

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CHARTER STATED MEETING

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January 5, 2011  
Start: 09:30 am  
Recess: 10:00 am

HELD AT: Emigrant Savings Bank  
49-51 Chambers Street

B E F O R E:  
JOEL RIVERA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Christine C. Quinn  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Charles Barron  
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  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro  
Vincent J. Gentile  
David G. Greenfield  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
Daniel J. Halloran III  
Vincent Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
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  
Joel Rivera  
Ydanis Rodriguez  
Deborah Rose  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Eric Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Albert Vann  
Mark Weprin  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Ruben Wills

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

Rabbi Yossi Blesofsky  
Director of Chabad of Northeast Queens

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2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Silence  
3 please. Please turn off all cell phones and  
4 eliminate conversations. This is going to be the  
5 opening of the Charter Meeting, January 5th, 2001.  
6 Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

7 [Pledge of Allegiance]

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Roll Call.

9 CLERK: Arroyo?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

11 CLERK: Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [No  
13 response].

14 CLERK: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

16 CLERK: Cabrera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

18 CLERK: Chin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

20 CLERK: Comrie?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

22 Here.

23 CLERK: Crowley?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No  
25 response].

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CHARTER STATED MEETING

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No  
response].

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [No  
response].

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

CLERK: Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No  
response].

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Here.

CLERK: Gentile?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm here.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

CLERK: Greenfield?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Here.

CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Present.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No

response].

CLERK: James?

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [No

response].

CLERK: Lappin?

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CHARTER STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

Here.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [No

response].

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [No

response].

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

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CHARTER STATED MEETING

CLERK: Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

CLERK: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Way back here.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Present.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Happy New Year to all and I'm still happy to be here.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.



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2 CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

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CLERK: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Here.

6

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

8

CLERK: We have a quorum.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: A quorum is

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present. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for

11

the Invocation being delivered today by Rabbi

12

Yossi Blesofsky.

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RABBI YOSSI BLESOFSKY: Thank you,

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Councilman Halloran, for inviting me here today to

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deliver the Invocation. Today's Invocation is

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especially momentous, as it is ushering in 2011.

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I feel privileged to be here, particular as a

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Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi, due to the very special

19

connection between Chabad Lubavitch and New York

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City, dating back to 1940 when New York was chosen

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as the headquarters for the movement and the Grand

22

Rebbe Rabbi Schneerson took up his residence in

23

Brooklyn.

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Oh Mighty God, master of the

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universe, the members of this august body, the New

1  
2 York City Council, convene here from across the  
3 great city of New York to conduct the people's  
4 business in good faith and with selfless  
5 dedication. In so doing, they fulfill a  
6 fundamental precept, which according to sacred  
7 biblical tradition, you first issued to Adam at  
8 the time of his creation and to Noah after the  
9 great flood, the commandment to govern by just  
10 laws.

11 At mankind's beginning and again at  
12 Mount Sinai, you issued forth seven universal  
13 commandments for all of humanity to heed, which  
14 came to be known as the Seven Noahide Laws. The  
15 last of those precepts is that every society  
16 legislate for itself a system of law, order and  
17 social justice, based on the recognition and  
18 acknowledge of you, Almighty God, as the sovereign  
19 leader of all men and of all nations.

20 We the citizen of this blessed  
21 country, the United States of America, proudly  
22 proclaim this recognition and affirm our  
23 commitment to justice in our Pledge of Allegiance  
24 when we describe our union as "one nation under  
25 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for

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all."

Grant us, Almighty God that those assembled here to enact laws to govern this blessed City of New York, be cognizant of your presence, and conduct their deliberations accordingly. Allow them to debate their differences vigorously, but to remember foremost that to legislate for the common good of the people is not only a civic privilege, but also a divinely mandated responsibility.

Be it your will oh God that the dedicated men and women of the New York City Council be blessed with good health, wisdom, compassion, good cheer and good fellowship. A special note of appreciation for those who put their lives on the line to protect us; in particular today, I would like to mention Detective Senft, who 17 years ago this week, disarmed a bomb at Police Plaza and was injured doing so.

May the members of the New York City Council contemplate and bear in mind, as they engage in the enactment of just and benevolent law and public policy, that in doing so they are

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fulfilling your Godly will. Amen.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member  
Halloran.

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: A motion,  
Mr. Chair, to spread the Invocation in full upon  
the record.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.  
Adoption of the minutes, Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I make a  
motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of  
November 30th, 2010 be adopted as printed.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.  
Messages and papers from the Mayor?

CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communication  
from city, county and borough offices?

CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Petitions and  
communication?

CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use call-  
ups?

SPEAKER QUINN: If we can get a  
little quiet please?

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Silence in the  
3 chamber please. Land Use call-ups?

4 CLERK: None.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communication  
6 from the Speaker?

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. First,  
8 if I could ask my colleagues to rise for two  
9 moments of silence. On December 21st, 2010,  
10 Queens County Clerk Gloria D'Amico, 83, passed  
11 away after a bout with cancer. Throughout Queens,  
12 Gloria D'Amico was known and loved for her dynamic  
13 leadership, her strong moral convictions, her  
14 personal warmth and her annual holiday party, I'll  
15 add myself.

16 For almost 20 years, she served as  
17 the Clerk of Queens County and was responsible for  
18 the complete computerization of the Vital Records  
19 of the office and the total renovation of the jury  
20 facilities, including being the first borough to  
21 implement a jury duty call-in system.

22 Gloria was very proud of her  
23 involvement in so many political, community and  
24 civic organizations in addition to her extensive  
25 volunteer work on behalf of her church, Immaculate

1  
2 Conception in Astoria. Gloria was an inspiration  
3 to so many, and through her dedicated work she  
4 made Queens County and our city a better place.

5 Gloria is survived by her sons  
6 Lewis and Leonard, her daughter-in-laws Katherine  
7 and Wendy and her four grandchildren and two  
8 great-grandchildren.

9 On December 28th, 2010, famed jazz  
10 pianist and composer Dr. Billy Taylor, 89, of  
11 Riverdale, passed away due to heart failure. Dr.  
12 Taylor was born in North Carolina and grew up in  
13 Washington, D.C., where he had his first piano  
14 lesson at the age of 7. He moved to New York City  
15 in 1943 and quickly became a fixture on the famed  
16 52nd Street Nightclub Row.

17 Dr. Taylor was not only an expert  
18 jazz musician and composer, but he started  
19 lecturing on jazz in the early 1950s and was the  
20 host of an NBC show on jazz in 1958.

21 Dr. Taylor was especially proud of  
22 founding the Jazzmobile, which brought free  
23 concerts by nationally known musicians to street  
24 corners and housing projects and parks throughout  
25 New York City.

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2 In 1994, Dr. Taylor became the  
3 artist director for jazz at the Kennedy Center for  
4 Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Generations  
5 have been taught a love of jazz and music through  
6 the words and hands of Dr. Billy Taylor. Dr.  
7 Taylor is survived by his wife Theodora, and his  
8 daughter Kim Taylor-Thompson.

9 [Pause]

10 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Today,  
11 we are voting on an important piece of  
12 legislation, Intro 436-A. I want to thank very,  
13 very much the staff who worked on this: Rob  
14 Newman, Baaba Halm, Ben Goodman, and Jeff  
15 Haberman, for all of their work on this bill. I  
16 want to thank the chair of the Housing and  
17 Buildings Committee, Erik Dilan, for his work on  
18 this legislation; the sponsor of the bill, Rosie  
19 Mendez. I also want to thank Tish James, who was  
20 the sponsor of the kind of precursor of this bill,  
21 the Safe Housing Law, and Gale Brewer, who was the  
22 initiator of the Alternative Enforcement Program,  
23 which was the precursor of the Safe Housing Law.

24 Intro 436-A takes the Safe Housing  
25 Law, one of the most important pieces of

1  
2 legislation, in my opinion, this Council has ever  
3 passed, and expands it in a couple of important  
4 ways. One, and most importantly, it expands the  
5 Safe Housing Law to more significantly include  
6 violations relating to asthma. It now requires  
7 that under Safe Housing Law things like mold and  
8 infestation and rodents have to be addressed.

9           Think of if you're sick every day,  
10 you're having trouble breathing. You just want to  
11 get home and lie down and relax, and walking into  
12 your house makes you sicker. Walking into your  
13 house, you walk into a place where it is harder to  
14 breathe than it is on the streets. This bill  
15 recognizes, I think the first time any piece of  
16 legislation anywhere in the country recognizes  
17 that the quality of our housing stock has a direct  
18 relation on our health.

19           This bill will make sure that the  
20 buildings in the City of New York that are worst  
21 and causing the most problems for low income  
22 people, who have a higher rate of asthma than  
23 others, are addressed and cleaned up and made safe  
24 and made healthy. So I want to thank everyone who  
25 has been a part of expanding this legislation.



