

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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April 16, 2015
Start: 1:22 p.m.
Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: VINCENT GENTILE
Deputy Leader

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Inez D. Barron
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras

Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vanessa L. Gibson
Daniel G. Greenfield
Vincent Ignizio
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
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
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)

Megan Waldron
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Lisa Maller
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer Freeman
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Pamela French
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Laura Sametz
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer Prescott
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Emily Fanno
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Jennifer King-Layla
Member
District 3 Green Schools Group

Daniel Quintero
Executive Director
Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club

Kathy Gruber
Executive Director
Ryan-NENA Community Health Center

Meenakshi Srinivasan
Commissioner and Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Reverend Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr.
Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan

2 [background noise, sound check]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We're--we're
4 going to get started. We have four ceremonials
5 today. I took a point of privilege adding a fourth
6 one. So, sorry about that. We're going to start off
7 with Council Member Rosenthal who is going to be
8 recognizing District 3 Green School's Parents
9 Association. That's all I got. So, I know that
10 Helen's got more. So I'm going to pass it onto Helen
11 Rosenthal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you very
13 much. In fact, one of my colleagues called me a
14 chatterbox this morning, and I'll be chastising him
15 later about that. So, I am so proud to stand here
16 with Council Members Donovan and Reynoso and you and
17 also Cabrera, and to Council Member Rodriguez.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's Council
19 Member's Cabrera's birthday. Happy birthday, Council
20 Member. [cheers/applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [foreign
22 language] To honor the District 3 Green School group
23 founded in 2009, and composed entirely of parent
24 volunteers, which have been meeting voluntarily--
25 monthly to organize sustainability programs in

2 schools throughout our district. In 2011, five
3 parent volunteers began the D3 Composting Pilot
4 Program. The Pilot Composting Program in School
5 District 3 became a model for New York City, and the
6 Department of Sanitation has extended this program
7 dramatically now throughout the City. [cheers]
8 Applause here. [applause] The D3 Green Schools
9 Group continues to work closely with the Department
10 of Education and the Department of Sanitation to
11 refine the program for its success as it expands
12 throughout the city. And the one thing I really want
13 to note because I just can't get this fact out of my
14 head, these women went into eight schools buildings,
15 all right. There were--no it was eight buildings--
16 four buildings, eight schools, and got all the kids
17 involved. Called them Trash Troopers. Got the
18 custodians involved and the school cafeteria staff
19 involved, and made it so that instead of having the
20 usual 54 bags of garbage a week--are you hearing this
21 Antonio--54 bags of garbage a week, they got it down
22 to eight. Snap. So I just want to especially--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: [off mic] Very
24 good. [sic]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Yes, well
3 done--thank Megan Waldron, Lisa Maller, Jennifer
4 Freeman, one of the founders, Pamela French, Laura
5 Sametz, and if I, sorry about that. Jennifer
6 Prescott, Emily Fanno, and Jennifer King-Layla [sp?],
7 and also the PS199 custodian engineer. And this is
8 the heart of the whole matter. So thank you for
9 being here. This is Teresa De Cristy. [applause]
10 Well done.

11 [background comment]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Oh, could the
13 clerk please read the proclamation?

14 CLERK: Council City of New York
15 Proclamation.

16 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
17 York is proud to honor the District 3 Green Schools
18 Group for its outstanding service and contributions
19 to the community; and

20 Whereas, New York School District 3 and
21 public schools citywide have been strengthened by the
22 tireless dedication of District 3 Green Schools Group
23 members, who have championed an array of waste
24 reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and

25

2 educational initiatives. Many of these programs have
3 become a model for public schools citywide; and

4 Whereas, founded in 2009, parent
5 volunteers meet monthly, and have advocated for and
6 organize sustainability programs throughout the
7 district. The long and impressive list of programs
8 include: Classroom and cafeteria recycling;
9 classroom composting room bins; energy conservation
10 and climate change education programs; Earth Day
11 programming; rooftop greenhouses; school gardens;
12 solar roof panels on Grand Ice [sic] High School;
13 Nike sneaker recycling collections; text tile
14 recycling collections; sports equipment swaps;
15 rainwater harvesting programs; hydroponics and
16 aquaponics; replacing styrofoam cafeteria trays with
17 compost--compostable trays; eliminating packaged
18 forks; creating a monarch way station; waste-free
19 school fairs using only recycled crafts; and green
20 fundraising sell reusable water bottles, and reusable
21 lunch containers; and

22 Whereas, in 2011, five parent volunteers
23 began the DC3 Composting Pilot Program: Lisa Maller,
24 Pamela French, Laura Sametz, Jennifer Prescott, and
25 Emily Fanno conceived, organized, and propelled the

2 pilot in its first year. Due to their efforts, the
3 pilot was a huge success eliminating more than 1,900
4 styrofoam trays from the waste stream daily, and
5 achieving an 85% overall reduction of garbage by
6 volume. Due to intensive education, the school also
7 dramatically increased the captured of recyclables in
8 the cafeteria. By 2012, the program expanded to
9 eight DC schools and has been embraced by the entire
10 district each year since; and

11 Whereas, the Pilot Composting Program in
12 School District 3 became a model for New York City
13 and the Department of Sanitation has expanded the
14 program dramatically throughout the city. The DC
15 Schools group continues to work closely with the
16 Department of Education and the Department of
17 Sanitation to refine the program for success as it
18 expands throughout the City.

19 Now, therefore, be it known that the
20 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the
21 DC3 Greens--Green Schools Group for their work and
22 dedication to sustainability in New York City Public
23 Schools. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
24 Entire Council; Helen Rosenthal, Council Member 6th
25 District, Manhattan; Donovan Richards, Chair,

2 Committee on Environmental Protection; Antonio
3 Reynoso, Chair, Committee on Sanitation and Solid
4 Waste Management.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.

6 [applause] Well, thank you. I know there is--one of
7 the parents will speak on behalf of the group, but
8 obviously, this is very appropriate on the eve of
9 Earth Day coming up, and we will be passing some
10 legislation also to that effect. So, thank you for
11 you're doing and serving as an inspiration hopefully
12 to other parents to think about doing the same thing.
13 Who is going to speak on behalf of the group.

14 GREEN SCHOOLS GROUP MEMBER: I will.

15 Thank you, Helen Rosenthal and the Speaker and the
16 City Council for honoring us today for doing what we
17 feel passionate about, making our children's schools
18 more environmentally sustainable. We look forward to
19 continuing to work with the Departments of Education
20 and Sanitation to continue share ideas about how to
21 expand the program successfully. And we would be
22 happy to be a resource to parents and other districts
23 throughout the city. But there is no shortcut for
24 outreach and education. When the current recycling
25 program was expanded from a small pilot to a citywide

2 program in the late 1980s, there was a large
3 allocation of funding for outreach of education for
4 staff and materials. A similar investment needs to
5 be made now to ensure the expansion of the Food Waste
6 Composting Program to be a success. We support the
7 Department of Education and Sanitation's request for
8 intensive outreach and education of all schools, and
9 urge the City Council to fund it in the next budget
10 cycle. We also support increased training of
11 custodial staff, and support for principals to
12 oversee and implement recycling programs in their
13 schools. But, no matter how good education is, there
14 will always be a need for front-end processing. And
15 so, we also request that the City Council work with
16 the Department of Sanitation to investigate
17 opportunities to site processing and composting
18 facilities here in New York City. Thank you so much
19 for this honor. [applause]

20 [background comment]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. Thank you.
22 Nice to meet you. The next one will be Council
23 Member Cabrera.

24 [background comments]

25

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, and Palma.

3 And as I mentioned it's Council Member Cabrera's
4 birthday so happy birthday to him. So, both Cabrera
5 and Palma, Council Members are going to honoring Kips
6 Bay Boys and Girls Club on their 100th Anniversary.

7 [cheers/applause] All right. Hand it off to them.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
9 much, Madam Speaker. It's truly an honor and a
10 pleasure to talk about Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club
11 100 Year Anniversary. They started in 1915 in
12 Midtown, and then they came all the way to the
13 promise land to the Bronx. And so, one of the
14 centers are actually located-- It used to be in your
15 district. But we're so glad they're in the Bronx
16 because the need is great. And I could tell you
17 first hand one of the clubhouses where we have over
18 800 young people being serviced they're literally
19 saving lives. Literally saving lives. We see the
20 young people. Some of them who used to be in gangs,
21 another one in gangs. Some of the young people--
22 preventive work that is being done with young--little
23 children who go immediately after school into the
24 center, Saturday events. It's just simply amazing,
25 and I want to thank Daniel Quintero for the

2 leadership that he has provided. And I'm going to
3 turn it over to Council Member Palma because she has
4 the bigger center.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Thank--thank you,
6 Madam Speaker, for allowing us to talk and Council
7 Member Cabrera approached me about celebrating and
8 giving kids their proclamation. Thank you then for
9 being here. Although I have a physical center in my
10 district, and so does Council Member Cabrera, this--
11 Kips Bay is not, you know, it reaches far beyond the
12 trenches of the Bronx. This is my--you know, Council
13 Member Cabrera said it. It saves lives. This is an
14 organization that is the village that we often talk
15 about, about raising our children. And it's not an--
16 you know, it's not just an after school program.
17 This is a life saving program. This program is a
18 holistic approach on how we need to make sure that
19 our children are not only saved, but well educated.
20 And the dollars that we put into programs like Kips
21 Bay are investments that we're making way into our
22 future. So, I am excited to be celebrating the 100
23 years of Kips Bay, although of us appear 100 years
24 old, but [laughs] it--it--it just--it just proves
25 that, you know, the investments that we make early on

2 will continue for generations to come. So thank you
3 Dan for your leadership, and the board for all that
4 they do. And if the clerk can read the proclamation.

5 CLERK: Council City of New York
6 Proclamation.

7 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
8 York is proud to honor the Kips Bay Boys and Girls
9 Club for its century of support to young people and
10 its outstanding commitment to general health,
11 education and advancement, character development and
12 leadership potential of its members; and

13 Whereas, since 1915, the Kips Bay Boys
14 and Girls Club has been helping put young people on
15 the path to great futures. In 1969, the club moved
16 from Mid-Manhattan to its present location in the
17 Bronx. Within 15 years, a swimming pool, two
18 classrooms, an auditorium and outdoor recreation
19 space were added to accommodate a rapidly expanding
20 membership. In the early 1990s, the club's operation
21 extended to six days and satellite clubs were
22 established at three public schools in 1994.
23 Participation of children with disabilities also
24 increased; and

2 Whereas, in 1996, Daniel Quintero, a
3 Bronx native, became the first Kips Bay alumnus to
4 lead the organization. Mr. Quintero oversaw the
5 completion of comprehensive renovations including a
6 new dance studio, lighted outdoor basketball courts,
7 and the refurbished educational center; and

8 Whereas, the club continued to grow in
9 the late 1990s as it partnered with. Housing
10 Enterprise for the Less Privileged to provide
11 services in Bronx homeless shelters. Within seven
12 years, direct service sites at NYCHA community
13 centers, a Castle Hill and Throggs Neck--Throggs Neck
14 Houses were established. Until 2002, Sports Complex
15 was completed offering the area's only ice skating
16 rink. In 2006 and 2007 the club initiated day and
17 residential camping programs at Camp Sebago and
18 Harriman State Park, and

19 Whereas, for generations the Kips Bay
20 Boys and Girls Club has been a place for boys and
21 girls 6 to 18 years of age to challenge themselves
22 physically and intellectually, and be recognized for
23 accomplishments. Last year, the club served more
24 than 13,000 young people, and with half of the
25 members living under the poverty level and in single-

2 parent households, its importance to our city is as
3 great as ever before. By participating in the club's
4 programs and activities, young people are instilled a
5 sense of competence, a sense of belonging, and a
6 sense of power of influence that can nourish them and
7 help them discover their limitless potential as
8 adults.

9 Now, therefore, be it known that the
10 Council of the City of New York including all members
11 of its Bronx delegation proudly honors the Kips Bay
12 Boys and Girls Club in celebrate--in celebration of
13 its 100th Anniversary.

14 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
15 Entire Council; Fernando Cabrera, Council Member,
16 14th District, Bronx; Annabel Palma, Council Member,
17 18th District, Bronx; and the rest of the Bronx
18 Delegation.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Well, thank you
20 so much, and I'm to--to Dan, thank you for all that
21 you do on behalf of Kips Bay, but also that Kips Bay
22 does on behalf of our children, and on behalf of the
23 City of New York. Congratulations on a 100th
24 Anniversary. That's not easy to achieve in terms of
25 a non-profit organization. So that definitely is a

2 signal of its strength and vibrancy. So with that if
3 you want to say a few words, we welcome that
4 opportunity.

