

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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Recessed Meeting of
June 14, 2016 HELD on
June 21, 2016

Start: 1:51 p.m.
Recess: 3:49 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker for the Entire Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Daniel R. Garodnick

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

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

Muhammad Shamsi Ali, Spiritual Leader
Jamaica Muslim Center
84-42 Chapin Parkway
Jamaica, N.Y. 11432

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [background comments]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, hi.

5 FEMALE SPEAKERS: Hi, guys, my name is
6 Julie. (sic)

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing]

8 Who was--who was here at Gay Pride event? Yes, so
9 everyone here, so let's pay attention because this is
10 a very important ceremonial. [background comments,
11 pause]

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, so I--
13 I think it's ready. We're going to talk a little
14 bit. So, I want to thank Council Member Dromm and I
15 want to thank Council Member Mendez. We had this
16 wonderful of--this school is in Council Member
17 Mendez's district, P.S. 364 in the East Village, and
18 Council Member Dromm had heard about this wonderful
19 group of young people. When we talk about the
20 future, and what the future holds, let me tell you
21 that it is young people like this that already have a
22 sense of understanding that this country and this
23 world belongs to everybody. What they've done is
24 really exemplary, and it's a lesson that we should
25 all learn from. So the group is called Kids for LDGT

2 Rights, and they were--they came to our Pride
3 Celebration. Raise your hands those that were at the
4 Pride Celebration, and these wonderful kids--I'm
5 sorry if I--if I go off a little bit, Danny, but I
6 was so impressed and so touched and moved. So these
7 young kids--these young children basically had a
8 campaign that they raged against an educational
9 website called Brain Pop, which is one of these
10 educational websites where kids go and do research
11 and get information, and they realize that Bran Pop
12 there were doing--where was it? You were doing
13 research in LGBT rights, and the LGBT speed--LGBT
14 Rights Movement, and Brain Pop did not have any
15 information on their website about the LGBT Rights
16 Movement, and they realized that there was about the
17 Civil Rights Movement, there was about a whole bunch
18 of other movements, right? The Latino Rights
19 Movement, but they didn't see anything about the Gay
20 Rights Movement, and s they waged a campaign and did
21 a whole video--which everyone should check out--that
22 really talks about that, and--and challenged Brain
23 Pop to change their ways. And as a result of their
24 advocacy, what happened?

25 STUDENT: We--we got the vote. (sic)

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, that's it.

3 [cheers/applause] Bottom line is--is that they won,
4 and--and now Brain Pop will have information about
5 LGBT rights and leaders and--and be a much more
6 inclusive website as a result of the advocacy of
7 these wonderful children that are before us. So for
8 me during this challenging that we find ourselves in,
9 not only because of the horrific hate act and terror
10 act against those 49 brothers and sisters of the LGBT
11 community in Orlando, but also because of the
12 dialogue that we're hearing in our presidential
13 campaign. This gives me a lot of hope, and this
14 gives me a lot of inspiration. So you all have made
15 me very happy, and I know you've made Danny Dromm and
16 Rosie Mendez and everyone else here that has gotten
17 to know you very happy. We wanted to celebrate you
18 here today to the parents. Are there parents here?
19 Yes, very happy parents who are--some are very
20 emotional. Thank you. [cheers/applause] There's a
21 lot of adults that need to learn from the example
22 that these young children have set. So thank you all
23 very, very much. I'm going to hand it off it to
24 Danny. I'll start crying if I talk any more, and--
25 and Rosie as well, and then we'll read the

2 proclamation and hand it to all of you, and we want
3 one of you or maybe a couple of you to say a few
4 words.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: We have one
6 speaker, Madam Speaker, right here. First of all,
7 Madam Speaker, these children were able to accomplish
8 something that I could not do in 24 years, and this
9 to work with textbooks, or to work with a website to
10 get LGBT history, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and
11 Transgender history into the website or into
12 textbooks, because what we have noticed and what the
13 children noticed is that textbooks and websites are
14 devoid of our history, and I believe that children
15 this age and children older that all children deserve
16 to have LGBT roll models, and I believe that they
17 should also even the non LGBT kids at the high school
18 level should also be able to talk with their friends
19 and peers about what it means to be LGBT without any
20 fear of discrimination, and how do we do that? We do
21 that through education, and so these kids have
22 educated me, and I used to be a teacher. I was a
23 teacher for 25 years before I got elected to the City
24 Council, and they have taught me a lesson, and that
25 lesson is that when you advocate for what is right,

2 you can win, and that's what these students did. And
3 I'm very, very proud [cheers/applause] of them, and
4 now we're going to hear from Council Member Rosie
5 Mendez in whose district this is in.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. Well,
7 one of the things I want to say is when these young
8 kids and the school embarked on this important
9 mission, they did not seek the assistance of my
10 office, and clearly they didn't need it. [laughs]
11 But they defined an issue, they worked on it, and
12 they worked on it because it was right. They didn't
13 work on because they have a gay council member. But
14 now all school children will have the benefit of
15 learning--learning about all the movements so they
16 can learn. They can go on Brain Pop, and LGBT Rights
17 will be there with women's rights, and the civil
18 rights and every other movement that has been--has
19 defined u will be important. Because in order to--to
20 know where you're going, you need to know where
21 you've been. So thank you. I am so proud of each
22 and every one of you for taking this on, and making a
23 reality for our city. Thank you. [applause]

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: The--the last
25 thing I'll do before we--we--we read--we read the

2 proclamation, you know, we all--they're--they're
3 learning a lesson early on in life, but it's one that
4 we have live everyday that we have to--we have to
5 create and build the world we want to live in.
6 Right? That doesn't happen in a vacuum. If we want
7 a world that is inclusive, if we want a world that
8 validates every human being for who they are, we have
9 to struggle to achieve that reality. So they have
10 done that through advocating that this website be
11 inclusive, and so thank you so much for helping build
12 a better future, and with that, we will ask the Clerk
13 to read the proclamation.

14 CLERK: Council City of New York
15 Proclamation.

16 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
17 York is proud to honor Kids for LGBT Rights Now
18 comprised of fourth and fifth grade students at the
19 Earth School for their outstanding commitment and
20 contributions for supporting human rights in New York
21 City and across the nation; and

22 Whereas, P.S. 364, the Earth School in
23 Manhattan's East--East Village is a school where
24 children and adults from divers backgrounds come
25 together to celebrate their differences while

2 appreciating their common humanity and contributing
3 to the community at large. In May 2015, students
4 were divided into groups to study the rights
5 movements of women, Latinos, African Americans,
6 individuals with disabilities and the LGBT community.
7 For their research they relied on an educational
8 website called Brain Pop used by 20% of all schools
9 in the United States. This site offers many short
10 animated video and a wide--wide range of topics, but
11 the students quickly learned there was nothing on
12 this site about LGBT rights; and

13 Whereas, one students in the LGBT Rights
14 group wrote to Brain POP, and made it her goal that
15 by the time she graduated elementary school, the
16 website would an LG--an LGBT rights video in
17 progress. When she wrote to Bran POP to ask about
18 the glaring omission, she received an unhelpful reply
19 saying that her request was sent to the editorial
20 team other evasive answers followed. A year later,
21 Bran POP continued to show no signs of support. So
22 the kids took matters into their own hands, and
23 formed Kids for LGBT Rights Now; and

24 Whereas, the members of Kids for LGBT
25 Rights Now worked together to show people that being

2 LGBT is okay, and that LGBT history is an important
3 subject the website should include. They also called
4 principals to ask if they, too, supported their work
5 for LGBT rights. This work prompted the COO of Brain
6 POP to call the Earth School's principal to explain
7 that LGBT rights did not appear in enough of the
8 State's Standards for their target third grade range,
9 third to eighth grade. A review of the State's
10 Standards in all 50 states confirmed the opposite.
11 Not only are LGBT rights required in the New York
12 State Standards for eighth grade and the California
13 State Standards for fourth grade, but almost every
14 state encourages the study of rights movements. The
15 kids for LGBT Rights now called attention to Brain
16 POP's inaccurate claim, and reaffirmed their
17 commitment to educating kids of all ages about LGBT
18 rights and LGBT history; and

19 Whereas, the Kids for LGBT Rights Now
20 were not content to wait for Brain POP to end its
21 exclusionary practices and fulfill its responsibility
22 to educate its viewers. In April 2016, they created,
23 starred in and released a video about their efforts
24 on You Tube. Their video has been seen by thousands

2 to date. Their work has garnered great acclaim and
3 has been featured on ABC News and DNA Info; and

4 Whereas, we commend Kids for LGBT Rights
5 Now for their tireless dedication to forging a more
6 inclusive society to changing hearts and minds
7 through education, and to reaffirming that LGBT
8 rights are human rights.

9 Now, therefore, be it know that the
10 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
11 Kids for LGBT Rights Now as outstanding human rights
12 champions. Melissa Mar-Viverito, Speaker for the
13 Entire Council, Rosie Mendez, Council Member 2nd
14 District Manhattan, Daniel Dromm, Council Member 25th
15 District, Queens.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [cheers/applause]

17 And obviously, these wonderful--wonderful children
18 are obviously not only guided by their parents, but
19 guided by the teachers at the school. So we want to
20 thank them for--for all that you are doing, and I
21 think we're going to have--who's going to speak?
22 We're going to lower it a little bit. Grace.

23 [applause] [background comments]

24 GRACE: Before we start, we would like to
25 thank Jerrod Fox for supporting us. We'd also like

2 to acknowledge City Council Member Dromm for leading
3 our group in the direction of victory. We would also
4 like to thank City Council Member Rosie Mendez and
5 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito for inviting us to the
6 Pride Celebrations. We would like to express
7 gratitude towards Mint Press (sic) President Lisa
8 Barron for being the first to publicly share our
9 video, and finally, we would like to thank all of our
10 families for supporting us. The LGBT community has
11 come so far [coughs] in getting the Supreme Court to
12 legalize gay marriage to the Stonewall Inn becoming a
13 national monument. The LGBT community has made so
14 much progress from where we were years, months, weeks
15 and days ago, but we are still fighting the fight
16 because there are still people and things that want
17 to hold us back and to diminish our progress. Tragic
18 things like the Orlando Massacre and onto smaller
19 things like LGBT history not being taught in schools.
20 And it's these problems, it's these things that
21 inspire us to go farther and to push boundaries.
22 That is why this group Kids for LGBT Rights Now has
23 worked hard and pushed boundaries to fight for the
24 LGBT community because we want to make a change. The
25 setbacks like the lack of LGBT history in schools is

2 a problem. It's small things like that that cause
3 the bigger things. Maybe if this history was taught,
4 we could avoid big problems. If this history was
5 taught in school maybe, just maybe we could reduce
6 prejudice, ignorance and hate towards LGBT persons
7 and stop any more violence and hatred. It all starts
8 in the beginning from the time where a person--it all
9 starts in the beginning from the time where a person
10 is born. Even though to the dismay of many, an LGBT
11 person is born an LGBT person. You don't get to
12 choose it just like you don't get to choose your
13 parents and your skin color. It's something that
14 comes to you, and unfortunately this uniqueness some
15 people hate, and from this hate comes braveness of
16 people coming and saying it and facing whoever it is
17 and show them that they are proud to be an LGBT
18 person. And that is why this group Kids for LGBT
19 Rights Now is fighting to get this braveness and this
20 history taught in our schools. And I am very proud
21 to announce we have accomplished our goal to get
22 Brain POP to create and LGBT rights video. And just
23 like the rest of the world, we will keep fighting
24 until this history is everywhere. [cheers/applause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Thank
3 you. [on mic] Well, that's wonderful, Grace, and I
4 just want to say that these group of kids were led by
5 some very wonderful educators, Principal Abbe
6 Futterman let's give Ms. Futterman a big round of
7 applause. [cheers/applause] Carol Fitzgerald who's
8 here with us as well--[cheers/applause]--and the
9 Faculty Liaison, too, Kids for LGBT Rights. Carol--
10 Colin Schumacher right here. [cheers/applause] And,
11 of course, all of the parents of the kids who have
12 been so wonderfully supportive. [cheers/applause]
13 Thank you so much, parents. [background comments,
14 cheers]

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.
16 Again, thank you so much. [background comments] He
17 says you have a catch phrase. What's the catch
18 phrase.

