

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

----- X

NOVEMBER 10, 2015
Start: 1:48 P.M.
Recess: 3:05 P.M.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: LATISHA JAMES
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
SPEAKER FOR THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARIA DEL CARMEN ARROYO
INEZ D. BARRON
MARGARET S. CHIN
ANDREW COHEN
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY
LAURIE A. CUMBO
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH
DANIEL DROMM
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.
MATHIEU EUGENE
JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND
DANIEL R. GARODNICK

VINCENT J. GENTILE
VANESSA L. GIBSON
DAVID G. GREENFIELD
COREY D. JOHNSON
BEN KALLOS
PETER A. KOO
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
RORY I. LANCMAN
BRAD S. LANDER
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
MARK LEVINE
ALAN N. MAISEL
STEVEN MATTEO
CARLOS MENCHACA
I. DANEEK MILLER
ANTONIO REYNOSO
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ
DEBORAH L. ROSE
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
RITCHIE J. TORRES
MARK TREGYER
ERIC A. ULRICH
JAMES VACCA
PAUL A. VALLONE
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
RUBEN WILLS

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

1 STATED MEETING

4

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen
3 can I have your attention please, can I please have
4 your attention at this time. Quiet on the floor
5 please. All Council Members please have a seat so we
6 can have a head counts. At this time please place
7 all electronic devices to vibrate. Will all non-
8 council employees, non-council employees, please
9 leave the main floor of the Chambers. You can have a
10 seat upstairs in the balcony. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise for the
12 Color Guard please. Please join me in the pledge of
13 allegiance.

14 [Pledge of Allegiance]

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated,
16 roll call.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron. Cabrera.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here.

1 STATED MEETING

5

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo. Deutsch. Dickens.

5 Dromm.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras-

10 Copeland.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Here.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron:

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson. Greenfield.

19 Johnson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Here.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: King. Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

1 STATED MEETING

6

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin. Levine. Maisel.

8 Mealy. Menchaca.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presento

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez. Miller.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma. Reynoso.

13 Richards.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres. Cumbo.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich. Vacca.

1 STATED MEETING

7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer. Speaker

14 Mark-Viverito.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Here.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quite in the
17 Chambers all rise for the invocation. It will be
18 delivered by Pandit Tillack Seerattan, Shri Devi
19 Mandir, 92-30 173rd Street in Jamaica, New York.
20 Quiet in the Chambers.

21 PANDIT TILLAACK SEERATTAN: Good
22 afternoon (inaudible) shall we bow our heads in
23 prayers. Oh lord lead us from untruth to truth, lead
24 us from darkness to light, lead us from death to
25 immortality, oh lord let us be safe together, let us

1 STATED MEETING

8

2 be rare together, lets us be united together, let
3 there be peace among us. We ask you in the prayer or
4 lord to make us an instrument of your peace. Where
5 there is hatred, let there be love. Where there is
6 doubt, let there be faith. Where there is darkness,
7 let there be light. Where there is ignorance, let
8 there be wisdom. Bless our leaders oh lord. Let if
9 they cannot do great things, let them do small things
10 in great ways. We pray today and we ask you oh lord
11 to bless this meeting so our great leaders be sincere
12 in their efforts to help others in need. As we bow
13 our heads today and we pray that oh lord that you are
14 the lord of eternity. Help us look to the past with
15 gratitude and to the future with hope. Bless us so
16 that our lives may be dedicated to high purposes and
17 grant us peace; make us unafraid of hopes and dreams.
18 Teach us to be realistic about our limitations.
19 Teach us oh lord to use our freedom to help to
20 preserve and strengthen the freedom of all. To you
21 oh lord we bow our heads again and again oh shantie,
22 shantie, shantie. May there be peace, peace, peace
23 in the world. Thank you. Amen.

24

25

1 STATED MEETING

9

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

3 Motion to spread the invocation Council Member
4 Miller. Quiet in the Chamber.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you madam
6 public advocate, I make a motion to spread the
7 invocation in full upon the record. It is an honor
8 to have Pandit Tillack Seerattan representing the
9 Shri Devi Mandir in the Jamaica area.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me Council
11 member, one second sshhh, please quiet in the
12 Chambers. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you madam
14 public advocate who represent the Jamaica area for
15 the past 20 year he has lead the congregation off of
16 Jamaica Avenue, which was once taught by his father.
17 Tillack, Pandit Tillack works closely with many
18 charitable organization and not for profits
19 internationally as well as locally in the Jamaica
20 area. Has given, has worked with many humanitarian
21 organization at home and abroad and has done much to
22 help the Jamaica community and it is my privilege and
23 honor to have him deliver the invocation today. Let
24 me also take a point of privilege her and note that
25 this week throughout the world millions of Hindus,

1 STATED MEETING 10

2 Jans and Seeks will celebrate Diwali Festival. The
3 Festival of the lights, the significate of the Diwali
4 Festival amongst the religion is a triumph of good
5 over evil and the New Year begins and I want to wish
6 everyone a Happy Diwali, a Happy New Year. To all
7 the families that are celebrating here tonight. I
8 would also like to take a point of privilege to
9 introduce and welcome Ms. Cara Condoza (sic) the new
10 student body government president of PS15 in Jamaica,
11 Queens and her Teacher this afternoon. So thank you
12 so much.

13 [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: One heck of a
15 debater.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you and
17 welcome her to the Chamber. Adoption of minutes
18 Council Member Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you madam
20 public advocate. I would like to make a motion that
21 the minutes of the Stated Meeting of October 15, 2015
22 be adopted as printed.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and
24 papers from the Mayor.

25

1 STATED MEETING 11

2 CLERK: M346 Industrial and Commercial
3 Abatement Program.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received order
5 printed and filed.

6 CLERK: M347 Submitting Janet Alvarez for
7 appointment to the Tax Commission.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
9 and Elections.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication from
11 City County and Borough Offices.

12 CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
14 communications.

15 CLERK: None.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use call-ups,
17 quiet in the Chambers.

18 CLERK: M348 and M349.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on call a
20 vote and I asked for roll call.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

1 STATED MEETING

12

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

1 STATED MEETING

13

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: King.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote Aye on Land

19 Use Call-Ups and request permission to vote on all
20 coupled general orders.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, I vote
23 aye on all.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

1 STATED MEETING

15

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote Aye and I

7 ask permission to vote on all general order calendar
8 items.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote Aye on all.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Williams.

16 Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, present.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: How do you vote.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Oh, yes.

1 STATED MEETING

16

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's Land Use
8 call-ups are adopted by a vote of 39 in the
9 affirmative and 0 in the negative, quiet in the
10 Chambers please. Quiet in the Chambers. As we here
11 from the speaker Melissa Mark Viverito.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you and
13 Madam Public Advocate and good afternoon. Buenos
14 tardes. I first want to thank so much the Fort
15 Hamilton US Marine Corp Color Guard for that
16 beautiful presentation.