5 DAN QUINTERO: I will be brief because so
6 much was said already, and I'm a little exhausted in
7 hearing about all those accomplishments. But I want
8 to thank Speaker Viverito and obviously Anna Palma
9 and Councilman Al Cabrera, and the rest of the City
10 Council. We've been around 100 years not in the
11 least because of our great City Council. They have
12 empowered us. They have poured into the
13 administration of this organization, which in turn
14 we've been able to pour into tens of thousands of
15 children over the last 100 years. And I would just
16 encourage you to help us pour into tens of thousands
17 of children in the next 100 years. So thank you so
18 much.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Very nice. Thank
20 you so much. Very much appreciated.

21 [cheer/applause, background comments] All right,
22 next ceremonial is from our colleague Council Member
23 Rosie Mendez, but we'll be honoring Kathy Gruber,
24 Executive Director of the Ryan-NENA Community Health
25 Center. I don't have Ryan-NENA. I had Ryan-NENA in

2 my district. So I know the great centers that they
3 run, health centers, and I think that she was coming
4 up. All right, she is coming up. It's 25 years. So
5 it's great to be able to recognize your effort, you
6 work. Here Council Member Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. So
8 there's a couple of things I want to mention because
9 it's not in the Proclamation, and it's the life that
10 we've led for the last several decades. I'm lucky
11 enough to have Kathy Gruber at Ryan-NENA. I know
12 that in times of emergencies in our district, Ryan-
13 NENA Ryan-NENA is who we go to. And, I remember
14 after 9/11 when I was the Chief of Staff, and I
15 remember during a couple of Con Ed transformer fires,
16 and then during Super Storm Sandy that it was Ryan-
17 NENA who we worked with to make sure we can get into
18 buildings, and get people the medications they needed
19 when they couldn't come out. You know, during 9/11,
20 we had all these frozen zones, and people were not
21 allowed to walk past a certain point. And we weren't
22 getting any deliveries, and it was those boots on the
23 ground under your leadership that helped save lives
24 then and more recently during Sandy. So thank you
25 for your commitment. You will be missed, but you

2 deserve to enjoy the rest of your life without having
3 to deal with the day-to-day problems that we work
4 with in the Lower East Side, and you've left a great
5 team behind. So, thank you for all that you have
6 done. If the Clerk can read the proclamation please?

7 CLERK: Council City of New York
8 Proclamation.

9 Whereas, the City of New York is proud to
10 honor Kathy Gruber upon her retirement in recognition
11 of her 25 years of transformative--transformative
12 leadership as Executive Director of the Ryan-NENA
13 Community Health Center, a major provider of
14 comprehensive primary healthcare in Manhattan's Lower
15 East Side; and

16 Whereas, Ms. Gruber exemplifies the
17 enduring spirit of social activism--activism with
18 deep roots in the Lower East Side. Although her
19 incredible contributions have not been widely
20 celebrated before today, she has played a major role
21 in shaping our community, and preparing it for future
22 generations. Before joining the Ryan-NENA Center,
23 she was instrumental in forming the Committee--
24 Committee for Community Controlled Day Care, an
25 advocacy group that helped community-based day care

2 centers secure funding from the City of New York
3 through the Agency for Child Development; and

4 Whereas, when she began working at the
5 Ryan Center in 1981, it was an ailing healthcare
6 agency ill equipped to serve its neighborhood. But
7 she remained--she remained committed, and her
8 skillful management and fierce passion began to
9 strengthen the organization. In 1989, she became the
10 center's Project Director and in 2001, she was
11 promoted to Executive Director to more accurately
12 reflect her level of responsibilities while the
13 agency grew to become the thriving innovative center
14 it is today; and

15 Whereas, Ms. Gruber is deeply committed--
16 is a deeply committed activist for those in need, and
17 those discounted in today's society, as her legacy
18 makes clear, each year the Ryan Center serves more
19 than 11,000 uninsured or underinsured patients. And
20 70 to 80% of the clinic's population lives at or
21 below the 200% of the Federal Poverty Line of \$23,000
22 a year for a family of four; and

23 Whereas, over the course of her 25-year--
24 year tenure, Ms. Gruber was also active with numerous
25 organizations to help improve the ability of the

2 center and staff to care for the most vulnerable
3 patients of the community. She served as a member of
4 the Advisory Committee of the Center's school-based
5 health programs, and as a member of both the finance
6 and nominating committees of the Community Health
7 Care Association of New York State. As well as a
8 member of the Health Advisory Committee of University
9 Settlement and the Lower Manhattan Health Care
10 Coalition; and

11 Whereas, in October 2012, when Hurricane
12 Sandy began hammering our city, Ms. Gruber kept the
13 center open for as long as possible because she knew
14 the community turned to it not just for medical care,
15 but for all kinds of support. In 2013, she was
16 elected the Executive Committee of Lower East Side
17 Ready, a coalition of 26 community groups and
18 organizations formed in response to the super storm.
19 She also served on the Executive Committee of the
20 Lower Manhattan Health Care Coalition, and co-chaired
21 its Emergency Preparedness Committee; and

22 Whereas, upon her retirement, Ms. Gruber
23 can be proud knowing that her legacy of service will
24 continue to have a very positive impact at the
25 center, and in the lives of those it serves. May all

2 New Yorkers find inspiration in her generosity and
3 spirit of service.

4 Now, therefore, be it known that the
5 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
6 Kathy Gruber for her outstanding service and enduring
7 contribution to our community.

8 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
9 Entire Council; Rosie Mendez, Council Member, 2nd
10 District, Manhattan.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.
12 [cheers/applause]. Congratulations, Ms. Gruber and
13 if you could say a few words.

14 KATHY GRUBER: Yeah.

15 [background comment]

16 KATHY GRUBER: So, first of all, I want
17 to thank Rosie for this incredible honor. It's just
18 amazing to me, and Rosie has been such a supporter of
19 me as well as the Ryan-NENA Community Health Center.
20 And I really want to thank her and the other council
21 members for this incredible honor. I want to say
22 that this honor also belongs to the staff of the Ryan
23 Center and Ryan-NENA because I could not do the job
24 that I did without them. And I just want to say
25 Ryan-NENA has served this community, and the

2 proclamation said, since 19--well, under the rock--
3 the egis of the Ryan Center since 1988. We provide
4 healthcare--high quality comprehensive healthcare to
5 any-- See, I'm still say we, because even though I'm
6 retired--

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] It's
8 in your heart.

9 KATHY GRUBER: It's in my heart, yes, and
10 I feel very confident that we will continue to do
11 this, and make sure that the Lower East Side
12 continues to receive health care, which is a right,
13 not a privilege.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Right.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yay.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

17 [cheers/applause] Thank you so much. Thank you.
18 Very inspiring. Thank you so much for your
19 commitment.

20 [background comments, pause]

21 KATHY GRUBER: [off mic] Can I just--

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, hold on a
23 minute.

24 [applause]

2 KATHY GRUBER: I'm sorry, everybody, I
3 forgot to thank my family who's here today.
4 [cheers/applause] And I definitely couldn't have
5 done it without them. So, thank you very much for
6 letting me do that.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Of course. Okay.
8 thank you so much. We have one more proclamation,
9 which will be presented by myself and Council Members
10 Koo and Greenfield.

11 [background comments, pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: And Council
13 Member Weprin, all the Land Use Chairs. This is the-
14 -we did a proc. It's somewhat unusual. We decided
15 obviously that we wanted to recognize we have, I
16 think, the Chair of the Landmarks Preservation
17 Commission here. Nice to see you. We wanted to do a
18 proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the
19 Landmarks Law. Excuse me one second. One thing, I
20 don't have my glasses on. That's important. It is
21 the 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks Law. Which was
22 established in 1965 under Mayor Robert Wagner Who
23 signed the New York City Landmarks Law granting the
24 New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
25 authority to preserve significant historic buildings

2 and neighborhoods in the city. So obviously, we know
3 the importance of this law. We wanted to recognize
4 the contributions of this commission over the years,
5 and I would ask if--before I say anything else of any
6 of the chairs would have a few words, Council Members
7 Weprin, Greenfield or Koo? [off mic] Do you want to
8 say anything.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
11 Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Good afternoon, my
13 colleagues in government and other visitors. Today,
14 we are very happy to celebrate the commemoration of
15 50th Anniversary of the New York Landmarks Law. It
16 was on April 19, 1965 that Mayor Robert Wagner passed
17 legislation to create this Commission. And right
18 now, the Commission is doing a fantastic job
19 preserving over a thousand landmarks in our city.
20 And the LPC is not only a standard in our city, it's
21 also a pioneer nationwide, and also internationally.
22 Once I was in Hong Kong reading the local paper, and
23 they mentioned about New York LPC because they were
24 going to destroy a whole village. Demolish the whole
25 village to do some commercial buildings,

2 developments. So to stop it they asked the local
3 government to follow New York City's example to
4 create a local LPC. So this is why our Landmark
5 Commission is really important to preserve historic
6 buildings. Because we are a relatively young
7 country. So we have a lot of things that we want to
8 be sure to show--to show our next generation, our
9 future generation, things that we have a lot of
10 beautiful buildings and historically, and another
11 area that's really important.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yes,
13 it is.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: So, yeah. So thank
15 you very much. I want to thank our Speaker and our
16 Chairman and all the council members who are here,
17 and also all the landmark advocates here. Thank you
18 very much. [applause]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, I think
20 we're also dedicating this historic preservation
21 community in general. If nothing else, I'll ask the
22 Clerk to read the proc. Okay, Council Member
23 Greenfield has a few words.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
25 Madam Speaker. You know, today is actually a very

2 exciting day for us. This legislation when it was
3 passed was really landmark legislation in this
4 country, no pun intended.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic] I get
6 it. [sic]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay, thank
8 you Mark Weprin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.
11 Because we recognize that despite being a relatively
12 young country in the grand scheme of countries
13 throughout the world, that we have an incredible
14 amount of history and culture and architecture that's
15 important to protect. But I would tell you that this
16 work could not be done without the fine men and women
17 who both serve as commissioners and as chairs and
18 staff of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. They
19 have the wisdom of Solomon. They have to decide
20 which buildings to landmark, which districts to
21 landmark, which districts not to, what do to and how
22 to do it. I especially want to thank Meenakshi, the
23 new Chair who is standing right next to me and, of
24 course, I see Bob, the old chair. The young chair.
25 I'm sorry. The former chair. Thank you, Speaker for

2 correcting me over there, and for the work that
3 you've done. And all the commissioners and the staff
4 and members of the preservation community who are
5 here as well. It's incredibly important work. It
6 tends to go unrecognized in the city, and I'm really
7 thrilled that we can commemorate it. And the Chair
8 promises me that there's going to be a wild party to
9 celebrate the 50th Anniversary as well. We're hoping
10 for those details. And, of course, I just want to
11 thank as well the Land Use staff that works very
12 diligently together with the Commissioner, with
13 Council Members to look at each and every
14 application. And finally, I just want to say it's a
15 great day when our most senior member, Vincent
16 Gentile, is sitting in the Captain America chair. So
17 thank you for that. [applause]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, and
19 with that, we'll ask the clerk to read the
20 proclamation.

21 CLERK: Council City of New York
22 Proclamation.

23 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
24 York is proud to honor the Landmarks Preservation
25 Commission and the historic preservation community in

2 celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks
3 Law; and

4 Whereas, on April 19, 1965, after much
5 public effort by grassroots organizations and civic
6 leaders, Mayor Robert Wagner signed the New York City
7 Landmarks Law granting the Landmarks Preservation
8 Commission authority to preserve significant historic
9 buildings in neighborhoods throughout the five
10 boroughs. The Landmarks Law and the Commission were
11 a response to the outcry over the loss of the
12 architecturally and historical--historically
13 significant buildings across the city; and

14 Whereas, historically and architecturally
15 significant buildings often serve as symbols that
16 identify a place and the cultural beliefs or values
17 of its people, New York is a unique world class
18 international city composed of people from around the
19 globe, and its architecture and historic structures
20 and landscapes reflect the beauty, power and
21 diversity of its people; and

22 Whereas, the Mandate of the New York City
23 Landmarks Preservation Commission established by the
24 passage of the Landmarks Law is to identify and
25 designate improvements, districts and landscape

2 features within the city that must be preserved
3 because of their special character or special
4 historical or aesthetic value' and

5 Whereas, to date the New York City
6 Landmarks Preservation Commission has preserved more
7 than 33,000 properties through designation of 1,347
8 landmarks; 117 interior landmarks; 10 scenic
9 landmarks; and 114 historic districts with 21
10 extensions. The Landmarks Preservation Commission
11 has reviewed countless applications for development,
12 construction and improvement of landmark buildings,
13 and on property within historic districts to preserve
14 the character of these buildings and districts. The
15 preservation of these buildings' interiors and
16 districts has greatly enriched New York City for the
17 past 50 years, and will continue to protect its
18 unique identity in the future; and

19 Whereas, the New York City Landmarks Law,
20 the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and New York
21 City's historic preservation movement helped to usher
22 in an era of landmarks preservation nationwide.