19 GRACE: Kids for LGBT Rights Now.
20 [cheers/applause]

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amazing. Thank
22 you. All right, we have one more ceremonial. I am
23 not an emotional person, but that really got me.
24 Well, Levine--Council Member Levine is going to be
25 honoring. Well, is he here? Oh, there he is. Two

2 city park workers Edwin Medina and Mamadou N'doye for
3 their life saving heroism on March 24, 2016. So
4 that's just rather recent when they saved a woman and
5 her baby from her knife wielding boyfriend who had
6 just stabbed him. Horrific, horrific story. Reality
7 that was lived by that woman and her child, but we
8 want to thank these City Park workers, if they could
9 come up. Yes. [cheers/applause] And we're here to-
10 -to give them a proc. I'll hand it over. Hey, I'm
11 going to hand it over to Council Member Mark Levine,
12 who's Chair of our Parks Committee. [background
13 comments] He'll say a few words.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you.
15 Thank you, Madam Speaker. You know, many of you
16 remember this incident from several months ago. It
17 was--it was all over the news, and it was quite
18 horrifying. A young mother who was stabbed by her
19 boyfriend and her two-year-old son was also stabbed,
20 and they came running outside, and many normal people
21 confronted with that kind of situation would have
22 themselves been scared. Maybe they would have just
23 minded their own business or perhaps at most they
24 would call 911. Thankfully, two heroic park workers
25 Edwin Media and Mamadou N'doye intervened to protect

2 this young woman and her child who were both bleeding
3 potentially fatally, and they sheltered them inside
4 of their parks vehicle to keep them safe from the
5 boyfriend. The attack was still underway, until law
6 enforcement authorities could arrive, and City Parks
7 workers do tough and important jobs everyday, but
8 these two went so far above and beyond the call of
9 duty that we thought it was important to tell their
10 story, and to recognize them in this venue. So,
11 please join me in a big round of applause for Mamadou
12 and Edwin. [cheers/applause] I'm--I'm so pleased
13 that we're joined today by the President of their
14 local--Local 1505, part of DC37. They have an
15 amazing, amazing leader and President Dilcy Benn, and
16 I want to give the mic to her for a minute.

17 DILCY BENN: Hi, my name is Dilcy Benn.
18 I'm President of Local 1505, which represents the
19 City park workers. I'm also Vice President of DC37.
20 It's not often that I have members that go this
21 beyond and above duty to save someone else and put
22 theirselves at risk. I think they should be commended
23 by everyone for saving this woman's life because,
24 like I said, when I got the photos, the message,
25 there was blood all over them, blood all over the

2 baby and they still put them inside the van and took
3 that risk and saved them even after the husband was
4 coming after her. So I wanted to say to my two--two
5 city park workers that you all deserve everything
6 that you all get, and you know I'm behind you 100%,
7 and I will try my best that every award that they
8 have that you all get commended for because you all
9 deserve it. I want to thank Mark Levine and the City
10 Council for definitely coming through for us when it
11 came to this because I brought it to Mark's
12 attention, and I want to thank Letitia James, Melissa
13 Mark-Viverito.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: [off mic] Yeah.

15 DILCY BENN: I couldn't get that one out.
16 Yeah, you got it. You know, Melissa and the rest of
17 the City Council for honoring my people today. Thank
18 you. [cheers/applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: All right, thank
20 you. I just want to acknowledge we're also joined
21 here by the wonderful Staten Island Commissioner of
22 the Parks Department, Commissioner Rigaton (sic).
23 Thank you. [cheers/applause] We'll--we'll ask the--
24 great. We'll--we'll ask the clerk to read the
25 proclamation, please.

2 CLERK: Council City of New York
3 Proclamation.

4 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
5 York is proud to honor Mamadou N'doye and Edwin
6 Medina for their life saving heroism; and

7 Whereas, Mamadou N'doye has worked for
8 the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
9 for seven years. Edwin Medina has worked for the New
10 York City Department of Parks and Recreation for four
11 years; and

12 Whereas, on the afternoon of March 24,
13 2016, they were about to finish their shift in the
14 Port Richmond section of Staten Island when they
15 heard a woman's cry for help. They soon saw the
16 woman running toward them terrified and injured. She
17 was carrying a toddler under her arm and was fleeing
18 from a knife-wielding attacker. With not a moment to
19 lose, Ms. N'doye and Mr. Medina ran to help the woman
20 into their truck for safety and called 911; and

21 Whereas, thanks to Ms. N'doye and Mr.
22 Medina's quick thinking and heroic action, EMTs
23 transported the woman and her two-year-old to a near-
24 -to a nearby hospital and NYPD officers arrive at the
25 scene; and

2 Whereas, we commend Ms. N'doye and Mr.
3 Medina for risking their personal safety, and going
4 above and beyond to save their fellow New Yorkers.
5 The City Park workers' heroic actions reflect the NYC
6 Department of Parks and Recreation employees' hard
7 work and commitment to the city and to all New
8 Yorkers. May we all learn from their experience to
9 speak out whenever we witness such abuse in our
10 community, whether in our parks, on our streets or at
11 home.

12 Now, therefore, be it known that the
13 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
14 Mamadou N'doye and Edwin Medina for the life saving
15 heroism on March 24, 2016. Melissa Mark-Viverito,
16 Speaker for the Entire Council [background comments]
17 applause], Mark D. Levine, Chair, Committee on Parks,
18 Council Member, 7th District, Manhattan, I. Daneek
19 Miller, Council Member 27th District, Queens and many
20 other council members.

21 EDWIN MEDINA: Hello. Hi, everyone.
22 Well, first and foremost, I want to say I'm honored
23 to be part of Parks and Recreation. I wouldn't have
24 it no other way. I mean really. I also want to
25 thank my partner Mamadou. You know, it's--the way

2 things, you know, I'm just happy that we were sent
3 there. I believe this is God. It has to be God to
4 put us there at that time and place at that moment
5 because it could have been worse if we weren't there
6 when were there. You know, this man was really
7 trying to kill her, you know, and it's not even being
8 a hero, it's just that it was just an instance, you
9 know, You know, I'm a father myself. I have
10 children. It actually brought me to tears, you know,
11 when I seen the baby and then the mother, but I'm
12 just happy that I was there to save that 26-year-old
13 mother and her two children, and they're okay today.
14 They're okay today. You know, that is important, and
15 I also want to take this--this time to thank our
16 President of the Union Dilcy Benn. You're the
17 greatest.

18 DILCY BENN: [off mic] Thank you.

19 EDWIN MEDINA: And our Commissioner,
20 Linda. Thank you so much for everything. Thank you.

21 [applause] [background comments]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you
23 everybody.

24 DILCY BENN: Thank you.

25 [background comments, pause]

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 at this time all non-Council staff please make your
4 way up to the balcony. Non-Council staff make your
5 way up to the balcony. We ask you to please silence
6 all electronic devices, all electronic devices to
7 silence, please. [background comments, noise] Also,
8 please private conversations please take outside of
9 the chambers. Private conversations outside of the
10 Chambers thank you. [pause, tapping sound]

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please. Quiet
12 in the Chambers please. [pause]

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
14 could I have your attention, please. Can I have your
15 attention, please. At this time please place all
16 electronic devices, all electronic devices to
17 vibrate. Will all non-Council employees, non-council
18 employees please leave the main floor of the
19 chambers. We have additional seating upstairs in the
20 balcony. Thank you.

21 [gavel]

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The recessed
23 meeting of June 14, 2016 held on June 21st is now
24 called to order. Roll call. Quiet in the Chambers,
25 please, everyone--

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: --please find
4 your seats. Thank you roll call.

5 CLERK: Barron.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

7 CLERK: Borelli. Cabrera.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

9 CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

11 CLERK: Cohen.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Here.

13 CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

14 Crowley.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

16 CLERK: Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [off mic] Present.

18 CLERK: Deutsch.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: [off mic] Here.

20 CLERK: Dickens:

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

22 CLERK: Dromm.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

24 CLERK: Espinal.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Here.

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2 CLERK: Eugene.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

4 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

6 CLERK: Garodnick.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic]

8 Here.

9 CLERK: Gentile.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

11 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield. Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

14 CLERK: Grodenchik.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

16 CLERK: Johnson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

18 CLERK: Kallos.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

20 CLERK: King.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

22 CLERK: Koo.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for

24 quiet]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

2 CLERK: Thank you. Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] Here.

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

6 CLERK: Lander. Levin. Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

8 CLERK: Maisel.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

10 CLERK: Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

12 CLERK: Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

16 CLERK: Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

18 CLERK: Palma.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

20 CLERK: Reynoso.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

22 CLERK: Richards.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

24 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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2 CLERK: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

4 CLERK: Salamanca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

6 CLERK: Torres.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

8 CLERK: Treyger.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

10 CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

12 CLERK: Vallone.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
14 quiet] Vallone.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] Here.

16 CLERK: Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

18 CLERK: Wills. Matteo. Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

20 CLERK: Constantinides.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

22 CLERK: Matteo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

24 CLERK: Borelli.

25

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here.

3 [background comments, pause]

4 CLERK: Van Bramer.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

6 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I'm here.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I will now
9 adjourn the recessed meeting of June 14th and will
10 now to order the June 20, the meeting--the Stated
11 Meeting of June 21st. All rise for the pledge.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

13 [Pledge of Allegiance]

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

15 Roll call. [background comments, pause] [shushing
16 for quiet] Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Borelli. Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

20 CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

22 CLERK: Cohen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Here.

24 CLERK: Constantinides.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

2 CLERK: Cornegy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] Here.

4 Cornegy. Crowley.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

6 CLERK: Cumbo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

8 CLERK: Deutsch.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

10 CLERK: Dickens:

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Dromm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

14 CLERK: Espinal.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic] Here.

16 CLERK: Eugene.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

18 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

20 CLERK: Garodnick.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off mic]

22 Here.

23 CLERK: Gentile.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

25 CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

3 Here.

4 CLERK: Grodenchik.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic]

6 Here.

7 CLERK: Johnson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

9 CLERK: Kallos.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

11 CLERK: King.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

13 CLERK: Koo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

15 CLERK: Thank you. Koslowitz.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

17 Here.

18 CLERK: Lancman.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

20 CLERK: Lander.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Here.

22 CLERK: Levin. Levine.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

24 CLERK: Maisel.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

2 CLERK: Mealy.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

4 CLERK: Menchaca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

6 CLERK: Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

8 CLERK: Miller.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

10 CLERK: Palma.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

14 CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

16 CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

18 CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

20 CLERK: Salamanca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

22 CLERK: Torres.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yes.

24 CLERK: Gibson.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic]

3 Present.

4 CLERK: Treyger.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

6 CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

10 CLERK: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

12 CLERK: Wills. Matteo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] Here.

14 CLERK: Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

16 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Here.

18 CLERK: [off mic] We have a quorum.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All

20 rise for the Invocation. It will be delivered by

21 Delivered by: Muhammad Shamsi Ali, the Spiritual

22 Leader of Jamaica Muslim Center, 84-42 Chapin

23 Parkway, Jamaica, New York. Quiet in the Chambers.

24 MUHAMMED SHAMSI ALI: Let's pray. In

25 the name of God, most gracious, most merciful.

