

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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November 19, 2008

Start: 2:20pm

Recess: 3:21pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BETSY GOTBAUM
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Anthony Como
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Bill de Blasio
Inez E. Dickens
Mathieu Eugene
Simcha Felder
Lewis A. Fidler
Daniel R. Garodnick

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Sara M. Gonzalez
Vincent Ignizio
Letitia James
Melinda R. Katz
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Miguel Martinez
Rosie Mendez
Hiram Monserrate
Michael C. Nelson
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Helen Sears
Kendall Stewart
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
David I. Weprin
James S. Oddo
David Yassky

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

Dr. Albert Geraci
General Counsel
Republic of Albania

Esad Rizaj
President
Albanian American Society Foundation

William James Edwards Lee III
Musician and Composer

Reverend Keith Bolden
First Calvary Baptist Church

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right. We have
3 two ceremonials today. The first one is in
4 recognition of Albanian Independence Day,
5 presented by Council Member Jimmy Vacca. I don't
6 know, Jim, if you want to invite the folks up?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, please.
8 If everyone would come up from the Albanian
9 Community. Okay.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Why don't you guys
11 come and make a semicircle?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I want to
13 thank Speaker Christine Quinn and invite my Bronx
14 colleagues to come up with me, or any other
15 colleague of course, but Councilman Joel Rivera,
16 Annabel Palma, is here.

17 [Pause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Council
19 Member Maria Arroyo. Come. Come everyone.
20 Papparazzi. Ladies and gentlemen of the New York
21 City Council, we are here today to celebrate the
22 96th Anniversary of the Independence of Albania.

23 [Applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: And
25 leadership of the Albanian Community in the Bronx

1
2 came to me and they thought it would be a
3 wonderful idea to celebrate it here at the Stated
4 Meeting of the City Council. We have a ceremonial
5 section all the time, but this is a first for the
6 Albanian Community to celebrate in this fashion,
7 and I'm very proud of so many of you who took the
8 time out to come today. I've issued a
9 proclamation on your behalf, but I would like to
10 thank you for all you do for our country and for
11 your strong sense of patriotism and love of
12 America. And also I want to recognize Albania
13 and, as I said before, as all of you know we will
14 celebrate again in February a very, very important
15 occasion and celebrate together.

16 [Applause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: So I would
18 like to call upon our speaker, Christine Quinn.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
20 much, Jimmy. And just before we have the clerk
21 read the proclamation and then hear from anyone,
22 Council Member, that you'd like us to hear from, I
23 just want to thank Council Member Vacca for
24 pulling together this ceremonial today for
25 recognizing the Albanian community. I want to

1
2 join with Council Member Vacca in thanking you for
3 all you've done for this country, but also what
4 you've done for this City and in particular what
5 you have done for the Borough of the Bronx. So
6 with that said, Mike, if you could please read the
7 proclamation.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York,
9 Proclamation. The Council Of the City Of New York
10 is proud to honor the nation of Albanian in
11 recognition of its 96th anniversary of
12 independence on November 28th, 2008; and whereas
13 Albania is rich in traditions which date back to
14 ancient times, and whereas under the Byzantine
15 Empire, the Albanian people developed a national
16 identity with a united language and a cultural
17 heritage which its people celebrate today; and
18 whereas Ottoman rule began in 1506 and continued
19 for more than four centuries; and whereas in 1909,
20 Albanian launched a three-year armed resistance
21 against the Ottoman Turks that culminated on
22 November 28th, 1912 with the declaration of
23 Albania's independence; and whereas the Albanian
24 people celebrated a landmark event on the 17th day
25 of February of this year, when the government of

1
2 Kosovo declared its independence, charting a new
3 chapter in the history of the Albanian people; now
4 therefore be it known: that Council Member James
5 Vacca joins the Albanian-American Society
6 Foundation, and all Albanian-Americans throughout
7 our City and State, in celebration of Albanian
8 Independence Day. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for
9 the entire Council, James Vacca, Council Member,
10 13th District, The Bronx.

11 [Applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.
13 I would now like to call upon Dr. Albert Geraci,
14 who is the General Counsel for the Republic of
15 Albania.

16 [Applause]

17 ALBERT GERACI: Ladies and
18 gentlemen, my fellow countrymen, guests of honor
19 and friends, it is a great pleasure for me to be
20 here with you today in a ceremony of hoisting the
21 Albanian flag up to remember the 96th anniversary
22 of independence of Republic of Albania. Every
23 nation, every country has its important dates in
24 its history. The Albanian people has the 28th of
25 the November 1912, the day when in the town of

1
2 Vlora, representatives from all Albanian regions
3 declared the independence of the country from the
4 Ottoman Empire, therefore opening a new page in
5 its history. Since the independence, our nation
6 has come a long way through a lot of efforts and
7 sacrifices in building a modern European state.
8 In the near future our country aims to become a
9 member of the NATO and European Union, part of
10 which Albania has naturally and historically felt
11 that it is. 2008 was a good year for Albanian
12 nation, thanks to the help of western democratic
13 countries and especially with the help of United
14 States of America, Kosovo declared its
15 independence, while Albania got its invitation for
16 the NATO membership. My fellow countrymen, our
17 country will get more stronger and more
18 development if all of us, wherever we are, think
19 and work more for it. On behalf of the Consulate
20 General of Republic of Albania, I would like to
21 take this opportunity to thank you everybody that
22 helped in organizing this activity as well as the
23 local authorities that are present here today.
24 Thank you very much.

25 [Applause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.

And our final speaker will be Esad Rizaj,
President and Founder of the Albanian American
Society Foundation. Esad? Oh, here you are. Oh,
don't do that to me. Right next to me. You see
people far away, you never see people right next
to you.

