

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, June 22, 2023

Start: 2:31 P.M.

Recess: 3:50 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana I. Ayala
Charles Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farias
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez
Shahana K. Hanif

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Rafael Salamanca, Jr
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

Reverend Dr. Kirk Patrick Cohall,
Lenox Road Baptist Church
located at 1356 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11226

2 SERGEANT RIVERA: This is a microphone check for
3 the Stated Meeting, recorded in the chambers on June
4 22,2023 by Giselle Rivera.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

6 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

7 Good afternoon, and welcome to the Stated Meeting
8 of June 22, 2023. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers,
9 and I would like to thank everyone here today for
10 joining us. If you would like to follow along, the
11 agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the pledge of
13 allegiance.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

15 ALL: (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE)

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Role call?

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Present

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannon?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Farías?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Present

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordon?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca... I'm

20 sorry, Council Member Rivera?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: (NO RESPONSE)

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: (NO RESPONSE)

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: (NO RESPONSE)

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Williams?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: (NO RESPONSE)

22 CITY CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay. Powers?

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I'm here.

3 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
6 have today's invocation, which will delivered by
7 Reverend Dr Kirk Patrick Cohall of Lenox Road Baptist
8 Church located at 1356 Nostrand Ave, Brooklyn, NY
9 11226.

10 Welcome.

11 REVEREND DR. COHALL: Thank you. Shall we all
12 stand for prayer?

13 O God, Our Creator, we come before you this
14 afternoon seeking your blessing and you favor upon
15 our great city. We offer thanksgiving for this day,
16 another season, and another opening of this session.
17 We thank you, O God, for leading us and guiding us
18 through the many challenges that we have faced as a
19 city thus far. The holy scriptures reminds us to
20 pray for the prosperity of our city, and when the
21 city prospers, we will also prosper. God, you have
22 brought us through some of the most challenging
23 periods in our history where so many people have
24 suffered loss and were deeply affected by the Corona
25 virus, gun violence, and the migration of people

1 seeking to make this city their home as so many have
2 done before. And, so, God, we seek your guidance and
3 your wisdom for the challenges that we continually
4 face as a city. We pray, O God, for the leadership
5 and for the members of this city council. We pray
6 for Speaker Adrienne Adams and all those who are
7 called to serve the people of this city with
8 integrity, compassion, and with justice. We pray for
9 every legislator that has been given the opportunity
10 to serve. We pray that every law that is passed will
11 reflect justice and equity for all of our citizens.
12 We pray for those who are marginalized in our city;
13 those who depend on our just laws so that they may
14 all have access to good healthcare, education, fair
15 housing, and a safe place to call home. We pray for
16 those who do not have a voice and who rely on their
17 public servants to speak for them. We pray for those
18 who are on the forefront for the cause of justice;
19 grant them perseverance and courage to continue in
20 the things that will bring about a better society.
21 And, so, we pray for New York City, that it will
22 prosper, and that the issues that unite us will take
23 precedent over the things that divide us. As this
24 session opens, and as our public servants deliver the
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2 fate and the future of our city, help each one to
3 remember that we are all God's children created in
4 God's image to be in partnership one with the other,
5 working for the cause of all who call this city their
6 home. And, so, O God, we now invoke your blessings,
7 your grace, and your mercy to rest, remain, and abide
8 with us all, now and forever. Amen.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 And we now ask City Council Member Rita Joseph to
11 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority
13 Leader. I would like to thank Reverend Dr. Cohall of
14 Lenox Road Baptist Church from the 40th Council
15 District, and welcome him to City Hall today.

16 Lenox Road Baptist Church has been a staple in
17 our community, and I am forever grateful for their
18 contributions and commitment to the 40th Council
19 District. I make a motion for unanimous consent to
20 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 We will now turn to Council Member Lincoln
23 Restler for the Adoption of Minutes.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I make a motion that the
3 Minutes of the Stated Meeting of May 25, 2023 be
4 adopted as printed.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

6 We will have Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,
9 County and Borough Offices.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
12 Communications?

13 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

15 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

17 We will now have Communication from Speaker
18 Adrienne Adams.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader, and
20 good afternoon, everyone.

21 I want to begin by acknowledging the death of
22 several New Yorkers who died from fatal fires since
23 we last met.

24 Fires occurred in Council Members Stevens' and
25 Dinowitz's districts. And just this week, four

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people were killed in a fire sparked by a lithium-ion battery in Council Member Marte's district.

So far this year, we have lost 13 people to lithium battery fires, most of which were preventable. There is more work to do at every level of government to fix this critical issue because lives depend on it.

As we continue to negotiate the City's Fiscal Year 2024 budget, we remain committed to restoring critical investments in essential services that our families, communities, and city rely on to succeed, but were left out of the Mayor's proposed budget.

While we understand the future budget challenges ahead, our city cannot undermine itself and worsen them by failing to invest housing, education, libraries, mental health, and economic opportunity. The next several days will be critical for New York City and the communities we represent. We cannot pursue a path that destabilizes working families. We must choose the responsible, smart approach that makes necessary investments and protects against future risks. For the health, safety, and well-being of our city, the choice is clear.

1 This past Sunday, colleagues, was Father's Day.
2
3 Fathers, grandfathers, and father figures play an
4 integral role in the health, safety, and stability of
5 our families. They are role models who shape our
6 lives for the better. And I want to give a shoutout
7 to all of the fathers in the council chambers today.
8 I hope all of you had a happy, happy, Father's Day.

9 [APPLAUSE]

10 On Monday, we celebrated Juneteenth, a day in
11 which we recommit to the work of achieving equity and
12 justice for Black people across our city and nation.
13 We take this day to commemorate the ongoing struggle
14 for liberation and freedom, and reflect on the path
15 forward. Here in the Council, we have a Juneteenth
16 legislative package introduced by Council Members
17 Barron, Hudson, Louis, Nurse, Stevens, and Williams.

18 Coming to terms with the truth of our past is
19 critical to our future. It requires honesty and
20 transparency, which are critical steps towards
21 healing and reconciliation as we address the
22 institutional legacies of past harms. And I hope all
23 New Yorkers had a reflective and meaningful
24 Juneteenth.

2 June 19th was also World Sickle Cell Awareness
3 Day, which was designated with a goal of increasing
4 public awareness of sickle cell disease, and
5 supporting those who have been diagnosed with this
6 blood disorder. Sickle cell disease
7 disproportionately impacts African-Americans, yet not
8 enough people know what it is or the pain it causes.
9 We hope the continued spotlight on this condition
10 will finally bring the necessary resources and
11 treatment that patients and their families deserve.

12 Tuesday was World Refugee Day, a time when we
13 celebrate refugees living here in New York City and
14 around the world, and honor those who we have lost in
15 pursuit of safety and opportunity. We are proudly a
16 city of immigrants, and we welcome those who seek
17 refuge in our great city.

18 Finally, on July 4th, we will celebrate
19 Independence Day, and I wish you and your families a
20 happy, safe 4th of July.

21 Before we continue, I want to wish a Happy early
22 Birthday to Council Members Rafael Salamanca, Linda
23 Lee, and Amanda Fariás.

24 [APPLAUSE]

25 Now, let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

1 First we will vote on the following finance
2 items:

3 Introduction 1051-B, sponsored by Council Member
4 Justin Brannan, would authorize the expansion of the
5 Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and
6 Disability Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) programs to
7 qualify tenants in Battery City Park and select
8 former Mitchell-Lama buildings.
9

10 Four Preconsidered Resolutions setting the
11 interest rates for the non-payment of property taxes:

12 Two Preconsidered Resolutions to authorize
13 Article XI exemptions for eight buildings in Council
14 Member Rafael Salamanca, Jr.'s and Council Member
15 Steven's districts.