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2 Let me first call on the chair of  
3 the committee, Chairperson Dilan and then the  
4 bill's sponsor, Council Member Rosie Mendez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,  
6 Madame Speaker, and happy New Year to you and to  
7 all of my colleagues. I agree with your  
8 sentiment. In my time as chair, this has been the  
9 most effective piece of housing code enforcement  
10 legislation that we've passed. I do want to thank  
11 my colleague, Council Member James, for bringing  
12 this to us and for all those that worked on the  
13 original bill.

14 I'd like to thank the sponsor of  
15 the measure before us today, Council Member  
16 Mendez, because this bill will shift the focus of  
17 this program to capture more units. We've heard  
18 in the past that this program can cover the 200  
19 worst buildings in the city and a lot of times  
20 that would lead us to smaller buildings. But the  
21 actual number of units that we were capturing was  
22 not as many as we will capture now.

23 So now we target it to capture  
24 between 3 units and 20 units per building and  
25 allow the legislation to do that. I think that

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2 over time, while the number still remains 200  
3 buildings, we can capture more apartments. That's  
4 a major component.

5           The second major component is what  
6 the Speaker mentioned about capturing the asthma  
7 triggers, and that's mold and vermin. I think  
8 that is absolutely crucial because representing  
9 the area of Bushwick where asthma is so high, we  
10 can maybe now start to take a look and see if the  
11 information we gather as a result of this data  
12 will directly tell us if mold or vermin is a  
13 leading trigger to this. I think most of us may  
14 know it, but we can take it to a further level and  
15 we'll have some hard data to back that up. So I  
16 want to thank my colleague for that.

17           Then the third and equally  
18 important as the other two, is that it will  
19 establish an exit from the program that will allow  
20 the city to recapture the dollars that it expends  
21 on fixing up these units and apartments almost  
22 immediately, which allows owners to exit upon  
23 entering into a payment agreement upon completion  
24 of the work.

25           In the past, I know there's been a

1  
2 lot of discussion of lien sales and how HPD can  
3 recoup the money that it spends on emergency  
4 repairs. This will allow the Department of  
5 Finance and HPD to work with owners to enter into  
6 a payment agreement so that the money that the  
7 city lays out upfront to make the repairs on these  
8 apartments doesn't have to wait for refinancing or  
9 the sale of a building for the city to actually  
10 recapture those dollars. So I think all three  
11 components of the amendments to the original bill  
12 are very important. I'd like to thank the  
13 sponsor.

14                   And just to say to some of the  
15 advocates who say well what about the other  
16 buildings that didn't get captured in the first  
17 200 with mold, I would say this is a start. We  
18 captured 200 buildings. We can see if this works.  
19 We can see if the data leads to maybe broader  
20 policy decisions as to how we handle the rest of  
21 the buildings. If we tried to do all the  
22 buildings in the city at once, we might not get a  
23 clear picture, as we may with this bill. I'd like  
24 to thank the sponsor and I'm happy that it's  
25 before the Council today. Thank you all.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
3 much, Chair Dilan. Council Member Mendez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,  
5 Madame Speaker, thank you Chair Dilan. Today, by  
6 expanding the Safe Housing Act to include asthma  
7 triggers, we acknowledge that rodent infestation  
8 and that mold are serious Housing Code violations  
9 that do affect the health and the safety of  
10 residents in buildings throughout New York City.

11 With expanding this legislation to  
12 include asthma triggers, we can get a better sense  
13 of how this affects residents who have been living  
14 in substandard houses and how it has affected  
15 their lives.

16 So I want to also thank my  
17 colleague Tish James, the original sponsor of the  
18 bill, and Gale Brewer, who started the program for  
19 the roof to cellar inspection. Today, we take  
20 this a step further and I'm very proud to have  
21 worked with everyone, particularly, Baaba Halm,  
22 Ben Goodman and Laura Rogers from the Housing and  
23 Buildings Committee who did a lot of work with Rob  
24 Newman to tweak this legislation and make it what  
25 it is today. Thank you.

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2                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
3 much, Council Member Mendez, and everybody who's  
4 worked on this bill. I want to congratulate  
5 Council Member Gonzalez, who yesterday celebrated  
6 her 37th wedding anniversary. So congratulations  
7 to Sara and her husband and her family.

