

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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December 8, 2011  
Start: 2:15pm  
Recess: 4:00pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

James Clemens  
Minister  
Greater Eternal Baptist Church

Tricia Beckford

Kevin Stevenson

Denise Peace

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SPEAKER QUINN: --everybody.

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: And we are working still on some transitional stuff, but thank you everybody who helped make the renovation possible. I'm going to do a couple more thank yous in a minute, but let me start the first of three ceremonials, and this one is I hope the cat didn't get out of the bag. Where's our sergeant at arms, Jerry? Jerry, come on up and-

[background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: --and if I could ask Jerry's wife, Nancy, his two daughters, his brother, his sister-in-law, his grandchildren and his son-in-law all to come up as well. Jerry and the men. Oh, you know how a ceremony works. Come on everybody, let's get in for the pictures. So here... Jerry, here is that signed by me and your local Council Member Vinny Ignizio, but-

[applause]

[background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: Jerry, we just wanted to--and I want to thank Barbara [phonetic] and Elias [phonetic] and Carl [phonetic] and

1  
2 everybody who was downstairs hiding your family.  
3 Thank you for sneaking your family up. Jerry, we  
4 just wanted, and I really wanted to take a moment  
5 to thank you for your service to the City of New  
6 York, to thank you for your service to the City  
7 Council, to thank you for all of the help and  
8 encouragement and support you've given me and the  
9 time we've worked together at the City Council.  
10 You are one of the nicest, most loyal, most  
11 supportive people I have ever met, and you also  
12 are someone I know who loves your family as much  
13 as any human being can love their family and will  
14 do anything for their family. Jerry, I wish you  
15 nothing but the best retirement, the happiest and  
16 healthy of years, many, many, many years with you  
17 and your family and wish them nothing but the  
18 happiest and healthiest and I will give the mic to  
19 Vinny before we have the proc read [phonetic], but  
20 I really, really, Jerry, from the bottom of my  
21 heart, thank you.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,  
24 Madam Speaker.

25 [background noise]

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[applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you, Madam Speaker and thank you, Jerry, for everything you have done. You represent our district proud. You represent Staten Island proud. My colleagues here, Debbie Rose and Jimmy Oddo, we really are honored. We are sorry to see you go, but we know we haven't heard the last of you. Just today, he was advocating for families and people in the district and will continue to do so, so thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak. God bless you and good luck.

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[applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: There has been a request from a 17<sup>th</sup> floor representative, Robert Jackson to say a few words.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Well, thank you, Madam Speaker. Even though he resides in Vinny's district, he belongs to the 17<sup>th</sup> floor.

21

[applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: And in fact as you know, Jerry is the sergeant at arms and he keeps us safe and makes sure that all of our visitors are checked in and everything is

1  
2 going well, and let me tell you, Jerry, we're  
3 going to miss you. I've been a partner with - -  
4 for ten years in the City Council. Some of my  
5 colleagues the same time, some of them are younger  
6 like, Jumaane Williams, and others, but we  
7 appreciate everything you've done for us, and I  
8 most appreciate your friendship and the  
9 camaraderie that we had in talking about our  
10 families and talking about current events and  
11 looking at pictures from historical perspective on  
12 the Internet and just having fun with one another.  
13 Let me just say to you, you still owe me 100  
14 breakfasts and 200 lunches that I'm still waiting  
15 for so, you're going to be missed. I don't know  
16 who is going to replace you. No one can replace  
17 you, but obviously there's going to be another  
18 face there, but it won't have the same type of  
19 smile and genuine appreciation that you've had.  
20 We love you, Jerry.

21 [applause]

22 SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could ask  
23 the clerk to please read the proclamation.

24 CLERK: Council City of New York  
25 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York

1  
2 is proud to honor Sergeant at Arms Jerry Staffieri  
3 for his exemplary service to the Council and to  
4 the community at large and whereas, at City Hall  
5 at our legislative offices within 250 Broadway and  
6 the countless special events and parades  
7 throughout the year. The Council Sergeant at Arms  
8 often makes the first impression of city  
9 government upon the public. Although the  
10 Council's Sergeant at Arms are diverse in  
11 backgrounds, ages and experience, they all share a  
12 tremendous dedication to the protection of Council  
13 Members, staff and visitors. Mr. Staffieri has  
14 fulfilled his responsibility with respect and  
15 dignity for more than ten years and as he  
16 approaches retirement, it is fitting to recognize  
17 his many contributions. And whereas, born on  
18 January 15, 1941 to Anthony and Julia Staffieri,  
19 Jerry grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from the  
20 New York School of Printing High School, known  
21 today as the High School of Graphic Communications  
22 Arts. It was one of the city's first career and  
23 technical education schools. When Mr. Staffieri  
24 graduated high school in 1958, he was not only  
25 trained in typesetting, but he fully prepared to



1  
2 make a great impression as a press man for Abigail  
3 Press Incorporated in Brooklyn. Over the next 42  
4 years at Abigail Press Incorporated, Mr. Staffieri  
5 rose through the ranks. He served as the foreman  
6 of the print shop for 28 years before becoming  
7 office manager and ultimately shipping manager.  
8 In that role, he oversaw all shipping and  
9 receiving materials, supervised more than 40 full  
10 time employees and controlled the company's fleet  
11 of delivery vehicles as they were dispatched  
12 across New York City as well as New Jersey and  
13 Connecticut. And whereas, on Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>,  
14 2000, Mr. Staffieri left Abigail Press  
15 Incorporated after 42 years of loyal service. On  
16 the following Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2000, he began  
17 his tenure as the New York City Council's Sergeant  
18 at Arms where has been a tremendous asset ever  
19 since. And whereas, beyond Mr. Staffieri's role  
20 as Sergeant at Arms, he has had even greater pride  
21 in several other titles, specifically husband to  
22 Nancy his wife of 49 years--

23 [applause]

24 CLERK: --father to his daughters,  
25 Julianne and Diane and devoted grandfather to

1  
2 Nicole, Tiana, Kimberly, Vincent Jr. and  
3 Jacqueline. Upon Mr. Staffieri's retirement the  
4 Council can take some comfort knowing that our  
5 loss will mean more quality time with his loved  
6 ones in the years ahead. He has provided  
7 excellent service to the Council and we wish him  
8 continued happiness throughout his retirement.  
9 Now therefore be it know that the Council of the  
10 City of New York gratefully honors Jerry B.  
11 Staffieri for his outstanding service to the  
12 Council and to the community at large. Christine  
13 C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council, Vincent  
14 M. Ignizio, Council Member, 51<sup>st</sup> District, Staten  
15 Island.

16 [applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Now Jerry I know we  
18 sprung this on you so I understand if you want to  
19 take a pass, but if you'd like to say a few words,  
20 we would love to hear from you.

21 JERRY STAFFIERI: Thank you very  
22 much everyone. It's been a pleasure working with  
23 the City Council. I'm all choked up. This is  
24 really sneaky and a surprise.

25 [background conversation]

1  
2 JERRY STAFFIERI: I thank everybody  
3 and I wish us all well in the future. Thank you.

4 [applause]

5 [background conversation]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. Now get  
7 back to work, Jerry. You're not retired yet.  
8 You've got people to take care of. Alright. Well  
9 as Jerry and the family--and again, thank you  
10 everybody who helped. Let's hear it for the staff  
11 who helped organize Jerry's surprise.

12 [applause]

13 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could--as Jerry  
14 and family exit--if I could ask Council Member  
15 Sanders to come on up. Oh, there you are. We  
16 have a ceremonial for Tracy [phonetic] Beckford  
17 and Kevin Stevenson [phonetic], two New York City  
18 heroes. If Tracy and Kevin could make their way  
19 up with Council Member Sanders that would be  
20 great. Here you go, James.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [off mic]

22 Come a little closer. People think that heroes  
23 are something from a comic book. People think  
24 that heroes are outdated or you only see them on  
25 TV or in the movies. While I'm glad to say that

1  
2 heroes are everyday people. Heroes can be you and  
3 I. In fact, heroes are the people that you're  
4 seeing in front of you. In a day and age where  
5 cynicism seems to rule, we've had everyday people  
6 step forward and do amazing things. A school bus  
7 overturned in my district and a lot of little kids  
8 looked like they were trapped. The bus could turn  
9 on fire. Some good people went out and they  
10 called 911. That's good. Some good people stood  
11 on the side and prayed. That was good. But these  
12 two heroes jumped out there and decided that they  
13 were going to take it personal. They went in  
14 there and they opened the school bus. They led  
15 the children to safety. No, you didn't hear about  
16 them on every TV station and no, you won't see a  
17 great monument made after them, but at the City  
18 Council under the leadership of Speaker Christine  
19 Quinn believe in recognizing everyday heroes  
20 understanding that if we show that New Yorkers who  
21 get a bad reputation are as willing to be heroic  
22 as anyone else is indeed more heroic than anyone  
23 else. We can let everyone know that in New York,  
24 we will help you in a New York City minute, and  
25 that's why we are here to honor these two heroes

1  
2 today. I thank you, Madam Speaker, for the  
3 opportunity.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
5 much. Thank you both very, very much. You did  
6 something most New Yorkers, most people wouldn't  
7 do 'cause it was dangerous and it took split  
8 second thinking, so I just really want to thank  
9 you guys so much, and before we hear from both of  
10 you, let's ask the clerk to read the proclamation.

