

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL

----- X

16 June, 2022
Start: 2:38 p.m.
Recess: 4:27 p.m.

HELD AT: Hybrid Hearing, Council Chambers

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farias
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah Hanks

Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

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

2 Recording in in progress.

3 SERGEANT LUGO: Recording has started. Good
4 afternoon everyone. Welcome to today's hybrid New
5 York City Council stated meeting.

6 At this time all panelists please turn on your
7 videos. To minimize disruption, please place
8 electronic devices to vibrate or silent. Thank you
9 for your cooperation. We are ready to begin

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen, can I
11 have your attention please at this time please place
12 all electronic devices, all electronic devices to
13 vibrate. Quiet on the floor please. Quiet on the
14 floor. Mr. Majority Leader

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Good afternoon and
16 welcome to the stated meeting of June 6 June 16 2022.
17 Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd like to thank
18 everyone here for joining us today. If you'd like to
19 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
20 posted on the City Council website.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please join us for the Pledge
22 of Allegiance.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you please call
25 the roll call.

2 COUNSEL: Abreu?

3 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Present.

4 COUNSEL: Ariola?

5 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

6 COUNSEL: Avilés?

7 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

8 COUNSEL: Ayala?

9 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Here.

10 COUNSEL: Barron?

11 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Black Panther is here with
12 two Gray Panthers next to me, but I'm here.

13 [Laughter]

14 COUNSEL: Noted. Bottcher?

15 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here.

16 COUNSEL: Brannan?

17 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

18 COUNSEL: Brewer?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Here. What about me?

20 [Laughter]

21 COUNSEL: Brooks-Powers?

22 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

23 COUNSEL: Cabán?

24 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Present.

25 COUNSEL: Carr?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Present.

3 COUNSEL: De La Rosa?

4 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

5 COUNSEL: Dinowitz?

6 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Present

7 COUNSEL: Farias?

8 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: Present.

9 COUNSEL: Feliz?

10 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Presente.

11 COUNSEL: Gennaro?

12 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Here.

13 COUNSEL: Gutiérrez?

14 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.

15 COUNSEL: Hanif?

16 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Here.

17 COUNSEL: Hanks?

18 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Present.

19 COUNSEL: Holden?

20 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

21 COUNSEL: Hudson?

22 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Here.

23 COUNSEL: Joseph?

24 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Here.

25 COUNSEL: Kagan?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: Present.

3 COUNSEL: Krishnan?

4 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

5 COUNSEL: Lee?

6 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Here.

7 COUNSEL: Louis?

8 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Present.

9 COUNSEL: Marte?

10 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: Present.

11 COUNSEL: Mealy?

12 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: Present.

13 COUNSEL: Menin?

14 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Present.

15 COUNSEL: Moya?

16 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: Present.

17 COUNSEL: Narcisse?

18 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

19 COUNSEL: Nurse?

20 COUNSEL: Ossé?

21 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Present.

22 COUNSEL: Paladino?

23 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: Present.

24 COUNSEL: Restler?

25 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Here.

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2 COUNSEL: Richardson Jordan?

3 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Present.

4 COUNSEL: Riley?

5 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Present.

6 COUNSEL: Rivera?

7 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: Present.

8 COUNSEL: Salamanca?

9 COUNCILMEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

10 COUNSEL: Sanchez?

11 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

12 COUNSEL: Schulman?

13 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

14 COUNSEL: Stevens?

15 COUNCILMEMBER Stevens: Here.

16 COUNSEL: Ung?

17 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Present.

18 COUNSEL: Velázquez?

19 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present.

20 COUNSEL: Vernikov?

21 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.

22 COUNSEL: Williams?

23 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

24 COUNSEL: Won?

25 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Present.

2 COUNSEL: Yeger?

3 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Here.

4 COUNSEL: Borelli?

5 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: Here.

6 COUNSEL: Majority Leader Powers?

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here:

8 COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present.

10 COUNSEL: Majority Leader we have a quorum.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
12 have today's invocation which will be delivered by
13 Pastor Tiffany Triplett Henkel, the Executive
14 Director of Metro Baptist Church, which is located at
15 410 West 14th Street in Manhattan. Welcome.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

17 PASTOR HENKEL: Divine Light and Weaver of
18 justice. We give thanks for this day, for this
19 session, and for the gift of serving and advocating
20 for others. Remind us all of our kinship with one
21 another, and with all of nature, so that we might
22 live, work, govern, and engage in a spirit of
23 abundance rather than scarcity, so that all may have
24 enough and know that they are enough. I give thanks
25 for these Council members and staff, and for the

2 unique and important skills, and perspectives that
3 they bring to this body, and thus to our city. Renew
4 them in mind, body and spirit. Give them boldness to
5 perform their duties with integrity. Grant them
6 discernment when righteousness is ambiguous, and
7 decisions are complex. Grant them courage when
8 virtue is risky, and truth is unpopular. And
9 finally, may they find joy, and fulfillment in
10 uplifting the most vulnerable in our myths, remind
11 each of us of the ways we hold power in systems. And
12 let us engage that power to reverse the tide of
13 oppression. We recognize in this great city that
14 there is a great divide and disparity between the
15 haves and the have nots. And remind us how much that
16 that grieves you, and remind us that it does not have
17 to be. Let us remember that none of us are whole
18 unless all of us are whole. And let us get to the
19 work of wholeness. And during this month of pride
20 may we give thanks for the beautiful diversity of
21 humanity and all creation. Let us rejoice that we
22 live in a city that celebrates individuality and
23 uniqueness of identity. Knowing that with each
24 unique expression, we are granted a more holistic
25 view of the Divine. And may we continue to work for

2 equality, dignity, and access for all. Spirit of
3 Wisdom guide these coming moments in this chamber.
4 May compassion, truth and justice ever be our guide.
5 Amen.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Thanks for
7 being here today. I'm going to call on Councilmember
8 Erik Bottcher to spread the invocation on the record

9 CHAIRPERSON BOTTCHER: Thank you Majority Leader
10 powers and thank you Reverend Henkel for that
11 beautiful invocation. Reverend Tiffany Triplett
12 Henkel is the pastor of Metro Baptist Church, and
13 executive director of Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries
14 in Hell's Kitchen, where she has been a resident and
15 community leader for the past 17 years. At Metro
16 Baptist, Reverend Henkel helps operate a renowned
17 Food Pantry that's partially supplied by an
18 incredible urban farm on the rooftop of the church.
19 Her spouse is a small business owner in Hell's
20 Kitchen and they're the parents of two children. In
21 New York City Public Schools, Hudson River Middle
22 School and Midtown West. I make a motion for
23 unanimous consent to spread the invocation in full
24 upon the record.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Councilmember
3 Bottcher. We will now have the adoption of the
4 minutes by Minority Leader Joe Borelli.

5 MINORITY LEADER JOE BORELLI: Thank you I move
6 that the minutes of the stated meeting of May 19,
7 2022 to be adopted as printed.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you minority
9 leader. We now have messages and papers from the
10 mayor.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: M75 and 76 City Planning
12 Commission appointments.

13 COUNSEL: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: M77 Board of Standards and
15 Appeals Appointment.

16 COUNSEL: Rules, Privileges, and Elections.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communication from city,
18 county, and borough offices.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
21 communications.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: None

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land use call ups.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: M78, DeLurio, 806 Ninth
25 Avenue.

2 COUNSEL: Coupled on call up vote. I would now
3 ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on today's
4 land use call up.

5 CLERK: Abreu?

6 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Aye.

7 CLERK: Ariola?

8 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

9 CLERK: Avilés?

10 CLERK: Ayala?

11 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Barron?

13 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Aye.

14 CLERK: Bottcher?

15 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

16 CLERK: Brannan?

17 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

18 CLERK: Brewer?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Yes.

20 CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

21 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Cabán?

23 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Carr?

25 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Aye.

2 CLERK: De La Rosa?

3 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

4 CLERK: Dinowitz?

5 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Yes.

6 CLERK: Farias?

7 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye..

8 CLERK: Feliz?

9 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

10 CLERK: Gennaro?

11 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

13 CLERK: Hanif?

14 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye.

15 CLERK: Hanks?

16 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Aye.

17 CLERK: Holden?

18 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Hudson?

20 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

21 CLERK: Joseph?

22 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

23 CLERK: Kagan?

24 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: Aye.

25 CLERK: Krishnan?

2 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

3 CLERK: Lee?

4 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

5 CLERK: Louis?

6 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Marte?

8 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: Aye.

9 CLERK: Mealy?

10 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: Aye.

11 CLERK: Menin?

12 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Aye.

13 CLERK: Moya?

14 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: Permission to vote on all

15 land-use call-ups and general orders?

16 CLERK: Go ahead.

17 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

19 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

20 CLERK: Nurse?

21 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Aye.

22 CLERK: Ossé?

23 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Aye.

24 CLERK: Paladino?

25 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

2 CLERK: Restler?

3 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

4 CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

5 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye.

6 CLERK: Riley?

7 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rivera?

9 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: I would like to vote aye
10 on all land use callups and request unanimous consent
11 to also vote aye on all coupled general orders and
12 resolutions.

13 CLERK: Got it. Thank you. Salamanca?

14 COUNCILMEMBER SALAMANCA: I would like to vote
15 aye on all callups and with permission, I would like
16 to vote on all copuled items on the general order
17 calendar and all resolutions. I vote aye on all,
18 thank you.

19 CLERK: Sanchez?

20 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

21 CLERK: Schulman?

22 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Stevens?

24 COUNCILMEMBER Stevens: Aye.

25 CLERK: Ung?

2 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Aye.

3 CLERK: Velázquez?

4 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye.

5 CLERK: Vernikov?

6 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye.

7 CLERK: Williams?

8 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

9 CLERK: Won?

10 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Aye.

11 CLERK: Yeger?

12 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Aye.