8                   [Applause]

9                   SPEAKER QUINN: I want to remind  
10 everyone about Monday's joint hearing on the  
11 city's response to the blizzard. Also, make note  
12 that next Friday, there is a hearing in the  
13 Transportation Committee on the MTA and Department  
14 of Transportation's response to the blizzard.

15                   I want to make sure that people are  
16 aware that we had such a large interest from the  
17 public in response to the hearing we announced on  
18 Monday, that in an effort to make sure we can  
19 accommodate the really large numbers of public who  
20 want to testify, we are going to be scheduling  
21 borough-based evening hearings, at least one per  
22 borough, starting the week after next, to give the  
23 public the opportunity to speak directly to the  
24 Council. So Monday really will not have an  
25 extended public testimony, but if you could please

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2 help us spread the word, work with outreach so we  
3 invite the appropriate people in your district  
4 that would be extremely helpful.

5 I also want to remind folks, you've  
6 received a survey from the staff about  
7 snow/blizzard related questions. We need to get  
8 that in today. There are staff members here right  
9 now who can sit with you and have you fill it in.  
10 But Chair James in particular is urging folks that  
11 we get those in as quickly as possible. I just  
12 want to make sure folks know it will be here and  
13 it will be at 11:00 a.m. on Monday. The next  
14 State Meeting, which had been scheduled for  
15 January 19th, has been moved to January 28th, so  
16 please inform your schedulers of that. Thank you,  
17 and happy New Year, and that concludes  
18 communications from the Speaker.

19 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
20 much, Madame Speaker. At this point, we'll move  
21 on to discussion of general orders. Seeing none,  
22 we'll move on to reports of special committees.

23 CLERK: None.

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Reports of  
25 Standing Committees?

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Finance, Preconsidered Intro 451.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
5 Orders with a message of necessity.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
7 Housing and Buildings, Intro 436-A, Alternative  
8 Enforcement Program.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
10 on General Orders.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: The General  
12 Order Calendar?

13 CLERK: Resolution appointing  
14 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General  
16 Orders. At this time, I'd like to ask for a roll  
17 call on all items that have been coupled on the  
18 General Order Calendar please.

19 CLERK: Arroyo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [No  
21 response].

22 CLERK: Barron?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Brewer?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

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CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on  
all. Aye on all.

CLERK: Try it again.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye  
on all.

CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: The first



1  
2 time I've seen Council Member Dickens at a loss  
3 for words. I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Foster?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

6 CLERK: Garodnick?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

8 CLERK: Gennaro?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No  
10 response].

11 CLERK: Gentile?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

13 CLERK: Gonzalez?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

15 CLERK: Greenfield?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

17 CLERK: Halloran?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Ignizio?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

21 CLERK: James?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES:

23 Congratulations Rosie and Gale. I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Koo?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CLERK: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I have permission to vote on all Land Use Call-ups?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: There are no Land Use Call-ups today.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: No? That's good. I vote aye.

CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Nelson?

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

CLERK: Palma?

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Rose?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

CLERK: Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

CLERK: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on

CLERK: Ulrich?

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

CLERK: Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone?

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [No  
response].

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on  
all.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:  
Congratulations to Rose, Gale, Tish and Sara. Aye  
on all.

CLERK: Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CLERK: Rivera?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

SPEAKER QUINN: Yes on all.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All items on  
today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a

1  
2 vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the  
3 negative and zero abstentions. Introduction and  
4 reading of the bills?

5 SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are  
6 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Seeing as  
8 there are no resolutions, we'll move on to general  
9 discussion. Council Member Ignizio?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank  
11 you very much to my colleagues and happy New Year  
12 to all. I wanted to speak to a potential problem  
13 or a ticking time bomb that relates to our  
14 schools.

15 Currently, just yesterday, PCBs  
16 were found in my school, in PS 36, which prompted  
17 me to get more into the issues. It's a school by  
18 my house. The concern here is that almost 800  
19 schools citywide have PCBs right now leaching into  
20 our classrooms. What's worse is that the city  
21 administration refuses to do air monitoring and  
22 refuses to abide by federal EPA commandments with  
23 regards to this, and they are very troubled. The  
24 federal authorities are very troubled with what's  
25 going on in our schools.

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2 This should be a concern to all of  
3 us. 800 schools, it has to affect every person in  
4 every district in this city. If the  
5 administration that wants to say you can't smoke a  
6 cigarette outside because of potential cancer-  
7 causing agents, outside without any science, but  
8 the hypocrisy of allowing for this to continue  
9 under their watch when they know that there are  
10 PCBs in our schools right now that they don't even  
11 want to test for. You have children in a  
12 confined, indoor environment, potentially leaching  
13 PCBs in our schools.

