

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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April 30, 2012
Start: 2:20 p.m.
Recess: 4:00 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Christine C. Quinn
Albert Vann
Charles Barron
Letitia James
James Sanders, Jr.
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Gale A. Brewer
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret Chin
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick
James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Sara M. Gonzalez
David Greenfield
Daniel J. Halloran
Vincent Ignizio
Letitia James
Peter Koo
G. Oliver Koppell
Karen Koslowitz
Brad Lander
Jessica S. Lappin
Stephen Levin
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Ydanis Rodriguez
Deborah Rose
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Eric Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
James G. Van Bramer
Albert Vann
Mark Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

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

James Jackson
Coach
Boys and Girls High school

Ruth Lovelace
Coach
Boys and Girls High School

Bernard Gassaway
Principal
Boys and Girls High School

Jeri
Coach
Junior Mites

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SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're going to start ceremonials, and the first one--

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

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SPEAKER QUINN: --is going to be led by our Majority Whip, Al Vann, and it is in recognition of the success of the Boys and Girls High School Boys Track and Field team, so if we could ask the folks from the track and field team to, boys, come on, make your way up. Just step up to the [off mic] and they can fall in behind you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: As the team come up, been joined by principal, Mr. Bernard Gassaway, Brother Jackson, the lead coach.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Guys, somebody pull over on the side for me more.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Some of you may be aware that there was a Boys High School in Brooklyn and a Girls High School, two separate institutions, both of whom had national reputations for both academics and, of course, athletics, outstanding teams, national records. And so the Board of Education, in its wisdom, I guess in early 1970, they closed Boys High School, they closed the Girls High School, and they opened

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2 a Boys and Girls High School, which they
3 represent. And so the reputation that was enjoyed
4 by both those institutions will happen again with
5 the, now, Boys and Girls High School. We're here
6 because they won the P.S.A.L. championship and
7 now--

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: --be read and
10 the proclamation--

11 [Applause]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: --and we want
13 you to know that this is a citywide recognition of
14 your achievement. At another time, we're going to
15 have a community celebration where the whole
16 village will come to let you know how much we love
17 and appreciate your achievement. But today,
18 citywide recognition, we are very proud of you,
19 what you've done, and we want to have this
20 opportunity to present you with a proclamation.

21 Clerk, would you read the Proc?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
23 New York Proclamation. The Council of the City of
24 New York is proud to honor Boys and Girls High
25 School Boys Track and Field team for winning the

1
2 P.S.A.L. Track and Field Championship; and

3 Whereas, track and field, the
4 world's oldest organized sport, traces its roots
5 back to the original Olympic games. Today, it
6 remains the most watched ever of the Olympic
7 broadcasts, but has evolved into a cutting-edge
8 sport for the 21st century; and

9 Whereas, the roster of amazing
10 athletes who make up Boys and Girls High School
11 Boys Track and Field Team include Donovan
12 Cunningham, Anderson Denner, Brendon Gabriel,
13 Javaun Grant, Duran Greer, Jeremy Johnson, Joel
14 Johnson, Malik Joseph, Daniel Lot, Darien Mascol,
15 Jesse McPherson, Rod Willmontrose [phonetic],
16 Jashane Morrison, Donniel Nelson, Rene Porter,
17 Curtly Renwick, Robert Rhodes, Richard Rose, James
18 Row, Amari Simpson [phonetic], Kerwyn Sutton,
19 Christon Taitt, Twini Tasant [phonetic], Nebroth
20 Wickham, Darryl Williams Jr., and Lashley Winter.
21 The team has been guided under the tutelage of
22 coaches James M. Jackson, Amateka Morgan, Jamaal
23 Harvey, Renee Sterrett, and William Thomas; and

24 Whereas, on February 25th, 2012,
25 Boys and Girls High School Boys Track and Field

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2 team competed against many other schools in
3 several of the sport's most challenging events:
4 The 55 meter dash, 300 meter dash, 600 meter run,
5 1,000 meter run, 1,600 meter run, 3,200 meter run,
6 and the 55 meter high hurdles. In the end, their
7 excellent performance resulted in their first
8 place triumph.

9 Now, therefore, be it known that
10 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors
11 the Boys and Girls High School Boys Track and
12 Field team for their outstanding performance and
13 achievement and congratulate them upon winning the
14 P.S.A.L. Track and Field City Championship.
15 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire
16 Council; Albert Vann, Council Member, 36th
17 District, Brooklyn.

18 [Applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Coach
20 Jackson, like to say a word or two?

21 JAMES JACKSON: On behalf of the
22 Boys and Girls High School, family, both
23 principals, staff, we'd like to thank the Council
24 for bestowing this prestigious honor on us and we
25 look forward to our success in the future. Thank

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you, Councilman Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: All right,
thank you, brother, thank you.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I'll get you
later. Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much. [Off
mic], Speaker?

SPEAKER QUINN: I just want to say
congratulations, this is a terrific
accomplishment. On behalf of all of us in the
City Council, congratulations.

So and now to keep the hits coming
from Boys and Girls High School, we're going to
ask the track and field team to step to the side,
but they're going to be replaced by the boys
Varsity Basketball team. So this is a school that
is on a roll, if you'd hold that. Also led by
Council Member Al Vann and joined now by Council
Member Tish James.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.
As they come, you should be aware that the boys
basketball team has won the P.S.A.L. Championship,
AA Division. This is the third year straight.
Third year straight. And for the first time in

1
2 history of the school, they also won the statewide
3 championship. So give them a hand, statewide,
4 three P.S.A.L. in a row, all right.

5 [Applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Keeping the
7 legacy going. I cannot express how proud we are
8 of all of you. In fact, the community is so proud
9 that they say, well you get your citywide
10 recognition today, but in a couple of weeks or so,
11 we're going to do a community celebration, so you
12 can feel the total love of the whole village of
13 Bed-Stuy and beyond.

14 There are a lot of illustrious
15 leaders, a lot of great players, a lot of records
16 being broke, I don't know if there's any coach, no
17 matter what the gender, has won three straight
18 P.S.A.L. Basketball Championships. But Sister
19 Lovelace, the coach--

20 [Applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Come up,
22 Coach. And for the first time in history of the
23 high, she won the statewide championship. She's a
24 great coach and she'll be the first one to tell
25 you, well it's not just me, it's my team. So let

1
2 me give her the mic and let her say whatever comes
3 to your mind and heart. Sister Lovelace.

4 RUTH LOVELACE: Thank you, Mr.
5 Vann, you're absolutely right. I want to take
6 this moment to pretty much say thank you to all
7 the people that make this possible. One, I want
8 to thank the administrative staff for believing in
9 us and being behind us 100% because, without the
10 administrative staff, this is not possible.

11 Secondly, I want to thank my
12 coaching staff, for the guys that work so hard day
13 in, day out to make this possible, you guys
14 deserve a lot of recognition.

15 Next, I want to thank the parents
16 for lending us your lovely young men, they come
17 and they work very hard for believing in
18 everything that we as Boys and Girls is trying to
19 tell them, academically and athletically, that's
20 why we stand here today.

21 Next, I want to thank--I see a
22 couple of alumni in the back and that means so
23 much for you guys to come out, take off of work or
24 whatever you do, to come out and support what Boys
25 and Girls means so we could keep going in this

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2 positive direction.

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And lastly, I want to thank the players that play for me. You guys know how you feel--how I feel about you guys. You guys come out and you guys, you lay it on the line, not only for yourself, for your family, and for the coaching staff, but I think more importantly, you lay it on the line for the school and Bedford-Stuyvesant, and we appreciate that, and we'll never, ever forget you, you're special.

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Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.

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[Applause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: You know when you have a star in your midst, Coach? When the Council Members are like, she looks familiar, she's been here before, I recognize that coach. So you are now part of the Council family, congratulations.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Right, just before the read, I'd like to recognize Assemblywoman Annette Robinson could not be here, but she sends some citations for each one of the members of the basketball and track team. You'll

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2 get them after the ceremony. And Senator [off
3 mic] Montgomery's being represented by Ms. Joan
4 Eastman, who's here today. And she's also a
5 member of the advisory group that's going to
6 sponsor this community celebration, I think it's
7 on June the 7th. And that's a representative of
8 Hakeem Jeffries' representative is also here, and-
9 -

10 [Off mic]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: If Robert was
12 smart, when he was a kid, he'd have went to Boys,
13 instead of going to Jackson, no, that's another
14 story, that's... All right, Clerk, would you read
15 the Proc, please?