13 CLERK: Avilés?

14 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

15 CLERK: Gennaro?

16 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

17 CLERK: Borelli?

18 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

19 CLERK: Powers?

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Aye:

21 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Today's landuse call ups
24 are adopted by a vote of 51 in the affirmative and

25

2 zero in the negative. We will now have
3 communications from Speaker Adrienne Adams.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Good afternoon, everyone. As a
5 reminder, masks are encouraged to be worn throughout
6 the state of meeting in Council chambers and let's
7 continue to take the necessary precautions to stay
8 safe. Today, we're voting on several legislative
9 land use and finance items. Before I begin, I want
10 to thank each and every one of you for your hard
11 work. And the countless hours spent on negotiating
12 and deliberating on our budget. This is our first
13 budget as a new city Council. And it was not always
14 easy. But we are making major investments for New
15 Yorkers and our collective recovery from the
16 pandemic. I've said before that the Council's work
17 on the budget does not end here. Because there was
18 more work to do to ensure our communities have the
19 increased investments they need and deserve to become
20 safer, healthier and stronger. And I am deeply
21 appreciative of you and our entire staff for
22 delivering this historic budget.

23 And yet we surely know there is still unfinished
24 business. The school funding issue is at the top of
25 our priorities and has been highly contentious. So

2 I'd like to take a second to address it. We all care
3 about our districts, particularly the young people
4 and students in our communities. We understand how
5 the pandemic has impacted their education and well-
6 being of teachers, school staff and parents. That
7 Karen passion we feel about our districts and our
8 young people means we all have more in common than we
9 may realize. As a body and city, we need to work
10 together to ensure this issue of great importance to
11 our communities is resolved. I know the strength of
12 this body when you united can and will deliver the
13 results our local schools need.

14 We know that when the school budgets came out, it
15 became imperative that we had to address it. That's
16 why we brought into budget negotiations and elevated
17 its importance. Even though it became clear, the
18 budget process would not be an effective vehicle.
19 Despite our increasing city funds for our schools by
20 more than \$700 million. We know the challenges
21 within these recently released school budgets. We
22 face a real challenge. Billions of dollars in
23 federal funding tied to stimulus dollars are running
24 out. That's a fact. And this is a problem we need
25 to come together to, to solve. I'm committed to

2 leveraging the power of our body to support us in
3 solving this issue. With the leadership of our
4 education chair, Councilmember Rita Joseph, and all
5 of you, I want this to be an issue that we address
6 side by side with our parents, teachers, students,
7 advocates, and other education stakeholders.
8 Arguments back and forth, without tangible solutions
9 do not advance progress. Progress comes from rolling
10 up our sleeves and uniting to get to the core of the
11 issues. Over the upcoming weeks, that's what I want
12 us to do, what I am going to do and what we're
13 committed to do: to support you, and representing
14 your communities and schools and advocating for what
15 they need. I that can be something that we work on
16 and are committed to collaborate on as a body. And
17 as we as a city Council will fight for exactly what
18 our students need.

19 Now, I want to take a moment to acknowledge that
20 our city has lost a fellow New Yorker to workplace
21 and traffic violence. Earlier this month, 45-year-
22 old Robert Godwin, a livery driver was driving in the
23 Bronx and Councilmember Stevens district when a
24 speeding hit and run driver slammed into him. We
25 pray for Robert's family and friends and stand with

2 our workers and advocating for safer streets and
3 working conditions.

4 This weekend, we will observe Juneteenth, a
5 holiday commemorating the end of slavery in America.
6 Juneteenth is a very deeply meaningful day for me, my
7 community and all New Yorkers. It serves as a time
8 to reflect on the path towards liberation, equity,
9 and justice for black communities. And some of that
10 we still have to accomplish as a country. For the
11 first time this year though, Juneteenth is officially
12 a city holiday, allowing us to fully celebrate the
13 emancipation of black people in this country and
14 commit to securing equity and freedom for our people.
15 I hope that everyone will attend a local Juneteenth
16 Celebration in your communities. June is also
17 African American Music Appreciation Month, and
18 yesterday, I was overjoyed to join the black, Latino
19 and Asian caucus to once again celebrate and pay
20 tribute to legends and pioneers of black music and
21 culture. As a member of this body, this was my fifth
22 time attending this great event. And I must admit,
23 as I did yesterday in front of many of you that I
24 truly was starstruck with my colleagues, as we
25 honored greats like Patti LaBelle, Ralph McDaniels

2 Doug E Fresh, Busta Rhymes, and Fat Joe -- who
3 somebody says is skinny Joe now. As someone who grew
4 up in Hollis, Queens, this is the harmony and pulse
5 that raised me and inspired me to develop a lifelong
6 love of music. Let's continue to uplift the legacy
7 of artists, talent and brilliant creators during
8 African American Music Appreciation Month.

9 Sunday is Father's Day, we celebrate...

10 [applause]

11 Yeah, we... Let's applaud the fathers, yeah. Woo
12 hoo! We celebrate all of our fathers, our fathers to
13 be, grandfathers, and father figures who play an
14 integral role in our families and communities. Our
15 fathers are role models for our children, and set an
16 example for the next generation. To all of the
17 fathers who have shaped the lives for the better,
18 including my wonderful husband, Jay, and my dearly
19 departed daddy, Ervin James Edie. I miss you dad
20 with every beat of my heart. Fathers, we thank and
21 salute you on your special day. Happy Father's Day.

22 I also would like to announce, for those of you
23 who do not know, our dear Lance Pahlavi will be
24 moving on, who is not here today. He's with his wife
25 and his baby. And Lance if you're watching, we

2 appreciate all of your work in the city Council for
3 all of these years, and we wish you the very, very
4 best in your next great thing.

5 [Applause]

6 I also want to proudly announce for those of you
7 who aren't watching, we have a brand new First Deputy
8 Chief of Staff. Her name is Faiza Ali.

9 [Applause]

10 Yes, we do love Faiza. Faiza, we welcome you to
11 senior staff. And we thank you for all of your years
12 in this Council this amazing institution.

13 Now let's dive into our agenda for the day. We
14 will be voting on the following land use items:
15 Sutter Place NPC. Application by HPD to facilitate
16 the development of four new 100% affordable housing
17 buildings on city owned vacant land, with
18 approximately 46 units and commercial space in county
19 Councilmembers Nurse and Barron's districts. EMS
20 station 17, new facility, site selection, acquisition
21 of property, and zoning special permit for new FDNY
22 EMS station in Councilmember Stevens district. 98th
23 3rd Avenue rezoning will facilitate the development
24 of an eight-story mixed use building with 24 housing
25 units, eight of which will be affordable, pursuant to

2 MIH and ground floor commercial space in
3 Councilmember Restler's district. We acknowledge our
4 staff George Sarkisyan Former Deputy Director of the
5 Land Use Division. He had his day... his last day at
6 the Council last week after eight years in central
7 staff. Arriving at the Council in 2014, after
8 serving as district manager for Manhattan community
9 board 11, George was instrumental in helping to lead
10 numerous neighborhood planning efforts including the
11 East Harlem community plan. Beloved by his
12 colleagues and land use for his empathy, leadership
13 and sense of humor, George will be greatly missed by
14 the Council, but we wish him all the best as he moves
15 on to become the new chief of staff at HPD.

16 [Applause]

17 The Council will also be voting on three
18 resolutions to set the penalty interest rates for
19 property tax owners who pay their tax bills late.
20 These are regular votes taken every year by the city
21 Council. Last year recognizing the impact of the
22 pandemic, the Council voted to lower these penalty
23 rates to the lowest level ever. These current rates
24 mean that most homeowners are charged a penalty
25 interest of 3% if they do not pay their taxes on

2 time. This year, we are adopting rates that are only
3 slightly higher than last year. These rates we're
4 adopting today will be the second lowest rates ever.
5 We do not take the idea of raising penalties lightly,
6 but we must do so to ensure that we have timely
7 compliance of property tax payments. With interest
8 rates rising and inflation up, keeping penalty rates
9 unchanged would put the reliability of the city's
10 largest revenue source at risk. So the step we're
11 taking today is the one that balances penalties as
12 low as possible, while still ensuring that the city
13 retains its proper cash flow to pay its bills on time
14 and maintain city services. Now while it is
15 important that we set rates that encourage the timely
16 payment of property taxes, we recognize that there
17 are homeowners who are struggling and still need
18 help. And in those cases, charging higher interest
19 rates does not help resolve their issues. That's why
20 today, I am directing my staff to prioritize the work
21 of the reintroduction of Introduction 1262, and
22 asking chair Brannan to fast track a hearing on this
23 bill. This legislation would set up a process to
24 allow the city to charge a minimal interest rate on
25 small property owners who are behind in their taxes

2 and engage with the city to manage their taxes by
3 entering into a payment plan or deferral program.
4 This will allow these property owners time and space
5 to resolve their debt at a manageable pace and a
6 minimal cost.

7 [applause]

8 We are also voting on Introduction 347 sponsored
9 by Majority Leader Keith Powers that will suspend the
10 annual tax on state-licensed retailers selling liquor
11 wine or beer at retail for on or off premises
12 consumption within the city of New York for the tax
13 year beginning in June 2022. Currently, the liquor
14 license surcharge is imposed on the distributors and
15 commercial importers of beer and liquor. It is paid
16 by all establishments in the city that require on
17 premise and off premise liquor license including
18 restaurants pubs, hotels, grocery stores, liquor and
19 wine stores, entertainment venues, etc. The
20 surcharge is imposed and the license fee is paid to
21 the state at a rate of 25%. SEBCO IV: The New York
22 City Department of Housing Preservation and
23 Development seeks a partial 40 year exemption from
24 real property taxes for property located at block
25 2697, lot 18 and 19, and block 2732, lot 31 Bronx

2 Council district 17. SEBCO IV is a tax-exemption-only
3 project of a HUD assisted rental housing portfolio
4 for low-income families in the Bronx in Councilmember
5 Salamanca's district. SEBCO IV project consists of
6 two buildings, a conjoined six-story apartment
7 building and another five-story apartment building
8 with a total of 71 dwelling units. The project will
9 refinance its existing debt, and the refinance
10 proceeds will be used to rehabilitate the portfolio,
11 addressing critical needs including joist repairs,
12 upgrade and replacement of deteriorated mechanical
13 systems and equipment, and structural repairs as
14 required within each building. None of the buildings
15 in the portfolio have undergone significant capital
16 repairs since their HUD-funded rehabilitations in
17 1982. We thank you to staff members Dr. Ray
18 Mejewski, Em Radev, and Malcom Butehorn.

19 In addition, we will vote on the appointment of
20 Leila Bozorg to the New York City Planning
21 Commission. Thank you David Seitzer and staff.

22 Finally, we will be voting on the following
23 legislation. We're voting on Resolution 247,
24 sponsored by our Housing and Buildings Chair,
25 Councilmember Pireina Sanchez, that would determine a

2 public emergency requiring rent control in the city
3 of New York, continues to exist, and will continue to
4 exist on and after July 1 2022.

