

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING  
OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

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January 22, 2014  
Start: 1:47 P.M.  
Recess: 2:00 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E: Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Margaret S. Chin
- Rosie Mendez
- Corey D. Johnson
- Daniel R. Garodnick
- Ben Kallos
- Helen K. Rosenthal
- Mark Levine
- Melissa Mark-Viverito
- Inez E. Dickens
- Ydanis A. Rodriguez
- Andrew Cohen
- Andy L. King
- James Vacca
- Fernando Cabrera
- Ritchie J. Torres
- Vanessa L. Gibson
- Maria Del Carmen Arroyo

Annabel Palma  
Paul A. Vallone  
Peter A. Koo  
Julissa Ferreras  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Mark S. Weprin  
Rory I. Lancman  
Daniel Dromm  
James G. Van Bramer  
I. Daneek Miller  
Ruben Wills  
Karen Koslowitz  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Donovan J. Richards  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Stephen T. Levin  
Antonio Reynoso  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Carlos Menchaca  
Bradford S. Lander  
Mathieu Eugene  
Darlene Mealy  
Inez D. Barron  
Vincent J. Gentile  
David G. Greenfield  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Alan N. Maisel  
Mark Treyger  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Deborah L. Rose  
Steven Matteo  
Vincent M. Ignizo

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

Bishop Orlando Findlayter

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STATED MEETING

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LETITIA JAMES: I pledge allegiance-

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ALL MEMBERS: --to the flag of the United States of America and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

LETITIA JAMES: Today's invocation will be delivered by Bishop Orlando-- roll call. Oh, and it's a roll call before we're blessed.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here.

CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

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STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aqui.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: [off mic]

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Present.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

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STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Johnson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CLERK: Koslowtiz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

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STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Menchaca?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.  
CLERK: Mendez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.  
CLERK: Miller?  
COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.  
CLERK: Palma?  
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]  
CLERK: Reynoso?  
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.  
CLERK: Richards?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.  
CLERK: Rodriguez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.  
CLERK: Rose?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.  
CLERK: Thank you. Rosenthal?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.  
CLERK: Torres?  
COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.  
CLERK: Treyger?  
COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.  
CLERK: Ulrich?  
COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

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STATED MEETING

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CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Present.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito, you  
have a quorum.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Quorum?

LETITIA JAMES: Today's invocation  
will be delivered by Bishop Orlando Findlayter,  
New Hope Christian Fellowship, 1098 Utica  
Avenue in the Borough of Brooklyn, New York.  
Please rise.

BISHOP FINDLAYTER: Shall we pray?  
God of the Universe, we come before you today.



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2 We pause to thank you. We pause to acknowledge  
3 your goodness towards us. We pause to thank you  
4 for this legislative body and this great city  
5 of New York. God, we ask your blessing upon  
6 the City Council as they deliberate, as they  
7 legislate. We ask that you give them much  
8 wisdom. We thank you for the Speaker. We thank  
9 you for her leadership. We ask that you'll  
10 guide her in all of her decision making. We  
11 ask, oh God, that this body will always  
12 remember that they have been elected to do the  
13 bidding of the people, and so we ask, oh God,  
14 that you'll give them a heart for the people.  
15 Bless this body. Bless our great City. Bless  
16 our Nation. We thank you in advance for all  
17 that will come out of this body during this  
18 session and this year. We bless your name. Let  
19 the people say, amen. And amen.

20 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member  
21 Williams to spread the invocation.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I thank  
23 you. First, I just want to let everyone know  
24 the power house that Bishop Findlayter is, he  
25 also is the Chair of Churches United to Save

1  
2 and Heal, always on top of every social issue.  
3 Every time I am going to get arrested  
4 [phonetic] and I need a clergy person, I call  
5 Bishop Findlayter, and he is right there with  
6 me. As a matter of fact, he was with a bunch of  
7 my colleagues this past Martin Luther King Day  
8 doing Civil Disobedience for the Airport  
9 workers. He is a powerhouse. I'm very proud  
10 that he's here today, and I motion to spread  
11 the invocation in full upon the record.

12 LETITIA JAMES: I call on Council  
13 Member Van Bramer, adoption of minutes.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Motion  
15 that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
16 December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 be adopted as printed.

17 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you. Messages  
18 and papers from the Mayor.

19 UNKNOWN: M14 Submitting Mark Peters  
20 for appointment as Commissioner of the  
21 Department of Investigation.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules,  
23 Privileges and Elections.

24 LETITIA JAMES: Communication from  
25 City, County and Borough offices?

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STATED MEETING

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Petitions and  
Communication?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Land Use call-ups?

UNKNOWN: M15 through M17.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on  
call-up vote and roll call.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]

CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Yes.

CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off  
mic]

CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley?

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STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

CLERK: Deutsch?

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

CLERK: Espinal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Gentile?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

CLERK: Johnson?

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowtiz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levine?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK: Maisel?

COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic]

CLERK: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

CLERK: Menchaca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CLERK: Reynoso?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

CLERK: Richards?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CLERK: Torres?

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

CLERK: Treyger?

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

CLERK: Vacca?

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STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye. Sorry.

Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

CLERK: Wills? Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

LETITIA JAMES: Today's Land Use  
call-ups were adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
affirmative and zero in the negative.  
Communication from Speaker Melissa Mark-  
Viverito.