16 A Preconsidered Resolution to author Article XI
17 exemption for one building in Council Member Farias's
18 district.

19 A Preconsidered Resolution to author Article XI
20 exemption for one building in Council Member
21 Sanchez's district.

22 A Preconsidered Resolution to author Article XI
23 exemption for 59 buildings in Council Member Louis's
24 district.
25

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2 Next, we will vote on the following pieces of
3 legislation:

4 Resolution 80, sponsored by Council Member
5 Justin Brannon, calling on Congress to pass and the
6 President to sign legislation in relation to
7 increasing the supply and affordability of certain
8 housing and to adjust the calculations of area median
9 income for purposes of Federal low-income housing
10 assistance, and for other purposes. We thank our
11 staff members Taylor Zelony, Andrew Bourne, and Jose
12 Conde.

13 We will also vote on several resolutions from The
14 Committee on Cultural Affairs:

15 Resolution 199, sponsored by Council Member
16 Crystal Hudson, Declaring June Caribbean Heritage
17 Month in our city, with the largest and most diverse
18 Caribbean community outside of the Caribbean itself.

19 Resolution 285, sponsored by Council Member
20 Charles Barron, calls on Congress and the President
21 to end the Cuban embargo and Cuban travel ban and to
22 remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list
23 due to the unjust harm it causes to the Cuban people.

24 Resolution 623, sponsored by Cultural Affairs
25 Committee Chair, Council Member Chi Ossé, Resolution

2 designating May 21 annually as Christopher "Biggie
3 Smalls" Wallace Day in the City of New York and
4 recognizing his contributions to the cultural
5 landscape of his home borough of Brooklyn and to Hip
6 Hop worldwide.

7 Resolution 624, also sponsored by Chair Ossé,
8 Resolution designating July 8 annually as Reggie
9 "Combat Jack" Ossé Day in the City...

10 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

11 honoring his multifaceted contributions to the
12 Hip Hop industry as a lawyer, executive, editor, and
13 pioneering podcaster, and, of course, if you didn't
14 know, Council Member Ossé's father.

15 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

16 And Resolution 645, sponsored by Council Member
17 Kevin Riley, designating June as Fatherhood
18 Recognition Month annually in our city honoring the
19 contributions of fathers and father figures to
20 families and communities. We thank our staff members
21 Regina Paul and Brenda McKinney.

22 Next are several bills from our Parks and
23 Recreation Committee:

24 Preconsidered legislation, sponsored by Parks and
25 Recreation Committee Chair, Council Member Shekar

1
2 Krishnan, would co-name 112 streets, thoroughfares.
3 and public places, based on the requests of
4 communities and council members.

5 Introduction 227-A, sponsored by Council Member
6 Gale Brewer, this bill would require a City agency or
7 office designated by the Mayor to publish on its
8 website biographical information pertaining to a
9 person or entity for whom a street, park, playground,
10 facility or structure owned by the City is renamed or
11 ceremonially co-named by the Council through
12 legislation.

13 And Introduction 7-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker
14 Diana Ayala, would codify free youth memberships for
15 the City's 36 recreation centers operated by The
16 Department of Parks and Recreation into law.
17 Currently, the City offers discounted memberships to
18 seniors, people with disabilities, and veterans as
19 well. We thank our staff members, Kristoffer Sartori
20 and Patrick Mulvihill.

21 Next, a bill from our Youth Services Committee,
22 Introduction 54, sponsored by Council Member Farah
23 Louis, would require The Department of Youth and
24 Community Development to include financial
25 empowerment education in its Youth Employment and

1 Runaway And Homeless Youth Programs. We thank our
2 staff member, Christina Yellamaty.

3
4 From the Public Safety Committee, Introduction
5 1001-A, sponsored by Council Member Lynn Schulman,
6 would permit enforcement agencies to fine commercial
7 property owners who lease to unlicensed and unlawful
8 sellers of marijuana or tobacco products. Thank you
9 to our staff members Jeremy Whiteman and Chad
10 Benjaman.

11 Introduction 561-B, sponsored by Council Member
12 Crystal Hudson and Council Member Carlina Rivera,
13 would authorize the City of New York to establish or
14 fund unconditional guaranteed income programs for
15 certain eligible low-income families and individuals.
16 It will set up a framework for such programs to
17 perverse participants' access to public benefits to
18 the greatest extent possible and provide data for the
19 purposes of analysis and policy making. We thank our
20 staff members, Wesley Jones and Jessica Boulet.

21 Finally, we will vote on some of the legislative
22 proposals that are part of the Council's Mental
23 Health Roadmap, envisioned by our Mental Health
24 Committee Chair, Linda Lee. Council Member Lee,
25 Majority Leader Keith Powers, Council Member Botcher,

1 and I released this roadmap with advocates to improve
2 mental health in our city. It focuses on addressing
3 existing challenges in the City's mental healthcare
4 landscape and strengthening the infrastructure and
5 investments in evidence-based solutions at the
6 community level to improve mental health outcomes for
7 New Yorkers. The roadmap is an evolving pathway to a
8 healthier city. And today, we are voting on a
9 portion of its legislative proposals. We look
10 forward to continuing this work in partnership with
11 service providers, advocates, community members, and
12 government stakeholders. And I thank Chair Lee for
13 her leadership in moving this roadmap forward.

14 Resolution 88, sponsored by Council Member
15 Robert Holden, calls Congress to pass and the
16 President to sign legislation to fully repeal the
17 Institutions for Mental Diseases Exclusion from the
18 Social Security Act to allow states to use federal
19 Medicaid funding to provide mental health and
20 substance use disorder treatment services to adult
21 Medicaid beneficiaries at Institutions for Mental
22 Diseases.
23

24 Resolution 583, sponsored by Council Member Rita
25 Joseph, a resolution calling on New York State to

2 subsidize the education and licensing costs of CUNY
3 students who commit to working in the public sector
4 in the mental health professions, which historically
5 experience high turnover rates and staffing
6 shortages.

7 Resolution 587, sponsored by Majority Leader
8 Keith Powers, calling on the New York State Office of
9 Mental Health to expand enforcement of mental health
10 and substance use disorder insurance parity and apply
11 for federal grants to enforce insurance parity, so
12 insurance discrimination is reduced as a barrier to
13 mental healthcare access.

14 Resolution 588-A, also sponsored by Majority
15 Leader Powers, calling on New York State to
16 collaborate closely with New York City to achieve
17 their shared goal of developing 35,000 units of
18 supportive housing.

19 Resolution 589, sponsored by Majority Leader
20 Powers, calling on the Federal Government to ensure
21 that calls to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
22 program are routed based on geolocation rather than
23 area code, so people are routed to appropriate
24 services based on their geographic location rather
25 than simply the area code of their phone.

2 And Resolution 592, sponsored by Council Member
3 Lynn Schulman, calling on the New York State and
4 Federal governments to expand the availability of
5 mental health professionals for low and moderate
6 income New Yorkers by increasing Medicaid
7 reimbursement rates for behavioral health services.

8 Now, on to the introductions from the Mental
9 Health Roadmap we will be voting on:

10 Introduction 706-A, sponsored by Council Member
11 Shaun Abreu, would require the Mayor's Office of
12 Community Mental Health (OCMH) to maintain on a
13 public, searchable online database of available
14 mental health services provided in New York City on
15 its website. This would improve access to mental
16 health resources for New Yorkers.