5 We're also voting on introduction 558-A, also
6 sponsored by Councilmember Sanchez that would extend
7 the rent stabilization laws. Pursuant to state law,
8 to maintain rent stabilization laws, The Council must
9 periodically determine whether there is an ongoing
10 housing emergency, defined as a vacancy rate of not
11 more than 5% of the city's rental housing stock. If
12 an emergency continues to exist, the Council may pass
13 legislation extending the city's rent stabilization
14 law until the following determination is due. This
15 determination is based on data and findings from a
16 triennial survey known as the Housing and Vacancy
17 Survey or HVS, which is sponsored by HPD and the
18 Census Bureau. These pieces of legislation declare
19 the Council's determination that there is an ongoing
20 housing emergency and that the emergency will
21 continue after the current expiration of the rent
22 stabilization law on July 1 2022. Introduction 558-A
23 continues the laws that allow for residential rent
24 regulation. It would also amend the expiration date
25 of the New York City rent stabilization law from July

2 1, 2022, to April 1, 2024, which would put the HVS
3 and renewal of rent regulation back on its ordinary
4 triennial cycle.

5 Thank you, Audrey Son and Jose Conde for your
6 help as staff members. And finally, the Council will
7 also vote on Introduction 303-A sponsored by
8 Councilmember Alexa Avilés. The bill would require
9 the Department of Homeless Services and the Human
10 Resources Administration to track and report certain
11 data regarding rental assistance programs. In order
12 to better understand the outcomes and impact of
13 various rental assistance programs, additional data
14 is needed. This bill would require that DHS and HRA
15 track and report on outcomes of the City Fighting
16 Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement, or
17 CityFHEPS, a rental assistance program created for
18 New York City residents. The bill would provide
19 greater transparency around enrollment rates and
20 utilization, including how long an individual or
21 family has enrolled in the CityFHEPS program before
22 actually utilizing the voucher. And we thank you to
23 our staff, Amanda Kilawon. Thank you very much for
24 your attention. Now I would like to turn it back
25 over to our majority leader.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker
3 Adams. We're now going to move into discussion of
4 general orders. I'm going to first call on Minority
5 Leader Joe Borelli.

6 MINORITY LEADER JOE BORELLI: Thank you. Just a
7 brief word about the interest rate a bill we're
8 passing. This is something normally that some of us
9 oppose. Today, we will make an exception to that
10 because the transition we're going to make at the
11 next stage or the stage after that, whenever it
12 happens is the Payment Plan Bill, which is something
13 long sought. So we can still hold accountable bad
14 actors who aren't paying their taxes, and when enough
15 bad actors don't pay their taxes, the rest of us have
16 to pay to make that up, but also allows people to
17 come up with a payment plan, to agree to a plan, and
18 then as long as they're trying earnestly to pay back
19 what they owe to the city, we will give them a much,
20 much, much lower rate. So this is a win because we
21 get to get the money that we're owed from taxpayers,
22 and eventually we'll have a payment plan option for
23 many of those who certainly need it. So thank you.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you for your
3 efficiency Minority Leader. We'll now go to
4 Councilmember Avilés.

5 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you. Thank you for
6 the opportunity to speak briefly about intro 303, a
7 bill I've sponsored and which is before you for a
8 vote today. This bill was previously before the
9 Council last year by Councilmember Alicka Ampry-
10 Samuel, whose work I really greatly respect. As
11 everyone in the room knows, the City Fighting
12 Homelessness and Eviction Prevention Supplement is a
13 critical Rental Assistance Program for families
14 facing eviction and homelessness. This bill will
15 require the Department of Homeless Services and HRA
16 to track and report the council enrollment data on
17 the FHEPS program. This is a common sense
18 legislation that helps all of us in the room and
19 other policymakers accurately gauge the effectiveness
20 of the CityFHEPS program. Data is a critical tool we
21 can use to help craft the best strategies to prevent
22 homelessness, and further to help us understand how
23 we might modify existing programs to meet the needs
24 of those enrolled. I look forward to the
25 implementation of this law and working with advocates

2 to make sure that we're paying attention to the
3 picture that is painted by this forthcoming data.

4 Thank you for your help in the passage of this
5 legislation.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Now to
7 Councilmember Barron, followed by Councilmember
8 Stevens.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. My
10 colleagues, do you realize that you are taxing
11 property owners, and giving those who have liquor
12 license a break on taxes? Do you realize that
13 Madison Square Garden pays zero taxes? And do you
14 realize the state has a stock transfer tax... we
15 fought for that upstate. They collect 14 to \$16
16 billion from the stock transfer tax and rebate it all
17 back to Wall Street, the rich. And here you come.
18 Instead of saying "zero" so you won't default. If
19 you would have said zero, why are you working on this
20 wonderful bill to help the good payers pay, you're
21 going to tax them 4%, And then 7% and then 12%, and
22 say we got to... we got to act or else we'll default.
23 That's why they do it late to get you panicking. We
24 got to hurry up and do this or else we will default.
25 It should have been zero. Some of these are elderly,

2 who already have their mortgage paid. So their
3 mortgage does not include any tax property. It's not
4 in an escrow account, because they pay their
5 mortgage. They pay their taxes independently, which
6 means this bill is going to penalize any of them for
7 being late, the good actors for being late. In this
8 economy for black and brown people, particularly our
9 seniors, you are going to be late. And because of
10 this pandemic, give them a break. Come on, y'all.
11 Give him a break. Don't let people tell you that we
12 got to hurry up and do this, because if we don't,
13 we're going to default. Well, if you do zero, you
14 don't default, because you act it. And then they
15 wouldn't have to pay it, and then when you finally
16 get this other benevolent program, then you can add
17 something on if you choose, but I'm voting no on
18 those three resolutions.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now go
20 to Councilmember Stevens followed by Councilmember
21 Restler.

22 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Good afternoon, L.U. 61
23 and Res 0250 from the start was a project that I
24 supported because, moving the old EMS station meant
25 that the Highbridge Community would get a much needed

2 and brand new Community Center, which I fought for
3 when I was a member of the MAC. However, as an
4 elected, I am the voice of the district 13, and after
5 housing, one of the major complaints my office gets
6 is quality of life complaints. And it's often about
7 noise, and -- I know less popular -- parking issues.

8 And when I brought up my concerns, I did not
9 believe that they were they were being heard or being
10 taken seriously. However, after meeting and having
11 several conversations, we were able to get a letter
12 of commitment from the EMS stations, and they have
13 committed to working with the Councilmember regularly
14 and meeting regularly not only with the
15 Councilmember, but with the Community Board to ensure
16 that they are hearing concerns and rectifying them in
17 an adequate way and to ensure that they will be good
18 neighbors. Thus I will be supporting this project
19 and urge my colleagues to support it as well. Thank
20 you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. No we'll go
22 to Councilmember Restler followed by Councilmember
23 Farias.

24 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Great. Thank you.
25 Firstly, I'd like to congratulate my friend Leila

2 Bozor on her nomination to the City Planning
3 Commission. I had the privilege of working with her
4 in city government and she is an excellent
5 professional who will prioritize affordable housing
6 and the real needs of our communities. So I want to
7 also congratulate one of the second best borough
8 presidents in New York City, Mark Levine, for that
9 great nomination. And then I'd also just like to
10 share some information on 93rd Avenue, which is a
11 land use item we'll be voting on today. This was
12 certified before the start of our new terms. But
13 it's a gas station on one of the last manufacturing
14 zone blocks in Boerum Hill, that they'll be
15 converting into housing. Nine of the 29 units that
16 are going to be built will be affordable and an
17 average AMI of 68%. And in addition, the developers
18 committed to make a contribution of \$100,000 to the
19 Trust for Public Land, to make improvements to open
20 space and playground space at Wycoff Gardens, the
21 NYCHA development across the street, which we
22 appreciate.

23 It's critical that when developers come into our
24 community, they address the infrastructure needs that
25 we face. That has not happened consistently over the

2 years. And it's something that we're looking to
3 revise project by project. I hope that as we
4 certify... as the projects certified during my term
5 moving forward, we'll have a greater opportunity to
6 shape them in positive ways. But I think we got this
7 to a reasonable place in the end. So thank you for
8 that.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
10 hear from Council Farias.

11 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: Thank you majority leader.
12 I'm just saying a couple words in support of the
13 adaptations of the tax interest rates that we are...
14 that are proposed today. The Council has to adapt
15 the interest rates that are charged when property
16 owners are late on their tax bills. We are adopting
17 late payment interest rates that are low by pretty
18 much every metric, lower than any interest rate you
19 can get on a home loan, lower than record lower than
20 what's recommended by the Banking Commission, which
21 includes the Comptroller, Department of Finance
22 Commissioner, and Mayor. They are lower than what
23 any other city charges as late payments. We are also
24 fast-tracking the bill as previously mentioned Intro
25 524 that would allow even lower interest rates for

2 homeowners who are struggling. This is important.
3 We can target relief to those who need it, while
4 settling rates to effectively encourage those who can
5 pay to pay on time. This body is making a proactive
6 choice in determining a much lower rate than if we
7 did not act on these percentages at all, which would
8 have allowed a much higher, heavier fine at 7%.
9 We're doing right by our communities. And I
10 encourage my colleagues to vote yes.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
12 hear from Councilmember Yeger.

13 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.
14 Two years ago -- not in this chamber on the Zoom -- I
15 proposed an amendment in the middle of the... of the
16 meeting to change the proposed interest rate to zero,
17 as the gentleman from East New York suggested
18 earlier. The... the false metrics that we're being
19 presented with is that if we don't do it today... we
20 don't pass these rates that have been presented to
21 us, 4%, 7%, and 13% -- usurious; there's no question
22 that they're usurious -- then the world will shut
23 down, the city will go bankrupt, because some default
24 rate will otherwise kick in and we're going to be all
25 terrible people. It's not true. It's not true.

2 Today is the 16th. The session... the time that we
3 have to do this is by the 30th: 14 more days. We can
4 do it in 14 days. We can come back and do a tax
5 penalty rate that makes sense. The Banking
6 Commission proposed rates of 6%, 12%, and 18%. So
7 we're patting ourselves on the back, because instead
8 of rubber stamping the Banking Commission like we
9 typically do, we've knocked them down a sliver but
10 still higher than what it was last year.