11 CLERK: City of New York  
12 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
13 New York is proud to honor Kevin Stevenson and  
14 Tricia [phonetic] Beckford for their outstanding  
15 service to the community. And whereas, on August  
16 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Queens a school bus on Springfield  
17 Boulevard was approaching 140<sup>th</sup> Street when it  
18 collided with an SUV. When the bus driver  
19 swerved, the entire vehicle lurched and toppled,  
20 landing with a horrendous boom onto its passenger  
21 side. Inside the bus terrified children along  
22 with a stunned matron and the driver dangled from  
23 their seatbelts. And whereas, Kevin Stephenson  
24 and Tricia Beckford were working at Phoenix Houses  
25 Springfield Gardens Mental Health Community

1  
2 Residence when they heard the crash outside, saw  
3 the bus and without concern for their own safety,  
4 immediately ran to help. The children were crying  
5 and the matron was bleeding. An unidentified man  
6 who had opened the vehicle's emergency door handed  
7 the kids out to Mr. Stevenson who gave them to Ms.  
8 Beckford to carry to other good Samaritans who  
9 comforted the children. The driver and the matron  
10 emerged from their bus on their own. In the end,  
11 the driver, matron and 300 children ages 2 to 5  
12 were taken to Long Island Jewish Hospital for  
13 serious, but not life threatening injuries. And  
14 whereas, Ms. Beckford has an impressive history of  
15 being prepared and is also certified in first aid  
16 and CPR, it was very fortunate that a highly  
17 qualified first responder was at the scene and  
18 knew immediately what action to take to ensure the  
19 children's safety. And whereas, Mr. Stevenson has  
20 a long history of serving others. In addition to  
21 being the father of three of his own children, he  
22 has worked as a counselor for numerous  
23 organizations, including the Martin Luther King  
24 Community Center, Creative Options and currently  
25 the Phoenix House Foundation. And whereas, Mr.

1  
2 Stevenson's and Mr. Beckford's courageous response  
3 to seeing the overturned vehicle also serves as  
4 clear reminder how our true character is revealed  
5 by the good we do when we help others when times  
6 are most challenging. Now therefore be it know  
7 that the Council of the City of New York  
8 gratefully honors Tricia Beckford and Kevin  
9 Stevenson for their inspiring heroism and  
10 outstanding service to the community. Christine  
11 C. Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council, Leroy  
12 Comrie, Deputy Majority Leader, Council Member,  
13 27<sup>th</sup> District, Queens, James Sanders, Junior  
14 Council Member, 31<sup>st</sup> District, Queens, Ruben Wills,  
15 Council Member, 28<sup>th</sup> District, Queens.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: For nothing you  
17 listen to that, you guys should be getting  
18 proclamations for what you do for a living and  
19 what you do as volunteers, so kind of when you  
20 hear about what you do and who you are it's no  
21 surprise that you were so selfless and giving that  
22 day, but thank you nonetheless so very much on  
23 behalf of the whole Council and do both of you  
24 want to say a few words?

25 TRICIA BECKFORD: Thank you again

1  
2 to the Councilman for giving me this award. I  
3 love helping people and I work at a job where I  
4 help people every day, so it feels good. It feels  
5 good.

6 KEVIN STEVENSON: Thank you. I'll  
7 piggyback on Tricia. Mr. Sanders and the rest of  
8 the Council for giving me this opportunity. I  
9 want to give a big shout out to my director, - - ,  
10 Tracy - - Phoenix House. - - . - - courageous  
11 moment. I have three kids of my own, so it was  
12 just I had to jump out there and do something.  
13 Thank you so much.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very,  
15 very much. We wish you guys really happy holidays  
16 and a healthy new year. Take care. And our final  
17 ceremony is going to be Council Member Jumaane  
18 Williams and the Brooklyn delegation—a little bit  
19 of a sad ceremonial, but I'd like to ask Jumaane  
20 and the Brooklyn delegation to please come up.

21 [long pause]

22 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could get—  
23 Jumaane, why don't you get in the middle? If I  
24 could ask certainly the Brooklyn delegation, but  
25 Council Member Williams would like to ask all of



1  
2 the Council Members to come on up and if we could  
3 ask the family and others to please come up and  
4 also Council Member Cabrera, the co-chair of the  
5 anti-gun violence taskforce as well. Let me give  
6 the microphone to Council Member Williams, but if  
7 I could ask everybody who is here to come on up  
8 please. If all the Council Members could make  
9 their way up... Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank  
11 you, Ms. Speaker. Is everyone up?

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Members, if  
13 you want to come up please?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: We have  
15 Ms. Denise Peace [phonetic], - - Foy, who is the  
16 family spokesman. We have the social worker - -  
17 and Mike Tucker [phonetic], who I do a lot of gun  
18 violence with. I think this may be the first  
19 posthumous proclamation that's been given. This  
20 proclamation is for Ms. Zurana Horton [phonetic],  
21 who many know gave the ultimate sacrifice a few  
22 months ago protecting some kids in a shootout in  
23 Brownsville, Brooklyn that I don't know how many  
24 of us may have done the same thing, even if we  
25 think we would have. I want to thank her mom for

1  
2 giving us Ms. Horton for - - did. I do want to  
3 say although the news did mention it, I personally  
4 believe that Ms. Horton was from a different  
5 background, another part of the city there would  
6 have been a lot more accolades sprung on her and  
7 her family for that sacrifice. Instead the most I  
8 heard about was the 12 kids that she had, which  
9 are a blessing, but I think we need to focus on  
10 the ultimate sacrifice that was given and that day  
11 I think that Ms. Horton made us proud to be New  
12 Yorkers and as a nation. There's no words that  
13 can be given to say thank you for that sacrifice.  
14 I thank you for being here today.

15 [applause]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just  
17 want you to know that the City Council hasn't  
18 forgotten and we want to just say thank you so  
19 much.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member  
21 Williams, thank you so much for organizing it.  
22 Thank you so much for being here today and just on  
23 behalf of all of the council I want to echo what  
24 Council Member Williams said, extend our deepest,  
25 deepest condolences and I think we were all struck

1  
2 when we heard this story; one, about just the  
3 terrible tragedy and loss to you and your family  
4 and all of those children to lose their mother,  
5 but also just were kind of overwhelmed by that  
6 instantaneous courage and that instinct of just  
7 wanting to protect children. She was an  
8 incredible young woman herself, only 34, but just  
9 drawn immediately not about herself, but about the  
10 lives and the future of children who weren't even  
11 hers. We just really wanted to tell you how  
12 terribly sorry we are just say that as this  
13 process, which is obviously long moves forward for  
14 you and your family. If there is anything we can  
15 do at the Council, please don't hesitate to let us  
16 know. We will honor her memory by working as hard  
17 as we can with Jumaane and Council Member Cabrera  
18 on our anti-gun violence taskforce to make sure  
19 this never happens again, and that there aren't  
20 any other children who have to grow up without  
21 their mothers. If we could ask the clerk to  
22 please read the proclamation...

23 CLERK: Council City of New York  
24 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York  
25 is proud to posthumously honor Zurana Horton for

1  
2 making the ultimate sacrifice through her heroism  
3 on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. And whereas, Zurana Horton  
4 was born on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1977 in Brooklyn, where she  
5 was a long time resident of Tillden Houses  
6 [phonetic] Brownsville and loved by family and  
7 friends. First and foremost however, Ms. Horton  
8 was an extremely dedicated mother to 12 children,  
9 including six boys, Kyran [phonetic], Tyran  
10 [phonetic], Stephan [phonetic], Marcus [phonetic],  
11 Neil [phonetic], Raymond and six girls, Jenisha  
12 [phonetic], Alexis [phonetic], Jaziah [phonetic],  
13 Jeniah [phonetic], Saih [phonetic], Nayima  
14 [phonetic] and Kwaisha [phonetic]. And whereas,  
15 on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Ms. Horton was across the  
16 street from I.S. 298 in Brownsville, waiting to  
17 pick up her child. Just as students were being  
18 dismissed, more than a dozen shots rang out from a  
19 nearby rooftop and Ms. Horton heroically shielded  
20 several nearby children from the gunfire. By the  
21 time the senseless shooting was over, an 11 year  
22 old was grazed by a bullet, another woman had been  
23 shot in the arm and Ms. Horton was fatally struck.  
24 All three victims were innocent bystanders. And  
25 whereas, a few days after the incident, the arrest

1  
2 of three young men provided very little solace to  
3 Ms. Horton's family and friends, particularly her  
4 mother, Denise - - Horton, her father Keith  
5 Horton, her grandmother Emma Crawford and her 12  
6 children. She also left a sister, Asia - -  
7 [phonetic], her half-sister Jolene [phonetic]  
8 Horton and her brother in law, William, as well as  
9 extended family members who will never be able to  
10 fill the void. And whereas, although Ms. Horton's  
11 selfless and heroic act can never be fully repaid,  
12 let us reaffirm our shared commitment to using all  
13 resources possible to end the epidemic of gun  
14 violence ravaging our communities for the sake of  
15 our children and generations ahead. Now  
16 therefore, be it known that the Council of the  
17 city of New York honors the life and memory of  
18 Zurana Horton for her courageous act and ultimate  
19 sacrifice on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Christine C.  
20 Quinn, Speaker for the entire Council, Jumaane D.  
21 Williams, co-chair taskforce to end gun violence,  
22 Council Member, Brooklyn, Fernando Cabrera, co-  
23 chair taskforce to end gun violence, Council  
24 Member, the Bronx, and all of the Council Members  
25 of the Brooklyn delegation of the City Council.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
3 much.