2 Praise be to God the cherisher and the sustainer of
3 the world. Oh, God, whose glory is found in yes in
4 majestic forms far beyond our reach, but also any of
5 the imperfection of the human family. Help us to
6 approach this hour, this day and yes everyday in the
7 way and many years to come, as a gift from you full
8 of glorious possibilities as well as holy
9 expectations. Loving God, look with compassion on
10 the whole human family. Help us to build bridges of
11 understanding and cooperation, break down the walls
12 that separate us, and unite us in bonds of love, and
13 work through our struggles to accomplish your purpose
14 on earth that in your good time all peoples of all
15 races and creeds may obtain joy and happiness,
16 justice and prosperity and may all live in peace and
17 harmony. May all of us learn to honor and enjoy our
18 diversity and differences as people even as we more
19 deeply touch our fundamental unity. May we as people
20 undergo a transformation that will draw forth
21 individuals to lead our city and our nation who
22 embody courage, compassion and a higher vision. God,
23 guide our leaders to inspire us with their
24 commitment, honesty and their ability to put harmony
25 and partnership over conflicts and divisions. Enable

2 us to inspire one another with our potentials, both
3 as individuals, as a group that a new spirit of
4 caring and sharing, love and compassion be born in
5 our world. Let the wounds of separation and division
6 be healed by opening our hearts to listen to the
7 truth on all sides, allowing us to find a higher
8 truth that includes all. May we collectively move
9 with clear directed purpose to take our place within
10 the community of diverse grounds to help build a
11 better future for our society and our world, and may
12 God continue to bless our great city of New York and
13 bless the United States of America. Amen.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [off mic] Amen.
15 Please be seated. [on mic] A motion to spread the
16 invocation, Council Member Miller. Quiet in the
17 Chambers.

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

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I make a motion
21 to spread the invocation in full as on--

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: --upon the
25 record.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you so
3 much. Adoption of Minutes, Council Member
4 Constantinides.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [pause]
6 I make motion that the minutes of the State Meeting
7 of May 25, 2016 be adopted as printed.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
9 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

10 CLERK: None.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
12 from City, County and Borough Offices.

13 CLERK: None.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
15 Communications.

16 CLERK: None.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
18 Ups.

19 CLERK: None.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
21 Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker Melissa
22 Mark-Viverito.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [coughs] So good
24 afternoon to everyone. First and foremost, I know I
25 want to acknowledge a guest we have here with us

2 invited by Council Member Mathieu Eugene. He's the
3 Haitian Ambassador to the United Nations--

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

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

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --Denis Regis.
9 He is here with us. Thank you so much and welcome to
10 our City Hall Chambers. [applause] So good
11 afternoon. Buenas tardes, everyone. I want to get--
12 want to begin today by recognizing that on June 6th
13 Muslims from across the world began observing
14 Ramadan. As our sisters and brothers from the
15 Islamic faith come together for a month of fasting
16 and reflection, we are reminded of core Muslim values
17 of community, charity and justice, the same values
18 that unite us all as New Yorkers. I want to thank--
19 I'm sorry--I want to extend my best wishes to those
20 observing this holy month. May the spirit of Ramadan
21 bring you and your city--and our city peace and
22 prosperity. Ramadan Mubarak.

23 So today, we're voting on some really--a
24 lot of great things, packages of legislation that
25 we're going to be passing and adopting today. We're

2 going to be voting on legislation to start off with
3 to require ticket vendors in New York City to obtain
4 ticket seller licenses from the Department of
5 Consumer Affairs while the majority of ticket vendors
6 in New York City are good actors who play an
7 important role in our economy. A small number of
8 them engage in fraudulent sales and aggressive
9 tactics. This behavior is harmful to consumers and
10 tarnishes the reputation of our tourism and
11 entertainment industries. Thanks to this
12 legislation, those bad actors can be tracked and
13 dealt with by the city. Council Member Garodnick has
14 taken the lead on this. It's his legislation and he
15 will say a few words.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Great. Thank
17 you very much, Madam Speaker. I--I want to just say
18 a couple words about Intro 1149, which as you noted
19 will require the Department of Consumer Affairs to
20 create a licensing scheme for new a new class of
21 vendors, ticket sellers, bringing much needed
22 additional regulation to the tourism and
23 entertainment landscape of New York City. The
24 Department of Consumer Affairs, as we all know,
25 requires businesses and individuals in dozens of

2 industries to obtain DCA licenses in order to operate
3 legally including newsstands, petty cabs, general
4 vendors and many others. But ticket sellers where
5 people are actually taking cash and swiping credit
6 cards out on a street corner are not included in
7 these licensing requirements despite the potential
8 for illegal behavior on behalf of sellers such as
9 aggressive solicitation and also passing off
10 fraudulent tickets as legitimate, which, of course,
11 we have seen in New York City not infrequently.
12 Licensing these sellers will give consumers more
13 assurances that the transactions they conduct are not
14 scams, and provide additional enforcement tools so
15 that we can better target those who are operating
16 unlawfully. Ticket sellers are not a monolithic
17 group, and most of them are good actors. They range
18 from direct employees of companies that offer
19 services like bus tours, who wear uniforms with their
20 companies clearly identified to third-party sellers
21 hocking anything from ferry rides to Broadway shows.
22 But some, unfortunately, do not operate above board.
23 This bill would benefit both the people looking to
24 purchase these tickets and the good actors of the
25 industry who will be easily identifiable as

2 legitimate sellers. This group of sellers has gone
3 unregulated for far too long. People looking to ride
4 a tour bus, cruise the Hudson or see a show deserve
5 the confidence that the money they spend will get
6 them what they bought. Licensing is a simple and
7 effective way to hold ticket sellers to a minimum
8 operating standards so that officers can better
9 identify people who are breaking the law. This bill
10 will add important consumer protections, and increase
11 enforcement capabilities to the ticket selling
12 industry. So I--I thank you again, Madam Speaker,
13 Chair Espinal and I urge my colleagues to vote in
14 favor of this bill. Thank you.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
16 Council Member. Next, we'll be voting on legislation
17 to increase transparency surround the implementation
18 of the city's next generation 911 system. The bill
19 would require the Department of Information,
20 Technology and Telecommunications to provide annual
21 reports on the progress of the implementation and
22 information on planned further steps throughout the
23 implementation process. I want to thank the staff
24 Brad Reed, Sheila Jones, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin for all
25 their work on this legislation. Council Member

2 Laurie Cumbo is the lead sponsor. She'll say a few
3 words followed by the Chair of the Technology
4 Committee Chair--Chair Vacca.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker
6 Melissa Mark-Viverito. As technology in the city of
7 New York and beyond continues to advance, we as
8 legislators have a responsibility to ensure that our
9 city's emergency communication system continues to
10 integrate modern technology throughout its daily
11 operations to increase accessibility for all New
12 Yorkers. Currently, our emergency communication
13 system is unable to accept and analyze texts, video
14 and photos. We must provide survivors of domestic
15 violence the text (sic) used with the State, an
16 effective way to reach emergency service providers.
17 With a population of more than 8.4 million, New York
18 City is comparable to other cities such as Dallas,
19 which is home to more than 1.3 million residents and
20 currently has text 911 capabilities. We have a
21 campaign here. If you see something, say something,
22 but it's now going to be moving forward. It's so
23 important if people see something to text something,
24 and the ability to use video and photos to also
25 assist and help. By 2018, almost 85% of Americans

2 will have Smart Phones. Over 500 U.S. cities can
3 accept text messages as a form of emergency
4 communication. In the past five months alone, 55
5 call centers were upgraded. Seven counties in New
6 York State already have 911 call centers equipped to
7 handle emergencies throughout text message, and just
8 one example: More than 14,000 texts were received in
9 Indiana between March 2014 and June 2015. In
10 Alpharetta County, Georgia a deaf woman was able to
11 text 911 to report two children being left in a car
12 alone for over an hour. In Vale, Colorado a woman
13 was able to prevent further agitation of a suicidal
14 driver threatening to shoot himself by maintain a
15 text conversation with dispatcher and providing
16 updates on locations. Yes, this particular piece of
17 location will save lives. This bill would not be
18 possible without the tremendous support of my staff
19 and the Legislative Division and advocates. I want
20 to give a special thank you to Dominique Bryan, and
21 in honor of Joan Bryant bringing the idea to our
22 entire staff, for continuing to push it through each
23 and every day, thank you for your craft, your
24 persistence, Brad Reed, the drafting attorney in the
25 Council's Legislative Division. Thank you to the

2 drafting attorney Laboni Watman (sic); legislative
3 support from Jeffrey Baker in the Council's
4 Legislative Division. But I would also particularly
5 like to thank my colleagues including Council Mark
6 Levine, who co-primed this with me, and Council
7 Member Vanessa Gibson who was critical every step of
8 the way, who invited us to the call center to see on
9 a daily basis what our dynamic 911 call takers
10 experience everyday, most of them women of color. I
11 want to especially thank Council Member Jimmy Vacca
12 for advocating and believing in the importance in
13 technology and for everyday people seeking
14 assistance. Thank you to Ramon Martinez and his
15 incredible work, Matt Gewolb. I also want to thank
16 Laura Popa as well as Matt Gewolb for all of their
17 incredible work, and to all of my colleagues. Thank
18 you so much. We will save lives, and this will be
19 the difference such as in Orlando and other places
20 where the opportunity to call is just not possible.
21 Thank you so much.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: As Chair of the
23 Technology Committee, I want to thank the sponsor the
24 Council Member Cumbo and Brad Reed, the attorney for
25 committee, Stacy Gardner, my Legislative Director.

2 Today, texting should be viewed not as a luxury but a
3 necessity. Texting police officers, texting 911 in
4 our society today is urgent. We've seen hostage
5 situations. We know the impact of domestic violence.
6 We know that people in the deaf community also would
7 benefit by the texting option when it comes to
8 calling for emergency services and help. So, this
9 legislation seeks to move the administration, seeks
10 to encourage them to advance this aspect of
11 technology. We're development improvements and
12 updates to 911. Certainly, the new 911 call-up
13 center in my district costing the city over on
14 billion dollars will soon be opening with the most
15 recent up-to-date technology in the world. There's
16 on reason why we cannot--we cannot effectuate a
17 texting mechanism for people who want to call 911.
18 We've got to move on this, and we've got to move
19 quickly. Unfortunately, current events have proved
20 that we don't have time to delay this, and this
21 legislation does seek to advance this option. I hope
22 the Council will vote yes. I thank the Speaker and
23 her staff for her help--for their help.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
25 Council Member. Additionally--additionally, we'll be

2 voting on legislation to require that single
3 occupancy restrooms in public places be made
4 available as gender-mutual facilities. While other
5 places in the country are trying to divide Americans
6 with small minded things such as who can use a
7 restroom, we're dedicated to accommodating all people
8 in New York City, and that's what this bill does.
9 For staff, I want to thank Brad Reed, Jim Wilcox,
10 Megan Chin, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde, Sarah
11 Gastelum, Jeff Baker, Ed Atkin. Council Member Dromm
12 has been very active on this issue, a leader on this.
13 He's sponsoring the legislation. Maybe he can say a
14 few words.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
16 much, Madam Speaker. Let me just start off by
17 welcoming my New York City Youth Council Member
18 Jacqueline Rosado to--who is here with us today, and
19 has been following me around. We thank you also for
20 your support of this legislation, and I also want to
21 thank the Chair of the Committee on Housing and
22 Building Jumaane Williams, Committee Counsel Jim
23 Wilcox and Brad Reed who worked with us closely to
24 draft this bill. I also need to recognize Controller
25 Scott Stringer for his early calls for this measure

2 and, of course, there are activists whose work is so
3 critical to helping New York become an even more
4 welcoming place for our transgender and gender non-
5 conforming family, friends and neighbors. I know
6 that Brian Ellicott (sp?) is here and I want to thank
7 him and everyone else who had a role in moving this
8 issue forward. Most New Yorkers take their
9 unfettered access to bathrooms for granted. Yet,
10 every single day transgender and gender non-
11 conforming individuals must grapple with the fact
12 that their choices may lead to harassment or even
13 worse. Other cities from Washington, D.C. to West
14 Hollywood, California already recognize that
15 designating single stall bathrooms as all-gender is
16 an easy way to create a welcoming environment for
17 transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.
18 And, of course, as an added bonus, anyone looking for
19 an unoccupied bathroom will now have more options.
20 Simply put, this single stall all-gender bathrooms
21 issue makes sense. The significance of this measure,
22 however, goes well beyond the confines of our local
23 bathrooms. We as the nation's largest city have the
24 chance to repudiate the bigotry of certain
25 individuals throughout this country including North