ESAD RIZAJ: Thank you City Council
Speaker Christine Quinn and Councilman James Vacca
for your warm introduction. Welcome to
distinguished guests. It's an honor to be here
with you this afternoon. Today we gather to
celebrate the 96th anniversary of Albanian
independence. This monument event serves as a
tribute of the case of contributions made by
Albanians to the greatest city of the world, New
York, and the centuries of contributions made
throughout the world. Today is a tribute to
Albanians of the past, present and the future, a
tribute to great Albanians that made this day
possible, Gjergj Kastrioti Skanderberg, Mother
Theresa, Adem Jashari, Tahesh Inoni [phonetic],
and Betushi [phonetic] Brothers, we stand on the
shoulders of these heroes and accept this

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2 proclamation, commemorating 96 years of Albanian
3 independence. This is very important, should
4 remind us, all of us, Albanian and non, what a
5 group of people can do when they are united and
6 committed to a greater cause. Albanian
7 independence will fall on November 28th, but every
8 day of this year we will remember, our land may be
9 divided, but our hearts are forever united. Long
10 live America, live Albanians everywhere, long live
11 Albanians in Malcia [phonetic], long live
12 Albanians in Jamrea [phonetic], long live
13 Albanians in Macedonia. We are all one. Our land
14 is, as with all Albanians, We are bonded by blood,
15 not by religion. We are Albanian first, and we
16 are one family, Christian, Jewish, or Muslim; we
17 are all one. Thank you so much. Thank you, Mr.
18 Vacca.

19 [Applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you.
21 Thank you everyone. Thank you, Speaker Quinn.
22 Thank you and congratulations. Thank you again.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all very
24 much. And next we're going to have our second
25 ceremonial of this Stated, which is Tish James,

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2 thank you very much. Council Member James.

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[Pause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right, if we
5 could-- oh here's Council Member James. Bring up
6 the next ceremonial, that would be great.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.
8 If Mr. Bill Lee and his family could join us and
9 my colleagues please join us. Where's Mr. Lee?
10 Mr. Lee? Right here, Mr. Lee.

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Here you go, Sir.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: William,
13 Bill, James Edwards Lee.

14

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just
15 get some quiet in the Chambers. If folks who are
16 exiting could do it quietly or take your
17 conversations outside. Just give us two secs. I
18 just want to make sure. Okay. Here you go, Tish.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I'm sure
20 most of you remember Do the Right Thing, School
21 Days, She's Gotta Have it; and what was the other
22 one? Mo' Better Blues. Well, he's here today.
23 And Malcolm X. Not Malcolm X. William Bill James
24 Edwards Lee III was born on July 23rd, 1928 and is
25 an American musician, a Jazz musician, a composer,

1
2 an educator, an acoustic bassist. He was born in
3 Snow Hill Alabama, more then-- do you mind if I
4 say? 80 years ago.

5 [Applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: And he now
7 lives in Fort Greene with his wife, Susan. He's a
8 profound Jazzman and he's continued in the
9 footsteps of his parents, Arnold and Alberta.
10 Bill Lee's father was the first bandmaster of
11 Bethune Cookman College, and his mother was a
12 concert pianist. Also, Bill Lee's grandfather,
13 his namesake, graduated from Tuskegee Institute
14 and founded the school Snow Hill Normal, an
15 industrial institute. Today Bill Lee is the
16 father of five boys and a girl, including director
17 Spike Lee. He has composed original music for
18 many of his son's films, such as She's Gotta Have
19 It, School Days, Do The Right Thing and Mo' Better
20 Blues. His children by his first wife, Jackie,
21 who is now deceased, is Spike, Chris, David, Joie,
22 and Cinque, and his youngest son with his second
23 wife, Susan, Arnold VI. Wow. While residing in
24 Brooklyn for the last 50 years Bill Lee has had
25 the opportunity to be in the presence of the

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2 greatest performers on the planet and has written
3 more than 11 folk-jazz operas. He has played the
4 bass for many artists including Aretha Franklin
5 and Bob Dylan. Bill Lee has recorded with Billy
6 Wallace, Frank Strozier, Bob Dylan, Chris
7 Anderson, Johnny Griffin, Bruce Langhorn, Chad
8 Mitchell, Eric Weissberg, Ray Bryant, Judy
9 Collins, to name a few. And the list goes on and
10 on. But I've got to mention Bettie Carter, Dizzy
11 Gillespie, oh my God. Oh gee. And Duke Ellington
12 and Art Blakely. We are in the midst of, yes.

13 [Applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: But more
15 importantly than all of that, five years ago when
16 I was running for election, Mr. Lee sat me down on
17 his stoop on Washington Park and told me about how
18 to campaign and how to get it done. I followed
19 his advice and here I am.

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: And now
22 we're going to hear some words from our Speaker,
23 Christine Quinn.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Well thank you very
25 much, Council Member James. And that was quite a

1
2 resume or life's work. So I'm glad that Tish has
3 brought you to us today so we can thank you on all
4 you've done on behalf of our City and for the
5 cultural expansion of our city and for Brooklyn.

6 [Applause]

7 SPEAKER QUINN: So if I could ask
8 the Clerk to read the proclamation, which will
9 tell us even more.

10 CLERK: Council, City of New York
11 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York
12 is proud to honor Jazz legend Bill Lee, for his
13 tremendous contributions to the cultural life of
14 our nation; and whereas: William James Edwards Lee
15 III, also affectionately known as Bill Lee, was
16 born on July 23rd, 1928 in Snow Hill Alabama. In
17 1959 Mr. Lee moved to New York where he began
18 working with folk musicians like Josh White and
19 Odetta, leading to important introductions for his
20 musical and theatrical writings; and whereas: for
21 the last 49 years Mr. Lee has been a proud
22 resident of Fort Greene, Brooklyn. During this
23 time he has written 11 folk-jazz operas, movie
24 scores and more, while cementing his reputations
25 as one of our nation's greatest living Jazz

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2 legends. Mr. Lee is also the founder of the New
3 York Bass Violin Choir; and whereas: whether
4 recording work with other musicians, composing the
5 scores for many of his son's films or performing
6 with other giants of Jazz, Mr. Lee has enriched us
7 all with his presence. He has deepened everyone's
8 love for Jazz and promoted harmony throughout the
9 City. Now therefore be it known that the Council
10 of the City of New York most gratefully honors
11 Bill Lee in celebration of his 80th birthday and
12 for his distinguished contributions to the
13 cultural life of New York City and the Nation.
14 Christine C. Quinn, speaker for the entire
15 Council, Letitia James, Council Member, 35th
16 District, Brooklyn.