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,  
Madam Public Advocate. First, I want to say  
that it's a pleasure to welcome Bishop

1  
2 Findlayter to the Chambers. I've had the  
3 pleasure to meet him recently and sit to talk  
4 about issues of concern and as our Council  
5 Member colleague Jumaane Williams indicates he  
6 is a powerhouse and truly respected leader in  
7 the faith community. Thank you for all that  
8 you do. Also, I just want to tell my  
9 colleagues that as comfortable as we are  
10 sitting in this Chamber, more likely we'll be  
11 making some seating arrangements. So don't get  
12 too comfortable right now. Just kidding.  
13 Also, let me just say that I really want to  
14 clearly express and I want it to be very  
15 clearly understood to all my colleagues that I  
16 truly welcome the feedback and the thoughts and  
17 the thinking that people express, whether on  
18 this floor or whether in private or whether in  
19 group setting. I really do value getting  
20 feedback to inform and be able to be a more  
21 deliberative, respectful, inclusive body. So I  
22 thank those colleagues that have expressed the  
23 concerns that they have. I welcome it. Know  
24 that it is seriously something that I do take  
25 into account as we move forward and that will



1  
2 always be welcome. Today I want to say that we  
3 are introducing legislation that will expand  
4 the paid sick time law that we passed last  
5 session. This legislation which was requested  
6 by the Mayor, but which will receive full  
7 review and consideration by the Council will  
8 provide paid sick days to 500,000 more workers  
9 in our City. I want to thank Council Member  
10 Margaret Chin for serving as the lead sponsor  
11 and the many colleagues who have signed on  
12 before introduction. And there's still  
13 obviously opportunity for council colleagues to  
14 continue to sign on. Additionally, we received  
15 the nomination of Mark Peters as the Commission  
16 of the Department of Investigation, and that  
17 will also receive a thorough vetting. And just  
18 to note, that we will not be voting on the  
19 over-rides of Mayoral vetoes today. Those will  
20 be heard in Committees and considered by the  
21 Full Council at the next Stated. Lastly, I  
22 just want to say that I would encourage Council  
23 Member Colleagues, that they should check the  
24 attached announcement to today's agenda, look  
25 at the website for the Committee assignments

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STATED MEETING

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and calendar of hearings, email updates that you also will receive in your offices, that they will provide updates on upcoming committee meetings. And with that, it concludes communication from the Speaker.

LETITIA JAMES: Report of Special Committees? None? Okay. Reports of Standing Committees?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: General order calendar?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: Introduction and reading of bills?

SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

LETITIA JAMES: Resolutions?

UNKNOWN: None.

LETITIA JAMES: And now general discussion. I call the Chair of Higher Education, Council Member Inez Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam Public Advocate. And to Reverend

1  
2 Findlayter, so glad that you're here and that  
3 you had the distinction of greeting us at our  
4 first stated meeting. As we all know, this  
5 past Monday we celebrated the birthday of the  
6 great Dr. Martin Luther King, and as you know,  
7 I spent 36 years in education teaching, and I  
8 just wanted to share with you one of the quotes  
9 from Dr. Martin Luther King on education. "The  
10 purpose of education is to save man from the  
11 morass of propaganda. Education must enable  
12 one to sift and weight evidence, to discern the  
13 truth from the false, real from unreal, and  
14 fact from fiction. The function of education,  
15 therefore, is to teach one to think intensively  
16 and to think critically, but education which  
17 stops with efficiency may prove the greatest  
18 menace to society. We must remember that  
19 intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus  
20 character, that is the goal of true education."  
21 The words of Dr. Martin Luther King.

22 LETITIA JAMES: Council Member  
23 Margaret Chin?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.  
25 I'm proud to sponsor the legislation today that

1  
2 will ensure that all hard-working New Yorkers  
3 have the right to take a day off if they're  
4 sick or if someone in the family is sick. This  
5 bill does a number of important things  
6 including expanding the definition of a family  
7 member to cover a more modern idea of family,  
8 including grandparents, grandchildren, and  
9 siblings, addressing enforcement issues by  
10 allowing the Mayor to designate another agency  
11 besides DCA to enforce the act, requiring or  
12 employers with five or more employees to be  
13 required to provide earned pay sick times, and  
14 is require employers with fewer than five  
15 employees unpaid earned sick times. Other city  
16 in the United States that have been operating  
17 with pay sick leave laws for several years, I'm  
18 proud to see New York City to join them today  
19 in safeguarding what should be both a public  
20 health concern and a human rights. That is the  
21 idea that if you're sick or someone you take  
22 care of is sick, that you do not need to be  
23 afraid that you will lose your job or your  
24 paycheck. No New Yorker should have to chose  
25 between their health and their financial

1  
2 security. I would like to thank our former  
3 colleague borough President Gayle Brewer for  
4 her hard work on this legislation, as well as  
5 Speaker Mark-Viverito and Mayor de Blasio for  
6 advocating for the expansion of this bill, and  
7 I hope, and I also thank all the colleagues  
8 that have already signed on, and I hope that  
9 all the rest of my colleagues would also sign  
10 on to sponsor this important legislation.

11 Thank you.

12 LETITIA JAMES: Thank you Chair of  
13 Aging. Any other remarks? We now stand  
14 adjourned until February 4<sup>th</sup>. Good afternoon.

15 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date 01/23/2014