23 Now, therefore, be it known that the
24 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors the
25 Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Historic

2 preservation community for their outstanding service,
3 and enduring contributions to New York City.

4 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the
5 Entire Council; David G. Greenfield, Chair of Land
6 Use Committee; Peter Koo, Chair, Subcommittee on
7 Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, land
9 you so much. And again, [applause] also recognizing
10 the partnership with the Historic Preservation
11 Committee that is the community that is here
12 represented. I know I see some of the members in the
13 back. Thank you for your advocacy as well in making
14 sure that we stand strong and continue to persevere.
15 I think before I hang it up, Madam Chair, I know that
16 I--I think that we've been joined Otis Pearsall, who
17 my understanding is that you were one of the ones
18 responsible for the '65 legislation. [applause] So,
19 nice to have you join us, and with that, we'll hear
20 from Madam Chair.

21 [pause]

22 COMMISSIONER/CHAIR MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN:
23 Thank you so much. I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa
24 Mark-Viverito, Council Member Koo, Council Member
25 Greenfield and all the other council members here

2 today for recognizing how important historic
3 preservation is to the quality of life for countless
4 people and communities. We couldn't have done this
5 without the City Council's support or its commission
6 or its work. The City's success in protecting and
7 preserving the 33,000 buildings and sites will let--
8 reflects a longstanding collaboration between this
9 legislative body, and the Commission. The diligent
10 and committed preservation advocacy in neighborhood
11 group--I see many of them here today--who led the
12 charge five decades ago to protect our city's most
13 precious historic resources should be applauded for
14 their central contribution. [applause]

15 Finally, I'd like to thank our dedicated
16 Commissioners, our wonderful Commissioners who are
17 all standing here today, former chairs, Commissioners
18 who volunteered endless hours of their time and
19 expertise to this critical public service. And the
20 betterment of the city, and the Commission's
21 extremely hard-working staff without which we could
22 never fulfill our mission to make New York one of the
23 most visited and dynamic places in the world.

24 Fifty years ago on April 11, 1965, the
25 City Council unanimously approved the Landmarks Law,

2 which was later signed by Mayor Wagner on April 19th.
3 This paved the way for the protection of thousands of
4 historic buildings and places in New York, and
5 created a model for municipalities throughout this
6 nation, and in the world, right?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER/CHAIR MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN:

9 As we celebrate together today, it is important to
10 reflect that this body played an integral role in
11 shaping the future of our city by ensuring the best
12 of our past is preserved for future generations. The
13 Landmarks Preservation Commission in our next chapter
14 looks forward to continuing to work with all of you
15 to protect our architectural and cultural heritage in
16 every corner of New York. Thank you.

17 [applause]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, thank
19 you to all.

20 [background noise and comments]

21 [pause]

22 [background noise and comments]

23 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Ladies, and gentlemen,
24 we ask for all non-Council staff to make their way up

25

2 to the balcony. All non-Council staff, please make
3 your way up to the balcony.

4 [pause]

5 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Could I have your
6 attention, please? Could I have your attention,
7 please? May I please have your attention, please?
8 Quiet on the floor, please. Quiet on the floor. At
9 this time, can you please place all electronic
10 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all
11 non-Council employees, non-Council employees please
12 leave the main floor of the chambers.

13 [background noise]

14 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Thank you. All right.

15 [gavel]

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: The New York City
17 Council Stated Meeting of April 16, 2015 is now in
18 session. Will all my colleagues please stand for the
19 Pledge of Allegiance?

20 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

21 [Pledge of Allegiance]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Roll call.

23 CLERK: I'm sorry. Arroyo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] Here.

25 CLERK: Barron. Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

5 CLERK: Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

7 CLERK: Constantinides.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

9 Here.

10 CLERK: Cornegy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Crowley.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Can we have it quiet on
14 the floor, please?

15 CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

17 CLERK: Dickens.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

19 CLERK: Dromm.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

21 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.

22 Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic]

24 Here.

25 CLERK: Barron.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Here.

3 Present.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Gentile.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

6 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield. Johnson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

8 CLERK: Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

10 CLERK: King.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

12 CLERK: Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

14 CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

16 Here.

17 CLERK: Lancman. Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

19 CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

21 CLERK: Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

23 CLERK: Maisel. Matteo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

25 CLERK: Mealy. Menchaca.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

3 CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

5 CLERK: Palma.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

7 CLERK: Reynoso.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

9 CLERK: Richards.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

11 CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

13 Here.

14 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

18 CLERK: Ulrich.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

20 CLERK: Vacca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

22 CLERK: Vallone.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

24 CLERK: Mealy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

2 CLERK: Weprin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Present.

4 CLERK: Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

6 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer.

7 Speaker Mark-Viverito.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: We have a quorum.

10 Our invocation today will be delivered by the
11 Reverend Dr. James Alexander Forbes, Jr., Union
12 Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Please stand.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

14 REVEREND DR. FORBES: Speaker Viverito,
15 it is my joy to be here with you and the other
16 council members. As a minister, I am aware that we
17 are partners because we all seek to build the beloved
18 community. So I am happy to pray with you today, but
19 the way in which I will pray will not require you to
20 close your eyes. I want to pray the prayer that
21 began with me the week after 2001, 9/11. During that
22 time, the work was so difficult as such overwhelming
23 moments of responsibility until I thought I couldn't
24 make it by myself. During that time, this was my
25 ritual for getting up to do the work, which we still

2 have to do today. I would rise and I would say, Holy
3 Spirit, lead me, guide me as I move throughout this
4 day. May your promptings deep inside me show me what
5 to do and say in the power of your presence strength
6 and courage will increase. In the wisdom of your
7 guidance is the path that leads to peace. And then, I
8 would go into my shower, and I had a little shower
9 song that was also getting me ready for this work.
10 And it goes something like this: [Sings] I'm going
11 to brake hard and risk living though the clouds hang
12 heavy and gray. If I wait for blue-sky perfection,
13 I'll be waiting 'til judgment day. Why let myself to
14 be held hostage trapped and blocked by who knows
15 what? While standing still and seeking sound reverse
16 my faith certainly not. I'm going to break out and
17 risk living though the reasons to wait still abound.
18 I will do what I can in the climate of now 'til
19 brighter days roll around. So take heart my sisters
20 and brothers. Give your spirit a holiday. Away with
21 the reasons delaying the season. Celebration is the
22 order of the day.

23 And so, here we are having to get out
24 there and do work sometimes, which we cannot do by
25 ourselves. Dr. Martin Luther King told us some years

2 ago that in the work of building up the beloved
3 community we have cosmic companionship. So I'd like
4 to remind you that as you do your work day by day,
5 because you are servants of the Most High God, you
6 are entitled to be serviced by the power of God. And
7 so, my closing prayer for you would be: Lord, look
8 upon each member of this Council and our fellow
9 citizens. And whatever our needs are as we seek to
10 be servants of your love and of your justice, service
11 us; our bodies, our minds, our spirit and emotions,
12 our relationship, and our responsibility. And if you
13 do that for us, we will be happy to offer you this
14 praise. And with this, I close. Every day when I
15 get up, this is what my pledge is unto the God who
16 has called me. I say, In the way that I walk, in the
17 way that I talk, in the way that I think, and in the
18 way that I pray, in everything I do, I want to honor
19 you by the way I live each day. Amen.

20 COUNSEL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

21 [applause]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Motion to--motion
23 to spread the invocation, Council Member Levine.

24 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet please.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank--thank you.
3 It is--it is my honor to make a motion to spread the
4 Invocation--

5 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
6 please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: --for Reverend Dr.
8 Forbes. It's my honor to represent his home church
9 of Riverside. You've gotten a flavor of the power of
10 Dr. Forbes. He is one of our city's most eloquent,
11 inspiring, and important voices on civil rights, on
12 equality for all people of all faiths, of all
13 backgrounds. He has been for decades. He presided
14 as the senior pastor at Riverside from 1989 to 2007.
15 It is one of the most storied churches in our city
16 where none other than Dr. Martin Luther King and
17 other luminaries have preached and visited. He, for
18 the last two decades has been co-chair of the
19 Partnership for Faith, an interfaith organization of
20 clergy among New York's Protestant, Catholic, Jewish
21 and Muslim communities. He is on the board of
22 Manhattanville College, the Interfaith Alliance,
23 Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, and
24 the United Way. He's a consultant to the Congress of
25 National Black Churches, and past president of the

2 Martin Luther King Fellows. And I'm really thrilled
3 that he was able to share with us some inspiring
4 words this morning--today. Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you. Thank
6 you Council Member. [applause] And thank you again.
7 I move that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of
8 March 11, 2015 be adopted as printed--as printed.
9 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

10 CLERK: None.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Communication from
12 City, county and borough offices.

13 CLERK: Communication from the Manhattan
14 Borough President's proposed budget modifications for
15 Fiscal Year 2016.

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Petitions and
17 communications.

18 [background comment]

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Go back and
20 repeat that please.

21 CLERK: Well, petitions.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Communication from
23 city, county and borough offices.

24 CLERK: Manhattan Borough President
25 proposed budget modifications.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received order,
3 printed and filed.

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Petitions and
5 communications.

6 CLERK: None.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Land Use Call-Ups.

8 CLERK: M 272 through M 276.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call-
10 up vote and I ask for roll call.

11 CLERK: Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
13 all call-ups, and with permission, I vote aye on all
14 coupled general orders and resolutions.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted.

16 CLERK: I'm sorry. Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] I vote
18 aye. [sic]

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

21 Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cohen.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: aye.

3 CLERK: Constantinides.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cornegy.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

7 CLERK: Crowley. Cumbo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

9 CLERK: Deutsch.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

11 CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

13 CLERK: Espinal. Eugene. Ferreras.

14 Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic] Aye.

16 CLERK: Gentile.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

20 CLERK: Johnson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
22 explain my vote. Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Go ahead. Go
24 ahead. Please explain.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I
3 just want to thank the Land Use staff and Chair
4 Greenfield and Chair Weprin. That's fine. A project
5 in my district on West 43rd Street that the committee
6 spent a significant amount of time on to create
7 affordable housing over a rail cut. It's been a long
8 difficult, complicated process with a lot of
9 negotiations and compromise involved. In the end of
10 the day, I am not happy with off-site--

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]
12 Quiet, please. Quiet.

13 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Sit down, please. Sit
14 down.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --I am not happy
16 with off-site affordable housing through this
17 project. But because the community board and the
18 developer came up with an agreement for this site, I
19 will support this and I ask my colleagues to support
20 it as well. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Did you vote?
22 Council Member Johnson?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay.

25 CLERK: Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

3 CLERK: King.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

5 CLERK: Koo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

7 CLERK: Koslowitz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Aye.

9 CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

15 CLERK: Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.

18 Menchaca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Mendez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all

22 call-ups, and with permission, I vote aye on all

23 coupled general orders and resolutions.

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

25 CLERK: Matteo. Maisel.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

3 CLERK: Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Palma.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye.

7 CLERK: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye. I would
11 like to vote aye on all general orders.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Did you vote aye?

15 CLERK: Rose. Rosenthal.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]

17 Aye.

18 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

20 CLERK: Ulrich.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

22 CLERK: Vacca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to vote
24 aye, and also I vote aye on all coupled orders and
25 resolutions as well.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Permission granted.

3 CLERK: Vallone.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye, and I would
5 also like to seek permission to vote aye on all
6 matters on today's calendar.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Weprin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Williams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Aye.