17 Introduction 1006-A, sponsored by Council Member
18 Erik Bottcher, would require the Department of Health
19 and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to develop and implement a
20 public awareness campaign and conduct outreach on
21 mental health and behavioral health programs in New
22 York City that provide low-cost and no-cost services,
23 specifically to those who do not qualify for health
24 insurance based on federal guidelines. Thank you to
25 our staff members Sara Sucher and Christie Dwyer.

2 Thank you very much for your attention. Now, I
3 will turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams,
5 we will now move into to the Discussion of General
6 Orders.

7 We will start member Chrystal Hudson.... Yeah.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I'm sorry I didn't hear
9 you. Mumbled into that microphone, Majority
10 Leader... (CROSS-TALK)

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Council Member Crystal
12 Hudson, my New York mumble, you know?

13 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you so much, and
15 Happy Pride, everyone! Happy Pride, everyone?

16 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Today we are voting on a
18 handful of items that I am proud sponsor:

19 The first, Introduction 561-B, will allow the
20 City to create direct cash assistance programs to
21 support low-income families. Across the country,
22 cities of all sizes have adopted direct cash
23 assistance programs as tangible policy solutions to
24 combat poverty, stimulate growth in their local
25 economies, reduce income inequality, and offer their

1
2 vulnerable constituencies a lifeline that affords
3 them greater economic and social freedom. With the
4 passage of Introduction 561-B, my block agenda for
5 New York City is becoming a reality. And New York is
6 taking a historic critical step forward to offering
7 all marginalized New Yorkers direct cash assistance.
8 I thank Speaker Adams for her leadership, and the
9 countless advocates for their continued fight to
10 ensure this bill became law.

11 I am also proud to be passing Resolution 199,
12 which declares June as Caribbean Heritage Month. The
13 Caribbean diaspora in New York City is strong, bold,
14 and vibrant with over 800,000 New Yorkers hailing
15 from the Caribbean. Marking June as Caribbean
16 Heritage Month is a recognition of the vast, varied,
17 and storied contributions of our Caribbean neighbors
18 and my colleagues here in The City Council, whose
19 lineage comes from the great countries of Jamaica,
20 Haiti, Puerto Rico, La República Dominicana, Panama,
21 and many others.

22 Lastly, we are voting on two co-namings in my
23 district.

24 The first honors the late Edward Carter, a
25 community activist, Executive Director of the Fort

1
2 Greene Youth Patrol, longtime member of Brooklyn
3 Community Board Two, and the unofficial mayor of
4 Forte Green. I would like to thank Tyrana Carter for
5 her dedication and work to secure the co-naming for
6 her father.

7 The second, honors Tomchei Tmimim. The central
8 Yeshiva Talmudical academy of the Chabad-Lubavitch
9 Hasidic movement, founded in 1897 by Rabbi Sholom
10 Dovber Schneersohn, that has grown into an
11 international network. Notably, today holds
12 significant importance for the worldwide Chabad-
13 Lubavitch community, whose headquarters are located
14 in my district, because it is the anniversary of the
15 passing of the revered Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem
16 Mendel Schneersohn, who resided in my district and
17 build the International [TIMER CHIMES] Chabad
18 movement. I would like to thank Yakov Bierman (sp?)
19 and Rabbi Yossi Langsam for shepherding this co-
20 naming through the process. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
22 to Council Member Lynn Schulman, followed by Council
23 Member Gale Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Majority
25 Leader.

1 Illegal weed shops have been proliferating in New
2 York City, putting our communities at risk. The
3 cannabis they sell has been found to be adulterated;
4 they sell to children, and they prevent licensed
5 sellers from opening legitimate businesses.
6

7 That is why I am extremely proud that the Council
8 will be voting on Introduction 1001-B this afternoon,
9 which will create a penalty structure to hold
10 landlords accountable for knowing leasing commercial
11 premises to illegal businesses.

12 The hope is that this legislation will incentive
13 landlords to do the right thing and keep our
14 communities safe by only leasing commercial space to
15 legal licensed businesses. This is a game changer,
16 because right now, enforcement efforts are aimed at
17 the sellers and not the landlords who are leasing to
18 them.

19 I want to thank the Speaker for her leadership
20 and support on this issue, as well as the Public
21 Safety Chair, Kamillah Hanks, committee staff, and I
22 also want to acknowledge, uh, Jeff Baker -- who
23 doesn't always get acknowledged on these intros, but
24 he was very committed to working on this with me, so
25 thank you -- advocates, and the many community

2 members who share my deep concern for the safety of
3 our neighborhoods. I also want to thank my Chief of
4 Staff Jonathan Boucher, and my Legislative Director,
5 Kevin McAleer, thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
7 to Council Member Gale Brewer, followed by Council
8 Member Julie Won.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

10 I am talking about Introduction 227. I want to
11 thank The Speaker; I want to thank Parks Chair,
12 Council Member Krishnan; also Kristoffer Sartori, and
13 Patrick Mulvihill from the Parks Committee; and all
14 of the Council staff for their support of this bill -
15 - which I introduced in 2004! I don't know if
16 everybody was around then. Probably not. But, I want
17 to say it is really important to be passing today.

18 Currently, other than within supportive documents
19 for each Local Law, there is no biographical or
20 background information for the ceremonial street co-
21 names that are posted on any city agency website and
22 readily available to the public.

23 When you see a street sign with a co-naming, you
24 don't really know who that person is, and certainly
25 neither do tourists or school children.

1 In my district, I have ,you know, famous artists
2 listed on the street signs, like Alvin Ailey, Isaac
3 Bashevis Singer, Edgar Allen Poe, but most street co-
4 namings are for everyday heroes, not for famous New
5 Yorkers. And I want to add that after 9/11, in our
6 neighborhoods, many, many street co-names were added,
7 based on people who died in 9/11. And in my
8 district, my predecessor, Helen Rosenthal's brother
9 died in 9/11, and I remember going with her and her
10 mother to 72nd Street, and putting the sign up for
11 Josh Rosenthal. That would be an example of somebody
12 who was a hero, but is not well-known, and should be
13 on a site. My understanding is that the, uh,
14 municipal library website will be where this is
15 placed. We will go back at least to the 1990's, and
16 if I have my way, I am going to fight to have even
17 longer biographical information up on the website.

18 Today, also, we are passing a co-naming Bill for
19 Didi Ford, who name will be added to the corner of
20 West 94th Street and [TIMER CHIMES] Amsterdam Avenue.
21 She was a River Park nursery school teacher for 50
22 years, and she was the first African-American woman
23 to teach there. She is just as deserving of people
24
25

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 30
2 knowing her story as those with more recognizable
3 names, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now
5 hear from Council Member Won, followed by Council
6 Member Joseph.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Today, I hope you will join
8 me in approving the intersection of 45th Street and
9 Newtown Road in Astoria as *Dolma Naadhun Way*. And
10 this is in memory of Dolma Naadhun, who was a 7-year-
11 old child who was hit by a car this February,
12 crossing the street on her way back from a
13 playground. And it is incredibly heartbreaking, and
14 we know that the street co-naming will not bring this
15 child back, but we have been fortunate to be able to
16 honor her memory. Special thanks to Council Member
17 Tiffany Cabán, Assemblymember Jessica González-Rojas,
18 Senator Mike Gianaris, as well as Council Member
19 Selvena Brooks-Powers, and Transportation
20 Commissioner Rodriguez; we were able to, in a very
21 quick period of time, honor the Tibetan tradition of
22 the 49-day period after her death, that we are not
23 only co-naming the street, but we are also able to
24 put in a street light, so that this intersection...
25 the traffic signals will make this intersection much

2 safer. So, I say with a heavy heart, we are sorry
3 for her passing -- way too soon -- but we honor her
4 family, especially her father, Tsering Wangdu, who
5 has been a fierce advocate to make sure that no
6 child's life is ever taken away in this intersection
7 ever again. And thank you so much for the support.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will now go to Council Member Joseph.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority
11 Leader; thank you, Speaker, for your leadership.