2 Carolina Governor Pat McCrory and the North Carolina
3 State Legislature who are perversely obsessed with
4 the bathroom habits of others. Their recently
5 enacted Anti-LGBT Law belongs in the toilet. I
6 encourage all of my colleagues to vote for Intro 871
7 to help move our city forward and also to send a
8 message that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
9 lives matter. Intro 871-A represents yet another
10 step forward toward equality as we resolutely
11 celebrate Pride Month through our collective pain
12 after Orlando. Happy Pride to all my colleagues, and
13 let's keep fighting for equality. Thank you very
14 much.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Danny,
16 for your leadership. Next, we have a bill to curb
17 non-residential tenant harassment in New York City.
18 The City Council has always been resolute in our
19 efforts to protect tenants from harassment by
20 landlords looking to take advantage of them. While
21 much of the focus in the past has been on residential
22 tenants, and for good reason, this bill focuses
23 specifically on small businesses and other non-
24 residential tenants who deserve to have their rights
25 protected as well. This bill establishes a private

2 right-of-action for these tenants to bring claims of
3 harassment against landlords, and hold landlords
4 accountable for any behavior on their part intended
5 to cause a commercial tenant to vacate property or
6 waive their rights under a rental agreement. For
7 staff I want to thank Jeffrey Campagna, Michael
8 Kurtz, William Karentang (sp?), Ayisha Schaumburg and
9 Terazh Nasser. This is legislation sponsored by
10 Council Member Cornegy and he will say a few words.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam
12 Speaker. As my colleagues are well aware, small
13 businesses in this city are hurting with real estate
14 prices increasing, and neighborhoods in all five
15 boroughs rapidly gentrifying, too many landlords are
16 raising commercial rents to levels that make it
17 impossible for tenants to stay in business. Pizza
18 parlors, bodegas, restaurants, retail stores, artists
19 and others are constantly being told that they have
20 to pay sky high rents to maintain occupancy.
21 Sometimes landlords try to extort high rents by
22 harassing their tenants until they pay up or move
23 out. The harassment can take many forms including
24 removing the locks, blocking entrances to prevent
25 customers from entering, making unnecessary repairs

2 that cut off essential services like water and
3 electricity and other acts and omissions that disrupt
4 business operations. This legislation would create a
5 private right of action for tenants accusing
6 landlords of non-residential tenant harassment. A
7 landlord would be guilty of non-residential tenant
8 harassment if he engages in acts or omissions with
9 the intent to deprive a covered tenant of any rights
10 in a lease or other rental agreement, which may
11 include a month-to-month agreement and a holdover
12 tenancy. In addition to whatever damages and
13 injunctive relief a court may order, a landlord found
14 to have committed commercial tenant harassment would
15 be required to pay a civil penalty--penalty of not
16 less than \$1,000 and not more than \$10,000. It is
17 my hope that the threat of such penalties in addition
18 to the possibility of liability for compensatory and
19 punitive damages will serve as a significant
20 deterrent against the unscrupulous practices that
21 currently exist in commercial leasing. I want to
22 thank the advocates who provided their input on this
23 bill, as well as my co-sponsors Council Members
24 Levine, Chin, Constantinides, Cumbo, Gibson, John,
25 Kallos, Koo, Koslowitz, Lander, Menchaca, Rodriguez,

2 Rosenthal, Reynoso, Vallone and Willis--I would also-
3 -and Wills. I would also like to thank the committee
4 staff for their work on this legislation, and a
5 special, special shout-out goes to my former
6 legislative director Dynishal Gross who worked
7 tirelessly on this legislation. I hope that we will
8 all vote yes in favor of this piece of legislation.
9 Thank you, Madam Speaker.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
11 Council Member. [coughs] We're also voting today on
12 confirmation of three officials one to the City Board
13 of Elections and two the Civil Service Commission,
14 and today we have two resolutions sponsored by
15 Council Member Eugene. These resolutions recognize
16 October 9th, as Haitian Day in New York, and call
17 upon the federal government to recognize this day
18 nation. I know Council Member Eugene wants to say a
19 few words, and thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, Madam
21 Chair, and Madam Speaker. Thank you very much. My
22 colleagues [coughs] I would like to thank Madam
23 Speaker for her leadership, and also the Cultural
24 Affairs Committee Chairman Jimmy Van Bramer for
25 bringing my resolution, Resolution 664 and 687 to a

2 vote, and I would like also to thank Ramon Martinez.
3 Thank you, Ramon, very much, and also Chloe for their
4 fine work, and my staff, thank you very much. And I
5 want to take the opportunity also thank my colleague
6 who will pass--they'll vote on this in a few minutes.
7 My legislation 664 and 687 underscore the importance
8 of Haitian people in the revolution of the United
9 States of America. We all know that Haitian people,
10 soldiers came from Haiti and fought in the battle of
11 Civil War of the liberation of the Unites States of
12 America. In addition to that, we know that you know,
13 about the purchase of Louisiana. The purchase of
14 Louisiana that doubled the size of the United States
15 of America was possible because of the Haitian
16 Revolution led by Toussaint Louverture. In addition
17 to that, when the Haitian people freed the slaves, it
18 was the first time that a country of slaves abolish
19 the injustice to human beings, the slavery. It was a
20 fight not only for Haiti, but it was the fight for
21 human dignity and human respect. Let me tell you
22 also, Chicago. The father of Chicago is Jean
23 Baptiste Pointe, Haitian. Pierre Tusseau a Haitian
24 person also was the first to donate funding for the
25 construction of the St. Patrick Corridor in New York

2 City. He opened also an orphanage for the young boys
3 and girls helping going--helping them going to
4 school, and also helping them find jobs. This
5 resolution is a very important and historic
6 resolution not only for Haitian people, but also for
7 the United States of America, and that will inspire
8 our young brother and Haitian--brothers and sisters
9 in order for them to know that them also. They have
10 to do everything possible to better the country where
11 they are living, the United States of America. To
12 conclude, let me say that we are blessed and honored
13 to have with us, as mentioned by the Speaker, the
14 Honorable Denis Regis, the Ambassador and
15 Representative to--of Haiti to the Untied States.
16 Than you, Honorable for being here. Thank you and I
17 want to mention also we have with us one of the
18 brilliant architects--architects in the Haitian
19 community, Ms. Nicole (sic) who designed the African
20 Burial in New York. Thank you, Nicole, for being
21 here, and I want to urge my colleagues to vote yes to
22 those two legislations. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
24 Council Member. We're also going to be voting on
25 modifications to Lands Use 361 the Water Street POPS

2 Upgrades. Council Member Chin has taken the
3 extensive public testimony under consideration, and
4 worked with the applicants for weeks to come up with
5 a set of modifications that will allow for the core
6 goals of the application to be realized while
7 maintaining a public review process for the closing
8 of large arcade spaces. These modifications include
9 retaining the existing requirements of the special
10 permit for some arcade enclosures requiring an
11 authorization for other arcade enclosures.

12 Notification to the borough president, community
13 board and council member for events and non-ULURP
14 actions. Retaining compliance reporting, modifying
15 the retail requirements and other changes. I want to
16 thank Council Member Chin. I know she's worked
17 extensively hard on this, and so with that, I'll ask
18 her to say a few words.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
20 Speaker. Today the City Council is voting on the
21 Water Street Tax Amendment--Text Amendment. The
22 goals of the proposal are to improve the pedestrian
23 experience of the Water Street Corridor to improve
24 the public spaces in plazas and arcades, to promote
25 badly neighborhood retail and innovative in-door

2 public spaces. After careful considerations of all
3 the viewpoints expressed by my constituents and by my
4 council colleagues, I am pleased that City Council
5 will be voting today on an agreement that I believe
6 meets the goals of revitalizing the Water Street
7 Corridor while preserving vital community and Council
8 oversight. This wasn't an easy decision to make.
9 There have been many passionate voices that wanted
10 this proposal to be rejected outright or conversely
11 wanted the text amendment passed as it. After much
12 deliberation, came to the conclusion that neither
13 option would give our community what it desperately
14 needs and deserves: Improved plazas and arcades,
15 neighborhood retails and innovative indoor public
16 space. To pass this text amendment as submitted to
17 the City Council would have given blanket approval
18 for the handover of a 110,00 square feet of publicly
19 accessible space to developers with little or no
20 public oversight, and with no real guarantee of
21 public benefit. To reject the proposal outright
22 would have left unchanged the cab (sic) doors, and
23 underutilized spaces that are simply not working for
24 this increasingly residential community. I--it would
25 have left the plaza in need of accessibility

2 improvements and upkeep as they currently are. As
3 the council member representing the area, and as a
4 long time resident of the Financial District, neither
5 of these scenarios was acceptable. The agreement
6 reached with the applicant includes increased level
7 of public review and community participation in these
8 spaces. No action will be taken on Water Street
9 without the Community Board, the Borough President
10 and City Councils' input. This includes events as
11 well as any potential changes to the arcade and
12 plaza. There's many people I want to thank for their
13 hard work throughout this process including members
14 of community board 1, the Downtown Alliance and other
15 concerned community members. I would also like to
16 thank the chair of the Land Use Committee, Council
17 Member Greenfield and the Chair of the subcommittee
18 Council Member Donovan Richards. Even though Council
19 Member Richards wants me to serve on that committee,
20 I will just visit his office. For ensuring that the
21 conversation about Water Street was heard by many of
22 my colleagues and that the conversation around
23 privately owned public spaces will continue with an
24 oversight hearing next week. So I also want to thank
25 Ramon Martinez, and members of our Land Use Division,

2 Raju Mann, Julie Lubin, Dylan Casey and Chris Weiss
3 and, of course, my Director of Land Use and Planning
4 Roxanne Early for all of her work and dedication
5 throughout this process, and I encourage all my
6 colleagues to vote in favor of this text amendment.
7 Thank you.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
9 Council Member, and finally we have a legislative
10 package that will help ensure women in New York City
11 have access to feminine hygiene products in public
12 facilities across our city. These bill require that
13 feminine hygiene products be made available free of
14 charge at city schools, shelters, women's
15 correctional facilities and certain foster care and
16 Juvenile Justice facilities. These hygiene products
17 should never be considered a luxury for women, but
18 rather an essential part of women's health. So
19 whether it's in public schools, shelters or even our
20 city jails, giving women access to these products is
21 a no-brainer and long overdue. Additionally, we'll
22 be voting on a resolution today to call upon Albany
23 to exempt feminine hygiene products from taxes on
24 retail sales. Again, these products are medical
25 necessities for women, and should be treated as such,

2 which is why New York State should not be imposing a
3 sales tax on women who purchase them. On staff--for
4 the staff I want to thank Aminta Kilowan, Joan
5 Povolny, Brittany Morrissey, Brian Crowe, Ayisha
6 Schaumberg, Richard Cordero, Terzah Nasser, and we'll
7 be hearing from a couple of sponsors that played
8 important roles, but obviously first and foremost, I
9 want to thank and acknowledge Finance Chair Julissa
10 Ferreras-Copeland, who has really take a leadership
11 role in being at the vanguard of this issue. She's
12 been a leading voice on this Women's Health
13 Initiative and she will say a few words.