4                   MALE VOICE: On behalf of the  
5 family, Ms. Denise Peace, Ms. Asia, the sister of  
6 Zurana, they would like to extend their heartfelt  
7 thanks to the community, to the people of the city  
8 of New York for their support, for their  
9 encouragement and for their commitment to fighting  
10 and ending gun violence. They would like to thank  
11 Christine Quinn, Speaker Quinn, for her commitment  
12 in setting up the taskforce, Council Members  
13 Williams and Cabrera. Indeed the entire Council  
14 for being committed to stamping out gun violence,  
15 but a point of information, Ms. Peace has lost  
16 three children to gun violence. Zurana was the  
17 third child of four that she has lost to the  
18 senseless gun violence, and it is not enough to  
19 stand here and just acknowledge the heroism. We  
20 must commit ourselves to making sure that the  
21 blood spilled shall not be continued.

22                   [applause]

23                   MALE VOICE: Ms. Denise Peace.

24                   DENISE PEACE: I would like to  
25 thank everybody from the behalf of my family. God

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bless everyone for helping us. Thank you.

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much and that concludes ceremonials for the day.

[long pause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Alright. We are ready to get started. And let me just - - you could figure out 'cause the microphone is not on your desk, we're going to have to share this microphone.

MALE VOICE: Ladies and gentlemen at this time, please place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees please leave the main floor of the chambers. There's additional seating upstairs in the balcony. You must have an ID to be seated on this floor. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Ready? Okay, let's please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God [off mic]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Roll call.  
3 CLERK: Arroyo?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.  
5 CLERK: Barron?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [no audible  
7 response]  
8 CLERK: Brewer?  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [no audible  
10 response]  
11 CLERK: Cabrera?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.  
13 CLERK: - - ? Comrie?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.  
15 CLERK: Crowley?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.  
17 CLERK: Dickens?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.  
19 CLERK: Dilan?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.  
21 CLERK: Dromm?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.  
23 CLERK: Eugene?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.  
25 CLERK: Ferreras?



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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Garonick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: - - .

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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CLERK: James?  
COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
CLERK: Koo?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.  
CLERK: Koppell?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
CLERK: Koslowitz?  
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: - - .  
CLERK: Lander?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.  
CLERK: Lappin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.  
CLERK: Levin?  
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.  
CLERK: Mark-Viverito?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: - -  
.  
CLERK: Mealy?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.  
CLERK: Mendez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
CLERK: Nelson?  
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.  
CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: - - .

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: - - .

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

CLERK: Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

CLERK: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: - - .

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here?

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

very much. Quorum is present. Ladies and  
Gentlemen, please rise for the invocation being  
delivered today by Minister James Clemens  
[phonetic] from the Greater Eternal Baptist Church  
in the Bronx, New York.

MINISTER JAMES CLEMENS: Let us  
pray. Heavenly Father, it is at this point in  
time and hour that we come together to acknowledge

1  
2 you, to honor you, and that these New York City  
3 Council Members convene and administrate the  
4 affairs of this city. I humbly ask that you bless  
5 those who are in attendance here, to direct them  
6 to govern justly and fairly. Please, Lord,  
7 continue to travel with them to and from their  
8 particular destinations to continue to do their  
9 work. And bless those who are yet and still on  
10 their way. Please grant them traveling mercy.  
11 Bless the leadership of this Council, Lord,  
12 Speaker Quinn and her staff. Keep them steady in  
13 these unsteady times, and now dear Lord, we invite  
14 you into this meeting. Take charge of this  
15 session and have it to be what you want it to be.  
16 We - - your blessings upon this Council and the  
17 work that they do. In the name of Jesus we pray.  
18 Amen.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Council  
20 Member Arroyo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you.  
22 I want to thank Minister Clemens for taking time  
23 to come and bless us today, for your work in our  
24 community and I motion to spread the invocation  
25 full upon the record.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

SPEAKER QUINN: And if I could please ask my colleagues to again rise. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Matthew Saplin [phonetic], 41, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, passed away after a life-long battle with cancer. At the age of 5, cancer of the optic nerve took away Matthew's sight and for the rest of his life, he was really an amazing inspiration to everyone around him, overcoming obstacles and achieving so much to become eventually the head as I said of the Mayor's Office of People with Disabilities. At NYU, Matt was the co-captain of the varsity wrestling team. He also played drums, guitar, bass and chess. As the commissioner for the last nine years, he headed efforts to pass laws increasing the number of wheelchair accessible taxis, requiring passenger ferry terminals to be made accessible, to provide rent freeze to qualified disabled tenants and to ensure 311 operators had the latest in accessibility technology. Mayor Bloomberg praised Commission Saplin for building his office into a "formidable force" to make sure all city initiatives were

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inclusive for people with disabilities.  
Commissioner Matthew Saplin's funeral was held last Friday at St. Patrick's Cathedral. He is survived by his wife, Condra [phonetic] and their children, Trevor [phonetic] and Tiskani [phonetic]. I'd like to call on our Mental Health and Disability Services Chair, Oliver Koppell to say a few words.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

I want to praise Commissioner Saplin, who was head of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities for his steadfast advocacy of the rights of the disabled. We've come a good way, and part of that is because of Matthew Saplin's efforts. We certainly have a way to go and we will miss him in that struggle. He was a man of unfailing courtesy. He will be remembered not only for his many appearances before my Committee and other committees of this house, but also for the wonderful guide dogs that he brought along with him, and I think he'd appreciate my mentioning that at this time 'cause he was most devoted to those animals. In any event, Matt Saplin will be missed. We will miss him. He was a man as I say

1  
2 of courtesy and friendship, much beloved by all  
3 who came in contact with him and he passed much  
4 too early in his life.

5                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
6 much, Chair Koppell. Let me also note on December  
7 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Dr. Muriel Petioni [phonetic], 97, an  
8 amazing woman who was a doctor, activist and  
9 community activist passed away. She was born in  
10 1914 in Trinidad. At the age of five, she  
11 immigrated with her parents to New York City,  
12 where her father became a prominent Harlem  
13 physician and activist. Muriel attended public  
14 schools and went to NYU for two years before  
15 eventually receiving her B.S. from Howard  
16 University in 1934, and her medical degree from  
17 Howard in 1937, which was no small feat. After a  
18 two year internship at Harlem Hospital, Muriel  
19 embarked on an illustrious career as a trailblazer  
20 at Harlem Hospital and a trailblazer for African  
21 American women and African American doctors.  
22 After marrying her husband, Mal [phonetic], who  
23 became one of the famed Tuskegee airmen of World  
24 War II and giving birth to their son, Charles, she  
25 returned to her childhood home in Harlem and



1  
2 opened a private practice in the same office her  
3 father had used for his medical practice. For 40  
4 years, she maintained her office, an office that  
5 predominantly served poor and disadvantaged and un  
6 or underinsured patients. She founded many  
7 organizations and was an incredible role model for  
8 countless women and countless New Yorkers.  
9 Throughout her career, she demonstrated an  
10 extraordinary commitment to women's issues,  
11 community based medicine, social justice and  
12 healthcare for all people. I would now like to  
13 call on our Assistant Majority Leader, Inez  
14 Dickens, to offer a few thoughts and remarks.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
16 Madam Speaker. The village of Harlem and beyond  
17 mourns the passing of a great African American  
18 woman, Dr. Muriel Petioni. She was a healer, not  
19 only of the physical being but spiritual and even  
20 I dare say, a healer of humanity for throughout  
21 her life, she stood on the front lines of equality  
22 for black people and equality for all. At the age  
23 of 11 at her father's knee she learned about  
24 healing, a respect heard from her father, a  
25 respected physician in Harlem. She accompanied

1  
2 her father on countless house calls and watched  
3 him give quality care to all including those many  
4 that could not afford to pay. Dr. Petioni  
5 followed in her father's footsteps and in those  
6 days of segregation and institutionalized racism,  
7 blacks could not get admitted into medical schools  
8 at white universities. She attended Howard  
9 Medical School, graduated and later became one of  
10 the early black physicians to integrate the then  
11 all white medical staff of Harlem Hospital. She  
12 also took over her father's medical practice and  
13 maintained his practice in his office. Dr.  
14 Petioni, a woman of boundless energy, born in  
15 Trinidad, her family emigrated to this country in  
16 the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, being involved in the  
17 Marcus Garvey [phonetic] movement. Dr. Petioni  
18 embraced her father's political activism and this  
19 activism made her a force in the civil rights  
20 movement as she fought to unite blacks as well as  
21 Latinos from every part of the world into one  
22 voice for equality and opportunity. Dr. Petioni  
23 took a special interest in OBS/GYN and at one time  
24 in the village of Harlem, it used to be said that  
25 Dr. Petioni delivered all babies in Harlem. She

1  
2 remained on the front lines of fighting for basic  
3 civil and human rights for all people well into  
4 her 90s. She was spirited and a crystal clear  
5 voice on all issues. She was uncompromised. She  
6 is credit for saving Harlem Hospital and was one  
7 of the founders of the Friends of Harlem Hospital.  
8 There is indeed a conference room in Harlem  
9 Hospital named Dr. Muriel Petioni in her honor.  
10 This is befitting of this great lady for she was  
11 about business. She was about the business of  
12 affecting change and she did. What a life. What  
13 victories she gained for all minorities and for  
14 women. She brought countless children into the  
15 world and helped to nurture and make this place a  
16 better place for them to pursue and realize their  
17 dreams. Dr. Petioni opened and knocked down  
18 closed doors. She did this with a thunderous love  
19 for life and living and an ever resilient twinkle  
20 in her eye. Through her many years of service to  
21 our village and beyond, Dr. Petioni always  
22 maintained and I quote, "I never once not want to  
23 get up and go to work." What I can say to you  
24 today, Dr. Petioni was inspiring, brilliant and a  
25 civil rights pioneer, passionate about her people

