

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

----- X

January 28, 2021
Start: 1:42 p.m.
Recess: 4:13 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing - Virtual Room 1

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Inez D. Barron
Joseph C. Borelli
Justin Brannan
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andy Cohen
Costa Constantinides
Richard Cornegy
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Darma Diaz
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Daniel Dromm
Mathieu Eugene
Vanessa L. Gibson

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

Mark Gjonaj
Barry S. Grodenchik
Robert F. Holden
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark S. Levine
Farah N. Louis
Alan N. Maisel
Carlos Menchaca
I. Daneek Miller
Francisco Moya
Bill Perkins
Keith Powers
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Kevin Riley
Carlina Rivera
Ydanis Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark S. Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
Paul Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Kalman Yeger
Steven Matteo

2 UNIDENTIFIED: We're live.

3 UNIDENTIFIED: Sergeants, start the back-
4 ups.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: PC started.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

7 UNIDENTIFIED: Cloud recording is
8 rolling.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you. Okay,
10 hello, and good afternoon, and welcome to today's
11 Stated Meeting. At this time, I ask that everybody
12 please turn off all electronic devices. Please turn
13 them to vibrate. Madam Majority Leader?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good afternoon and
15 welcome to the Stated Meeting of January 28th, 2021.
16 I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, and I'd like to
17 thank you for joining us at this virtual meeting of
18 the New York City Council. If you would like to
19 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
20 posted on our website.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Please join us for
22 the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the
23 flag of the United States of America, and to the
24 Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God,
25 indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 5
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. Roll
3 call?
4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Adams?
5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.
6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ampry-Samuel?
7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.
8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ayala? Barron?
9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed and
10 present.
11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Borelli?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.
13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Brannan? Cabrera?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.
15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chin?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.
17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Constantnides?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.
19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Cornegy?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.
21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deutsch?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.
23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Darma Diaz?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.
25 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ruben Diaz?

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

6

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present. Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Blessed

afternoon, everyone. I'm here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Levine?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 7

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

3 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Lewis?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Here.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Maisel?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Menchaca?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Miller?

10 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Present.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Moya?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Perkins?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Powers?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Reynoso?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Riley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Good afternoon,

21 everyone. Present.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rivera? Rodriguez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Present.

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rose?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Presente.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 8

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rosenthal?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: here.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Salamanca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Treyger?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ulrich? Vallone?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Van Bramer?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yeger?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Matteo?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Cumbo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Johnson?

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Madam Majority

21 Leader, we have a quorum.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,

23 Mike McSweeney [sp?]. we will now go into today's

24 invocation, which will be delivered by Dan Rodriguez,

25 Reverend, Senior Pastor at Greater Allen AME

1 Cathedral located at 110-31 Floyd H. Lake Boulevard
2 in Jamaica, Queens. Thank you so much Reverend Dan
3 Rodriguez for being with us here today. It's such an
4 honor to have you here at this particular time.
5

6 REVEREND RODRIGUEZ: You're welcome.

7 You're welcome. Let me just correct that. I am an
8 Associate Pastor. The Senior Pastors are Reverend
9 Doctor's Floyd and Elaine Flake. Good afternoon
10 esteemed Councilpersons, Madam Majority Leader,
11 Speaker, staff, security, and friends. You all look
12 great, impressive, strong-bodied. This invocation
13 today is in honor, and I bring you greetings from
14 again my Pastors Floyd and Elaine Flake. Let us
15 pray. Most merciful and gracious and holy God, your
16 apostle Matthew declared in your word, where two or
17 three are gathered in his name, there am I among
18 them. Dear Lord, we pray that you would help our
19 leaders in this new season and help them to govern
20 wisely. Help them to rest in your power and purpose
21 for their lives. Bring them emotional stability,
22 mental clarity, physical endurance to do their work.
23 Heavenly Father, give our leaders grace to do
24 justice. Love mercy and walk humbly before you in
25 all integrity. May they defend the oppressed,

1 protect the virtuous, and discipline the wrong-doers.
2 Please, give them the wisdom to enact laws and
3 regulations that will foster an environment where
4 every citizen can flourish spiritually, socially, and
5 physically. We pray that all affected in any way by
6 the COVID virus find comfort and relief from loss,
7 financial hardship, housing, and educational crisis.
8 Empower this body of people-appointed leaders today
9 to discern, expose and resolve equitable paths of
10 solution for your people. God told David in the
11 Bible, the ones who rule righteously, who rule in the
12 fear of God are like the lights in the morning
13 sunshine. And we thank you, precious God, for
14 choosing these council leaders to serve at such a
15 time as this. Bless them and every family
16 represented. May they go fort through their
17 supporting staff forever mindful of every person to
18 be impacted by their decisions, raising the level of
19 this beloved community with joy, fulfillment, good
20 health, and success. Dear Mighty God, it is in your
21 strong and powerful name that we pray. Amen, amen,
22 and amen.

24 UNIDENTIFIED: Amen.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you.

I officially still prayed over today.