17 [Applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations.
19 Thank you. And if I could give the microphone
20 over to you, Mr. Lee.

21 WILLIAM LEE: Good evening to
22 Everyone. This is a great surprise for me. Ms.
23 Letitia James. Can you hear me?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes, we can.

25 WILLIAM LEE: All right. And I'm

1

2 quite honored to be honored. The thing that I
3 would like to say is that I'm 80 years old and
4 that I've slowed down writing. I'm writing a
5 piece now that's taking me, maybe three or four
6 weeks to write about 12 bars.

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SPEAKER QUINN: It would take me a
lifetime.

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WILLIAM LEE: And I'm trying to
complete that for 18-piece orchestra that has
already a large formation of songs. But other
than that I play occasionally now, not as much as
I used to. But I would like to read the names of
some of the operas that I've written. Some of
them have been performed in their entirety; The
Depot, One Mile East, The Quarters, 29B, Color
College, Before This Time, Another Year, Little
Johnny, Baby Sweets, Song for a School Day, and
The Corner. That's ten. It might be more if I
could dig in to the files.

21

[Applause]

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WILLIAM LEE: So I don't want to
hold you any longer, whatever celebration that you
have to do. Let's all do it. So thank you very
much. Let me introduce all these great people

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2 that are here. First, my wife, my second wife,
3 Susan. And my first son with my first wife was
4 Spike Lee; second son, Chris Lee. Hold your hand
5 up Chris. And then the next one is David Lee.
6 And the next one is Joie Lee.

7

[Laughter]

8

WILLIAM LEE: And the last one is
9 Cinque Lee. Now the last one here, we have one
10 other son with Susan, Arnold Lee, he's at Oberlin.
11 He's a senior. Let's give him a hand.

12

[Applause]

13

WILLIAM LEE: Oberlin is a musical
14 institution.

15

[Crosstalk]

16

WILLIAM LEE: Oh, my brother. Oh,
17 wow. Cliff Lee. Cliff, come on out here. Cliff
18 Lee. My brother. And Aunt Nancy, his wife. Come
19 up. Aunt Nancy. And Ricky Gordon, who came by
20 the house and said listen, come go down to.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: And thank you,
22 Ricky, for bringing this, for initiating this
23 proclamation.

24

WILLIAM LEE: Yeah, Ricky.

25

[Applause]

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WILLIAM LEE: So that's about it.

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Any other celebrations? Anybody else.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

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Congratulations. That concludes the ceremonials

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for today's Stated.

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[Pause]

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CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, at

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this time, can you please place all cell phones

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and pagers on vibrate and will all non-Council

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employees and lobbyists please leave the main

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floor of the chambers. Thank you.

13

BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please. In a

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minute we're all going to rise. We just wait for

15

this last, nice picture. All rise. I pledge

16

allegiance to the flag of the United States of

17

America, and to the Republic, for which it stands,

18

one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty

19

and justice for all. Thank you. Roll Call.

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CLERK: Addabbo.

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[Off Mic]

22

CLERK: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

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CLERK: Avella.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

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CLERK: Baez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

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CLERK: Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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CLERK: Como.

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[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

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CLERK: de Blasio.

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[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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CLERK: Dilan. Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

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Eugene is here. Here.

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CLERK: Thank you. Felder.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

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CLERK: Foster.

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[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.
3 CLERK: Gennaro.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.
5 CLERK: Gentile.
6 [Off Mic]
7 CLERK: Gerson.
8 [Off Mic]
9 CLERK: Gioia.
10 [Off Mic]
11 CLERK: Gonzalez.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.
13 CLERK: Ignizio.
14 [Off Mic]
15 CLERK: Jackson.
16 [Off Mic]
17 CLERK: James.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.
19 CLERK: Katz.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.
21 CLERK: Koppell.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.
23 CLERK: Lappin.
24 [Off Mic]
25 CLERK: Liu.

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2

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

5

Here.

6

CLERK: Martinez.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: I'm here.

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CLERK: McMahon.

9

[Off Mic]

10

CLERK: Mealy.

11

[Off Mic]

12

CLERK: Mendez.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

14

CLERK: Monserrate.

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[Off Mic]

16

CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

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CLERK: Palma.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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CLERK: Recchia.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

22

CLERK: Reyna.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

24

CLERK: Sanders.

25

[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Seabrook.

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[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

6

CLERK: Stewart.

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COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

8

CLERK: Vacca.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

10

CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

12

CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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[Off Mic]

16

CLERK: Thank you. White.

17

[Off Mic]

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CLERK: Yassky.

19

[Off Mic]

20

CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

22

CLERK: Rivera.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

24

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

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2

BETSY GOTBAUM: We have a quorum.

3

Would you all rise please for the Reverent Keith

4

Bolden, the First Calvary Baptist Church. All

5

rise. Quiet, please.

6

REVEREND KIETH BOLDEN: God, we ask

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now that your presence be among us, that your

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wisdom engulf us. Thank you now, God, for doing

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it. Amen.

10

[Applause]

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[Laughter]

12

BETSY GOTBAUM: Reverend.

13

[Applause]

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BETSY GOTBAUM: Motion to spread

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the invocation by Council Member Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Motion to

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spread the invocation in full upon the record.

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[Pause]

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered. Sorry.

20

Adoption of the minutes. Council Member Gerson?

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Council Member Gerson? Earth to Council Member

22

Gerson.