1  
2 and for those in need she cared for all. A life  
3 well lived, she leaves a legacy of love and  
4 compassion of humanity. Rest well, Dr. Petioni  
5 and be confident that your good work continues to  
6 be and live on in all of us who serve. Thank you.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Just  
8 before we move on with the agenda people can be  
9 seated. I just wanted to take a moment to thank  
10 the staff of the City Council and the mayor's  
11 office who have brought us this beautiful  
12 chambers, who have brought us not just a workable  
13 building, but a safe and a code compliant  
14 workplace and we are still a little bit on our  
15 way, but I think we can tell already this place is  
16 going to be beautiful and wonderful when it is  
17 done. I want to thank First Deputy Mayor, Patty  
18 [phonetic] Harris who oversaw the project  
19 personally, our DDC Commissioner David Bernie  
20 [phonetic], Phil Kelley [phonetic] of the mayor's  
21 office, who really worked very, very hard on this  
22 project, Nanette Smith [phonetic] of the First  
23 Deputy Mayor's office, who oversaw all of the  
24 details, Louise Levy [phonetic] of the mayor's  
25 office, who was on site all the time. I also want

1  
2 to thank everyone at the Department of City Wide  
3 Administrative Services for their work  
4 particularly on making the Emigrant Savings Bank  
5 work so well for us. They deserve a big thank you  
6 for that. They do, so let's thank everybody. I  
7 want to on the Council staff thank Chris Lau  
8 [phonetic], Sabina Direnzo [phonetic], Wayne  
9 Miller [phonetic], Ed O'Malley [phonetic], Barbara  
10 Scafiti [phonetic] and Chuck Mara [phonetic]. If  
11 anyone wants to know who picked out the green  
12 downstairs, it was Barbara--no, she hates the  
13 green. I'm only kidding. Thank you everyone on  
14 the mayor's staff and the Council's staff for the  
15 great getting the Council's part of City Hall back  
16 and looking more beautiful than I ever remember  
17 it, so if we could get a round of applause for  
18 everybody.

19 [applause]

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Majority Leader.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you,  
23 Madam Speaker. Adoption of the minutes.

24 MALE VOICE: None.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Messages

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and papers from the mayor.

MALE VOICE: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA:

Communication from city, county and borough  
offices?

MALE VOICE: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Petitions

and communications?

MALE VOICE: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Land use

call ups?

MALE VOICE: M730 through M732.

SPEAKER QUINN: and I'd like to ask

for a coupled roll call vote on the Land Use call

ups, but I just before we do that want to

recognize two visitors that we have with us today,

Assembly Member Inez Barron and I want to thank

her for joining us today, and also our great

friend, the head of the Municipal Labor Council

and the head of the Sanitation Workers' Union,

Harry Nespoli [phonetic]. So thank you, Harry,

for being with us today.

[applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have a

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roll call on the coupled land use call ups please?

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible response]

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [no audible response]

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible response]

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [no audible response]

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no audible response]

CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible response]

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [no audible response]

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [no audible response]

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye and on all call ups and with permission, vote aye on all coupled general orders and all resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [no audible response]

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no audible response]

CLERK: Gennaro?



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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [no

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audible response]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Someone give that

5

Council Member a mic. You'll never hear me say

6

that again, but...

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you

8

[off mic[]]. Is this on? Okay. Good. Mr.

9

Leader, I vote yes and I wish consent to vote on

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all items on the calendar and on all resolutions.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye

13

on all.

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CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [no

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audible response]

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CLERK: Greenfield?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no

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audible response]

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CLERK: Halloran?

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [no

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audible response]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [off mic]

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578-A to which I vote no.

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CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: - - .

CLERK: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: - - . Can I  
vote on everything and leave?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [off mic]  
short, sweet and condensed version newly adopted.

CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: - - .

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible  
response]

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CLERK: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [no audible response]

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [no audible response]

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye on all land use call ups and ask for permission to vote on the general order calendar and all resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

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

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [no audible response]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off  
mic] general order?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible response]

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on all call ups and with permission, I vote aye on all coupled and general orders and all resolutions.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible response]

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no audible response]

CLERK: Williams

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: - - .

CLERK: Wills?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: - - .

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no audible response]

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: [no audible response]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Today's land use calls up are adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative with zero in the negative. We now move on to communications from the speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Jamie, is Bryan here? Bryan? Come up in the front, Bryan. Has everybody met Bryan Terry [phonetic], who is an intern from Marist College in our press office? This is Bryan. It's Bryan with a Y. We'll talk about that later. We're not happy about the Y. Bryan should be spelled with an I, but this is Bryan's last Stated Council meeting and he's going to go back to Marist to finish his semester and we just wanted to take a particular moment, myself and Jamie and - - and Chuck Mara to thank Bryan.

1  
2 We've had a lot of great interns here at the City  
3 Council and a lot of great interns in the press  
4 office, but I think I speak for everybody when I  
5 say, Bryan, you were one of the best interns we  
6 have ever had, so thank you very much. We wish  
7 you the best in filling things up at Marist. If  
8 there's any poll results, remember all of our  
9 names - - should be the highest possible, but  
10 thank you. We wish you the best of luck.

11 [applause]

12 BRYAN TERRY: I just want to thank  
13 the press. Thank you so much for the compliments.  
14 The press office made it so easy to get involved  
15 and do all the work that I was able to do, and I  
16 really appreciate - - I appreciate it. Thank you  
17 so much. And Marist is Chuck Mara's alma mater,  
18 so that is important to note. So thank you.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: And Danny Dromm's  
20 alma mater. I didn't know that and Paul Brown  
21 [phonetic]. It's a hot bed of public service that  
22 Marist. Yeah, and another guy that is a little  
23 too conservative. We leave him out. Alright.

24 [background conversation]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Bill O'Reilly. I

1  
2 couldn't remember who it was. There's a story  
3 about Chuck going across country with Bill  
4 O'Reilly but that's for another day and a  
5 different venue. Alright. Let's focus on the  
6 Stated Meeting. We in addition to saying goodbye  
7 to Bryan Terry, we are also passing intro 720-A  
8 today, a piece of legislation out of the Consumer  
9 Affairs Committee, shepherded through by Karen  
10 Koslowitz, sponsored by Dan Garodnick. I want to  
11 thank Council Member Garodnick. We want to thank  
12 Rachel Cordero [phonetic], Alex Pastilnik  
13 [phonetic] and Lacey Clark [phonetic] for their  
14 work on 720-A, a piece of legislation that will  
15 make the work of making bicycles able to park in  
16 parking garages and parking lots easier and more  
17 doable for parking lot and parking garage owners  
18 and bicycle riders alike. If we could get a  
19 little quiet and call on the Chair of our Consumer  
20 Affairs Committee sitting next to the Marist grad,  
21 Karen Koslowitz.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'm not  
23 the chair of the Consumer Affairs.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic]

25 [background conversation]



1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: It all came back to  
3 me. Karen used to be the Chair of Consumer  
4 Affairs, then she left, then she came back and was  
5 Consumer Affairs again. Now Dan is Consumer  
6 Affairs, but it's your bill, and she's Chair of  
7 Economic Development. Alright. I'm good now on  
8 firm ground.

9                   COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Thank  
10 you, Speaker Quinn. I would like to thank the  
11 Consumer Affairs Committee staff, Rachel Cordero  
12 and Damien Butvik [phonetic] for their work on  
13 this bill. Intro 720 meets the needs of both  
14 cyclists and garages in the city of New York.  
15 This bill uses important data compiled by the DCA  
16 to amend local law 51. It preserves the core - -  
17 parking requirements set forth in local law 51,  
18 while providing parking facilities more  
19 flexibility in how bikes are parked. By  
20 eliminating the requirement of the 2x3x6 foot area  
21 for bike parking spaces, as well as the  
22 requirement that each space be protected by  
23 barriers, garages will achieve this needed  
24 flexibility. Intro 720 requires that garages and  
25 lots are equipped with racks, poles, hooks, chains

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2 and locks which will enable them to park up to 1  
3 bicycle for every ten automobile parking spaces.  
4 This bill also aims to ensure that bicycles stores  
5 in parked garages are safely secured and protected  
6 from vandalism or theft. Intro 720 maintains the  
7 core of local law 51 and improves upon it by  
8 ensuring that cyclists continue to have access to  
9 garage spaces. As bicycles become a more common  
10 mode of transportation in New York City, the  
11 passage of this bill furthers our commitment to  
12 their usage, while making common sense changes to  
13 the law. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Let the  
15 record reflect the staff had given me notes that  
16 were accurate. I guess the paint fumes have gone  
17 to my head. Let me next thank Tanisha Edwards  
18 [phonetic] and Chair Recchia for their work on  
19 Intro 643-A, the commercial motor vehicle tax  
20 which we will be voting on later this afternoon.  
21 Let me also make note out of the Housing and  
22 Buildings Committee three pieces of legislation  
23 that take steps to green the building code, which  
24 will be passed today. I want to thank on the  
25 staff, Laura Popa [phonetic], Laura Rogers

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2 [phonetic], Jeff Baker [phonetic] and Jared Hova  
3 [phonetic] for their work. I want to thank Chair  
4 Dilan whose committee these bills went through. I  
5 want to thank the Chair of our Environmental  
6 Protection Committee, Jim Gennaro, who is sponsor  
7 of 576-A and 578-A. If we could get a little  
8 quiet... And also Council Member Chin, who is the  
9 sponsor of 592-A. These three bills together are  
10 going to do important things to make our city and  
11 our buildings more healthy for people who work and  
12 live in these buildings and more environmentally  
13 positive [phonetic]. 576-A is a piece of  
14 legislation that is going to tighten up the rules  
15 relating to concrete waste water runoff. That is  
16 waste water runoff that shouldn't end up in our  
17 sewers. It is not safe for our sewer system or  
18 our water supply. Unfortunately, we do know there  
19 are still builders who are allowing that to happen  
20 who are violating that requirement. This is going  
21 to make sure we put an end to that. 578-A is a  
22 piece of legislation that will require the city to  
23 use more recycled asphalt in their asphalt that  
24 will help save money on how much asphalt we have  
25 to purchase, and also reduce very, very

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2 significantly the amount of asphalt in our  
3 landfill, which is very important. And lastly,  
4 592-A which will require filtering from incoming  
5 air in buildings in our city, which will  
6 significantly reduce the amount of soot that  
7 people are breathing in buildings and we hope be  
8 another important tool in our efforts to reduce  
9 asthma in the city of New York, so let me first  
10 call on the chair of the Committee, Chair Dilan  
11 for a few words, then, Council Member Gennaro and  
12 then finally Council Member Chin, and if we could  
13 get a little quiet...