UNIDENTIFIED: There you go.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you much, Reverend Rodriguez. I'd now like to ask Council Member Daneek Miller to have the honor of spreading the invocation onto the record. Council Member Miller?

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Absolutely, Majority Leader, and I will tell you, Reverend Dan, and Council Member Adams and I were kind of duking it out over who was going to. Although my office is up just around the corner from Allen, Council Member Adams has been a long-time member of the Greater Allen Cathedral, so we share this invocation spreading. So, the Reverend Dan Rodriguez is Associate Pastor at the Greater Allen Cathedral of New York. The Greater Allen Cathedral is a pillar of the District 27, southeast Queens, and beyond. Greater Allen Cathedral has a congregation of over 23,000, making it one of the largest churches in the United States. It has a private school that serves many. It is one of the largest employers in all of Queens. Its portfolio includes

1 commercial/residential development and its various
2 commercial and social enterprises. The Greater Allen
3 Cathedral church has a large church ministry in New
4 York that provides food kitchens, feeding the hungry
5 nearly 105 meals weekly. They also have a-- they
6 provide social services, senior services, operate
7 senior centers, provide senior housing, and shelter
8 for domestic violence victims. Reverend Dan
9 Rodriguez, his ministry is dedicated to youth and
10 community. He works on social and environmental
11 issues, justice through counseling, publication,
12 media, and teaching and speaking. That is his
13 foundation D-Truth Unlimited, for advocacy, for
14 youth. Reverend Rodriguez has worked for 25 years in
15 television and broadcast engineering at places such
16 as CNN, BET, FOX, ION, Food Network, engineer in
17 charge of PBS shows such as "Weekend New Hour" and
18 "Fire Line [sic]" and "Metro Focus," and we are
19 blessed to have Reverend Rodriguez and his-- not just
20 his professional skills which he shares with us, but
21 his ministerial skills that he shares with our
22 community, in particularly our young folks here in
23 the 27th, and it was such a blessing to have him. I
24 thank you for all of your work, look forward to
25

1 continuing to work with you, and with that, I spread
2 this motion to spread the invocation upon the record.
3 Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. Thank you,
4 Reverend Dan.
5

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. Thank
7 you so much Council Member Miller, and we are so
8 pleased to have you here today, Reverend Rodriguez.
9 That was a powerful and timely prayer, and we thank
10 you so much for your presence here today. At this
11 time we will now have the adoption of minutes by
12 Council Member Kevin Riley.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you,
14 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, colleagues. I make
15 a motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of
16 December 17th, 2020 and Charter Meeting of January
17 6th, 2021 be adopted as printed.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. Newly
19 elected and on the scene, adopting minutes and
20 everything. So we are happy to once again have you
21 here with us. We will now go to messages and papers
22 from the Mayor?

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M276 through M282,
24 various budget documents.

25 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 14

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M283 Preliminary
3 Mayor's Management Report.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,
5 printed, and filed.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M284, City debt and
7 reserves.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,
9 printed, and filed.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Communication from
11 city, county, and borough offices.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: M285 Public Advocate
13 submitting C [sic] waiver for appointment to the City
14 Planning Commission.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,
16 printed, and filed.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Petitions and
18 communications.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Land Use call-ups?

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. We
23 will now have communication from Speaker Corey
24 Johnson.

25

1
2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Happy
3 Thursday to everyone. Welcome to our Stated Meeting
4 today. I hope that you and your families are safe
5 and well as we close out the month of January. We do
6 so with a new Administration in Washington and new
7 hope that swift action will be taken in the battle
8 against the deadly COVID-19 pandemic. We are already
9 seeing evidence of that, but New Yorkers desperately
10 need more vaccines, and I want to urge the Federal
11 Government to continue to make this a priority.
12 Lives are dependent on it. As of yesterday, 26,763
13 New Yorkers have succumbed to this horrific virus. I
14 also want to acknowledge, as I always do, a few
15 deaths as a result of 9/11-related illnesses since we
16 last met. We recently lost Lieutenant Gerard Roddy
17 McGibbin [sp?] of the FDNY and fire fighter Rom
18 Stores [sp?] of the FDNY. Additionally, Jasime Mia
19 [sp?], one of our city's construction workers died
20 due to a residential wall collapse in Brooklyn on
21 December 28th. We also lost George McDonald, the
22 founder of the Doe Fund. George began the Doe Fund to
23 empower and uplift New Yorkers with histories of
24 homelessness, substance use, and incarceration. He
25 committed his life to bettering New York, and our