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[Pause]

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BETSY GOTBAUM: Not here. I'll

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spread them.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Council Member Gerson has not arrived yet. I will spread the minutes.

BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered. Messages and papers from the Mayor.

CLERK: None.

BETSY GOTBAUM: Communication from City, Council and Borough Offices?

CLERK: M 1211.

BETSY GOTBAUM: Petitions and communications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry, 1211 is Rules, Privileges and Elections.

BETSY GOTBAUM: Land Use call ups.

CLERK: None.

BETSY GOTBAUM: Communication from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First let me start off by delivering two pieces of, well, three pieces of good news. I wanted to make sure all our colleagues knew that Helen Diane Foster was married over the weekend and isn't with us today because she's on her honeymoon and she's in clearly a far better place. Today is Council

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2 Member Al Vann's birthday. So happy birthday, Al
3 Vann.

4 [Applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Al Vann shares a
6 birthday with David Weprin's 17 year old twins, so
7 if you're looking for joint parties-- but happy
8 birthday, Al. And also we heard a couple of hours
9 ago that Erik Dilan and his beautiful wife are now
10 the parents of a beautiful and healthy baby boy.

11 [Applause]

12 SPEAKER QUINN: So the Council
13 family is growing. And with all of that good
14 news, we have some very good pieces of legislation
15 to vote on today as well as some important Land
16 Use actions. Let me start with Intro 812-A. It's
17 a piece of legislation introduced by Council
18 Member Simcha Felder.

19 BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: And I want to thank
21 Phil Hom and Terzah Nasser for their work on this
22 piece of legislation. And I want to thank,
23 obviously Simcha, but also Chairperson John Liu
24 for moving this bill through their Committee. I
25 don't think if you polled 8 million New Yorkers

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2 you would find more than two, one of whom would
3 have to be the DOT Commissioner, and if you polled
4 them and asked them how long do you get to park at
5 a broken meter, maybe two would say for an hour
6 for free and the rest you would of course have to
7 pay pursuant to the parking laws for that space,
8 and if you don't you'll get a ticket. Nobody in
9 government knows that, no average person knows
10 that, because it's kind of a silly set up. And I
11 want to thank Chairperson Felder and Chairperson
12 Liu for moving this legislation forward, which
13 eliminates that rule at broken parking meters,
14 makes the rule the same as it is at missing
15 parking meters, and takes away this law from the
16 books which has really resulted in unfair and
17 needless tickets being levied against New Yorkers.
18 So I want to thank them for this very commonsense
19 piece of legislation, which catches kind of
20 government up to the logic of what most New
21 Yorkers know. And I want to call on Chairperson
22 Liu and then the sponsor of the bill, Council
23 Member Felder.

24 CHAIRPERSON LIU: Thank You, Madam
25 Speaker. Your sentiments are right on point and

1
2 so I will simply thank you for supporting this
3 measure that removes one more thing in New York
4 City that drives people Crazy, people who are
5 otherwise law-abiding God fearing people. They
6 get driven crazy by these kind of arcane rules.
7 Now I want to thank Council Member Felder for his
8 introduction of this bill.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thanks, Chairperson
10 Liu. And Council Member Felder?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you,
12 Speaker Quinn. Thank you Chairman Liu and your
13 staff for the work on this bill. This is a very
14 simple bill and it goes to the fundamental of what
15 tickets are supposed to be. Is it supposed to be
16 making money for the City or to encourage
17 compliance? And once again, we find that
18 according to some statistics, at least 40,000 of
19 these tickets are issued every year. 40,000 of
20 these tickets are issued every year to drive
21 people out of their minds, but more importantly to
22 make money for the City. That's not what tickets
23 are supposed to be about. And therefore under the
24 current law, you're allowed to park at a broken
25 meter for one hour, no matter what the sign says,

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2 whether it says two or three or four. And that
3 leads, obviously, for people to think that they
4 can park there for whatever time it says, two or
5 three or four, and then get a ticket for that. So
6 this law is very simple. It says, don't drive New
7 Yorkers nuts and stop the ticketing. There are
8 enough summonses out there that are legitimate and
9 the City does not have to look for ways to really
10 make New Yorkers feel as though they can't drive,
11 walk or, you know, go to the store and get a
12 shopping bag without having to pay for it. Thank
13 you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
15 Member Felder. We're also voting on Intro 860
16 today. I want to thank Chairperson White for his
17 sponsorship of the bill and also for moving it
18 through his Committee. I want to thank the
19 Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs who worked
20 closely with us on this and another piece of ICAP
21 reform legislation we'll be taking up soon. This
22 is also, I think, a pretty simple, commonsensical
23 bill. It says that if you are getting tax
24 abatement as a result of the ICAP program, you
25 have to abide by the code rules of the City of New

1
2 York. And if you're found to have asbestos
3 violations, building code violations, toxic waste
4 violations, fire code violations, the benefits and
5 the money you're being saved under ICAP will be
6 suspended. You'll be given 180 days to rectify
7 the violations, the problems, rectify the laws
8 you're breaking. And if you can't, we're not
9 going to continue to extend you tax breaks from
10 the City of New York if you're not willing to
11 abide by the laws of the City that are often
12 lifesaving as it relates to building and
13 development. So I again want to thank Council
14 Member White for taking this bill up in his
15 Committee and for introducing it. I also want to
16 thank Rob Newman, Jeff Haberman and John Smith,
17 who all worked on this legislation. We're also
18 voting on Intro 492-A today, a piece of
19 legislation introduced by Council Member David
20 Yassky and shepherded through the Public Safety
21 Committee by its chair Council Member Vallone,
22 Chairperson Vallone. I want to thank both of
23 them. I want to thank Oona Peterson and Alix
24 Pustilnik for their work on this piece of
25 legislation. This bill will require reports to