11 So we are raising the interest rates, as the
12 gentleman said. We're raising the interest rates.
13 We can say we're not but we are. And when we talk
14 about the inflation problem that the city has, if it
15 doesn't get his dollar now, then well, it's going to
16 be worth a little less than six months. So... so do
17 the people who can't afford to pay their taxes. They
18 have that problem too. And all we're doing is
19 slapping a usurious rate on top of them if they can't
20 afford to pay their taxes. Asking them to have a
21 debt that includes an additional interest rate isn't
22 going to make them pay their taxes any faster.

23 So the question really is, can we accomplish the
24 same thing, encourage people to pay their taxes by
25 adopting the same rate that we had last year, which

2 was 3%, 6%, and 13% instead of 4%, 7%, and 14%? And
3 why does it have to be that raise more than what it
4 was last year? I'm voting no as my colleague will
5 for the reasons that I said but also because we can
6 do better, and the idea that we're trading it in now
7 for a player to be named later, for a bill that we're
8 going to fast track in a month or two, instead of
9 just getting it right right Now when we're all
10 standing here is silly, and we can do better. So I
11 urge you all please, wrapping up, please vote no on
12 192, 193, 194. I think we can do better for the
13 people who sent us here. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and I'll hear
15 from Councilmember Sanchez.

16 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Hello. I am... I would
17 like to speak in support, and hopefully my colleagues
18 join me in supporting Intro 558 and Resolution 247.
19 Together this bill and resolution will support the
20 New York City Council's role in New York City's Rent
21 Stabilization Law. We have a very limited role in
22 the City of New York, and that is to review the
23 findings of the New York City Housing Preservation
24 and Development and US Census results of the housing
25 and vacancy survey to determine whether there has

2 been a 5% vacancy rate of apartments in the city of
3 New York... residences in the city of New York. So
4 the HPD, and census found a vacancy rate of 4.54%,
5 with unevenness, of course, across the city.

6 Manhattan had the highest vacancy rate at 10%, but
7 places like the Bronx, our lowest income places, had
8 a vacancy rate of 0.78%, and it was also exacerbated
9 by income levels.

10 So we received the findings of the HBS on May 16.
11 We had a hearing on it on June 7. And I want to urge
12 my colleagues after lots of very deep and thoughtful
13 questioning of the agency. We agree... I agree. So
14 please join me in supporting these two pieces of
15 legislation. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
17 any anyone else signed up or playing sign up for
18 general orders? Let's get started. Oh, (inaudible).
19 Apologies.

20 COUNCILMEMBER: Sorry. I just wanted to ask
21 colleagues for support on L.U. 52. And Res. 0249.
22 For Sutter Place. It is a project I worked on with
23 Councilmember Barron, it's 100% affordable, there's
24 going to be nothing over 50% AMI, which is really
25 amazing for our district. I think three bedrooms are

2 going to be like \$1400 or less. And I do want to
3 give credit to Councilmember Barron. We learned a
4 lot working with his office on not accepting what
5 can't be afforded. So I just wanted to give him some
6 praise over that. So please support it. Thank you
7 very much.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Anyone else?

9 [Applause]

10 Please settle down.

11 [Laughter]

12 Anyone else like to speak? Okay. We're going to
13 move into the report of special committees.

14 CLERK: None.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of standing
16 committees.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance M63,
18 and Res 0192 through 0194, Nonpayment of Property
19 Taxes.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

21 CLERK: Pre-considered L.U. 72 and Res 0248, Tax
22 Exemption.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

24

25

2 CLERK: Reported of the Committee on General
3 Welfare, Intro 303, Rental Assistance Program
4 Reporting.

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and a couple of general
6 orders.

7 CLERK: Report of Committee on Housing and
8 buildings, pre-considered Intro 558, Rent
9 Stabilization Laws.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on general
11 orders.

12 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, L.U.
13 52 And Res 0249, Sutter Place.

14 COUNESL: Coupled on General Orders.

15 CLERK: L.U. 61 and Res 0250, and L.U. 62 and Res
16 0251, EMS Station.

17 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

18 CLERK: L.U. 63 and 64, 45, 41, Furman Avenue
19 Rezoning.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and
21 refered to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
22 section 197-D of the New York City Charter.

23 CLERK: L.U. 65 and Res 0252, and L.U. 66 and Res
24 0253, 98 Third Avenue.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
3 Privileges and Elections, M-69 and Res 0254,
4 approving the appointment of Leila Bozorg, City
5 Planning.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

7 CLERK: General orders calendar, Intro 179-A.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Laid over. I would now ask that
9 the clerk take a roll call vote on all of the items
10 coupled on today's General Orders calendar.

11 CLERK: Abreu?

12 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Ariola?

14 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Avilés?

16 CLERK: Ayala?

17 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Barron?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: May I explain my vote?

20 I'm voting on 192, 193, and 194. I am abstaining

21 from M069 and Res 0254. I'm abstaining from M63.

22 I'm voting no on the Third Avenue rezoning in

23 Restler's district. He has a 50-some-odd percent

24 AMI, and yet over 69% of those units are at market

25 rate, and the other affordable part is at 68% of the

2 AMI, which his over the community rate, so this is
3 indeed not affordable, so I vote no on L.U. 65, Res
4 0254, L.U. 66, and Res 0253, and aye on everything
5 else.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Bottcher?

7 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Brannan?

9 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

10 CLERK: Brewer?

11 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

13 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to
14 explain my vote.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I just wanted to
17 also acknowledge that I'm pleased to hear that we
18 will have legislation fast-tracked to address that I
19 think is pretty near and dear to most members,
20 especially myself, representing parts of Southeast
21 Queens and Far Rockaway, where the property tax is a
22 big concern. With that, I will vote aye on all
23 today.

24 CLERK: Thank you. Cabán?

25 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Carr?

3 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: No on Introduction 558-A and
4 aye on rest.

5 CLERK: De La Rosa?

6 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Dinowitz?

8 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all

9 CLERK: Farias?

10 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Feliz?

12 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Gennaro?

14 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

15 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

16 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

17 CLERK: Hanif?

18 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye.

19 CLERK: Hanks?

20 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Holden?

22 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Hudson?

24 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Joseph?

2 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Kagan?

4 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Thank you. Krishnan?

6 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Lee?

8 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Louis?

10 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Marte?

12 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Thank you. Mealy?

14 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Menin?

16 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Narcisse?

18 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Nurse?

20 CLERK: Ossé?

21 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Paladino?

23 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all, except for
24 intro 558.

25 CLERK: Thank you. Restler?

2 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

3 CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

4 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Permission to
5 explain my vote.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

7 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I'm going to
8 vote no on resolutions 192, 193, and 194. We do not
9 need to increase the penalty rates. I just think of
10 elderly home owners in my district, and putting a
11 burden on them... can't do it. I would like to
12 commend Councilmember Nurse and Councilmember Barron
13 for the Sutter Place, proving that it is possible to
14 have 100% affordability. I love that a third of the
15 project is at 30% AMI, a third at 40% AMI, a third at
16 50% AMI. Just really beautiful work. Oh, and aye on
17 everything else.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Got it. Riley?

19 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

20 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Schulman?

22 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Stevens?

24 COUNCILMEMBER Stevens: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Ung?

2 COUNCILMEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Velázquez?

4 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Permission to explain
5 my vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

7 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all items, but I
8 want to disclose on the record that my husband is the
9 Deputy Commissioner for DEP and 192 through 194. The
10 rates indirectly affect the water bill penalty rates.
11 Thank you.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Vernikov?

13 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Williams?

15 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to explain my
16 vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: While I vote aye on all,
19 I know that our vote would ensure that the property
20 rates are not higher, I just look forward to
21 continuing to work with my colleagues, who find ways
22 to support small property owners who are struggling.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Won?

24 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Yeger?

2 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Permission to explain my
3 vote.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Yup. Go ahead.

5 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Thank you Mr. President. I
6 am voting as I said earlier, aye on all, with the
7 exception of the MSH6, Res 0192, 0193, and 0194. I
8 like consistency and that is the way that I have
9 voted every year that I have been a member of this
10 body. With respect to the Introduction that is on
11 the agenda today, Introduction 524, which is
12 presented to us as a stop-gap, as a fix, as a fast-
13 tracked relief measure on the way quickly to the New
14 Yorkers we represent, I am going to cosponsor that
15 well, together with my good colleagues who have
16 represented it, but I urge you to all the read the
17 bill, and to get on it, but o read it, because it
18 does not set the rate at zero. It is still
19 punishing. It still gives the banking commission
20 some kind of authority to set some kind of prime and
21 all kinds of convoluted stuff. I will also point out
22 that the last time, last year, when we did something
23 like this, we provided a COVID relief rate for those
24 who applied, if they were affected by COVID, they can
25 get a lower rate. 100 New Yorkers applied. 100 New

2 Yorkers. People don't apply for this stuff. We have
3 to help them. We have to help them help themselves.
4 They are not filling out paperwork. We saw that with
5 the senior citizens' rent exemption. They are not
6 filling out paperwork because it is difficult to do
7 so, because the people that we are trying to help are
8 elderly in many, many cases, do not have access to
9 the internet, do not have the ability to do all this
10 paperwork. I see my clock is going off forever, so
11 you can't cut me off, Mr. President.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I've got it going in my
13 head.

14 [Laughter]

15 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Oh, you've got the clock in
16 your head. Okay. So, by the way, you should know on
17 this side of the room we can actually control the
18 clock. Oh... there you go, look a minute and 56 to
19 go.

20 I will wrap it up, Mr. President. I appreciate
21 the good humor that you've exchanged with me, but I'm
22 not going to take advantage of the technical glitch.

23 Folks, I urge you to sign onto that bill, but
24 please do not put all your hope in this basket of
25 goods that is being presented to us as something that

2 is going to fix the problem we did today. We did
3 wrong by the taxpayers today, and I'm very
4 comfortable with my vote. I did right by them.

5 Thank you Mr. President.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Aviles?

7 COUNCILMEMBER AVILES: Um, permission to explain
8 my vote.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

10 COUNCILMEMBER AVILES: Yes. So, um, I vote no on
11 resolution 192 and vote aye on the rest. I do that
12 with just great concern for the seniors and others
13 who this does not reach, and I wish we had proposed a
14 more moderate increase. I know it is the lowest. I
15 understand that, but I still feel like... I wish we
16 would have been more creative, but thank you for the
17 work. So, I think I said aye on the rest except that
18 one. Okay.