12 Today I stand in support of Resolution 583,
13 calling on New York State to subsidize the education
14 and licensing costs of CUNY students who commit to
15 working in the public sector in the mental health
16 professions, which historically experience high
17 turnover rates and staffing shortages.

18 Today I am calling on my colleagues to vote. I
19 am urging all members to vote in favor of this bill,
20 in doing so, you would alleviate the financial burden
21 of those perspective students in choosing a
22 profession to serve mentally ill New Yorkers to get
23 back on their feet. I am counting on you to do the
24 right thing, thank you.

1 And today, in my district, we have two co-
2 namings, uh, Reverend Dr. Honore Augus-tin Jacques.
3 A brief background, he was a faithful, courageous
4 dedicated minister who is best known to the diaspora
5 and his colleagues as the Apostle of the Haitians.
6 On September 24, 1967, Dr. Jacques and Church of God
7 officially organized the first Haitian Church of God
8 in America. To many, Reverend Dr. Jacques was a
9 beloved pastor and bishop known as a man of faith, a
10 man of valor, and the preacher of righteousness. Due
11 to unfortunate circumstances, Dr. Jacques became ill
12 and entered into glory on April 28, 2011. We are
13 proud to have the opportunity to honor him and his
14 legacy by co-naming a street to him.

16 Also, we are having another co-naming, Darius
17 Elijah Roache was born May 27, 2005 at Brooklyn
18 University Hospital to two loving parents, Dawn
19 Roache and Darrell (sp?) Gibbs. Elijah graduated
20 from my school, from PS 6, and went on to MS 2
21 Academy in May of 2020; continued his education at
22 Clara Barton High School where he was well received
23 and respected by his peers and teachers. Sadly, due
24 to gun violence, Elijah was taken from his family and
25 friends on December 30, 2022. We are asking for you

2 to vote to request the co-naming in the favor of
3 Darius Elijah Roache, May 27, 2005 to December 30,
4 2022.

5 On behalf of the families of the late Reverend
6 Reverend Dr. Honore Augustin Jacques and Darius
7 Roache, I want to say thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. [TIMER CHIMES]
9 Right on time.

10 Thank you, we will now go to Council Member
11 Hanks.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you, Majority Leader
13 Powers.

14 I want to take a moment to recognize some very
15 special students from my district who are watching
16 today's Stated livestream to see the passage of
17 Introduction 1001-A [BACKGROUND NOISE] by Council
18 Member Schulman into law. Last week, I had several
19 of these brave and courageous young students from PS
20 75 come to my office and deliver over 350 petition
21 signatures and voice their concerns about vaping and
22 illegal vape shops in their community. During that
23 visit, I assured them that the City would always
24 listen to those within our community, especially the
25 children. Their civic engagement and sense of

1 community is inspiring, and I am proud to be voting,
2 yes, into Intro 1001 today on their behalf.

3 Also, I would like to mention two incredible
4 [BACKGROUND NOISE] individuals who we honor today
5 with street co-namings in my district:
6

7 Mr. Eric E. Garvin, Junior and Mr. Leon Wallace.

8 Mr. Eric E. Garvin served as a Social Justice
9 Attorney and was working with the Mayor's Office from
10 2016 to 2021 before fatally being shot while in Chile
11 on January 14, 2023. Eric was the grandson of Miss
12 Margie Garvin, who is an icon of the Staten Island
13 Community. And we continue to send our prayers to
14 her and her family.

15 Mr. Leon Wallace was a proud veteran in my
16 community who served in the United States Airforce as
17 a jet mechanic. After being honorably discharged
18 from the Airforce, he spent the rest of his life in
19 service of others.

20 These gentleman are two of Staten Island's
21 finest, and I am proud to be able to honor them with
22 the others with well-deserved street co-namings in my
23 district. Thank you so much.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will hear
25 from Council Member Farah Louis.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

2 Today we will be voting on my bill Introduction
3 54, A Local Law that will give young people a chance
4 to understand and comprehend the economic justice
5 system. Our city funds and creates programs that
6 support our youth and children with a focus on
7 athletics, wellness, career building, workplace soft
8 skills, and summer youth employment. However, we are
9 overdue for a focus on fiscal and financial tool kits
10 our children can utilize to be productive citizens.
11 I want to encourage my colleagues to vote for
12 Introduction 54.
13

14 I also want to highlight two co-namings that we
15 will be voting on today, one in Council Member
16 Joseph's district, Reverend Dr. Honore Augustin
17 Jacques, my former pastor who passed away many years
18 ago, but a major pillar in the Flatbush community, as
19 well as Elenora P. Bernard, two major pillars in the
20 Flatbush community that helped shape our economic
21 development in Flatbush, thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
23 anyone else signed up to speak at this time? We have
24 Council Member David Carr.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader.

1 I just note today that we will be voting for the
2 first time on separate interest rates for non-payment
3 of real property taxes for those who are in a payment
4 plan. This is a result of Local Law 36 of 2023,
5 which is prime-sponsored by myself and our Finance
6 Chair, Council Member Justin Brannan, and was enacted
7 earlier this year. And it recognizes the simple fact
8 that most of those who have fallen behind on their
9 real property tax payments are hard working folks who
10 simply fell on difficult times, and they need a
11 little help getting themselves out of a hole. And,
12 so, finally, we will be allowing to have a more
13 lenient interest rate as they seek to do that. And I
14 am very proud of the 2% rate that we will be enacting
15 today, which is historically one of the lowest ever,
16 if not ever, outside of the pandemic period. And,
17 so, I want to thank the Speaker for her support on
18 this issue, the Minority Leader, all colleagues past
19 and present, uh, have raised this issue up over the
20 years, and all of the great work of staff, in
21 particular the Finance staff, Kathleen Ahn, Michael
22 Twomey, Raymond Majewski, and, of course, Emre Edev,
23 who worked so hard to get us the 2% rate.
24
25

1 So, with that said, I thank you very much, and I
2
3 urge my colleagues to vote in the affirmative.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you,
5 congratulations.

6 We will now go to Council Member Avilés.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Good afternoon, everyone,
8 I am happy to call for your support for intro 1102
9 and lifting up, in particular two co-namings in my
10 district.

11 Andy Varela was a founding member of Sunset Park
12 Lions Club, helping small businesses get started and
13 helping homeowners obtain their first home across our
14 community. After retirement, Mr. Varela also served
15 on the board for Lutheran Medical Center and our
16 Community Board. He was committed to giving back to
17 our community, and we are so delighted to be able to
18 honor his memory and legacy, which rolls even much
19 deeper than these words today.

20 And, lasty, I would also like to call attention
21 to another co-naming in honor of Nancy Kearse
22 Gooding, a Red Hook leader who was Co-Leader of the
23 52nd Assembly District back in the 1970's. She
24 formed the Welfare Recipients Action Group, which
25 created a job readiness program for young men and

2 women in Red Hook. Nancy also fought for a free
3 lunch program in the local elementary school, PS 15,
4 and she fought for seniors to have access to
5 affordable groceries. Nancy was a longtime member of
6 Community Board 6, an unrecognized shero. And I am
7 so honored, and I hope for all your support in making
8 sure Nancy's legacy is also part of this new co-
9 naming. So, thank you so much, colleagues.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you,

11 Do we have anyone else signed up?

12 Seeing none, we will move into the Agenda today;
13 we will go to the Reports of Special Committees.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing
16 Committees?