13 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

15 Speaker Mark-Viverito.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Ferreras.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Today's Land Use
20 Call-Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the
21 affirmative 0 in the negative. Communication from
22 the speaker.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Deputy
24 Leader. I want to begin by acknowledging, and I
25 would hope everyone acknowledges with me the recent

2 passing of Victor Gotbaum. Victor Gotbaum was a
3 great labor leader for the City of New York, and
4 instrumental through getting us through the fiscal
5 crisis of the 1970s. We definitely want to extend
6 our condolences to his wife Betsy Gotbaum, who has
7 presided in these chambers for many years, and who
8 served this great city over time. And all the
9 extended family. I know that Council Member Daneek
10 Miller has some comments that he wanted to say in
11 remembrance of Victor Gotbaum.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
13 Speaker. I rise today with a lot of talk about the
14 remarks that have come forth here of the great work
15 that has been done by a great labor leader here in
16 our city. First, thank you Madam Speaker for your
17 important words about a true hero to our city. I,
18 like my colleagues today and indeed people throughout
19 the city, mourn the passing of Victor Gotbaum, one of
20 the most respected leaders at a time of near disaster
21 to the City of New York. As a former labor leader
22 myself, I personally recognize and honor Victor's
23 brilliance as Executive Director of District Council
24 37, American Federations of State, County and
25 Municipal Employees. He's increased his membership

2 from 36,000 to 110, knowing that a strong union means
3 a strong city. As a statesman, he was instrumental
4 in having DC37 become a crucial partner in 1975 with
5 other labor unions to save the City of New York from
6 bankruptcy and further layoffs and wage reductions.
7 Victor Gotbaum will always be remembered for his
8 dignity, his courage and the concern of all New
9 Yorkers. To his family, his wife Betsy, his
10 children, Joshua, Irvin and Noah, Rachel and
11 Kathleen, I send my deepest condolences. Thank you
12 again.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
14 Council Member. I also want to mention that today is
15 Yam HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. We have
16 Holocaust survivors living among us in this city, and
17 the unimagined horror that they experienced is
18 something that can never be forgotten. Today, we
19 remember the millions who lost their lives, and
20 commit to ensure that history never repeats itself.
21 And on these two items, I would ask for a moment of
22 silence.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Please rise.

24 [City Council observes a moment of
25 silence]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. As
3 many of us know, Earth Day is next week. So it's
4 fitting that today, the Council is passing a number
5 of bills from the Council's Climate Agenda, which was
6 announced last September. Today, the Council will be
7 voting on legislation that requires the Department of
8 Transportation to work with the MTA to develop a
9 citywide bus rapid plan. Transportation is part of
10 daily life for nearly all of us. But it's low-income
11 New Yorkers that spend the most time commuting to and
12 from work. New York City's Bus Rapid Transit
13 program, Select Bus Service cuts travel time and
14 provides a better experience for riders. Every
15 minute saved on your way to and from work or school
16 is time that can be spent with family, out in the
17 community or earning a living. The landscape of our
18 city is ever-changing, and we're seeing major shifts
19 to the outer boroughs and areas not well served by
20 the subway. So today the Council is requiring a
21 strategic citywide bus rapid transit plan that will
22 lay out how we can better serve these communities
23 over the next ten years.

24 Improving transportation options is not
25 just an issue of efficiency, and reducing our impact

2 on the environment, it's about equality. Those who
3 cannot afford to leave near established transit
4 networks should not be burdened with commutes that
5 leave them spending hours each day just getting
6 around. As New York continues to grow, we need to
7 continue to innovate and improve our public transit
8 systems.

9 I want to thank the staff that worked on
10 this Jeffrey Baker, Samara Swanston, Bill Murray, and
11 Jonathan Seltzer. Council Member Lander is the
12 sponsor of this bill, and I'll ask him to say a few
13 words towards the end when he speaks on the Credit
14 Check Bill as well. Council is also voting on a bill
15 updating the New York City Air Pollution Control
16 Code, which will result in boilers operating more
17 efficiently--

18 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
19 please.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --engines and
21 generators operating more cleanly, less fuel
22 consumption citywide. And reduction of thousands of
23 tons of particular matter per year. Intro No. 271-A
24 will bring New York City's Air Code into compliance
25 with the current state and federal laws and

2 regulations. And will give the Commission or
3 Environmental Protection the flexibility to
4 continually improve the city's air quality by
5 adopting new beneficial technologies through rule
6 making. This law will simplify compliance,
7 streamline the permitting process, increase emissions
8 standards, and regulate emissions with several
9 sources that are currently uncontrolled, including
10 commercial charbroilers and cook stoves. And with
11 that, the lead sponsor of the bill, Council Member
12 Richards, you can say a few words.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay. Good
14 afternoon. Today, marks a major step in our
15 continued fight to ensure that all New Yorkers are
16 closer to having their natural born right of access
17 to clean air. For the first time since 1970, we are
18 updating New York City's Air Pollution Code today.
19 Poor air quality alone is still contributing to
20 nearly 2,000 deaths a year right here in the Big
21 Apple. And, according to the New York City Community
22 Air Survey, ozone and asthma hospitalizations among
23 children under 18 years old continue to drastically
24 rise especially in Environmental Justice communities.
25 Part of the problem is that have allowed certain

2 sources of pollution to go unregulated for far too
3 long at the peril of the most vulnerable communities
4 in New York where our children and seniors reside.

5 Today, with the passage of Intro No. 271-
6 A, we are giving all New Yorkers an opportunity to
7 have access to clean air, which shouldn't be mutually
8 exclusive based on a person's zip code. I'd like to
9 highlight a few updates that were made to the Air
10 Code that will give New Yorkers better access to
11 clean air. First is more regulation around emergency
12 and stationary generators, which are used at
13 construction sites. They will now be required to
14 pass smoke tests, and meet EPA Standards at the time
15 of registration starting in 2018. Restaurants that
16 use--utilize charbroilers, which cook more than 875
17 pounds of meat and fish will now be required to have
18 special filters that cut emissions by 2018. And they
19 will also be required to keep records to present to
20 inspectors as well.

21 And no new fireplaces and wood burning
22 stoves will be able to use wood as a primary heating
23 source any more except if there's an emergency. And
24 all new fireplaces constructed after the passage of
25 this bill will be required to burn renewable fuels or

2 natural gas. And one of my favorite highlights of
3 this bill is the phase out of school buses that
4 continue to burn dirty fuel, subjecting our children
5 to the worst of particulate matter. And they will
6 now be phased out by 2020. Mobile--mobile vending
7 units will now have their fees waived at the time of
8 registration if their engines meet Tier 4 Emission
9 Standards. And lastly, this bill will also establish
10 a task force comprised of real estate industry and
11 environmental advocacy sectors that will continue to
12 work towards improving air quality across the city.

13 In closing, as Earth Week approaches I
14 would like to leave you with this quote I once heard:
15 "Sooner or later, we will have to recognize that the
16 earth has rights, too, to live without pollution.
17 What mankind must know is that human beings cannot
18 live without Mother Nature, but the planet can live
19 without humans." I want to thank a dynamic team of
20 earthlings today as we move towards Earth Week, and
21 that is our great Speaker who has been a phenomenal
22 leader on the environmental front, Melissa Mark-
23 Viverito, Mayor de Blasio, Samara Swanston, Bill
24 Murray and Matthew Gewolb, Laura Popa, and a huge
25 shout out to Jeff Baker, who worked very hard on this

2 day and night. And also, Reggie Thomas from the
3 Mayor's Office and my staff Jerrel Burney and
4 Mercedes Buchanan. Thank you all, and just lastly
5 REBNY, the Hospitality Alliance and the New York
6 League of Conservation Voters who also were very
7 active in talks and negotiations. Thank you all.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
9 Council member. And as we look to a cleaner and more
10 environmentally friendly city, we can also make
11 changes within the operations of city government to
12 help out.

13 [background comments]

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: That's why we're
15 voting on a bill today to reduce the size of our
16 city's non-emergency vehicle fleet by at least 9% by
17 the end of 2020. We'll do this by establishing a car
18 sharing program within the city's fleet that
19 maximizes efficiency, and limits redundant use of
20 resources. I want to thank the lead sponsor, Council
21 Member Torres, for sponsoring this legislation. I
22 also want to staff--thank the staff for both the air
23 code and car share bills, Matt Gewolb, Terzah Nasser,
24 Kelly Taylor, Gafar Zaalof, Jonathan Masserano,
25 Russell Murphy, and Lyle Frank. And I think Council

2 Member Torres is not going to say a few words on his
3 bill.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic]

5 Laughs. Yes, I am.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay. He will
7 say a few words on his bill.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Correct.

9 [laughter] Except to say that I'm proud that we're
10 reducing the number of automobiles on our streets,
11 and reducing the amount of environmental degradation.
12 And bringing our city closer to building a greener
13 New York. So, that's what I will say.

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
15 Council Member, and today also the Council will be
16 voting on legislation requiring tamper resistant
17 outlets to be equipped in public areas of multiple-
18 dwelling buildings. Annually, nearly 2,400 children
19 suffer severe burns or shocks from inserting objects
20 into unprotected outlets. This bill will mandate
21 that new construction include tamper-resistant
22 outlets in existing buildings, use protective caps or
23 other obstruction devices to prevent outlets from
24 being exposed. This legislation will keep children
25 in our cities safe, and prevent serious injury. With

2 that, I'd like to thank Earnest Stephen [sic], Ed
3 Atkins, Shijuade Kadree, Jennifer Wilcox, Guillermo
4 Patino, Jose Conde and Sarah Gastelum. And I would
5 ask the least sponsor of the bill to say a few words.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you Madam
7 Speaker. I think you explained the bill perfectly.
8 I just really do want to take an opportunity to thank
9 the staff particularly Shijuade Kadree for a lot of
10 work in trying to get this bill to the place where it
11 is now, which I think is really good. I want to
12 thank the DOB for making it a collaboratively effort,
13 and my Legislative Counsel Kate DeBolt [sic]for also
14 helping get us to this point. Thank you very much.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, thank you.
16 We're also voting on a bill today to protect New York
17 homeowners impacted by Hurricane Sandy from facing
18 unfair increases in their property tax to rebuilding
19 their homes. This bill would allow the City to cap
20 increases in assessment value on these homes so they
21 cannot exceed what the value would have been had the
22 storm never occurred. Victims of natural disaster
23 who have the perseverance to rebuild their lives
24 shouldn't face increased taxes as a result. Council
25 Member Ignizio is the lead sponsor of that bill. On

2 the staff side, I'd like to thank Tanisha Edwards,
3 Ray Majewski, Emora Etta [sp?], Rebecca Chasan, and
4 Chima Obichere [sic]. And with that, Council Member
5 Ignizio.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,
7 Madam--Madam Speaker. As I said I said in the pre-
8 stated, it's a rare occasion when all elected
9 officials of all bodies in the city, in the state
10 come together in a non-partisan way to just out and
11 help the people of the city and state of New York,
12 and that's what happened here. Effectively, what
13 occurred is there is a Sandy tax implemented on folks
14 that rebuilt their homes in the form of if you built
15 your home to even where it was before, because it
16 used new--new materials, and because you built it up,
17 it would be worth more. So you would be taxed on the
18 full amount of the value of the new home, and not the
19 previous home, which you lived in. So in essence,
20 government was partnering not having you rebuild to
21 the proper specs. That has been fixed. It's been
22 fixed permanently, and it's because of a joint
23 coordination of this Council of the Mayor's Office,
24 of Governor Cuomo, of Senator Lanza and Assemblyman
25 Goldfeder. And I'm appreciative to the Speaker for

2 her efforts in ensuring this Council, and as you
3 mentioned the staff members Emora and Tanisha who
4 have been so supportive throughout. And I'm proud to
5 be in the Council today.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
7 Council Member, and thank you for your leadership on
8 this issues. Finally, today, we're voting on a law
9 to prohibit using an employee's or a job applicant's
10 consumer credit history in making hiring decisions.
11 Just because you've struggled with medical bills or
12 student loans does not make you any less hardworking,
13 qualified or trustworthy than anyone else.
14 Furthermore, the use of credit checks in employment
15 decisions has disproportionately negative effects on
16 low-income communities and communities of color, as
17 well as women and survivors of domestic violence. So
18 it is very much a discriminatory practice. This bill
19 is about opportunity. When employers use credit
20 history prevent those--

21 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
22 please. Quiet place.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: When employers
24 use credit history to prevent those who have
25 struggled financially in the past from succeeding in

2 the future, there is no opportunity. All New Yorkers
3 deserve a chance to compete for a job based on their
4 skills and qualifications, not three digits on a
5 financial report. This is also a bill that I
6 mentioned during the State of the City Address in the
7 larger context of human rights. We've already passed
8 some bills that will allow the Human Rights
9 Commission to start cracking down on discriminatory
10 practices. And we're taking the next step today with
11 this bill, but we're clearly not done. There is no
12 place for discrimination in New York City. There is
13 no place for anyone's human rights being violated or
14 denied here. And respecting the rights of all people
15 is fundamental to New York City's character, and it's
16 fundamental to the character of who we are as a
17 diverse and inclusive legislative body. So I'm proud
18 to be here today voting for this bill. I want to
19 thank all of you in this Council who are committed to
20 fairness and equality. I want to thank Council
21 Member Lander, who has been an incredibly strong
22 advocate and lead sponsor of this bill. And on the
23 staff side I just want to thank Alesha Brown, Mozna
24 Ansari [sp?] and a big, big thanks to Rachel
25 Cordero. And with that, Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam
3 Speaker, and thank you for being a champion of this
4 bill now, and in years past as well. I want to share
5 with my colleagues an email we received this week
6 from a single mother named Phoebe. As a single mom
7 recently laid off I truly felt fear I wouldn't be
8 able to get another job due to my daughter's college
9 loans on my credit report. I saw yesterday's article
10 in the Daily News, *Credit Reports to be History*. I'm
11 ecstatic and I want to thank you from the bottom of
12 my heart. And we have similar testimonies from Ramon
13 from Manhattan; Angel from the Bronx; Shelley from
14 Harlem; Lisa from Washington Heights; Gestavo from
15 Elmhurst; Alfred from Brooklyn, and the list goes on
16 and on. New Yorkers who have been locked out of
17 getting a fair shot at a job due to poor credit
18 history due to healthcare debts, student loans,
19 identity theft or fraud, errors on their credit
20 reports. Or, simply that they got laid off and had
21 to put the groceries on a credit card in order to
22 feed the kids.