14 This is a major issue. This  
15 Council ought to take the lead on this. I believe  
16 we should work through our Education chair, the  
17 Education Committee and perhaps even a separate  
18 task force to deal with the issue. The  
19 Administration doesn't want to deal with it  
20 because they say it'll cost 15,000 teachers or  
21 whatnot.

22 We are tired of it consistently  
23 being spoken of with matters of public health that  
24 it's going to cost you teachers; it's going to  
25 cost you issues. We need to engage conversation

1  
2 and dialogue with the federal government on how to  
3 rectify and clean this up. An Administration who  
4 hails itself as being so green, upon removal of  
5 these, would actually save money on electricity  
6 costs because they're leaching from the lights.

7 It's a very serious issue, my  
8 colleagues and friends, and I hope that this  
9 Council will take the lead on tackling it and  
10 protecting the public health of our school  
11 children. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
13 much, Council Member. Next, Council Member  
14 Halloran?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank  
16 you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the floor. I'd just  
17 like to recognize in the back of the gallery today  
18 we have some brave detectives from the NYPD who  
19 are here, including one who 17 years ago this  
20 week, diffused a bomb in One Police Plaza, saving  
21 countless lives and getting injured in the  
22 process.

23 Many of our police officers are  
24 injured in the line of duty, but this one in  
25 particular is here today. He is a former

1  
2 constituent of my district. His relatives still  
3 live in my district. I am honored to know  
4 Detective Anthony Senft, who is here in the  
5 gallery. I am proud to call his service to our  
6 city spectacular. Of course, we all know the  
7 detectives had that area of One Police Plaza named  
8 for them.

9                   So I'd like to just recognize that  
10 he's here, along with members of the Detectives  
11 Endowment Association, the Captains Benevolent  
12 Association and the PBA.

13                   [Applause]

14                   COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Thank  
15 you, Mr. Chair.

16                   CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
17 much. Next, we'll move on to Council Member  
18 Brewer.

19                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: On the  
20 opposite end of things, I'm going to miss the  
21 writings, and I don't know if all of my colleagues  
22 share this, of Wayne Barrett and Tom Robbins of  
23 the Village Voice. Those are two major  
24 investigative reporters who have been the lifeline  
25 for good information for many, many years. I have



1  
2 no idea what they'll do next. I hope they keep us  
3 informed. I am very sad that they will no longer  
4 be writing in the same venue that they have been  
5 for many, many years.

6 I also want to announce the Jessie  
7 King is an intern in our office, here for the  
8 semester from Bennington College. Thank you very  
9 much.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
11 much. Next, we have Council Member Greenfield.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank  
13 you, Mr. Chairman. You know, last week, like many  
14 of my colleagues, my nearly 200,000 constituents  
15 were left buried under 20 inches of snow. Hours  
16 turned into days and we were still not dug out.  
17 It took until Saturday night, almost a full week  
18 from the start of the storm, for every last street  
19 in my district to be cleared.

20 As the communities I represent  
21 continue to reel from the city's non-response to  
22 this blizzard, my office continues to be flooded  
23 with phone calls, thousands of phone calls that  
24 we've received since the start of the blizzard.

25 But that wasn't the end of our

1  
2 troubles. On Sunday, I received reports of carbon  
3 monoxide poisoning in homes along Bay Parkway in  
4 my district, where a city snow melter had problems  
5 and leaked the deadly fumes into dozens of homes  
6 in the residential area.

7 On Monday, phone calls poured in  
8 about cars being pancaked under tons of snow  
9 dumped by the Department of Sanitation employees  
10 and contractors who apparently didn't see that  
11 there were cars and trucks before they dumped tons  
12 of snow.

13 On Tuesday, I received the most  
14 disturbing call yet. The 30-foot-high piles of  
15 snow compiled by the Department of Sanitation  
16 along Bay Parkway, the main thoroughfare in  
17 Southern Brooklyn, they were pushed up against the  
18 fence along Washington Cemetery, the largest  
19 Jewish cemetery in New York City, and not  
20 surprisingly, the weight of the snow, several  
21 tons, was too much. The fence collapsed and  
22 destroyed dozens of headstones.