1
2 the City Council of crimes involving illegal fire
3 arms, crimes involving illegal firearms and
4 trafficking of illegal firearms. This piece of
5 legislation will help get information to
6 communities about how many crimes are being
7 committed in their neighborhoods involving illegal
8 firearms. This type of information will be very
9 important for all of us to have as elected
10 officials, but also for communities to have to
11 understand what is going on in their neighborhoods
12 and for all of us to have as our efforts continue
13 to try to reduce the number of illegal guns coming
14 into our city and killing our children. I want to
15 thank Chairperson Vallone and the author of the
16 bill, Council Member Yassky. I said before, but
17 it bears repeating, this is not the first piece of
18 gun control legislation that Chairperson Vallone
19 has taken up and it's not the first piece of gun
20 control legislation authored by Council Member
21 Yassky, and I want to thank them for their
22 continued focus and vigilance on this most
23 important of issues. I want to call on
24 Chairperson Vallone and then Council Member
25 Yassky.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Nice job by
3 my staff. Congratulations, David Yassky on pass.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Keeping with the
5 Reverend's theme of short but sweet, we're going
6 to turn it over to David Yassky.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Same here.
8 I just thank you, Chair Vallone. This is, I don't
9 know, it's probably got to be the eighth or ninth
10 significant bill that you have moved through your
11 Committee on this. I thank you for that work. I
12 thank you, Speaker Quinn.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you all. And
14 honestly I really just want to underscore thanking
15 both of you for being so incredibly focused on the
16 issue of illegal guns. It's hard for
17 municipalities to have an impact in that area and
18 you two have both been very, very creative in
19 thinking outside of the box. In Land Use today we
20 have a bunch of things that we are taking up that
21 all deserve commenting on. I want to thank Ramon
22 and Chuck Meara and Benjamin for all of their work
23 and I want to thank Danielle Decerbo, Amy Levitan,
24 Alonzo Carr, Christian Hylton, Carol Shine, all in
25 the Land Use Office for their work, HPD, NYCHA,

1
2 City Planning, Felix Ciampa and Jed Halbert, all
3 in the Mayor's Office for their work. The first
4 Land Use action today is a community initiated
5 down zoning and rezoning of the Lower East Side.
6 And I really want to congratulate Council Members
7 Mendez and Gerson. This is a very important
8 action. Often zoning actions come to us initiated
9 by developers. This is a zoning action that the
10 community wrote and requested, a zoning action
11 designed to protect the historic nature of the
12 Lower East Side, to preserve a manufacturing
13 possibility on the Lower East Side, and for the
14 first time ever, to put height restriction on the
15 Lower East Side and the East Village. It also
16 will generate some affordable housing and brings
17 important protections against gentrification. But
18 I really want to congratulate Rosie and Alan. I
19 know they worked incredibly, incredibly hard on
20 this issue. And the success of this rezoning will
21 bear and create other rezonings in the area. So I
22 really want to congratulate them. I also want to
23 thank Chairperson Katz for all of her work. And
24 let me start by calling on Rosie Mendez and then
25 Alan Gerson.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,
3 Madam Speaker. Today we will vote on a new zoning
4 district for the Lower East Side and East Village
5 that will ensure the survival of the low-scale
6 character of a community, which was recently
7 recognized as one of the 11 most endangered
8 neighborhoods in the United States. In *The Death*
9 *and Life of Great American City*, Jane Jacobs
10 states: Those city streets that do not meet scale
11 zoning need it badly, not just for their own sake
12 but because the presence of streets with
13 consistent character adds diversity to the city
14 scene itself. In this rezoning we obtained
15 inclusionary zoning that will create the potential
16 for new, affordable housing. My community
17 conceived of and demanded this plan and I am
18 pleased to have been a part of their efforts to
19 get it. This is the largest rezoning in Manhattan
20 with 111 blocks, though not the largest rezoning
21 in this City. And I look forward to continuing my
22 work with Council Member Alan Gerson, for the
23 neighboring Bowery and the Chinatown communities.
24 Specifically I want to thank the chairs of CB 3;
25 there were a few of them during the time we were

1
2 working on this, Harvey Epstein; David McWater,
3 who really heralded this through the community
4 board; and now Dominic Pisciotta; my own Chief of
5 Staff and my dear friend, Lisa Kaplan, and a
6 former CB chair also worked on this rezoning plan;
7 our non-profit community groups, Cooper Square
8 Committee, Good Old Lower East Side, Lower East
9 Side People's Mutual Housing Association, Asian
10 Americans For Equality, and the many residents
11 including Lisa Burris from Public Housing
12 Residents of the Lower East Side, who had to go
13 out and really dispel a lot of the myths of what
14 was happening in Public Housing with this
15 rezoning. I am grateful to all of you. I am
16 proud to be part of this community and proud to
17 continue my work with you. Thank you very much
18 and I ask everyone to vote yes.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We are
20 also voting on an action today related to
21 developing more affordable housing in Council
22 Member Gale Brewer's district.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Alan. Alan
24 Gerson.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, I'm sorry,

1

2 Alan. I forgot about Alan. I'm sorry.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: That's
4 okay.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, Alan.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Better off.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: No. Madam
9 Speaker, it's been especially productive to have
10 worked collaboratively with my colleague, Council
11 Member Mendez, and working together with all of
12 the community organizations she mentioned, we have
13 achieved a win-win result for the communities
14 within the rezoned district and the communities
15 abutting and adjoining just outside of the rezoned
16 district. In addition to the individuals and
17 organizations Council Member Mendez mentioned,
18 Madam Speaker, on behalf of both of us I want to
19 thank you for your leadership; the Central Staff,
20 especially Chuck Meara and Gail Benjamin, the
21 Chief of Staff for Council District 1, Tammy Toh
22 and of course again the chairs of our-- Chair Katz
23 and Chair Avella, the Chairs of our Committee and
24 Subcommittee. I just want to underscore in
25 addition to the points, the physical

1
2 characteristics referred to by Council Member
3 Mendez, we have taken major steps to persevere the
4 cultural and commercial and the diversity in terms
5 of the character of the community is represented.
6 With this rezoning, we have agreements that will
7 put in place with expanded resources almost
8 unprecedented anti harassment, anti displacement
9 protections, to make sure Local Law 7 is applied.
10 We have identified a preservation program that
11 will preserve hundreds of units which otherwise
12 would have been lost, perhaps in the thousands,
13 the creation of new affordable housing and a fast
14 track process to address the concerns
15 expeditiously of the areas outside of the rezoned
16 and the commercial districts within the rezoned
17 area. With these additional resources and
18 procedures we have achieved a result that will
19 serve all of the communities within and adjoining
20 this area. And I join my colleague in supporting
21 this important step forward and pledging to
22 continue to work on the next steps that will
23 follow. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Alan.