14 JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you,
15 Madam Speaker. My colleagues I'm sure you've heard
16 enough of menstrual hygiene products, [laughter], and
17 if that is true, then I am proud because we have now
18 begun to eliminate the stigma behind saying feminine
19 hygiene products. [cheers] Yes. I am proud to
20 stand today on this groundbreaking package of
21 legislation. This package is the only one in the
22 nation that will proactively address menstrual equity
23 by guaranteeing access to menstrual hygiene products
24 to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. Periods
25 have been stigmatized for far too long, and today the

2 Council will help end the stigma and do its part in
3 the shift that takes place across our country and the
4 world. Young women will no longer miss class because
5 they don't have a pad or a tampon, and the secret
6 society that women have where you learn how to tuck a
7 Tampon in your coat jacket so that you walk to the
8 bathroom and nobody else knows. And I have to say
9 that now you can proudly walk with your Tampon to the
10 bathroom, and it just says that you're a beautiful
11 woman, that you're healthy. You no longer have to
12 drag your big old with you to the--Yeah, you're
13 laughing because we know, right?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: That's right.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: We
16 don't got to bring these to the bathroom any more
17 because we are removing the stigma, and we can be
18 proud. So just like you hold a set of glasses or you
19 carry your Smart Phone wherever you go, we can now
20 carry our products with pride and that is what we're
21 teaching young girls. That they can have dignity in
22 the bathroom, but they don't have to inform a teacher
23 or a nurse or a guidance counselor that they just got
24 their period. But they can simply go to the bathroom
25 and get a product just like they would toilet paper

2 and not have to lose time academically, and that
3 often times we don't think girls have to go from the
4 first floor to the second floor to the nurse's office
5 back to the bathroom praying and hoping that they
6 didn't soil their white pants because it always
7 happens when you're wearing white pants. [laughter]
8 While the boys are already in class, and very likely
9 had already started their exam. So today, New York
10 is doing a great thing for young women, a great thing
11 for women in prison, and a great thing for women in
12 shelters. I want to thank my staff. I want to, of
13 course, thank my Legislative and Budget Director,
14 Lillian Sebata, my Communications Director who has
15 been with me through this process from the very
16 beginning. Brittany Morrissey, Regina Poreda Ryan,
17 Dohini Sompura, Rebecca Chasan, the Legis--the
18 Speaker's Legislative Team and my Council Colleagues.
19 I want to thank Council Member Laurie Cumbo, who
20 while we were negotiating on the budget held hours
21 long of hearings and listening to testimony from
22 amazing women and amazing New Yorkers. Again, this
23 is a great day for us here in New York. We can walk
24 with our pads and our Tampons with pride because the

2 only thing that that says is that I am absolutely a
3 healthy man or a healthy woman. Gracias.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, so
5 take out those pads and Tampons and put them on your
6 desk. [background comments, laughter] No problem.
7 [laughs]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Anybody wearing
9 white pants.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [laughs]
11 [background comments] That's very empowering, you
12 know that. That's--it is like, you know, just let's
13 talk about it. Why not?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Tampons up.
15 [background comments]

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Are they right.
17 Oh, there you go. Look, right here. [laughter]
18 Okay, I just feel like a big burden has just been
19 lifted off my shoulders. [laughter] Thank you,
20 Julissa. So, I want to--

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
22 down, please, keep it down.

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

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So I want to--I
3 want to also just mention obviously I'm an incredible
4 animal lover. Everybody knows it. I want to thank
5 the ASPCA. As people know, June is Adopt a Shelter
6 Cat Month, and so today we have the ASPCA Van
7 outside. I know a lot of staff and a lot of members
8 visited. I hear that we may have some potential
9 mommies and daddies in the room. So congratulations
10 to those of you that have made the choice to adopt a
11 shelter pet. I am the proud mother a shelter cat.
12 Well, a stray cat. He wasn't exactly in a shelter,
13 but I picked him up off the street, but I understand
14 that--that we have two potential council members that
15 may be looking at adopting. So I want to thank the
16 ASPCA for joining us. We've had four successful
17 adoptions to day out of this visit, and I think
18 there's a bunch more individuals and members who are
19 looking to possibly visit the ASPCA and see if they
20 will adopt a pet. So thank you so much. It means a
21 lot to me. It really is important that we adopt and
22 not buy pets. There are lot of--of pets that need
23 loving homes. So I want to again thank the ASPCA for
24 all the work they work they do, and working with us
25 and the staff that helped put together. Than you

2 very much. And finally, I want to remind everyone
3 that this Sunday, June 26th is our Annual Pride
4 March. This is the wonderful march that happens
5 every year in the City of New York. Anyone who's been
6 to a Pride March in New York City already knows what
7 a great event it. But there's obviously incredible
8 special significance to it this year. All over the
9 country and the world, we're still coming to grips
10 with the horror of the Orlando shooting that
11 terrorist hate crime that occurred. People from all
12 walks of life were devastated to hear the news, but
13 obviously the personal impact that this has had on
14 the LGBTQ community and makes a very difficult pride
15 month. Nonetheless, New York City will never let
16 anything stop us from celebrating all of our--our
17 diverse communities and all the contributions they
18 provide to make this the wonderful city that it is.
19 So LGBTQ New Yorkers will be out in full force, and
20 allies as well to celebrate on Sunday to show
21 solidarity. I know I will be there. Many of my
22 colleagues will be there, and hopefully everyone
23 would be there. I'm looking forward to being present
24 on that day. I hope to see all of you there as well,
25 and with that, we end communication from the Speaker.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 Discussion of general orders beginning with Council
4 Member Miller for some remarks.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
6 Public Advocate. I would be remiss if I let--Ali
7 leave--leave without acknowledging the great work
8 that he does at the Jamaica Muslim Center. Imam
9 Shamsi Ali, is currently known as a religious scholar
10 and an interfaith bridge builder in New York City and
11 beyond. Currently, Imam Ali is a spiritual leader of
12 the Jamaica Muslim Center, one of the largest Muslim
13 community centers in New York City. He is also the
14 co-founder and President of My Share Foundation, a
15 not-for-profit focusing on building peace and harmony
16 between peoples of all backgrounds through interfaith
17 dialogue. Imam Ali is known as--as the moderate face
18 of Islam, and has been rewarded largely for his
19 tireless efforts in building and understanding
20 cooperation between people of all religions including
21 ambassador of peace in a religion and federation, and
22 he was always awarded the Ellis Island Award, the
23 highest non-military award presented to immigrants.
24 Imam Ali was chosen by New York Magazine as one of
25 the seven most influential religious leaders in New

2 York City, and chosen as one of the 500 most
3 influential Muslims throughout the world. Imam Ali
4 has authored several books including Young Preacher
5 New York--in New York City, True Love in America and
6 the sons of Abraham co-authored by--with a local
7 rabbi. Imam's message is a message that we all need
8 in this time of deep pain and trauma for our nation
9 and for our city. As we mourn the tragedies of most
10 recent innocent--loss of innocent lives, this is the
11 month of Ramadan, the holiest time of the year for
12 which Muslims and members of Muslim faith [background
13 comments, pause] in the midst of deep prayer and
14 contemplation where conflict continues to raise
15 amongst us. But we as a nation, as a city and as New
16 Yorkers of all faith and races and genders must never
17 forget that the belief and hope and unity must
18 transcend and faith--and--and hate. So I'd like to
19 thank Imam for coming down. I also would like to
20 thank you for allowing me to--to--allowing me--
21 allowing me to--to worship with you on many
22 occasions. We look forward to doing that again.
23 Thank you, Madam Public Speaker.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank and to
25 vote, beginning with Council Member Van Bramer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: With
3 permission, I'd liked to vote on all coupled general
4 orders and resolutions.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. To
8 vote, Council Member Cabrera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: With permission,
10 I'd like to vote on all coupled--general orders and
11 resolutions.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye on
14 all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 Council Member Koslowitz for a vote?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: With
18 permission, I'd like to vote on all calendar--coupled
19 general orders and resolutions, and I vote aye.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Council Member Mealy for a vote.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye and
23 with a--with permission to--on all coupled general
24 orders and resolutions.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

4 Council Member Rosenthal for a vote.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you. I

6 vote aye, and with permission, I'd like to vote aye

7 on all coupled general orders, and resolutions.

8 Again, I vote aye. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and now

10 back to general orders beginning with Council Member

11 Laurie Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [pause] Thank

13 you. In neighborhoods across Brooklyn like Prospect

14 Heights affordable housing must remain accessible to

15 single-parent households, minimum wage earners, low

16 and middle-income families. In order to strengthen

17 our city, we must become an inclusive society by

18 embracing our economic diversity. With more than

19 60,000 homeless New Yorkers and thousands of

20 families--

21 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic]

22 [interposing] Keep it down please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --faced with

24 displacement--

25

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Always.
7 Displacement due to rapid gentrification and the
8 rising cost of rent affordable housing has become a
9 vital component in narrowing the opportunity divide.
10 For over a year I have been advocating with my
11 constituents, elected officials and the New York City
12 Department of Housing Preservation and Development to
13 secure a multi-year property tax exemption for the
14 former Brooklyn Jewish Hospital Complex located in
15 Prospect Heights, which houses over 700 residential
16 units. Today, our vision will finally become a
17 reality as we are able to establish an Article 11 tax
18 exemption for 30 years and mark a significant victory
19 for New Yorkers. When this battle first began, we
20 had to fight very hard to make sure that that those
21 families stayed in place.

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

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: In a rapidly
25 gentrifying community, the ability to secure 700

2 units of affordable housing in Brooklyn, New York is
3 certainly a victory, and I want to thank all of my
4 colleagues that made this happen. I want to thank
5 Matthew Pitt on my staff who worked tirelessly on
6 this effort. I want to thank Public Advocate Letitia
7 James, Controller Scott Stringer, Assembly Member
8 Walter Mosley who began this effort with me. State
9 Senator Velmanette Montgomery and Brooklyn Borough
10 President Eric Adams who assisted in this process. I
11 want to thank Alma Realty for brilliantly seeing
12 things my way. I want to thank the entire Council.
13 I want to thank Council Member David Greenfield. I
14 want to thank Council Member Costa Constantinides. I
15 want to thank Ramon Martinez. I want to thank our
16 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, our Finance Chair and all
17 of the members that made this possible and happen.
18 This is going to make so many happy memories for many
19 families.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

21 [shushing for quiet]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Who are

23 struggling--

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,

25 please. Keep it down, please.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: --to live.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
4 quiet]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Who are struggling
6 to live in Brooklyn, New York. Housing the most
7 important that we all need to continue to work on,
8 and I'm proud that I was able to deliver 700 units of
9 affordable housing in the 35th Council District.
10 Thank you so much.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
12 Congratulations. Council Member Chin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Madam
14 Public Advocate. I want to talk about Intro 1149--

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
16 [shushing for quiet]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ---a bill to
18 license and regulate ticket sellers introduced by
19 Council Member Garodnick. This bill will affect many
20 neighborhoods in my district, including Chinatown,
21 the Financial District, the Historic Battery, Tribeca
22 and Battery Park City. Anyone walking down Lower
23 Broadway will likely see ticket sellers using
24 aggressive tactics to sell rides on sightseeing bus
25 or ferries to the Statue of Liberty. For many of

2 these sellers, a simple no will not suffice.
3 Unfortunately, too many residents and workers
4 downtown have to endure these aggressive tactics from
5 ticket sellers who sometimes will block their path or
6 follow them down the street. This kind of harassment
7 is simply unacceptable. While not every ticket
8 engage in these aggressive tactics, it has become all
9 to common in Lower Manhattan as it has in other parts
10 of our city that are frequented by tourists. Intro
11 1149 will ensure that there are clear consequences
12 for these bad actors, and I want to thank Council
13 Member Garodnick for introducing this bill, and I
14 want to thank Kelly Taylor for her hard work. Today
15 we are also going to be voting on preconsidered 1223,
16 and I wanted to thank our speaker and Ramon for their
17 leadership. This bill will give our city additional
18 time to work with Albany to ensure even better
19 implementation and outreach to ensure that our effort
20 to reduce the billions of single-use bags--

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --plastic bags
24 thrown out every year is a success. So I want to
25 encourage my colleagues to vote for these bills, and

2 I also want to congratulate Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
3 making us feel proud that we are women even though,
4 you know, we are the older generation, but we thank
5 you. [laughter]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
7 Council Member Steve Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
9 much--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
11 Levin, excuse me.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --Madam Public
13 Advocate. I'm very proud to be standing with the
14 Speaker--

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

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --and our Finance
18 Chair--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 Excuse me, Council Member. May we have quiet in the
21 Chambers, please?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I'm very proud to
23 be sponsoring legislation with Speaker Melissa Mark-
24 Viverito, and our Finance Chair Julissa Ferreras-
25 Copeland, and Council Member Ydanis Rodrigen--