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
17 New York Proclamation. Excuse me. The Council of
18 the City of New York is proud to honor the 2011-
19 2012 Boys and Girls High School Boys Varsity
20 Basketball team for winning the 2012 P.S.A.L. AA
21 Boys Basketball Championship and scorings a first
22 win of the New York State Federation Class AA
23 Basketball Championship; and

24 Whereas, Boys and Girls High
25 School, formerly known as Boys High, has a great

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2 legacy of cultural and athletic triumphs,
3 including many city championships in basketball;
4 and

5 Whereas, the 2011-2012's Boys
6 Varsity Basketball team includes: Rashad Andrews,
7 Joel Angus III, Bryce Jones, Courtney Solomon,
8 Dykweil Bryan, Leroy "Truck" Fludd, Nicholas
9 Jackson, Dimitri Jarrett, Jamie Killings, Tyliek
10 Kimbrough, Juwan Miley, Larry Moore, Wesley Myers,
11 Shakur Pinder, Marvin Prochet, Khalil Risher, and
12 Shaquille Thomas; and

13 Whereas, the Boys Varsity
14 Basketball team has been guided this season by
15 Head Coach Ruth Lovelace, Assistant Coach Elmer
16 Anderson, Assistant Coach Gene Carroll, Assistant
17 Coach Jeff Wiggins, Academic Advisor Kwame
18 Asante', Special Assistant Dell Dempsey, as well
19 as skills and drills instructors Jamel Austin and
20 Matt Formato. It's dedicated managers include,
21 Rahking Williams, Olivier Savain, Cheez Ezenekwe,
22 and Kristen Marin.

23 Now, therefore, be it known that
24 the Council of the City of New York proudly honors
25 the Boys and Girls High School 2011-2012 Boys

1
2 Varsity Basketball game for their outstanding
3 achievements in teamwork and congratulates them
4 upon winning the P.S.A.L. AA Boys Basketball
5 Championship and its first win at the New York
6 State Federation Class AA Basketball Championship.
7 Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the Entire
8 Council; Albert Vann, Council Member 36th
9 District, Brooklyn.

10 [Applause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: All right.
12 If you have a word from the principal, Mr. Bernard
13 Gassaway. Let's hear it for Mr. Gassaway.

14 [Applause]

15 BERNARD GASSAWAY: Okay. Thank
16 you. Good afternoon, everyone. I want to say,
17 1988 is when I started as a teacher at Boys and
18 Girls High School--

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

21 BERNARD GASSAWAY: --under the
22 leadership of the great, late Frank N. Mickens,
23 it's his shoulders that I stand on today as the
24 principal of Boys and Girls High School. But back
25 in 1988, there was this gentleman who was walking

1
2 the halls with Frank Mickens and he actually
3 stopped by my class as a third year teacher, but
4 first year at Boys and Girls High School, and that
5 was Councilman, at the time Assemblyman, Albert
6 Vann. He's been there from the beginning and he
7 is the staunchest supporter of education, in my
8 book, in the city of New York and especially the
9 children and families of Bedford-Stuyvesant, so we
10 thank you so much for all that you do.

11 [Applause]

12 BERNARD GASSAWAY: A quick, one
13 last quick word, I'm so proud of my young men,
14 both the track team, as well as the basketball
15 team, because what you see before you are scholar
16 athletes. We emphasize scholarship. And I don't
17 smile much with them, and they may wonder why,
18 because I want them to realize there's a tough,
19 tough world out there, particularly for young,
20 black, African men. All right? So look at this
21 image that you see today and this I want you to
22 see our young, black, African men as scholars,
23 athlete, and whatever they want to be that's
24 positive. So thank you very much.

25 [Applause]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I hope all of
3 you know that the chancellor, the Chancellor of
4 the Board of Education came by, he was here
5 earlier, he took photographs with some of you, he
6 couldn't stay, but he wanted you--to congratulate
7 all of you for your achievements.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
9 much, Majority Whip Vann, and thank you for
10 bringing both of these teams down today so we
11 could congratulate you and thank you, coach, for
12 bringing them back again. So I'm just going to
13 say we'll mark the calendar for next year for you
14 guys as well. All right, congratulations, and
15 best of luck, all of you are going to college next
16 year. Congratulations--

17 MALE VOICE: Thank you so much.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: --congratulations.
19 Congratulations, guys.

20 Barron, okay. And then who's after
21 that?

22 [Pause]

23 SPEAKER QUINN: The next
24 ceremonial--oh, there he is, okay--is being led by
25 Council Member Charles Barron. So we just had--

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
please, keep it down.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Who are we
bringing? Oh, the Panthers? And if we could have
the Panthers make their way on up to have the
ceremonial led by Council Member Charles Barron.

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[Pause]

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FEMALE VOICE: These the little
Panthers that beat up my little children?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That's

right.

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[Pause]

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SPEAKER QUINN: Look at that,
they're so cute. How are you? Guys, come over
here next--

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[Off mic]

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FEMALE VOICE: Come on, come on,
babies.

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MALE VOICE: How appropriate.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right, most
appropriate.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Turn around there,
buddy, turn around. Turn around.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: No, no,

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2 sweetie, you go up front. She's a star. I want
3 her up front, okay, right there.

4 [crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Okay. Good
6 boy.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: We're
8 waiting for you. Ladies and gentlemen, may I have
9 your attention, please?

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want you
12 to know that you are looking at the Super Bowl New
13 York City Super Bowl Champions.

14 [Applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Super Bowl
16 Champions, the Junior Mites and they went to
17 Florida for the national championship and, guess
18 what, they won that too.

19 [Applause]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So I told
21 Council Member Al Vann that Boys and Girls High
22 School beat Thomas Jefferson in the final, but the
23 Junior Mites are coming after you all. Beware of
24 the Junior Mites. But we are so proud of all of
25 them, and they're very good students in school--

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give them a big hand clap for their academics.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: They have built character and we're doing all of this in the name of Sammy Jackson. Sammy Jackson, who is no longer with us, passed on. When I first came into the City Council, Sammy Jackson was building this organization, they have several teams that made the playoffs and they have some undefeated teams in different divisions, but we're very proud today of the Junior Mites who are the New York City Super Bowl Champions and the national champions and from Florida. And we want their coach--should we have her speak first and then--Coach Jeri, everybody give Coach Jeri a big hand clap.

[Applause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So we have a sister coach too, Al, where's Al?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, right here.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh, there he is. We got Coach Jeri.

COACH JERI: Good afternoon, everybody.

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

COACH JERI: I just want to say congratulations to the Junior Mites of 2011, you all did a extraordinary job, I am very proud of you all. And I thank the coaching staff, Coach Harry, Coach Mike, Coach Dre, you should be up here, not out there taking pictures. Come up, Coach Dre, you got to come up, got to come up.

[background noise]

SPEAKER QUINN: --their cameras, they'll take pictures for you.

COACH HARRY: He's shy.

COACH JERI: Okay. Yes, that's Coach Dre, he helped us out throughout our 2011 season. And, of course, my parents. Thank you all to the dedicated parents--

COACH HARRY: Thank you, parents.

COACH JERI: --and the parents that took their time out today to come out and make this all possible. Coach Harry, now if you would like to say something.

COACH HARRY: Hello, I'm Coach Harry, Brooklyn Panthers, national champions, Super Bowl Champions. And I just would like to

1
2 say that we will back next year, back up here
3 doing the same thing. And thank you parents, but
4 most of all, I have to thank these little young
5 men down here, all these guys, I wish I could say
6 all their names, but we're just going to call them
7 champions 'cause that's what they are.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: That's
9 right.

10 COACH HARRY: We're from East New
11 York, and we say it out loud, and we're proud of
12 it. So once again, thank everybody for coming
13 out, witnessing our Junior Mites here and we work
14 hard, they put in a lot of work, and this is the
15 end result right here, this is the end result.
16 We'll be competing again. And I just want to
17 thank everybody, thank you so much, press, thank
18 you.

19 Chair leader, coach, thank you.
20 And, Mr. Barron, most of all, thank you also,
21 appreciate it.

22 [Applause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
24 very much. And I just want the record to read I
25 had nothing to do with the naming of the team. I

1
2 just want you all to know that they had the name,
3 they had the Panther name before I met them, I
4 just want to let you know that.

5 [Off mic]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: There you
7 go. Could you read the Proclamation?

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
9 New York Proclamation. Charles Barron, Council
10 Member of the 42nd District, is proud to honor the
11 Brooklyn Panthers football team for their
12 outstanding teamwork and for their recent
13 victories at championship games in both New York
14 City and Orlando; and

15 Whereas, in 1995, the late Sammy
16 Jackson, the founder and Director of East New York
17 Kidspower envisioned the New York City football
18 team for young people ages 5 to 16, and within two
19 years, the Brooklyn Panthers football team was
20 officially born. Geraldine Lawrence, the
21 organization's vice president, developed the
22 cheerleader's division, the Brooklyn Lady
23 Panthers. Since then, the Brooklyn Panthers have
24 created an impressive legacy; and

25 Whereas, today, more than 175

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2 children participate in the Brooklyn Panthers
3 program and each year the program continues to
4 grow. Education and academics are required to
5 join and must be maintained to remain in the
6 program; and

7 Whereas, since 2009, the Brooklyn
8 Panthers have truly lived up to the team motto:
9 Respect all, fear none. Two teams won the New
10 York City Super Bowl Championship in the Mighty
11 Mite Division and the Junior Pee Wee Division. In
12 2012, six teams made it to the playoffs and two
13 made it to the second round; and

14 Whereas, in 2011, the Junior Mite
15 Division was undefeated, winning all eight games
16 for the season; and

17 Whereas, after becoming the 2011
18 Super Bowl Championship winners in New York City,
19 the Junior Mites went to Orlando, Florida, to
20 compete in the nationals. There, they won the
21 second round of the championship; and

22 Whereas, we commend all of the
23 participants of the Brooklyn Panthers for their
24 enthusiastic teamwork and dedication, the physical
25 fitness, strong academic foundation, and tireless

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2 commitment that have made them such effective
3 athletes in their youth will continue to serve
4 them well as they become the strong adult leaders
5 of tomorrow.