1 City will forever be grateful for his work. I want to
2 take a moment of silence to remember all the lives
3 that we've lost as a result of the Coronavirus, as
4 well as Lieutenant McGibben, Fire Fighter Stores,
5 Jasmine Mia, and George McDonald. We are keeping
6 their families in our thoughts and prayers. Thank
7 you. Yesterday marked International Holocaust
8 Remembrance Day, the liberation of Auschwitz, where
9 we commemorated the millions of lives that were
10 tragically lost during the holocaust. Sadly, we know
11 that hate against Jewish people is still alive across
12 the world, across our country, and even in New York
13 City, and Holocaust Remembrance Day is an opportunity
14 to reaffirm our commitment to fighting hate and to
15 countering anti-Semitism at every turn. Last year,
16 the Council voted on a Resolution to commemorate
17 International Holocaust Remembrance Day throughout
18 the City and to promote Holocaust education. As a
19 Council we remain united with the Jewish people and
20 we continue to mourn the memories of those lost. We
21 honor those who have survived the Holocaust by
22 saying, "Never forget. Never again." Finally, I
23 want to acknowledge the resignation of Michael Reagan
24 who is stepping down as a City Council appointee to
25

1 the New York City Board of Correction, the City's
2 independent oversight agency for the jails in New
3 York City. Michael served in this year for 19 years,
4 from December 2001 until earlier this month when he
5 stepped down. He served as Vice Chair of the Board
6 from 2006 to 2012, and during Michael's tenure, the
7 Board played a significant role in monitoring and
8 drawing attention to major issues in the City jails
9 such as solitary confinement, mental health
10 treatment, and suicide. Michael is also a former
11 City Council staffer, having served as the Director
12 of Communications for the Council, and we are
13 grateful for his long service to the Board of
14 Correction and to the City of New York. Thank you,
15 Michael. And now on to our agenda. Our Land Use
16 Committee will be voting on the following item 40024
17 Hamilton Parkway, the site selection of a new 475
18 seat public intermediary school in Council Member
19 Brad Lander's district. Moving onto our legislative
20 agenda. We'll be voting on Introduction 2204A,
21 sponsored by Council Member Darma Diaz, which will
22 extend the deadline to the submission of construction
23 documents related to the City's Basement Legalization
24 Pilot Program. Local Law 49 of 2019 established the
25

1 City's Basement Legalization Pilot Program, and
2 required applicants to submit necessary construction
3 documents to the Department of Buildings by January
4 2nd, 2021. The pandemic has made compliance with the
5 deadline difficult and affected DOB's ability to
6 review applications and conduct necessary in-person
7 inspections. To provide additional time, the bill
8 would extend the deadline to six months. And I want
9 to thank from the staff, Austin Branford [sp?] for
10 his work on this, and I want to congratulate Council
11 Member Diaz on her first bill that is passing as a
12 member of the Council. We'll also be voting on two
13 civil service bills sponsored by our Civil Service
14 and Labor Chair, Council Member Daneek Miller.
15 Introduction 2161A will create a nine-member board
16 for the purpose of reviewing and issuing
17 recommendations on workplace safety and health
18 guidance that will be issued during public health
19 emergencies, including the current COVID-19 pandemic.
20 The Board would hold two public hearings to solicit
21 testimony and workplace guidance from relevant
22 employees and stakeholders. It is then required to
23 review the content of any such guidance that agencies
24 have issued to municipal offices' employees and that
25

1 private employers have issued to private employers
2 during the pandemic. Recommendations would be made
3 based on their assessment of testimony and submitted
4 guidance, and the preliminary report issued within
5 one month of the first hearing. A final report with
6 updated assessments and recommendations would be
7 issued by December 15th, 2021. Introduction number
8 2162A requires the citywide Office of Occupational
9 Safety and Health to monitor federal, state, and
10 local occupational safety and health agencies for any
11 guidance they issue on matters related to workplace
12 safety and public health. Within 24 hours of any new
13 guidance being issued, COSH would be required to
14 deliver the guidance electronically to each agency
15 safety and health coordinator. The newly issued
16 guidance is required to be posted in the workplace,
17 and employees must receive training or education
18 needed to ensure compliance. I want to thank from
19 the staff Nuzhat Choudhury [sp?] for their work on
20 this bill, and I want to congratulate and thank you,
21 Chair Miller, for your really hard work on these two
22 bills. So thank you for making this happen today.
23 Moving on, we'll be voting on two bills related to
24 the City's 311 system. Introduction number 1420C
25

1
2 proposed by Council Minority Leader Steve Matteo that
3 will require the Administration to investigate the
4 extent to which 311 has been used as a tool for
5 potential harassment. Specifically, the bill would
6 require a study on the frequency of anonymous
7 complaints made to 311 since 2016 and whether such
8 complaints were more unlike-- were more likely to be
9 unsubstantiated than other complaints. The
10 Administration would be required to submit a report
11 discussing the findings in the study by December 1st,
12 2021 and that report will include recommendations.
13 Introduction number 1832B sponsored by Council Member
14 Fernando Cabrera, the Chair of the Committee that
15 voted out these bills would require 311 to notify an
16 agency whenever a service request has not been closed
17 within the number of days specified in agency's
18 service level agreement. When a customer makes a
19 complaint to 311, the call often results in a service
20 request for a city agency. Service level agreements
21 are commitments that agencies make to respond to a
22 particular type of service request within a certain
23 timeframe. This bill would ensure that agencies
24 honor such commitments. And from the staff I want to
25 thank C.J. Murray, Elizabeth Cronk [sp?], Emily

