

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

-----X

April 22, 2009

Start: 1:55pm

Recess: 3:39pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
- Council Member Tony Avella
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Gale Brewer
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Leroy Comrie
- Council Member Elizabeth Crowley
- Council Member Bill de Blasio
- Council Member Inez Dickens
- Council Member Erik Martin Dilan
- Council Member Mathieu Eugene
- Council Member Simcha Felder
- Council Member Julissa Ferreras
- Council Member Lewis Fidler
- Council Member Helen Foster
- Council Member Daniel Garodnick
- Council Member James Gennaro
- Council Member Vincent Gentile

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Alan Gerson  
Council Member Eric Gioia  
Council Member Sara Gonzalez  
Council Member Vincent Ignizio  
Council Member Letitia James  
Council Member Melinda Katz  
Council Member Oliver Koppell  
Council Member Jessica Lappin  
Council Member John Liu  
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Council Member Miguel Martinez  
Council Member Darlene Mealy  
Council Member Rosie Mendez  
Council Member Kenneth Mitchell  
Council Member Michael C. Nelson  
Council Member James Oddo  
Council Member Annabel Palma  
Council Member Domenic Recchia, Jr.  
Council Member Diana Reyna  
Council Member Helen Sears  
Council Member Kenneth Stewart  
Council Member Eric Ulrich  
Council Member James Vacca  
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Council Member Albert Vann  
Council Member David Weprin  
Council Member Thomas White, Jr.  
Council Member David Yassky

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

Cynthia James  
Wife of Larry James

Dr. John Carlos  
Olympian

Dr. Tommie Smith  
Olympian

Vincent Mathews  
Olympian

Christoph Kimmich  
President  
Brooklyn College

Paul McIntosh  
Library Media Specialist  
Wadley Secondary School

Anna Torrez  
Student/Poet (with others)

Anna Hayes Levin  
Former Member  
Community Board Four

Joseph Mater  
Bishop

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: We're going to get  
3 our ceremonials started. We have five ceremonials  
4 today, but the first one I'm going to turn the mic  
5 over to Council Member Barron, so he can conduct  
6 this very, very important ceremonial.

7                   COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
8 very much. [applause] I want to thank all of my-  
9 -that's right, give us a big hand, clap for black  
10 power, at the City Council. We want to honor  
11 today the Olympians from the 1968 Olympics. Some  
12 of you remember the famous poster of the black  
13 power salute, and we have with us Dr. Tommie  
14 Smith, come forward, and his wife. [applause]  
15 Dr. John Carlos. [applause] Mr. Vince Mathews.  
16 [applause] And the wife of Larry James, who's  
17 deceased, Ms. Cynthia James, please give her a big  
18 handclap. [applause] For Larry James. Yes.  
19 [pause] Well, we once again, we want to give them  
20 a big round of applause. This is history  
21 [applause and we appreciate their sacrifices. To  
22 take this stand was a big sacrifice. Had they  
23 just put their hands over their hearts, and  
24 pledged to the allegiance of the flag, they would  
25 have not have gone through the ostracism, the

1  
2 difficulties for getting a job, they wouldn't have  
3 had to have their lives threatened. But they  
4 decided to stand up against racism. And while  
5 they paid a dear price, it also comes with a heavy  
6 message for all of us, that sometimes we have to  
7 sacrifice, and do the right thing. And in the  
8 long run, you will be honored. So let's give them  
9 a big handclap [applause] on behalf of the City  
10 Council. And we're going to ask the Clerk at this  
11 time to read the proclamations.

12 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
13 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York  
14 is pleased and proud to honor Dr. Tommie Smith,  
15 Dr. John Carlos, Vincent Mathews and Larry James,  
16 for their outstanding achievements and their  
17 courageous contributions to the Civil Rights  
18 Movement. And whereas, today there are entire  
19 generations of voting Americans who did not  
20 witness firsthand the great civil rights victories  
21 of the 1960s, so we are very grateful to have the  
22 opportunity to publicly recognize these  
23 extraordinary Americans. And whereas, in 1968,  
24 during the Olympic Games in Mexico City, American  
25 sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos stunned the

1  
2 world not only with their athletic achievements,  
3 but with one of the most memorable acts of civil  
4 disobedience ever, ever committed. And whereas,  
5 after Dr. Smith won the gold medal, and Dr. Carlos  
6 won the bronze medal in the 200 meter race, they  
7 stood on the awards podium as the American flag  
8 rose, and the Star Spangled Banner played. With  
9 their eyes closed and heads bowed, Dr. Smith  
10 raised his right hand, black gloved fist, black--  
11 excuse black glove covered fist in the air to  
12 represent black power in America, while Dr.  
13 Carlos's left black covered fist, to represent  
14 unity in black America. Together they formed an  
15 arch of unity and power. The black scarf around  
16 Dr. Smith's neck stood for black pride, and their  
17 black socks represented black poverty and racist  
18 America. Their courageous act called attention to  
19 the fact that America's civil rights movement had  
20 not gone far enough to eliminate injustices black  
21 Americans were experiencing. Whereas, both men  
22 were suspended from their national team and banned  
23 from the Olympic Village, and endured widespread  
24 outrage with lingering effects, including death  
25 threats, death threats against them and their

1  
2 families. Supporters meanwhile were moved by  
3 their actions and praised them for their bravery.  
4 And whereas, Vincent Mathews is the winner of two  
5 gold medals in the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico  
6 City, and the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich. In  
7 1968, he was a member of the incredible American  
8 relay team which took the gold medals and set a  
9 world record that remained unbroken for 24 years.  
10 And whereas, in 1972, Dr. Mathews scored gold  
11 again in the Olympic final. Then when he and his  
12 fellow American winner, Wayne Collette, took the  
13 Olympic awards platform, they refused to stand at  
14 attention during the National Anthem, and  
15 conversed as it played, all considered a protest  
16 against the treatment of blacks in the United  
17 States. And whereas, in 1968, champion runner  
18 Larry James, also known as The Mighty Burner, won  
19 gold and silver medals in the racially charged  
20 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. This double  
21 medalist also set world records and won NCAA  
22 titles during his track career. During the 1968  
23 Olympics, he won the silver medal in the 400  
24 meter, with his time of 43.97 seconds, smashing  
25 the existing world record, placing him second

1  
2 behind teammate and fellow Hall of Famer, Lee  
3 Evans. Whereas, three days after fellow athletes  
4 John Carlos and Tommie Smith were sent home for  
5 their political protest on the Olympics awards  
6 platform, Larry James, Lee Evans and Ron Freeman  
7 swept the medals. At their own medal ceremony,  
8 Larry James and his fellow winners wore black  
9 socks and black berets, and raised their fists in  
10 solidarity. When the National Anthem began,  
11 however, they bowed their heads and lowered their  
12 fists. [pause] And whereas, in addition to the  
13 tremendous contribution to sports, the quiet  
14 protest of these men during the 1968 Olympics  
15 helped galvanize the black power movement in  
16 America, and beyond, and it continues to resonate  
17 today in the minds of countless admirers. Now  
18 therefore, be it known, that the members of the  
19 New York City Council's Black, Latino and Asian  
20 Caucus, and the members of the City Council are  
21 very proud to honor the efforts and the  
22 contributions of Dr. Tommie Smith, Dr. John  
23 Carlos, Vincent Mathews, and the late Larry James,  
24 for their extraordinary achievements in the 1968  
25 Olympics, and their outstanding contribution to



1  
2 the Civil Rights movement. Christine C. Quinn,  
3 Speaker for the Entire Council; Charles Barron,  
4 Council Member 42<sup>nd</sup> District Brooklyn; Inez E.  
5 Dickens, Council Member 9<sup>th</sup> District Manhattan;  
6 Maria Baez, Council member 14<sup>th</sup> District Bronx;  
7 Helen Diane Foster, Council Member 16<sup>th</sup> District  
8 Bronx; and many other Council Members.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
10 much, Mike. And, you know, give the mic back.  
11 [laughter] He did leave 'em out, a lot of members  
12 are on there, though. If you could just give the  
13 mic over to Council Member Barron who is going to  
14 have some of the individuals we are honoring today  
15 grace us with a few comments, which we really  
16 appreciate. I just want to thank you, Charles,  
17 for pulling this ceremonial together. It is  
18 particularly [applause] it is particularly  
19 important since there happen to be other  
20 ceremonials where we are recognizing the  
21 achievements of young people, and other athletes.  
22 So today has worked out very, very well to have  
23 these three inspirational, and the wife of one  
24 very inspirational Americans, and to make sure  
25 something important that happened in 1968 is never

1

2 forgotten, 'cause it was a critical part of what  
3 has helped move our country not to where it should  
4 be yet, but to move our country forward. So I  
5 want to say it's an honor to have all of you, and  
6 you Mrs. James, with us in the chambers today, and  
7 thank you for your being such role models and  
8 inspirations. [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
10 very much. Let's give them a big handclap. We  
11 appreciate their accomplishments. And I, I know  
12 I'm leaving some out, but I got to mention Council  
13 Member Al Vann, as also a signatory on there.  
14 [applause] And [laughs] and others. But I want  
15 to start off first with Ms. Cynthia James, the  
16 wife of deceased Larry James.

17 CYNTHIA JAMES: Thank you. Good  
18 afternoon. I, I--Okay, good afternoon, I really  
19 wish that my husband was here to receive this  
20 himself. And if he was here, I believe he would  
21 say to you that run the race, run the race to win.  
22 Don't park at being just second, run the race to  
23 be first. And thank you so much, just a privilege  
24 to all, and I thank all that made this happen for  
25 us. And I thank the City of New York, and I

1  
2 believe that this is a beginning of many, many  
3 great things. Thank you. [applause]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.  
5 Also want to acknowledge Reverend Herbert  
6 Daughtry, who helped us really pull this off. The  
7 pastor of the House of the Lord Church; and Mrs.  
8 Karen Daughtry, his wife, Dr. Karen Daughtry, his  
9 wife, and Sharon Daughtry. Right, Mrs. James's  
10 uncle, so we, this is family here. And also to  
11 Elliott Dawes from the Black Male Initiative, and  
12 CUNY, Elliott, thank you very much. [applause]  
13 And Mr. Paul Washington, my former chief of staff,  
14 helped us pull all of this stuff together.  
15 Where's Paul? Come on, Paul. [applause] And Joy  
16 Simmons, my new chief of staff, helped us work,  
17 and all of my staff members were here. Thank you,  
18 Linda, thank you very much. Now, Dr. John Carlos,  
19 let's give him a big handclap. [applause]

20 JOHN CARLOS: I'd like to, like to  
21 thank the City of New York for having us here. As  
22 a birth child of New York, it's always great to  
23 think that you accomplished your deeds in life,  
24 and then to come home to your, your city and be  
25 recognized is something that took some time for

1

2 people to realize that we wasn't bad as they  
3 might've thought. And we would hope that people  
4 would understand that we wasn't concerned really  
5 for the black race, as much as we were concerned  
6 for the human race. [applause] In order for me  
7 to be happy, that would make your happy, once we  
8 start to realize that. Once again, thank you for  
9 having, having us here. [applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And Dr.  
11 Tommie Smith and his wife Dolores Smith is also  
12 here with him. Ms. Dolores, give her a big  
13 handclap. Dr. Smith. [applause]

14 TOMMIE SMITH: Thank you, thank you  
15 all. Thank you all. It is a wonderful day here,  
16 a day of glorifying. It was a charge at Mexico  
17 City, it was a charge to keep I have, and a  
18 constitution to be looked at, to be glorifying.  
19 And thank you all for that solution of making it a  
20 better place for everybody. You're doing a great  
21 job here. Councilman, you are, you are something,  
22 I still want one of those suits you got on.  
23 [laughter] Thank you all, and we shall stay  
24 unified. [applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And we have

1

2 Mr. Vincent Mathews here, if he would like to say  
3 something. [applause

4

VINCENT MATHEWS: Thank you very  
5 much. I'm a native of New York, also. And I  
6 trained in New York, and it's good to see my  
7 Olympic brothers here. This is an honor I thought  
8 I'd never, I mean, I didn't even imagine it,  
9 anything like this would ever happen. I'm humbled  
10 and touched and I thank you very much. [applause]

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you  
12 very much.