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance
18 Intro 1051-B, tax exemptions for seniors and people
19 with disabilities.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Resolution 690
23 through Preconsidered Resolution 693, fixing of tax
24 rates.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered L U 232 and
3 Resolution 698 through Preconsidered L U 236 and
4 Resolution 702, tax exemptions?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on General
7 Welfare, Introduction 561-B, direct cash assistance
8 pilot programs?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental
12 Health, Disabilities, and Addiction, Introductions
13 706-A and 1006-A, online services database and mental
14 health education?

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution 88, repeal the
18 Institutions for Mental Diseases Exclusion?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolutions 583, 587, 588-A, 589,
21 and 592, Mental Health Roadmap Legislative Package?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: All Coupled on General Orders,
23 except for Resolution 588-A, which was Amended and
24 Coupled on General Orders.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Parks
3 and Recreation, Introduction 7-A, recreational
4 facilities?

5 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
6 Orders.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 227-A, street and
8 park name changes?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
10 Orders.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered Introduction 1102-A,
12 Naming of 112 thoroughfares and public places?

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
14 Orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Public
16 Safety, Introduction 1001-B, unlicensed cannabis or
17 tobacco sellers?

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Youth
21 Services, Introduction 54-A, Financial Empowerment
22 Education in Department Of Youth And Community
23 Development programs?

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
25 Orders.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing various
3 persons, Commissioner of Deeds?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

5 I now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on
6 all of the items coupled on today's General Orders
7 Calendar.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Can I explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I want to thank Council
14 Member Brannan for passing his bill today that will
15 allow residents in former Mitchell-Lama's to have
16 access to SKRIE and DRIE. And I really want to
17 congratulate two activists, Lisa Berger and John
18 Scott Paul (sp?), they worked for the past ten years
19 to pass a similar bill on the state level.

20 And I am really honored to vote on *Corky Lee Way*,
21 which is really a huge moment for Chinatown and
22 Chinese Americans photographers. He is the self-
23 proclaimed Chinese Photography Laureate of America,
24 and no one ever disputed that. And this is a huge
25

2 moment for Chinatown and the Chinese community around
3 America, thank you.

4 I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all, except for
9 Introduction 561-B, for which I am a no.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Permission to explain my
12 vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all, with the
15 exception of Resolution 88, for which I abstain based
16 on the concern of the lack of a mechanism in full
17 support for funding and integrating services for
18 community based providers. Is that correct?

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yes, thank you.

20 Council Member Ayala?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no on
24 Preconsidered Resolutions 690, 691, 692, and 693, and
25 I vote aye on all the rest.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all. And request
4 unanimous consent to vote on the Resolutions?

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all, with the
15 exception of Resolution 88, on which I abstain, thank
16 you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'll be voting no on
19 Introduction 561-B, and aye on the rest.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member De La Rosa?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all, except for
23 Resolution 88, which I abstain from.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

25 Council Member Dinowitz?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Leader, I wish to
9 speak on my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, uh, I just got
12 here, so I missed when people were talking about the
13 co-names they were doing. But, one of the ones I am
14 doing today is about, uh, Barry Commoner. He had a
15 lot to do with the work of this body. Uh, he
16 invented the environmental movement, essentially. He
17 invented the concerned scientist movement, and he has
18 done everything... he has done many things for
19 everyone in this room, and, uh, everyone in the
20 world. He is the one who convinced President Kennedy
21 to work with the Soviets to end nuclear airborne
22 testing. He did research at Washington University in
23 St. Louis, at which he had the strong feeling that
24 radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing was
25 going throughout the world. And the way he proved

2 that, uh, he had mothers of toddlers donate baby
3 teeth, and he proved... and there was a similar
4 amount of radioactive fallout ,you know, various
5 isotopes that only found in radioactive fallout from
6 nuclear testing in the teeth the of these kids. And
7 with this he ,you know, convinced, uh, President
8 Kennedy to work the Soviets to end atmospheric
9 nuclear testing. He started the concerned scientists
10 movement. He testified in these chambers countless
11 times when I was a staff member and when I was a
12 member. He was one of the greatest advocates for New
13 York City's recycling law passed in 1989. He passed
14 away at age 95. He finished his work at Queens
15 College where he headed the Center for the Biology of
16 Natural Systems. Uh, he ran for president in 1980,
17 uh, with a woman of color as a running mate. He's on
18 the ballot in 30 states. He is a remarkable person
19 who mentored me--was a friend to me-- and [TIMER
20 CHIMES] he encouraged me to put my hat in the arena,
21 and I just want to honor him in this way with this
22 co-naming. Thank you very much, Mr. Majority Leader.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Yes, you need to register
25 your vote.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes, I should vote, too!

3 I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

5 Council Member Gutiérrez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye on all with
7 the exception of Resolution 88, from which I abstain,
8 thank you.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye on all with the
11 exception of Resolution 88, on which I abstain.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye on all.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all, except for
16 Introduction 561-B, of which I vote no.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Hudson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Permission to explain my
23 vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

2 So, today I am honored to vote two street co-
3 names in my district. One is Rachel Sutton Way at
4 Ocean Parkway and Avenue U in Brooklyn. And she was
5 tragically killed in a car accident on her way home
6 from the synagogue. She was an amazing social
7 worker, working for the Bikur Cholim society and
8 helping many Jewish immigrants Syria to settle here
9 in New York City.

10 And, the second street co-naming is for *Reverend*
11 *Sylvester & Georgia McEaddy Way* in Coney Island on
12 West 25th Street and Neptune Avenue. This was an
13 amazing couple who helped many families from Coney
14 Island, including visiting sick people and saying
15 kind words of encouragement to people who needed
16 their support. So, I am very privileged and honored
17 to support their street co-namings today.

18 And I am voting yes on all, except I am voting no
19 on Introduction 561-B.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Krishnan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Permission to explain my
23 vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

25

1 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I am very honored today
2 to do two street namings in my community. My first
3 nomination is for Janet Kelly who was an important
4 civic leader in my district. She served as the
5 Director of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group,
6 and was the leader of the garden club which was very
7 involved in beatifying the community and improving
8 34th Avenue open street. She was also active in many
9 various communities activities, uh, and the founder
10 of the Jackson Heights knitting group and was a key
11 organizer of the annual Children's Halloween Parade
12 in Jackson Heights.
13

14 My other nomination is for Mike Crowley, who was
15 the founding member and president of the Jackson
16 Heights Beautification Group (JHBG). Under his
17 leadership, JHBG landmarked Jackson Heights as a
18 historic district. He was instrumental in so many
19 other activities that helped to improve our community
20 in many ways, including establishing the first ever
21 community based anti-graffiti program in the City,
22 established the JHBG Architectural and Good Neighbor
23 Awards, the JHBG Halloween Parade, the garden club,
24 created the Friends of Travers Park, and a community
25 newsletter that is still in circulation today. Both

2 of them have contributed immensely to our community
3 of Jackson Heights, and I am proud to be voting on
4 their street namings today, and I would urge everyone
5 to vote yes on them, thank you.

6 And, with that, I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Louis?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Menin?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

18 Council Member Narcisse?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to explain
20 one [BACKGROUND NOISE] part of my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Uh, for the street co-
23 namings, Elenora P. Bernard Way at the intersection
24 of Church Avenue and 43rd Street. She was leader
25 that always tried to bind people together. So, today

2 I am very proud to say, yes, I support 110% for a
3 person that is always giving herself to their
4 community, always want to do more, wants to see
5 people do better in the community. And if you have
6 been on the Eastern Parkway for carnivals, she was
7 one of the best organizers.