6 Now, therefore, be it known that
7 Charles Barron, Council Member of the 42nd
8 District, honors and congratulates the Brooklyn
9 Panthers football team upon winning championships
10 in both New York City and in Orlando.

11 Charles Barron, Council Member,
12 42nd District, Brooklyn.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:
14 Congratulations, and we do all this and we say
15 long live the spirit of Sammy Jackson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Sammy, we
18 know you watching on us and we appreciate all that
19 you've done.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: You, sir?

21 MALE VOICE 1: Yeah, start it off.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Yeah, say it to the
23 mic, young man.

24 MALE VOICE 1: Panthers boys sweat.

25 MALE VOICE 2: Panther boys sweat.

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2 Panther boys sweat. Panther boys sweat. Boys
3 sweat. Panther boys sweat. Panther boys sweat.
4 Panther boys sweat.

5 [Applause]

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations,
7 guys, thank you very much. All right.

8 [Off mic]

9 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we're
10 going to call up one more ceremonial, so we could
11 ask the Panthers to go back to their seats,
12 thanks, guys. And our last ceremonial is led by
13 Council Member Tish James and James, so there's
14 Council Member Sanders and it is in recognition--
15 shh--of two outstanding New York City Sanitation
16 workers. And are those sanitation workers with
17 us? If they and their friends and family could
18 make their way up. All right, I'm going to turn
19 the mic over to Tish and James.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.
21 How are you? Congratulations.

22 MALE VOICE: Thank you very, very
23 much.

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And how do you
25 pronounce your last name?

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MR. SEMI NKOZI: Semi Nkozi.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. So both Joe Maneggio and Mr. Semi Nkozi are today being awarded this proclamation--

SPEAKER QUINN: Sorry, shh.

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

SPEAKER QUINN: These are our final ceremonial of the day, but a very important one, so...

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: So both today Mr. Joe Maneggio and Mr. Semi Nkozi, are today being awarded this proclamation for their bravery shown in their efforts--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet back there, please. Keep it down.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: They're being honored today for their bravery shown in their efforts to a family of four children and their mother as they saved them from a burning home in Queens.

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2 Both men who worked for the
3 Department of Sanitation saw the smoke and flames
4 coming from the house and instantly made their way
5 to the burning residence. Both men spotted the
6 fire, contacted 9-1-1 and ran to the house where
7 children were already on the lower roof. With no
8 way of escape and with no consideration for their
9 own safety, both men were in the right place at
10 the right time to be able to offer their
11 assistance in having each of the victims leap from
12 the roof right into their arms and into safety,
13 and away from the inferno.

14 Had it not been for these two men--
15 let me just say that again--had it not been for
16 the bravery of these two men, members of the
17 Department of Sanitation, the consequences may
18 have been much more dire. It is amazing to see
19 the courage and bravery that has been exemplified
20 through these individuals. Both of them are an
21 example of what each of us are all capable of
22 doing when being put in such distressing and
23 essentially quick decision-making situations.

24 I am honoring them today because
25 they thought about others before they thought

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2 about themselves and because all of us, all of us,
3 in that moment, the question is what would you
4 have done. Would you have acted like John
5 Maneggio and Mr. Semi Nkozi? Would you let those
6 children die? Or would you also allowed them to
7 leap into your arms? And so today, these men in
8 green certainly provided a great service to the
9 City of New York and it is my privilege to be able
10 to present these proclamations to such bold
11 individuals in acknowledgement of their
12 outstanding efforts in putting their lives at risk
13 in an attempt to save others.

14 Council Member Sanders?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.

16 Most people run the other way when they see a
17 fire, you had every reason to do so, you could
18 have said it's not my job, I'll just dial 9-1-1,
19 I'll go somewhere else and I'll report it.
20 Instead, without hesitation, you guys said you
21 know what, today, we're going to make a
22 difference; today, we're firemen; today, we're
23 going to be whatever we need to be and you ran in,
24 but you ran in without all of those equipment that
25 I'm sure you wish you had at that moment. But

1
2 thank God, not only did you come out safe, not
3 only did the adults come out safe, but you brought
4 some children out safe, and that is the greatest
5 blessing of all so we at the City Council, under
6 the leadership of Speaker Christine Quinn, are
7 glad to present you with these proclamations from
8 our great city.

9 Madam Speaker?

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Just before we have
11 the clerk read the proclamation, I just want to
12 echo the statements of Council Members James and
13 Sanders and thank you both. You know, no one
14 would have faulted you for one second if you'd
15 done what we tell people to do, call 9-1-1, but
16 you guys, being the public servants that you are,
17 out there in different other kinds of emergency
18 situations--blizzards, snow storms, et cetera--
19 assessed the situation and knew that wasn't enough
20 and took it upon yourself at great potential risk
21 to do more to protect the New Yorkers that you are
22 charged with serving and you do so well.

23 So I just want to thank you both
24 very, very much. Many, many of us would never
25 have done what you guys did, so I'm just very,

1
2 very grateful that you did it, and also very
3 grateful that you're here today well, uninjured,
4 and safe as the greatest reward for what you did.
5 But thank you guys very, very much. And, yeah, I
6 don't know if this is going to get you a
7 Sanitation and Fire pension, but we'll back you up
8 if there's any such move of that nature, which
9 might be the greatest gratitude.

10 But if I could ask the clerk to
11 please read the proclamation.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council, City of
13 New York Proclamation. Whereas, early Tuesday
14 morning December 13th, 2011, Semi Nkozi and Joe
15 Maneggio, two New York City Sanitation Department
16 workers, were on their refuse collection route
17 through Far Rockaway. Around 6:30 a.m., the men
18 happened upon a two-story house on McBride Street
19 that was engulfed in enormous flames; and

20 Whereas, Mr. Nkozi and Mr. Maneggio
21 called 9-1-1, then without hesitation or fear for
22 their own safety, ran to the house to help a
23 mother and her five children who had climbed out
24 onto the roof above the first floor. Despite the
25 flames that were searing the roof under their

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feet, the children made their way across; and

Whereas, Mr. Nkozi and Mr. Maneggio continued to yell, calling those on the roof, with the fire still raging, there was no way out except one: A 30-foot jump into the arms of New York City's strongest. Thanks to Mr. Nkozi and Mr. Maneggio, everyone in the house made it out alive; and

Whereas, Mr. Nkozi and Mr. Maneggio joined the New York City Department of Sanitation on the same day, July 28th, 1998. Over the course of the last 14 years, they had played key roles in the DSNY's extraordinary ability to keep our streets cleaner and safer than they have been in decades. At a ceremony in early January, Mayor Michael Bloomberg bestowed gold Medals of Honor upon both men for their lifesaving courage. Today it is fitting that we recognize their heroism once again for they have truly distinguished themselves in their willingness to go beyond the call of duty and have earned the esteem of all New Yorkers.

Now, therefore, be it known that the Council of the City of New York gratefully honors Joe Maneggio and Semi Nkozi for their

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lifesaving heroism on December 13th, 2011.

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
Entire Council; James Sanders, Jr., Council
Member, 31st District, Queens; and Letitia James,
Council Member, 35th District, Brooklyn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Congratulations.
Would either of you guys like to say a few words?

MALE VOICE 3: We did finish our
route.

[Laughter]

MALE VOICE 3: And we'd like to
thank the Council Members and all of you here
today for this wonderful recognition.

MALE VOICE 4: Same thing. Ditto.

[Laughter]

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, guys, be
safe, take care. Thank you very much. That
concludes ceremonials for the day.

[Long pause]

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and
gentlemen, could I have your attention, please?
At this time, please place all cell phones, all
cell phones and pagers to vibrate. Will all non-

1
2 Council employees please leave the main floor of
3 the chambers? You could have a seat upstairs in
4 the balcony. Thank you.

5 [Long pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: My colleagues,
7 please rise for the pledge of allegiance.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

9 VOICES: I pledge allegiance to the
10 flag of the United States of America and to the
11 republic for which it stands, one nation under
12 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for
13 all.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Roll call.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

2

3

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

5

response].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

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response].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Still here.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

23

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
please. Quiet, please.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Can we get
silence in the chambers?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [No
response].

9

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COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: [No
response].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Jackson.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No
response].

19

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COUNCIL CLERK: James.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yep.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.
COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.
COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.
COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.
COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.
COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.
COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.
COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No

response].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders. Sanders.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [No

8

response].

9

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [No

15

response].

16

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

18

COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

20

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Wills.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

10

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No

16

response].

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

18

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Here.

19

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

21

COUNCIL CLERK: We have a quorum.