17 [applause]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: On the eve of
19 Veterans Day and adopting our legislation making the
20 Department of Veterans affairs official. But I want
21 to begin today by asking my colleagues just to rise
22 for a moment of recognition. This... this Thursday is
23 the 14th anniversary of flight 587 and the crash that
24 occurred. A flight out of John F. Kennedy Airport
25 headed for the Dominican Republic crashed into Bel

1 STATED MEETING

17

2 Harbor Queens shortly after takeoff. The crash
3 killed all 260 people on board as well as 5 people on
4 the ground. That is something that is recognized
5 every year. Definitely just wanted us here in this
6 Chamber to join in a brief moment of silence.

7 [silence]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you my
9 colleagues. I also want to acknowledge that we have
10 two Council Members elect that have joined us here
11 today. Joe Barelli (sic) and Barry Gordincheck
12 (sic).

13 [applause]

14 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: They'll be
15 joining us in this Chamber soon, so welcome here
16 today. So today we're going to voting on
17 legislation.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
19 Chambers please, quiet in the Chambers including
20 Council Member elects.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right today
22 we're going to be voting on legislation to adjust the
23 interest rate for unpaid charges owed by landlords
24 for emergency repairs. The current rate owed for
25 unpaid charges is 7% which is generally lower than

1 STATED MEETING

18

2 the rate of interest for non-payment of real property
3 taxes. This bill will change that so that unpaid
4 charges for emergency repairs accrue interest at a
5 rate that matches the amount adopted by the Council
6 in each fiscal year for non-payment of real property
7 taxes. This will better allow the City to recover
8 money it spends doing emergency repairs. This
9 interest rate has not been updated since 1974. Over
10 40 years ago. And it's time to make this change in
11 order to hold landlords accountable for the property
12 they rent and incentivize them to make timely
13 repairs. I want to thank Jen Wilcox, Malaika Jabali,
14 Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde, Sarah Gastelum and ask
15 Council Member Williams the lead sponsor to say a few
16 words.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to
18 thank the Speaker, Rebecca Chasim (sic) who drafted
19 the bill and the entire legislative division for
20 helping us pass Int. No. 783-A which incentivizes
21 property owners to conduct, remedy immediately
22 hazards conditions in the building. Right now under
23 the HPDs emergency repairs program commonly called
24 ERP, the City foots the bill for repairs when
25 immediately hazardous conditions are not cured on

1 STATED MEETING

19

2 timely manner. The current rate is 7% and has not
3 been updated since 1974 and is lower than the rate
4 for unpaid property taxes by matching the ERP
5 interest rate with the rate for unpaid property taxes
6 the City is taking a huge step in incentivizing those
7 bad acting landlords who fail to cure immediately
8 hazardous condition in a timely manner to complete
9 the repairs in protecting New Yorker quality of life.
10 Under the bill the rate would increase between 7% to
11 9% for property accessed, up to 250,000 and up to 18%
12 for properties over 250,000. I was very happy that I
13 understood this from the work that I did in
14 organizing tenants the importance of this and this
15 legislation is not to get money into the City
16 (inaudible)but it is to really incentify landlords to
17 make the repairs if the interest rate is too low than
18 they can do it just as a matter of business and a
19 matter of course there is too much time often between
20 an emergency situation that has to be fixed until the
21 HPD can come in and fix it. My hope is that with
22 this increase which is on par with something that we
23 already have, it will incentivify landlords to go
24 ahead and make the repairs sooner rather than later.
25 Again I want to thank the Speaker and Council Member

1 STATED MEETING

20

2 Wills and Rosenthal who co-sponsored the legislation.
3 Look forward to making this much needed improvement
4 to the emergency repair program and hopefully
5 benefits tenants across the City.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
7 Member. Additionally going to be voting on
8 legislation to create an Office of Labor Standards in
9 New York City. In recent years the Council has been
10 hard at work passing legislation to improve the lives
11 of New Yorkers such as paid sick leave for working
12 New Yorkers in transit benefits for commuters. This
13 office will be responsible for administering these
14 laws and others. Additionally this office will study
15 and make recommendations for worker education, safety
16 and protection, educate employers on labor laws,
17 create public education campaigns regarding worker
18 rights and collect and analyze labor statistics.
19 This is something I first proposed during my State of
20 the City address in January because hard working New
21 Yorkers deserve an office dedicated to ensuring that
22 all their rights are being protected. I'm grateful
23 to all my colleagues who are supporting this
24 legislation and very proud that were going to be
25 voting on it today. I want to thank Mike Carlin

1 STATED MEETING

21

2 (sic), Afar Zalof (sic), Terzen Alzar (sic) and Lyle
3 Frank (sic) for working on this legislation. And
4 finally were voting a bill to create a New York City
5 Department of Veteran Services. While in Office of
6 Veteran Affairs, yes.

7 [applause]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: While in Office
9 of Veteran Affairs currently exist within the Mayor's
10 office; this bill will replace it with a full
11 department dedicated to serving New Yorkers who are
12 members of the armed services, veterans and their
13 families. The department will focus on providing
14 them with access to among other services, educational
15 training and re-training services and facilities,
16 health, medical and rehabilitation services and
17 facilities, information on provisions of federal,
18 state and local laws and regulations giving special
19 rights and privileges to members of the armed forces,
20 veterans and their families. An employment and re-
21 employment services. The Mayor will appoint a
22 Commissioner to lead this department and the 11
23 member veteran's advisory board, an appointed group
24 of veterans from across the City would advise the
25 Commissioner on all of these matters. New York City

2 is home to over 225,000 veterans who have bravely and
3 selflessly served the United States. Our veteran's
4 communities spends generations. They are young men
5 and woman who went to Europe and the Pacific during
6 World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War. All
7 the way up to the young men and women who help to
8 rebuild our City after 911 or went to Iraq in
9 Afghanistan. Indeed we must remember that we still
10 have young men and women in harms ways in both those
11 countries. Those wars are not over. And when these
12 young men and women come home they sometimes face a
13 difficult transition to civilian life. Jobs, housing
14 and healthcare are too often unnecessarily difficult
15 to obtain. And the troubling high suicide rate among
16 our veteran community shows that government has not
17 stepped up as it should. We need to do better. When
18 they come home we must ensure they get the healthcare
19 they are entitled to. That they have access to
20 employment and they are housed. We can't allow
21 ourselves to repeat the mistakes of the past. We
22 can't allow a generation of young men and women to
23 slip through the cracks. And we can't become
24 complacent to window dressed problems when they are
25 structural and deep seeded. We've seen in Washington

2 with the VA what happen when don't pay close
3 attention to our veteran's community. And it takes
4 more than just words it takes action and that is what
5 this council is doing today. Whether it's this new
6 department or the Council veteran's initiative, the
7 Council is sending a simple message to our veterans.
8 We have your backs. New York can and should service
9 as a model for how we care for our veterans. New
10 York City must lead and today I proud to say that we
11 are. We all know that tomorrow is Veterans Day and
12 it's a day we celebrate all of our veterans across
13 the five Boroughs and across the Country. And this
14 department is for them. It will be a one stop shop
15 for the City large and diverse veteran's community.
16 It will be for people like my father and my
17 grandfather who are veterans. For me this agency is
18 dedicated to him and to them to all of our veterans.
19 For others it will be dedicated to their sisters,
20 mothers, father, uncles, aunts, grandparents or
21 friends who answered the call. It's a reminder of
22 our solemn commitment to our veterans of the compact
23 we must keep with them. And of our relentless drive
24 as a City to take care of our own that no one should
25 be forgotten or left out in New York City, no one.