1
2 Forgionne [sp?], and Jaospre Gotapothy [sp?], for
3 their work on these two bills. And I want to thank
4 Chair Cabrera for this. Early voting has begun in a
5 special election in Queens for Council District 24,
6 and the first election in our city to use rank choice
7 voting. While voter education efforts regarding rank
8 choice voting are underway, it is important we ramp
9 up these efforts in advance of the June primaries
10 when rank choice voting will be used on a citywide
11 basis for the first time. today, the Council will be
12 voting on a bill related to rank choice voting
13 education, Introduction 1994A, proposed by Council
14 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, will require the New York
15 City Campaign Finance Board to take a number of
16 concrete steps to familiarize voters with rank choice
17 voting. In particular, the bill would require the
18 CFB to conduct a comprehensive media campaign,
19 distribute a citywide mailer, publish educational
20 materials on its website, and conduct outreach and
21 collaboration with community-based organizations in
22 all five boroughs. In addition, the bill would
23 require 26 city agencies to post and distribute
24 educational materials provided by the CFB. The bill
25 would also mandate the Civic Engagement Commission

1
2 include rank choice voting education as part of its
3 poll site interpreter training. And from the staff I
4 want to thank C.J. Murray, Elizabeth Cronk, and Emily
5 Forgionne, and I want to congratulate Council Member
6 Ampry-Samuel who has been working on this for a long
7 time. Our next bill comes out of the Finance
8 Committee and makes significant reforms to the City's
9 current tax lien sales system. I really, really want
10 to thank Council Member Adrienne Adams for her
11 tireless, tireless work on this legislation. She's a
12 fierce advocate for homeowners throughout our city
13 and knows the devastation the COVID pandemic has
14 posed for them. Adrienne has been working on this for
15 months, literally, and was deputized to negotiate
16 with the Administration on this, and she was talking
17 to members, the Mayor's Office, the Department of
18 Finance, advocates, homeowners, community boards on
19 Introduction 2166B proposed by Council Member Adams
20 would extend the City's authority to sell tax liens
21 for just one year. During that year, the Council,
22 the Administration, and advocates will form a
23 taskforce to examine the city's collection of
24 municipal debt so that it could be done in a more
25 fair, effective, and efficient way, as well as

1
2 considering alternatives to the tax lien sale that
3 would include transferring tax delinquent properties
4 or liens to mission-driven not-for-profit
5 organizations such as Community Land Trust. The bill
6 also has provisions to protect eligible homeowners
7 who are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19
8 from any tax lien sale that may be held this year in
9 2021. It also makes it harder for homeowners to be
10 eligible for the tax lien sale in the first place by
11 raising the delinquency eligibility threshold by
12 thousands of dollars, and the bill expands
13 eligibility to the Department of Finance's Low Income
14 Payment Plan and Tax Deferral Program as well as
15 establishes a lower property tax late payment
16 interest rate for mid-sized properties. The bill
17 would mandate more robust outreach to be done by the
18 Administration, but in addition to this, pursuant to
19 an agreement between the Council and the
20 Administration, a million dollars in discretionary
21 funding will be allocated across Fiscal Year 2021 and
22 Fiscal Year 2022 to be designated to community-based
23 organizations doing lien sale outreach. And from the
24 Finance Division staff, I want to thank Rebecca
25 Chaisson [sp?], Emery Edev [sp?], Ray Majesky [sp?],

1 Andrew Wilbur [sp?], Nashea Roman [sp?], Stephanie
2 Ruiz [sp?], and Latonya McKinney [sp?] for their work
3 in making this a reality. For generations street
4 vending has been a pathway to financial stability for
5 so many immigrant New Yorkers. The bad policies,
6 bureaucracy, and inaction on the part of city
7 government has undermined this career path. Today
8 the Council will take a bold step forward and vote to
9 address current problems throughout the City's street
10 vendor system. This is an opportunity to turn a new
11 page for our vendors who have waited far too long for
12 a fair system. Introduction 1116B, sponsored by
13 Council Member Margaret Chin, would mandate
14 significant reforms related to street vendor
15 permitting throughout New York City. First, the
16 legislation will expand the availability of food
17 vendor permits by gradually releasing new permits
18 over the course of 10 years. For these new permits,
19 a permittee [sic] would be required to be present and
20 working at their cart. Eventually, all permits will
21 require this. This will help our efforts to end the
22 underground economy that has sprung up around this
23 industry, and stop bad actors from illegally
24 releasing their permits for tens of thousands of
25

1
2 dollars, preying upon people who have been unable to
3 obtain a permit. Second, this legislation would
4 create a dedicated unit to enforce street vending
5 laws with a focus on locations where street vending
6 is plentiful and congestion issues persist. Thirdly,
7 the bill establishes a Street Vendor Advisory Board,
8 including relevant city agencies and representatives
9 of brick and mortar businesses as well as the small
10 business community and street vendors themselves. The
11 bill will also make two additional changes. It will
12 require both food and general merchandise vendors to
13 maintain 20 feet from stoop line stands and sidewalk
14 cafes. It will also expand the City's green card
15 program to increase options for selling healthy food
16 throughout the City. I really, really want to thank
17 Council Member Chin for her relentless, tireless
18 leadership on this. She has done a great job. I also
19 want to thank Council Member Carlos Menchaca, the
20 Chair of our Immigration Committee, being a prime
21 sponsor on this, working with Council Member Chin and
22 helping get it over the finish line. Thank you to
23 Council Members Chin and Menchaca. So many hours
24 went into to making this a reality, and I want to
25 thank from the staff Rachel Cordero [sp?] and David