23 As the Speaker said, it's amplified in
24 communities of color and low-income neighborhoods
25 where predatory lending and the simple lack of

2 wealth. I mean people are far less likely to be able
3 to pay for their kids to go to college. So they have
4 to take out student debit, and you wind up in a
5 vicious, unfair, discriminatory cycle in which the
6 people who need jobs the most are the most unable to
7 get them. It's not fair. I'm so proud that we're
8 ending that today in New York City by passing Intro
9 261-A, which will be the strongest bill of its type
10 in the country prohibiting discriminatory employment
11 credit checks. And so there's a lot of people to
12 thank for helping us to get here; the Speaker, the
13 co-sponsor Debbie Rose, and all of the other
14 colleagues in the Council who are signed on. Chair
15 Mealy thanks to you. As the Speaker said, we've had
16 great work from the staff on this in addition to
17 Rachel, Alesha and Juleen. Matt Gewold and Rachel
18 worked down to the wire, and Muzna, Ben Smith and
19 Michael Freedman-Schnapp from my office.

20 And then we had an extraordinarily
21 coalition of advocates from the New York City
22 Coalition to Stop Credit Checks in employment who are
23 up in the balcony today. So, it's a new economy
24 project, DMOS [sic] for DC37, RWDSU, MFY Legal
25 Services and the other 70 plus organizations. And

2 especially to the affected individuals, who despite
3 the prejudice that we have against some cases look
4 for credit, were willing to stand up and tell their
5 stories to help us right this wrong. We've had very
6 productive conversations with the Administration to
7 craft a bill, which is not only the strongest in the
8 country, but which is also smart, effective, and well
9 drafted legislation. I really appreciate everyone's
10 support on this, and I'm so, so proud to be able to
11 bring it to the floor today.

12 And then I'm just say a very, very short
13 word about Bus Rapid Transit, the bill we're passing
14 today will require the City to establish a 10-year
15 plan for Bus Rapid Transit, for BRT for New York City
16 as we've seen in so many places especially outer
17 borough starved neighborhoods. They lack the
18 opportunity for people to be able to get to jobs, to
19 get to school. It would be wonderful if we could
20 build a whole lot of new subway lines. But if we
21 want something soon, and we want it affordably, full
22 features Bus Rapid Transit like we're seeing on
23 Woodhaven Boulevard in Council Richard's district is
24 a real bright spot way forward. And this bill will
25 help make sure we set a plan that helps us move

2 forward on Bus Rapid Transit for the year to come.
3 On that, I want to thank Kelly Taylor and Lyle Frank
4 for their good work of drafting. And we look forward
5 to seeing BRT get built out in the city in the year
6 to come. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. And
8 finally, I want to welcome some special guests to the
9 Council. Yesterday was a National Day of Action.
10 Many in this room joined some of those actions across
11 the city. It was a National Day of Action with low-
12 wage workers across the country staging
13 demonstrations in the fight for a fair minimum wage.
14 And today, we're joined by leaders on the front line
15 of this fight. I would hope my colleagues would just
16 give us a couple of seconds to recognize--

17 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
18 down, please.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Keep it down,
20 please.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --these workers
22 that have joined us. So, again, as I said, we are
23 joined by leaders on the front line of this fight.
24 I'm proud to welcome you all to this Chamber. I
25 commend you for the work you are doing. We see

2 municipalities across the country from Pittsburgh to
3 Seattle pass resolutions in solidarity with workers
4 fighting for fair pay. And New York is most
5 definitely in solidarity with you as well. This is
6 an uphill battle, and there will always be doubters
7 and naysayers along the way. But yesterday we saw
8 that over the past few years, this has become a real
9 part of our national dialogue. We're moving in the
10 right direction, and it's because of leaders like you
11 and the consistency of your efforts who are not
12 afraid to stand up and demand fairness not only for
13 yourselves but for everyone. I think that we've seen
14 how some of this pressure, although we are no way
15 near, we've seen some of the major companies starting
16 to react in one way or another saying that they're
17 going to raise wages. We know that as not being
18 true, but based on that pressure, there is some
19 movement, and it will just continue to grow. So I
20 want to thank you for everything that you're doing
21 with these workers, and this Council will stand with
22 you until everyone who works is ensured a living
23 wage. You are and I want to introduce--share Jose
24 Sanchez. And you guys could stand as I--Jose Sanchez
25 [applause] Shaltel [sp?] Walker, Martine Batallia

2 [sp?], Halstino [sp?] Garcia, Marcellino La Rosa.
3 Thank you guys very, very much. [applause] Thank
4 you. You know the work we do each and every day in
5 this Council is work that impacts New Yorkers and all
6 New Yorkers. And it is us being able to have a pulse
7 on what is happening, being able to be accessible.
8 And be able to understand. And it is only through
9 joining and being open and working alongside our
10 workers and those who live in New York City and hear
11 their concerns. And we want to continue to work and
12 be allies with all of you. So thank you for being
13 here. And with that, I end the communication from
14 the Speaker.

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Madam
16 Speaker. Before discussion of General Order, the
17 Chair recognizes Council Member Espinal for a vote.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I just want to
19 vote aye on all call-ups. Thank you. Is that what
20 you want to do? Okay.

21 [background comments]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Discussion of
23 General Orders. First up is Council Member Weprin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Leader. I rise to speak on Intro 261 by Council

2 Member Lander, the credit check bill. Firstly, I've
3 got to congratulate Council Member Lander for his
4 tenaciousness on this bill. He's been working on it
5 for many years, and I congratulate him on that. And
6 he knows that since the beginning I've had an
7 uncomfortable feeling about this bill. I agree with
8 the premise of this bill, which is that employers
9 should not assume a bad credit rating is any--any
10 explanation to whether someone will be a good
11 employee. So, I'm all for educating the public on
12 that fact. Don't use a credit score in order to
13 screen candidates. However, if we do this properly,
14 there'll come a point where someone can say this
15 person has a bad credit score. They have a good
16 application. Let me bring them in and ask them what
17 went wrong. And I find it hard to believe that any
18 employer would discriminate at that point against
19 anyone who had a student loan they didn't pay, or
20 were laid off, or had identity fraud. Those are
21 reasonable explanations. But if someone had an
22 explanation that they didn't trust doctors, or they
23 had an explanation they don't trust government or
24 they didn't think they had to pay that bill, there
25 could be concerns there. And I wouldn't use that

2 myself, but I just am not comfortable as a member of
3 the New York City Council telling employers who they
4 can hire as long as they're not violating state and
5 federal law and discriminating. So I just feel that
6 this is a--a little bit too much of a nanny state.
7 And so, I think we could tell employers what they
8 should do, but we can't tell them what--we should not
9 be telling the employers what they must do. So I'm
10 going to vote no on that bill. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Council Member
12 Lander on General Orders.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
14 much, Mr. Deputy Leader. I know I have lots of
15 respect for my--for my colleague from Queens and I
16 appreciate his words, which he had shared with me
17 before as well. I will add we asked some people
18 about this. We asked employers about this question
19 of the opportunity to explain. And I will just say
20 two things: First, in a lot of cases, we found
21 employers using this at the front end of the process
22 where people were screened out essentially before
23 they ever really got a chance to looked at.
24 Especially for jobs in which there were a lot of
25 people applying like retail store clerks. And then

2 we also talked to some people. You know, part of the
3 reason people had bad credit are issues of domestic
4 violence or divorce. And that there are real privacy
5 concerns even in some cases where you might have the
6 opportunity to explain. Obviously, there are many,
7 many wonderful employers who wouldn't do anything
8 like this on purpose. But it added up to people
9 being locked out and being discriminated against. So
10 with full and due respect. And I guess the other
11 thing I'll just add is there are substantial numbers
12 of studies, peer reviews people have looked for, and
13 the credit industry has paid for and tried to find
14 connections between bad credit and either fraud,
15 theft or poor performance of employment. None of
16 them have demonstrated that correlation. So, I
17 appreciate your remarks, but I just wanted to apply
18 that additional information. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, Council Member
20 Constantinides for a vote.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES. Thank
22 you, Mr. Leader, I'd like permission to vote aye on
23 other things--all intros and resolutions on today's
24 general order calendar.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted. Any
3 other members on General Orders only? Oh, she needs
4 to vote? Okay, Council Member Rose for a vote.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, Chair.
6 I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and
7 intros and resos.

8 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So granted. Any
9 other members on General Orders only? Okay, Reports
10 of Special Committees.

11 CLERK: None.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Reports of Standing
13 Committees?

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil
15 Rights, Intro 261-A, prohibiting discrimination based
16 on credit history.

17 [pause]

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Oh, Madam Speaker
19 on Standing Committees, Reports on Standing
20 Committees.

21 CLERK: Intro 261-A prohibiting
22 discrimination based on credit history.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
24 Coupled on General Orders.

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Environmental Protection Intro 271-A air pollution
4 control.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Finance, Intro 555-A, rent increase exemption
9 programs.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 681, Meatpacking area
13 business improvement district.

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

16 CLERK: Intro 727, Sandy related property
17 assessments.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
19 general orders.

20 CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 747 various
21 budget items.

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

24 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 206 and Reso 657
25 Lands End I.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 207 and Reso 658
5 Penn South.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
7 General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
9 Housing and Buildings Intro 433-A, tamper-resistant
10 outlets.

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

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
14 Use, LU 189 through LU 191 zoning amendments.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and
16 modifications and referred to the City Planning
17 Commission pursuant to Rule 1147-B of the Rules of
18 the Council and Section 197-D of the New York City
19 Charter.

20 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. LU 195 and
21 Reso 659 and LU 196 and Reso 660 sidewalk cafes.

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

24 CLERK: LU 202 and Reso 661 Coney Island
25 mixed-use district.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 CLERK: LU 203 and Reso 662 and LU 204
5 and Reso 663 tax exemptions.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
7 General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
9 Transportation, Intro 211-A, Bus Rapid Transit.

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

12 CLERK: Intro 597-A City fleet care
13 sharing.

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

16 CLERK: On the General Order--

17 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]
18 General Order Calendar.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Resolution appointing
20 various persons commissioners or deeds.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
22 General Orders, and at this time I ask for a roll
23 call vote on all items on the Coupled General Order
24 Calendar.

25 CLERK: Arroyo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

5 CLERK: Cabrera.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

7 CLERK: Chin.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Cohen.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

13 CLERK: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

15 CLERK: Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Deutsch.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Yes.

19 CLERK: Dickens.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Espinal.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye and--aye on
3 all, and I want to congratulate my colleague Brad
4 Lander on Intro No. 261, it's a common piece of--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]
6 [interposing] It's a resolution.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: --a common sense
8 piece of legislation. Congratulations. I proudly
9 vote aye.