1 STATED MEETING

24

2 So this is a great day for New York City, I want to
3 thank all of my colleagues for their support and
4 especially to thank the leadership and advocacy in
5 steadfastness of veterans affairs Committee Chair
6 Eric Aldridge for all of his leadership on this
7 issue.

8 [applause]

9 SPEAKER MARK VIVERITO: On the staff side
10 I want to thank Eric Bernstein (sic), Michael Curtz
11 (sic), Terzen Alzar (sic) and Lyle Frank (sic) and
12 I'll ask Council Member Aldridge to say a few words
13 and then ask Council Member (sic) to also say a few
14 words after Council Member Aldridge.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDRIDGE: Thank you Madam
16 Speaker, thank you so much. Veterans are such an
17 important part of the fabric of our City. They live
18 in every Borough and every district and every
19 community throughout the City and we represent 1,000s
20 of them as the Speaker mentioned. We have over
21 225,000 veterans that live in New York. We have more
22 veterans in New York City than some states have in
23 their entire State. And so it's only appropriate
24 that we have a dedicated City agency that empowers
25 those veterans and assist those groups that are

1 STATED MEETING

25

2 serving veterans so that we can pay proper tribute to
3 the sacrifices that are veterans have made on our
4 behalf. And yes to tomorrow is Veterans Day and I
5 can't think of a better way to honor the service and
6 the sacrifices of all of our veterans from every
7 conflict, from every background, from every community
8 than by passing this bill today. And this has been a
9 very very long process and I know that I drove a lot
10 of people crazy over the past 1 ½ pushing this piece
11 of legislation but I fundamentally believe that it
12 was the right thing to do and I want to see New York
13 lead the Country, lead the Nation once again in being
14 a veteran friendly City and doing right by those who
15 have answered the call to duty and so I want to thank
16 a few people. Let me start with the Speaker of the
17 Council Melissa Mark-Viverito for standing by me and
18 I think that they're a lot of forces that play but
19 certainly this is another example of the Speaker
20 standing by her members, not only me but the 45 co-
21 sponsors of this bill who belie that it was the right
22 thing to do and I want to thank her for standing with
23 me. I want to thank Council Member Paul Valone, my
24 prime co-sponsor of the bill. He and I made sure
25 that this was a bi-partisan piece of legislation.

1 STATED MEETING

26

2 God help it if it wasn't they'd be only 3 co-sponsors
3 of the bill. It a been me, Barrelli (sic) and my
4 good friend Steve Matteo but thankfully we had broad
5 bi-partisan support and accounts. I want to thank
6 the members of the Veterans Committee, Council Member
7 Vallone, Council Member Meizel, Council Member Cohen
8 and who else and I forgetting, who is the 5th,
9 Cabrera who is not, is he here? He's not, he might
10 be in Puerto Rico, I don't know where he is but I
11 want to thank him too. Well I called him yesterday
12 he said he was still there, anyway so anyway, I want
13 to thank the public advocate Tish James who is a very
14 early and vocal champion of this bill and she really
15 helped us get it over the finish line. Mayor De
16 Blasio, I want to thank Mayor De Blasio and
17 Commissioner Laura Sutton for their help in crafting
18 the final version of this bill and I look forward to
19 the day when I can stand next to the Mayor and the
20 Commissioner and many of my colleagues when this bill
21 is signed into law. That will be a great day not
22 only for veterans but for all New Yorkers, so I want
23 to thank Mayor De Blasio and I know that this issue
24 is deeply personal to the Mayor. His father was a
25 veteran who was wounded in the battle of Okinawa

1 STATED MEETING

27

2 (sic), he cares very deeply about veterans and he has
3 made ending veterans homelessness a priority in this
4 City and I want him to know and especially in this
5 chamber that I appreciate his support and his help
6 with this bill. The staff deserves a heck of a lot of
7 the credit here. Eric Bernstein the Committee
8 Council can you give him a round of applause.

9 [applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDRIDGE: And our newly
11 hired Policy Analyst Michael Curtz, they work very
12 closely together with Laura Popa (sic), John Russell
13 and Roman Martinez to get us to this moment. I drove
14 them all insane, I text them and email them and
15 called them and visited them and but they knew that I
16 was doing this because I thought it was the right
17 thing to do and they were very very helpful. We have
18 the finest staff out of any. I would put our staff
19 against any other staffer and other legislative body,
20 I think the New York City Council has the best
21 central staff out of any of them and I want to thank
22 them for that. So thank you staff and also Greg
23 Mitchum, my Legislative Director, my right hand man
24 who is instrumental in a lot of what we're doing
25 today and Redman Haskins (sic) who no longer works

1 STATED MEETING

28

2 for the Council, he works for lobbying firm but he
3 started this along with the advocates Paul Ricoff
4 (sic), John Rowenfag Long (sic), Joe Bello (sic),
5 Christen Rouse (sic) and so many others getting us to
6 this point. This was a great example of the
7 advocates, the Council, the administration working
8 together passing what I believe to be the most
9 meaningful piece of veteran's legislation that we've
10 ever passed in the history of the New York City
11 Council. But we are leading the way. The New York
12 City Council once again in honoring the service and
13 the sacrifices of our veterans and again it couldn't
14 have come at a better time. I want to thank all of
15 my colleagues. I know how much you care about
16 veteran's issues as much as I do. I know how much
17 this means to you but just think how much this means
18 to the hundreds of thousands and tens of thousands of
19 veterans who will be lining the streets tomorrow to
20 salute our heroes. This bill belongs to them and
21 this is going to have a profound impact on how we
22 serve veterans for the next generation so thank you
23 very much. Thank you.

24 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
25 Member Aldridge. Council Member Palvalone.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALVALONE: Right here
3 Madam Speaker. I... I couldn't be more proud to stand
4 today and I thank Council Member Orick (sic) our
5 Chair of Veterans set it all for us. Can you imagine
6 the legacy we are leaving behind now? It doesn't
7 matter who sits in these chambers, who sits in the
8 Mayor's office, there will be a Department of
9 Veterans Affairs now and that is such amazing legacy
10 to leave for the over 200,000 veterans that deserve
11 that and so much more. And for every one of us that
12 has heard testimony at the veterans committee
13 hearings to see the veterans come before us and tell
14 us what their stories are and what they have
15 sacrificed for us. This is a very small step in the
16 process of what they deserve at the very least and it
17 is as a Council Member Orick said a historic day on
18 the eve of veterans day, what better day when we
19 prepare to March up 50th Avenue with our veterans to
20 say thank you for all that you've done for us, our
21 families, for our children, for our Country to now
22 have an agency they call their own and we can have
23 oversight that we can have budgetary control over,
24 that we can have accountability for once and that is
25 a tremendous testament to our Speaker for allowing us

1 STATED MEETING

30

2 to do this process to gain the votes and take this
3 today. Thank you madam Speaker and thank you Chair
4 Orrick.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you Council
6 Member and that ends all communication from the
7 Speaker.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
9 Discussion of general orders. Seeing none, report of
10 special committees.

11 CLERK: None.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
13 standing committees.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil
15 Service and Labor Int. No. 7403-A, Office of Labor
16 Standards.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
18 coupled on general orders.