1
2 Seitzer [sp?]. With that, I turn it back to you,
3 Madam Majority Leader.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much
5 Speaker Corey Jonson. Thank you so much for your
6 leadership. We will now move into discussion of
7 General Orders. We will recognize members who wish
8 to speak by using the raise hand function in Zoom.
9 Please wait before you begin your remarks for our
10 Sergeant at Arms to announce he has begun the
11 countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms will alert you
12 when your time has expired. Mr. Parliamentarian, are
13 there any Council Members registered to speak at this
14 time?

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Members Chin
16 and Adams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Alright, we'll
18 begin with Council Member Margaret Chin.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank
21 you, Madam Majority Leader. I am just so excited that
22 we finally got to this point with the vendor bill,
23 and I want to thank you, Speaker, for your leadership
24 and your support on this bill. This legislation will
25 bring hope and opportunity to hardworking New Yorkers

1
2 who are immigrants, who have been historically left
3 out of a lot of the government support. You know,
4 during this pandemic the Council, you know, we did
5 work very hard to support our small businesses, but
6 the vendors were left out. They are part of our
7 smallest small businesses. So, this bill will at
8 least give them the hope and opportunity. For many
9 of them, they've been taken advantage of, you know,
10 paying tens of thousands dollars as our Speaker said,
11 just to rent a permit, but this bill will give them
12 the opportunity to have their own permit and
13 hopefully one day they'll be able to operate their
14 own store. But there's so many people to thank, our
15 former Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, who introduced
16 this legislation in her term, and I wanted to thank,
17 you know, all the advocates, the Street Vendor
18 Project, and all the staff that have worked on this
19 bill. I know the speaker mentioned Rachel Cordero
20 [sp?], David Sietzer, Haley Taylor [sp?], Jeff Baker,
21 and former staff, staff who have left the Council who
22 have worked on this for so many years, Rob Newman,
23 and Belki Mahargi [sp?], who's having her second
24 child, but she worked tirelessly during her pregnancy
25 on this bill, and my legislative team: Connor,

1
2 Angela Eger [sp?], and my Chief of Staff, Gigi Lee
3 [sp?]. And I want to thank all the sponsors. I know
4 you were under a lot of pressure from those lobbyists
5 and the--

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [inaudible] and the
8 Chamber of Commerce, but you stood strong, and so
9 we're going to get it over the finish line. Thank
10 you very much.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
12 Member Chin. We will now hear from Council Member
13 Adams.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you so much,
16 Madam Majority Leader. Today, we will vote on Intro
17 21663-- 66B for which I am proud to provide remarks.
18 This legislation is an important step forward on how
19 we handle the collection of unpaid property taxes,
20 sewer, and water bills in our city. We have moved
21 unpaid property taxes, water, and [inaudible] debt
22 collection to a much more equitable place. We have
23 [inaudible] the length of reauthorization to just one
24 year, and we even added one million dollars in
25 outreach for our much-needed community-based

1 organizations beginning in Fiscal Year 21, continuing
2 through Fiscal Year 22. We secured substantial wins
3 since our first iteration of this bill last month,
4 and we've created a robust framework to enhance this
5 important reform. [inaudible] major steps that will
6 protect vulnerable, low-income households in the 20-
7 21 lien sale and pave the way for substantial re-
8 thinking and replacements of the lien sale in the
9 future. I thank the Speaker for his indulgence to
10 make sure that we got this legislation right, for the
11 most targeted to lose their homes. Communities like
12 mine in southeast Queens and in Brooklyn. I also want
13 to acknowledge the hard work of all of the advocates
14 that helped us get to this point and to Attorney
15 General Tish James for her insight. I thank our great
16 Finance team: Rebecca Chaisson [sp?], Ray Majesky
17 [sp?], Emery Edev, and of course, the amazing Latonya
18 McKinney for their long nights, hard work and
19 dedication. Thanks to our partner from the admin
20 side of the house, and my Director of Legislative
21 Affairs, Stacey Yearwood [sp?]. We have come such a
22 long way with this, and I ask my colleagues for your
23 support of this very important reformative
24 legislation.
25

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you very much, Madam Majority leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: thank you so much Council Member Adams. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any other members who wish to speak at this time?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes, there are. Council Members Miller, Ampry-Samuel, and Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Okay, we'll begin with Council Member Miller.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader and good afternoon to my colleagues. COVID-19 pandemic was caused by a new type of coronavirus which spread in late 2019 because it was unprecedented virus with the rapid rate of transmission guidance on how to prevent this viral spread change rapidly. As we learn more about this new disease, World Health Organization issued guidelines sometimes different form the CDC, sometimes different from the Health Department and OSHA. Sometimes too much, and often times, not enough. Essential workers, our hospital workers, delivery workers, and our New York City Municipal