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you again,  
14 very much, for honoring all of us with your  
15 presence, and we're going to move on to the next  
16 ceremonial. But thank you all very, very much.  
17 [applause] [pause] We're going to move on to the  
18 next ceremonial, but if folks would like to take  
19 pictures with any of our Olympic heroes, they'll  
20 be in the Committee Roo. Okay, and next, thank  
21 you very much, if I could ask folks just to clear  
22 up from here, we're going to, our next ceremonial  
23 is going to be led by Council Member Kendall  
24 Stewart, recognizing the President of Brooklyn  
25 College, Christopher Kimmich. So here's Council

1  
2 Member Stewart. And again, if folks would like  
3 pictures, Bill, go into the Committee Room and  
4 take them. I'm sorry, I'm messing, I'm leaving Al  
5 Vann off twice today. Council Member Stewart and  
6 the entire Brooklyn delegation, Council Member  
7 Stewart.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Good  
9 afternoon, brothers and sisters. Today we have a  
10 special recognition for the President of Brooklyn  
11 College.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could just  
13 get a little quiet, I know folks are coming  
14 downstairs and going in the Committee Room and  
15 whatnot, but just a little quiet. Thank you.  
16 [pause] Alright, here you go, Kenneth.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Once  
18 again, I want to say, today we have a special  
19 recognition of the President of Brooklyn College;  
20 someone who has served Brooklyn College for 30  
21 years, and has been the president for ten years.  
22 And so today, as he moves on to the golden years  
23 in his life, in terms of retirement, we'd like to  
24 have a special recognition for him. And along  
25 with my brothers and sisters from the Brooklyn

1

2 delegation, I know that he enjoys working at  
3 Brooklyn College, and they are all happy to know  
4 that we have such a wonderful person working for  
5 us in Brooklyn, making Brooklyn College one of the  
6 top colleges in the country, not only in New York,  
7 but in the entire United States. And I would,  
8 it's a place that people come from all over the  
9 country to attend. And I will ask if any of the  
10 members would like to say something on behalf of,  
11 from the delegation. Al Vann?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I think that  
13 our colleague has really said it all, we on the  
14 one hand are very happy that our president served  
15 his time, and has served us well and has decided  
16 to move to a different plateau; but on the other  
17 hand, we're saddened because it'll be very  
18 difficult to replace such a distinguished  
19 gentleman. So it is both bitter and sweet. But  
20 at the end of the day, to be able to have choices,  
21 to have made a contribution, to have made a  
22 difference, is all that any of us can ask for, to  
23 be on the planet, and to make a difference for  
24 mankind. So we thank you for your contribution,  
25 sir. [applause]

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, and if  
3 the Clerk could read the proclamation, please,  
4 Mike. Can we just get a little quiet for the  
5 proclamation, please, thank you.

6                   CLERK: Council, City of New York  
7 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the city of  
8 New York is extremely proud to honor Christoph M.  
9 Kimmich, for 36 years of outstanding service and  
10 contributions to Brooklyn College. And whereas,  
11 Dr. Kimmish launched his career at Brooklyn  
12 College in 1973 as an associate professor in the  
13 Department of History.

14                   SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a little  
15 quiet, please. Thank you.

16                   CLERK: Over the years, he made  
17 history himself by holding several key positions  
18 within the college, and as interim chancellor of  
19 the City University of New York. And whereas,  
20 President Kimmich, Kimmich's support of the  
21 McCauley Honors College, and the Minority Access  
22 to Research Careers Program, within the rubric of  
23 a growing honors academy, fostered great academic  
24 opportunities for students and faculty, and  
25 burnished the college, colleges tradition of



1

2

upholding the highest academic values. And

3

whereas, when he steps down as president this

4

summer, Christoph Kimmich can be proud knowing

5

that his legacy will continue to resonate

6

throughout the City for generations to come. Now

7

therefore be it known, that the Council of the

8

City of New York most gratefully honors Christoph

9

M. Kimmich, for his extraordinary service and

10

contributions to Brooklyn College. Christine C.

11

Quinn, Speaker for the Entire Council; Kendall

12

Stewart, Council Member 45<sup>th</sup> District Brooklyn; and

13

the entire Brooklyn Delegation to the City

14

Council.

15

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

16

much. And thank you very much [applause] Mr.

17

President, for all of your service, and we all

18

wish you as successful a retirement as you have

19

had as president of the college.

20

CHRISTOPH KIMMICH: Thank you very

21

much for your kind words. I am deeply gratified

22

to have been honored like this by the City

23

Council, the, which is held in extraordinary high

24

esteem by all of us at Brooklyn College. I'm also

25

deeply gratified to be surrounded here by members

1  
2 of the Brooklyn Delegation, then which are none  
3 better. In the ten years that I've been president  
4 of Brooklyn College, we have been the  
5 beneficiaries of your support, moral support,  
6 financial support. You have given us  
7 encouragement, you have given us inspiration,  
8 you've nudged us, you've applauded us, and we are  
9 very much grateful. You have been partners in  
10 what we've done, and if we've been successful, and  
11 we have, in educating the young men and women of  
12 Brooklyn for future careers, most, mainly in  
13 Brooklyn in New York City itself, the tribute  
14 belongs very much to you. So thank you very much.  
15 What you have done as a City Council is a model of  
16 city government. [applause]

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
18 much. Thank you. And the next ceremonial is  
19 going to be led by Council Member and Majority  
20 Whip, Inez Dickens, for Wadley High School and a  
21 national poetry award.

22 [applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
24 thank--No, it's alright, come on, no, come on.  
25 No, I want everyone--Paul, where's Paul? Paul. I

1  
2 want to thank my colleague, Council Member Barron,  
3 for being willing to make his presentation first.  
4 But I wanted these young people, our future, to  
5 bear witness to our past, because when these  
6 Olympians did what they did, with civil  
7 disobedience in Mexico, I was at Howard  
8 University. And I had a poster in my dorm room  
9 that stayed the entire time that I was at Howard,  
10 showing John Carlos and Dr. Tommie Smith with  
11 their, with their fists extended in the air. And  
12 so I, I thank them publicly for what they've done.  
13 But now we're here with the future. Paul  
14 McIntosh, where's Paul? Alright. [laughter] Is  
15 an extraordinary educator, and he's joined here by  
16 nine of his gifted and talented students from  
17 Wadley Secondary School for the Performing Arts:  
18 Kent, Kaelin, Anna, Malcolm, Daniel, Gabriella,  
19 Karine, Francesca, and Anisa. Mr. McIntosh, by  
20 the way, this City Council, with the help of  
21 Speaker Quinn, was able to publish the poetry  
22 written by these phenomenal young women and men.  
23 Notice I said women first. [laughter, applause]  
24 And, you did hear that? Yes, I do always say  
25 women first. [laughs] And I want you to know

1  
2 that Paul McIntosh, who is nurturing our future,  
3 is the winner of the National Carnegie Corporation  
4 of New York, New York Times 2008 "I Love My  
5 Librarian" Award. [applause, cheers] As a  
6 library media specialist, Paul introduces students  
7 to a diverse variety of empowering programs and  
8 projects. And I'll let him tell you about one  
9 such program, an initiative, of poetry project  
10 enabling these creative writing students to  
11 collectively produce an exceptional published  
12 anthology, "Old Flame, New Fire." And I'm going  
13 to ask my--clerk to please read the proc.

14 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
15 proclamation. Whereas, Paul McIntosh, the library  
16 media specialist at Wadley Secondary School for  
17 the Performing and Visual Arts, located in the  
18 Village of Harlem, is the winner of the Carnegie  
19 Corporation New York, New York Times 2008 "I Love  
20 My Librarian" Award. He is one of only ten  
21 librarians in the United States to be honored with  
22 this distinguished award. And where as, Paul  
23 McIntosh received the award in December 2008 as  
24 recognition of his uncompromising commitment to  
25 academic excellence, his passion for the great

1  
2 wealth of literary works within the African  
3 Diaspora, and his boundless dedication to his  
4 talented students. These ingredients appear to be  
5 a sublime recipe, for they have produced  
6 remarkable writing through the Inez dickens Kumba  
7 [phonetic] Literacy Initiative. And whereas, born  
8 and raised in Augusta, Georgia, Mr. McIntosh has  
9 worked at schools and libraries across, across the  
10 country. His students have appeared at the  
11 Langston Hughes Festival, Bryant Parks Poem in  
12 Your Pocket Day, and the Nuyorican Poets Café.  
13 And whereas the New York State Board of Regents,  
14 and the New York State Education Department, have  
15 recognized Paul McIntosh as an exemplary librarian  
16 and mentor. Now therefore be it known, that the  
17 New York City Council is very proud to honor Paul  
18 McIntosh for his distinguished, for his dedication  
19 to the outstanding students at Wadley Secondary  
20 School for the Performing and Visual Arts.  
21 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire  
22 Council; Inez E. Dickens, Council Member 9<sup>th</sup>  
23 District Manhattan. [applause]

24 PAUL MCINTOSH: I'd like to present  
25 this book to Ms. Quinn if I may.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, thank you, yes.