25 Sorry about that. We're also, as I started to

1
2 say, voting on an important affordable housing
3 development in Council Member Gale Brewer's
4 district, just to the north of mine, related to
5 some open space on the Harborview Project in the
6 Harborview Houses. This is a very important
7 development project that's going to create both
8 senior housing for Hell's Kitchen, Upper West Side
9 communities as well as other affordable housing.
10 I want to thank everyone who worked on this, in
11 particular Ramon Martinez and Danielle Decerbo.
12 And then I call on Council Member Brewer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
14 very much. In addition to those two amazing
15 individuals, Community Board 4 members I want to
16 thank, and 11, Joe Restuccia, Sarah Desmond and
17 Chair J. D. Noland and certainly also Gail
18 Benjamin from the Speaker's Office, although with
19 all due respect, Danielle Decerbo gets the star;
20 NYCHA, Doug Apple, Irene Popkin and Bryan Holman
21 and others at HPD, Sean Donovan, Heidi Light
22 [phonetic], Carol Clark and Ruthann Visnoscus
23 [phonetic] and the Mayor's Office, Erika Turbulee
24 [phonetic], Jesse Bodean from my office, former
25 HPD Commissioner Jerrilyn Perrine, who was a good

1 supporter and instigator, and Dan Garodnick, Chair
2 of the Committee. This is a project that people
3 should pay attention to, because as the Speaker
4 indicated, if there are public housing
5 developments in your district, then this is the
6 first where NYCHA is selling the land to a private
7 developer. It is a challenge. The fact of the
8 matter is the Hudson Yards Agreement didn't
9 mandate as a mitigation to the Hudson Yards
10 affordable housing would be built on 55th Street,
11 where Harborview residents currently live in a
12 senior building and a family building. And it was
13 a challenge because the way in which the RFP was
14 structured made it difficult to live up to a
15 project that is mostly affordable with some
16 market. However, with all the above individuals,
17 we have managed to come up with 218 units of
18 affordable, be they low income, middle or
19 moderate, market, which of course I hate, but
20 that's what make the project work. And we are
21 also talking about permanent long-term
22 affordability with HPD oversight. We're talking
23 about a community that will have a lot of input
24 into the landscaping of decisions. We're talking
25

1
2 about a very fair lottery, and we're also talking
3 about the way that it's funded, which is very
4 important, includes inclusionary zoning bonuses,
5 and we're limiting any excess inclusionary bonus
6 where it goes in the neighborhood. So I thank
7 everybody who's involved and state that this has
8 been a complicated, long process. I hope it works
9 for the neighborhood. But I just caution
10 everybody, pay attention to further development on
11 NYCHA. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
13 much. I want to also thank Dan Garodnick for his
14 work and patience on the Harborview Project. I
15 also want to say we are voting on the siting of a
16 sanitation garage today in my Council District
17 that will house the trucks for Community Boards 1,
18 2 and 5 and this will, among other things, help us
19 get the trucks of the Gansevoort Peninsula, which
20 will allow us to expand the Hudson River Park. I
21 want to thank Chuck Meara, Kate Sealy Kirk and
22 Grey Elam and Danielle Decerbo for all of their
23 work on this. Gale was right in giving Danielle
24 Decerbo a gold star. There's few important Land
25 Use things that happen anywhere in the City, but

1
2 certainly on the West Side of Manhattan, without
3 Danielle Decerbo's guidance and work. So I really
4 want to thank her and also thank Jessica Lappin
5 for her attention and perseverance in the hearing
6 of this matter. But thank you for all of your
7 help. And that concludes communications from the
8 Speaker except I just need to yield the floor for
9 a moment so he can vote to Council Member Jim
10 Gennaro.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you,
12 Madam Speaker. Madam Public Advocate, I request
13 the opportunity to vote on all matters on the
14 General Order Calendar today.

15 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: And I vote
17 I.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry, Jim.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Also, Council
21 Member Nelson, please, Madam Public Advocate?

22 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Madam
24 Public Advocate, I request unanimous permission to
25 vote Aye on all land use call ups and all coupled

1

2 general orders.

3

BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.

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SPEAKER QUINN: And that concludes

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Communication--

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON:

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[Interposing] I vote aye on all.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: That concludes

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Communication from the Speaker.

11

BETSY GOTBAUM: General Orders,

12

seeing nobody. Report of Special Committees?

13

CLERK: None.

14

BETSY GOTBAUM: Reports of Standing

15

Committees?

16

CLERK: Report of the Committee on

17

Finance Reso 1680.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

19

Orders.

20

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1707.

21

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

22

Orders.

23

CLERK: Report of the Committee on

24

Land Use, LU 853 and Reso 1708 through 855 and

25

Reso 1710 various UDAAPs.

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2

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

3

Orders.

4

CLERK: LU 919 and Reso 1711 and LU

5

920 and Reso 1712 Harborview Project.

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

7

Orders.

8

CLERK: LU 921 and Reso 1713.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

10

Orders.

11

CLERK: LU 922 and Reso 1714.

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

13

Orders.

14

CLERK: LU 823 and Reso 1715 and LU

15

924 and Reso 1716 Lower East Side Rezoning.