10 [pause]

11 CLERK: Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye on all
13 Land Use Call-Ups and all items on today's agenda. I
14 vote aye.

15 CLERK: Ferreras.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye and
17 congratulations to all my colleagues who passed and
18 worked very diligently on today's legislations.
19 Thank you.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye on
24 all.

25 CLERK: Gibson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
3 explain my vote. So ordered? Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: So ordered. I'm
5 sorry.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: It's okay.

7 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: I'm sorry.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: That's okay. So
9 I, too, just want to thank all of my colleagues for
10 passing really important legislation today. I
11 especially want to recognize Council Member Lander on
12 Intro 261. Certainly prohibiting discrimination
13 based on consumer credit history is very important
14 because we know that in the workforce many of our
15 young adults are faced with many financial challenges
16 including college debt and other things that are on
17 their record. And as we're looking to build and
18 increase opportunities for young people to enter the
19 workforce, we want to make sure that any of those
20 scars are healed. And by doing that, we can reduce a
21 lot of efforts that are made to discriminate on young
22 people, and predominantly communities of color. I'm
23 sorry. I appreciate the work that was done to this
24 bill to make it a reality for many New Yorkers. And
25 I want to congratulate all of my other colleagues,

2 Council Member Cohen, Council Member Ferreras,
3 Council Member Johnson, Council Member Richards for
4 all of the bills today. And I will vote aye in the
5 affirmative on all. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Greenfield.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: May I explain
8 my vote?

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, you may.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
11 Mr. Senior Leader. I appreciate it. I don't know
12 why that was funny. He's the senior ranking member
13 of the New York City Council. So, first I wanted to
14 congratulate my colleagues Council Member Richards
15 for his leadership in general in the environmental
16 world. I think it's a significant piece of
17 legislation. I want to point out that relating it to
18 the topic rather than printing paper, we actually
19 have it all on a CD Rom. So I applaud you Council
20 Member Richards and your staff for that as well, and
21 I thank you. I want to congratulate Council Member
22 Torres for his legislation that will also help the
23 environment. Of course, Council Member Cohen for his
24 legislation as well. And Council Member Lander for
25 his transportation legislation. But also I do

2 believe that the legislation that he's in--that he
3 has advocated for, for quite a few years I would add,
4 is very significant in that it protects individuals
5 who are seeking to find employment when the reality
6 is that in this world that we live in, people make an
7 instant judgment call about you. In order to even
8 get past the first round, if it's acceptable for
9 people to screen for credit, you can be sure that
10 they will. And I would just add that I am certain
11 cognizant of the concerns, but we have a precedent
12 for this. We don't allow you to ask people's age or
13 religion or pregnancy status for example when you are
14 engaging in an interview and for good reason. And
15 there are many good reasons why people could have
16 messed up on their credit. Anything from somebody
17 who got into an accident and went to the emergency
18 room, and didn't have health insurance. To someone
19 who was subject to fraud or someone who was a victim
20 of domestic violence. And so, I think that what's
21 significant is that this is legislation that will
22 truly level the playing field. And as Council Member
23 Lander pointed out, we see no correlation between
24 good credit and good employees. There are many great
25 employees who messed up on their credit. Someone

2 loses their job, and they can't pay their bills. It
3 happens. It's human and that's why we have laws like
4 bankruptcy that allow people to start again. And
5 there is no correlation, and we really are going to
6 be helping so many New Yorkers by leveling the
7 playing fields. So I thank Council Member Lander and
8 I thank all the advocates, and I vote aye on all.

9 CLERK: Johnson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Permission to
11 explain my vote.

12 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, go ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr.
14 Chair. I want to thank Councilwoman and Chair of the
15 Finance Committee Julissa Ferreras. Today, the
16 Council is adopting two important measures for my
17 district. The first is continuing tax abatement and
18 exemption for Penn South, which is located in the
19 heart of Chelsea, 28,020 apartments constructed in
20 1962 by the International Ladies' Garment Workers
21 Union. JFK was there to cut the ribbon. It has been
22 a place for middle-class, working class, union
23 families since its inception. And the Council--the
24 New York City Council has supported Penn South since
25 the 1960s, '70s and '80s. We've always tried to help

2 this important that has on their own voted year in
3 and year out to remain affordable and not go private.

4 They're the last remaining Article 5 Co-
5 Op in New York City by their own choice. And one of
6 the reasons why they have made that choice is because
7 the City and the City's Council support in helping
8 them remain affordable. Tanisha Edwards and Rebecca
9 Chasan from the Finance Division were very key in all
10 of this under Chair Ferreras. I'm very grateful that
11 she had a hearing on this by itself to see this
12 through. It's very important for my community, and
13 I'm really grateful. And I'll finish with she also
14 help shepherd through the meatpacking BID, which is a
15 new BID. Three plus years of community conversations
16 with the local community board and stakeholders. A
17 long arduous difficult process. We got to a good
18 product in the end, and the Council is voting on that
19 today, as well. So I wanted to thank the Chair for
20 her continued support, and hard work on behalf of my
21 community. Thank you very much.

22 [pause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: And I vote aye
24 on all.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing] Did
3 you vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

5 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Uh-huh.

6 CLERK: Kallos.

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

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Granted.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I just wanted to
11 congratulate Council Member Lander, the progressive
12 caucus for the City Council of New York, and New
13 Yorkers everywhere who will not be able to apply for
14 jobs regardless of their credit history not paying
15 one bill or whatever. And anything happening in a
16 non-judicial or actually extra-judicial system that
17 is privately administered will no longer be a block
18 to people's right to the pursuit of happiness. I
19 vote aye on all.

20 CLERK: King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to
22 all my colleagues today on the passing of your
23 legislation, and I vote aye on all.

24 CLERK: Koo.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

2 CLERK: Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye..

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Lander.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: With gratitude to
8 my colleagues for their support and their kind words
9 I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Levin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
12 explain my vote.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Leader. I wanted to acknowledge the
16 diligent work of members Cohen and Torres, Ferreras,
17 and especially Council Member Brad Lander and Council
18 Member Donovan Richards for their work on these
19 bills. Which are going to have a major impact on the
20 City of New York and our everyday lives. I know how
21 much work they've put into it, and the passage of
22 these bills today is a testament to their diligent
23 work and for their inclusive process as it moves
24 through forward through the legislative process.

25

2 You know with--with regard to Intro 261,
3 this is a very important thing that we're doing today
4 to say to everyday New Yorkers that--that their--
5 their value, their accomplishments will be measured
6 not by an arbitrary number, but by their
7 qualifications. And that this is not something that
8 should ever be used against people as they're
9 applying for--for employment. And this is a great
10 day for a civil rights here in New York City. I'm
11 proudly going to vote aye on Intro 261 and all of the
12 other items on today's General Order Calendar. Thank
13 you.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: With profound
16 congratulations to Council Members Lander and
17 Richards, Cohen, Torres for this incredible package
18 of laws today. I'll be voting aye on all. Thank
19 you.

20 CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic} Aye on
22 all.

23 CLERK: Matteo.

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

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: In regards to
4 261, I believe the bill is well intentioned. I
5 believe the decision to determine whether one's
6 credit history is relevant in the hiring process
7 shouldn't be made by government. So with that, I'm
8 going to vote no on 261-A. On 271-A I'm also going
9 to vote no. In regard to the expanded property tax
10 exemption for Sandy, I want to congratulate Council
11 Member Ignizio and his leadership. The bill
12 certainly rights a potential wrong, and with that I
13 vote aye on the rest.

14 [pause]

15 CLERK: Mealy.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Could I explain my
17 vote?

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I would like to
20 congratulate my colleagues Debbie Rose and Brad
21 Lander. Also she had tried, as she was the Civil
22 Rights Chair years ago to pass this legislation also.
23 And I want to thank Brad Lander for doing a great job
24 to bring this item to the Civil Rights to make sure
25 that all people should not be discriminated against

2 in credit history and in employment. I just want to
3 make sure that the study shows that the U.S. credit
4 history in employment decisions has an inappropriate-
5 -how can I say it? Only on communities of color, and
6 it's discriminating. So I just hope that we pass
7 this legislation, this common sense legislation, and
8 I thank you Brad for bringing this forward and Debbie
9 Rose, and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Menchaca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you to
12 Lander to Torres to Richards. In today's session we
13 are protecting New Yorkers. Thank you. I vote aye
14 on all.

15 CLERK: Miller.

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

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: So as a long-time
20 transportation advocate who has spent time abroad
21 studying the merits of BRT, I truly believe that when
22 this is used properly, it could be a very valuable
23 tool. And I would submit that in Southern Queens
24 that I represent, and we have the displeasure of
25 having some of the longest travel times into the

2 city. For myself an hour and 40 minutes one way each
3 day. BRT does nothing. I would also say--to address
4 the quality of my travels and of my constituents. I
5 would also like to say to resource, yesterday's
6 Transportation hearing in which DOT testified upon
7 oath and upon questioning that the proposed BRT from
8 Jamaica to Flushing in my district was still being
9 evaluated, and they were holding town hall--held town
10 hall meetings to that effect. When, in fact, it was
11 introduced in the Mayor's Plan, Action Plan for
12 Jamaica yesterday when, in fact, it is in the MTA's
13 full schedules. So I find that there is a real
14 attempt to input in some places--put a square peg
15 into a round hole, and it does not work for everyone.
16 Again, I would say that when it is used
17 appropriately, it is a valuable tool. I would ask
18 that we do a real study and evaluate--a comprehensive
19 study and evaluation on transport--transportation
20 particularly in the outer boroughs before we commit
21 such resources to this. For that, I vote no on 211-
22 A, and vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

23 [pause]

24 CLERK: Palma. Richards.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal:

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Torres.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] Aye on
6 all.

7 CLERK: Treyger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
9 explain my vote.

10 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to
12 first commend my colleague, Council Member Donovan
13 Richards who has really championed the cause of--from
14 this Council of winning the fight with regards to
15 climate change. I also want to commend my colleague
16 Ritchie Torres, Andrew Cohen, Council Member Julissa
17 Ferreras. I want to thank the Chair of the
18 Subcommittee on Zoning and the Chair of Land Use both
19 Mark Weprin and David Greenfield for their--and their
20 Land Use staff for supporting land use projects in my
21 district where we're able to require the developer to
22 install bioswales, and for local hiring in Coney
23 Island. I want to commend Council Member Vincent
24 Ignizio with regards to his issue of pushing for tax
25 abatements for Sandy victims. And with regards to

2 Intro 261, I want to be very clear. Some of the same
3 financial firms that devised the deceptive debt
4 schemes that led this nation into financial crisis,
5 should not be lecturing anyone about credit checks.
6 So I commend Councilman Brad Lander for championing--
7 championing this bill, and with that, I vote aye on
8 all.

9 CLERK: Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ulrich.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
13 with the exception of Intro 261-A. I vote no on 261-
14 A.

15 CLERK: Weprin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I vote no on 261-
17 A and aye on the rest.

18 CLERK: Williams.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You may.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to
23 say congratulations to Council Member Richards. I
24 thank him and for his leadership on the environmental
25 bills. I vote aye on all including 211, but I do

2 have a lot of issues with the way the Bus Rapid
3 Transit has been laid out, and the affect it's had on
4 communities. And I'm not 100% sure that the benefits
5 are worth it. I'm still waiting to see what the
6 results of the tests are. How fast are the buses
7 actually going, and if that makes up for loss of time
8 for drivers. And the time that drivers are now
9 stalled along some of the areas that they can't move.
10 But I understand that this bill does not allow
11 further BRTs and it doesn't permit BRTs. What it
12 does is make sure there's a study to hopefully get
13 some of the answers that I'm asking. And make sure
14 that there are more community engagement when these
15 BRTs are being laid out. And I want to congratulate
16 Council Member Lander for that, and also for Intro
17 261, the credit check. I think it is a
18 groundbreaking bill. Very often we--people--we put
19 people who need the help the most in the least
20 possible position that they would want to be. I
21 believe that if you have some issues that have made
22 your credit bad, you probably would want to get some
23 employment so that you can correct it. And these
24 barriers have no bearings at all on whether or not
25 someone would be a good employee. So I congratulate

2 him and congratulate the City Council, and I vote aye
3 on all.