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,  
15 Madam Speaker. I'd like to thank all the sponsors  
16 of the bills that were before the Committee's  
17 agenda, and I think all of these bills will  
18 significantly improve the city's environment. I'm  
19 particularly proud of the bill that was sponsored  
20 by Council Member Chin. Coming from a district  
21 where asthma rates are high, while there is a  
22 carve out for small buildings, I think for a city  
23 as a whole, I think this bill as the Speaker said  
24 would do a lot to reduce asthma rates throughout  
25 the city of New York. Also on the concrete wash

1  
2 out water bill, which the Speaker mentioned, one  
3 thing that she didn't mention is that it will give  
4 the Buildings Department the ability now to  
5 enforce this law along with the Department of  
6 Environmental Protection DEP. While this law is  
7 on the books for DEP and their - - , they had a  
8 hard time enforcing it, and the fines for dumping  
9 these particles into the sewer or water in the  
10 city will be substantially increased. Lastly, on  
11 the asphalt bill, I think it's common sense to  
12 recycle a minimum of 30% of asphalt that has  
13 already been used. Manufacturers have been in  
14 contact with committee staff and have been in  
15 contact with them and said this is achievable, so  
16 I think this will again be a great step to help  
17 the city's environmental improve and reach the  
18 sustainability goals that we've set for ourselves  
19 as a city. - - I'd like to thank all the staff  
20 who worked on these bills to help get it before  
21 passage today, and I'd like to ask all my  
22 colleagues to vote in favor, Thank you, Madam  
23 Speaker.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
25 much, Chair Dilan. If we could next hear from

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Chair Gennaro, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your great work. It was great to work with Erik on this, and like the Speaker said and Erik said with regard to the concrete wash out water, that's Intro 576-A. This is something that's like the equivalent of Drano. It's very bad stuff to go into the sewer system. It's bad for the sewer system. It's bad for the sewage treatment plants. It's bad for our coastal waterways. We could be doing a better job of making sure that this doesn't happen, and as the Chairman said, this is now part of something that DOB will enforce when they go to sites. This is a really, really good bill and I'm thankful for the Speaker and the Chairman and the staff and all the stakeholders we work with to make this happen. That's 576. Intro 578 with regard to the recycled asphalt, I just want to stress what the Speaker said and what the Chairman said regarding the fact that we have one million tons of this, which is milled every year off the streets and we should use more of it. We shouldn't send it to landfills. We should put it

1  
2 back to productive use. This is going to be a  
3 great boom to making the city be greener, and I'm  
4 very happy that we were able to do this and once  
5 again, I'm grateful to the Speaker, grateful to  
6 the Chair and grateful for all those who sponsored  
7 these bills and one last step is to vote them out.  
8 I would ask everyone to support these very good  
9 bills. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
11 much. Council Member Chin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,  
13 Madam Speaker. First of all, I want thank you and  
14 Chair Dilan for your support on this bill. Intro  
15 592-A will increase the quality of the air we  
16 breathe in our office building and in residential  
17 high rise. This bill will apply to buildings that  
18 are about 5,000 square feet or larger. This bill  
19 will require new air filter. To be clear, this  
20 bill only affects air filters for buildings that  
21 replace or install new air handling system on or  
22 after 2013. We have estimated that these new  
23 filters only cost about \$40 per building, while  
24 producing significantly better quality indoor air.  
25 Air quality is important to all New Yorkers, but

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2 especially to people and live and work in lower  
3 Manhattan. My district has been under mass  
4 construction for the last ten years and the dust  
5 particles from these projects do make it into our  
6 indoor air. The new filter, which will be  
7 required under this law, will significantly target  
8 smaller particles that are responsible for causing  
9 respiratory illness, including asthma. We expect  
10 these filters to get rid of up to 80% of these  
11 smaller hard to reach particles and 85% of  
12 anything larger. I want to thank all the Council  
13 staff for working on this, and especially, Jeff  
14 Baker for explaining to us all the  
15 technicalities/technical aspects of this bill, and  
16 I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that  
17 we can breathe cleaner air at 250 Broadway. Thank  
18 you.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
20 much, council Member Chin. Lastly, I wanted to  
21 speak about Intro 624-A today, the outsourcing  
22 accountability act. I want to thank Shannon - -  
23 who did a tremendous amount of work on this bill,  
24 Alex Pastilnik and Tym Matusov. Thank you very  
25 much, so Shannon, Alex and Tym, let's thank them.



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2 And today I also want to thank Chair Darlene  
3 Mealy, the chair of our Contracts Committee and  
4 the sponsor of the bill who we will hear from in a  
5 second.

6 Today we are voting to override  
7 Mayor Bloomberg's veto of Intro 624-A, the  
8 outsourcing accountability act. This bill is  
9 exactly the kind of legislation we should be  
10 passing when we are in a fiscal climate like the  
11 one we are in now. On a regular basis we as the  
12 City Council are faced with the decision of what  
13 programs, what job lines we will fund and which  
14 ones we will not be able to preserve in the city  
15 budget, and at the same time, the City Contracts  
16 budget grows at a rate faster than any other part  
17 of the budget. And even though the Council had  
18 made efforts in 1994 to require the city to think  
19 about financial impacts before they contracted and  
20 outsourced out, that didn't happen. That is why  
21 624-A is so important. It requires that the city  
22 do a logical and common sense thing—that before  
23 they contract services out, they ask the question,  
24 can this service be provided more cheaply by city  
25 workers? If the answer is yes, why would we

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2 possibly contract it out? Why would we spend more  
3 money to deliver services to New Yorkers at a time  
4 of short supply of resources? All this bill  
5 requires is that you ask that question and you  
6 answer it through a clear fiscal analysis. I  
7 don't know why you wouldn't want to do that. The  
8 second thing this bill requires is that the city  
9 make public notification of when they're going to  
10 contract something out. That heads up if you  
11 will, will help make sure that a more diverse  
12 range of entities that can compete for city  
13 contracts have the ability to compete. It will  
14 also give municipal labor unions the opportunity  
15 to compete for these contracts as we saw Deputy  
16 Mayor Halliwell [phonetic] do on some of the  
17 contracts related to sewage treatment. We've  
18 always seen other cities municipal labor unions do  
19 this and win contracts through the outsourcing  
20 process. Our bill doesn't say you can't contract  
21 out. Our bill doesn't as some have said add an  
22 unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. What our bill  
23 does is add protection to tax payers' hard earned  
24 dollars to make sure we are not paying more than  
25 we need to for any service. I want to urge my

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2 colleagues to override this veto and support this  
3 piece of legislation, which seeks only to get the  
4 best services for the lowest amount of money and  
5 to protect the taxpayer dollars and deliver them  
6 the best we can at the lowest cost we can. I urge  
7 everyone to stand united in overriding this veto.  
8 Let me call on the Chair of the Contracts  
9 Committee, Chair Darlene Mealy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,  
11 Madam Speaker. This is a no-brainer legislation.  
12 I just want to thank this whole Council. We  
13 unanimously voted on this bill, and the council  
14 passed local law 35 in 1994 in order to establish  
15 a procedure that would ensure that outsourced  
16 contracts that might displace city employees were  
17 in the best fiscal interest of the New Yorkers.  
18 The outsourcing accountability acts make a number  
19 of revisions to improve that law, but all of the  
20 revisions boiled down to one bottom line. Let's  
21 make sure that the city is smart about spending  
22 taxpayers' money. Let's make sure that the city  
23 thinks about whether its own employees can do the  
24 work before we outsource it. More competition  
25 means lower costs, so let's also make sure that

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2 the city gives its employees and their vendors  
3 enough time to have a fighting chance to vie for  
4 that work. And let's make sure that in certain  
5 cases, the city performs a cost benefit analysis  
6 to really see who can do the work for less and the  
7 city is thoughtful about its decisions. It should  
8 save money so we want the city to take the time to  
9 be smart before it contracts out. Given the  
10 potential cost savings, it is more than worth it.  
11 I just urge my colleagues to sign on to this  
12 legislation that we can override it, and I thank  
13 you, and this is a no-brainer legislation. Thank  
14 you, Speaker.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: That concludes  
16 communications from the Speaker.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
18 very much. I'd like to move on to discussion of  
19 general orders. First we have Council Member  
20 Ferreras. Okay. We'll move on to Council Member  
21 Jackson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: My  
23 colleagues I rise in order to support Intro 624-A.  
24 Speaker Christine Quinn and Darlene Mealy, the  
25 Chair of the Contracts Committee, spoke in my