23 This reckless and negligent action  
24 by the Department of Sanitation came on the heels  
25 of serious acts of vandalism at Washington

1  
2 Cemetery last month where close to 200 headstones  
3 were damaged and sprayed with anti-Semitic  
4 graffiti. Now I'm left to explain to the families  
5 that were spared the heartbreak of the vandalism  
6 just weeks ago that because of the Sanitation  
7 Department's recklessness, the final resting place  
8 of their loved ones was desecrated.

9 And yet, the Sanitation  
10 Commissioner's head remains buried in the snow.  
11 He actually had the chutzpah to say that he gives  
12 his workers an A plus. Seriously, an A plus? I  
13 shudder to think what they would have had to do to  
14 get an F.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
16 much, Council Member. Next, we have Council  
17 Member Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I don't  
19 know if I can follow that very well. I just want  
20 to first talk about my resolution that I'd like  
21 everyone to know about, asking for the State  
22 Legislature and the Governor to enact a law that  
23 will expunge misdemeanor convictions from a  
24 criminal record of anyone who received it before  
25 they were 20 and who stay out of trouble for ten

1  
2 years. It affects a large part of New York City.  
3 I know particularly in my district, people are  
4 unable to move on from mistakes that they've had  
5 in the past. I think we have to give everyone an  
6 opportunity.

7 As for the snow storm, I'm going to  
8 save most of my anger for the upcoming hearings.  
9 But in particular, I do want to make sure I make  
10 mention of some of the arrogance that I perceived  
11 of the Mayor and a lot of the comments,  
12 particularly telling the city to go see a Broadway  
13 show when many of us could not leave our homes.

14 Also, stating that if your street  
15 was paved, it was adequate, and if your street  
16 wasn't then it was inadequate. Also, telling me  
17 and my constituents over and over that 100 percent  
18 of the streets had been plowed at least once.  
19 There were absolutely, completely just misguided  
20 information or complete creations and complete  
21 stories being made up.

22 The one that hit me the worst was  
23 when he implied that elected officials and Council  
24 Members who were complaining apparently don't have  
25 enough to do. I found that very disgusting and

1 not becoming of the leader of New York City.

2 Thank you.

3  
4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
5 much. Next, we have Council Member James.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: On Monday,  
7 at 11:00 here in Emigrant Savings Bank, we will  
8 have the mother of all hearings. This is not in  
9 response to Council Member Greenfield or Council  
10 Member Williams' comments. I sympathize with  
11 their comments, but this is not a criminal  
12 investigation. This is not a hearing, and I know  
13 all of us want to express the outrage of our  
14 constituents, but that's not the purpose here.

15 This hearing should be substantive,  
16 it should be probative and it should be fact-  
17 finding. So I urge all of my colleagues, and I  
18 know all of you will be in attendance on Monday at  
19 11:00, to limit your comments, to have your  
20 questions so that we can go forward and to get to  
21 the bottom of this disaster in the City of New  
22 York.

23 I would urge that all of us would  
24 treat this hearing in the fashion that is expected  
25 of us as elected officials, not only of our

1  
2       respective districts, but representing  
3       constituents throughout the City of New York. I  
4       thank the Speaker and I thank all of you for your  
5       time and attention.

6                   CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
7       much. Last, but not least, Speaker Quinn.

8                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Well  
9       timed to come right after Chair James. I want to  
10      just reinforce what Chair James just said about  
11      Monday's hearing. I also want to remind folks  
12      this was raised at the Democratic Caucus, but  
13      there is the very significant likelihood that at  
14      Monday's hearing, given the number of committees,  
15      the number of members, that questions will be  
16      limited to one, maybe two a member, one, maybe  
17      two. If it's one and you do two, you're getting  
18      kicked out. If it's two and you do three, you're  
19      getting kicked out. So I just want to be very  
20      clear going in so there's no confusion.

21                   And two, I regret to say this,  
22      having been a staff member, but we're going to ask  
23      you to limit the number of staff to one that you  
24      bring to the hearing. The room is going to be  
25      very crowded. If there is more space, then we can

1  
2 bring more people in, but it is going to be very  
3 important that we have enough space for the  
4 experts, and the public will be here. So please  
5 limit the number of staff you bring with you to  
6 one. Obviously, the committee staff is different.  
7 This is to non-chair related staff.

8 So, thank you all very much, and I  
9 look forward to seeing everybody on Monday. Thank  
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
12 much. Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting is  
13 adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 Donna Hintze

Date January 17, 2011