19 CLERK: Report on the Committee on
20 Housing and Buildings Int. No. 783-A, HPD emergency
21 repairs.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
23 coupled on general orders.

24

25

1 STATED MEETING 31

2 CLERK: Report on the Committee on Land
3 Use LU-290 and Resolution 905 through LU-292 and
4 Resolution 907 varies UDAPTS.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on general
6 orders.

7 CLERK: Report on the Committee of
8 Veterans Int. No. 314-A, Department of Veterans
9 Services.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
11 coupled on general orders.

12 CLERK: On the general order calendar
13 resolution appointing varies persons, Commissioner of
14 Deeds.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
16 general orders and at this time I ask for roll call
17 on all items on the coupled general order calendar.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Congratulation to
22 all the sponsors, aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
25 explain my vote. First of all I wanted to thank the

1 STATED MEETING

32

2 Speaker, Council Member Aldridge with Council Member
3 Vallone for helping to set up passing the law for the
4 Veteran Department. And I think that for the
5 American Legion Lieutenant Kim Lause, Chinese
6 Memorial Post in my district they were lobbying for
7 this, they were advocating for this. I think that
8 they're very proud that in the City Council their we
9 are able to accomplish them, accomplish this for them
10 and for all the veterans in New York City. So I want
11 to thank you for your leadership and I proudly vote
12 aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madam

17 Public Advocate may I be allowed to vote not only aye
18 on today's matters but also Land Use call ups?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye
21 and a quick congratulation to the Speaker, Council
22 Member Aldridge and Vallone as well for passing this
23 landmark veterans legislation. I vote aye.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy.

1 STATED MEETING

33

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to
3 explain my vote.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I just want to
6 congratulate my colleagues on this very meaningful
7 piece of legislation and there are thousands and
8 thousands of veterans who will be so grateful for the
9 time and energy and effort that you put in to make
10 their lives just a little better, do the right
11 services being allocated to them and with that I vote
12 aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye and
15 also congratulation to Council Member Orrick and
16 Council Member Vallone. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
19 explain my vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I would like to
22 congratulate Council Members Aldridge and Vallone on
23 Int. No. 314-A, I believe that this bill will improve
24 our City's capacity to respond to the needs of our
25 veterans by centralizing the services that they

1 STATED MEETING

34

2 deserve. This is long overdue and this is a major
3 victory for New York City as well as our veterans. I
4 would also like to congratulate Speaker Melissa Mark-
5 Viverito and Council Member Lancman, Johnson, Levin,
6 Ferraras and Miller on passing Int. No. 743-A which
7 will establish an Office of Labor Standards to
8 enforce the earned sick time act. This is critical
9 legislation and it's certainly going to improve New
10 York City on so many levels. And lastly I would like
11 to acknowledge my staff Drew Gabriel (sic) and
12 Matthew Pitt for their work on Land Use item 291
13 which address four buildings within my district.
14 This will be a ground breaking and the fact that
15 affordable housing is critical in our community and
16 this is going to play so many families that need
17 affordable housing within those homes very quickly
18 and due to the rising number of homeless New Yorkers,
19 it is critical that we preserve and create as many
20 affordable housing units as possible, practically in
21 the 35th district. And I want to thank my staff
22 members and I vote aye.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

25

1 STATED MEETING

35

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all and
3 all call ups.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dromm.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Eugene

9 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye and
10 congratulations to the Speaker, Chair Aldridge and
11 Council Member Vallone. I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras-Copeland

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote
14 aye and congratulate both my colleagues on this
15 amazing piece of legislation that working on and I
16 really appreciate that they had the foresight to do
17 this and thank this Speaker.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: It will be a
22 great veteran's day tomorrow because of what we do
23 here today so congratulation to colleagues Eric
24 Orrick and Paul Vallone and the Speaker. I vote aye
25 on all.

1 STATED MEETING

36

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
4 explain my vote.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you madam
7 Public Advocate. I too join all of my colleagues and
8 congratulating all of our colleagues for passage of a
9 bill to establish an Office of Labor Standards is
10 truly very important and certainly creating an office
11 of Veterans Affairs. Thank you to our Speaker, thank
12 you Council Member Aldridge, Council Member Vallone,
13 it is truly truly recognizing that our veterans have
14 given so much and recognizing and acknowledging their
15 sacrifices and this dedicated City agency will really
16 really go a long way in addressing a merit of issues
17 that our veterans face each and every day. On behalf
18 of all of my veterans in the Bronx and 16th district
19 and certainly my uncle Roger Gibson who is a Vietnam
20 War Vet, I'm so proud to cast my vote in the
21 affirmative on this bill because we must continue to
22 support our veterans past and present as well as
23 those future veterans in providing the critical
24 services that each of them needs. So I proudly vote
25 aye on all and thank you once again Madam Speaker,

1 STATED MEETING

37

2 Council Member Aldridge for all of your work and
3 Council Member Vallone and well, thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you may
6 I explain my vote madam Public Advocate?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you for
9 your generous permission. I first would like to
10 start and congratulate the Speaker on the creation of
11 the Office of Labor Standards as I recall was a
12 centerpiece of her stated city speech, glad to see
13 that it's coming into creation, know that it's an
14 important agency. I want to thank and congratulate
15 Council Member Williams on his legislation but most
16 importantly I'm going to reserve my time for Council
17 Member Eric Orrick, you may not know this because he
18 actually creating a new agency which means it's
19 bigger government but in fact Eric Orrick is a
20 republican and... and that just speaks to what an
21 outstanding accomplishment this is truly, truly that
22 a republican can pass a piece of legislation uphill
23 in this body and it's speaks as well to the... the
24 promise of reform that our Speaker has brought where
25 when members said they wanted to get something done,

1 STATED MEETING

38

2 we got it done and so I want to thank the Speaker, I
3 want to thank my republican big government new
4 bureaucracy colleague, Eric Orrick for creating an
5 agency that is going to help tens of thousands of
6 veterans in this City and I genuinely want to
7 congratulate him and I want to wish all a very happy
8 Veterans Day and I vote aye on all.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ORICK: You know with all
10 due respect truth be told.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I don't think
12 Council rules allow for rebuttals at this particular
13 juncture.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ORICK: Greenfield is
15 sometimes more of a republican than I am. I'm just
16 saying. I'm just saying.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: You take, you
18 take that bow tie of you're and lets meet outside
19 after class.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me your
21 out of order Council Member, Council Member, Council
22 Member. Go to the next Council Member.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Madam Public
25 Advocate may I explain my vote. A republican and

1 STATED MEETING

39

2 orthodox Jew and gay walk into a room, anyway. I... I
3 wanted to just congratulate Council Member Aldridge
4 and Council Member Vallone on this important piece of
5 legislation today. My stepfather who raised me since
6 I was three years old passed away a litter over three
7 years ago. He was 55 years old, he was a young man
8 he died of brain and lung cancer and he was a United
9 States Marine and a Vietnam Vet and beside how proud
10 he was of his family I think the other thing he was
11 most proud of was his service to this Country into
12 the Marine Corp he would always say Sempra Fi talking
13 about his own service and my biological father who I
14 did not have a chance to meet died a year ago and he
15 was born in Korea during the War to an American GI
16 that was stationed in Korea and a Korean woman and so
17 my own family has been deeply touched by people that
18 have given sacrifice and service to this nation. So
19 I am incredibly grateful that the speaker and Council
20 Member Aldridge and Vallone really fought hard to
21 make this happen. It really shows how important
22 veterans are for this Country and I lastly want to
23 end with this. You know sometimes we can get caught
24 in the big picture items of what's going on pushing
25 forward piece of legislation. I want to just tell