22

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: A quorum is

23

present. And if everyone can please be silent,

24

and I think we're going to try to get the

25

construction to delay temporarily if we can, we

1
2 don't know if we can. Please rise for the
3 invocation today, to be delivered by our very own
4 colleague, Council Member Fernando Cabrera.

5 [Applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Let's bow
7 our heads. Lord, we come before you as Council
8 Members, recognizing that unless you build a
9 house, he who builds, builds in vain. We ask you
10 for strength, we ask you for peace, we ask you for
11 sound judgment to make the right decisions that
12 are going to be impacting literally thousands upon
13 thousands of people. We ask you that, Lord, that
14 today there be anything in our minds and our
15 hearts that would, Lord, just take away from what
16 we have to do, that you will just remove it. We
17 thank you for the opportunity to serve this great
18 city, the greatest city in the world. We pray all
19 these things in your mighty name and everyone
20 says.

21 VOICES: Amen.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much, Council Member. Council Member Wills?
24 Council Member Wills?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Yes, I rise

1
2 to place a motion to spread the invocation in full
3 upon the record. And I--

4 [Crosstalk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: --just
6 wanted to say something nice about our friend and
7 pastor and colleague, Fernando Cabrera, who is the
8 pastor of New Life Outreach International. As you
9 heard the hand claps when he was mentioned, he is
10 one of the greatest guys here and keeps us
11 grounded in our faith. Thank you, Fernando. We
12 just wanted to make sure we did that for you. I
13 can't clap like the ladies, but they can clap for
14 you.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could--

16 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

17 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
18 much, Council Member Wills. If I could ask my
19 colleagues to please rise.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Excuse
22 me. On April 24th, 2012, former Brooklyn Council
23 Member Enoch Williams passed away at 84 years of
24 age. A World War II veteran who worked his way up
25 from private to Major General, Council Member

1
2 Williams was a decorated officer who also served
3 as the commanding officer of the New York State
4 Guard.

5 He served in the Council for 20
6 years from 1978 through 1997, where he represented
7 the 41st District in Brooklyn. As chair of the
8 Youth Services Committee, he fought for after
9 school programs and increased funding for the
10 Summer Youth Employment program.

11 After leaving the Council, Enoch
12 retired to Florida, where he organized democratic
13 clubs and veterans groups.

14 His funeral will be held on Friday,
15 May 4th at the Woodward Lawrence H. Funeral Home
16 in Brooklyn, and he will be buried with military
17 honors at the Long Island National Cemetery in
18 Farmingdale. He is survived by his wife, Marian,
19 his children, 17 grandchildren, and three great-
20 grandchildren.

21 If I could ask our Majority Whip Al
22 Vann to say a few words.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,
24 Madam Speaker. Ladies and gentlemen, Councilman
25 Williams was a friend. The significance of that

1

2 is that we disagreed politically, we disagreed on
3 our approaches to solving problems often, and how
4 to best represent our community, but I never
5 questioned his integrity and he never questioned
6 mine. Would that level of maturity still
7 persisted throughout our communities.

8 He was a great soldier, a military
9 man. I think a couple of things that I think he
10 would want to be remembered for, I think as chair
11 of the Health Committee in 1994, he passed or he
12 led the passing of major legislation dealing with
13 smoking ban in restaurants and other public
14 places, and in that very same year, that's when
15 Mayor Giuliani wanted to sell off some of the
16 Health and Hospital hospitals to private concerns,
17 and as he using his leverage as chair of Health
18 Committee that led the movement to take that to
19 court, and ultimately won.

20 He was a good man. I'd like to
21 extend my sympathies to his family. I know his
22 son quite well, he's a medical doctor with a
23 holistic approach and I see him from time to time.
24 I look pretty good for my age--

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes, you do.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: --maybe that
3 has something to do with it, but I do want to
4 extend my sympathies to the family. You did a
5 good job, Enoch, rest in peace.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
7 Member Vann.

8 I also want to share with my
9 colleagues the sad news that Council Member
10 Jackson had to leave because his father-in-law has
11 passed away. I don't have any more information on
12 that, but just wanted to let everyone that in case
13 they wanted to reach out to Robert. I think his
14 wife has to leave the country and he was meeting
15 her at the airport to make sure she had what she
16 needed to deal with that.

17 I also want to on behalf of--and I
18 know many, many of you went to the funeral and
19 made a shiva visit, but just wanted to extend our
20 deepest condolences to all of our dear friend Jeff
21 Roadis on the passing of his father, Alan. I know
22 I was at the funeral and many other people in the
23 room were and Jeff spoke, as did his siblings, but
24 particularly Jeff, just incredibly beautifully and
25 eloquently and with such love and emotion.

1
2 And I just want to give Jeff all of
3 our sympathy and just tell Jeff how proud I am,
4 and I know everyone is of him, of the tremendous,
5 tremendous care you gave your father in his final
6 days. You make us proud every day, Jeff, but you
7 made all of us particularly proud with the loving
8 care that you bestowed upon your father. [Pause]
9 Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
11 much, Madam Speaker. We'll now move on to
12 Adoption of the Minutes. Council Member Chin.

13 [Off mic]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Motion that
15 the minutes of the Stated Meeting on March 28,
16 2012, be adopted as printed. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.
18 Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

19 COUNCIL CLERK: M 798, Mayor's Veto
20 of Introductory number 18-A.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communications
23 from City, County, and Borough Offices?

24 COUNCIL CLERK: M 799 and 800, Base
25 Station licenses.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Petitions and
Communications?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use Call-
ups?

COUNCIL CLERK: M 801 Sidewalk
café.

SPEAKER QUINN: If we could have a
roll call on the Land Use Call-up, please.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

7

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I'd like to

9

ask permission to vote on all Land Use Call-ups

10

and General Orders.

11

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: I vote aye.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Ferreras.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: With

17

permission, I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use

18

Call-ups and on all Coupled General Orders.

19

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [No

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response].

COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr.

Leader, I ask permission to vote on all items on
the General Order calendar.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote yes
on the Land Use Call-up and yes on all items on
the calendar. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Permission
to vote on all Land Use Call-ups--

[Crosstalk]

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: --all

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General Orders.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [Off mic] Mr. Majority Leader, I'd like to vote aye on all Land Use orders and all General Orders on today's agenda.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: With permission, I'd like to vote aye on all General Orders and Land Use items.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

4

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

6

COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Can I have

8

permission to vote on all General Orders and Land

9

Use Call-ups?

10

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

12

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

14

COUNCIL CLERK: Nelson.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [Off mic]

16

aye on all items [off mic] calendar.

17

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you.

19

MALE VOICE: Joel heard.

20

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: They vote aye.

21

Did you vote? Okay.

22

COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

24

COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

1

2 all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

5

COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: With

7

permission I'd like to vote aye on all General

8

Orders.

9

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

11

COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Seabrook.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I guess,

19

Mr. Majority Leader, with unanimous consent I'd

20

like to vote on all Land Use Call-ups and General

21

Order.

22

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank

24

you. I vote aye.

25

COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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3

COUNCIL CLERK: Vacca.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: It's coming to

5

you now?

6

[Pause]

7

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Permission

8

to vote on all Land Use items and General calendar

9

items as well?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye

12

on all.

13

COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

15

COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17

COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Can we get

20

silence in the chambers?

21

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,

22

please. Quiet, please.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Mr. Chair,

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can I get unanimous consent to vote on all Land

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Use Call-ups and the General Orders calendar?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

Keep it down, please.

COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Today's Land

Use Call-ups were adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative.

Communications from the Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much. Let me first, before I speak about the legislation we're voting on today, call on Council

1
2 Member Melissa Mark-Viverito to introduce an
3 honored guest we have with us today. Carl's got a
4 mic, Melissa, I'm sorry.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

6 Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like my
7 colleagues to recognize we've been joined by
8 Rafael Cox Alomar, who is a candidate from Puerto
9 Rico who is here with us the next couple of days.
10 He is a candidate representing the popular
11 democratic party and he will be running to become
12 the next Resident Commissioner for Puerto Rico in
13 the Congress.

14 Resident Commissioner is the
15 representative, it's our congressional rep from
16 the island, has a voice, very strong voice, but
17 does not have a vote, unfortunately, due to the
18 political relationship between Puerto Rico and the
19 United States.

20 But I welcome him to New York and
21 my colleagues that have joined in welcoming him as
22 he makes the rounds to really talk about his
23 thoughtful platform that talks about the better
24 economic future of the island of Puerto Rico. So
25 thank you very much, Rafael, for joining us and

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for being here today.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very much, Melissa.

We are voting today on a number of different items. First, through out of the Rules Committee, and I want to thank our chair, Joel Rivera, Majority Leader Rivera, for his work. And I also want to thank Chuck Davis, who is the person who does the background checking for the Rules Committee. But today we will be voting to reappoint for a full six-year term Mike McSweeney as the Clerk of the City Council and the Clerk of the City of New York. And let's give him another round of applause.