1  
2 opinion - - all of us in saying that we must look  
3 at cost, and if in fact our city employees can do  
4 the work, then they should do it. In fact you  
5 know the majority of them are unionized, and so  
6 we're talking about good paying union jobs, but  
7 not only that, I've said for many years as a  
8 former Chair of the Contracts Committee, as the  
9 Chair of the Education Committee and I always ask  
10 Finance Committee hearings especially on the  
11 budget about whether or not you can reduce the  
12 amount of contracting out that takes place, and  
13 two years ago during the meetings in May on the  
14 executive budget, even the Finance Commissioner,  
15 he said he was going to eliminate one IT contract  
16 and save millions of dollars and hire city  
17 employees and he was going to save millions of  
18 dollars, and that was just one contract. Even  
19 Dennis Walcop [phonetic] said last year I believed  
20 in the expense budget hearings that he also was  
21 going to eliminate an IT contract, save money and  
22 hire employees that would be hired by the  
23 Department of Education. Mind you, we have  
24 thousands and thousands and thousands of  
25 contracts. This is a no-brainer as my colleague

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2 said, and this is not political. This is not  
3 republican, democrats, conservative, whatever.  
4 This is about simple dollars and sense, so I urge  
5 all our colleagues to vote yes on Intro 624-A.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
7 Council Member Barron?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
9 very much, my colleagues. I rise to support Intro  
10 624-A and I want to remind us the power that we  
11 have. We can't just make flowery speeches now  
12 about contracting and then when budget time comes  
13 and we have over \$10 billion in contracts and most  
14 of them, a lot of them outsourced, we passed that  
15 budget. We can't pass a budget that has the  
16 Department of Education having contracts raised  
17 almost to \$4.5 billion in contracting and then  
18 that very same budget they claim they have a  
19 crisis in and wind up firing 700 school aid  
20 workers. So when we make these speeches now and  
21 these laws now, I hope we remember during budget  
22 negotiating time that that's where you have the  
23 power to do something about it, but we should not  
24 sign off on budgets that has this kind of  
25 contracting in it that you're speaking so

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2 eloquently against today. Don't forget tomorrow  
3 when it's budget negotiating time. I rise to  
4 support this.

5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
7 We next move on to Council Member Sanders.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you  
9 very much. As the poor man Charles Barron, I also  
10 rise to support 624-A. It seems common sense.  
11 The workers have said, "Let us do our job." Isn't  
12 that why we hired them, so that they can do the  
13 job? It flows from there that the only time that  
14 you should give a contract to someone outside of  
15 that job is if the workers cannot do that job, but  
16 it also says at first you should check on it. You  
17 should do a study to ensure that the work that you  
18 have cannot be done by the people that you have,  
19 so under those conditions, I absolutely rise to  
20 support this. It makes sense. I urge that we  
21 call the question right now and put this to a vote  
22 and I just want to say that I'm just glad, very  
23 proud to be sitting next to Darlene Mealy, the  
24 author if this.

25 [applause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
3 very much. Seeing no others, we will now move on.  
4 We move on to reports of special committees.

5 MALE VOICE: None.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Reports of  
7 standing committees?

8 MALE VOICE: Report of the  
9 Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 720-A,  
10 bicycle parking.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: That would be the  
12 Committee that Karen Koslowitz does not chair and  
13 that has been amended and coupled under general  
14 orders.

15 MALE VOICE: Report of the  
16 Committee on Contracts, Intro 624-A, agency  
17 service contracts.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
19 orders.

20 MALE VOICE: M708, Mayor's veto of  
21 Introductory No. 624-A.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be  
23 filed.

24 MALE VOICE: Report of the  
25 Committee on Finance, Intro 643-A, commercial



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motor vehicle tax.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 576-A,  
concrete waste water runoff.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 578-A, recycled  
asphalt.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 592-A,  
mechanical code amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Land Use, L.U. 529, Reso 1158  
through L.U. 535 and Reso 1164, unenclosed  
sidewalk cafes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

MALE VOICE: L.U. 537 and Reso  
1165 and 538 and 1166, landmark designation.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: 539 and Reso 1167, school facility.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: General order calendar.

MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing various persons, Commission of - - .

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders, and at this time I'd like ask for a roll call for all items that have been coupled on the general order calendar please.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, and before we begin, when we vote on Intro 624-A, the question before us is whether to repass this item, notwithstanding the objection of the mayor. At this time, roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [no audible response]

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [no audible

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2 response]

3 CLERK: Brewer?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [no audible

5 response]

6 CLERK: Cabrera?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [no

8 audible response]

9 CLERK: Chin?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [no audible

11 response]

12 CLERK: Comrie?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [no audible

14 response]

15 CLERK: Crowley?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [no

17 audible response]

18 CLERK: Dickens?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no

20 audible response]

21 CLERK: Dilan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [no audible

23 response]

24 CLERK: Dromm?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

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CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye - - .

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no audible response]

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [no audible response]

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [no audible response]

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [no audible response]

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [no audible response]

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

CLERK: Koo?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: - - .

CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
[no audible response]

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [no

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2 audible response]

3 CLERK: Reyna?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [no audible  
5 response]

6 CLERK: Rose?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [no audible  
8 response]

9 CLERK: Sanders?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [no  
11 audible response]

12 CLERK: Ulrich?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [no audible  
14 response]

15 CLERK: Vacca?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible  
17 response]

18 CLERK: Vallone?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [no  
20 audible response]

21 CLERK: Vann?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Weprin?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no audible  
25 response]

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CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [no  
audible response]

CLERK: Could you repeat that?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye. - -

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CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [no audible  
response]

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye  
on all.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: [no audible  
response]

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All items  
on today's general order were adopted by a vote of  
48 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
zero abstentions, with the except of Intro 578-A,  
which was adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
affirmative with three in the negative and zero

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abstentions. Introduction and reading of the bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. Discussion of resolutions. We have Council Member Barron.

SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry just before Council Member Barron starts, can we get a little quiet?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, silence please.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: My colleagues, I rise to say to you that the Governor got real slick on this one with this tax code scheme. The Governor allows for the present tax code to expire. That would have brought us close to \$5 billion and then he brings in this new scheme that is not a tax break for the rich, a lot of people compare it to the taxes that they're paying now. It's a tax break for the rich. A larger tax break for the rich than the middle class that's going to get .4%, \$200. Well, they'll take that back next year 'cause he is only



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2 going to have 1.9 billion instead of 4 to close a  
3 \$3.5 billion dollar budget gap. Next year,  
4 they're not going to give the city as much as—as  
5 little as they gave last year. We're going to be  
6 in trouble. We should stand up to this. It's not  
7 a good tax scheme. I call it a three card monty  
8 scheme [phonetic], a Ponzi scheme, and nothing but  
9 some Bernie Madoff math. That's what this is.  
10 Vote no on this resolution. This is not good for  
11 the people. They're going to get hurt more than  
12 anyone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you  
14 very much. We'll continue the discussion on  
15 Resolution 917-A first, which is the one that  
16 Council Member Barron spoke about. Next we have  
17 Council Member Recchia. Is it on this resolution?  
18 No. Okay. What about Council Member Lappin. Is  
19 it on 917-A? No. Okay. Council Member Mealy?  
20 It's not. Okay. Council Member Williams? Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: My  
22 colleagues I also rise, and this is my resolution,  
23 so I felt it necessary to speak. I think—I also  
24 want to clarify that the resolution was not  
25 necessarily in support of the bill that came out

1  
2 of Albany. What it was is in support of the  
3 discussion that was happening at the time the bill  
4 was being discussed. I think it was still the  
5 correct thing to do because I think they were  
6 going in the right direction on having these  
7 progressive discussions for progressive taxation.  
8 I think it was a great first step. I do think  
9 they did not go up the entire ladder, which is  
10 unfortunate. I too am not very happy with the  
11 result of what has come out of Albany. I believe  
12 there is a lot more money that was left on the  
13 table by a lot of people who can afford to pay  
14 more. Because it's my resolution, the resolution  
15 does not specifically endorse what came out of  
16 Albany. I'm voting aye. Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: thank you  
18 very much. Council Member Jackson on 917-A?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you  
20 my colleagues. I rise again in order to say that  
21 I too—I have advocated continuously for an  
22 extension of the millionaires' tax, which would  
23 have brought in \$5 billion for one year.  
24 Obviously the millionaires' tax expires December  
25 31<sup>st</sup> of 2011 and some people may think that this

1  
2 tax package will bring additional revenue in. It  
3 will not. The \$5 billion that we're currently  
4 going to get in, we're only going to see \$1.9 or  
5 \$2 billion, so we're going to see a reduction from  
6 last year's of \$3 billion. The difference is that  
7 if this obviously has an approval of the Senate  
8 and the Assembly and is going to pass, so I would  
9 rather have \$2 billion than no billion dollars for  
10 sure, but I said take one giant step, Andrew  
11 Cuomo. If I was a leader, I would have asked him  
12 to take three. Thank you very much.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much. We'll vote on this resolution first,  
15 Resolution 917-A. Resolution in support of the  
16 Governor's and legislature's efforts to reform New  
17 York State's tax code to allow for fairer and more  
18 progressive distribution of the burden of taxation  
19 on New York City residents, amended and then  
20 adopted by the Committee on Finance. All in  
21 favor, say aye.

22 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
24 say nay.