4 CLERK: Ignizio. Speaker Mark-Viverito.

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: Council Member Ignizio.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote no on
8 Intro 271 and aye on all others. I just wanted to
9 say that--

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Which
11 one are you voting no on?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: 271.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Okay.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah, I just
15 wanted to say with regards to the 261--

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No, I'm not
18 voting no on that. I'm voting aye because in my view
19 it is a pro-work bill. It is a bill, which will
20 ultimately encourage people to get back into the
21 workforce, to not have their past issues, their past
22 financial problems count against their future. So
23 that's the reason why I'm voting yes on that. No, on
24 271 and aye on all others. Thank you.

25 [pause]

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All items on
3 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote
4 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and 0
5 abstentions with the exception of Intro 261-A, which
6 was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, 3 in
7 the negative, and 0 abstentions. And Intro 271-A,
8 which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative,
9 2 in the negative and 0 abstentions. And Intro 211-
10 A, which was adopted by a vote of 49 in the
11 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 0 abstentions.
12 And the Revised Land Use Call-Up votes is 50 in the
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative. Introduction and
14 Reading of Bills.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [coughs] All
16 bills are referred to committees, as indicated on the
17 agenda. Let me just say this is--this--

18 [applause]

19 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
20 down, please.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, everything
22 passed so I think the advocates are very happy. I
23 want to apologize to Council Member Ignizio because I
24 made an assumption that because his other colleagues
25 were--were voting no 261, he was voting on 261--

2 voting no on 261. I got confused. So I'm very happy
3 that--that he voted for that one, and for the reasons
4 he cited. I know surprise, surprise. We get
5 surprised everyday on this job. So thank you for
6 that, and again, all bills are referred to committees
7 as indicated on the agenda.

8 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you.

9 Discussion of Resolutions. Resolutions first 533-A,
10 an amended resolution calling upon the United States
11 Congress to pass and the President to sign the James
12 Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization
13 Act. First up is the sponsor, Council Member Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good
15 afternoon. I'm happy to be voting today on
16 Resolution 533-A, which I sponsored with our Speaker,
17 also with Council Member Miller and Council Member
18 Vallone. In October, the Zadroga Act is threatened
19 to end unless Congress votes to reauthorize--

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Hold it down
21 please. Please hold it down.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: In October the
23 Zadroga Act is threatened to end unless Congress
24 votes to reauthorize it before then. The Zadroga Act
25 created, among other things, the World Trade Center

2 Health Program, which provides health treatment to
3 people who work or reside in the vicinity of the
4 World Trade Center on and after the September 11
5 terrorist attack. We in New York know how critical
6 this health program is for those New Yorkers who are
7 sick, who have already died, or who will get sick in
8 the years to come from our exposure to toxic
9 chemicals. We need to make sure Congress knows, too.
10 Our colleague in Congress, Congressman Nadler and
11 Congresswoman Maloney have introduced this critical
12 legislation. Now we have to make sure that Congress
13 passes it. I'd like thank all the tireless advocates
14 and also our great central staff Gafar--Gafar--

15 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Sit
16 down, please. Sit down. [sic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --Zaaloff for his
18 work on this resolution, and I hope all my colleagues
19 will join us in voting for it. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
21 Member Chin. Council Member Rose.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I stand
23 today in support of Resolution 533-A calling for the
24 reauthorization of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and
25 Compensation Reauthorization Act. The heroic actions

2 of September 11th first responders, many of whom hail
3 from Staten Island and from my district in
4 particular, were a beacon of courage, selflessness,
5 and patriotism for our city and a country in shock
6 and mourning. Illuminating the strength and
7 resiliency that would carry us through that time of
8 crisis. It is our obligation as a nation to do
9 whatever we can to honor the bravery of first
10 responders, and the sacrifices they made. The
11 Zadroga Act ensures that those whose health and
12 wellbeing were impacted have access to the care they
13 need and appropriate--and be appropriately
14 compensated, and they also earned. Its
15 reauthorization is necessary to reaffirm or
16 commitment to care for those who did what was needed
17 at that time to be done without regard for danger to
18 help us recover and rebuild. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
20 Member. Seeing no other council members speaking on
21 this resolution, we'll take a voice vote. All those
22 in favor of Resolution 533-A say aye.

23 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye. [in unison]

24 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All those opposed.
25 Okay. It passes unanimously. The next resolution,

2 Resolution 637, a resolution commemorating the 50th
3 Anniversary of the signing of the New York City
4 Landmarks Law. Is there any member who would like to
5 speak on that resolution? Okay, seeing none-- Oh,
6 I'm sorry. My apologies. Your name was on there and
7 then it was taken off and put on. I'm sorry.
8 Council Member Koo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I will make it very
10 brief. Today, we are very happy to celebrate in
11 commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the signing
12 of the Land--Landmark Law. It was on April 19, 1965
13 Mayor Robert Wagner signed the law, and created the
14 NY City Landmarks Preservation Commission Authority.
15 And today, the Landmark Commission already has
16 preserved more than 31,000 properties. So they are
17 very happy, and we were a little grateful for the
18 Commission and the staff who are doing a wonderful
19 job. And I want to thank the Speaker and the Land
20 Use staff for writing this resolution, and I am
21 hoping all my colleagues will support this
22 resolution. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
24 Member. Seeing no others, we will take a voice vote.
25 All those in favor of Resolution 637, please say aye.

2 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye. [in unison]

3 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: All those opposed?
4 Okay, Resolution 637 passes, and we'll go to General
5 Discussion. First up is Council Member Kallos.
6 Council Member Kallos are you here? Oh, there you
7 are. Okay.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Good afternoon.
9 I rise for Introduction 750, which would ensure that
10 New Yorkers who move will get a voter registration
11 with their new lease. We all know this is a city of
12 renters, and two-thirds of New Yorkers are renters.
13 The bill encourages more New Yorkers to participate
14 by meeting them where they are, in their apartments.
15 Only about two-thirds of eligible New Yorkers are
16 registered with up-to-date information. And only 24%
17 voted in the last election. Moving actually
18 decreases participation, according to New York
19 Campaign Finance Report of 2012, who both report in
20 part because they needed to re-register in a new
21 location. This bill would make it simple and
22 convenient for more New Yorkers to participate.
23 Thank you to my Legislative Director Paul Westrick
24 and all who worked on this bill. I hope you'll
25 consider signing onto Introduction 750.

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
3 Member and next up is Council Member Corey Johnson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Good afternoon.
5 Today, I am proud to sponsor two important pieces of
6 legislation. The first, introduced by myself and
7 Public Advocate James will address an issue of
8 critical importance to New Yorkers with physical
9 disabilities. Our city, frankly, has long way to go
10 in terms of bringing its public transportation into
11 the 21st Century up to acceptable ADA compliance
12 standards. My local law will change that in
13 requiring all taxi cabs and for-hire vehicles to be
14 fully accessible. 100% accessibility. That means
15 that every vehicle has to be equipped with a side
16 entry lift or ramp so that those wheelchairs,
17 scooters and similar devices can remain comfortably
18 seated while safely accessing the car. Side entry is
19 important as many vehicles presently only have rear
20 entry for those with disabilities. Meaning that the
21 back bumper of a car has to be removed in order to
22 utilize the passenger ramp, which severely
23 compromises the safety of that person. After a
24 series of phase-ins, all of the vehicles in the city
25 will be fully accessible by 2020. This legislation

2 will make a huge difference in the everyday lives of
3 those both with--both struggling with temporary
4 injuries or lifelong disabilities alike. I urge my
5 colleagues to support it.

6 My second bill would create an office of
7 drug strategy to most effectively combat problems
8 associated with illicit and non-medical drug use here
9 in New York City in attempts to reduce mortality
10 crime and inequity that results from such usage
11 coupled with past and present ineffective drug
12 policy. The office would be charged with creating an
13 annual plan for drug policy to be revamped each year
14 in order to stay up-to-date and effective as
15 possible. This annual plan will be presented here at
16 the Council, and would include recommendations for
17 city action to close gaps left with ineffective drug
18 policy. Additionally, it would spearhead evidence-
19 based drug education and public health intervention
20 efforts. Enhance the availability of medical,
21 psychological and social services to those struggling
22 with drug use as well as analyze social and economic
23 problems related to drug policy. Too many New
24 Yorkers' lives have been lost or harmed by drug use--

2 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing]

3 Council Member--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --and it is time
5 that we proactively--

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: --please finish.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --set out to
8 change this. So I ask my colleagues to sign onto--

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: [interposing] Thank
10 you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: --both of these
12 important piece of legislation. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
14 Member Johnson and now Council Member Levine.

15 [pause]

16 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Council Member
17 Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. I would like to speak to my colleagues
20 about Intro 751, which I am pleased to be introducing
21 today. Colleagues, there has been an explosion in
22 the scale of housing lotteries in our city for the
23 housing developments as HPD has thankfully taken the
24 application process online. It's now not uncommon
25 for there to be more than 1,000 applications per unit

2 available in some affordable housing projects in New
3 York City. This has exposed manifold flaws in our
4 lottery system, which have inconsistencies and which
5 I believe are unfair. For example, penalizing
6 people with inconsistent income even if they meet
7 the--the numerical guidelines for income requirements
8 and many others. I believes it's time for us, as a
9 city, to look closely at the lottery system now as we
10 being what will be the largest period of new housing,
11 affordable housing development in our history. And
12 so, I propose this intro, which would create a task
13 force with five members appointed by the Mayor, the
14 HPD Commissioner, and this body consisting of both
15 representatives of tenant advocacy community and
16 affordable housing developers. To examine the
17 lottery process and determine what, if anything, we
18 can do to improve it. So we have the fairest
19 possible system as this incredibly fast growing
20 lottery system advances in the years ahead. thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Con--
23 Council Member Levine and Council Member Crowley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Uh--

2 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Sit down,
3 please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Good afternoon,
5 and thank you Leader Gentile. I am asking my
6 colleagues to sign onto the prevailing wage bill that
7 I'm introducing today. As many of us know, big
8 development projects are happening in New York City
9 receiving financial assistance from the City. And as
10 elected leaders, we need to be assured that our tax
11 dollars are not supporting substandard development.
12 As a city, we must deny tax dollars and city
13 resources to developers who break the rules,
14 contractors that cheat their workers, who don't work
15 pay overtime, Workers Compensation or even
16 unemployment insurance, and sometimes not even the
17 basic minimum wage on job sites that are sometimes so
18 often dangerous. In 2012, we in the City Council
19 overrode Mayor Bloomberg's veto and creating sweeping
20 new living wage and more recently prevailing wages
21 laws for building service workers on projects
22 receiving financial assistance. And while these
23 steps were very helpful, a living wage bill and a
24 prevailing wage bill that we passed in the Council,
25 these bills did not go far enough.

2 The prevailing wage bill I'm introducing
3 today, Intro 744, will ensure that projects with
4 financial assistance will have either a project labor
5 agreement or projects they must pay prevailing wages.
6 When passed, this law will require prevailing wages
7 to be paid for in the construction phase of any
8 development project where developers receive \$1
9 million in financial assistance from the City. Any
10 project that receives money from HPD, HCC, EDC or any
11 City agency with a capital project will have to pay
12 prevailing wages. This is an opportunity to expand
13 fair wages not just on housing projects, but also for
14 our parks, our libraries, and transportation where
15 too many workers are still being shut out. I urge my
16 colleagues to sign onto this prevailing wage bill.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
19 member. Council Member Miller followed by Council
20 Member Barron. Council Member.

21 [background comments]

22 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: You passing? Okay.
23 Council Member Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr.
25 Deputy Leader. To my colleagues, I want to remind us

2 that yesterday was one year since the kidnapping of
3 the--of more than 200 young ladies in Nigeria,
4 students there. And I would ask that we remember
5 that we still have to bring our girls back and not
6 let them be forgotten, and not lose the emphasis on
7 that very important issue. Additionally, I am
8 introducing a Reso today, which would call on CUNY to
9 in its FY16 Budget provide for Metro Cards free of
10 charge to all CUNY students. We know that CUNY
11 students, as all students, face a lot of financial
12 stress, the debts that they incur, childcare costs,
13 rent, food. And we are thinking that just as ASAP--
14 ASAP students have the ability to have support for
15 their tuition gaps, and support for traveler
16 vouchers, that that would be beneficial as well for
17 all students in CUNY. So we're calling on the
18 legislature and the Governor and the State officials
19 to adopt a policy that would all for CUNY students to
20 have free Metro cards.