[Applause]

SPEAKER QUINN: And as I said in the Rules Committee before, Mike, I want to thank you for doing a good job every day as the Clerk of the Council and the Clerk of the City of New York, but in particular, I want to thank you for the amazing job you did on and leading up to July 24th, the day that Marriage Equality went into law in the State of New York and the City of New York,

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2 and that day was the day that I think set a
3 standard and sent a message about government
4 embracing all people and all families, and you set
5 a standard for how all government in this city and
6 everywhere else should operate and you made all of
7 us incredibly, incredibly proud. So thank you so
8 much. And I know you'll continue to just do an
9 outstanding job, and as I said to you in Rules
10 before, you've made me very proud and I know
11 you've made the late Tom Matten [phonetic] very
12 proud as well. So keep up the great work, Mike.

13 We are also voting today on Intro
14 251-A, a bill that has become to be known as the
15 Living Wage bill. I want to thank Rob Newman,
16 Preston Niblack, Ray Majewski, and everyone in our
17 revenue and economics team in the City Council. I
18 want to thank Alix Pustilnik, I want to thank Rob
19 Newman and Chuck Meara, Margaret Nelson in the
20 Speaker's office, and also Shannon Manigault, the
21 counsel to the Contracts Committee. Let's hear it
22 for Shannon in particular for her work on this
23 legislation.

24 [Applause]

25 SPEAKER QUINN: I also want to

1
2 thank the Bronx Borough President, Ruben Diaz, for
3 his leadership on this bill and on this issue.

4 Want to thank Stu Appelbaum, the president of
5 RWDSU and all of the members of the Living Wage
6 Coalition. We'll hear in a moment from the chair
7 of the Contracts Committee--excuse me--and also
8 the two--want to thank the two prime sponsors of
9 the bill, Council Member Oliver Koppell and
10 Council Member Annabel Palma.

11 Two fifty-one A requires that
12 companies, corporations, developers, however you
13 want to define it, who take significant benefits
14 or tax breaks from the City of New York, pay their
15 employees a living wage. It's a piece of
16 legislation built upon a fairly basic concept, one
17 that we see other examples of in numerous ways in
18 city government. We see it in the 2002 Living
19 Wage Law that the Council passed and Mayor
20 Bloomberg signed into law. We see it often as
21 accompanying zonings that we've passed, such as
22 the Hudson Yards, the High Line, Willets Point,
23 Coney Island, Williamsburg rezoning, and many
24 others, where the decision to accept City benefits
25 going along with that decision comes the

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2 requirement to pay your workers a living wage or
3 higher. This piece of legislation just makes that
4 mandatory. For every entity that says yes to City
5 taxpayer dollars, they have to pay their employees
6 a living wage.

7 You know, the Mayor has stated in
8 his veto message that he believes this is mixing
9 in the marketplace in an irresponsible way. But
10 if you think about it, our entire economic
11 development program, hundreds of millions of
12 dollars, is in fact, the City of New York entering
13 into the marketplace. We're putting money in the
14 marketplace in the name of economic development to
15 move economic development in certain areas in
16 certain ways that we believe will benefit the
17 citizens of the city of New York. That has been a
18 cornerstone of our City's budget and how we spend
19 taxpayer dollars for a very, very long time. This
20 is just expanding on that philosophical outlook
21 and that belief that we in city government can
22 help push the market in ways that are of more
23 benefit to city workers.

24 I just want to note that we are
25 passing this bill on the very same day we are

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2 receiving the veto message of Council Member
3 Melissa Mark-Viverito's prevailing wage
4 legislation, a veto we will override at the next
5 Council meeting.

6 So I want to thank everybody--

7 [Applause]

8 SPEAKER QUINN: --for their support
9 of both of these pieces of legislation, which just
10 see simply to say that when you decide to take
11 city benefits, you have a greater responsibility
12 to your workers than others who have decided not
13 to accept City benefits.

14 Let me next call on the chair of
15 the Committee, Council Member Mealy, and then we
16 will hear from the prime sponsor, Oliver Koppell,
17 and also just want to thank Council Member Palma.

18 [Applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,
20 Madam Speaker. As the chair of the Contracts
21 Committee, I am so happy to have played a role in
22 helping to usher in this important legislation.
23 Want to thank the union also, and the pastors of
24 numerous churches that were advocates that
25 normally do not do that, and I'm glad for them.

1
2 And one of them is Reverend Bernson [phonetic],
3 she's in the hospital now.

4 And during each of the Committee's
5 two hearings on this bill, we heard from dozens,
6 dozens of people stressed the need to maintain job
7 growth in the city. Some emphasize that need for
8 taxpayer dollars to support fair wages; others
9 stressed the need to maintain job growth in the
10 city.

11 With today's legislation, we will
12 take a stand on the way that the City spends
13 taxpayers' dollars. It is not too much to ask
14 that we get a bang for our buck when it comes to
15 economic development. With Proposed Intro 251-A,
16 we are just doing that. We get good paying jobs
17 without threatening job growth.

18 I would like to congratulate
19 Council Member Koppell, Council Member Annabel
20 Palma on sponsoring this important legislation.
21 And I ask you all to join us in voting for this
22 going through. Thank you.

23 [Applause]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you
25 very much, Madam Speaker, and I'm very proud to be

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2 the lead sponsor, along with 30 colleagues of the
3 living wage legislation. This expresses a very
4 critical principle in terms of how we spend our
5 economic development dollars.

6 We certainly want those economic
7 development dollars to help businesses, but we
8 also want those businesses to pay employees a
9 decent wage, a living wage. A wage that at least
10 will begin to allow them to support their
11 families.

12 This arose out of a dispute over
13 how the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx ought to
14 be built, and we asked the related company, which
15 was the sponsor of a retail project for the
16 Kingsbridge Armory, to commit to pay living wages
17 to its employees and we even offered in the
18 negotiations special assistance from the City to
19 let them do that, but that didn't happen. And so
20 the project was rejected by this Council because
21 we did not view it to be appropriate to put many,
22 many millions of dollars of City taxpayer dollars
23 into a project that was a result in people being
24 paid wages that would keep them in poverty, and
25 that's literally the fact, keep them in poverty.

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2 We had a testimony from this
3 administration within the last ten days that
4 indicates that if you're not earning, with
5 benefits, close to \$30,000 a year, you're in
6 poverty, you're below the poverty line. And so we
7 said no, we do not want to have an economic
8 development project that may benefit developers,
9 but doesn't benefit the hundreds or, indeed,
10 thousands of people who work there.

11 And that was the genesis of the
12 living wage proposal, and we have now gained
13 support for this proposal, not only from unions,
14 but, indeed, from people throughout the city and a
15 coalition of hundreds of clergymen from different
16 faiths--from Protestants, from Catholics, from
17 Jews, from Muslims--supported this legislation.
18 And I'm delighted that the Speaker, who spent a
19 great deal of time studying this because it is
20 very controversial, because there are people who
21 threaten that this is going to somehow be a
22 negative element in our economy. I don't believe
23 that to be the fact, and I don't believe she
24 believes it to be the fact. But we spent a great
25 deal of time studying this proposal and have come

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2 up with something that you cannot, in my opinion,
3 take issue with, and that says that the direct
4 recipient of City subsidies, the direct recipient
5 that is a profit-making organization, not a
6 nonprofit, they're exempt, that is a profit-making
7 organization should share the benefits that they
8 get from the City with the people who work in
9 those projects.

10 And what are those benefits? Ten
11 dollars an hour, plus benefits, or 11.50 without
12 benefits, making barely \$20,000 a year. I
13 challenge people to try and live successfully on a
14 salary, gross salary, of about \$20,000 a year.

15 So this is a very important
16 principle and it goes beyond the specific
17 requirements because the bill includes a goal for
18 economic development agencies of this city, a goal
19 of having at least 75% of the workers who work in
20 those projects be paid the minimum wage.

21 Furthermore, there's a specific provision in this
22 bill that applies to sporting facilities and
23 convention centers and such, and that requires
24 that their employees, even if they're not directly
25 working for the developer, requires them to pay--

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those concessionaires to pay a living wage.

So this is a very important start. It's more than symbolic, it's more than symbolic, it's very real for at least hundreds of workers, and symbolic for many thousands of others. And we join here, this is not in some sense precedent setting. The Mayor is wrong when he says this going to threaten our economy. The fact is that cities like Los Angeles-- we have looked into the statistics, over 144 government-supported projects in the city of Los Angeles have a living wage requirement attached to them. In the city of San Francisco, virtually all projects have a living wage requirement, and many other cities, including Pittsburgh and Baltimore, have one variant or another of a living wage requirement.

We have, as the Speaker mentioned, a living wage requirement for home care workers that the Mayor signed. We have requirements for living wages for building service workers in specific projects. And I want to remind everyone that federally, federally-supported projects with federal money have to pay, not only a living wage, but under the Davis-Bacon Act, have to pay the

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2 prevailing wage to construction workers--
3 prevailing wage is union-scale. And the Davis-
4 Bacon law, was it signed by some wide-eyed radical
5 president? No, the Davis-Bacon federal law was
6 signed by Herbert Hoover, not known for his
7 liberal tendencies. So the fact is that there are
8 precedents galore of requiring those who take
9 government money to provide real benefits to the
10 people who are working in those projects.