8 So, for that I will say aye to all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Permission to explain my
11 vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.

14 Today I am really honored to be voting in favor
15 of a street co-naming, uhm, I want to uplift one name
16 in particular, a member of my community who was taken
17 from us far too soon. Julien Arnold, who was
18 lovingly referred to as "Big Ju", was born on
19 September 15, 1987 and was the fourth son out of his
20 eight siblings. He lived in Cypress Hills with his
21 family. At the young age of seven, Julian memorized
22 the whole New York City subway map and was able to
23 tell you what train to take and what stop to get off
24 at way before iPhones even existed. He had a deep
25 and caring nature, and was one of those people who

1 never said, "no" or "I can't". Ambitious and driven,
2 Julian was a dedicated worker devoted to doing any
3 job with precision and was beloved by his co-workers.
4 He was also a person of faith and gave back to his
5 community. Julian was a member of Community Church
6 of the Living God where his father is the presiding
7 bishop. He often assisted his father in many
8 different areas of ministry, such as food pantry,
9 clothing drive, community outreach, and wherever his
10 services were needed. He would also assist members
11 of the church with street ministry where they would
12 pray and provide council to the people of his
13 community. Tragically on November 7, 2022, Julian
14 was murdered outside the family's home. This street
15 renaming will not only eternalize Julian's memory,
16 but celebrate his life and everything he stood for.
17 And just giving a special shoutout and sending love
18 to the Arnold family today.

19
20 And, with that, I vote aye, with the exception of
21 Resolution 88, on which I vote no, thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Ossé?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Permission to explain my
25 vote?

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all except for
4 Resolution 88, and Preconsidered Proposed
5 Introduction 1102, in which I abstain.

6 And I recuse myself for Resolution 624 for a
7 potential conflict of interest. Today's vote is a
8 deep, personal and important vote for me. There is no
9 person of whom I am more proud of than Reggie Ossé,
10 known to the world as "Combat Jack", and known to me
11 as Dad. His work made New York's unique and renowned
12 music scene accessible far beyond the confines of the
13 five boroughs, cementing our position as the cultural
14 capital of the world. He carried talent to stardom
15 and helped build wealth in social capital for people
16 in communities who were often overlooked. He was a
17 New York City treasure. He was also an incredible
18 family man. The same strength and compassion he
19 carried to his work, was only amplified when he would
20 come home each day. From him, my siblings and I
21 learned to be forwardly loving, thoughtfully
22 hardworking, and unapologetically Black. He makes me
23 proud to be a Brooklynite and proud to be his son. I
24 want to shout out to some supporters and family in
25 this room, my mother Akim Vann, my siblings Kai and

1 Kara, and Chuma, who's not here, uh, my dad's
2 colleagues as well as some of my aunties. I look
3 forward to observing his birthday each year alongside
4 my fellow New Yorkers as *Combat Jack Day*, and to
5 immortalize him by naming the block on which he
6 raised us *Reggie Ossé Place*. My dad finished every
7 show by saying, "Dream those dreams then man-up and
8 woman-up, and live those dreams, because a life
9 without dreams is black and white, and the universe
10 flows in technicolor and surround-sound. Blaow!"

12 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

14 Council Member Paladino?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (ABSENT)

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Restler?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on all, with the
18 exception of Resolution 88, for which I abstain.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Council Member Richardson Jordan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I want to thank
22 and celebrate with the advocates of *Black Panther Way*
23 in my district.

24 I am an aye on all with the exception of
25 Resolution 88, on which I vote no.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: It is fitting that I go after Council Member Ossé, uh, with the Resolution that we are passing today, Resolution 645-A. I wear many hats, I have had the privilege of wearing many hats throughout my life, but no hat that I have worn is more important than being a dad. And that is no pun intended.

[APPLAUSE]

Being a father has been a warming experience in my life, especially when I, uh, I speak about the story of me losing my father to the incarnation system, uhm, and being a father to my three beautiful children at home and having the opportunity to have a recognition in New York City for June is very overwhelming. And to get a consensus from the entire body today to pass this means the world to me. So, thank you, and to Council Member Ossé, thank you so much for getting this into your committee, to my father, who I am going to record this and send this

1 to him, I appreciate everything that you contributed
2 to my life. Even though you weren't here when I was
3 growing up, you still contributed a lot and made me
4 the man that I am today. To my three beautiful
5 children, you mean the world to me, and I will
6 continue to make you proud. And to all of the dads
7 out there, Happy Belated Father's Day, we matter, no
8 matter how it's put out there, we matter. I want you
9 to continue to help raise your families, continue to
10 make positive impacts within your community, and lets
11 continue to uplift the next generation, thank you so
12 much to my colleagues.

14 [APPLAUSE]

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to explain my
17 vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I just want to take a
20 quick second and... or a minute, I get, right? To
21 mention someone who we are also honoring today,
22 Frances Goldin. Frances Goldin would have been 99
23 years old today. She's a founding member of
24 Metropolitan Council on Housing and the Cooper Square
25 Committee. And she took on Robert Moses and defended

2 our precious Lower East Side from countless
3 speculators. She was an amazing fighter for equal
4 rights and housing justice. And the New York Times,
5 in their obituary, called her "a protestor,
6 provocateur, and a voice for lost causes". She was
7 always dressed in her signature purple, and at every
8 Pride Parade, since 1971, she would attend and hold a
9 sign that said, "I adore my lesbian daughters. Keep
10 them safe." So, it is with great pride that we name
11 a street in our district *Frances Goldin Way*.

12 And with that, I proudly vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

14 Council Member Salamanca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all, except 1001-
22 B, for which I abstain.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: (NO RESPONSE)

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Won?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all, with the
12 exception of Introduction 561, Resolution 690, 691,
13 692, and 693; and I abstain on Introduction 1102,
14 thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

16 Council Member Borelli?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on all, except
18 Intro 561-B.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Powers?

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
24 General Order Calendar adopted by a vote of 48 in the
25 affirmative, 0 negative, 0 abstentions with the

1
2 exception of Introduction 591-B, adopted by a vote of
3 42 in the affirmative, 6 negative, and 0 abstentions;
4 Resolution 88 adopted by a vote of 39 in the
5 affirmative, 2 in the negative, 7 abstentions;
6 Resolutions 690 through 693 adopted by a vote of 46
7 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, 0 abstentions;
8 Introduction 1102-A adopted by a vote of 46 in the
9 affirmative, 0 in the negative, 2 abstentions;
10 Introduction 1001-B adopted by a vote of 47 in the
11 affirmative, 0 negative, 1 abstention.

12 We will now... Okay, we are going to call on
13 Council Member Yeger to clarify his vote.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Actually, I apologize,
15 that's a resolution. I apologize, I got it right,
16 okay, sorry.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We will now move into the Introduction & Reading
19 of Bills?

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to
21 committees as indicated on today's agenda.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

23 We will now move into the Discussion of
24 Resolutions.

25 We will first hear from Council Member Barron.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much, my
2 colleagues. I want to congratulate my comrade
3 Council Member Ossé and his father, right on for that
4 resolution, right on for Biggie Smalls Resolution,
5 and for the Father's Day Resolution.
6

7 But, I also want to talk about Cuba. I have a
8 Cuban Resolution, and I want our people to understand
9 the value of lifting the embargo and sanctions
10 against Cuba and taking them off of the terrorist's
11 list.