19 CLERK: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMEMBER AVILES: I normally screw this up.

21 CLERK: Got it. Borelli?

22 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: With the exception of
23 Intro 558, I vote aye on all.

24 CLERK: Thank you. Powers?

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye on all:

2 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
5 general order calendar are adopted by a vote of 51 in
6 the affirmative, zero the negative, and zero
7 abstentions with the exception of M-63, which is
8 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, one in
9 the negative and one abstention, M-69 and Resolution
10 254 adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative zero
11 the negative, one abstention. Resolution 192, 47 in
12 the affirmative, 4 in the negative, and zero
13 abstentions? Resolution 193, 48 in the affirmative,
14 three in the negative, zero abstentions resolution
15 194, adopted by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 3 in
16 the negative, zero abstentions. Land Use Item 65 and
17 66, and accompanying resolutions 50 in the
18 affirmative, 1 of the negative, zero abstentions, and
19 pre-considered Introduction 558-A, 48 in the
20 affirmative, three in the negative, and zero
21 abstentions.

22 We will now move into the remaining part of the
23 agenda. We're going to move to the introduction and
24 reading of bills.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to
3 committees as indicated on today's agenda.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
5 move into the discussion of resolutions. Are there
6 any individuals who would like to sign up to speak on
7 -- you can shake your head, but I still have to ask -
8 - the discussion of resolutions. Okay. We thank
9 you.

10 We're now going to have a voice vote on today's
11 resolution. If you wish to vote...

12 Oh, excuse me, we do have one individual speaking
13 on today's resolutions. We're going to call on
14 Councilmember Sylvia Brooks Powers

15 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS POWERS: Majority Leader it
16 will be for General Orders.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS POWERS: And discussion,
19 excuse me.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Gotcha. We have you
21 added.

22 So we're now going to take a voice vote on
23 today's resolution. If you wish to vote against or
24 abstain from today's resolution, please notify the
25 legislative documents unit by email or by approaching

2 the dais before we vote or as we vote. If you'd like
3 to come up, you can come up and do that now.

4 I will now read today's resolution into the
5 record, pre-considered Resolution 247 determines that
6 a public emergency requiring rent control in the city
7 of New York continues to exist and will continue to
8 exist on and after July 1, 2022. We'll all those in
9 favor please say aye.

10 COUNCIL: Aye.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay.

12 Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

13 We're going to now move to into today's General
14 Discussion. We will begin first with Councilmember
15 Gennaro, followed by Councilmember Narcisse

16 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Thank you Mr. Majority
17 Leader. Today I'm pleased to put forward five bills
18 that look to increase the efficiency of the city and
19 addressing issues caused by climate change and help
20 to mitigate its dangerous impacts. Intro 533, which
21 I'm putting forward with Councilmember Nurse will
22 require DEP to release annual reports on the presence
23 of sewage and stormwater contaminants in the city
24 waterways, and will also require DEP to develop a
25 management plan which with the input from local

2 communities to speak to concerns and reach green
3 goals, Intro 531 which deals with drainage
4 infrastructure outages, I won't go more than that
5 about it, because I have a bunch here want to get
6 done in time. Intro 529 would... It would expand
7 the type of green vehicles that DCAS can be used to
8 purchase for city use, Intro 532 would require DEP to
9 create a plan for establishing the city's coastal
10 waters as a vessel no discharge zone, and Intro 530
11 would require DEP to alert our community boards and
12 our offices 48 hours in advance of any work that DEP
13 will undertake that could lead to discolored water or
14 a reduction in water pressure. Finally, I've got a
15 resolution... Resolution 239, which urges the state
16 to pass on the governor to sign Senate 1075 and...
17 and the Assembly 6319, also known as the Rape Is Rape
18 Bill. This bill has been passed 10 times in the
19 assembly, most recently in January of this year, but
20 it's not moving in the Senate. Currently New York
21 State penal law defines a rape only as a forced
22 vaginal penetration of a woman by a man. New York
23 State's rape definition does not include force oral
24 or anal penetration by man to woman, does not include
25 the rape of a man at all, and does not include force

2 penetration with an object. This state bill would
3 expand the definition of rape in New York State. I
4 just want Gay Men's Health Crisis, Women In Need, and
5 WomenKind for this important initiative. And I think
6 the Council should go on the record and support this.
7 Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember
9 Gennaro. Thank you. We're going to Councilmember
10 Narcisse followed by Councilmember Restler.

11 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Good evening... I mean,
12 good afternoon, everyone. I'm asking my colleagues
13 to join me to sponsor two bills that I have
14 introduced, Intro 0543 and Intro 542. 0542 would
15 require the Department of Education, The
16 Administration for Children's Services and the
17 Department of Correction to issue a yearly report on
18 educational statistics and related incidents
19 pertinent to juvenile delinquents, juvenile
20 offenders, adolescents offenders in ACS and DOC
21 facilities. This report must include statistics on
22 educational programming, enrollment, available
23 services, rate of violence for such delinquents and
24 offenders, and other related indicators.

2 053 aims to help our students who have
3 experienced a tremendous amount of mental trauma
4 throughout the COVID pandemic by requiring the
5 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in
6 consultation with the Department of Education and the
7 Administration of Children's Services to establish
8 protocols for responding to students experiencing
9 mental health crises. The protocols will include
10 guidelines for immediate response procedures for
11 returning to school, training requirements, and
12 protecting the safety and wellbeing of the student
13 body.

14 Our young people are indeed our most precious
15 asset, and we must nurture and care for them. As
16 such, I hope you will join me in co-sponsoring these
17 two important pieces of legislation.

18 I would also like to briefly recognize the
19 upcoming celebration, like my speaker, Adrienne
20 Adams, just mentioned: Juneteenth. On July 19,
21 1965, thousands of black slaves were working the
22 fields of Texas and other southern states, received
23 the late news that their freedom had been withheld
24 from them for more than six months by rebellious
25 slave masters who had refused to acknowledge the

2 emancipation proclamation by President Abraham
3 Lincoln. So on Sunday, as we commemorate and
4 celebrate Juneteenth, it is important for us to
5 remain...

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.

7 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: ... cognizant of the
8 fact that true freedom, including economic freedom,
9 are still an elusive dream for millions of black
10 Americans who continue to be denied their rights and
11 equal opportunity in the body of America.

12 So as we officially commemorated Juneteenth for
13 only the second year in our city, I ask that we all
14 pledge...

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.
16 Please wrap it up.

17 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: ... to reaffirm our
18 commitment to achieve the true freedom in America.
19 Thank you so much. God bless you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 [Applause]

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We're going to now hear
23 from Councilmember Restler, followed by Councilmember
24 Ossé.

2 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Firstly, I'd like to
3 thank the speaker for keeping our attention on the
4 real need to address education funding in this
5 budget. The budget didn't do enough. The mayor
6 needs to hear loud and clear from all of us and from
7 our communities that this needs to be fixed. It is
8 my number one priority. And I really want to thank
9 her for helping us lead the way and appreciated her
10 remarks very much today. I'd also like to speak on
11 helicopters. New Yorkers shouldn't be forced to
12 suffer from severe noise and air pollution so that
13 the privileged few can get to the Hamptons or JFK
14 faster, or so that tourists can see Brooklyn Bridge
15 Park from above. Yet every day helicopters take off
16 from public health pads to serve the extremely
17 wealthy at the expense of our environment and our
18 well-being. This isn't just a quality of life issue.
19 It's a climate issue. Every month there are roughly
20 4000 non-essential helicopter flights from our EDC-
21 owned, New-York-City-owned helepads, accounting for a
22 monthly average of more than 50,000 gallons of fuel
23 spewed into the air. There's no other form of
24 transportation that's nearly as wasteful. One
25 helicopter idling on the heliport has the same impact

2 as more than 40 cars idling, all so a Wall Street
3 banker can avoid taking his car, let alone public
4 transit. Tourist helicopters are even more wasteful
5 as they circle and idle in the air burning fuel and
6 causing noise pollution that can impact our health
7 and cognitive development. Today, I'm introducing a
8 bill to ban... ban non-essential flights from the two
9 EDC-owned heliports in Manhattan with the leader on
10 this issue, Gale Brewer, from the Upper West Side and
11 our economic development chair, Amanda Farias, as
12 well as Councilmembers Hanif, Avilés, Hudson,
13 Gutiérrez, Marte, and Rivera.

14 And then just briefly, I'm proud to be a coprime
15 on the public advocates bill to ban solitary
16 confinement. Solitary confinement is torture. It
17 has no place in our city. It must stop. It must
18 end. And I'm very hopeful that we can pass
19 (inaudible) bill as soon as possible. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
21 call on Councilmember Ossé followed by Councilmember
22 Dinowitz.

23 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you Majority Leader.
24 Improper containerization of trash is an issue that
25 plagues my district and a large part of our city.

2 When trash is not properly containerized, especially
3 trash from large apartment complexes, litter is
4 scattered all over the sidewalk. This is not only an
5 aesthetic nuisance, it is unsanitary, attracting
6 rodents. Currently the pet guilty for improper waste
7 containerization is from \$50 to \$200, depending on
8 the number of violations. For buildings with
9 management companies and big landlords, this amount
10 is considered to be pocket change, not a lesson
11 learned to deter one from engaging in improper
12 behaviors. To have cleaner and healthier streets, we
13 must make sure that we truly hold bad actors
14 accountable. This is why I'm introducing Intro 544
15 today was sanitation committee chair Sandy Nurse that
16 will impose a graduated sanitation violation based on
17 the number of units in a building and the number of
18 repeat violations.

19 I also do want to talk about a disagreement that
20 I had with a member of this body. At the beginning
21 of this month, we acknowledged the month of pride,
22 which is a celebration and a respect for LGBTQ folks,
23 not only in this room, but across our city. And
24 yesterday on the bird app, also known as Twitter, I
25 had a disagreement with a colleague about Drag Queen

2 Story Hour, which is a culture program that teaches
3 youth about gender diversity, respect, love and
4 dignity. I wish this member was in the room today to
5 hear what I was saying and be as confident as she was
6 on line as she could have been in this room. This
7 colleague called progressives, as well as queer
8 performers, and also uplifted comments against me,
9 calling me and all of us groomers. If any of you
10 don't know what the word groomer means, it's
11 basically calling individuals pedophiles. This
12 colleague, called a member of this body, her
13 colleague, a pedophile, myself a pedophile. These
14 statements are untrue, I condemned these statements.
15 And I hope that this colleague takes into account how
16 serious this issue is not only for me, but how she
17 disrespected the LGBTQ community in the month of
18 pride. I demand that she makes a public apology
19 again, not only to me, but to... to the entire LGBTQ
20 community. And I hope this body can hold her
21 accountable for her disrespect and her lies that she
22 spread online. Thank you.