11 I want to just mention quickly that
12 we have to thank the RWDSU, we have to thank--a
13 couple of people really deserve a lot of credit,
14 we have to thank in addition to those that the
15 Speaker mentioned Ademola Oyefeso, from the union,
16 and Al Rodriguez and Tom Lucania from the borough
17 president's office. And I want to thank Jamin
18 Sewell, my counsel, who has worked very hard on
19 this legislation.

20 I think today we're making a very
21 important statement, we're going to be helping
22 hundreds and, indeed, in the long run, thousands
23 of people and I'm very proud to be the lead
24 sponsor of this legislation.

25 [Applause]

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
3 much, Council Member Koppell, and also thank you
4 very much, Council Member Palma.

5 We're also voting today on Intro
6 340-A, which is a piece of legislation passed out
7 of the Housing and Buildings Committee and also
8 sponsored by the chair of that Committee. I want
9 to thank Jeff Baker and Laura Rogers and Laura
10 Popa for this piece of legislation. This piece of
11 legislation is a piece of legislation that deals
12 with making it easier for sun control devices to
13 be passed. It tracks with the green zoning action
14 that we are also taking in the Council. Let me
15 call on Chair Dilan.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,
17 Madam Speaker, and I'll be very brief. Basically,
18 this action today before us allows for the better
19 use of sun control devices. Currently, the
20 building code only allows for these items to
21 protrude out off of buildings approximately ten
22 inches in length, which makes them practically
23 ineffective. This new ordinance before us will
24 make the new devices more efficient, they'll be
25 allowed to extend approximately two feet six

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2 inches in length, which would make these devices
3 more efficient.

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And these devices have been so far
5 known to reduce the loads on air conditioners by
6 about 30 to 60%, I think it is definitely an
7 environmentally friendly bill and I'd like to ask
8 all my colleagues to vote in favor of the item.

9

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Chair
11 Dilan. And as I said, Chair Dilan's bill, which
12 speaks to the building code, accompanies a green
13 zoning amendment we are doing today, and I want to
14 thank Leroy Comrie, the chair of our Land Use
15 Committee, and Mark Weprin, the chair of our
16 Zoning Subcommittee for passing this important
17 zoning amendment.

18

Really, many of us may not have
19 realized it, but both the building code and the
20 zoning text included kind of a red light as it
21 related to things like solar paneling, shade
22 covers, wind turbines, and other green attachments
23 to buildings or green steps you can take in your
24 building. They were counted against floor area
25 ratio, they were counted against height, they were

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in violation of the zoning or the building code.

So the actions we're taking today both in the housing bill and in the zoning text really are going to put a green light for green building in the city of New York, and I believe send a message to buildings and developers that what we want is the greenest possible buildings and we want that to be a permanent part of our skyline as we help to make this a greener and greater city.

I want to thank Gail Benjamin and everyone in the Land Use Division, and also Laura Popa, who has kind of led us in all of our greening codes and greening work. Let me again thank Chair Comrie, and call on the chair of our Zoning Subcommittee, Chair Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Just very briefly, today we are putting our zoning where our mouths are, and we are encouraging green development, we are encouraging energy efficiency, allowing people to save energy and save money while we save the planet, and that's a great thing. And this allows for those places where the floor area ratio does

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2 not allow for the adding of a solar panel or extra
3 insulation to help make a building more energy
4 efficient, this will allow that to happen without
5 being much of an intrusion on the zoning code.

6 So thank you very much, Madam
7 Speaker, and I'm proud to vote yes.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
9 much, Chair Weprin.

10 Lastly, we are voting on a piece of
11 legislation, Intro 658-A of the Civil Service and
12 Labor Committee, sponsored by the chair of the
13 Committee, Council Member Sanders, who we will
14 hear from in a minute, and I want to thank him for
15 his sponsorship and for moving the bill.

16 This piece of legislation is in
17 relation to the waiver of a public employee as it
18 relates to dealing with grievances. This is a
19 technical, but important, change in the law that
20 will bring greater fairness to city workers. If I
21 could call on the sponsor and the chair. Council
22 Member Sanders.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you,
24 Madam Speaker. Yes, it is technical bill, it's
25 just, I would argue, a correction to say that in

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2 terms of arbitration, when a person goes to
3 arbitration, it does not take away the rights of
4 the union to also look in on this issue. And
5 that's the technical explanation for the bill.

6 Thank you, Madam Speaker.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Sometimes the
8 shortest, simplest things can be the best. Thank
9 you, Chair Sanders.

10 And that concludes Communications
11 from the Speaker.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much, Madam Speaker. Next we move on to
14 Discussion of General Orders. Council Member
15 Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.
17 You know, Mayor Bloomberg, how low can you go?
18 Here is a bill, you don't want us to have a
19 prevailing wage, you don't want us to have a
20 living wage--a living wage that will still make us
21 the working poor, a phrase that my wife,
22 Assemblywoman Inez Barron said, if you're working,
23 you shouldn't be poor. We simply want a living
24 wage.

25 Mayor Bloomberg has money and the

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2 City has money to give hundreds of millions of
3 dollars to the developers, give land away for \$1
4 to developers, float tax-free bonds for the
5 developers. We live in a city where the gap
6 between the rich and poor has widened more than
7 any other city. We live in a country where the
8 gap between the rich and the poor has widened. We
9 got a \$3.8 trillion national budget, \$132 billion
10 state budget, and we have a \$68 billion city
11 budget, but 40% poverty in the South Bronx, 30%
12 poverty in East New York and Harlem and
13 Brownsville and we ask for a living wage that will
14 not take us out of poverty, as a matter of fact,
15 this living wage should be the minimum wage.

16 We thank those who launched this
17 movement to make this legislation happen because
18 it is movements that make legislation happen.
19 People who organize themselves--the clergy, the
20 union, the working families in this city--and it's
21 time for us to take a strong stance. I think the
22 bill should have gone further, but at least we are
23 here and we can build on this bill and truly make
24 this a living wage or a city that people can live
25 in and have a decent life instead of running out

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2 of. This is history we're making today and I
3 congratulate all those who were involved.

4 [Applause]

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
6 much, Council Member. Next we move on to Council
7 Member Van Bramer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
9 you very much. I first want to just echo some of
10 the comments Speaker Quinn made about our City
11 Clerk, Mike McSweeney, who I'm very proud to have
12 as a constituent in my district, and I just want
13 to add, Mike, that Woodside is very proud of you,
14 in addition to all of Queens and all of the city
15 of New York, you make us all very proud from Sonki
16 [phonetic] Square throughout all of the streets of
17 Woodside. We love you, we thank you for
18 everything you do.

19 I also want to just mention very
20 briefly, we're voting on a zoning text amendment
21 today which will allow JetBlue to have a sign on
22 top of the Brewster building in the Queens Plaza
23 area. Earlier this month, JetBlue moved their new
24 headquarters with over 1,000 employees to the area
25 and we are thrilled to have them there. Today's

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2 vote signals a new day in the Long Island City
3 area and I'm very proud to have worked with the
4 Dutch Kill Civic Association, Community Boards 1
5 and 2, who all support JetBlue's sign, they raised
6 some issues with regard to the plan. I'm very
7 happy to have worked with City Planning and the
8 Community Boards to have included those
9 recommendations to limit some of the further signs
10 in the future.

11 And I just want to say that
12 JetBlue's arrival in the Dutch Kills neighborhood
13 of Long Island City is further proof of the
14 rebirth of Queens Plaza. Long Island City is an
15 amazing place to live and to work, it's even
16 better today because of JetBlue choosing us as its
17 new home. And I'm just thrilled to have been a
18 part of this project and thrilled to welcome
19 JetBlue to Queens. Thanks a lot.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
21 much. We now move on to Council Member Sanders.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.
23 I've been thinking a great deal of Mayor
24 Bloomberg's analogy that the rich should be seen
25 as a garden and this garden should be cultivated,

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2 and it struck me that if you use that analogy,
3 then you would have to see working people as the
4 fertilizer, the compost at best for this garden
5 that he speaks of. You a additive that you can
6 just use and use and then when you use it all up,
7 you just add some more to it. I think that that
8 analogy is absolutely incorrect and we need to
9 look at it a little different in New York City.

10 We need to speak of a partnership,
11 we need to speak of a place where people can live
12 and grow, themselves, their children, and this
13 great city. And I encourage our Mayor to think
14 further and get past his garden experience and
15 come to the real world out here where people are
16 trying to pay rent and mortgage and families and
17 everything else. And the wage that we're speaking
18 about will not do it, but at least will keep them
19 in the game, at least will keep them in the game.