1 STATED MEETING

40

2 you a very very brief quick story. A block from me
3 is a nearly 75 year old homebound veteran who can no
4 longer walk and leave his apartment and requires a
5 lot of care. And he was having a lot of difficulty
6 with the bureaucracy with our City. And I told
7 Council Member Aldridge and the next day Council
8 Member Aldridge had a veterans advocate from legal
9 services show up at his apartment and sit with him
10 for 3 ½ hours to get his veterans benefits figured
11 out. I think that speaks to not just trying to push
12 this agency forward but also making sure that each
13 and every veteran in New York City is taken care of.
14 Congratulations, I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I like to just
20 dedicate my vote to my late grandfather and father
21 who are both veterans as well as all the veterans who
22 have given their lives for our Nation. This will be
23 indeed a great Veterans Day. I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

25

1 STATED MEETING

41

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye and I also want
3 to congratulate Council Member Vallone and Aldridge
4 for the passing of the bill. Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye and
7 may I explain my vote I want to congratulate Eric
8 Aldridge and Council Member Vallone. If my uncle
9 Charley was here today, he would be thanking you too.
10 He didn't die in the war but he did die at 90 years
11 old and he was a veteran so thank you very much and
12 I'd like welcome Barry Gradincik (sic) soon to be
13 Council Member and Mr. Barrelli (sic) soon to be
14 Council Member, welcome.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to
19 explain my vote.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you on
22 behalf of my father, Michael Levin retired US Marine
23 Corp, I proudly vote I and I congratulate Council
24 Member Aldridge and Vallone on this very important

25

1 STATED MEETING

42

2 bill. Thank you. And aye on all Land Use call ups
3 as well.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you Madam
6 Public Advocate, permission to very briefly explain
7 my vote.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: No jokes about
10 bipartisanship I promise, I must say this is the most
11 I've heard Council Member Aldridge speak in any
12 Stated Meeting, you're pretty good you should do it
13 more often. I do want to congratulate him and
14 Council Member Vallone for their legislative
15 achievement as well as the Speaker and Council Member
16 Lancman for correction of the Office and Labor
17 Standards and I'm proud to vote aye. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I
25 also want to dedicate my vote to my brother who had

1 STATED MEETING

43

2 two tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and really to the
3 countless now that will have new doors to walk
4 through with this new Veterans Department. We also
5 have to remember that immigrants were also apart of...
6 of a more recent war but throughout all the wars and
7 I look forward to working with this incredible
8 Council that had the vision through our Council
9 Member Erick Aldridge and Council Member Vallone. I
10 vote aye on all. Thank you.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I want to a first
14 congratulate all of today's sponsors on this very
15 important legislation and.. and the creation of two
16 new agencies that are going to benefit member of our
17 City so greatly and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Just want to a
21 congratulate Council Member Eric Orrick and Council
22 Member Vallone and there's still applications for
23 entrance into the progressive caucus so you let me
24 know if you want to join Eric but I want to vote aye
25 on all. Good job guys, it's really a good job.

1 STATED MEETING

44

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just will echo
4 Council Member Reynoso in saying that we are always
5 open to republicans joining the progressive caucus
6 and very grateful to Eric Aldridge for his leadership
7 in the particular area. Just around this time last
8 year I was hosting a veterans breakfast and many of
9 the veterans groups and organizations were asking
10 when is this particular piece of legislation going to
11 be passed and I'm very happy that we are now having a
12 breakfast again and we will be able to report to our
13 veterans that this piece of legislation has finally
14 passed so it's a huge victory for our veteran
15 community and I want to dedicate my vote to my
16 grandfather who served in the Armed Forces as well.
17 With that being said I vote aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Congratulation
20 to Aldridge and Vallone. I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to
23 explain my vote.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'd like to, I'd
25 like to congratulate council Members Orrick and

1 STATED MEETING

45

2 Vallone for leading to the creation of an agency that
3 will ensure that our veterans have access to the
4 services they so well earned and deserved. I want to
5 say I come from a military family, my father, brother
6 and sister having serviced and that it was great
7 having the Marine Corp Honor Guard here to lead us in
8 the pledge of allegiance and maybe it's something we
9 should do more often. Thank you. Oh aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rosenthal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all and
12 congratulation to my colleagues.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
17 explain my vote.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I'd like to
20 certainly first welcome our new colleagues Council
21 Members Barrelli and Gradincik, we welcome them and
22 congratulations to my colleagues on their bills and
23 to a to give credit to Councilmen Eric Orrick and
24 Council Member Paul Vallone. It is not just a
25 creation of this department that is important; it's

1 STATED MEETING

46

2 the context in which this was created. Councilmen
3 Orrick has been very vocal and very passionate about
4 the issue that we hear from our residence, we hear in
5 our City that we have veterans who have serviced this
6 County who are homeless. We have veterans who have
7 been denied critical care both for the physical
8 health and mental health. As someone my grandfather
9 (inaudible) in World War II, both my grandmothers
10 were holocaust survivors that were liberated and
11 freed by the American military and I will be forever
12 grateful. So our City and our Nation will untimely
13 be judged by how we treat those individuals that put
14 their lives on the line. And with that I give kudos
15 to this Council for a very big achievement and I vote
16 aye on all. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ulrich.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
19 except 783-A and I want to say a happy birthday to
20 the marines, my brother is a marine, he headed back
21 to Camp Penaltion and to all our veterans again.
22 Thank you, god bless you and keep you safe, thank
23 you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vallone

25

1 STATED MEETING

47

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Proudly vote aye
3 on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I excuse my
6 vote.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I want to say
9 congratulations to the Speaker on getting the Office
10 of Labor and Standards and again congratulate her for
11 leadership on the veteran's bill as well as Council
12 Member Vallone on his leadership even though Council
13 Member Aldridge just voted no on my bill. I still
14 want to say congratulations to him. This is
15 fantastic, I know the feeling, it's unbelievable you
16 have created a new department, it very rare that you
17 get to leave a government having created something so
18 macnaomus and I know tomorrow some people may be
19 tempted to discuss the politics of specific wars but
20 when I think about veterans day and think about what
21 we've done here today, it's not about that all, it's
22 about men and women who have signed up to an
23 agreement they believe they would have by risking
24 their life and going where government told them to go
25 on behalf of this nation and in exchange for that

1 STATED MEETING

48

2 they would be taken care of. We have unfortunately
3 woefully disappointed them. There are too many
4 homeless, too many others who... who are dying, who
5 cannot get medical attention simply because we are
6 not holding up our end of the bargain so anything
7 that we can do, to do that we should and that's why I
8 proudly vote aye. There's a lot more that needs to
9 be done, this is the beginning not the end but to get
10 there we have to start somewhere and I believe that's
11 what we're doing today. I also want to congratulate
12 my new Council Members Gradincik and Barrelli for
13 those who remember we had a, we had a wonderful
14 twitter conversation a few months back, looking
15 forward to more spirited debates as we move forward.
16 Congratulations and I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Wills.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: May I have a
19 moment to explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I want to thank
22 Council Member Aldridge and Vallone not just for
23 being two shining stars in between Queens delegation,
24 Jumaane that pushed this legislation but also to
25 thank you for showing the same determination and