23 [Applause.]

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We're now going to call
3 on Councilmember Dinowitz, followed by Councilmember
4 Brewer.

5 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you Majority
6 Leader. I want to bring attention to two resolutions
7 I'm introducing today, both which aim to bring
8 important reforms to our institutions of higher
9 education. Education is supposed to be a great
10 equalizer, but if that's to be the case, our colleges
11 and universities cannot have inequitable barriers to
12 entry. And if our campuses are to be a safe space
13 for students, our colleges and universities must have
14 the necessary tools to ensure that. The first
15 resolution, Res 0237, calls on the state legislature
16 to pass, and the governor to sign the fair college
17 admission act, which would prohibit legacy preference
18 and early admission policies at undergraduate
19 institutions. Legacy preference in admission gives a
20 significant leg up to applicants with familial ties
21 to alumni, and as a result many selective
22 universities enroll more children of alumni than
23 either black or Latino students. And applying early
24 decision also gives those students with the finance
25 with financial flexibility the equivalent of 100

2 added bonus points on the SAT, which results in the
3 an average of 24 wealthy students for each low-income
4 student at elite institutions.

5 The second resolution, 238, calls upon the City
6 University of New York to compile data on bias
7 incidents and hate crimes reported into a single
8 report, contain more specific information about the
9 nature of these acts, and importantly to educate
10 faculty and staff about the rise of such incidents
11 and how to report them. We're in a time when we're
12 seeing an increase of hate crimes and acts of hate in
13 our city. Our CUNY campuses are not immune to this
14 trend. We must have detailed data not only to
15 understand it, but how to provide meaningful
16 education. And this includes by the way... this
17 includes hurtful and harmful language, including
18 words and terms of harm the LGBTQ community like
19 groomer, which... which my colleague just mentioned.
20 It fear mongers. It hurts people. It hurts entire
21 groups of people, and universities are supposed to be
22 places of learning, not just of academics, but how we
23 live together, love and appreciate one another. So I
24 hope you all sign on to these two critically
25 important resolutions that will reverse trends of

2 inequity and bias in our colleges and universities.

3 Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.

5 We go to Councilmember Brewer followed by

6 Councilmember Schulman.

7 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. On
8 the education front, I do want to thank the speaker
9 and look forward to working with the education
10 committee, Rita Joseph, and with the staff. I do
11 think that will \$5 billion and a very large sum in
12 different pots, certainly not broken up into U of
13 A's, we will be able to figure out how to address the
14 concerns that my parents have and parents across the
15 city not to mention the school communities
16 themselves.

17 Number two, I want to thank Councilmember
18 Restler. I've been working on helicopters and noise
19 and their fuelage for many, many years. I just want
20 to point out the extent of this concern. If you look
21 at 311, which is just one data set that -- just like
22 all of you I feel very strongly about data -- last
23 year, 2021, I don't know if there was anything, maybe
24 housing that has such a large response. 26,000
25 unrelated helicopter complaints regarding noise to

2 311, and 21,600 came from Manhattan, and then this
3 year... January till May of this year, 10,000
4 complaints to 311, 7400 from Manhattan. As we speak,
5 there is an RFP going out for the Manhattan Wall
6 Street heliport, and there's no reason why that RFP
7 should include nonessential helicopters for the
8 operator.

9 Number two, as Councilmember Botcher noted, we've
10 all been fighting to not have a heliport in Hudson
11 River Park. So this is the time to address this
12 issue. We can't take care of New Jersey. We would
13 love to have those... I've flown in a helicopter with
14 no windows or doors to take... for tourism. It's
15 ridiculous to have them flying over New York, but at
16 least try with those that are in our purview.

17 Number three, I have Intro 525 which would
18 basically deal with this issue of the theft of
19 catalytic converters from cars and trucks. I assume
20 some of you have the same problem in your districts.
21 They steal. They sell them in junkyards and chop
22 shops because of the precious metals found inside. I
23 have so many complaints about this. And obviously,
24 those that participate in this particular bill would
25 be subject to increased fines and...

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.

3 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: ... specifics. I just
4 want to enter the fact that one of the complaints is
5 coming from it's a nonprofit community delivering
6 meals and when they get there to deliver the meal in
7 the truck,...

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.

9 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: ... while waiting, there is
10 no catalytic converter. Thank you very much.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
12 to hear from Councilmember Schulman followed by
13 Councilmember Bottcher.

14 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Yes, thank you, Majority
15 Leader. I want to echo the sentiments of my
16 colleague, Chi Ossé, who I believe actually was...
17 was really measured. I want to say that we can
18 disagree with each other in this body, and that's
19 fine. But once we get to the level where we create
20 comments that incite violence against us, that's
21 not... that's not appropriate... totally
22 inappropriate.

23 And I have never felt as vulnerable as I have
24 today. When I ran in 2009, I was threatened. And I
25 had to go to the police. And they arrested the

2 person. And I haven't felt as... as vulnerable as I
3 do today, because there are comments on here telling
4 me all kinds of stuff that are going to be done to
5 me. That was... things I should do to myself, that
6 I'm deranged, and that is not appropriate at all.
7 And that was because... not because a colleague
8 disagreed with me, because she actually said that
9 people, as part of the LGBTQ community are deranged,
10 and that is totally inappropriate for this body and
11 for the city.

12 [Applause.]

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.
14 We're going to hear now from Councilmember Bottcher,
15 followed by Councilmember Cabán.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: Today I am introducing
17 legislation that will provide mental health services
18 in family shelters. We all know that our city is
19 experiencing an unprecedented housing crisis, which
20 has led to a terrible number of our fellow New
21 Yorkers being unhoused. What most people don't know
22 is that nearly two thirds of homeless New Yorkers are
23 families with children. 8400 families with more than
24 14,000 children slept in shelters last night. So
25 we've got to ensure that they have safe and secure

2 housing, but we also have to ensure that they have
3 the services they need including mental health care.
4 Currently, families are referred to outside clinics
5 for mental health services and long wait times,
6 operating our operating hours that fail to
7 accommodate their schedules, further increase
8 roadblocks to appropriate care.

9 So our legislation would require that the city
10 offers these services to families within shelters. I
11 want to thank WinNYC and its executive director,
12 Chris Quinn for bringing this issue to us and helping
13 us to develop this legislation and Co-Prime sponsors
14 Ayala, Ossé, and Rivera. Meeting this critical need
15 is an important step in breaking the cycle of
16 homelessness that's affecting generations of New
17 Yorkers.

18 I've got to also speak out about the extremely
19 harmful rhetoric that has been used by a member of
20 this body. I cannot think of a more nauseating term
21 than the term groomer. That's what child molesters
22 do. They cultivate trust with someone they're about
23 to victimize. Enough. Enough of that word. Enough
24 of this rhetoric.

25 [Applause.]

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.
3 We're going to now hear from Councilmember Cabán,
4 followed by Councilmember Abreu.

5 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: I'm going to start by
6 saying that I'm proud to co-sponsor on the solitary
7 bill that received introduction today. I'm also
8 proud to be introducing Intro 526, which would
9 guarantee free childcare at every public meeting
10 where it's requested. I'll talk more with folks
11 about how important that is, especially in the world
12 we're in now, where we're all being asked to come
13 back in in person. But as much as I want to continue
14 discussing legislation,

15 I feel called to take a moment to address the
16 repugnant remarks of my Queen's delegation colleague,
17 and the disrespect from our colleagues who left the
18 room and aren't here to listen to the pain that we're
19 feeling in this moment.

20 [Applause]

21 As a queer New Yorker, and as co-chair of the
22 LGBTQIA+ caucus, let me say, that Drag Queen Story
23 Hour NYC is a wonderful, wholesome, vital program.
24 Inviting colorful, playfully-dressed performers, to
25 read our children's stories is an invitation for our

2 kids to dress up, to explore, to see themselves as
3 unique individuals with the right to be however they
4 want to be in the world. It shows queer youth and
5 their peers alike that each of them is valid, that
6 they all belong, that we all belong.

7 And so as a career public safety advocate, I have
8 to add that it's exactly this kind of program that
9 gets to the root causes of hate, and prevents
10 violence down the road. That is that Drag Queen
11 Story Hour NYC is not only a great educational
12 program, it's an important piece of public safety
13 infrastructure.

14 By contrast, my colleagues rumor rhetoric poses a
15 danger to public safety. Casting this worthy
16 enriching program as a form of child abuse is an
17 incitement to violence against our queer and trans
18 neighbors, friends, and family. And it cannot be
19 tolerated ever. Especially now. At a time when
20 queer and trans youth are being targeted for
21 violence, discrimination and forced general
22 inspection regimes everywhere across the country.
23 And so I call on my colleague to apologize and to
24 renounce such hate speech going forward. And I want

2 to thank everybody else in this room who is holding
3 space for us. Thank you.

4 [Applause.]

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're now
6 going to hear from Councilmember Abreu, followed by
7 Councilmember Feliz.

8 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: It's really hard to follow
9 the very powerful testimony of my colleagues. I just
10 want you to know my... my heart and thoughts are with
11 you all.

12 I'll just go right into it. As Chair of the
13 Committee on State and Federal Legislation, I am
14 honored to be introducing legislation with my
15 colleagues that would combat the iron pipeline and
16 come up with new innovative solutions to deal with
17 gun violence from the guns already in our
18 neighborhoods.

19 I'd like to thank our co-sponsors, Camilla Hanks,
20 public safety chair, Deputy Speaker Ayala, Majority
21 Leader Keith Powers, Majority Whip Selvina Brooks
22 powers, Councilmember Feliz and Riley, Salamanca,
23 Velázquez, Linda Lee, and Pierina Sanchez.

24 Importantly, this legislation will include vital
25 information at the dealer level, allowing us to name

2 and shame dealers that are not properly running
3 background checks, adhering to waiting periods, or
4 otherwise allowing for the flow of guns into our
5 city.