25 MALE VOICE: Nay.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I heard no  
3 nays. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. The  
4 next resolution will be talking about the  
5 Resolution 892. Council Member Lappin? Not on  
6 this one? Okay, so we'll just vote on this one.  
7 It's a resolution calling on the United states  
8 House of Representatives—oh, Council Member Chin,  
9 I apologize.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I  
11 urge my colleagues to vote for Reso 892, which  
12 calls for Congress to pass the motor coach  
13 enhancement safety act of 2011. Federal  
14 regulation of intercity tour bus is moving too  
15 slow. In 2011, there was an increase in the  
16 number of fatal accidents involving intercity  
17 buses, including a crash in the Bronx that killed  
18 15 people. The majority of them lived in  
19 Chinatown. Overall highway deaths have steadily  
20 fallen for the last five years, but the number of  
21 tragic bus accidents involving low cost discount  
22 bus operators just keeps going. This comes at a  
23 time when high gas and travel prices are making  
24 low cost bus travel the only viable option for  
25 millions of Americans. Today the City Council

1  
2 will take an important step of signaling our  
3 support for enhanced safety for passengers on low  
4 cost buses. If passed at the federal level, the  
5 legislation will require buses to have seat belts,  
6 stronger windows, crush resistant roofs and safety  
7 inspections for all new companies. These may  
8 sound very basic, but this is what will save  
9 lives. So I want to thank the Speaker and Chair  
10 Vacca for their support on this resolution and I  
11 urge my colleagues to support it. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
13 very much. Next we have Council Member Vacca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, I'd  
15 like to speak relative to the resolution Margaret  
16 Chin just referred to and a second resolution  
17 offered by Councilman Gennaro, my colleague, who  
18 could not stay. Both of them pertain to intercity  
19 buses trying to get the state and federal  
20 government to do more to make these buses safer.  
21 We in the city don't have jurisdiction over these  
22 buses. We wish we had because if we had, we could  
23 at least tell them where to stop and where not to  
24 stop, where right now they're stopping wherever  
25 they please, causing traffic issues, then when you

1  
2 add the safety issues, we have a serious, serious  
3 matter on our hands. So this state has been  
4 trying. They've been issuing summons. They've  
5 been beginning the enforcement process very  
6 effectively, but we want drivers to have a check  
7 before they're allowed to drive these buses and  
8 that's a state issue, and on the federal level  
9 somebody is asleep at the switch on the federal  
10 level. Where is the federal government? They're  
11 allowing bus companies that are undergoing major  
12 safety investigations to just change their  
13 corporate name and go about business as usual. We  
14 want the Congress to pass legislation that would  
15 get the federal government off their duff and do  
16 something about this. I hope that the Council  
17 will pass both resolutions and that someone will  
18 be listening to us when we pass them today. Thank  
19 you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
21 very much. At this point, we'll vote on this  
22 resolution. Resolution 892, calling on the United  
23 States House of Representatives and United States  
24 Senate to pass and for the President to sign H.R.  
25 873 and S. 453 entitled the motor coach enhanced

1  
2 safety act of 2011, which would seek to overhaul  
3 and increase the safety of intercity buses adopted  
4 by the Committee on Transportation. All in favor  
5 say aye.

6 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

7 COUCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
8 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

9 Next we will be talking about Resolution 1000, a  
10 resolution calling upon the New York State  
11 Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign A. 8113  
12 in related to the qualifications of bus drivers  
13 adopted by the Committee on Transportation. Does  
14 anyone want to speak on this one? No? We'll take  
15 a vote on it. All in favor say aye.

16 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Any opposed  
18 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

19 Last we have Resolution 958, a resolution urging  
20 the United States Congress to pass and the  
21 President to sign H.R. 930, a bill to amend Title  
22 38 of the United States Code to improve the  
23 disability compensation evaluation procedure of  
24 the secretary of Veteran Affairs for veterans with  
25 post-traumatic stress disorder or mental health

1

2 conditions related to military, sexual trauma and  
3 for other purposes adopted by the Committee on  
4 Veterans. Council Member Lappin, did you want to  
5 speak on this one?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I did. I  
7 just wanted to urge my colleagues to vote in  
8 support of this resolution, which would make it  
9 more fair and easier for women, and it's mostly  
10 women who are victims of sexual trauma in the  
11 military to obtain benefits. Recently, Congress  
12 passed a bill making it easier for victims of  
13 post-traumatic stress disorder, but not those who  
14 are victims of military sexual trauma, which is  
15 very often linked to PTSD. So I ask you to  
16 support this and help the women who are being  
17 turned away from the VA after they've come back  
18 from Iraq and Afghanistan and have served this  
19 country and have been the victims of sexual  
20 assault.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
22 very much. Next we have Council Member Sanders.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.  
24 I do want to praise Councilwoman Lappin for this.  
25 I think it just the right thing, and everybody



1  
2 who's interested in justice would just follow suit  
3 on this. It should have been understood - -  
4 veteran's bill, if we have to make a special carve  
5 out, then let's do it quickly and let's make sure  
6 that it is included. It should have been done  
7 from the very beginning, but I'm glad our Council  
8 has caught this and I support this. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
10 very much. Next we have Council Member Mathieu  
11 Eugene.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
13 very much. Currently many veterans face obstacles  
14 when applying for disability compensation, and - -  
15 after returning from their service in military. I  
16 want to just express the importance of this issue,  
17 and assisting veterans with mental health needs.  
18 As a city, state and country, we should show our  
19 commitment to all veterans and make sure we  
20 address the need and concern. I'm asking all my  
21 colleagues to support this legislation and to vote  
22 for it. I want to congratulate Council Member  
23 Jessica Lappin for her work on this bill, as well  
24 as the Speaker Quinn for her support of this  
25 legislation. Thank you.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
3 very much. At this point, we will take a vote.  
4 Council Member Mealy?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic] -  
6 think about. I just did a Pearl Harbor event over  
7 the weekend this week. We have to always remember  
8 Pearl Harbor. We have to keep that in the  
9 forefront—ones who sacrificed for us to be here  
10 safely, so I thank you, Ms. Lappin, for this  
11 legislation. I would love to sign on to it.  
12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
14 very much. Seeing no others, we will now call the  
15 vote on this resolution. On 958, all in favor say  
16 aye.

17 MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: All opposed  
19 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We  
20 will now move on to general discussion. First on  
21 the list is Council Member Jackson.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.  
23 My colleagues, Inez Dickens and the Speaker spoke  
24 about Dr. Petioni and I'll just say that first I  
25 have only had the opportunity to know her for

1  
2 about the last ten years. As a member of the City  
3 Council, I also represent part of Harlem, and this  
4 was an extraordinary woman that loved all people.  
5 Even though she was an African American woman, she  
6 loved all people. She did everything to help all  
7 people no matter where you were, and in fact,  
8 HCCI, which is a community based organization  
9 called Harlem Congregation for Community  
10 Involvement they rehabbed an old factory building  
11 and I think it's about 65 units of senior housing.  
12 In fact, the ribbon cutting was last week, and  
13 they named it after Dr. Muriel Petioni. She was  
14 a fantastic woman and as Inez said, she went to  
15 all meetings up to almost I guess a year ago until  
16 she got really, really sick. Strong, beautiful,  
17 kind of short, but beautiful. Let me just tell  
18 you, she was awesome. She is clearly going to be  
19 missed more so the entire city and the entire  
20 world. IF we had people like Dr. Petioni, this  
21 would be such a beautiful world to live in. she  
22 loved all people. God rest her soul. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
24 very much. Next we have Council Member Garodnick.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank

1  
2 you very much, Mr. Chair. Today I am introducing  
3 two bills, each addressing an issue that generates  
4 considerable confusion for New Yorkers. One  
5 related to vendors and the other one on parking.  
6 Currently, general vendors are prohibited from  
7 vending within 10 feet of a residential building's  
8 entrances and exits and within 20 feet of just the  
9 entranceways, not the exists of all other  
10 buildings. Food vendors using push carts on the  
11 other hand are prohibited from vending within 20  
12 feet of the entranceways of all buildings. There  
13 is no wonder why there is confusion among New York  
14 City residents and vendors. The laws are  
15 different as to food vendors and general vendors.  
16 The result is that the police and vendors  
17 frequently throw up their hands in frustration.  
18 Intro 727 would apply uniform standards to all  
19 general vendors and food vendors using push carts  
20 by prohibiting vending within 20 feet of all  
21 entrances and exits including service entrances  
22 and exits of all buildings.

23           The other bill that I'm introducing  
24 today, Intro 726, seeks to bring clarity to  
25 confusing parking signage. When a motorist sees

1  
2 two parking signs, one placed above the other,  
3 which sign he should follow—the one that says no  
4 standing any time or the one that says right below  
5 it no standing 6am to 6pm Wednesdays, except for a  
6 farmer's market. Clearly the intention is not to  
7 confuse motorists with parking signs that are  
8 difficult to decipher. Intro 726 would require a  
9 multi-agency taskforce to review parking signs  
10 every three years. The taskforce would be  
11 comprised of representatives from a variety of  
12 agencies and would be required to report their  
13 findings to this Council. These bills would each  
14 provide clarity where confusion currently exists  
15 and I encourage my colleagues to join me in  
16 signing on to both. Thank you very much.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
18 very much. We'll now move on to Council Member  
19 Recchia.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Thank you.  
21 Today I rise—I'll be short because I really can't  
22 speak.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Playing the role of  
24 - - today. Council Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
25 Domenic, you sound terrible.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I feel  
3 terrible. - - ask all my colleagues to sign on to  
4 Intro 730. It's a law that we really need so HPD  
5 can really tell us what exactly is going on on  
6 these construction projects. We need to know who  
7 the contractors are. We need to know if they have  
8 any violations. We are entitled to know  
9 everything about construction sites--what's going  
10 on. I'm asking all my colleagues to please sign  
11 on to this bill. It's very, very important.  
12 Second, I ask you to sign on to 731. This is - -  
13 first bills to address the problem - - with the  
14 Department of Finance. It's a very important  
15 bill. It's just beginning to straighten out this  
16 problem we have with - - with the Department of  
17 Finance. Thank you very much.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
19 Next we have Council Member Mealy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I rise  
21 again. I am the proud sponsor of the contract  
22 transparency act, Intro 729 that I'm introducing  
23 today. A local law will amend the Administrative  
24 Code of the City of New York in relation to  
25 posting of material terms of contracts entered