1 STATED MEETING

49

2 dedication that those who actually serve our Nation
3 every day to protect our liberties. You have shown
4 to make sure that they get their just do. Finally I
5 want to commit my vote or dedicate my vote to my
6 father, my three uncles and my grandfather who all
7 fought in the wars to protect this Nation and every
8 single one of us. I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: My I be excused
11 to explain my vote?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'd like to start
14 off by congratulating my colleague and good friend
15 Eric Aldridge. His leadership on this issue was bar
16 none and it's a great day for our veterans. I want
17 to welcome our new colleagues and welcome Joe
18 Barrelli from Staten Island who knows he has big
19 shoes to fill in our former minority leader Vinny
20 Vizio but Joe is a been a scorch advocate for, for
21 South Shore for many years and we look forward to
22 bringing our number back up to three and having Joe
23 right... right beside Eric and I, so with that I'm
24 voting yes on 314, no on 743 and no on 783. Thank
25 you.

1 STATED MEETING

50

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
4 explain my vote.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: First of all
7 I just want to thank and congratulate all of the
8 sponsors of all the bills. Council Member Vallone
9 but particularly Council Member Aldridge. Many of us
10 have rightfully spoken about the veterans who matter
11 most in our lives. Many folks know my husband Dan
12 perhaps the nicest guy in the entire world but also a
13 very proud United States Navy veteran who was thrown
14 out of the military because he was gay 20 years ago.
15 And he received an honorable discharge but it's fair
16 to say that the military was never as good to him as
17 he was to the military and yet Dan remains very proud
18 of his service in the US Navy. So much so that he
19 emailed me. I wasn't sure how closely he was
20 following this vote today. But he emailed me and he
21 said thank Eric Aldridge for making sure that this
22 got done. This summer we visited Spain where Dan was
23 stationed in Rota for a couple of years serving his
24 Country faithfully and loyally. Just like all of the
25 other veterans who we honor today. So to my friend

1 STATED MEETING

51

2 Eric Aldridge who also went to our wedding, I just
3 want to say thank you, thank you for Dan, thank you
4 for all of the veterans. I know how hard you fought
5 to make this happen and it couldn't have happened
6 without Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito backing Eric
7 Aldridge up every step of the way. Making sure that
8 even when others weren't sure that this was the right
9 thing to do, Melissa Mark-Viverito went to bat for
10 Eric Aldridge, Paul Vallone this Council and every
11 veteran in the City of New York including my husband
12 to make sure that this historic legislation passed.
13 So Eric thank you so very much. And with that I vote
14 aye on all.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark Viverito.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye on
18 all. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And
20 congratulations to Council Members Aldridge and
21 Vallone on behalf of former Council Member Al Van a
22 marine. Thank you for all of those who risked their
23 lives on a daily basis to keep all of us free. All
24 items on today's general order calendar were adopted
25 by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative

1 STATED MEETING

52

2 and 0 abstentions with the exception of Intro 783-A
3 which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative,
4 2 negative and 0 abstentions and Intro 743-A which
5 was adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, 1
6 negative and 0 abstentions and the revised Land Use
7 call ups were adopted by a vote of 43 in the
8 affirmative and 0 negative. Introduction in reading
9 of bills.

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

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: There are no
13 resolutions and so were going to go to general
14 discussion beginning with:

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Barron.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you Madam
17 Public Advocate. We know that the history of the
18 Country is replete with laws, policies and platies
19 that are racist. The roots of racism are deep and
20 entwined throughout the political social economic
21 judicial legislative and educational systems of this
22 nation. What other racist tentical break forth and
23 they're vows scourge on humanity manifest itself, it
24 is imperative to take action. For those feeling the
25 pain of the injustice, actions calling for redress,

2 remediation or removal of those manifestation
3 unnecessary. When those of position of
4 responsibility fail to acknowledge, address and
5 correct the situation, they are at best incentive or
6 at worst inept and complisite. I want to commend the
7 students at the University of Missouri for their
8 actions and protest against the long standing
9 persistent, pervasive, racism, manifested at the
10 University that had students feeling targeted,
11 ridiculed and threatened. Racial epthics hurled at
12 the students President Payton Head who is black went
13 unchecked by the then President Tim Wolf. Student
14 request to correct the situation were rejected. Mr.
15 Wolf dismissed their complaints and even blamed them
16 for the conditions that existed at the University.
17 The President who had focused on reducing or
18 eliminating waste and redundancies that turned the
19 blind eye and deaf ear to the culture of racism that
20 existed on the campus. The student protesters were
21 joined by Jonathan Butler, a graduate student who
22 went on a hunger strike and by faculty administration
23 and other groups who saw the racist situation as part
24 of pervasive culture. Then the powerful blow of the
25 football team threatening action that would impact the

1 STATED MEETING

54

2 finances of the University joined the protest. The
3 student protest has been successful. The University
4 has pledge to institute initiative through address
5 the racial tension on campus.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member,
7 please bring your comments to a close.

8 COUNCI MEMBER BARRON: Yes, last
9 sentence. This action is reminiscitant of the 60s
10 when students were a critical part of the Civil
11 Rights movement and athletics and entertainers and
12 other public personalities were vocal and visible.
13 We call on all of those of goodwill to join us as we
14 fight against racial injustice. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Gibson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, thank
17 you Madam Public Advocate. I want to join my
18 colleagues attention to two bills today that are
19 introduced by myself and Council Member Lander. Int.
20 No. 983 and Int. No. 992. Both are related to
21 amending the administrative code of the City of New
22 York in relations to the creation of an advisory
23 board on school crossing guard deployment.
24 Specifically this advisory board would include the
25 NYPD, the Department of Transportation and the

1 STATED MEETING

55

2 Department of Education. I want to thank all of my
3 colleagues for all of their incredible leadership and
4 commitment during the budge process because NFY 16 we
5 were able to get an additional head count rising of
6 80 positions for school crossing guards. We care
7 about our guards, they are the life blood of public
8 safety in our communities, they keep our children and
9 educators safe. As were working with the
10 administration on the implementation of 80 additional
11 guards. We want to make sure that we have an
12 established advisory board that would allow for
13 communication and input from all the relevant
14 stakeholders. Education, Department of
15 Transportation and the NYPD.