6 But our bill goes further than simply addressing
7 the flow of guns. We know what leads to gun
8 violence, not investing in prevention methods like
9 youth programming, mental health support, and the
10 critical infrastructure and environmental design
11 elements that have been shown to reduce gun violence.
12 I want to note that next Friday, June 24, at 10am The
13 Committee on Public Safety and Committee on State and
14 Federal Legislation will... will hold a joint
15 oversight hearing on access to firearms and city and
16 state efforts to curb gun violence. I encourage my
17 colleagues who attend to testify.

18 I'd like to thank the Speaker's office for
19 placing faith in me to execute on this bill, and for
20 the assignment to this bill. Thank you, Madam
21 Speaker. And like to thank the... the drafter, Jesse
22 Forn, and also my Chief of Staff, Amber Moore, and my
23 deputy chief of staff Delisa Quigley. Thank you.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
3 hear from Councilmember Feliz, followed by
4 Councilmember Riley.

5 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Thank you Majority Leader.
6 Let me start by also saying that I stand with all my
7 colleagues, and standing against all types of hate.

8 Today I have the honor of introducing an
9 education legislative package together with Majority
10 Leader Keith Powers, Chair Justin Brannan, Chair Rita
11 Joseph, and so many other colleagues: a package to
12 improve opportunity for students in our educational
13 system. Our children have unlimited potential, and
14 we must give them every single tool so that they can
15 be prepared for every step of their educational
16 journey. Our public education system has over 1
17 million students. And for far too long, many
18 students, including low income students of color,
19 have lacked access to schools that we usually refer
20 to as elite or Ivy League high schools, for example,
21 and 20, Stuyvesant High School admitted 700 students,
22 and only 10 of them were African American, and only
23 20 were Hispanic, 760 Students had made it and only
24 10 African Americans and 20 Hispanics were offered
25 admissions. This legislative package will help

2 resolve that problem. That problem of lack of access
3 to the schools by requiring that the Department of
4 Education create a plan to offer courses to prepare
5 every single middle school student for the
6 specialized high school admission test. Many
7 students go through middle school without even ever
8 having heard of that test. I actually heard about it
9 for the first time when I was in college. And the
10 same is true for many students in the district that I
11 represent, also in the borough of the Bronx, and many
12 students in the city of New York. For many reasons,
13 including the fact that their family is navigating
14 the education process for the first time, these bills
15 this package... this education legislative package
16 will ensure that students receive the guidance and
17 preparation they need and they deserve so that no
18 door is close to them. And I'm looking forward to
19 working with all my colleagues and making these bills
20 a reality and legislation in the state of New York.
21 Thank you so much.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
23 to hear now from Councilmember Riley, followed by
24 Councilmember Brooks-Powers.

2 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Thank you Majority Leader.
3 The FDNY is the second largest fire department in the
4 world. New York's Bravest protecting... New York's
5 Bravest protecting and serving New Yorkers across all
6 five boroughs. We are grateful for your service, the
7 sacrifices, but historically there is an undeniable
8 injustice when it comes to diversity and inclusion
9 within the organization.

10 Today, I'm proud to introduce two pieces of
11 legislation with Bronx Borough President Vanessa
12 Gibson that will enhance inclusion and promote
13 cultural competency in the workplace. Intro 552
14 calls for an annual report of the demographics of a
15 fire department members of firehouses. Calling for
16 future transparency in gender, race and ethnicity, as
17 well as the number of individuals who reside in the
18 area in which each firehouse serves. Intro 553
19 requires a plan for ongoing training on harassment,
20 inclusion and diversity for all fire department
21 members and staff. It also encourages accountability
22 and seeking a report that demonstrates how the
23 department is implementing that training.
24 Representation matters. There is a lot going on each
25 and every day. Brave heroes in our underserved

2 communities of color wanting to make a difference.
3 There are young boys and young girls who don't
4 believe these opportunities are easily accessible to
5 them, because they lack representation within their
6 fire houses. Being a woman or a mother shouldn't
7 determine one's ability to serve as a firefighter.
8 Gender identity shouldn't be a hurdle in becoming a
9 fire officer. There are some of the New York's
10 Bravest in our community. When black and brown
11 communities can see themselves people from their
12 communities who serve and protect them, we build
13 trust, we build relationships, and we build
14 community. Intro 552 and 553 would seek to go
15 further than just changing the numbers. We will
16 bring sustainable change to the work culture in the
17 fire department, strengthen the standard for
18 inclusion in all NYC work places. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
20 to hear now from Councilmember Brooks-Powers followed
21 by Councilmember Hanif.

22 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you. I'd
23 like to take a moment to speak in support of two
24 bills I'm introducing today. First in partnership
25 with Councilmember Abreu and several of our

2 colleagues, I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of Intro
3 518, which will require a report on trafficking of
4 illegal firearms. New Yorkers deserve streets free
5 of violence, which is why we must do everything
6 possible to address the gun violence epidemic. We
7 know that many guns come to the five boroughs via the
8 iron pipeline, which illegally transport weapons
9 mainly from southern states and enables unspeakable
10 violence here at home.

11 This bill will centralize the information we have
12 on this pipeline, and help this Council determine how
13 we can effectively curtail the flow of firearms into
14 our communities. I'm also proud to introduce
15 Resolution 235 In partnership with Councilmember
16 Sandy Nurse, which was the product of our
17 transportation tour of her district earlier this
18 year.

19 We know now that lead... lead paint is an extreme
20 hazard to our health and physical safety. But in
21 many neighborhoods with elevated train structures,
22 lead paint is an ever-present hazard. A recent
23 sample from the elevated J-M-Z line in Councilwoman
24 Nurse's district reached 63,000 parts per million, 12
25 times the allowable rate. This is an issue... an

2 issue of environmental health and safety, and we must
3 address this disproportionate impact on communities
4 of color. I urge my colleagues to join us on Res
5 0235 and call for the MTA to remediate its elevated
6 structures and help protect New Yorkers quality of
7 life. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
9 hear from Councilmember Hanif followed by
10 Councilmember Hanks.

11 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Thank you so much. I had
12 some bills that I wanted to talk about, but you'll
13 receive an email about that. So I just want to just
14 share how painful it is to listen to these
15 testimonies coming from my queer colleagues and I
16 want to lift up their courageous words.

17 My colleagues Councilmembers Ossé, Schulman,
18 Bottcher, Cabán have shared with us, and I want to
19 raise my voice and condemning the vitriolic rhetoric
20 that a colleague of this body is spewing, inviting
21 violent, transphobic and homophobic attacks across
22 the internet, that too during the month of pride.
23 Our celebration of pride and the queer movement
24 should include educating every single member of this
25 body on the continued fight for the safety of queer

2 New Yorkers. We can't say we are committed to just
3 fighting what's happening outside of New York, and we
4 know what's happening outside of New York:
5 criminalizing queerness and criminalizing sexual and
6 gender identity within our curriculums, and youth who
7 are transitioning.

8 New York is the birthplace of the queer movement,
9 and I urge this body for our unwavering support of
10 our queer colleagues and the queer community,
11 including queer youth, queer folks who are
12 incarcerated, queer immigrants and more. We are not
13 always going to agree in this Council, which was
14 mentioned, but we owe it to one another to treat each
15 other with basic dignity. I also want to lift up our
16 trans community and our trans young people and share
17 that I am proud to have funded Drag Queen Story Hour
18 in fiscal year 23, and I sure as hell plan on funding
19 them in fiscal year 24 and however long I'm here.
20 Thank you.

21 [Applause.]

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
23 to go now to Councilmember Hanks followed by
24 Councilmember Nurse.

2 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Thank you, Majority Leader.
3 I would like to echo the sentiments of Councilmember
4 Hanif. Yes, you know, I had... I was introducing my
5 first bills today. But it is truly important to make
6 sure that we all rise and raise our voices to hate
7 and discrimination. And so I echo the sentiments of
8 my colleagues, and I have tremendous respect and love
9 for Councilmember Carr who stayed. Who's here.

10 As a stepmom of a trans child, this kind of
11 rhetoric is... is what these young people are, you
12 know, feeling of not being validated, and it causes
13 them to take their lives. It causes them to be
14 depressed, and we think it doesn't matter, but it
15 does. Everything that you say matters. Words
16 matter. And so I am truly, like, devastated that our
17 colleague is fuming this kind of rhetoric. So I am
18 going to also email you my... my statements of my
19 bills to pass that along to make sure that we do not,
20 you know, pass on this moment to speak out and speak
21 loud against hate.

22 [Applause.]

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you,
24 Councilmember. We will now go to Councilmember
25 Nurse.

2 COUNCILMEMBER NURSE: Thank you. I was going to
3 talk about save the planet bills, but I'm not going
4 to do that. I just... I just want to also express in
5 solidarity my disappointment and quite frankly,
6 disgust with the behavior of... of Councilmember
7 Vicky Paladino. And I think New York sometimes
8 thinks... we think we're in a safe little bubble, but
9 we're not. Just this last week, 30 armed fascists
10 went to a pride event and they were pulled over
11 before they got there. We don't even know what would
12 have happened if they arrived. We're watching right
13 now at the national level a justice process about an
14 attack on our nation. And many New Yorkers went down
15 there to participate in that on January 6. So we
16 are... we are not in a in a little progressive bubble
17 at all. And that language does incite violence. In
18 DC, we had Pizzagate -- I don't know if you all
19 remember -- where pedophilia and groomer language led
20 to a shooter who went into this place and shot
21 people. So this is not a joke. And what happens on
22 social media can no longer be taken as lightly.

23 And I just want to say to all of our queer LGBTQ
24 members here, I love you. I truly love you. I'm
25 so... so grateful to be on this Council with you.

2 And I would have your back, and I would have the back
3 of any member in this body who was facing violent
4 rhetoric or violent attacks no matter where, or what
5 side of the spectrum you are on politically. So I
6 just want to say I'm sorry that this happened to you.
7 And I'm sorry that these members were not brave
8 enough to stand here and face this. And they should
9 they should come back here and apologize. So thank
10 you so much.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
12 hear from Councilmember Avilés followed by
13 Councilmember Sanchez.

14 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: So I to stand in full
15 support and solidarity of my colleague, Chi Ossé, and
16 the LGBTQ community here, inside these chambers and
17 outside in the community in condemning this
18 disgusting behavior of Councilmember Vicky Paladino.