2 Rodriguez--Intro 1123-A, which would provide or allow
3 for and require menstrual products to be in our city
4 shelter system, to be available for women who need
5 them. There are tens of thousands of women in--in
6 our city shelter system, and that number is--is--is
7 unconscionable, but it is a reality, and the fact
8 that because of taboos in our society, they don't
9 have access to tampons and pads is--is absolutely un-
10 -unacceptable. And so I really acknowledge and thank
11 our Speaker and our Finance Chair for leading the
12 charge on this. I want to thank my Legislative
13 Director Julie Bero, as well as my former Chief of
14 Staff Rami Metal. I also want to thank my wife Amy
15 Carol (sic) for--for making this an issue. You know,
16 we cannot allow for taboo to--to negatively impact
17 the economic situation of tens of thousands of--of
18 women in New York City. Nobody enters the shelter
19 system by choice. They are facing economic
20 difficulties when they enter the shelter system, and
21 because of taboo, we pretty much at an increased
22 economic advantage as it stands today. And today, in
23 the City Council we are changing that, and we are
24 going to have an impact on the lives of many. And so

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2 I want to close with saying this is what a feminist
3 looks like. I'm proud to be a feminist--

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [interposing] All
5 right.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: --and I'm glad to
7 be here today [applause] voting on this very
8 important legislation. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
10 You're a true feminist. Council Member Salamanca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
12 Madam Public Advocate. I stand today in support of
13 the appointment--

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

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: --of Ms.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
18 [shushing for quiet]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: --of Ms.
20 Rosanna Vargas to represent the Bronx and the New
21 York City Board--

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it
23 down please. Keep it down please.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: --of
25 Elections. As a young bright and passionate Latina

2 professional from our community, I am please that Ms.
3 Vargas will be representing out borough on the City
4 on the Board of the--on our--on the New York City
5 Board of Elections, and she's exactly who the Bronx
6 needs in this position to move our community forward
7 to fair and open elections. Ms. Vargas understands
8 the election process not only as an--as an attorney,
9 but also as someone who has participated in our
10 election process over a period of many years.
11 Secondly, she understands the Bronx, and the
12 challenges we have in our community. She will help
13 bring solutions on to ensure no voter is
14 disenfranchised especially voters of color, young
15 voters and elderly voters. Finally, and maybe most
16 importantly, Ms. Vargas is a person with integrity.
17 Like all of us, I take very seriously the importance
18 of ensuring our Board of Elections are com--are
19 comprised of people of good character and integrity,
20 and I believe undoubtedly that Ms. Vargas will
21 demonstrate immediately that she is the type of
22 commissioner we all can be proud of. With that said,
23 I urge my colleagues to support the appointment of
24 Ms. Rosanna Vargas to represent the Bronx on the New
25 York City Board of elections. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Greenfield.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
5 Public Advocate. I want to congratulate my colleague
6 Council Member Margaret Chin and former Council
7 Member [sneezing]

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 Bless you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --Jessie
11 Lackland (sic) of the Alliance--bless you--for
12 Downtown New York on the upcoming passage today of
13 the Water Street POPS Upgrade Text Amendment. I know
14 that Council Member Chin took significant input from
15 the residents, community boards, advocates,
16 Department of City Planning, EDC, and she worked
17 through all that and the negotiations to reach a
18 compromise between all parties, and I was happy to
19 participate. And as Chair of the Land Use Committee,
20 I also want to thank the Zoning Subcommittee Chair
21 Richards for all his efforts on behalf of this Water
22 Street POPS Text Amendment, and I just wanted to flag
23 for folks that we, in fact, will be having an
24 oversight hearing on POPS, Privately Owned Public
25 Spaces, next Wednesday, June 29th. I invite my

2 colleagues to join and to review legislation that
3 Council Member Ben Kallos and I are introducing today
4 in order to ensure proper oversight of privately
5 owned public spaces. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
7 Garodnick for a vote.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
9 much. I would like to vote aye on all coupled
10 general orders.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 Report of Special Committees.

15 CLERK: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
17 Standing Committees.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
19 Consumer Affairs, Intro 1149-A, Licensing Ticket
20 Sellers.

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

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
24 Finance, Preconsidered LU 420 and Reso 1138 and

2 Preconsidered LU 421 and Reso 1148 on page 3, various
3 applications.

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

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
7 Housing and Buildings, Intro 871-A, Gender Neutral
8 Bathrooms.

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

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
12 Use, LU 361, Water Street Upgrades.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and
14 modifications and referred to the City Planning
15 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of
16 the Council and Section 197.d of the New York City
17 Charter.

18 CLERK: LU--excuse me--LU 378 through LU
19 382 on page 5, various applications.

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

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2 CLERK: LU 383 and Reso 1149, Landmark
3 Designation.

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

6 CLERK: LU 388 and Reso 1150, Tax
7 Exemption.

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

10 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
11 Privileges and Elections, M-411 and Reso 1151
12 approving the appointment of Larry Dais, Civil
13 Service Commission.

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

16 CLERK: M 412 and Reso 1152 approving the
17 appointment of Allen Cappelli, Civil Service
18 Commission.

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

21 CLERK: M 415 and Reso 1153, approving
22 the appointment of Rosanna Vargas Commissioner of
23 Elections.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
25 General Orders.

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
3 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Preconsidered
4 Intro 1223 use of carryout bags.

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

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small
8 Business, Intro 851-B non-residential tenant
9 harassment.

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

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
13 Technology, Intro 868-A, next generation 9/11

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

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
17 Women's Issues, Intro 1122-A, feminine hygiene
18 products for inmates.

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

21 CLERK: Intro 1123-A, provision of
22 feminine hygiene products.

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

25

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2 CLERK: Intro 1128-A, Feminine--Feminine
3 Hygiene products in schools.

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

6 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar LU
7 361 and Reso 1154, Water Street Upgrades.

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

10 CLERK: LU 378 and Reso 1155 through LU
11 382 and Reso 1159, various applications.

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

14 CLERK: Resolution appointing various
15 persons commissioner of deeds.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
17 General Orders, and--and just before--before I forgot
18 to mention earlier--before we go on to voting on
19 these items, I just want to recognize that one of our
20 staffers James Lloyd, who worked in the Land Use
21 Division he--he is in the Armed Forces. He is being
22 deployed. So he will be leaving us shortly. We want
23 to thank him so much for all the work he's done here
24 in the Council. We want to thank him.

25 [cheers/applause]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: So, James, thank
3 you for your work here at the Council. Thank you for
4 your service, and obviously we're wishing you the
5 best. So thank you so much. And at this time--at
6 this time I ask for a roll call on all the items on
7 the Coupled General Order Calendar.

8 CLERK: Barron.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.
13 Earlier this session I voted no on the bag bill, and
14 today we have Preconsidered 1223, which is related to
15 that bag bill. So although--although I voted no on
16 the bag--so-called bag bill, I'm voting yes today on
17 this because I see it as a way to at least postpone
18 the implementation of the bag bill against which I'm
19 still opposed. So I'm voting aye on all.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Borelli.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
23 except 1223 and 871-A.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Chin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

4 CLERK: Cohen.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Constantinides.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on
8 all.

9 CLERK: Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Crowley.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Aye on
13 all.

14 CLERK: Cumbo.

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

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I rarely rise to
19 speak from the floor. [laughter]

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

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down. Keep it
23 down. [background comments]

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
25 quiet] Quiet in the Chambers. Comedy aside.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: It says far too
3 much, but I want to celebrate and congratulate my
4 colleagues Dromm, Garodnick, Cornegy, Eugene, but I
5 especially want to thank our Chair of Finance
6 Ferreras-Copeland. Julissa has done a phenomenal job
7 at raising the visibility of women and issues that we
8 all face, which we have stated so many times, are the
9 issues that all people face. Women are ultimately
10 overworked, underpaid, overtaxed, and so this is
11 going to be a step in the right direction to creating
12 economic equality for women, for creating health
13 equality, and for making it possible for women to be
14 their whole and complete selves wherever they are.
15 No woman particularly in our homeless shelters should
16 have to decide between feminine hygiene products and
17 food or medical things that they may need. So this
18 is really a very critical day. I thank you so much
19 for your incredible work and I simply could not sit
20 down on this particular vote. So, it was an honor to
21 hold those incredible hearings, and to have so many
22 testimonies from so many dynamic leaders,
23 particularly men who recognize the importance of this
24 package of legislation. I proudly vote aye on all.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Deutsch.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Chair
9 Ferreras-Copeland for passing on the feminine hygiene
10 bill that we're voting on today. I vote aye on all
11 except Intro 1223--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
13 Thank you.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --on which I
15 vote no.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: Dromm.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: With gratitude to
19 my Legislative Director Sebastian McGuire, I vote aye
20 on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Espinal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Well,
24 congratulations, Julissa Ferreras-Copeland because I
25

2 know it's expensive being a woman in this city, I
3 vote aye.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Eugene.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: My I explain my
7 vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I just want one
10 more time to thank Madam Speaker--

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
12 [shushing for quiet]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: --and also the
14 chairman of the Cultural Affairs and all my
15 colleagues, and I want to thank also my staff for
16 their wonderful jobs, and I want to thank the
17 Honorable Ambassador to the U.N., the Honorable
18 Denis. Thank you, and I want to mention also we have
19 been joined by the new Haitian Counsel Mr. Peter
20 Elder Bernard. Thank you, sir. Thank you for your
21 presence. We have been joined also by one of the
22 media attorneys from the Haitian community, James
23 Debrosse. (sic) Thank you, and I want to thank also
24 all my Haitian brothers and sisters who are in the
25

2 balcony for coming. [Speaking Foreign Language]
3 [applause]

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

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: And with that--
7 with that I vote aye on all. Thank you very much.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: With
11 permission to explain my vote.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank
14 you. Again, thank you to all my colleagues for this
15 historic day. I also want to thank the advocates
16 that helped me put this package of legislation
17 together, Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, Congresswoman Grace
18 Mang, Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, the Food Bank of
19 NYC, New York Public Interest Lawyers, Legal Aid
20 Society, Planned Parenthood NYC, Care for the
21 Homeless, the National Institute for Reproductive
22 Health, Nancy Kramer, and John Marbeck from Halseco
23 (sp?) who provided the first free products in our--

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

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: --in
3 our pilot program, and again thank you to all my
4 colleagues for this, and I vote aye.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Gentile.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Gibson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
13 much, Madam Public Advocate, and I, too, want to
14 joint the sentiments in congratulating all of our
15 colleagues for passing legislation today, Council
16 Member Cornegy, Dromm, Ferreras-Copeland, Garodnick,
17 Cumbo, Chin and others. Thank you for the work
18 you're doing. Thank you to Council Member Julissa-
19 Ferreras Copeland for providing more feminine
20 products and hygiene to many of our women and young
21 girls across the city. I especially want to thank
22 Council Member Laurie Cumbo for her leadership on the
23 Text to 911 bill. We had a lot of meetings, and a
24 lot of visits to the 911 Call Center, and I
25 appreciate the input that Local 1549 of DC37 has

2 provided to thousands of 911 call takers that we want
3 to make sure are up to date with technology and they
4 are embracing the 21st Century. I'm proud of this
5 legislation, and I know that we are the largest city
6 that will ultimately implement Text to 911. So I
7 want to thank you, Council Member Cumbo and Council
8 Member Levine for your work for your leadership and
9 thank you to Chair, Council Member Vacca for your
10 leadership as well. In addition, I want to thank
11 Chair Brad Lander and the Rules Committee for the
12 hearing that was held last week--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
14 [shushing for quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --on the
16 nomination--

17 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --of Rosanna
19 Vargas as Commissioner for the New York City Board of
20 Elections. I want to thank you, Chair Lander, and
21 Chair Kallos and others for your questions and
22 certainly for a lot of the work that you done. I'm
23 very proud of Rosanna Vargas as a candidate, and I
24 thank you for allowing that to move forward through
25 the Rules Committee, and with that Madam Public

2 Advocate, I vote aye on all with my warmest
3 congratulations to all of my colleagues.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Greenfield.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you,
7 Public Advocate. May I explain my vote?