12 The Cuban people are suffering, but, yet, Cuba
13 supported countries all over the world with doctors
14 and technicians. In Africa, they supported... There
15 wouldn't be an Angola without the Cuban soldiers,
16 there wouldn't have been most countries in Africa --
17 Cuba supported that.

18 Cubans right here in America, when Katrina hit,
19 Cuba offered aid to our people in New Orleans, and
20 the American government rejected it.

21 I went to Cuba and went to the medical facility
22 there, and to my surprise, after I made my speech
23 [TIMER CHIMES], one of the best in the country in the
24 world, the facility had two people from my district,
25 from East New York, getting full tuition in medical

1 school. So, Cuba has really helped the world
2 around... And Latin America, and the Caribbean here
3 in America. And it is time to lift the embargo, life
4 the sanctions, and take them off the terrorist's
5 list. Right on to Cuba.

7 And I want to thank the speaker, and I want to
8 thank Chair Ossé for helping to push this forward on
9 this day.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

11 We will now hear from Council Member Joseph,
12 followed by Council Member Yeger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: (NO RESPONSE)

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will hear from Council
15 Member Yeger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: (NO RESPONSE)

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay, both have waived
18 their time to speak.

19 Do we have anyone else signed up for resolutions
20 to speak?

21 Okay, if not, we will now have a voice vote on
22 today's resolutions. If you wish to vote against or
23 abstain from any of today's resolutions, please
24 notify the Legislative Document Unit by email or by
25 approaching the dais.

2 I will now read today's resolutions into the
3 record.

4 Resolution 80, calling on Congress to pass and
5 the President to sign legislation in relation to
6 increasing the supply and affordability of certain
7 housing and to adjust the calculations of area median
8 income for purposes of Federal low-income housing
9 assistance, and for other purposes.

10 Will all those in favor please say aye?

11 COUNCIL: [AYE]

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay?

13 Any abstentions?

14 The ayes have it.

15 Resolution 199, Resolution declaring June
16 Caribbean Heritage Month.

17 Will all those in favor please say aye?

18 COUNCIL: [AYE]

19 All opposed say nay?

20 Any abstentions?

21 The ayes have it.

22 Resolution 285-A, calling upon the United States
23 Congress and President to end the Cuban embargo and
24 Cuban travel ban and to remove Cuba from the State

25

2 Sponsors of Terrorism list due to the unjust harm it
3 causes to the Cuban people.

4 Will all those in favor say aye?

5 COUNCIL: [AYE]

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay?

7 Any abstentions?

8 The ayes have it.

9 Resolution 623 designating May 21 annually as
10 Christopher "Biggie Smalls" Wallace Day in the
11 City... I'd never thought I'd get to say that...
12 of New York and recognizing his contributions to the
13 cultural landscape of his home borough of Brooklyn
14 and to Hip Hop worldwide.

15 Will all those in favor say aye?

16 COUNCIL: [AYE]

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay?

18 Any abstentions?

19 The ayes have it.

20 Resolution 624 designating July 8 annually as
21 Reggie "Combat Jack" Ossé Day in the City of New York
22 and honoring his multifaceted contributions to the
23 Hip Hop industry as a lawyer, executive, editor, and
24 podcaster, and if I can adlib, father to a council
25 member.

2 Will all those in favor please say aye?

3 COUNCIL: [AYE]

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay?

5 Any abstentions?

6 The ayes have it.

7 Resolution 645-A, designating June as Fatherhood
8 Recognition Month annually in the City of New York to
9 honor and support the contributions of fathers to
10 family and community life.

11 Will all those in favor please say aye?

12 COUNCIL: [AYE]

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed say nay?

14 Any abstentions?

15 The ayes have it.

16 We will now move into General Discussions. We
17 will first hear from Council Member Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you much.

19 First before I get into my discussion, I want you
20 all to give me a hand clap, my fifth grandchild was
21 born, little Sarafina.

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 Sarafina is her name. So, you know, Inez is so
24 happy and don't count this against my time, because I
25 have some other stuff to say... (CROSS-TALK)

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: It all counts, my friend.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh, well, then extend my
4 time at the end. But the bottom line is that we are
5 so happy; this is our fifth grandchild.

6 I rise today to make sure that this grandchild
7 has help when they finish working and retire. So, I
8 want to make sure that we do that. I am putting
9 forth a bill today, introducing a bill, that will
10 give our retirees a choice, it will give them a
11 choice to say, "I might want to keep my senior care,
12 and if you're going to give us any other care, it has
13 to be equal to what I have or even better." So,
14 right now, we are putting forth that bill.

15 And I just want to clarify on some
16 disinformation, the Medicare Advantage under Aetna,
17 is unacceptable to our retirees for several reasons:
18 One, you have to pay co-payments; two... by the way,
19 you won't be taking away from collective bargaining
20 agreements, that's a bunch of nonsense... Two, we'll
21 able to have choices, so that when they end their
22 continued living care, that they will be able to use
23 that, because Medicare Advantage is not accepted in
24 many places, so we don't want to go from not paying
25 premiums, not paying co-payments, being accepted

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everywhere, having a broad base of services provided, not some superficial stuff to make it look like you have something.

So, I think the union leadership has been irresponsible to their rank and file members by saying that this bill is bad. This is a good bill. And it is the irresponsibility of the union leadership to say that they will co-partner with Aetna! Aetna? Aetna doesn't allow unionization! Since when do unions partner [TIMER CHIMES] with people who don't provide unionization? At Aetna every Black leader that is supporting Aetna, shame on you! They ensured Black people who were enslaved for the slave holder. They owes reparations. They admitted it, apologized, but said they're not giving any reparations.

And I will just end with this, just to council members that supported us, I want to thank Council Member Lynn Schulman, who supported us, and I want to also thank Council Member Marte, Council Member Lee, Council Member Avilés, Council Member Vernikov, and so many others who are onboard now. And I would like for you all to get on board and... (CROSS-TALK)

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
3 Member.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: and support this. Don't be
5 fearful.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council
7 Member.

8 We will now go to Council Member Brewer, followed
9 by Council Member Hanif.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you, I will just
11 bring to your attention Introduction 1100, which
12 would talk about... which talks about composting
13 plant waste in parks. Some parks already do that.
14 This would talk specifically about the larger parks,
15 where they would be mandated under this bill to do
16 composting. Right now, unfortunately, in some of the
17 parks, particularly the larger ones, a lot of the
18 compost goes to the landfill. So, I hope you support
19 that.

20 I want to say something else, I know we have a
21 journalist in the room named Tom Robins. He is very
22 special to me, because when I was in the Council
23 before, he and other journalists, Jack Newfield and
24 others, stood over me and said, "Do not vote for an
25 extension of this City Council. Keep it to eight

1 years and not twelve years." Of course, in the end,
2 it was twelve years, but I vote for eight years,
3 because of Tom Robins. Thank you very much.
4

5 [APPLAUSE]

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 We will now hear from Council Member Hanif,
8 followed by Council Member Farías.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

10 I want to extend my gratitude to Council Member
11 Barron and my other colleagues introducing
12 Introduction 1099. Our municipal retirees served our
13 City honorably throughout their careers. We owe it
14 to them to maintain the healthcare coverage they were
15 promised. I am excited to be joining this bill as a
16 sponsor.

17 I also want to express my support for Council
18 Member Ossé's Fair Act. Tenants across the City are
19 struggling, and the shameful stabilized rent
20 increases approved by The Mayor's Board, will make
21 the affordability crisis worse. This bill provide
22 them with some much needed relief. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
24 hear from Council Member Farías, followed by Council
25 Member Ossé.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Majority
3 Leader.

