduced
6 today, and that we will have a hearing tomorrow that
7 is calling the DOT to install more pedestrian
8 bollards. You know, the vehicle has become a weapon
9 of mass destruction. We have seen it throughout
10 Europe especially in London, and that—without the
11 pedestrian bollards in Times Square those are the
12 people that could be killed, and with this bill for
13 which we will have a hearing tomorrow, we believe
14 that we can save many lives. Also, tomorrow we are
15 going to be having a hearing about the black car
16 tipping opportunity that will allow a passenger to
17 give the tip to the drivers especially in the black
18 and limousine. So, tomorrow we will have a press
19 conference at 10:00 a.m. on the steps, and the
20 hearing at 11:00 a.m. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
22 Williams who we now know is related to royalty.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
24 much. First I hope all the dads had a happy Father's
25 Day. That day remind me [coughs] of my own dad who I

2 lost a few years ago, Doctor Williams. I miss him
3 greatly. His prayers for the uncommon spirit, and
4 also unfortunately as we celebrate my mom on that day
5 and others like her who play a dual role as mom and
6 dad in raising their children, I am deeply saddened
7 and angered by the not-guilty verdict for former
8 Minnesota Officer Jeronimo Yanez in the shooting
9 death of Philando Castille. I've seen the video
10 where Mr. Castille informed him that he had gun, and
11 the officer said please don't pull it out. He said,
12 I am not. The Passenger said he's not and he was
13 still shot. The lack of reverence for black life has
14 become all too commonplace in our country. This not
15 about revenge or looking for a harsh sentence. It's
16 about looking for fairness. Everyone deserves
17 justice not matter their background or their title.
18 Every description of Mr. Castille is phenom-
19 phenomenal. There's pictures of students with
20 disabilities how they brought him class, and how he
21 fed them, and then this many was shot to death, and
22 no one was held accountable. We see this story
23 repeated over and over. If you just slip in the name
24 and the title will remain the same. I also just want
25 to say rest in peace. I am a hip-hop fan. Albert

2 Johnson, also known, as Prodigy from my beat passed
3 away yesterday at the age 42. He was quite open
4 about his battles with Sickle Cell Anemia.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May he rest in
6 peace. Council Member Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes, thank you. I-
8 I speak today in support of Intro 1656, which will
9 create an exemption for non-profits from the tax lien
10 sale. Most churches and small CBOs have limited
11 staff and professional help. Filing exemptions is a
12 complex process that, for example, has caught many of
13 our houses of worship off guard. Even when an
14 exemption is granted the City's Department of Finance
15 continues to seek unpaid taxes frequently beyond the
16 means of the organization. Those taxes are usually
17 the basis for a tax lien. In fact, even the
18 Archdiocese of New York with all of its resources has
19 churches on the tax lien list and is struggling to
20 clarify the situation. I hope that I can get other
21 council members to support and co-sponsor this needed
22 legislation. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
24 Council—and last Council Member Eugene.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Public Advocate. I just want to thank my
4 colleagues for voting on the Resolution 1412, and I
5 want to thank also the Chair of the Veterans
6 Committee, my colleague Eric Ulrich, but the
7 Resolution—I want to say that the Resolution 1412
8 proposes that the veterans to be---that Advocacy Day
9 be held on anniversary of the day that the President
10 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the GI Bill of
11 Rights in—into law creating a modern system of
12 benefits for veterans. My intention that we feel
13 veterans get an Advocacy Day is not only to celebrate
14 the service and sacrifices of our veterans but to
15 take this day an opportunity to advocate for better
16 resources for veterans while returning to civilian
17 life. Veterans of all ages face a wide range of
18 challenges, have problems, difficulties are not just
19 in their family and civilian life and more, and I
20 think it is right to take the anniversary of the GI
21 Bill to advocate for better services and the
22 resources for those who gave—who have given so much
23 to serve our country. I would—I want to thank all my
24 colleagues, and I want to also thank the Speaker for
25 her leadership. We ought to offer them the good deed

2 of our commission and gratitude. Thank you very
3 much, Madam Public Advocate.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and to
5 close the Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
7 Public Advocate and to my colleagues as well and we
8 are adjourned. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date July 25, 2017