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, sir.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you
10 very much. I want to congratulate all of my
11 colleagues for some terrific legislation today. I
12 vote no on 1223, aye on all the other legislation. I
13 also want to tip my hat to James Lloyd, an
14 outstanding staff member at the Land Use Division. I
15 want to wish him good luck wherever the Navy sends
16 him. I look forward to seeing him come back safe and
17 sound, and I especially want to thank him for his
18 outstanding contributions to the legislation that we
19 crafted on Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning
20 for Quality Affordability. And also encourage you to
21 read his most recent product, which was released a
22 few weeks ago, which is a study on the Landmarks Law
23 retrospective on the past 50 years. I'm looking
24 forward on many suggestions, and ideas that we've
25 already implemented and will implement on landmarks

2 legislation as well. So I want to thank him once
3 again, and wish folks an enjoyable first half of the
4 summer. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Grodenchik.

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

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I rise today
11 to explain my opposition to Intro 1223, which would
12 authorize a four-month delay in the implementation of
13 the fee for plastic and paper bags, a fee more
14 commonly referred to as the bag tax. While I
15 appreciate any delay in imposing the saliency of
16 mandate, I simply cannot vote for a measure that
17 allows for the bag tax to be put in place when it
18 should be rejected outright, a bad idea last month is
19 still a bad idea this month. In nearly 30 years
20 around in our great city, I have rarely seen an
21 issues that has served the proverbial pot as this tax
22 does. Since this measure was first proposed, I have
23 heard from many local residents who have serious
24 concerns about the cost it imposes and the financial
25 burden it will impose on seniors and low to middle-

2 income households. At a time when many people are
3 struggling to put food on their table, it makes no
4 sense to add additional costs, and to make that
5 struggle even harder. While I agree with the
6 principle that we as a city have to devise better
7 ways to protect our environment, I do not believe
8 that instituting a regressive tax on people who are
9 already struggling is the best way to achieve our
10 goals. We can and must do better. The true cost of
11 this effort to cut down on waste will be measured in
12 hundreds of millions, possibly even billions of
13 dollars when all is said and done with a single
14 nickel going to fund any programs in this city. If
15 we want to save our taxpayers money, we can find ways
16 to do so without picking the pockets of the people we
17 are elected to represent. As I said in my remarks
18 when we voted on the original legislation, these fees
19 will poke holes in our wallets while making it
20 Christmas and Hanukah each and everyday for the
21 merchants in this city. Along with my no vote on
22 this legislation, I urge the Council to move to
23 withdraw the bag tax in its entirety, and find better
24 ways to recycle bags that so many New Yorkers use
25 each and every day. With that, I vote no on Intro

2 1223 and aye on all the rest, and I want to
3 congratulate Julissa Ferreras on her package of bills
4 today. It is long overdue and congratulations Madam
5 Finance Chair. Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Johnson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Kallos.

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

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Today, I vote aye
14 no behalf of all the small businesses and women in my
15 district, in my life and in our city.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

17 CLERK: King.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Koo.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all and
21 congratulations to all the sponsors of the bills
22 passed today, and also want to wish James Lloyd of
23 the Land Use Division good luck on his new endeavor.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 CLERK: Lancman.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: I vote aye on
3 all except Intro 1223, which I vote no.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
7 permission to explain my vote.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam
10 Public Advocate. The plastic bag is getting a short
11 4-1/2 month reprieve, but its days of littering our
12 city are coming to an end. I want to thank my
13 colleagues who are voting no on Intro 1223 for
14 expressing the belief that we should, in fact, be
15 implementing the bill on October 1st, which is what
16 would happen if this bill fails. So I thank you for
17 your belief, that confidence in New Yorkers that they
18 can bring reusable bags, and they could do it
19 starting in October. Nonetheless, I want to thank
20 the Speaker. I believe the 4-1/2 month delay is
21 smart policy. It prevented this legislation from
22 being nullified in the dark of night at the end of
23 the session--

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

25 [shushing for quiet]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: --in Albany. It
3 gives us 4-1/2 additional months to work effectively
4 to strengthen implementation to conduct additional
5 outreach to make sure everybody that needs it has
6 reusable bags, and I look forward to see this bill
7 become implemented on February 15th, watching New
8 Yorkers switch to reusable bags and reducing the
9 91,000 tons of plastic bag waste that New Yorkers
10 send to landfills each year. I want to thank my
11 Bronx colleagues for working with us on the
12 nomination of Rosanna Vargas to the New York City
13 Board of Elections as she is a good candidate and I
14 appreciate. That together we were able to resolve
15 the issue and continue to uphold the standard that
16 this has had under the Speaker's leadership of making
17 sure that the people we appoint to boards and
18 commissions commit not to lobby during their tenure
19 on those boards and commissions. And finally,
20 congrats to all my colleagues and especially to
21 Council Members Dromm and especially Ferreras-
22 Copeland. We have come a long way from the day in
23 which that door in the back left corner of this
24 chamber led directly from the Council Floor into the
25 men's room. This was a men's club, a white men's

2 club for many, many, many decades really for
3 centuries. In fact, that in this very chamber we are
4 moving forward on feminine hy--feminine hygiene
5 products, pushing forward on transgender rights, and
6 I guess also with Council Member Eugene's resolution
7 on Haitian Day really embracing the diversity of this
8 great city. And I am proud to be a member of a body
9 where that door leads some place very different. I
10 vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Levin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Levine.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: With congrats to
16 all of our the sponsors of this wonderful package of
17 legislation, I vote aye on all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 [shushing for quiet]

20 CLERK: Maisel.

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

23 CLERK: Menchaca.

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

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I also want to
4 echo my--my congratulations to all members with
5 legislation packages today--

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

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: --specifically
9 gender neutral single occupant bathrooms, and our
10 feminine hygiene package of legislation. This is
11 what happens when people are representing our
12 communities in our legislative bodies, and so I just
13 want to give a shout out to Julissa Ferreras-
14 Copeland, Council Member and Council Member Dromm for
15 leading the way in representing our--our community,
16 and --and for anyone out there listening and watching
17 this happen, you can be here to doing the good work
18 as we continue to make this Council a very diverse
19 Council. Thank you and congratulations to everybody.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 CLERK: Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I'd like to vote
23 aye, and I'd like to explain who is sitting next to
24 me.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
3 Public Advocate. My colleagues, today, I have
4 Maureen Goodall, who was my middle-school teacher--

5 ALFONSO JENKINS: [interposing] [shushing
6 for quiet]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: --and she was the
8 first adult that I came out to, and she just retired
9 after 39 years as a public school teacher, but--
10 [cheers/applause]--she's also a feminist, and when we
11 were kids in middle-school, she used to let us come
12 in early into a classroom and read her Ms. Magazine,
13 and developed a--helped us develop a political
14 consciousness. I remember having a conversation
15 where she was telling us why the--the pardon of the
16 Vietnam draft dodgers were important. That happened
17 in her classroom before school hours. So thank you
18 for everything, and when I came out I knew I would
19 have one supportive adult and she was--has always
20 been there for me. Thank you.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
22 [applause]

23 CLERK: Miller.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on
25 all.

2 CLERK: Palma.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: No on 1223, aye on
4 all the rest.

5 ALFONSO JENKINS: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Reynoso.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote on all
8 and stuff I said to my neighbors and explained it
9 all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Richards.

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

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just want to
16 congratulate Council Member Chin, and my colleague
17 Land Use David Greenfield--

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
19 quiet]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: --for all their
21 hard work on the POPS. Congratulations. You did not
22 sacrifice oversight for your community and you ought
23 to be commended for that. I also just want to say
24 thank you to James for always being an officer and a
25 gentleman on the Land Use Committee. He's done such

2 a marvelous job. Always a pleasant voice and a
3 pleasant face. Very early on subcommittee morning
4 days greeting us and--and welcoming us and making
5 sure that everything is on point. So we really thank
6 you for your hard work here at the Council and wish
7 you God speed. With that, I vote aye on all.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Rose.

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

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I--I want to thank
14 James Lloyd for all of the help that he's given to--
15 given to me with my pending affordable housing and
16 rezoning of the Bay Street Corridor, and I wish him
17 God Speed in all of his endeavors on behalf of all of
18 us, and the United States Navy. And I want to thank
19 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland for removing the stigma of
20 the Tampon, with that, I want to vote aye on all
21 except for Preconsidered Intro 1223. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Salamanca.

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

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,
4 Madam Public Advocate. Today, I will be voting yes
5 on Intro 1223--

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

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: --to postpone
9 the effective date of the bag tax. While I voted no
10 on the actual legislation to implement the bag tax
11 due to a number of real concerns I received from
12 across my council district, postponing this local law
13 will allow for the New York State Assembly to
14 continue to listen to concerns and find better
15 solutions that I hope will lead to them eventually
16 overriding this legislation. As I said before,
17 while--while I do not believe that we need to find
18 creative ways--while--while I do believe that we need
19 to find creative ways to alleviate the effects the
20 plastic bags have on our environment, the solution
21 does not fall in requiring our constituents to pay a
22 fee to utilize the convenience of a bag regardless of
23 how small that fee is. I'm grateful that our State
24 Assembly is taking a strong look at this issue, and
25 more specifically I'm thankful that Assembly Speaker

2 Carl Heastie, and our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito
3 have taken the lead to call for a postponement so we
4 can all work towards the best solution possible in a
5 thorough and thoughtful manner. With that, I vote
6 aye on all.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Torres.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Treyger.

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

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So while I again
16 commend my colleagues Council Member Chin and Lander
17 for--for their very noble goal to reduce plastic
18 bags, my issue with the bill was never about the
19 timing of its implementation. My issue with the bill
20 is that I believe that we need a more progressive
21 solution, a more equitable solution that actually
22 will phase out plastic bags--based bags, and build
23 new industries here in New York that will manufacture
24 the 21st Century bags that we see are being made
25 across the country in California and--and elsewhere.

2 So until then I believe that we still have in--
3 inequities in the City right now where Whole Foods
4 will give people five cents if they bring in their
5 own bag, and we don't have a Whole Foods in every
6 part of New York. So I'm going to vote no on Intro
7 1223, and I will also commend my colleague Chair
8 Ferreras who--for her fierce--fierce dedication to
9 this issue, and I think that her--her package of
10 legislation demonstrates the impact--the positive
11 impact, great impact of women in leadership roles,
12 and we appreciate your leadership on this. Thank
13 you. I vote aye on the rest except for Intro 1223.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Ulrich.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you, Madam
17 Public Advocate. I ask for unanimous consent to vote
18 on Land Use items.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on
21 Land Use items and on the General Order Calendar I
22 vote aye on all with the exception of Preconsidered
23 Reso 1223.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

2 CLERK: Vacca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: May I explain my
4 vote.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Okay, I have to
7 tell--

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

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: --I have to tell
11 you something. On 1223, I'm going to vote no because
12 if you vote yes, you extend the fee for October 15th,
13 but I'm against the fee to begin with. So I'm going
14 to vote no, but I understand the members who are
15 voting both ways on this issue. [laughter/applause]

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
17 [shushing for quiet]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I have to say that
19 to be nice, but, you know, I--I really don't
20 understand them sometimes, but I will say that this
21 big fee is something that people on limited income
22 need whether it's now, whether it's October 15th,
23 it's outrageous. I want to thank the Speaker Carl
24 Heastie. I want to thank Senator Simcha Felder, who--
25 my former colleague who really brought this issue to

2 light in Albany. I want to thank our Speaker for at
3 least getting the extension. What happens between
4 now and October 15th? We don't know, and since I
5 don't know, I'm voting no on the whole thing. Thank
6 you.