1
2 Workforce were given-- not given proper information
3 often times. Often times, in fact,--

4 UNIDENTIFIED: [inaudible]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: we were told-- I
6 was told by the City that when these guidelines were
7 given that we had too many agencies to manage and
8 could not-- did not have the capacity to in real-time
9 disseminate information to keep our workforce safe.
10 And so the Speaker gave us the technical aspects of
11 the bill, and I'm going to tell you the whys, and
12 that is it. Often times when our workforce did not
13 get PPE's and it was this council that advocated on
14 behalf of our municipal workforce, EMS, Transit, and
15 so many others that make our lives seamless. They
16 weren't given the proper instructions this was wasn't
17 posted, notified, and they weren't properly trained
18 in how to utilize these PPE's. We sought out to
19 rectify this, and we wanted to do it in time to
20 address the second wave, and clearly we are there
21 now. So this is timely. I want to thank the Speaker,
22 Jason Goldman [sic] and his team for doing so. But I
23 just also want to mention that the timeliness--

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.
25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: is so impactful.
3 Last-- so thank you. I ask my colleagues to support
4 2161, 2162. This is important. It will support our
5 municipal workforce that makes our lives so seamless
6 and protects our city. Thank you, Madam Majority
7 Leader.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much
9 Council Member Miller. We'll now hear from Council
10 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,
13 Madam Majority Leader. New Yorkers went to the
14 ballot in November of 2019 and voted to implement
15 rank choice [sic] voting in the City of New York, so
16 it's the law. And in February of 2020 I stood in
17 front of the Board of Elections to discuss the need
18 for voter education funding related to Rank Choice
19 Voting. And there are concerns about whether the
20 Board of Elections can even carry out the
21 functionality of Rank Choice Voting, but Intro. 1994
22 is not about the functionality of the system or the
23 mechanics. This bill is directly related to the
24 duties of the Campaign Finance Board having a
25 community education plan and holding government

1 responsible for what is in their scope of duty. This
2 bill codifies work being done and holds the city
3 overall responsible for education and outreach to
4 voters, ensuring that we are in compliance with basic
5 voter rights-- voting rights. I want to highlight
6 just four components of the bill. The first point it
7 requires the CFB to conduct a citywide media campaign
8 to familiarize voters with Rank Choice Voting, and
9 the campaign shall include ads published in community
10 and ethnic media outlets. Again, publications should
11 be included in advertisements in ethnic media, which
12 is the key to reaching all New Yorkers. The second
13 point I want to talk about is the requirement to
14 distribute a post card explaining Rank Choice Voting
15 to each household in New York City in which there is
16 at least one registered voter. A post card is simple
17 and clear and will not get lost in the usual CSB
18 voter guide. The third point I want to state is that
19 the CFB shall produce educational materials in large
20 print editions made available to the Department for
21 the Agaim and for those visually impaired. The last
22 point I want to stress requires that the CFB
23 collaborate with community-based groups in all five
24 boroughs such as civil rights organizations-- and can
25

1 I-- can you just give me one more minute, because I
2 see my time's about to run out.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Yes, please.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you.

5 To make sure that we reach out to community-based
6 organizations that have a direct focus on civil
7 rights organizations, disability rights, organizing
8 around public housing residents, that does our NYCHA
9 residents, and organizations that serve categories of
10 residents that are under-represented among those who
11 vote, and organizations serving voters who are
12 limited in English proficiency, including voters
13 whose primary speaking language-- who speak languages
14 other than English. So, in order for us to make this
15 work, we must collaborate with CBOs who are on the
16 ground in direct contact with voters, especially now
17 during a pandemic. It takes a village. So, as
18 usual, I'm all about common sense legislation and
19 making sure we are reaching out to people, to the
20 people, in particular communities who have been
21 historically ignored and neglected and where we have
22 seen the most disparities and disenfranchisement.
23 This will allow for intention on the RCV process and
24 ensure that we get it right in New York City and have
25

1
2 successful elections moving forward. So I just want
3 to thank everybody who played a part in--

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: [inaudible]
6 I thank my colleagues in the BLAC, the co-sponsors on
7 this bill, Kyle Mccoy [sp?], Susan Learner, Rank the
8 Vote NYC, along with the Brooklyn NAACP, and of
9 course, C.J. Murray for your help in this piece of
10 legislation. Thank you all.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
12 Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, and we will now go to
13 Council Member Carlos Menchaca.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
16 Majority Leader, and hello to my colleagues. I come
17 with incredible gratitude today. The street vendor
18 bill is something that will be incredibly
19 transformative to a community that has been building
20 power and voice in our city, a community that has
21 been the legacy of our incredible city, past,
22 present, and future. A special thanks to Council
23 Member Margaret Chin and Speaker Corey Johnson. You
24 know, without the Speaker coming in and ensuring that
25 this had a path to victory, we would not be here