PAUL MCINTOSH: But just a word or two before I do. "Well, son, I'll tell you, life for me ain't been no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it, and splinters, and boards torn up, and places with no carpet on the floor, bare. But all the time I's a been a climbin' on, and reachin' landins, and turnin' corners, and sometimes goin' in the dark where there ain't been no light. So boy, don't you turn back, don't you set down on the steps 'cause you finds it kinda hard, 'cause I's still goin', honey, I's still climbin'. And life for me ain't been no crystal stair." I share that poem with you because thanks [applause] thanks to the Kumba Inez Dickens Literacy Initiative, and Speaker Christine Quinn, we were able to produce this book, "Old Flame, New Fire." It is an anthology of the work of these young men and women that you will hear shortly, as well as poets such as Langston Hughes and Abeadon Ayawelle [phonetic], and a number of writers who have been the architects of much of the great literature that we are the inheritors of. SO I have to thank both of you, and I sincerely,

1  
2 sincerely hope that we can invite you to come to  
3 the Village of Harlem, particularly Wadley, so  
4 that the young brothers and sisters in the Village  
5 of Wadley can see you, and see the person who was  
6 in part responsible for making this work possible.  
7 Having said that, I take great pleasure in asking  
8 these young men and women to produce, to present  
9 one piece of work, "I Can."

10 ANNA TORREZ: Good afternoon,  
11 everyone, I'm Anna Torrez. We're going to do a  
12 little poem for you, in which you have a part.  
13 We're going to tell you what to say, when it's  
14 your turn, and then we're going to start. We'll  
15 ask of you four questions. Your part is easy as  
16 can be. For the first three questions, you may  
17 answer back, "I can," and for the last question,  
18 you say, "Me." Now there's only four little  
19 questions, and "I can" is what you say for the  
20 first three. So remember, "I can," is what you  
21 answer three times, and on the fourth question,  
22 you say "Me."

23 MALE VOICE: There's a goal for  
24 everybody, a dream for every one. Some are only  
25 out of thought and other things can be done.

1

2 Making your fondest dreams come true is something  
3 to decide, but that only to do not to do, you  
4 should not quit because you tried.

5

MALE VOICE: Dreams come in all  
6 varieties, flavors, feelings and hues. The number  
7 of possibilities depend on how much imagination  
8 you use.

9

MALE VOICE: If you know what it is  
10 you want to do, or what it is you want to possess,  
11 you can make a plan to have it all, and have a  
12 chance for success. So who can be anything they  
13 want to be?

14

AUDIENCE: I can!

15

MALE VOICE: Who can turn any dream  
16 into reality?

17

AUDIENCE: I can!

18

MALE VOICE: Who can take on any  
19 job and be number one?

20

AUDIENCE: I can!

21

MALE VOICE: But who's got to get  
22 the job done?

23

AUDIENCE: Me!

24

[cheers, applause]

25

FEMALE VOICE: Things can turn out



1

2 badly or they can turn out well, things won't  
3 always go your way, and there's no real way to  
4 tell.

5

MALE VOICE: But if there's  
6 something that you want, something special you  
7 want to do, you need to do the things that make it  
8 happen, 'cause the work is only up to you.

9

FEMALE VOICE: When something makes  
10 it difficult for you to reach your goal, don't  
11 say, "Oh, no" and bury your head in the deepest  
12 ostrich hole. But just look at these problems and  
13 see them as just bothersome, then roll up your  
14 sleeves to work these things out, and chances are  
15 you'll overcome.

16

MALE VOICE: who can be anything  
17 they want to be?

18

AUDIENCE: I can!

19

MALE VOICE: Who can turn any dream  
20 into reality?

21

AUDIENCE: I can!

22

MALE VOICE: Who can take on any  
23 job and be number one?

24

AUDIENCE: I can!

25

MALE VOICE: But who's got to get

1

2 the job done?

3

AUDIENCE: Me!

4

[cheers, applause]

5

6 into problems, that will seem to heavy to bear,  
7 and you'll think about forgetting the whole darn  
8 thing again, right then and there.

9

FEMALE VOICE: You try to forget  
10 the promise to yourself to do the very best you  
11 could, and try to tell yourself these problems  
12 held you back, for once, for all, and for good.  
13 But there's always someone who can help you, with  
14 your almost impossible task, but you got to go out  
15 there and find 'em, and then not be afraid to ask.

16

MALE VOICE: If they would share  
17 some of their wisdom, some guidance, a little no  
18 how, you will see you won't have to put things  
19 off, with the little help you can do them now.

20

MALE VOICE: So who can be anything  
21 they want to be?

22

AUDIENCE: I can!

23

MALE VOICE: Who can turn any dream  
24 into reality?

25

AUDIENCE: I can!

1

2

MALE VOICE: Who can take on any  
job and be number one?

4

AUDIENCE: I can!

5

MALE VOICE: But who's got to get  
the job done?

7

AUDIENCE: Me!

8

[laughter]

9

MALE VOICE: Now there's one last  
thing I'd like to say, and there's not a whole lot  
to it. Is that when you see something important  
that needs to be done, don't go looking for  
somebody else to do it, but remember these few  
important words, and their true meaning for you.  
The words:

16

GROUP: I am somebody!

17

18

MALE VOICE: Will tell you who has  
to come through.

19

20

MALE VOICE: Who can be anything  
they want to be?

21

AUDIENCE: I can!

22

23

MALE VOICE: Who can turn any dream  
into reality?

24

AUDIENCE: I can!

25

MALE VOICE: Who can take on any

1

2 job and be number one?

3

AUDIENCE: I can!

4

5 the job done?

6

AUDIENCE: Me!

7

[cheers, applause]

8

9 much. Thank you all very much. Thank you very  
10 much. Okay? We're--Okay, we have two more  
11 ceremonials, so thank you all everybody from  
12 Wadley, and we'll be back up to visit soon, so  
13 take care. [laughs] Oh, really? Great. Okay.  
14 If I could just get a little quiet, shhh! And if  
15 we could--Okay, we have two more ceremonials, let  
16 me call up Council Member Gale Brewer. And let me  
17 while she's on her way up, thank Gale very much  
18 for pulling together this ceremonial, which I'm  
19 excited about all of them, but very excited about  
20 this one, so let me turn the mic over to Gale.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GALE BREWER: The  
22 whole--The whole family is welcome. [background  
23 noise]

24

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get quiet?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GALE BREWER: Please

1  
2 be quiet. We're--We're here to thank Anna Levin  
3 for being perhaps, and I know this is daring, the  
4 best community board member the City of New York  
5 has ever seen. [cheers, applause] She, there are  
6 very few people who've all, including myself, who  
7 served on a board, who has the intelligence, the  
8 commitment, to take on press, Hudson Yards,  
9 community developers, and make sense of it all.  
10 She's the one who led us in the discussion,  
11 controversial to this body, but not to Christine  
12 and Gale Brewer, regarding jets, keep them where  
13 they are. But she also was somebody on the  
14 smallest detail that involved a great deal of  
15 time, she was the go to person, the intelligence  
16 as an attorney, the commitment as a neighborhood  
17 activist, and every single person from developer  
18 to the person in the community knows that Anna  
19 Levin is there for them, to come out with a  
20 balanced project that makes sense and that has  
21 input from everybody involved. If there's one  
22 person to whom I look up to in this City, it is  
23 Anna Levin.

24 [cheers, applause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Well, I--I just,

1  
2 Gale really has said it all, but I just want to  
3 add a little bit to what Gale said, everything  
4 Gale said is, is true. And Anna, you have been  
5 just really the most unbelievable community board  
6 member and community activist I've ever had the  
7 pleasure of working with, and I've had the  
8 pleasure of working a lot of terrific folks. But  
9 Gale is right, you are somebody who has taken the  
10 very, very important position of community board  
11 member, and elevated it to the highest level of  
12 public servant. And you're somebody who has taken  
13 her free time and her not free time and dedicated  
14 it to her neighborhood, and her borough, and her  
15 City, and you have taken on the biggest foes and  
16 the biggest projects and small projects that might  
17 only matter to one person, and treated them all  
18 with the same level of attention and care and  
19 deliberate, thoughtful work. So we are sad to see  
20 you take a break from Board Four, but we know that  
21 only gives us, gives you more time for Gale and I  
22 to find something else for you to do. But really,  
23 thank you, there's so much good that we've been  
24 able to accomplish on the West Side because of  
25 you, and so much bad we've been able to prevent on

1  
2 the West Side because of you, and I just really,  
3 really want to thank you so very much on behalf of  
4 myself, Gale, Danielle Decerbo, my whole staff,  
5 and the Council, and Anna has been, particularly  
6 during the West Side Stadium and the Hudson Yards  
7 rezoning, an adjunct member of our staff. So  
8 thank you so much. And if we could get a little  
9 quiet while the Clerk reads the proclamation.

10 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
11 Proclamation. The Council of the City of New York  
12 is proud to celebrate Anna Hayes Levin's  
13 outstanding service to the West Side community,  
14 and her service on Manhattan's Community Board  
15 Four. And whereas, for the past eight years, Anna  
16 Hayes Levin has worked tirelessly as a member of  
17 Community Board Four. Her contributions to CB4  
18 has included chairing the Clinton Hell's Kitchen  
19 Land Use Committee; attending an uncountable  
20 number of Committee meetings [laughter] both  
21 assigned and not; organizing and moderating public  
22 forums; giving public testimony; attending  
23 rallies; meeting with developers, elected  
24 officials and staff; chairing and attending  
25 community advisory committees, and--chairing and

1  
2 attending community advisory meetings; and  
3 handling Joe Restuccia [laughter].

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Full time job in  
5 and of itself.

6 CLERK: And whereas, Ms. Levin's  
7 organizational skills have served her well in the  
8 eight years as a member of the Board. She brought  
9 186 letters to the Board for approval, of which 60  
10 involved ULURPs, 15 involved BSA applications, and  
11 four involved large, state-sponsored general  
12 project plans, including Moynihan Station, 42<sup>nd</sup>  
13 Street Redevelopment, Javits and the Stadium. She  
14 has more, she has more comprehensive set of notes  
15 than any other person working in development in  
16 Manhattan. And whereas, her professionalism,  
17 intelligence and dedication, allowed her to find  
18 consensus between all stakeholders, while never  
19 abandoning her community. Her legacy will  
20 continue to inspire and guide the efforts of her  
21 colleagues in community service. She will be  
22 greatly missed. Now therefore be it known that  
23 the Council of the City of New York, most  
24 gratefully honors Anna Hayes Levin for her, her  
25 outstanding service to Manhattan's CB4, and the



1  
2 West Side community. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker  
3 for the Entire Council; Gale A. Brewer, Council  
4 Member, District Six Manhattan.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay! [applause]  
6 Anna, let me give you the mic.