1  
2 into by the city on a newly created public online  
3 searchable database. The act will give the public  
4 full online access to the key terms of most  
5 valuable city contracts with plain language,  
6 summaries of the most important terms of each  
7 contract. New Yorkers can better understand  
8 exactly how the city is spending their taxpayer  
9 dollars. This part of the city budget has been in  
10 the shadows for too long. We need to bring these  
11 costs into light. The contract parent [phonetic]  
12 transparency act will do just that, and I want to  
13 thank the Speaker also 'cause she did mention that  
14 in her state of the district also. So I'm looking  
15 forward to passing this legislation. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
17 very much. Next we have Council Member Cabrera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Today I'm  
19 asking my colleagues to join me in support of  
20 Resolution 1155, which calls on the New York State  
21 Legislature to amend the - - law and grant  
22 religious institutions the same right to free  
23 speech afforded to other groups in renting public  
24 school facilities. As many of you know, the New  
25 York City Department of Education has established

1  
2 a policy of denying religious organizations the  
3 right to hold worship services on school property.  
4 I was going to read the rest, but let me just  
5 share from my heart. The real issue here is  
6 freedom of access. We're going to allow one  
7 particular group - - houses of worship, not to be  
8 granted the same freedom of access that every  
9 other organization today has. I just learned  
10 today that New York is the only state that has  
11 this practice. There is no other state in the  
12 nation. We're the only large school district in  
13 the nation that has a practice prohibiting houses  
14 of worship. February the 12<sup>th</sup>, we're going to have  
15 thousands of congregants, parishioners, who are  
16 going to find themselves with a house worship-  
17 they're going to be literally homeless. So I'm  
18 calling-and I want to thank every single of you  
19 who already signed on and for the rest of you, I  
20 appeal to you. Thank you so much.

21 [applause]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
23 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
24 Williams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank



1  
2 you. One, I just want to say although I'm very  
3 unhappy with what ended up - - the Albany deal. I  
4 do want to give a nod to Occupy Wall Street  
5 because I think without them, we wouldn't have  
6 even reached that point. But I also would like to  
7 say, I think it was a couple of days ago, some  
8 Facebook posts came forward from the NYPD that  
9 were completely atrocious and while there is free  
10 speech in the First Amendment, I personally  
11 believe in that. There are two things—one, I  
12 believe it may be against police protocol as - -  
13 right, but also my problem is that NYPD's policies  
14 and practices kind of back up those posts that  
15 were in the Facebook. My question is to the  
16 mayor, what is the level—what is the threshold  
17 that says for you to acknowledge and the  
18 commissioner to acknowledge that there is a  
19 systemic problem in the NYPD? Is it a plunger?  
20 Is it 40 shots? Is it 50 shots? Is it my arrest?  
21 Is it Ydanis' arrest? Is it the Facebook posts?  
22 Is it gun running? What point is there going to  
23 be acknowledgment? I sincerely hope that Council  
24 and my colleagues will begin to get more pressure  
25 to take this mayor and the commissioner - - to

1  
2 admit that there is a systemic problem and the  
3 culture of the NYPD can fix it. This is not an  
4 indictment of all police officers. I believe that  
5 there are some police officers who want and are  
6 doing great work, but I think they too are  
7 demoralized by all of the things that are  
8 happening in the news, and stupid policies like  
9 stop and frisk. So if we have a demoralized  
10 police department and you have a community that  
11 doesn't feel safe with the police department that  
12 is a recipe for disaster. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: We now move  
14 on to Council Member Brewer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
16 very much. This room really is beautiful, so  
17 congratulations to everyone. I rise - -  
18 Resolution 1154. This would support reinstatement  
19 of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles  
20 vision testing requirements. As you might know,  
21 the DMV decided a while ago that nobody needed to  
22 be tested for vision, and then I think they  
23 realized that wasn't a good idea, so they decided  
24 to put it back-tests for vision. And as somebody  
25 who goes to the DMV quickly tries to memorize

1  
2 every single sign at the Department of Motor  
3 Vehicles, so I can pass the test, it is not in my  
4 self-interest to support DMV vision testing, but  
5 it is in the self-interest of every New Yorker so  
6 we don't get hit by people who can't read the  
7 signs. So I strongly urge you to sign on this  
8 resolution. Thank you very much.

9 [applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

11 We now move on to Council Member Rose.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Today I rise  
13 for the first time. I urge my colleagues to sign  
14 on to Intro 732, which would require the  
15 Department of Transportation working in  
16 conjunction with the Department of Education to  
17 install speed humps on streets adjacent to public  
18 schools. This is in response to an unfortunate  
19 death, which was suffered by Anaya Williams  
20 [phonetic], who was killed on the last day of  
21 school this June running for a bus at the school.  
22 This legislation would require that DOT in  
23 consultation with DOE install one or more speed  
24 humps on all streets adjacent to or contiguous  
25 with all new school construction. Additionally,

1  
2 the DOT will have two years after the passage of  
3 this bill to install speed humps at all existing  
4 schools. In order to ensure the safety of  
5 schoolchildren and motorists alike, the  
6 implementation of speed humps will slow vehicular  
7 traffic to safe manageable levels, thereby making  
8 sure that all public school grounds and the  
9 adjacent areas surround them remain safe for all  
10 New Yorkers and especially our children. Thank  
11 you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
13 Next we move on to Council Member Sanders.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,  
15 sir. I aye too stand in favor of Resolution 1155.  
16 It seems to me that if a group came out and said  
17 that they were against all religions that would be  
18 allowed to have a space in the schools. If they  
19 were against the idea of God of any whatever we  
20 call - - that they would have a space without  
21 question. It seems only fair that the other side  
22 have the ability to meet also. It's a question of  
23 freedom of assembly. Council Member Williams is  
24 right when he basically says that the NYPC cannot  
25 police itself. This stop and frisk policy has

1  
2 resulted in just the other day--four million  
3 people were stopped frisked since this policy  
4 began in New York City. Out of that 12% of them  
5 were arrested for something. This is one of the  
6 most failed policies that we will look back on  
7 over time. It's also wise to have speed humps by  
8 schools. It's just wise and if we just follow  
9 logic and common sense, we will lead New York City  
10 in a direction that it should go. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.  
13 We'll now move on to Council Member Lander.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you.  
15 I also rise in support of Resolution 1155. I do  
16 that as a devout civil libertarian, and someone to  
17 whom separation of church and state is very  
18 important, but the First Amendment entirely allows  
19 for these activities to take place in school  
20 buildings. That's why they do all around the  
21 country. The state law restricting it doesn't  
22 make sense. I relayed at the press conference  
23 both a church, a Muslim group and a synagogue--my  
24 own synagogue in fact--all of whom meet in schools  
25 in my district and who add a lot of value to the

1  
2 district as well as money to the Department of  
3 Education coffers. So I urge people to sign on to  
4 1155. I do want to speak in addition in response  
5 to Council Member Williams' statement.

6 Unfortunately, it seems like every week there's  
7 something. Last week it was the mayor's referring  
8 to the NYPD as his own army, and this week the  
9 revelation of the Facebook posts. It's not only a  
10 matter of civil rights, and I do agree that it's  
11 in many ways rooted in the stop and frisk policy.  
12 It's becoming an issue of public safety. New  
13 Yorkers have to have trust and confidence in law  
14 enforcement. They've got to be willing refer  
15 crimes, to give leads, to serve on juries and that  
16 requires a level of trust that I believe is frayed  
17 when all of the things that Council Member  
18 Williams happened. And then finally, on the  
19 Albany deal, this was a whole lot better than  
20 nothing, and I give credit to everybody who was  
21 able to come together and prevent the expiration  
22 of the millionaires' tax with nothing in its  
23 place, but I want to call two things out in  
24 addition to the issue of broader how much revenue  
25 is there and is it a progressive tax? First, I

1  
2 have concern about what will happen to the MTA,  
3 and I think we need to keep our eye on what  
4 revenues go there and don't go there. Second,  
5 Speaker Silver's bill would have mentioned that we  
6 would have gotten a New York City resources for  
7 the New York City Department of Education, the  
8 city is going to get nothing out of this. We're  
9 going to be facing a significant gap of our own as  
10 we come to budget time, and so I just say we'll  
11 have to address those things as they come.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
13 very much. We now move on to Council Member  
14 Gentile.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.  
16 I just rise to also support my colleague,  
17 Councilman Cabrera, on Resolution 1155. I too  
18 think that it's an outrage that in this day and  
19 age we're still dealing with a subject of this  
20 matter given the fact that I too agree it's a  
21 First Amendment issue among other things, but I  
22 think we have to be aware that we should pass this  
23 quickly and have the state legislators move on  
24 their part to allow the law to have our religious  
25 groups in the schools, lease spaces in schools

1

2 because we only have until February 12<sup>th</sup> until the  
3 DOE has asked all the religious groups to leave  
4 the New York City public schools. We have to move  
5 on this very quickly, so again, Councilman  
6 Cabrera, thank you for your leadership.

7

[applause]

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you  
9 very much. Seeing no others for today, this  
10 meeting is now adjourned.

11

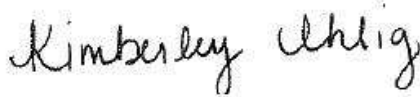
[gavel]



C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature



Date

1/4/11