16

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

17

Orders.

18

CLERK: LU 925 and Reso 1717 and LU

19

926 and Reso 1718.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

21

Orders. And if we could get quiet in the back

22

please.

23

BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet, please.

24

CLERK: Lu 927 and Reso 1719

25

Unenclosed sidewalk café.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled, to be

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filed.

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CLERK: LU 929 and Reso 1720.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Public Safety, Intro 492 A.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled

10

on General Orders.

11

BETSY GOTBAUM: General Order

12

Calendar.

13

CLERK: Intro 812-A, Parking

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meters.

15

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

16

orders.

17

CLERK: Intro 860, Commercial

18

Abatement.

19

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

20

Orders.

21

CLERK: Resolution appointing

22

various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

23

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

24

Orders. And at this point I ask for a roll call

25

on all the items that have been coupled on the

1

2 General Order Calendar, please.

3 CLERK: Monserrate.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MONSERRATE: Yes.

5 I'd like unanimous consent to vote up on all the
6 Land Use items that have been already called and
7 I'd like to vote on the affirmative on that in
8 today's General Order.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MONSERRATE: Thank
11 you very much.

12 CLERK: Arroyo.

13 [Off Mic]

14 CLERK: Avella.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I know this
16 will make Chuck and Ramon very happy. Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Baez.

18 [Off Mic]

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'll speak
21 for us. I vote no on LU 921, 925, 926 and the
22 accompanying Resos and Aye on all others.

23 CLERK: Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

25 CLERK: Como.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMO: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

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CLERK: De Blasio.

5

[Off Mic]

6

CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

8

CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

10

CLERK: Felder:

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

12

CLERK: Fidler.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

14

CLERK: Garodnick.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

16

CLERK: Gentile.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on

18

19 all.

CLERK: Gerson.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I abstain

21

22 on LU 921, 25, 26 and the accompanying resolutions

22

23 and I vote yes on all else.

23

CLERK: Gioia.

24

25 [Off Mic]

25

1

CLERK: Gonzalez.

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3

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

4

all.

5

CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. I'd

7

like to vote aye as well as on the Land Use call

8

ups that were previously voted with unanimous

9

consent, please.

10

[Pause]

11

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Well in

12

that case, I vote yes.

13

CLERK: James.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

15

CLERK: Katz.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

17

CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

19

CLERK: Lappin.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

21

CLERK: Liu.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

23

CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

25

on all.

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CLERK: Martinez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Madam
Public Advocate, may I be excused to vote on all
coupled general items and all Land Use items?

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BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

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CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

9

CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

11

CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

13

CLERK: Reyna.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

15

CLERK: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

17

CLERK: Stewart.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

19

CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

21

CLERK: Vallone.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

23

CLERK: Vann.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Madam Public
Advocate, unanimous consent to vote on all Land

25

1

2 Use and General Orders?

3 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote Aye on
5 all.

6 CLERK: Weprin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Yassky.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

10 CLERK: Gioia.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes
12 on all matters before us today.

13 BETSY GOTBAUM: So ordered.

14 CLERK: Oddo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes and
16 because this meeting is way too quick and way too
17 calm, Charles and I are going to reenact
18 yesterday's hearing for the benefit of all of you
19 who weren't there.

20 CLERK: Rivera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote Aye.

22 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye. I'm sorry, if
24 I could just be excused to just--

25 BETSY GOTBAUM: [Interposing]

1

2 Quiet, please.

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4

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SPEAKER QUINN: For the record I wanted to note that we're voting on a transparency resolution today and it includes an allocation of funding to the Hetrick-Martin Institute. My partner, Kim Catullo is a non-paid volunteer member of their Board of Directors, but that said, I vote Aye on all.

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CLERK: De Blasio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye on all.

13

[Pause]

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BETSY GOTBAUM: All items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, zero negative, zero abstentions with the exception of LU 921 and Reso 1713, which was adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 1 negative, 1 abstention; and LU 925 Reso 1717, which was adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 1 abstention; and LU 926 and Reso 1718, which was adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 1 abstention. Sorry. Introduction and reading of bills.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
3 referred to Committees as indicated on the agenda.

4 BETSY GOTBAUM: Discussion of
5 resolutions, there are none. General discussion.
6 Council Member Dickens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I
8 encourage my colleagues to sign on to Intro 874.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: Quiet please.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Which
11 would take steps to regulate some of the new
12 plumbing practices on job sites. First this
13 legislation aims to put in place requirements that
14 installation of methane and radon venting systems-
15 -

16 BETSY GOTBAUM: [Interposing]
17 Quiet, please.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Both
19 relatively new technologies in plumbing, be done
20 by technicians with the same professional
21 qualifications as other plumbing tasks. As of
22 now, anyone can install these types of venting
23 systems without professional qualifications or
24 training. Both methane and radon are extremely
25 dangerous substances. The plumbing industry has

1
2 come up with a new process for joining piping
3 together beyond soldering and brazing. Now
4 plumbing can be joined by a mechanical process of
5 pressing the pipe. Currently the only requirement
6 for joining pipe by compressing it is to follow
7 the manufacturer's instructions. DOB needs to
8 have a say over this process and whether it is
9 appropriate or not for specific projects. The
10 second portion of this legislation would require
11 manufacturers and contractors to obtain DOB
12 approval before using a mechanical joining system.
13 Last, new plumbing venting systems can be designed
14 to specific code requirements or can be designed
15 by computer system alternative to specific code
16 requirements by a licensed professional. This
17 legislation would amend the code to require DOB
18 approval before installation of the venting
19 system. Congratulations also to Rosie Mendez and
20 Alan Gerson for their successful rezoning plan and
21 to Gale Brewer for successfully obtaining 218 out
22 of 310 affordable units.