7 ANNA LEVIN: Okay. Well, goodness,  
8 I mean, usually when I come down to speak, I've  
9 got two minutes, and that's not nearly enough to  
10 talk about things like stadiums and rezonings.  
11 So, this is, this is great. Little did I know  
12 when I dropped out of corporate life, and a  
13 neighbor took me by the hand to Ronny Eldridge's  
14 office, Gale's predecessor, got myself appointed  
15 to the community board, that that was the eve of  
16 the greatest development boom that this City has  
17 seen, the first of the larges rezonings the City  
18 has undertaken since the Zoning Resolution was  
19 created in 1961, and the Mayor's largest economic  
20 development initiative, which was rezoning 59  
21 blocks, building a football stadium, expanding the  
22 Javits, and extending the number seven train, and  
23 a whole bunch of stuff that didn't make a lot of  
24 sense, I think to a lot of you here in this room,  
25 and to those of us in the community. It's been

1  
2 quite a ride. We've seen a lot of development,  
3 it's happened all over the City, I know there are  
4 communities all over the place who are working  
5 with their council members to do exactly what  
6 we've accomplished on the west side. It's been a  
7 whole ton of fun.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs]

9 ANNA LEVIN: And it's because I've  
10 worked with, what I think, are the two best  
11 council members in the City Council, that's my own  
12 Gale Brewer and Christine Quinn. Thanks very  
13 much. [laughter] Sorry, guys. We did, there was  
14 one great meeting with, with the Republican--what  
15 are you, the Caucus, there we were.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs]

17 ANNA LEVIN: Back, back around--  
18 back around there by the ladies room, as I recall.  
19 Thank you so much.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
21 much, Anna. [applause] Thank you. And speaking  
22 of the Republicans, who though Anna doesn't who  
23 they are, we love, we have our final, but last,  
24 but certainly not least ceremonial, led by our  
25 minority leader, Jimmy Oddo, recognizing a really,

1  
2 really terrific high school in the City of New  
3 York, one of Staten Island's greatest  
4 accomplishments, Monsignor Farrell's--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: - - Alliance.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: --High School's  
7 wrestling and hockey team, and this is led by  
8 Council Member Oddo, Council Member Ignizio, and  
9 also Council Member Mitchell, and if we could ask  
10 them all to come up, and if we could get a round  
11 of applause for Monsignor Farrell High School.

12 [applause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank--Thank  
14 you, Madam Speaker. District Attorney Dan  
15 Donovan, Congressman Mike McMann, former  
16 Councilman and Congressman Vito Vasela, State  
17 Senator Andy Lanza, Assemblyman Mike Cusick,  
18 Assemblyman Lou Tobacco, myself, each of us is a  
19 proud graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School.  
20 That's right, most of Staten Island elected  
21 officials. But every year, this institution  
22 produces great student athletes, and today we're  
23 here to honor the wrestling team who are city and  
24 state champs [cheers] five of whom are individual  
25 state champs, and the hockey team who is the, the,

1  
2 who are the champions of the city. And this  
3 wrestling program has produced many great folks,  
4 and I just happened to have, Madam Speaker, the  
5 1980-81 awards for the Monsignor Farrell  
6 Wrestling, and it has all articles from the Staten  
7 Island Advance, and if it's in the Staten Island  
8 Advance, it must be true. And the headline is  
9 "Oddo and Tillo Spark Farrell Wrestlers to a Win.  
10 Jim Oddo and Chris Tillo kept their respective  
11 unbeaten streaks alive, Oddo competing in the 106  
12 pound class--

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: --recorded  
15 the day's quickest pin, ending his match in a mere  
16 41 seconds, the victory was his eighth without a  
17 defeat and his fifth in. And the reason why I'll  
18 never be a good politician is that none of this  
19 was true.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: [laughs]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: It was in the  
22 paper, but it's not. These guys are really the  
23 champions, these guys really earned it. This was  
24 just a joke, but it actually happened. I got my  
25 rear end kicked in every gym in, in Staten Island

1  
2 and beyond. But guys, Kenny Mitchell, Vin  
3 Ignizio, myself, all of Staten Island are proud of  
4 you. Madam Speaker, thank you for hosting us.  
5 Guys, great job.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: If the clerk could  
7 please read the proclamations, please.

8 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
9 Proclamation. Whereas the Council of the City of  
10 New York is proud to honor the 2008/2009 Monsignor  
11 Farrell High School Wrestling Team for its  
12 dedication in the pursuit of excellence, its  
13 devotion to the achievement of its goals, and its  
14 outstanding accomplishment during its city and  
15 state championship season. And whereas, led by  
16 head coach Lou DiStefano, and assistant coaches  
17 Ron Pavis, Jason Ross, Dave Ironman, Anthony  
18 Anastasio, Phil DeSquatrito, Joe Deforte, and Pete  
19 Hamm, the 2008 and 2009 Monsignor Farrell Varsity  
20 Wrestling Team capped a spectacular season by  
21 winning the New York City and New York State CHSAA  
22 Championships. And whereas, in addition to the  
23 team honors and accolades, the team boasted five  
24 individual state champions: Connor Hanafee, Kevin  
25 Harnet, Tony Carlo, Ben Villarette, and Antonio

1  
2 Sporaccio. And whereas, the remaining members of  
3 the championship team were: Paul DiStefano, Paul  
4 Shendicola, Vin Feschetti, Joe Fancolino, Tim  
5 Monahan, Gunner Ruffo, John Dinesopolis, Joe  
6 Marianaro, sorry, Christian Somas, Nick Ricco, and  
7 Chris Soli. Now therefore be it known that the  
8 Council of the City of New York proudly and  
9 publicly congratulates the Monsignor Farrell High  
10 School Wrestling Team in honor of its City and  
11 State CHSAA Championships. Christine C. Quinn,  
12 Speaker for the Entire Council; James S. Oddo,  
13 Minority Leader, 50<sup>th</sup> District State Island;  
14 Vincent M. Ignizio, Minority Whip, 51<sup>st</sup> District  
15 Staten Island; Chris, Kenneth C. Mitchell, Council  
16 Member 49<sup>th</sup> District, Staten Island.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations to  
18 everybody, and let me give the mic over to one of  
19 the wrestling team captains.

20 MALE VOICE: Thank you. Thank you,  
21 Christine Quinn. I think I can speak for both  
22 teams when I say, when I say that we appreciate  
23 everyone in attendance here today, to take part in  
24 this momentous day for all of us. And we also  
25 want to thank you, Christine Quinn, for hosting us

1

here today. Thank you. [applause]

2

3

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, and congratulations to all of you.

4

5

[applause]

6

MALE VOICE: Really is my jacket.

7

[laughs]

8

SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations, and this concludes our ceremonials, and we expect to see all of you back next season with, with the same championships to celebrate. Okay? Thanks, guys. [applause]

9

10

11

12

13

[pause, background noise]

14

CLERK: Could I have your attention, please? Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, can you please turn all cell phones and pagers to vibrate? And will all non-Council employees and lobbyists please leave the main floor of the chambers? Thank you.

15

16

17

18

19

20

[pause, background noise]

21

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Ready? Ready to go? All rise. Pledge of--for the pledge of allegiance. [pledge of allegiance] Roll call.

22

23

24

CLERK: Arroyo.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

1

CLERK: Avella.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

3

CLERK: Baez. Barron.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Madam

5

6 Speaker, may I have unanimous consent to vote on  
7 all general order items?

6

7

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

9

10 Aye.

CLERK: Brewer.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

12

CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

14

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Sorry, got to  
16 wait for a quorum. Sorry, he told me to go ahead.  
17 Sorry.

15

16

17

CLERK: De Blasio. Dickens.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

19

CLERK: Dilan.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

21

CLERK: Eugene.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

23

CLERK: Felder. Ferreras.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

25



1  
2 CLERK: Fidler.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.  
4 CLERK: Foster.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.  
6 CLERK: Garodnick.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.  
8 CLERK: Gennaro.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.  
10 CLERK: Gentile.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.  
12 CLERK: Gerson. Gioia.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Here.  
14 CLERK: Gonzalez.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.  
16 CLERK: Ignizio.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.  
18 CLERK: Jackson. James.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.  
20 CLERK: Katz.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.  
22 CLERK: Koppell.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.  
24 CLERK: Lappin.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

1  
2 CLERK: Liu.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.  
4 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
6 Here.  
7 CLERK: Martinez.  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Here.  
9 CLERK: Mealy.  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.  
11 CLERK: Mendez.  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
13 CLERK: Mitchell.  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.  
15 CLERK: Nelson.  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.  
17 CLERK: Palma.  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.  
19 CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.  
21 CLERK: Sanders.  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.  
23 CLERK: Seabrook. Sears. Stewart.  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Present.  
25 CLERK: Ulrich.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

2

3

CLERK: Vacca.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

5

CLERK: Vallone.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

7

CLERK: Vann. Weprin.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

9

CLERK: White.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

11

MALE VOICE: Vann is here.

12

CLERK: Yassky.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Here.

14

CLERK: Oddo.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

16

CLERK: Rivera. Speaker Quinn.

17

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, here.

18

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: All rise. Quiet,

19

please, all rise, for the invocation to give--

20

delivered by Bishop Joseph Matera [phonetic].

21

JOSEPH MATER: Let us pray. Oh,

22

lord, we thank you for these Council Members who

23

have given their lives over to serve for the good

24

of our great City. Give them wisdom to deal with

25

all the great issues related to public school

1  
2 tenure, for teachers, excellence for student  
3 education, budgetary issues related to diminishing  
4 tax revenues, with concomitant increases in the  
5 public's need for resources, aid for the most  
6 marginalized in our midst, as well as issues  
7 related to immigration, health care, and to the  
8 mounting challenge of effectively serving a  
9 multicultural mosaic, grant them continual wisdom  
10 in their partnership with the Mayor in regards to  
11 all these issues, help them all push through  
12 policies that will add permanent value rather than  
13 those that are merely culturally popular.