7 CLERK: Vallone.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all and
9 God Speed, James. We'll be praying for your swift
10 and speedy recovery and back to us.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 CLERK: Williams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to
14 thank--Could I be excused to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very
17 much. I just wanted to congratulate all of my
18 colleagues in particular Council Member Dromm for his
19 bill with the transgender--the transgender baths--
20 unisex bathrooms for everyone. It's very important
21 particularly in this day and age, and particularly
22 with what's going on that we move forward and--and
23 again, New York City is--is showing the way and
24 showing the light. So congratulations and, of
25 course, to Council Member Julissa Ferreras. I am a

2 man so I don't know if I'm as comfortable yet as I
3 should be, but I think it's fantastic. What should I
4 say? What's the word. Menstrual equity. I said it.
5 [laughter] But it's fantastic that you brought it to
6 the forefront, and so I want to say congratulations
7 on that, and to the Haitian mass in the house--the
8 Haitian mass. I want to say [speaking foreign
9 language] Thank you and I vote aye on all.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 1223, no on
13 871-A, yes on the rest.

14 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Aye on
16 all. (sic)

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I
18 urge everyone to sign onto Reso No. 1136 calling upon
19 the New York State Legislature to pass and the
20 Governor to sign Senate 6379 prohibiting individuals
21 on the Federal Terror Watch List from obtaining and
22 possessing firearms. Without this type of
23 legislation, we cannot prevent suspected terrorists
24 from obtaining guns, and for this reason I urge all
25 of my colleagues to join me by signing onto this

2 resolution. All items on today' General Order
3 Calendar were adopted by a vote of 49 in the
4 affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with the
5 exception of Intro 1223, which was adopted by a vote
6 of 38 in the affirmative, 11 negative and 0
7 abstentions, and Intro 871-A, which was adopted by a
8 vote of 47 in the affirmative, 2 negative and 0
9 abstentions. That's it. Introduction and Reading of
10 Bills. [pause]

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Oh, yeah, all
12 bills are referred to the committee as indicated on
13 the Agenda.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay, thank you.
15 Now, we will begin a discussion of resolutions
16 beginning with Resolution 664-A, an amended
17 resolution calling upon the United States Congress
18 and the New York State Legislature to pass and the
19 President of the United States and Governor of the
20 State of New York to sign legislation to establish
21 October 9th, annually as Haitian Day in recognition
22 of the historic contributions of Haitians to the
23 United States of America. In addition, Resolution
24 687-A, an amended reso--resolution establishing
25 October 9th annually as New York City--City Haitian

2 Day in recognition of the historic contributions of
3 the Haitian Diaspora to the City of New York. And
4 Resolution 1012-A, an amended resolution
5 acknowledging the passage by the New York State
6 Legislature and calling upon the Governor to sign
7 legislation that amends the tax law to exempt
8 feminine hygiene products from all state and local
9 sales taxes. Seeing any speakers? Seeing non, all
10 of those in favor say aye.

11 COUNCIL MEMBERS: (in unison) Aye.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
13 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it. And now
14 general discussion beginning with Council Member
15 Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: P.S. 233 the
17 Langston Hughes School. It's a wonderful effective
18 school located in my district. Under the leadership
19 of its Principal Ms. Spellman, the Langston Hughes
20 School is flourishing.

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Teachers have
24 dedicated themselves to improving their students'--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 Council Member, excuse me. We are still in session.
4 Please exit the Chambers quietly. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: I apologize.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Under
8 the leadership of Principal Spellman, the school is
9 flourishing. Teachers have dedicated themselves to
10 improving their students' academic performance, and
11 expanding their artistic and athletic exposure.
12 Teachers have written proposals that receive grants
13 for a music program where students learn to play
14 instruments for a full operating video recording
15 studio, and for a full functioning library, and for
16 indoor gardens written by teachers and funded, and
17 they also have an after school dance program. All of
18 this is threatened by the proposed co-location of the
19 charter school to be voted on at the PEP tomorrow.
20 233 has a large special needs population. The staff
21 has used classroom space to enrich, instruct and
22 counsel students so that they are in a secure
23 environment. PS 233 will lose all of its video
24 studio on the fourth floor, its library on the fourth
25 floor and the counseling rooms on the fourth floor

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2 with this co-location. So we are opposed to it. It's
3 been vehemently opposed during the time that there's
4 been discussion, and they're calling on the PEP to
5 postpone any co-locations. Secondly, once again
6 Brooklyn, DA Ken Thompson and Judge Chong (sic) have
7 teamed up to deliver another favorite reminder of the
8 miscarriage of justice done to Akai Gurley. They
9 have sentenced a teenager to 19 years to life for a
10 setting a mattress on fire, which unintentionally led
11 to the death of Police Officer Gara. We're seeing
12 that even with a Black DA and Asian Judge, two
13 different rules and interpretations are being applied
14 when it comes to Black lives. DA Thompson
15 recommended 18 years and Judge Chong opted to 19
16 years even though the widows of that--the widow--the
17 officer's widow called for leniency and quote, "Help
18 that he needs."

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
20 could you please--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I need a few
22 seconds because I got distracted when I--

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, thank you
25 Madam Public Advocate.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: You're welcome.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Even though
4 recent psychological data shows that the brain is not
5 the--the male brain is not fully developed until age
6 23. So we're saying that Officer Liang deliberately
7 unholstered his gun, knowingly placed his finger on
8 the trigger and recklessly took the life of Akai
9 Gurley, and we're not seeing an equal administration
10 of justice when we're looking at a trained officer as
11 opposed to a developing teenager. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
13 Council Member King.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Good afternoon,
15 everyone. Today, I rise to ask you for your support
16 in being a co-signer of Intro 1221, which will
17 address an amend the Administrative Code of the City
18 of New York in relationship to raising the minimum
19 age to become a firefighter. Today that number is 29
20 years of age, but we know 29 years of age doesn't
21 necessarily make you the greatest person to be a
22 firefighter. But we want to make sure that they
23 raise the age to at least 36 of age because of the
24 way the process rolls out, if you are not able to
25 apply by the age of 29, you are discriminated and

2 aged out of being able to apply to be a firefighter.
3 As we promoted diversity in the city of New York, we
4 need to allow people to be able to apply for a job
5 based on their ability to do their job not because of
6 their age. We have today a better healthcare system.
7 People are healthier, they're living a lot
8 differently and living a lot better than the 40s and
9 50s and 60s and yes we have 35-year-olds and some 40-
10 year-olds that are in better shape than some 22-year-
11 olds. So this is what this law is looking to do.
12 I'm asking for your support and help as we improve
13 diversity in the Fire Department by giving everybody
14 total access to protect and--and serve New York City.
15 So with that being said, I'm thank you and looking
16 for all your support on Intro 1221. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 Council Member Gentile.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Today, I join my
20 colleagues Jumaane Williams, and Barry Grodenchik
21 along with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams in
22 introducing a groundbreaking important piece of
23 legislation. It's legislation that not only protect
24 the neighborhoods, but also protects the people who
25 are often in danger when living in substandard,

2 subdivided illegal units that are small and have
3 shoddy construction. One such structure caused a
4 death and 16 injuries in Council Member Williams'
5 district, and we're calling this bill Intro 1281, the
6 Aggravated Illegal Conversions Bill. In short, this
7 bill will deter the building of these illegal
8 subdivided units, which are built for maximum profit
9 in every inch of the building. It would do so by
10 fining any structure with three or more illegal
11 subdivisions \$15,000 for each units. These fines
12 upon judgment by the ECB become a lien against the
13 property and if unpaid for one year, the debt can be
14 subject to a lien sale. In addition, if the DOB
15 Commissioner determines that the residents of the
16 building are--are unsafe or in danger in--in some
17 way, the Commissioner has the option to issue a
18 vacate order in conjunction with HPD. And if entry
19 to suspected premises is an issue, then this bill
20 will give you the inspectors, the tools needed to
21 request accesswise. All in all these measures serve
22 as strong deterrents in a first instance and if
23 needed a strong enforcement tool against bad actors.
24 It will send a message that substandard housing is
25 not affordable housing. New York City maybe called

2 the Big Apple, but we declared today with this bill
3 that we will not tolerate bad apples. Please review
4 and sign onto Intro 1218. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
6 Council Member Cumbo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [off mic] Thank
8 you. I rise to [on mic] talk about an initiative
9 that began called Art of the Catalyst for Change.
10 This particular initiative was created in order to
11 channel young people's talents and energies to create
12 a movement against gun violence. And that
13 initiatives has culminated into a--an event that's
14 going to happen this Friday at Albee's Square Mall
15 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. along with DJ Ralph McDaniels
16 as well as Big Daddy Kane. They will becoming
17 together with the hip-hop community, and all of the
18 18 different schools that have participated
19 throughout the 51 districts to create a movement
20 against gun violence. So I strongly encourage all of
21 my colleagues to attend. Please support our young
22 people who have created dance routines, have created
23 symphonies, have created theatrical play, have done
24 amazing art to end gun violence in our community and
25 they are just eager for your support and your

2 attention. Again, it's Friday, June 24th from 3:00
3 to 8:00 p.m. at Albee Square Mall in Brooklyn, New
4 York. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Old school Big
6 Daddy Kane. Council Member Steven Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
8 much, Madam Public Advocate. I just want to also
9 acknowledge our Land Use staff member James Lloyd and
10 he embarks on active duty in the U.S. Navy and I wish
11 well and a safe return. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And lastly,
13 Council Member Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
15 first. I just wanted to wish everyone a happy
16 Caribbean Heritage Month, the Gay and Lesbian Pride
17 Month. On the 28th we'll having Caribbean Heritage
18 Month here at the Council. We hope to see you at
19 5:30 on the 28th. Yesterday, the Senate rejected two
20 background proposals. I'm very, very disappointed in
21 that decision. I just would like to say just for
22 myself my--my hope that--and sorry to say that it's
23 usually Republicans that are pushing back--that they
24 no longer send their condolences and prayers.
25 They're hollow. They don't mean anything. They had

2 the ability to make a change, and they refused to.
3 They continue to do the NRA's double work in
4 continuing to allow this gun violence unabated. I'm
5 also introducing two bills, Intro 1226, 311 data and
6 video submission bill and Intro 1218 an aggravated
7 legal conversion bill with Council Member Vinny
8 Gentile, Council Member Grodenchik--Grodenchik. He
9 spoke about the bill. I'm hoping everyone will sign
10 on. The 311 data and video submission bill allows
11 photographs to be submitted through 311 online for
12 Department of Buildings and HPD complaints such as
13 tenant harassment, and to require a notice on city
14 website where relevant. The video photos can be
15 submitted for complaints including harassment. I
16 really think this would help tenants who need a real
17 time display of what the problems are. Sometimes
18 when inspectors get there, the--the level has changed
19 what they were complaining about. And in closing I
20 just want to thank Brooklyn Borough President--
21 Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Council
22 Members Gentile and Grodenchik for their work on the
23 conversion bill. Just to note, it was specifically
24 written not to include basement apartments. I know a
25 lot of people are concerned about that. It is--it

2 starts with three illegal converted units or more.
3 So we're not trying to go after them or someone who
4 has a basement apartment. I also want to thank all
5 of my interns for their past semester. It was a
6 pleasure working with them, and I hope they all go
7 forward and do amazing things. Amu Conte, Miguel
8 Santo, Aretha Cross, Vanessa Ajabite (sp?), John
9 Debanjah, Alexander Burger [bell] Tamar Natale, and I
10 apologize because I'm sure I butchered a couple of
11 their names. But congratulations. I know some of
12 them are in the--are with us today. Thank you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And the very last
14 Council Member Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very
16 much. I almost forgot. Tonight at 5:30 the
17 Department of Education will be holding their first
18 ever LGBT Pride celebration. This is a huge
19 accomplishment, and a huge move forward for LGBT
20 teachers, students and--and staff members, and
21 anybody who wants to come is invited to come. 5:30
22 at Tweed. Thank you.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And let's march
24 this Sunday with Pride in Progress and now to close
25 our Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: No, I just hope
3 everyone again--than you all for--for the work that
4 we've done today. A lot of good bills that we're
5 adopting and also just please let's all get together
6 and--and march on Sunday at the Gay Pride. I think
7 it's very important that we send a very strong united
8 message, and have a great one everyone. Thank you.

9 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date July 8, 2016