20 So I encourage the Mayor to do
21 that, and if he really feels that this is such a
22 generous thing, I encourage him to go a year on
23 the wage that he believes should be given to
24 working people, and at that time, I assure him
25 that he will be so sick of being fertilizer, so

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2 sick of the mess that he will be forced upon him,
3 that he probably would triple the wage that we're
4 speaking about. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
6 much. We now move on to Council Member Halloran.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
8 you, Mr. Chair. First let me congratulate Mike
9 McSweeney. I had the honor of attending law
10 school at St. John's University School of Law with
11 Mike. He's on the other side of the aisle, but I
12 cannot think of a better man to hold the post and
13 I salute him for everything he has done, and
14 Queens is, indeed, very proud of you and I'm glad
15 to have your family in my district.

16 I am here to speak a bit about this
17 living wage bill. I look at the impact statement
18 provided by the City where it says there will be
19 no direct impact on revenue. I think that's
20 utterly ridiculous. Since from 1890 to 2010, the
21 city of New York has lost 98.8% of its
22 manufacturing business--let me repeat that--since
23 1890, the city of New York has lost 98.8% of its
24 manufacturing business. Poverty cannot be solved
25 by driving businesses further away.

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2 In 2013, if the Supreme Court does
3 not prevent it, the health care provisions will go
4 in and impose an additional financial burden on
5 our small and midsize businesses. And let's be
6 realistic, the number \$1 million was once upon a
7 time a lot of money, however, most homes today
8 reach half of that mark in the outer boroughs. So
9 \$1 million is not a tremendously large number.

10 When we talk about government
11 subsidies, one of my colleagues that this is a
12 bill we can build on, and that's what I'm
13 terrified of, that you will build on this bill.
14 And that what once this door is open and the
15 floodgates are let loose, that we will continue to
16 restrict and force mid and small size--big
17 businesses aren't going to go, I understand that,
18 the big businesses have their protectors and
19 they're the ones who will stand to gobble up
20 everyone else, it's corporatism we should be
21 afraid of. And I am with you on that.

22 I also believe there should be a
23 federal minimum wage increase, I think the
24 government needs to look at regional minimum wages
25 so that places like New York which have a higher

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2 cost of living are properly treated. But the
3 irony there is the cost of living is bigger here
4 because of the burdens we put on the employers and
5 that is the problem with this bill.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council
7 Member--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: --what
9 the government gets, it never takes away.

10 So thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
12 much. We now move on to Council Member Levin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
14 Mr. Majority Leader. I just want to first offer
15 my congratulations to City Clerk McSweeney. Mike
16 swore me in as Council Member and I want to
17 congratulate you and wish you God speed.

18 I want to speak briefly about Intro
19 251-A and acknowledge all of those that put so
20 much work into the passage of this bill. This in
21 a lot of ways represents how legislation ought to
22 be worked on and ought to ultimately be passed.
23 And I think that I want to acknowledge Speaker
24 Quinn for her remarkable aplomb in ushering this
25 bill through and asking the tough questions and

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2 making sure that the bill is balanced, making sure
3 that all sides and all concerns have been heard.

4 I want to recognize everyone that
5 worked so hard in getting it passed from the get-
6 go, Council Member Koppell and Council Member
7 Palma for keeping their eye on the prize and for
8 making sure that their advocee was strong, Borough
9 President Diaz, Stuart Appelbaum, RWDSU, and the
10 clergy who came together to call for what is going
11 to be an important piece of legislation that will
12 ensure that this city and this City Council is on
13 record in support of living wage for working New
14 Yorkers.

15 Thank you very much, Mr. Majority
16 Leader.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
18 much. Seeing no others, we'll now move on to
19 Reports of Special Committees.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Reports of
22 Standing Committees?

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
24 Committee on Contracts, Intro 251-A, living wage
25 requirement.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled
on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Finance, Intro 485-A, Depository
banks.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Laid
Over.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 340-A,
sun control devices.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and Coupled
on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Land Use, LU 600 and Reso 1322,
JetBlue Airways.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 601 and Reso
1323, green zoning amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the
Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections,
Preconsidered M 802 and Reso 1324, approving the

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reappointment of Michael M. McSweeney, City Clerk and Clerk of the Council.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 658-A, public employee grievances.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing various persons Commissioner of Deed.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General Orders. And at this time, I'd like to ask for a roll call on all items that have been Coupled on the General Order calendar, please.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

COUNCIL CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just had to add this on so that the Mayor doesn't get too worried. He said that we need to just look at Russia and see what happened to Russia, as though

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2 our living wage bill would have our economy
3 collapse like Russia. So I just want to let Mayor
4 understand that that had nothing to do with a
5 living wage and we'll be all right, so he doesn't
6 have to worry about looking at Russia and our
7 bill. And with that, I say aye on all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.
10 I too want to congratulate everyone, Council
11 Members Koppell and Palma and the Speaker staff.
12 And to point out that there is, as you know, a
13 self-sufficiency way of looking at the cost of
14 living in the city of New York, and all you have
15 to do is look at it and see the need for at least
16 something close to a living wage. So I vote aye
17 on all, and congratulations.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Comrie.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Dickens.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on

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all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dilan.

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: May I have a moment to explain my vote? I almost feel like just out of protocol, I should pass, but it's good that I'm not, it's good that we're having a fluid, nice clean vote on the City Clerkship and I think that that has a lot to do with the current clerk. This has been a much more civil process and an improvement over the last process and better communication, so that's also a credit to the Speaker.

I proudly aye on all items with no need to pass. Thank you very much.

[Off mic]

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: He tried to pass the microphone.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Fidler.

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Thank you. I'd like to just briefly excuse to explain my vote. You know, because I'm an obsessive compulsive guy, I can't let it go. I'm going to

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2 vote aye on all. The issue of greenhouses that
3 are addressed in the legislation today, which is
4 overall good legislation, has not been addressed
5 by the Department of Buildings since we last had
6 this discussion a year ago. People are using the
7 code to build things, calling them greenhouses,
8 and they are not. And the Buildings Department,
9 since that time, and they, you know, with much
10 flourish, they came and talked to me about it,
11 they have done nothing, they have had no plan,
12 they've changed nothing. I can still look out my
13 window and see the stone walls of a greenhouse
14 that has no glass, all right?

15 It is a wrong thing when government
16 is aware that people are using the law to get over
17 on them, they know about it, and they can't or
18 won't do anything about it. And that's what
19 frustrates citizens in this city. So if a
20 Councilman can't get them to do their job, God
21 help the ordinary citizen.

22 So I just want to call that to
23 everyone's attention again, call it to the
24 Buildings Department's attention, tell them they
25 need to get on the stick before people start to

2 use what we're doing today to build more
3 greenhouses that don't have glass and that grow
4 nothing. I vote aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Foster.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Garodnick.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Gentile.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Gonzalez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Greenfield.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Halloran.

16 MALE VOICE: Vote no.

17 [Off mic]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank
19 you. Vote an enthusiastic aye, of course, to
20 Preconsidered Resos M 802 and 1324,
21 wholeheartedly, congrats, Mike. And regrettably
22 no to 251-A for the reasons stated in the
23 discussions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Ignizio.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No on 251-

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A, aye on all others.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on
all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ:
Congratulations to Michael McSweeney, and I vote
aye on all General Coupled Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER:
Congratulations to Council Members Koppell and
Palma, congratulations to the Speaker, and of
course, to Mike McSweeney. Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I want to
thank Mike for being so professional and
delightful and always such a pleasure to work
with, and vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye
on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

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all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: [No

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response].

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COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

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response].

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SPEAKER QUINN: Keep going.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [Off mic]

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please? I'm going to vote no on 251. I believe

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that companies either will not take the benefit

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and not come to New York, which will cost jobs, or

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they will take it and need a bigger benefit to pay

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the higher wages, which will then cost taxpayers.

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2 I do believe, however, that this bill that we're
3 voting on today is a much improved bill than the
4 original one and I want to give all the sponsors
5 and everyone who worked on that a lot of credit
6 for improving that bill.

7 And would vote aye on the rest.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote no
10 on 251-A and aye on all others. Sorry, Charles.

11 MALE VOICE: Scared the hell out of
12 me.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Very
15 proud to vote yes on the living wage. A big thank
16 you to everyone involved, including the Speaker,
17 and I'd like to thank her for her devilish sense
18 of humor as well for starting the day off in a
19 very interesting way.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Vann.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I
24 please explain my vote?

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: In place
3 of my colleagues, I rise. I was waffling how I
4 was going to vote for this piece of legislation,
5 only because I think it was good, but it didn't go
6 far enough, and I thought the bill should have
7 done some other things like cover some of the
8 tenants that aren't covered, these are most
9 vulnerable workers in this city, and I believe
10 that too many projects were also cut out. But I
11 do think that it is a step, so I'm planning to
12 vote aye.

13 And the danger is that we think
14 that we're finished, so hopefully we understand
15 that we're not finished and that there's a lot of
16 more work that has to be done. Companies that get
17 big contracts from the City have a responsibility,
18 and that responsibility extends to providing their
19 workers with a salary they can survive on. If
20 these companies cannot manage that, then perhaps
21 they should not be engaging in such large
22 contracts. There are plenty of responsible
23 employers, big and small, that will step up to the
24 plate.