19 Don't be confused. This is not criticism or
20 difference of opinion. This is defamation. This is
21 a violence. This is hate speech. And this is not
22 the first time she's done it. She has also spewed
23 racist remarks very candidly on social media. I
24 expect that this body and our leadership will
25 strongly and publicly condemn these comments. And we

2 may want to consider fully funding Drag Queen Story
3 Hour and every New York City public school across...

4 [Applause.]

5 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: We stand with you and like
6 my incredible Council colleague, Sandy Nurse, I too
7 love you and will stand with you every step of the
8 way.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We now go to
10 Councilmember Sanchez followed by Councilmember...

11 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Okay. Thank... Thank
12 you. Yes, I just wanted to speak in solidarity of my
13 colleagues as well. I love you, too. You have so
14 much love in this Council. We're with you. And
15 we're going to stay here and we're going to fight for
16 you. We're going to fight alongside you. And I'm
17 just sorry that this... that this is coming from this
18 body. Love you guys.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
20 now to Councilmember Krishnan.

21 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you. I also
22 wanted to add my voice to the absolutely abhorrent
23 comments by Councilmember Paladino. This has no
24 place in our city, in our communities, and let alone
25 in the body of government. I want everyone... all

2 our colleagues together to send a message loud and
3 clear, that to all LGBTQIA colleagues and in
4 particular to Councilmember Ossé that we are here
5 with you all, we will fight by your side to make sure
6 that we rid this Council chamber and our city have
7 the kind of hate and intolerant comments that we have
8 heard and seen and read about in these last few days.
9 It has no place here. And I say it as someone
10 also... also from Queens, from Jackson Heights, the
11 birthplace of the LGBTQIA+ movement in Queens. As
12 someone who finds Drag Queen Story Hour beloved, and
13 also I've expanded it and doubled it in my community
14 for this year, which is what we should be doing in
15 every district. And I say it as a father of two
16 young children who have attended Drag Queen Story
17 Hour, and who I know, like all our children, must be
18 exactly learning the values that Drag Queen Story
19 Hour and drag culture espouses: Love, pride, and
20 joy. That is what we reflect all together. That is
21 a love that we send to all our colleagues affected by
22 this hate. We will send that message loud and clear.
23 Thank you.

24 [Applause.]

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay. We're now going
3 to hear from Councilmember Gutiérrez followed by
4 Councillor Menin.

5 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Well, if you don't know
6 by now, I love Chi. He is my neighbor in my district
7 in Brooklyn, and my neighbor here at chambers. I too
8 want to just elevate the comments by all of our
9 colleagues who are in support of calling out this
10 bigoted behavior and commentary.

11 I think talking about stuff on social media has a
12 serious impact. As a sister of a queer New Yorker, I
13 would be absolutely proud... absolutely proud to
14 continue to stand with my queer colleagues, because
15 all our... all of our words have impacts and... and
16 I'm sorry, later is not going to cut it. The damage
17 has already been done. And as the mother of a six-
18 month-old, I can't wait to bring my baby to Drag
19 Queen Story Hour when she can understand it, because
20 it is a beautiful program that teaches us about
21 diversity, literacy, inclusion and re-instilling that
22 it is okay to be exactly who you are, to be
23 beautiful, to be colorful and to be unapologetic.
24 And the only apologies that I think matter right now
25 we're from Councilmember Vicki Paladino. It is not

2 the Queens way. And we know that. So I want to
3 extend my solidarity to all the members were offended
4 but particularly Chi... Councilmember Ossé, as chair
5 of the Cultural Committee here, I think he has been
6 absolutely graceful in his response, and she has been
7 the complete opposite. So I hope that we
8 collectively can hold her accountable. And I also
9 demand an apology. Thank you.

10 [Applause.]

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
12 hear from Councilmember Menin followed by
13 Councilmember Won.

14 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Thank you, I just wanted to
15 speak in solidarity with my colleagues. I'm a proud
16 supporter of Drag Queen Story Hour. I fund them with
17 \$10,000 in three public libraries in my district.
18 And I also want to say the number of comments since
19 I've been a Councilmember in January that I received
20 about Drag Queen Story Hour from my constituents, who
21 are huge supporters of it, who asked me to make sure
22 to fund it, again was incredible.

23 And hate is hate. And the first thing when there
24 is hate speech, is to condemn it and to call it out.
25 And so many of these colleagues here have had my back

2 when there have been antisemitic incidents in my
3 district. I just wanted you to know I have your
4 back. And there's absolutely no place for this at
5 all.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We'll now
7 hear from Councilmember Won.

8 COUNCILMEMBER WON: I am absolutely horrified by
9 the behavior of my colleague towards my other
10 colleagues, whom I dearly love as well. And I think
11 it is only appropriate that there are actual tangible
12 actions taken, like an oversight hearing and an
13 investigation on my colleague, especially in the
14 Ethics Committee by Councilmember Yeger, because I
15 think this is not something to take lightly,
16 especially when it is violence that is incited upon
17 other colleagues. And I do think that it is
18 necessary, because it's also an HR violation as well.

19 And for those who have stepped out of the room in
20 support of homophobes, or homophobic behavior, or
21 anti-trans rhetoric, I think that is also something
22 that should be taken very seriously as well. So I
23 hope that this is a conversation that continues to
24 make sure that we are not allowing this to continue
25 on in our city nor in our Council, especially by

2 other Council members that represent thousands of New
3 Yorkers. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you and we'll now
5 hear from Councilmember De La Rosa.

6 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Well, I just will also
7 wanted to express solidarity with my colleagues. I
8 want to say that it's shameful that these words and
9 these comments, and they were doubled down on by
10 Councilmember Vicky Paladino. We have a
11 responsibility here as public servants, to comport
12 ourselves with a level of respect and dignity for
13 everyone in this chamber, no matter where we are in
14 our in our beliefs, no matter how we live our lives,
15 and I want to apologize, since she didn't have the
16 nerve to stay here, I want to apologize for the hurt
17 that has been inflicted on our colleagues today. But
18 I also want to say that as a mother of a young child:
19 Children do not know hate. We teach hate through our
20 actions. And we have a responsibility here to make
21 sure that our kids are loving, and are able to love
22 themselves as much as they love each other. So this
23 is not just about comments on a Twitter page. This
24 is about what we're teaching the next generation of
25 children who are watching us right now live and in

2 living color. So I love you guys, I will fight with
3 you.

4 But also, there have to be consequences. Because
5 this is not about freedom of speech. This is about
6 hate speech and how we condemn it. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. I'm going to
8 let Councilmember Hudson finish, but I just want to
9 also offer my support... my full support to all my
10 colleagues who feel... or are... feel attacked and
11 harmed right now. And I'm very proud to call you all
12 my friends and colleagues and really proud of the
13 work that you guys do every single day. And I'm very
14 sorry that you feel hurt and attacked right now. And
15 with that, I want to offer Councilmember Hudson to
16 say the last word.

17 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. And I
18 specifically asked the majority leader to go last
19 because I was expecting Vicki to be in here and I
20 wanted to make sure that I had time to calm down
21 after all of the remarks.

22 But I just want to unequivocally condemn her
23 flagrant, homophobic and transphobic comments. These
24 attacks on our community and on my colleagues in the
25 LGBTQIA+ caucus should never be tolerated by this

2 body. It doesn't matter that this is pride month
3 because our capes do not come off on July 1. And
4 yes, I said capes, because to be the first or the
5 only to be out and proud to stand tall in the face of
6 the type of bigotry and hatred that all members of
7 the LGBTQIA+ community face, but particularly the
8 type that black and brown trans women, gender non-
9 conforming, femme, and non-binary folks experience
10 takes a superhero-like courage every single day.

11 It wasn't long ago that I myself was called a
12 faggot while walking into a press conference to
13 condemn the burning of a pride flag at a gay bar in
14 Harlem. The irony has never been lost on me. And to
15 know that I walk into these chambers every week,
16 having taken an oath to uphold the charter of the
17 city. And the constitution of the state. While a
18 colleague who has taken the same oath has the
19 audacity to bring such hatred into these halls is
20 infuriating. If we don't speak up now, New York City
21 will no longer be the beacon of hope we have known it
22 to be. The LGBTQIA+ caucus may be small, but we are
23 mighty. When you come for one of us, you come for
24 all of us.

25 [Applause.]

2 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: And let me be clear, to my
3 colleagues who call themselves allies. I don't want
4 to see anyone at another Pride Parade, a march,
5 rally, a gay bar or party if you have not condemned
6 the bigotry and hate that we are currently facing. I
7 urge this body to demonstrate strength in the face of
8 hate and take immediate action to make it clear that
9 these remarks are unacceptable in the Council or
10 anywhere. And thank you to all of the colleagues who
11 have spoken up. Thank you to my colleagues in the
12 caucus for sharing their stories. Thanks, Majority
13 Leader.

14 [Applause.]

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Councilmember
16 Hudson. We're going to now call on Speaker Adrienne
17 Adams to close out today's stated meeting.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Well, Councilmember Hudson, I
19 guess... (crosstalk)

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay, before I... before
21 I do that, sorry... (crosstalk)

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: will get the last word, but I
23 will defer... (crosstalk)

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Madam Speaker, I just
25 have to make an announcement that the Queens

2 delegation is supposed to be meeting immediately
3 after this. So please directly go there right after.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: I am so proud of my colleagues in
5 these chambers. And just so honored that you took
6 the opportunity for the space that you were provided
7 today to speak your minds on such an abhorrent,
8 embarrassing, and disgraceful display on social
9 media.

10 Councilmember Carr, we truly thank you for
11 staying. You could have left but you stayed. We
12 thank you for staying in these chambers.

13 The remarks were reprehensible. Condemnation is
14 a word. Action is a movement. This body strongly
15 condemns hate and hate speech on every level
16 presented. We are here to protect the public, not to
17 harm the public. We are here as examples to New
18 Yorkers, to our families, to generations that will
19 come after us standing in great chambers like this.
20 As speaker of this New York City Council, the word
21 condemn again, is just a word, but I will use it in
22 respect of my colleagues that asked for today. I
23 condemn the words the hate speech thrown out
24 cavalierly by our colleague.

2 My heart hurts for my colleague, Lynn Schulman,
3 who I have seen moved to tears today. And I... as I
4 fight back my own, I'm thinking about her and her
5 struggle. This will not be the last word on this
6 topic and on this subject matter. The stated meeting
7 of the June 16 2022 meeting is hereby adjourned.

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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 07/29/2022