14 Finally, we pray that as the community leaders  
15 that we are, we will all work together, we will  
16 work closer together and focus more on the things  
17 that bind than the things that divide us. That in  
18 spite of our conflicting world views, we would  
19 cooperate with the simplicity of civility, and  
20 that in the midst of our diversity, we would  
21 continue to seize opportunities for convergence.  
22 Amen.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Motion to  
24 spread the invocation in full upon the record.  
25 I'd like to take just one moment to welcome Bishop

1  
2 Matera. And he's an incredible leader, a  
3 tremendous mentor, an organizer, an incredible  
4 friend of Sunset Park and the City of New York,  
5 and a friend. Thank you, and I welcome you to  
6 this chamber, thank you for being here.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

8 Adoption of the minutes? By Council Member James,  
9 sorry.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Madam Public  
11 Advocate, if I could, I'll make the motion--

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Sure.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: --that we adopt the  
14 minutes of the Stated Meeting of February 26<sup>th</sup> and  
15 March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009. And if I could also ask my  
16 colleagues to stand, please, before we move on  
17 with the agenda. I--Sadly ask us to stand today  
18 because I, announce with deep regret that we all  
19 learned recently that Kelly Breslin, the daughter  
20 of Jimmy Breslin, and stepdaughter of former  
21 Council Member Ronny Eldridge, died last night  
22 after falling unconscious at a restaurant with  
23 friends on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Family members said she  
24 choked while eating at a restaurant in Murray  
25 Hill. She was rushed to Bellevue Hospital by

1  
2 paramedics, they were un--She remained there on  
3 life support for a few days, but they were not  
4 able to bring her back, and she passed away last  
5 night. Obviously, former Council Member Ronny  
6 Eldridge is a very important part of the Council's  
7 family, and we want to send her and Jimmy our  
8 deepest regrets. His daughter was only 44 years  
9 old, and it's particularly sad because Kelly is  
10 the second daughter that Jimmy has lost in his  
11 life. So if we could--And as we get information  
12 on services, etc., we'll let everyone know.  
13 [moment of silence] Thank you very much, Madam  
14 Public Advocate.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Messages and  
16 papers from the Mayor.

17 CLERK: M1385, withdrawing Steven  
18 Burns for reappointment to the Landmarks--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet, please.

20 CLERK: --Preservation Commission.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
22 printed and filed.

23 CLERK: M1386, submitting Marjorie  
24 H. Perlmutter for reappointment, Landmarks  
25 Preservation Commission.

1  
2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Rules and  
3 privileges. Rules, privileges and election,  
4 excuse me.

5                   PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Communication  
6 from City, County and Borough Offices.

7                   CLERK: M1387, geographic exclusion  
8 areas report.

9                   SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered,  
10 printed and filed.

11                   CLERK: Preconsidered M1388, and  
12 M1389, various budget items.

13                   SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

14                   CLERK: M1390, submitting Karen  
15 Phillips for reappointment to the City Planning  
16 Commission.

17                   SPEAKER QUINN: Rules, Privileges  
18 and Elections.

19                   CLERK: M1391 through M1408, base  
20 station licenses.

21                   SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

22                   PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Petitions and  
23 communications.

24                   CLERK: None.

25                   PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Land use call-

1

2 ups.

3

4

CLERK: M1409 through M1413,  
sidewalk cafes.

5

6

7

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could please  
have a coupled vote on all the land use call-ups  
that are coupled, please, Madam Public Advocate.

8

9

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Roll call,  
please, quiet, please.

10

11

CLERK: Arroyo. [background noise]  
Avella.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

13

CLERK: Barron.

14

15

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Madam  
Chair, may I request unanimous consent to vote aye  
on all general order items.

17

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

19

Aye on all.

20

CLERK: Brewer.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

22

CLERK: Comrie.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

24

CLERK: Crowley.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.



1  
2 CLERK: De Blasio.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Dickens.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Dilan.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Eugene.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Felder.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.  
12 CLERK: Ferreras.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Fidler.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Foster.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Garodnick.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Gennaro.  
21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Bring house  
22 resolution.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.  
24 CLERK: Gentile.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Gerson.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Gioia.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes.  
6 CLERK: Gonzalez.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Ignizio. Jackson. James.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Katz.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.  
12 CLERK: Koppell.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Lappin.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.  
16 CLERK: Liu.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.  
18 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Martinez.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Mealy.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.  
24 CLERK: Mendez.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

1  
2 CLERK: Mitchell.  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.  
4 CLERK: Nelson.  
5 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.  
6 CLERK: Palma.  
7 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.  
8 CLERK: Recchia. Reyna.  
9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.  
10 CLERK: Ignizio.  
11 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.  
12 CLERK: Sanders.  
13 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.  
14 CLERK: Seabrook. Sears. Stewart.  
15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Yes.  
16 CLERK: Ulrich.  
17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.  
18 CLERK: Vacca.  
19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.  
20 CLERK: Vallone.  
21 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.  
22 CLERK: Vann.  
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yes.  
24 CLERK: Weprin.  
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

1

CLERK: White.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye  
on all land use items, and I ask unanimous consent  
to vote on all coupled general orders.

4

5

6

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye.

8

CLERK: Yassky.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

10

CLERK: Oddo.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

12

CLERK: Rivera. Speaker Quinn.

13

[pause]

14

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Today's land use  
call-ups were adopted by a vote of 45 in the  
affirmative and zero negative. Speak--  
Communication from the Speaker.

15

16

17

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. We have  
a number of important pieces of legislation we're  
voting on today. Let me start though with a piece  
of legislation passed out of our Environmental  
Protection Committee, relating to brownfields. Of  
course today is Earth Day, and we are not only  
passing this important piece of legislation, we  
are also, have announced today a very

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2 comprehensive six point plan that will address  
3 making our City skyline greener and greater. We  
4 all know that 80 percent of the carbon footprint  
5 of the City of New York comes from our buildings.  
6 This plan, when it is passed into law by this  
7 Council, when it is done, will reduce that carbon  
8 footprint significantly. To put it in  
9 perspective, when we are done with our work, the  
10 carbon footprint of the City of New York, will be  
11 reduced to the same level as the entire carbon  
12 footprint of Oakland, California. That's the  
13 process we are starting today on Earth Day, and I  
14 want to thank everyone who's been a part of that  
15 on my staff, the Mayor's staff, the Mayor's Office  
16 of Sustainability, Chairperson Gennaro, and  
17 particularly Council Members Garodnick Mark-  
18 Viverito, Gennaro, and Recchia, who are sponsoring  
19 this legislation. But, today we are also voting  
20 in honor of Earth Day on Intro 21-A, a piece of  
21 legislation authored and shepherded through the  
22 Environmental Protection Committee by its Chair,  
23 Jim Gennaro. This piece of legislation develops a  
24 comprehensive program for the remediation and  
25 reuse of brownfields in New York City. We may be

1  
2 the first city to have a brownfields program, you  
3 usually see that done by states. We know how  
4 scarce land is in the City of New York. And many  
5 of our brownfields in the City are too  
6 contaminated to build on or use. But they are not  
7 contaminated to a level where they qualify for the  
8 State's brownfield program. What we're doing  
9 today, creating this program, will make sure that  
10 there is a strict and clear process in place to  
11 remediate, clean, clean up these sites, and get  
12 them used in many cases for affordable housing,  
13 which is so desperately needed in our City. I  
14 want to thank everyone who's worked on this,  
15 everyone in the Mayor's office who's worked on  
16 this, on our staff, Samara Swanston, Jeff Haberman  
17 and Sharon Watson, who are the lead staff people,  
18 and call on our environment leader. Every day is  
19 Earth Day if you're Jim Gennaro, but nonetheless,  
20 on Earth Day, Chairperson Jim Gennaro.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.  
22 Thank you Madam Speaker.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Everybody  
25 talks about trying to do something for the

1  
2 environment, and, and revitalizing brownfields,  
3 it's been--but it, it's difficult to actually make  
4 that happen. With the current state program that,  
5 that we have, most of the 7,000-8,000 acres of  
6 brownfields type properties that we have would not  
7 qualify for the State program. So it, so it was  
8 important that we go and do what we do best, and  
9 you know, do it ourselves. We're working with the  
10 State to make sure that we can have a fully  
11 functioning program that, that is completely  
12 consistent with all of the State standards. We're  
13 also going to be give, giving special preference  
14 to those communities that most need this kind of  
15 development. There'll be seed money for local,  
16 community based organizations, to do what they  
17 need to do, to find these sites, to get the  
18 community organized, and to make it happen. I  
19 want to thank the Speaker in a special way for her  
20 leadership on this, all of the good people of our  
21 staff that she mentioned. Mayor Bloomberg's team  
22 was, was absolutely terrific on this. They worked  
23 with us hand-in-hand to make sure that we got the  
24 best bill in the country, which is exactly what we  
25 have. I'd like to thank Rick Agarwal from the

1  
2 Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning; Dan Walsh,  
3 who currently heads up the Mayor's brownfields  
4 efforts; and Eddy Bautista and I who worked on  
5 this issue back in a former life when he was  
6 working for someone else, 'cause he's been  
7 laboring in the vineyard a long time on this  
8 issue, and Eddy we got it done, thank god. And  
9 so, and there, we also had many partners, new  
10 partners for community revitalization. What was  
11 critical to making this happen: Uprose, which is  
12 a great group; the New York City Environmental  
13 Justice Alliance; and many good groups, groups  
14 that brought us to this, to this very, very good  
15 day, this is a terrific bill. Of all the things  
16 we've done, this is, this is really, really super.  
17 We should all feel good about voting for this  
18 excellent bill, and we'll, this will dramatically  
19 change our City. And what better day to do it  
20 than Earth Day? So, thank you very much, Madam  
21 Speaker.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
23 much, Chairperson Gennaro. We are also voting  
24 today on Intro 937-A, it is a piece of legislation  
25 that was authored by Council Member Tish James. I



1  
2 also want to thank Council Members Sara Gonzalez  
3 and Chairperson Jimmy Vacca, and Chairperson  
4 Miguel Martinez, who also helped on the passage of  
5 this bill, chairing the Fire and Criminal Justice  
6 Committee at different times in the bill's  
7 lifespan. This piece of legislation sadly follows  
8 some very, very disturbing and upsetting events  
9 that happened relating to juveniles who were in  
10 the care of our Department of Corrections. This  
11 bill requires the Department of Correction to do  
12 extensive public reporting online on a yearly, and  
13 in some cases quarterly basis, data about  
14 incidents of violence within facilities that the  
15 Department of Corrections runs for juveniles; data  
16 about attempted suicides; acts of violence from  
17 staff to those who've been incarcerated; between  
18 young people who are incarcerated. We believe  
19 having this information reported in a public  
20 manner, a yearly, and in some cases quarterly  
21 basis, will get information out there that will be  
22 a deterrent to the horrible crimes that have  
23 recently been committed within the Department of  
24 Corrections. And also give us data to monitor  
25 when changes are needed within the Department of

1  
2 Correction, to improve the rehabilitation they are  
3 providing to juveniles in their care. I want to  
4 thank again all the Council Members who worked on  
5 this piece of legislation. I also want to thank  
6 Lisette Camilo, Rob Calandra, and Alex Pistilnick  
7 [phonetic] all who worked on 937-A. Again, thank  
8 Council Members Vacca, Martinez and Gonzalez, and  
9 in particular Council Member Tish James, the  
10 bill's author, and call on Council Member James.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Death of 18  
12 year old, the tragic death of 18 year old  
13 Christopher Robinson at Riker's Island in October.  
14 And the ensuing investigation and indictment of  
15 three New York City Correction officers, and 12  
16 adolescent inmates on charges including  
17 manslaughter, conspiracy, enterprise corruption,  
18 and other offenses, was a stark illustration of  
19 what our youth can face in our City jails. While  
20 we can't bring back Christopher, we can help other  
21 adolescents by ensuring that we have access to  
22 information on a regular basis about the  
23 environment in which adolescents are being  
24 detained, or to which they have been sentenced, so  
25 we can re-so we can react if these conditions