21 Additionally-- Oh, I want to thank
22 Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez for his support on
23 this. The former Chair of the Committee on Higher
24 Education and recognizing this is a great need, and
25 Russell Murphy, who drafted the bill; Lucas Acosta

2 from the Council Member Rodriguez's office; and my
3 Legislative Director Indigo Washington. And in my
4 last 25 seconds, I want to say we're also introducing
5 a resolution that would require that there be posted
6 in a visible public area in all shelters a bill of
7 rights. So that all the residents of shelters would
8 know what it is that they are entitled to. So that
9 they would not be submitted--subjected to undue
10 intimidation, misinterpretation of what their rights
11 are. And that they know that they have the right to
12 receive visitors. They have the right to privacy
13 area, and the right to confidentiality. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
15 Member. Council Member Miller, last chance. Do you
16 want to say something?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]
18 Can I just recognize the persons who worked on that,
19 please?

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: I'm sorry.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can I just
22 recognize those who worked on that?

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Yes, please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to thank
25 Council Member Jumaane Williams for his support on

2 this issue. Andrea Vasquez for drafting the bill.
3 Nick Smith from Council Member Williams' Office, and
4 my Legislative Director Indigo Washington and Anita
5 Fisher. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Okay. Thank you.
7 Council Member Miller.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Deputy
9 Leader. I'd like to speak on Intro 473, and I'd like
10 to acknowledge and thank the Speaker for her
11 leadership on this--this intro regarding the Office
12 of Labor Standards. It is vital exer--that we
13 exercise maximum efforts in providing that working
14 people are treated with dignity and respect befitting
15 to their labor. With that in mind, I'm looking
16 forward to this hearing, hearing this legislation
17 along with a few other labor related items on
18 Monday's hearing at 1:00 p.m. in these chambers along
19 with Council Member Cumbo. So I look forward to
20 having all day joined by all our colleagues here on
21 Monday as we discuss these important issues. Thank
22 you.

23 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
24 Member, and next up is Council Member Andy King.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon. I
3 just rise just to remind that BLA member staff
4 today's general meeting will be held downstairs in
5 the committee room-the conference room downstairs.
6 Also I would like to wish Council Member Fernando
7 Cabrera a happy 27th birthday to day as he grows a
8 year wiser and moving forth with his legislations. I
9 don't know where he disappeared to. He's probably--
10 there he goes. He's outside, but when he comes in,
11 we all should wish him a happy birthday when he
12 returns back in. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
14 Member. Council Member Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.
16 Earlier today, Council Member Gibson and I sent out
17 an email asking for our colleagues' support for Intro
18 607, a bill that would create a body camera task
19 force to evaluate the cost, best practices, and
20 privacy in locations around surround body cameras.
21 I'm sure we're all aware of the tragedy in South
22 Charleston with Officer Michael Slager and Mr. Walter
23 Scott. We're asking you to sign these legislations
24 we co-sponsored with Public Advocate James and
25 several other colleagues in the Council. I think

2 based on what's going on today that is a--body
3 cameras is the essential way to go. Something that
4 we can do right now, but it won't solve the problems.
5 And the task force will help solve some of the
6 questions, legitimate questions that are being asked.
7 I'd also like my colleagues to sign onto several
8 bills, Intro 755. That will do more to protect the
9 rights of disabled tenants. This bill would require
10 owners to notify HPD if they plan to evict a disabled
11 tenant. Additionally, it would require owners to
12 provide disabled tenants with information about legal
13 services that they would be entitled to.

14 Reso 665 co-sponsored by Council Member
15 Barron who spoke on it. Since we cannot post the
16 Homeless Bill of Rights as a city, we're calling on
17 the State to do so. The resolution will require the
18 State Office of Temporary Disability Assistance to
19 promulgate a rule, which will require family shelters
20 facilities to post a list of residents' rights and
21 protections in a public area.

22 Lastly, Intro 756, as an extension of the
23 work done on Vision Zero. This bill would require
24 the DOT, the Department of Transportation, to inspect
25 locations where four or more serious injuries or

2 fatalities of cyclists or pedestrians occurred. And
3 to make results of such inspections available to the
4 public upon request. The bill additionally speeds up
5 the amount of time in which it conducts comprehensive
6 studies of pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries
7 from every five years to every three years. I ask
8 for my colleagues' support. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you,
10 Councilman. Next up, Council Member Helen Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you so
12 much, Leader Gentile. I rise today to talk about a
13 DOC Bail Reporting Bill No. 753. You know, many New
14 Yorkers are accused of minor offenses, and they're
15 required to post a monetary bail, but they're unable
16 to pay. They're then forced to sit in jail even
17 before they've been convicted of a crime awaiting
18 trial. This is true even when bail is set for a
19 seemingly minimal amount. In addition, one in five
20 non--non-felony defendants will ultimately not be
21 convicted. And 8 in 10 misdemeanor arrestees receive
22 sentences that do not include jail time. The point
23 of this bill is to make public the reasons why people
24 are being held in jail, and how long people are being
25 held in jail for. With this information, we hope to

2 identify where the criminal justice system can be
3 improved to ensure that justice is truly being
4 served, and that people are not being held in jail
5 for unacceptably long periods of time. To that end,
6 this bill would require DOITT to post a quarterly
7 report on the department's website regarding the bail
8 status of persons incarcerated in New York City.
9 This issue came to our office's attention, and I'm
10 sure all of you as well, from the New Yorker article
11 published in October 2014 about a 17-year-old who was
12 accused of stealing a backpack. And then he spent
13 three years in jail on Rikers Island. He was never
14 charged with a crime, and he was released after the
15 charges against him were dismissed. This bill is
16 consistent in purpose with Mayor de Blasio's recent
17 announcement to work with state judges to reduce
18 back--backlogs in state courts. And I urge my
19 colleagues to sign on in support. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
21 Member, and next up Council Member Koo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr.
23 Majority Leader. I saved the best for the last.
24 [laughter] I want to use this opportunity to welcome

2 and introduce you to my new Chief of Staff, Elaine
3 Chong. She's right there. [applause]

4 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Nice to see you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Elaine is very
6 diligent and really smart and really public minded.
7 So I want all of you to welcome her to our office.
8 And my former Chief of Staff Jonathan Chong has moved
9 to become in the government a Liaison for the Queens
10 Library. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Very good. Thank--
12 thank you, Council Member Koo. Council Member
13 Vanessa Gibson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Leader. I appreciate it. I want to ask
16 all of my colleagues in addition to two sponsors,
17 Council Member Johnson, Chair of Health, and Council
18 Member Cohen, Chair of Mental Health to sign onto
19 Intro 748, which would create an Office of Drug
20 Strategy, which is truly an effort to develop a
21 unified drug strategy that can provide New York with
22 a coordinated effort to develop many of the best
23 practices that are necessary for many New Yorkers who
24 unfortunately cycle in and out of drug use and drug
25 addiction. Truly by joining on a lot of expertise

2 and knowledge by agencies, community groups, medical
3 professionals we will build safer, healthier
4 communities that will stabilize many of our New
5 Yorkers. So I urge all of my colleagues to join in
6 support of Intro 748. And as Council Member Williams
7 alluded to earlier this afternoon, we share with all
8 of you that joining with Public Advocate James we
9 have introduced 607, which will create a body camera
10 task force. Which we believe is an important and
11 integral part of the conversation around policing and
12 building relationships in the city. Body cameras can
13 serve as neutral observers for both our officers as
14 well as our New Yorkers. And truly, we want all
15 stakeholders to be involved in this conversation, as
16 we move forward beyond a pilot, and look at a full
17 implementation in the Police Department. So we ask
18 your support on Intro 607 and Intro 748. Thank you
19 again, Mr. Leader.

20 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
21 Member Gibson. Next up, Council Member Steve Levin.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
23 much, my colleagues. Today, I want to call your
24 attention to Resolution 656, which is being
25 introduced by Council Member Ruben Wills, who asked

2 me to speak on it. This would increase the income
3 eligibility for families to receive subsidized
4 childcare. During my committee's preliminary budget
5 hearing last month, I saw that the city's contracted
6 childcare providers are crying out for help. Because
7 they can no longer bear the flawed Early Learn NYC's
8 pay for 100% enrollment system that the--that the
9 system has imposed on them. And as a result,
10 providers throughout the city are facing terrible
11 budget shortfalls. One way to address this issue,
12 and to also ensure that more children and more
13 families receive adequate child care is to increase
14 the income eligibility above the current threshold to
15 375% of the federal poverty line. This would make
16 more families eligible, more children eligible for
17 childcare, and ensure that the system itself can
18 remain fluid and stay above water. All too many of
19 the programs are suffering major, major setbacks in
20 terms of their budgets. And I also want to
21 acknowledge Council Member Rose and Council Member
22 Ignizio for their work on legislation passed today.

23 And with regard to Intro 261, I was
24 debating bringing something forward. I myself have
25 had bad credit in the past, and like many New

2 Yorkers, it's something that is all too easy to fall
3 behind on. And it takes a long time to get your
4 credit back up. It takes a number of years, and it'
5 not--it's not an easy thing, and all too often people
6 are penalized for indiscretions in their past. And
7 so, that's one other reason why I'm supporting it
8 [bell] personal experience. But, all those that are-
9 -that have bad credit out there, you know, I
10 understand. I've been there myself. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
12 Member. Next up, Council Member Danny Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
14 much. Today, I'm introducing a bill to strengthen
15 protections for our city's most vulnerable consumers,
16 recent immigrants. Throughout the city unscrupulous
17 immigration service providers prey on our
18 constituents by promising green cards and other
19 benefits when they have no qualifications to do so.
20 From the notario publicos [sic] in Sunset Park to
21 highly organized rackets in Jackson Heights, no
22 community is immune to these scam artists. The
23 consequences of receiving bad advice can be
24 devastating. My office has dealt with cases where
25 constituents not only lost thousands of dollars, but

2 also lost family members to deportation. Under the
3 leadership of Speaker Mark-Viverito, this Council has
4 worked to ensure a growing number of immigrants have
5 access to high quality legal representation. With
6 the expansion of President Obama's Executive Action
7 around immigration, we need to redouble our efforts
8 to guide individuals and families to an ethical and
9 competent legal representation. That State has
10 recently strengthened protection, and it is now time
11 for the City to update its own laws. I encourage my
12 colleagues to sign onto Intro 746. Thank you very
13 much.

14 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you, Council
15 Member Dromm, and I just want to cite the presence of
16 our former colleague, and now New York State Senator
17 Leroy Comrie. [cheers/applause] Next up is Council
18 Member Darlene Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,
20 Congressman Gen--I mean Colleague Gentile.

21 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Give it a couple of
22 weeks. Give it a couple of weeks, okay. [laughter]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Today, I'm
24 introducing a resolution that supports the federal
25 legislation that will reinvigorate the Voting Rights

2 Act. That devastating 2013 Supreme Court decision in
3 *Shelby v. Holder*, which struck down the pre-clearance
4 caution of the law. I ask my colleagues to support
5 this Resolution 650. This resolution supports the
6 Voting Rights Act Amendment Right--Amendment Act of
7 2015 sponsored by the U.S. Representative Brenner. It
8 requires public notification of certain voting
9 process changing, and extends this requirement
10 nationwide. Beyond only the jurisdiction of meeting
11 pre-clearance to provide greater transparency,
12 potentially discriminate--discriminatory changes.
13 The right to vote is a free and fair election. It is
14 the foundation of this democracy. For 48 years, that
15 right was protected at the federal level. It is time
16 to revise those protections.

17 And I believe that this 50th Anniversary
18 of the landmark Voting Rights Act is a great time to
19 do this. I ask all my colleagues to sign onto this
20 legislation 650. And I would just like to ask all my
21 colleagues to--and Mark-Viverito and the Caucus,
22 Elizabeth Crowley and myself, and the Jewish Chair
23 Mark Levine to come to the Simon Wiesenthal Center
24 Museum of Tolerance of New York. Stories of
25 Genocide, Lessons of Tolerance. That's on Wednesday,

2 April 22nd at the museum. So I hope that all my
3 colleagues to come to this just as we're sponsoring
4 it with the Women's Caucus and the Jewish Caucus.
5 And I hope you sign onto my legislation.

6 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: Thank you. Thank
7 you, Council Member. Seeing no other members, we'll
8 go to the Extension of Remarks by Speaker Mark-
9 Viverito.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I have no
11 additional comments. I want to again thank all my
12 colleagues. I hope everyone has a great next couple
13 of days. And with that, I think we're adjourned,
14 right?

15 CHAIRPERSON GENTILE: We're adjourned.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.

17 [gavel]

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1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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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 April 29, 2015