16 In addition, this bill will require bi-
17 annual reports related to the recommended deployment
18 to the Mayor, the Speaker and the NYPD Commissioner.
19 I want to thank again my colleagues for your support
20 and ask that you support both Int. No. 983 sponsored
21 by myself and Int. No. 992 related to the reporting
22 on school crossing guard deployment sponsored by
23 Council Member Landers and I to want to join my
24 colleagues in welcoming our newest members of the
25 City Council, welcome Council Member Gradincik and

1 STATED MEETING

56

2 Council Member Joe Barrelli who was my former
3 colleague in Albany, welcome to City Hall, god bless
4 you guys and congratulations.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Miller.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you Madam
7 Public Advocate. I rise to introduce today New York
8 City Family Leave Act Int. No. 996 with my colleagues
9 Chair of Veterans Committee Eric Aldridge. The act
10 will set aside 20 days of unpaid leave renewed
11 annually for the immediate family members of those
12 serving in United States Military who have been
13 called to active duty or who are on leave from active
14 duty. During this period the military of a military
15 conflict. As we celebrate Veterans today, I hope
16 that you will join me in passing this Int. No. 996.
17 Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Levine,
19 Levine.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you very
21 much Ms. Public Advocate. I want to call my
22 colleagues attention to two pieces of legislation I'm
23 please to introduce today, first is Int. No. 994. We
24 know that we recently passed the milestone of
25 planning 1,000,000 new trees. Many are on the street

2 here in New York City. And incredible achievement
3 but now we got to take care of them and to do that we
4 need regular New Yorker to step up and be about of
5 the care and maintenance of street trees so they can
6 survive in the harsh urban environment. This bill
7 Int. No. 994 would create a unique email address for
8 every tree so that New Yorkers can easily report
9 problems directly to the City on a tree by tree
10 basis. This has been tried and other forward
11 thinking jurisdictions around the work with great
12 results. Secondly I want to call my attention, my
13 colleagues attention to Int. No. 995, which helps
14 makes sure that regular New Yorkers who have fallen
15 on tough economic times are not blocked out of
16 renting an apartment. By restricting the ways in
17 which building others can use credit scores to
18 preclude people from renting. We don't want someone
19 who's fallen on hard times and has picked themselves
20 back up to be blocked from renting an apartment
21 leaving them nowhere else to land except a homeless
22 shelter. Our bill in a very targeted way determines
23 the ways in which credit scores can and cannot be
24 used so that building owners cannot penalize people
25 for those elements of credit history which tend to

1 STATED MEETING

58

2 reflect pass problems not current delinquencies and
3 those elements which tend to be most vulnerable to
4 fraud and mistaken reporting. This is a bill that
5 will help make housing more fair for everybody and
6 will help prevent deescalating homeless crisis.

7 Thank you.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Kallos.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Congratulations
10 to Council Member Torres and Garodnick you are the
11 winners of bill number 1,000. Thank you to our
12 legislative drafting unit and you should win
13 something. On a more serious note I rise today on
14 Int. No. 989. I'm it's a legislation to protect the
15 health of those living near Marine transfer stations
16 which are currently being built all over the City.
17 It would require continuous air quality monitoring as
18 well as public reporting on a monthly basis and
19 hourly reporting and immediately reporting to people
20 in the immediate vicinity whenever something goes
21 wrong and EPA standards are exceeded. This is
22 introduced along with Council Member Dan Garodnick
23 with whom I represent the upper Eastside as well as
24 Council Members Gentile and Treyger who represent the
25 Graves and Bay location. In addition we in the City

1 STATED MEETING

59

2 Council are fighting hidden money and campaigns as
3 well as special interests with a package of eight
4 campaign finance bills that are include those
5 introduced by Council Member Williams, Council Member
6 King, Council Member Caberra, these bills will
7 protect us from the special interest it requires
8 disclosure of people doing business of people who own
9 the companies that own the companies that own the
10 companies that do business with the City who hide
11 behind the LLC shells that they can as well as so
12 many other changes that we need including making sure
13 that we know a little earlier in the season, June
14 after we certify that we've gotten our money, can get
15 our money earlier in the cycle instead of having to
16 wait weeks or day before election day. So we've got
17 a whole bunch going on and hope to hear it as soon as
18 possible so please sign on so that we can keep our
19 campaign finances in the best in the Nations and
20 we're also joined today by my Chief of Staff Jessie
21 Talleson (sic) who's been with me since the beginning
22 and just thank you for all the great work you do.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member
24 Williams.

25

1 STATED MEETING

60

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
3 first I want to correctly say my new colleagues Barry
4 Gradincik name so I didn't do that properly before
5 and then I would like to call attention to my
6 colleagues to Int. No. 1001 and 1002 which was just
7 referenced Council Member Kallos about hidden money
8 in a, in our campaign and I won't repeat but ask you
9 to please sign on. And I also call attention to 1003
10 and please introduce legislation to Council Member
11 Menchaca that would establish a task force a study
12 how to improve information security at our City
13 agencies. Last year hackers based in Russia
14 compromised computers at the ACS five times a call
15 into WNYC report. Reports show that the intrusions
16 took 6 months for the City to notice. Although DO IT
17 said in reports that there was breach that, that fact
18 of service providers were not notified according to
19 reports is troubling. This task force will help us
20 protect data of New Yorkers that interact with City
21 agencies. No one's name, address, phone numbers,
22 social security, service providers should be ask
23 risk. Lastly I want to a give a hearty
24 congratulations to my Communication Director Williams
25 J. Girlick (sic)who has been a part of my team

1 STATED MEETING

61

2 Williams for over a 1 ½ now and has been poached I
3 would like to say good radiance but I cannot it would
4 sour grapes. He is moving to the next stage of his
5 career with Marathon Strategies as a Senior
6 Communications Associate. All of you who do know
7 communications know what an intense rapid job it is
8 and William has handled it, all of it, statements,
9 talking points, speeches, interviews, communication
10 strategies with skill and grace. William best of
11 luck in the future. Thank you for your service.
12 Everybody who joins team Williams is family, you will
13 remain so, I'm grateful that we had you but rest
14 assure to all the people who get all of my emails
15 they will still be coming. So congratulations
16 William we wish you the best of luck and I wanted to
17 just add my name to the words of Council Member
18 Barron and the University of Missouri. And hopefully
19 many people were watching, of course this sparked,
20 was sparked by other leaders but I was proud to see
21 the athletes take charge and I can only imagine if
22 athletes across this Nation, many of them who look
23 like the people who were suffering stepped up as
24 well. Thank you.

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Cornegy.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you Madam
3 Public Advocate. I would like to express my thanks
4 to all the members of the Black, Latino and Asian
5 Caucus for their leadership they've demonstrated on
6 the issue of gifted and talented education. The
7 caucus came together recently to hold a press
8 conference to raise awareness of the deadline to
9 request the test. Which thereafter was extended to
10 this Thursday, November 12. Only families who
11 requested test by this deadline was preserved the
12 opportunity for their children to test into a gifted
13 and talented program early next year. Were also in
14 fighting for gifted and talented resources to be
15 distributed more equitably. It probably won't
16 surprise you to hear that four school districts with
17 no gifted and talented programs are in black and
18 Latino communities in Brooklyn and the Bronx. At our
19 last meeting the caucus voted to endorse a proposal
20 to test all UPK students for gifted and talented.
21 With an option for parents to opt out. This will be
22 a far more efficient way to ensure that going forward
23 our children do not miss out on a free proven pathway
24 to our specialized high schools and future success.
25 I urge you all to join this effort by spreading the

1 STATED MEETING

63

2 work to your constitutes and adding your voices to
3 our call for change.