1  
2 become, become unacceptable. Currently, the  
3 Department of Corrections reports jail data, which  
4 contains various indicators regarding the overall  
5 jail population. However, there is no separate  
6 information being routinely publicly reported or  
7 required to be reported by the City, or the  
8 Department of Corrections, specifically regarding  
9 adolescents, who are housed separately from adults  
10 on Riker's Island. The bill we vote on today will  
11 change that, and will provide the Council and the  
12 rest of the public information that is vital to  
13 the proper oversight of the Department of  
14 Correction. Having information such as the number  
15 of stabbings, the number of slashings, assaults,  
16 infractions, major use of force involving  
17 adolescents, minor use of force, hospital  
18 admissions, adolescents who commit suicide,  
19 homicides involving adolescents, substantiated  
20 incidents of adolescent on adolescent sexual  
21 assaults, and other types of sexual assaults, will  
22 again go a long way in assisting and protecting  
23 not only the staff, but also the adolescents of  
24 Department of Correction. And also it will  
25 establish a pattern and practice. Having this

1  
2 information will enable the Council to develop an  
3 accurate understanding of the conditions in which  
4 adolescents in City jails are living, and to take  
5 appropriate action or call on the appropriate  
6 agencies to take action if and when necessary.  
7 And hopefully we can prevent another tragedy from  
8 happening. I want to thank everyone involved in  
9 this process, including the Advocate, and the  
10 Department of Correction. I'd also like to thank  
11 my counsel, Lisette Camilo, Chair Vacca, former  
12 Chair Martinez, my colleague Sara Gonzalez, and  
13 Speaker Quinn. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
15 much, Council Member James. Let me also mention  
16 today, we're voting on Intro 896-A, a piece of  
17 legislation that was introduced by Council Members  
18 De Blasio and Lappin, and passed through the Parks  
19 Committee led by Chairperson Foster, and I want to  
20 thank Chairperson Foster for her work on this  
21 piece of legislation. Intro 896-A is a response  
22 to problems that had been occurring in the City's  
23 parks. Where we had heard reports of children  
24 who'd gone to parks and various surfaces had  
25 gotten quite hot, and children obviously had had

1  
2 problems related to this. We want to make sure  
3 that this summer, we have proper signage in City  
4 parks, that indicates to New Yorkers who take  
5 their children to parks, that they need to be  
6 careful; that mats, that slides, that other  
7 surfaces will get hot, and that parents need to  
8 take appropriate precautions when they have their  
9 children in parks--parents, guardians,  
10 babysitters, brother and sisters, whomever may be  
11 taking children to parks. I want to thank all of  
12 the Council Members who worked on 896-A, which  
13 will make sure this is an even safer summer for  
14 children in our Parks Department facilities. I  
15 want to thank Lyle Frank, Patrick Mulvihill, and  
16 Jeff Haberman, all who worked on this piece of  
17 legislation. Again, let me thank the Committee  
18 Chair and first call on Council Member Bill de  
19 Blasio, and then Council Member Jessica Lappin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank  
21 you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you to you  
22 and your staff for your leadership on this issue.  
23 Thank you to Chair Foster, to my colleague,  
24 Council Member Jessica Lappin, thanks for working  
25 together, and we, I think, share a passion to make

1  
2 sure we protect our kids on the playgrounds. I  
3 have to tell you, when I was growing up, I shudder  
4 to think back to what we used to think was a  
5 normal playground, that was filled with all sorts  
6 of sharp edges and the concrete and slides that  
7 went too fast, and you name it. Some of us  
8 survived, but that being said, we've made a lot of  
9 progress. We've made a lot of progress. Many of  
10 our playgrounds around the City, thank god, have  
11 much better equipment, and have protective mats  
12 and other equipment that makes it much better,  
13 much safer. But we have a way to go here, and  
14 that's why it was important to move this  
15 legislation. This will protect children from  
16 being severely burned during the warm months when  
17 the sun heats up the protective mats that are  
18 meant to be there to protect kids against other  
19 dangers; unfortunately, they get very, very hot,  
20 and the danger is kids have to be warned, and  
21 parents have to be warned, and caregivers, to keep  
22 kids from spending too much time on them. The  
23 legislation would do that by posting signs warning  
24 people of the danger. It's a serious problem, but  
25 this is a simple solution, and it will help people

1  
2 realize that they have to keep an eye on our on  
3 their kids in this instance. We're acting now,  
4 before the summer comes, because we think we can  
5 actually protect some kids. And in fact, keep  
6 some kids out of the hospital, 'cause some of  
7 these burns have been quite serious. Now let me  
8 just say, this is one step, and it's a first step.  
9 I know there's more that needs to happen to  
10 protect kids going forward, and I think we're all  
11 committed to looking for additional solutions.  
12 But it was important to pass this bill now, before  
13 the summer came. And again, thank you Madam  
14 Speaker.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
16 much, Council Member de Blasio. And let me call  
17 on Council Member Lappin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank,  
19 thank you, Madam Speaker. It has been a pleasure  
20 working with you Council Member de Blasio, on this  
21 legislation, and I, I wanted to also thank Lyle  
22 Frank and Christine Ortega in my office, for all  
23 of their hard work on this. And thank our Parks  
24 Chair, Helen Diane Foster. I think the bottom  
25 line is that the signs that are in our playgrounds

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

right now just don't cut it. They don't communicate as clearly as they should that these surfaces get very hot. And these new signs will do that, in fact they will say, "Warning: Some surfaces may become hot. Please take precautions with exposed skin." I think that sends a very clear message to parents, and we certainly hope that by educating them, we will prevent some of these horrific injuries that have taken place in our City parks from happening again.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. And that concludes communications from the Speaker.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Discussion of general orders. We don't have anybody signed up. Is there anybody--Oh, Council Member Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Madam Public Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to vote on all land use items and coupled general orders.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Have a good



1

2 day.

3

4

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: [laughs] Same to  
you. Report of special committees?

5

CLERK: None.

6

7

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Reports of  
standing committees.

8

9

10

CLERK: For the Committee on  
Economic Development, Preconsidered Reso 1936,  
Restore New York Community Initiative.

11

12

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

13

14

15

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Environmental Protection, Intro 21-A, Remediation  
of Brownfields.

16

17

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

18

19

20

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 1928.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

21

22

23

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Finance, Preconsidered Reso 1934, organization  
funding.

24

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

1

2

CLERK: Preconsidered M1388 and  
Reso 1938, and M1389 and Reso 1939, budget items.

4

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

6

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Fire and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 937-A,  
adolescence in city jails.

9

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

10

11

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Land Use, LU974 and Reso 1940, and LU986 and Reso  
1941, UDAPs, Manhattan.

12

13

14

SPEAKER QUINN: Couple on general  
orders.

15

16

CLERK: LU1038 and Reso 1942,  
bicycle parking.

17

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Couple of general  
orders.

19

20

CLERK: LUs 1040 and Reso 1943, and  
1042 and Reso 1944, sidewalk cafés.

21

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Couple on general  
orders.

23

24

CLERK: LUs 1051 and Reso 1945, and  
1052 and Reso 1946, zoning map amendments.

25

1

2

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

3

4

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 1055 and Reso 1947, UDAP Brooklyn.

5

6

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

7

8

CLERK: Preconsidered LUs 1056 and Reso 1948 through 1058, and Reso 1950, various applications.

10

11

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

12

13

CLERK: Preconsidered LUs 1059 and Reso 1951 and 1060, and Reso 1952, school facilities.

15

16

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet, please.

17

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

18

19

CLERK: Preconsidered LU 1061 and Reso 1953 through LU 1063 and Reso 1955, landmarks designations.

21

22

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

23

24

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, Intro 896-A, signage warning

25

1

2 of heat dangers of playground mats.

3 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
4 on general orders.

5 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
6 Rules, Privileges and Elections, M1353 and Reso  
7 1956, approving the reappointment of Betty Y.  
8 Chen, City Planning Commission.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
10 orders.

11 CLERK: M1354 and Reso 1957,  
12 approving the appointment of Nancy G. Chavits,  
13 Civil Service Commission.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
15 orders.

16 CLERK: Preconsidered M1390 and  
17 Reso 1958, approving the appointment of Robert  
18 Cohen, M.D., Board of Correction.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
20 orders.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: General order  
22 calendar.

23 CLERK: Resolution appointment  
24 various persons commissioner of deeds.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general

1

2 orders and at this point, I'd like to ask for a  
3 roll call on all items that have been coupled on  
4 the general order calendar, please.

5 CLERK: Arroyo.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

7 CLERK: Avella.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Madam  
9 Public Advocate, may I have a moment to explain my  
10 vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you.  
13 I'm going to vote aye on all items but I am  
14 concerned, and I'm sure some of my colleagues will  
15 speak as well, about 896-A. And the reason I'm  
16 going to vote for it is because there does need to  
17 be some signage up immediately, but some of the  
18 advocates are very concerned that the signage  
19 doesn't go far enough, in terms of the wording,  
20 its placement, and how quickly the signs are going  
21 to be put up. And I was very tempted to vote  
22 against it, based upon those reasons. But I think  
23 having something is better than nothing, but I  
24 have to tell you, I think it's incumbent upon the  
25 City Council, as was brought up during the

1  
2 Committee meeting, to immediately follow up with an  
3 amendment with I think Council Member Gerson and I  
4 think Council Member James are going to follow up  
5 on. But clearly, more needs to be done. But it's  
6 sort of like six of one, half a dozen of the  
7 other, to put something up in the first place. So  
8 I'm voting aye on all, including this bill, but  
9 clearly more needs to be done, and more needs to  
10 be done prior to this summer. Because I'm not  
11 convinced that all the signs are going to be up by  
12 summer.

13 CLERK: Brewer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye  
15 and I'm particularly interested in the issue of  
16 trying to get green transportation, and that  
17 includes bicycles, and so I support that bill and  
18 vote aye on all bills. Thank you.

19 CLERK: Comrie.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Crowley.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye  
23 on all.

24 CLERK: De Blasio.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO:

1

2

Permission to explain my vote.