1
2 today. Without his courage to stand up and be with
3 our communities that have been suffering. We would
4 not be here today voting, and so a special thank you
5 to the Speaker and his entire team for ensuring that
6 we had this moment. Melissa Mark-Viverito, our
7 previous Speaker, also was a massive champion, and I
8 stand with Council Member Chin on thanking her for
9 ensuring that we had a beautiful team to push this
10 forward and all the advocates on the ground, even
11 those who had concerns about the bill. It's been
12 almost half of a century since the Council has done
13 anything positive for street vendors. This is the
14 kind of relief with an enforcement system that will
15 bring that. I want to recommit ourselves as a
16 council to ensure that we keep doing these
17 legislative fixes and budgetary opportunities for
18 those impacted by COVID. They are the communities
19 that we must focus on, because whether it's Fifth
20 Avenue hot dog stand or the taco truck in Sunset
21 Park, this is a vibrant, vibrant part of our
22 community. Our street vendors are on the front lines
23 of our pandemic, and they are feeding our city. They
24 are small business owners, many of whom were left out
25 of state and federal emergency aid. Street vendors

1
2 also tell a beautiful American dream story of those
3 who started on our streets and then owned their own
4 brick and mortar.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: That's the kind
7 of power that we are now enforcing in this bill, and
8 I'm just so excited that we're here today with just
9 so much gratitude to this council for standing up and
10 making this happen. I'll say more in my next vote,
11 but I just want to say thank you to everyone.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much
13 Council Member Menchaca. Are there any other members
14 who wish to speak at this time? I see Council Member
15 Darma Diaz.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Correct. That's the
17 last one.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Hi, I'm going to be
20 as quick as possible. Thank you, Speaker, for
21 allowing me to bring this bill. Adams and Brander
22 [sic] my predecessor Espinal, as an advocate that
23 worked on this for six years, it's really a big deal
24 for me. As housing advocates since age of seven,
25 it's tremendous as a young mom that experienced

1
2 homelessness and lived in a basement apartment and
3 had to deal with backed up sewerage and undesirable
4 condition, it's also a big deal for me to know that
5 I'm a part of this process with you all of making
6 better opportunities. As someone who spent 13 years
7 working with the homeless population, I have plenty
8 of horror stories, but I thank you all for supporting
9 this pilot program. We're starting with nine, and
10 I'm hoping at the end of our process that New York
11 City as a whole can benefit from this. Again, thank
12 you. Holding back emotions as I'm listening to you
13 all enter the bill. I was 19 and a half and I was
14 homeless and dealt with this. So, this is just
15 tremendous, and it being my first bill, it just
16 solidifies my fight is real, and I'm humbled, and
17 thank you all for supporting it. That is all. Thank
18 you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,
20 Council Member Diaz. Your passion is certainly felt.
21 We appreciate your voice here and your experiences
22 are exactly why you are in that seat. At this time I
23 would just like to also present-- I have a tremendous
24 amount of respect for Council Member Alicka Ampry-
25 Samuel, and we spoke at length about 1994A, and I

1 just want to share some of my concerns. I also am
2 very passionate about this issue. I believe that
3 this bill as it pertains to rank choice voting is the
4 absolute right bill, but at the exact wrong time. We
5 are only three to four months out from when our
6 election cycle is going to begin again, and we are
7 also in the mix of special elections which are
8 happening right now. And so an education plan such
9 as the one that Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel
10 outlined would have been appropriate and
11 appropriately passed in 2019 or even early 2020. We
12 are in the middle of a pandemic. Schools have been
13 closed. Restaurants have been closed. Senior
14 centers closed. Nursing homes shut off from their
15 loved ones and family and friends. Houses of worship
16 have been significantly reduced, if not many have all
17 be closed. We have seen many measures taken
18 throughout this pandemic for life and death safety
19 precautions, and it's important that we recognize
20 that many of the ways that we have traditionally
21 reached voters, particularly communities of color
22 particularly seniors, particularly those with
23 language access challenges have been through those
24 exact mediums, and it's important that we recognize
25

1
2 that an educational program at this final hour, as we
3 all know, cannot be done effectively. It cannot be
4 done safely, and with the budget issue that this city
5 is facing right now where we are all scrambling for
6 resources for food pantries, this money, this time,
7 this energy and resources would be better spent in a
8 postponement of this particular Rank Choice Voting
9 roll-out. I also want to add when we did the census,
10 we spent 40 million dollars in preparation for a
11 census roll-out. We are only spending what I
12 understand to be two million dollars for Rank Choice
13 Voting. We also know that the language is also
14 disenfranchising so many people. we know that there
15 will only be presented language in five languages,
16 and language speakers that speak Russian, Haitian,
17 Creole, Arabic, Yiddish, Polish, and French are not
18 going to have that education so that they can make
19 the best decision is for their communities. And when
20 I think about so many black voters who were critical
21 in this nation's recent election, we know that for so
22 many of those black voters here in New York City
23 according to the New York Urban league, 40 percent of
24 black residents do not have either/or home or
25 internet access, which would be another form of the