25 And I heard the Mayor talking about

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2 back in the day how we view these larger companies
3 as gardens or something of that matter, he didn't
4 mention that back in the day, they weren't making
5 these record profits as well as they were paying
6 much more in taxes compared to what people are
7 paying now, so perhaps he wants that as well.

8 What is the difference between the
9 government advocating for a living wage versus
10 giving out millions in tax breaks and relaxing
11 regulations for businesses trying to work with the
12 City? In both cases, we are managing the economy,
13 as Mayor Bloomberg put it, the difference in this
14 legislation tries to support our most vulnerable
15 New Yorkers and I'm convinced the Mayor is more
16 and more telling us, not only that he does not
17 really have the same concern for the most
18 vulnerable New Yorkers when it comes to things
19 like Occupy Wall Street, he's telling them they
20 can't even protest, just shut up and take it. So
21 I'm looking forward for, very much, January 1st,
22 2014.

23 I want to congratulate my
24 colleagues Koppell, Palma, Dilan, Sanders, and of
25 course, Mike McSweeney.

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With that, I vote aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Thank you. I just want to congratulate Mike. Erik Dilan brought up a previous vote, which some of us remember a little bit better than others probably, but I think Michael does a--and his whole team-- does a great job. Mike swears in people, I've been known to swear at people sometimes, but other than that difference, I think he does a fantastic job and I think the Council is doing the right thing today.

I vote yes on all, with the exception of 251-A, I vote no.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. I just want to congratulate Mike McSweeney for the fine work he's done at the City Clerk's office. You are a testament to the hard work of your office and I look forward to working with you for the next year and a half and, you know, to your service for the next six years.

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2 On the living wage bill, I want to
3 thank Council Member Oliver Koppell and Annabel
4 Palma and all the advocates who are here with us
5 today, and our Speaker for her leadership on this
6 issue as well, and for all our colleagues for
7 voting aye on this issue. I vote aye on all.
8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

11 [Long pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
13 much. All items on today's General Order Calendar
14 were adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative,
15 with zero in the negative, with the exception of
16 Intro 251-A, which is adopted by a vote of 44 in
17 the affirmative, with 5 in the negative, and zero
18 abstentions. Introduction and Reading of the
19 Bills.

20 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are
21 referred to committees, as indicated on the
22 agenda, please.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Since there is
24 no resolutions, we'll now move on to General
25 Discussions. We have Council Member Dickens

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first.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down,
please, keep it down.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you,
thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. Reso 1312 calls
upon the New York State Legislature to introduce
and the Governor to sign legislation which would
amend the real property tax law to allow owners of
not-for-profit organizations to submit
documentation, other than the application prepared
and mailed to such owner by the Department of
Finance, to prove that the organization is
entitled to a property tax exemption.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: While DOF
has the discretion to grant exemptions without a
renewal application for certain not-for-profit
organizations, DOF has recently began to require
all not-for-profit organizations to submit an
application for the property tax exemption. This
new policy was implemented without providing prior
notice to the affected organizations, thereby
subjecting the organizations to interest on the

1
2 unpaid real property taxes now due because the
3 property is subject to taxation.

4 DOF does not make a renewal
5 application available online, Council Member
6 Brewer, or at any of the business centers and such
7 applications are only received by the property
8 owner once DOF mails the application to the owner,
9 which creates a delay in the exemption approval
10 process. Amending the real property tax law to
11 allow not-for-profits to submit documentation
12 other than the application prepared and sent by
13 DOF to prove that they are entitled to property
14 tax exemption will expedite the renewal process
15 and ensure interest for unpaid taxes are not
16 collected unnecessarily.

17 Further, in the interest of public
18 policy, until the real property tax law is
19 amended, DOF should impose a moratorium on the
20 collection of such interest on not-for-profit
21 organizations that fail to submit a renewal
22 application in accordance with the way they do it
23 now.

24 Once again, I thank the Speaker and
25 I would like to thank Chair Recchia, Tanisha

1
2 Edwards, and the rest of the finance division for
3 working on this. I ask my colleagues to support
4 Resolution 1312, thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
6 much. Now we move on to Council Member Williams.

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, thanks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
9 you. I am proud to be joined by a number of my
10 colleagues today, including Speaker Quinn, and the
11 supporting the increase of the state's minimum
12 wage, so I call my colleagues to Resolution 1319
13 to ask them to please sign on to Assembly Member
14 Wright's and Senator Klein and, with the support
15 of the Speaker of the Assembly, the bill to
16 increase the minimum wage.

17 Since we're discussing a lot of
18 bills that have to do with increasing wage,
19 economists have shown that raising the minimum
20 wage is not a job creator--I mean, it is a job
21 creator, I'm sorry, not a job killer--let me
22 please correct that. Economists have shown that
23 raising the minimum wage is a job creator, not a
24 job killer and I hope all my colleagues sign on.
25 Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
3 much. We now move on to Council Member Viverito.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:
5 Thank you. I'd like to encourage my colleagues to
6 sign on to Intro 852, what we're calling the Car
7 Wash Accountability Act. In essence, this Intro
8 is putting in basic requirements that would have
9 car washes and car wash companies receive a city
10 license from the City of New York, currently, that
11 is not the case. There is more information there.
12 Definitely would ask my colleagues to sign on.
13 There is a hearing also happening later this week,
14 Wednesday, if I'm not mistaken.

15 I also want to just again thank my
16 colleagues that have demonstrated support for the
17 candidate that I introduced earlier, Rafael Cox,
18 who is very, very serious about the future of our
19 island and presenting a very solid thoughtful
20 policies and analysis.

21 But there was an unfortunate
22 incident that happened yesterday as he was on his
23 way here where one of the political commentators
24 in Puerto Rico issued some very horrific racist
25 remarks against him. And I want to thank the

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2 colleagues that joined in the statement basically
3 saying that racist, homophobic, classes, sexist
4 language is not--it should not be part of any of
5 our social dialogue or discourse and much less in
6 our political discourse. We fight each and every
7 day here for inclusion, we fight each and every
8 day here to raise the level of debate, to really
9 talk about the inequality that exists in our
10 society, and with it all the isms that go with
11 that. And so we have to model our behavior in the
12 way we conduct ourselves, in the way we speak. We
13 have to model the behavior that we want to see
14 reflected in our society. So I think it's very,
15 very strong statement when we join colleagues
16 across this country, on the island, and abroad
17 when we speak out against any sort of racist
18 remarks.

19 So I want to thank those colleagues
20 that have joined in that. And again, I would
21 encourage my colleagues to sign also on to Intro
22 852, the Car Wash Accountability Act. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
24 much. We now move on to Council Member Brewer,
25 followed by Council Member Foster.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
3 very much. I just want to mention 842, 843, 844.
4 The first one is a suggestion that we codify what
5 the amazing hotel workers union has already done
6 to support their workers in the hotels, God forbid
7 if there's some kind of an incident, they need a
8 silent alarm to be able to indicate that to
9 someone so that they get the help and we don't
10 have the kind of incidents that were so publicized
11 recently with a well-known French visitor to the
12 city of New York.

13 The other two pieces of legislation
14 support electric vehicles, they're not commonplace
15 in our city yet, but it gives us the opportunity
16 to try once again to make sure that we are as
17 environmentally friendly as possible. I think
18 when we went last year on our trip to Israel and
19 we learned so much about electric vehicles, it
20 certainly sent a signal that there's a lot of work
21 to be done and many opportunities for thinking
22 about them in terms of our environment. Thank you
23 very much.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.
25 Foster, followed by Council Member Chin.

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[Crosstalk]

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you.

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I'll be brief, I know that people are ready to go.

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I just want us as a body to keep in our prayers

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the family of seven that died yesterday on the

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Bronx River Parkway. Can you imagine going to a

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family gathering and something like that

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happening? But for the grace of God, could have

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been any of us or any of our family members on

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that parkway. So just remember, as we go about

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doing our day, to keep that family in our prayers

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and tonight to make sure to tell the people that

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we love that you do in fact love them, 'cause

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tomorrow isn't promised. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

17

much. Council Member Chin.

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I

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just want to ask my colleague to support Reso

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1311. It's a resolution calling upon the New York

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State Legislature to enact and Governor to sign

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the Assembly bill 7707, which would prohibit the

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possession, sale, offer for sale, trade, and

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distribution of shark fins. There are 73 million

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sharks harvested annually for their fins. Sharks are a threatened specie and they're an important of our ecosystem.

So far, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington all have laws restricting the trades of shark fins. And I feel that it is very important for, especially the Chinese-American community, to stand united against this brutal and inhumane practice. So I urge my colleague to sign on this resolution. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. We're just going to hold it open for a few moments while another colleague joins us.

[Long pause]

[Off mic]

COUNCIL CLERK: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I vote aye on all.

MALE VOICE 5: We waited for that man?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. The revised vote for today's adopted calendar is 50 in the affirmative with zero in the negative and zero abstentions, with the exception

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of Intro 251-A, which was adopted by a vote of 45

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in the affirmative, five in the negative, and zero

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abstentions.

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Thank you very much, this meeting

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is adjourned.

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[Gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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 *Tammy Wittman*

Date May 17, 2012