3

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Today, among other things, we're voting on the budget mod, and we're voting to allocate funding to save the Housing Authority's services. We all know it's very sad, very regrettable that there are layoffs happening to hardworking NYCHA employees in this situation, but I want to thank Speaker Quinn and her staff who've worked very hard to make sure that there's maximum opportunity made available to these workers for other city possibilities. And I think that's a step very much in the right direction. I would like to say in the bigger picture as we go forward, we have a lot of choices to make, and I think we have to keep raising the point to the administration that layoffs have a negative impact on workers and families, and in fact are the reverse of what we're trying to achieve with the stimulus funding. They take away from the local economy, as opposed to adding to it. And hopefully, we can all work together to find ways to avoid them and to minimize the impact, because that's what's much

25

1  
2 better for the future of our city. Thank you and  
3 I vote aye on all.

4 CLERK: Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on  
6 all.

7 CLERK: Dilan.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Eugene.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Felder. [pause] Ferreras.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on  
13 all.

14 CLERK: Fidler.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Madam  
16 Public Advocate, may I be briefly excused to  
17 explain my vote?

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I vote aye  
20 on all with the exception of Preconsidered Land  
21 Use 1056 and Resolution 1948, regarding waterfront  
22 zoning. The particular application might actually  
23 have benefit, but in my part of Brooklyn, the  
24 waterfront has been abused by overdevelopment.  
25 And as I understand this text amendment, it is



1  
2 going to make it easier for that to happen. I  
3 dare mention with great hesitance than name Susan  
4 Hinson [phonetic] in these chambers. [laughter]  
5 But it all goes back to, to the Department of  
6 Buildings and the Department of City Planning,  
7 working with Kings Plaza and Lowes to pervert the  
8 very meaning of the waterfront zoning text,  
9 waterfront access provisions. So my vote no on  
10 this is more of a personal protest, than it is on  
11 substance, but I just think we need to be very,  
12 very careful about what the Bloomberg  
13 Administration's agencies are doing to facilitate  
14 development along our waterfront that may be  
15 inappropriate.

16 CLERK: Foster.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

20 CLERK: Gennaro.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

22 CLERK: Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes, aye  
24 on all.

25 CLERK: Gerson.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: May I be  
3 excused to explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you.  
6 Congratulations, Chair Gennaro for, and thanks for  
7 making this a greener Earth Day. And thank you  
8 and Council Member James for your concern for and  
9 leadership to the children, the adolescents on  
10 Riker's Island. I hope we as a body will follow  
11 up with the spirit of that legislation, by during  
12 the upcoming budget cycle making sure, even in  
13 dire times, that we allocate sufficient budgetary  
14 resources for adequate protection to these young  
15 people under our care in Riker's Island, and for  
16 adequate counseling, educational and recreational  
17 services, so that perhaps this last chance for  
18 these young people, we can help them turn their  
19 lives around. With respect to the signage, I  
20 thank Council Member de Blasio and, and council  
21 Member Lappin, for bringing this issue to the  
22 fore. I agree we must have warnings up for the  
23 summer, so I will vote aye, but having seen  
24 firsthand the results of burns at the Burn Center  
25 of the New York Hospital, it just, it's imperative

1  
2 in my view that the signage be amended to make  
3 clear the danger of burn. And we make it clear  
4 that that is the danger which these children face,  
5 in addition to other potential hazards. So with  
6 the intent of going forward with the amendment to  
7 do so, I vote aye, and I vote aye on all. Thank  
8 you very much.

9 CLERK: Gioia.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote, I  
11 vote yes.

12 CLERK: Gonzalez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ:

14 Permission to explain my vote, Madam Public  
15 Advocate. Restore New York Resolution before us  
16 today, which my district will formally, is  
17 formally requesting \$10 million in State funding,  
18 for the demolition and construction of the  
19 industrial buildings at Bush Terminal. I went  
20 down to that site myself, and I went to the  
21 hearing - - DC. I certainly embrace \$10 million  
22 coming to my district, a home for many, many  
23 people in respect to employment, it will create  
24 immediate employment once the project begins, of  
25 over 100 construction union jobs, and long term,

1  
2 it will bring us approximately 450 to 500 jobs.  
3 That has been an economic wheel in District 38 in  
4 Brooklyn, and I certainly embrace it. And I ask  
5 my colleagues to vote yes, and yes on all.

6 CLERK: Ignizio.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

8 CLERK: James.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be  
10 excused to explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Again, I  
13 want to recognize the family of Mr. Robinson, and  
14 would hope that we could avert any further  
15 tragedies at Riker's Island, or any other  
16 facilities under the jurisdiction of the  
17 Department of Corrections. My thoughts and  
18 prayers go out to his family. In regards to Intro  
19 896, I'd like to read a letter from the, Ann and  
20 Rich Casone, dated April 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are the  
21 parents of an 18 month old child that was burned  
22 at Catbird Playground in May 2007, at Carl Schultz  
23 Park in Manhattan. The child spent four days in  
24 the burn unit as a result of his injuries. And  
25 the letter in part says the following: "These

1  
2 revised signs will be no better than the paper  
3 signs that currently say 'Footwear must be worn at  
4 all times.' We appreciate the Council discussing  
5 the issue, and proposing the legislation, but are  
6 profoundly disappointed in the final version of  
7 Intro 896. We will continue to work for change to  
8 prevent other children from being burned. Thanks  
9 as always for your efforts and support." I'm  
10 going to vote aye on this piece of legislation,  
11 but look forward to working with Council Member  
12 Gerson as we go forward to amend this legislation,  
13 so that not only can we protect, we should protect  
14 all children in playgrounds. And so at this time,  
15 I vote aye on all.

16 CLERK: Katz.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Koppell.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

20 CLERK: Lappin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all,  
22 with a big thank you.

23 CLERK: Liu.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

25 CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: May

3

I please be excused to explain my vote?

4

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I

6

will be voting aye on all, except for Intro 896-A,

7

of which I will be voting no, and I would like to

8

explain two, two quick reasons. As one of the

9

signers of this legislation, there was a lot of

10

changes. I had been to the initial hearing, a lot

11

of changes that have occurred and that are pretty

12

stark to what was originally presented. I have

13

great confidence in my staff, that follows

14

legislation, and we are very attentive to those

15

that we sign onto. We were not really informed of

16

the vast changes, we did not actually get a copy

17

of the revised legislation. And that is of grave

18

concern. Secondly, it's very hard for me to

19

reconcile that the originators, or the parents

20

that led to this debate happening in this Council

21

are so opposed to the revisions that were made,

22

and are not in approval of this legislation. I

23

would've liked to have seen greater discussions to

24

try to bring the parents to agree to this and to

25

really agreed to the changes. So for those

1  
2 reasons, I will be voting no. I do look forward  
3 to the, continued conversations on the amendments,  
4 'cause I do believe that a lot of serious and  
5 diligent work was done to get to this point, so I  
6 really do want to commend the work of the staff,  
7 and also the leadership Council Member Lappin and  
8 de Blasio on this matter. And I look forward to  
9 the ongoing debates. So I vote aye on all, except  
10 for 896-A, on which I vote no.

11 CLERK: Martinez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Madam  
13 Public Advocate, may I explain my vote?

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Yeah, I  
16 just want to congratulate Council Member James on  
17 Intro 937-A. This is an important piece of  
18 legislation that its more than a proactive  
19 legislation that will allow the Council, the City,  
20 and the Department of Correction to act in a  
21 proactive way to protect our youth that are  
22 incarcerated in our City jails. As Council Member  
23 James mentioned, this would allow the, or will  
24 enable the unfortunate incident not to happen  
25 again, as we lost the life of a young man in one

1  
2 of our City's jails. I want to congratulate her  
3 and Council Member Sara Gonzalez for the hearing  
4 we held together on this crucial issue. And also  
5 thank Council Member Vacca for having the hearing  
6 today and voting legislation out of Committee.  
7 And obviously our Speaker Christine Quinn for  
8 understanding the importance of this issue. I  
9 vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Mealy.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Mendez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission  
14 to explain my vote.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: To keep my  
17 comments brief, I vote aye on all, and no on Intro  
18 896-A for all the reasons stated by my colleague,  
19 Melissa Mark-Viverito. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Mitchell.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on  
22 all.

23 CLERK: Nelson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Palma.



1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

3

CLERK: Recchia.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

5

all.

6

CLERK: Reyna.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

8

CLERK: Sanders.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

10

all.

11

CLERK: Seabrook. Sears.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: I vote aye,

13

and with permission to vote aye on all land use

14

call-ups.

15

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

16

CLERK: Stewart.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye on

18

all.

19

CLERK: Vacca.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

21

CLERK: Vallone.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission

23

to explain?

24

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'm going

1  
2 to vote no on M1388 and 1389 and Resolutions 1938  
3 and 1939 for reasons I explained during the budget  
4 vote. And on 896-A, I agree with the concerns of  
5 some of my colleagues, like Melissa Mark-Viverito.  
6 Children have received second degree burns and  
7 were, thank you, thank you. We're putting up  
8 signs that say "Some surfaces may become hot."  
9 Which number one is fairly obvious, and number  
10 two, doesn't sufficiently warn people of the  
11 danger involved here. I for one had no idea that  
12 my kids could get second degree burns, just by  
13 going to a playground and having their exposed  
14 knee hit the ground. So in that respect, the  
15 sponsors and the Council needs to be, need to be  
16 commended for calling attention to this issue.  
17 I've learned a lot, and I'm sure others have. But  
18 like many have said, I hope we can do more in the  
19 future on this issue. I'm going to vote aye on  
20 it, because something's better than nothing, but I  
21 hope we can do more. So aye on, on the rest.

22 CLERK: Vann.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Weprin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

1

CLERK: Yassky.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye on all.

3

CLERK: Oddo.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

5

CLERK: Rivera.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye

7

on all and with permission of the public advocate,

8

I would like to vote yes on all land use call ups.

9

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: So ordered.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you

11

very much, I vote aye.

12

CLERK: Speak--Speaker Quinn.

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

14

[pause]

15

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: - - date, today's

16

general order calendar were adopted by a vote of

17

48 in the affirmative, zero negative, zero

18

abstentions, with the exception of LU1038 and Reso

19

1942, which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the

20

affirmative, one negative, zero abstentions; and

21

preconsidered LU1056 and Reso 1048, which was

22

adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, one

23

negative, zero abstentions; and Intro 896-A which

24

was adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative,

25

1  
2 two negative, zero abstentions; and pre-pre M1388  
3 and Reso 1938, which was adopted by a vote of 47  
4 in the affirmative, one negative and zero  
5 abstentions; and pre-CM1389 and Reso 1939, which  
6 was adopted by 47 in the affirmative, one  
7 negative, zero abstentions. The revised land use  
8 call up vote is 48 in the affirmative, zero  
9 negative. Introduction reading of bills.

10 [pause]

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry, wasn't  
12 paying attention. All bills are [laughs] referred  
13 to committees as indicated on the agenda. Was  
14 reading some mail.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: [laughs]

16 Discussion of resolution.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: I was.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet, please.