4 Finally I'd like take this opportunity to
5 recognize Ms. Cecelia Mendez (sic), who's hear in the
6 Chamber today. Cecelia is a student at (inaudible)
7 Community College and is also serving as a
8 participatory budgeting fellow in my office. She's a
9 resident of my district and has been incredibly
10 invaluable in completing the enormous amount of
11 outreach and information management required to make
12 PBS successful, meaningful experiment in direct
13 democracy. Cecelia I hope you're having an valuable
14 learning experience here at the City Council and that
15 it helps you achieve your future goals. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Cumbo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to applaud
18 Council Member Robert Cornegy for his work on the
19 gifted and talented. This is a critical issue and
20 it's so important that we make sure that all of our
21 children all throughout New York City have the same
22 access to opportunities that will advance them
23 educationally as well as professionally. I also want
24 to thank this Council for their strong work as it
25 pertains to our veterans. This is a critical issue

1 STATED MEETING

64

2 that's gotten lip service for far too long and it's
3 important that this council has put some man power,
4 resources and opportunity into the hands of our
5 veterans to create a better opportunity for them to
6 come back into their communities and serve on all
7 levels. I also want to acknowledge in my own
8 district a retired Tuskegee Airman who was also a
9 fire fighter, Frankly Henry of Crowne Heights who
10 recently died at the age of 95. He earned the
11 American Campaign medal and the victory medal before
12 he was honorably discharged in 1945. After marrying
13 Maze Butts he later joined the FDNY where he served
14 as a department spokesman and talked about prevention
15 at City's schools until he retired in 1963. He was
16 married for almost 69 years and is survived by three
17 daughters and seven grandchildren. I also at this
18 time want to acknowledge unfortunately a last
19 Thursday a 15 year old Clara Barton High School
20 student name Malik Davis collapsed on his way home
21 from schools just blocks away and later died at Kings
22 County Hospital. The cause of death is yet to be
23 determined although we do know that he did have a
24 heart condition. I want to thank the NYPD and all
25 the school safety officers and agents and school

1 STATED MEETING

65

2 crossing guards who came to his aide at the
3 particular time. And finally it's National Diabetes
4 month. More than 29 million Americans have diabetes,
5 one and four do not know. Another 86 million adults
6 more than one and three US adults have pre-diabetes.
7 As a result of this particularly this issue impacts
8 non-Hispanic, black Hispanic and American Indian and
9 Native American adults. I've created a program
10 called Fit in the 35th where every month I will be at
11 another place in my district exercising and I
12 encourage you all to join me. Thank you very much
13 Public Advocate to be. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Council Member Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madam
16 Public Advocate. Good afternoon to my colleagues. I
17 want to take this opportunity to thank Yume Kitasei
18 my Chief of Staff for her service to my office to
19 district one and to the City council. Yume started
20 in my office as the Director of Legislation and
21 Budget and she quickly learned and mastered the
22 legislative process and the budge process. I was
23 very happy at her first budget. She was successful
24 even though she didn't think it was that hard. And
25 in the last 4 ½ year, Yume has earned the respect of

1 STATED MEETING

66

2 both Council Members and staff throughout the Council
3 with her open door policy. Always willing to help if
4 someone wants to know how to do this or that. And of
5 course her famous coffee, so that our office is known
6 to have the best coffee at \$2.50. And all this time
7 she has been the leader you know of my team and she
8 never sees to amaze me with her thoughtfulness, her
9 skills, her sharing of knowledge and her commitment
10 to public service. I never thought that this day
11 would come because you sort of get use to it, having
12 someone you know who's been so supportive but I guess
13 the secret is out how capable she is that she was
14 recruited. By the other side, by the administration.
15 So Yume will start next week working for the Mayor's
16 Office of Legislative Affair. The good news is she
17 will still continue to work with the City Council and
18 I don't want to say goodbye because I'll probably see
19 her quite often at Stated Meeting and... and Council
20 Hearing but Yume on behalf of myself and all the
21 staff in the office and I'm sure a lot of the
22 colleagues in the City Council that we will miss you
23 but we know that you'll do great wherever you go not
24 just the Mayor's office but anything you do, you'll

25

1 STATED MEETING

67

2 be great at it. So and I wish you well and thank you
3 for all the great work you have done for us.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Congratulations.
5 Council Member Rodriguez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Following
7 Margaret, I got to also say goodbye to Lucas Acosta
8 so who someone after graduating from college
9 following his great father Joe Rolando Acosta, having
10 so many choices he decided to be a Public Server as
11 his father is. Now he moving to his next step of his
12 career also Johnny Martin, not with the Mayor, he now
13 getting into they you know the other the private
14 sector but congratulation I know that he had he will
15 have a great future. In another note I also like to
16 invite all my colleagues to come to the next hearing
17 that I have on Thursday on Transportation. It's on
18 transportation desert. So if any of my colleagues
19 has represented community that feel that we can do
20 better to connected with mass transportation please
21 invite any advocate group because we expected to come
22 together with a great plan on how to connect
23 insolated community with trains, buses and other
24 source of transportation. Thank you.

25

1 STATED MEETING

68

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: We're still in
3 session please quite down. Council member Gentile.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you for
5 those few of us who are remaining in the room I ask
6 you to take a look at the flyer on your desk for the
7 next Council Dinner Caucus. It's holiday time and..
8 and holiday time Dicker Heights becomes Dicker Lights
9 and so we're going to take a bus tour of the lights
10 of the holiday lights in Dicker Heights and that will
11 be followed by dinner at one of the local great
12 Italian restaurants in Dicker Heights so that's a
13 December 7th at 6:30 p.m. will all meet at a central
14 place, will board a bus and along with the Brooklyn
15 Chamber of Commerce we will take a tour of the Dicker
16 Heights lights and then go to a restaurant and enjoy
17 our holiday season so that's a dinner caucus the
18 flyers on your desk, please join us.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
20 I'd like to invite my colleagues to sign onto Int.
21 No. 997 in relations to pedestrian count down
22 signals. To many New Yorkers die in traffic crashes
23 and unfortunately we've been reminded of this nearly
24 every day by a new tragedy. Most of assume that a
25 pedestrian right of way as long a walking systems

1 STATED MEETING

69

2 show a flashing don't walk signal but sadly this is
3 not currently the case. The current rules prevent
4 legal action against a driver who hits a pedestrian
5 that leaves the sidewalk during a flashing don't walk
6 sign. This is inconsistent with both reality and the
7 goals of our Mayor and this Council and that is why
8 I'm urging my colleagues to join me in signing onto
9 Int. No. 997. It makes a consequential but simple
10 fix to issue that should be clear for driver and
11 pedestrian alike. When a pedestrian is in a
12 crosswalk, unless the walking signal specifically
13 prohibits that person from walking, the pedestrian
14 and not the driver has the right of way. And now
15 speaker.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE: Speaker Melissa Mark-
17 Viverito to close.

18 SPEAKER MARK VIVERITO: Again thank you
19 to all my colleagues, it's been very productive day
20 and everyone's comments regarding the Department of
21 Veterans Affairs, very, very welcome, looking forward
22 to tomorrow. And to all the staff that are moving
23 on, good luck. I can tell it was not easy for
24 Margaret to get up there and say what she was saying

25

1 STATED MEETING

70

2 but good luck to all the staff and their future
3 endeavors and with that I guess we are adjourned.

4 [gavel]

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 November 22, 2015