23 Betsy Gotbaum: Quiet, please.

24 Council Member Dickens: But I am
25 concerned about the Harborview rezoning setting a

1
2 precedent for the selling of NYCHA land. Although
3 I'm voting yes on this, we must remain diligent
4 that NYCHA owned land which was created to provide
5 quality affordable housing that we do not lose
6 sight and they do not lose sight of their mandate.
7 Thank you.

8 [Pause]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Madam Public
10 Advocate, could we just get some quiet in the
11 chamber for Council Members who are speaking
12 during this time?

13 BETSY GOTBAUM: I tried. Council
14 Member Weprin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
16 Madam Public Advocate. I rise to ask my
17 colleagues to support two resolutions that I am
18 introducing today, the first resolution, 1706,
19 calls upon the New York City Taxi and Limousine
20 Commission to prove alternatives to the accessible
21 Dispatch System Pilot Program, which currently
22 requires taxi and livery drivers to send and
23 receive text messages to and from a central
24 dispatcher while on duty. Obviously that could
25 create a particular hazard if they happen to do

1

2 that while they're driving, which is still legal
3 in New York State. The second resolution, 1705,
4 calls upon--

5 BETSY GOTBAUM: [Interposing]

6 Quiet, please.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Calls upon
8 the New York State legislature to amend the State
9 Public Authority's Law to allow for the New York
10 City Council to appoint at least three members of
11 the New York City Water Board. We all know about
12 the debate for the double-digit increases that
13 Councilman Gennaro and myself advocated against,
14 and the residual payments. Had we had members
15 appointed by the Speaker, representing the City
16 Council, we might not have been in the situation
17 of having these double-digit increases three years
18 in a row. Thank you.

19 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member
20 Lappin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you,
22 Madam Public Advocate. I just wanted to call my
23 colleagues attention to a resolution that Council
24 Member Yassky and I are introducing today that
25 calls upon the MTA to institute a public recycling

1
2 program. It's a pet peeve of mine that when I get
3 off of the subway and on to the platform in the
4 morning there isn't a recycling bin there for me
5 to throw my paper, but everything goes in the same
6 general bins. And while the MTA says they do post
7 collection recycling, that requires more labor,
8 more equipment, more facilities and obviously
9 there's much greater contamination. So I would
10 urge my colleagues to take a look at the
11 resolution and ask you to sign on.

12 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member
13 Fidler.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You know,
15 far be it from me to ever beat an issue into the
16 ground, but, yeah, I know that the Speaker is
17 surprised to hear that. But I have to tell you,
18 you know, Council Member Ignizio and Council
19 Member Oddo and I and a few of our colleagues
20 filed a lawsuit yesterday to compel the Mayor to
21 send out the \$400 tax rebate checks. And that
22 would be important from an institutional point of
23 view in terms of preserving our right to tax
24 policy, but it's really far more important in the
25 reality of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers

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2 who have been told that that check was in the
3 mail. And that for many New Yorkers, that's money
4 that's going to pay their heating bill, maybe
5 provide for Thanksgiving or Christmas. And you
6 know, I said when Director Page was here that they
7 were having an out of touch with reality moment.
8 Councilman Ignizio just told me a few moments ago
9 that when the Mayor was asked about our lawsuit
10 today he had two responses, first that he cuts the
11 checks and not the Council; and I think that's
12 certainly problematic. But the second response,
13 when asked whether or not, what he would say to
14 people who were counting on that money to pay for
15 heating their home, the Mayor suggested that they
16 buy a sweater. And I suggest that we've moved
17 from out of touch with reality to let them eat
18 cake. That is just one of the not outrageous
19 responses I could possibly think of. I guess it
20 hasn't occurred to the Mayor that maybe some
21 people need that money to buy the sweater. And
22 the fact of the matter is this is not money that
23 people don't need. And there's a certain, you
24 know, arrogance about that position, about that
25 response, an insensitivity to the plight of so

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2 many New Yorkers that makes it clear why the power
3 to set this tax policy rests in this house, and
4 not with his Majesty. And I hope we're going to
5 get a speedy resolution to that lawsuit. I would
6 hope even more than that that the Mayor has an
7 epiphany and understands just why those \$400
8 checks promised need to be sent now.

9 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member
10 Stewart?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Thank you.
12 Colleagues I would like you to sign on to
13 resolution 1703. This is a resolution supporting
14 the American Diabetes Association and the other
15 researchers and educators and individuals in their
16 dedicated cause of fighting diabetes, and urging
17 the Congress to authorize additional federal
18 funding for diabetes research and prevention
19 programs, and recognizing November, which is this
20 month, as Diabetes Awareness Month in the City of
21 New York. Thank you.

22 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member
23 Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: There are
25 two intros on bed bugs, my un-favorite topic,

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2 Intro 872 and 873. We're still trying to think of
3 ways to work with the Department of Health and
4 others to make people's lives and mental health a
5 little bit better when they have bed bugs. So
6 those are two examples. I also want to mention
7 that on Monday in the Committee on Technology,
8 we're having the Hearing on the transition from
9 analog to digital. To make a long story short, in
10 February those who have rabbit ears on their
11 televisions will no longer get receptions. A lot
12 of seniors have been calling our office. It is a
13 little bit confusing to figure out, when you have
14 the rabbit ears, how to get a new box, how to work
15 with a coupon, how to use the computer on the
16 phone, etcetera, etcetera. So I hope that you
17 will participate or get information from this
18 hearing. Thank you.

19 BETSY GOTBAUM: Council Member
20 Felder.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I'd like to
22 ask my colleagues to turn their attention to
23 Resolution 1698, a bill introduced by Council
24 Member Garodnick and I, calling upon the US
25 Congress and the State Legislature to pass

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2 legislation to allow early voting and no excuse
3 absentee ballots. Thank you.

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BETSY GOTBAUM: Seeing nobody else.

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Okay. Anybody else?

6

[Pause]

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BETSY GOTBAUM: I call the meeting


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of November 19th closed.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature  _____

Date December 2, 2008 _____