19 Discussion of resolution, Council Member Eugene.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you  
21 very much. Thank you. First and foremost, let me  
22 on behalf of all my Haitian brothers and sisters,  
23 let me thank Speaker Quinn for her leadership and  
24 her support, and I would like also to thank all my  
25 colleagues for the support, and especially those

1

2 who have cosponsored the bill with the Resolution  
3 with me. And--

4

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet, please.

5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I would  
7 like also to thank the legislative counsel and the  
8 member of the central staff for their hard work. I  
9 would like to encourage each of you to vote in  
10 favor of the proposal Reso, Reso number 1595-A--

11

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Quiet, please.

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Urging the  
14 US government to designate national of Haiti  
15 eligible for temporary protected, protected status  
16 under Section 244 of the Immigration and  
17 Naturality Act. As each are 144 designates, Haiti  
18 - - devastated by the, by the combined effect of  
19 ongoing food crisis, and the aftermath of a  
20 natural disaster of 2008. Nearly 800 people died  
21 as a result of the tropical storm. 35,000 to  
22 40,000 people - - homeless because of the country.  
23 And--

24

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member,  
25 time, you only have a minute on the resolution,  
26 sorry.

27

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you

1  
2 very much. Well, then, let me just say that to  
3 finish, by voting the Resolution 1595, we are  
4 sending a very strong message that we, at the City  
5 Council members, we believe that all men are  
6 equal, and should be treated with all fairness and  
7 equity. And I would like to thank all of you for  
8 your support to that legislation. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Thank you Council  
11 Member. I'll read the resolution. Supporting  
12 house resolution, which, house res which urges the  
13 United States government to designate nationals of  
14 Haiti eligible for temporary protected status  
15 under section 244 of the Immigration and  
16 Nationality Act.

17 CLERK: Resolution is on the floor.

18 [off mic]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: We're going to  
20 vote, I'm sorry, we're going to vote. No, that's  
21 okay. All in favor.

22 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Opposed?

24 Adopted. General discussion. General discussion,  
25 Council Member James.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

First I want to thank my, congratulate my good friend, Lynn Nottage [phonetic] who yesterday won a Pulitzer Prize for drama. She's a resident of, of Boerum Hill. She produced a play called "Ruin," a haunting story of African women scarred by the brutal civil war in the Congo. I again want to congratulate my very good friend Lynn Nottage for winning this award. I also urge my colleagues to sign onto Intro 970, it's a bill that would regulate the sale of menthol cigarettes. As most of you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have voiced their concern about the possibility that menthol cigarettes might increase tobacco addiction and general cancer. Former U.S. Health Secretary has written a letter to Congress dating that allowing the continuing production of menthol without any form of regulatory body presiding over it, is a major loophole, and the Journal on Nicotine and Tobacco Research has said menthol cigarette smokers have high levels of blood nicotine and higher levels of, of exhaled carbon monoxide. In addition, I urge my colleagues to sing on to 971,

1  
2 considering the chaos that followed that the 2007  
3 steam explosion in midtown, it seems that there  
4 should be a secure system for notifying local  
5 elected officials in such emergencies. Therefore,  
6 this bill would ensure that within 24 hours of  
7 responding to a fire, caused by underground street  
8 electrical infrastructure, the Department will  
9 notify the local elected official whose district  
10 the incident is located. It's in response to a  
11 manhole explosion in Clinton Hill, which was heard  
12 throughout the neighborhood, causing a lot of  
13 confusion. The explosion caused serious damage to  
14 the above sidewalk, and also resulted in two  
15 residences temporary losing power and damage to  
16 the under wood playground nearby. And thank god  
17 no one was hurt. My last comment today is to the  
18 Mayor of the City of New York. At a time when  
19 vulnerable New Yorkers are struggling to remain  
20 employ, or secure employment, I would urge that  
21 the administration demonstrate his commitment to  
22 reducing poverty by stopping the transfer of  
23 kindergarten classes from ACS to DOE, stop the  
24 cuts to UPA, UPK funding and childcare centers,  
25 and no cuts to Head Start, and consistent with



1  
2 President Barack Obama, honor his commitment to  
3 early childhood education. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member  
5 Dickens.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,  
7 Madam Public Advocate. I ask my colleague--I ask  
8 my colleagues' support on Reso 1926 on the reform  
9 of the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Although  
10 congratulations goes to Governor Patterson and the  
11 State Legislature for reforming the infamous  
12 Rockefeller Drug Laws, as our communities have  
13 been advocating for decades to reform these  
14 draconian laws; however, now that the laws have  
15 been reformed, the work begins. This Reso asks  
16 for funding for support services for effective  
17 reentry for the many formerly incarcerated. These  
18 are families that have been impacted for years,  
19 and now we're finding out wrongly. And now they  
20 need the services in place for them to come back  
21 into society. I also want to give congratulations  
22 to Dr. Maria Pettione [phonetic] for last night I  
23 had the honor of presenting the New York  
24 Theological Seminary's Urban Angel Award. Dr.  
25 Pettione graduated from Howard University in 1937,

1  
2 the only woman in her class. She is a trailblazer  
3 for both women and physicians of color. She  
4 established the Friends of Harlem Hospital,  
5 ensuring that the "Black Hospital of the World,"  
6 as she calls it, endures for future generations,  
7 for black physicians, and Harlem residents. Thank  
8 you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member  
10 Weprin.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,  
12 Madam Public Advocate. Our uniform public service  
13 members provide an invaluable service to our city.  
14 They keep our streets safe, put out our fires,  
15 remove, and remove our trash and snow from our  
16 sidewalks and streets. It is incorrigible to  
17 think that someone would want to harm one of these  
18 public servants who perform an essential task to  
19 our city. That is why I am introducing Resolution  
20 1935, which calls on the New York State Assembly  
21 to pass Assembly 5518, introduced by Assemblyman  
22 Joe Lentol, that would amend the New York State  
23 Penal Code to elevate the assault of a sanitation  
24 worker to a Class C felony. In September of last  
25 year, Juan Ramos, a 22 year veteran of the

1  
2 Sanitation Department, was attacked with a shovel  
3 by a motorist who was angry that Mr. Ramos's  
4 sanitation truck was blocking his path down the  
5 street. As a result of this heinous attack, Mr.  
6 Ramos suffered several broken ribs and was  
7 hospitalized. Currently, the penalty for  
8 assaulting a sanitation worker is a Class D  
9 felony, which unfortunately does not go far enough  
10 to deter future attacks. Assemblyman Lentol's  
11 legislation will raise the felony level to a Class  
12 C felony, which is a penalty levied on those that  
13 assault peace officers and fire fighters.  
14 Sanitation workers deserve the same treatment as  
15 other uniformed services, and this bill would  
16 ensure that an attack on them will have the same  
17 consequences as an attack on a police, on a peace  
18 officer. I urge my colleagues to sign on to this  
19 important resolution, 1935. Thank you.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member  
21 Mark-Viverito.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:  
23 Thank you. I wanted to, in recognition, I know  
24 we're celebrating Earth Day, and we're talking  
25 about initiatives that we're doing in the City,

1  
2 and I think it's always to encourage ourselves to  
3 move one step further. But we should also  
4 recognize some of the work that is happening  
5 internationally. And today the United Nations,  
6 thanks to the leadership of President Evo Morales  
7 from Bolivia, has adopted a Resolution that  
8 basically calls on April 22<sup>nd</sup> being considered  
9 International Mother Earth Day, and promotes the  
10 right of all humans to live a healthy life in  
11 harmony with nature. As people may now, last  
12 year, President Evo Morales came to New York City,  
13 the Black/Latino/Asian Caucus did present him as  
14 the duly, democratically elected first indigenous  
15 head of state of Bolivia. He garnered over 55  
16 percent of the vote, he has had two subsequent  
17 referendums at which he has garnered over 60  
18 percent of the vote. Someone who has widespread  
19 support, he is really someone who is promoting  
20 leadership at the national, international level,  
21 on really having and living in greater harmony  
22 with the earth. And that's very important,  
23 particularly for also a country like Bolivia. And  
24 also want to commend him and his efforts, again as  
25 representative of a population that has been

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

historically oppressed in Latin America, and particularly in his country, for the efforts that he is leading, and the charge to bring equity and justice to the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. So for that, I just wanted to recognize some of the work that's being done internationally, and commend his efforts, and commend the United Nations for having passed and adopted this resolution today. Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Member Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Yes, today I asked my colleagues to sing on an Intro 973 in honor of Earth Day, introducing a bill which required commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet to be upgraded to meet the requirements of the New York City Energy Conservation Code. We're giving building owner 12 years to meet this standard, and we will work with them to provide incentives and cut down on the burden of making these upgrades. The requirement will not apply to residential living spaces, and I would like to thank all my colleagues, and Jim Gennaro and the Speaker, for coming together and all working together, and like the staff, Rob Newman and

1

2 everyone else on the Environmental Protection  
3 Staff. And ask my colleagues, please sign on.  
4 Thank you.

5

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Seeing nobody  
6 else, mention of remarks. Nobody else want to say  
7 anything? Okay, then, Happy Earth Day.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Happy  
9 Earth Day. Go home, shut your lights off.

10

PUBLIC ADVOCATE: [laughs] Oh,  
11 Council Member Nelson. Whoops, we still have a  
12 little, the hand came up.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Alright,  
14 just one last thing, I've been handing out  
15 literature for a resolution to our brothers and  
16 sisters in Congress, to try to get them to go  
17 along with helping people before they get  
18 foreclosed on. Bringing down the interest rates  
19 on mortgages to three-and-a-half percent, and  
20 perhaps stretching out the amount of years to 35  
21 or 40, would be a major, major provision to help  
22 people who are facing foreclosure. And when  
23 people face foreclosure it affects all of us in  
24 this room, all of us indeed throughout the nation.  
25 So if I put it on your desk, colleagues, please

1

2 bring it back to me here, and let's get this Reso  
3 to the members of Congress. Thank you.

4

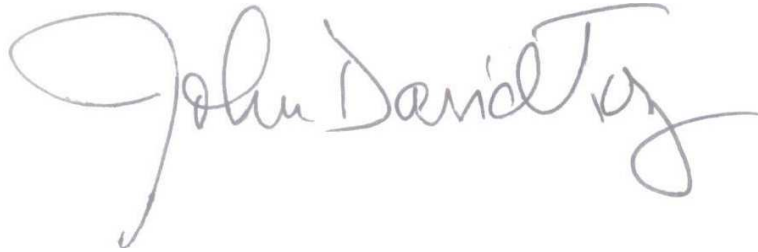
PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Okay, okay,  
5 everybody, the meeting is [gavel] done, cancelled,  
6 whatever. [laughs] [pause]

7

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date May 4, 2009