4 Today we have my bill, Introduction 1101, in
5 conjunction with Council Member Williams'
6 Introduction 1118, which would require the Department
7 of Citywide Administrative Services, in consultation
8 with the Office of Racial Equity and the Commission
9 on Human Rights, to create an anti-racism and anti-
10 racial discrimination training for agency employees.
11 Each employee of the City would be required to
12 complete such training at least once per year.

13 Last year, New Yorkers across the City
14 overwhelming voted for our City Charter to include
15 racial justice measures that require us, the City of
16 New York, to continually work at and be held
17 accountable for upholding and actualizing anti-racism
18 and anti-bias as core government responsibilities and
19 functions.

20 This introduction acts on what hundreds of
21 thousands of New Yorkers voted on and advocated for
22 by codifying structural change into our City
23 agencies, who are the most outward facing, such as
24 our Human Service contractors.

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2 If history is our guide, it is our goal that it
3 is attainable only if we strive to change not only
4 the law, but the attitudes, beliefs, and the
5 individual and collective consciousness of those
6 persons now mandated to uphold it.

7 Every day, New Yorkers are impacted by the
8 decisions and work of public servants. That is why
9 we need to support all of our City workers to be
10 equipped with a deep understanding and bias, which in
11 turn will help our workers perform their duties
12 without intentionally and/or unintentionally
13 discriminating and perpetuating racism.

14 We need to lead from the front and show New
15 Yorkers across the City what it means to be truly
16 anti-racist. I urge all of you in this room to sign
17 on to this critical piece of legislation, thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will hear
19 from Council Member Ossé, followed by Council Member
20 Sanchez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Majority Leader.

22 Today I introduce a bill co-prime sponsored by
23 Council Member Abreu and Council Member Feliz. The
24 Fairness and Apartment Rental Expenses or Fair Act.
25 Currently, tenants often pay broker fees totaling

1 thousands of dollars when moving into a new rental
2 even if they did not hire the broker. This is often
3 prohibitively expensive and it doesn't make sense.
4 Growing families that need an extra bedroom, young
5 New Yorkers graduating out of their parent(s)'
6 houses, voucher holders with nowhere to run, single
7 mothers on a fixed income, or folks just moving to a
8 new neighborhood should not be held down by fees for
9 a service they simply did not pay for (*TRANSCRIBER'S
10 NOTE: hire). This is not revolutionary; this bill is
11 simple. It is common sense and it's fair. New York
12 is the only major city in which tenants pay this fee
13 for a service they did not hire.

14 Under the Fair Act, the one who hires is the one
15 who pays. It's easy. It is a little surprising that
16 this is not already the case, but it is time to catch
17 up with the rest of the country. Let's be clear,
18 this bill does not cap broker fees in any way. Any
19 fees that would be charged before would still be
20 charged. Any services previously provided will
21 continue to be provided. The only change would be
22 that the hiring party pays for the services they
23 contract. If a renter hires a broker to find a new
24 home, the renter will pay for the service. If a
25

1
2 landlord hires a broker to help them find a new
3 tenant, the landlord will pay for the service.

4 I urge all of my colleagues to sign on to this
5 common sense bill mandating that people pay for
6 services they hire, and do not pay for services that
7 they do not hire, thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
9 hear from Council Member Sanchez, followed by Council
10 Member Hanks.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority
12 Leader.

13 Colleagues, a 2017 wage theft study by the
14 Economic Policy Institute found that 32% of New
15 York's construction workers earn wages that were not
16 paid. It is the highest share out of any industry
17 surveyed through the state and impacting our city.

18 In 2017, an estimated 12.6% to 21 % of
19 construction workers were either misclassified or
20 working off the books. The groups that are
21 susceptible to this wage theft are, of course, most
22 likely to be Black and Latino workers, undocumented
23 persons, and un-usually low-wage workers.

24 And, so, today, I am introducing Introduction
25 1117, which would require the Department of Consumer

2 and Worker Protection to develop information
3 regarding prevention of wage theft, and require
4 construction sites to post information on how to file
5 wage theft complaints to the State Department of
6 Labor and the New York State Attorney General - and
7 to do so in multiple languages.

8 Introduction 1117 builds on recently passed state
9 legislation that strengthens wage theft protections
10 by ensuring workers are made aware of their rights --
11 how exactly they can file complaints with the State
12 Department of Labor and the New York State Attorney
13 General.

14 With this, I just urge you all to join in this
15 legislation to protect our construction workers,
16 thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now go
18 to Council Member Hanks.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you, Majority Leader
20 Powers.

21 I am proud to be a co-prime sponsor of
22 Introduction 1098, which is being introduced today
23 with my fabulous colleague, Council Member Shaun
24 Abreu, along with others.

1 This bill will make meaningful strives in keeping
2
3 our community safe by developing and distributing
4 materials about the risks of keeping a gun in the
5 home, and gun buyback programs, and best practices
6 protocols for maintaining safety.

7 As the Chair on The Committee on Public Safety,
8 saving lives is my priority, and I am confident this
9 bill in fact help save the lives of our City, thank
10 you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. I want to
12 call on Council Member Velázquez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Thank you, Mr. Majority
14 Leader.

15 I would like to ask for unanimous consent to be
16 able to vote on all items on today's agenda?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Do we have any
18 objections? Seeing none, you can go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: I would vote aye with
20 the exception of 561-B, which I abstain, 588-A, which
21 I abstain, and then, there's just one more that I am
22 a no... which I cannot find the number, but if I
23 tell you, you can tell me? And that's it, thank you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, do we have any
25 one else signed up to speak on General Discussion?

1 Okay, thank you, we will just wait for the
2
3 revised vote count.

4 Okay, all items on today's General Order Calendar
5 are adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in
6 the negative, and 0 abstentions; with the exception
7 of Introduction 591-B, adopted by a vote of 41 in the
8 affirmative, 6 in the negative, and 1 abstention;
9 Resolution 88, adopted by a vote of 38 in the
10 affirmative, 2 in the negative 8 abstentions;
11 Resolution 690 through 693 are adopted by a vote of
12 47 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, and 0
13 abstentions; Introduction 1102-A is adopted by a vote
14 of 47 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 2
15 abstentions; and Introduction 1001-B is adopted by a
16 vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and
17 1 abstention.

18 We will now call in Speaker Adrienne Adams to
19 close out today's Stated Meeting.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, I would like to
21 acknowledge, before we leave, that several of my
22 staff members from my district office, in the Great
23 28, were here today to watch us do our work.
24 Welcome, District 28!

2 The Stated Meeting of June 22, 2023 is hereby...

3 (CROSS-TALK)

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Wait, hold on one second,
5 hold on, hold on... (CROSS-TALK)

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Not adjourned....

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Hold on. Sorry.

8 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Just so close, my friend.

10 Okay, quiet in the Chambers, please.

11 We are going to do a revised vote here,
12 Resolution 88, adopted by a vote of 39 in the
13 affirmative, 2 in the negative, and 8 abstentions;
14 and Resolution 588-A is adopted by a vote of 48 in
15 the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 1 abstention.

16 We are going to stand in recess for one second.

17 **(*TRANSCRIBER'S NOTE)**

18 VOTE REVISION:

19 Introduction 561-B = 42 affirmative, 6 negative,
20 1 abstention.

21 Resolution 88 = 40 affirmative, 2 negative, 7
22 abstentions.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I will now call on
24 Speaker Adrienne Adams.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

This Council stands in recess. Thank you very
much.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date July 6, 2023