1
2 ability to educate. And let's think about what the
3 ballot is going to look like. Our voters, think about
4 this, are going to get a ballot with potentially 37
5 different mayoral candidates, potentially nine
6 comptroller candidates, four public advocate
7 candidates as well as the Borough President races. I
8 understand that there are over 20 candidates running
9 in some City Council races. Our voters are going to
10 have to look at a ballot that they're going to have
11 to Rank Choice Vote. In addition to District
12 Attorneys, that will not be Rank Choice, as well as
13 judges that will not be Rank Choice. I can only
14 imagine that a ballot is going to look like a
15 booklet, that we have given voters really no
16 education. The software pending around how Rank
17 Choice Voting is actually going to work is going-- is
18 still pending. And if any of you have had ever had
19 to get your own signatures for-- to get on the ballot
20 just to get someone to sign their name and to write
21 and print it often has challenges where you have to
22 speak one on one, face to face, with your face in
23 their face for people that cannot hear, for people
24 that cannot see, for people that cannot understand
25 you. So we are going to be putting our voters in a

1 very precarious and dangerous situation. Everyone
2 has to recognize that having a booklet for a ballot,
3 limited English access, little to no education, no
4 ability to really reach many voters that will be
5 disenfranchised, particularly those who do not speak
6 English as their first language is going to be very
7 detrimental to our governmental education and voting
8 rights acts that people have fought for for years.
9 And I'll just close with saying this, we so often
10 want to compare ourselves to other cities like San
11 Francisco's doing it, this city's doing it, but when
12 you look at San Francisco, their African-American
13 population is now less than six percent. Their black
14 population has dwindled and has rapidly declined over
15 the last three decades. And so when we look at those
16 numbers, do we really want to be like San Francisco?
17 Do we really want to emulate the practices that they
18 are putting forth? These are issues that we really
19 have to think about, and Rank Choice Voting was set
20 up in order to elect new kinds of voters, but I'm
21 curious as to who those new kinds of voters and
22 voters of colors are when we have an Attorney General
23 who's African-American--

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED: [interposing] [inaudible]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Excuse me, I'm
3 going to come to a conclusion right now. When we
4 have so many people of color, even in this body, our
5 first African-American everything, it's really
6 challenging to see that this process is going to be
7 put forward in a way that is going to disenfranchise
8 our communities. So, I just want to be on record at
9 this point. It's something that's very passionate to
10 me from an ancestral place, and I'll just close with
11 that. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Madam Majority
13 Leader, there are two other Council Members who wish
14 to speak on General Orders. Again, items that we
15 will be voting on today, Council Members Rodriguez
16 and Reynoso.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
19 Rodriguez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Thank
21 you, Council Member Majority Leader. I'll just speak
22 around this street vendor bill. As everyone know,
23 I've been in the front line working with Council
24 Member Chin while everyone who care for the street
25 vendor and the small business. I support the bill as

1 something that, you know, for many years we've been
2 working with the street vendor project. I just want
3 to bring to the attention that enforcement is
4 critical, that if we still have to look on how to
5 stop the level exploitation of some people buying the
6 black market. They're using the permit to rent those
7 permits and make a lot of money under the table. so
8 I hope that as part of this process we will be
9 [inaudible] able to work with the Administration to
10 put in necessary resources so that enforcement must
11 happen when it come to the black market that is
12 operating 24/7 in that industry. Those permits
13 should be only given to those individuals who are--
14 who earn them. Second, I want to be sure also that
15 as we support our street vendors, we also support our
16 small businesses, the restaurant owner, the
17 supermarket, the bodega owner. They didn't get
18 proper support that they needed in this process, and
19 [inaudible] all the financial resources given because
20 of the COVID-19. I'd also like to encourage that
21 when look at street vendors, we're talking about
22 someone that have one or two tables, and also one
23 that have 15 tables, because they rented that space
24 as a bodega, so as a supermarket. So let's continue
25

1
2 working together. Let's support the street vendors,
3 but also let's support the small business community,
4 the restaurant owner, the supermarket--

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
8 Member Rodriguez, and now we will have-- is there
9 another member signed up to speak?

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member
11 Reynoso followed by Council Member Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
13 Reynoso and then Council Member Koo.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you, Madam
16 Majority Leader. I just wanted to speak related to
17 the tax lien bill that we will be voting on today. I
18 just want us to be mindful that during a time when
19 many mostly, small homeowners, black and brown small
20 home owners, in many communities are experiencing
21 financial hardship. The fact that we would move
22 forward with a bill that seeks to put a lien on their
23 property, I just think is unjustified and a real
24 tragedy. I think we should hold on any tax liens
25 until we're-- at least the Executive Order has been

1 pulled by our Governor, noting that we've gone past
2 the Coronavirus. Again, we're talking about the
3 potential of giving people rebates, homeowners
4 rebates, in this crisis because we know how hard the
5 times have been, but then in a back-handed way have
6 no problem putting their property in a lien sale.
7 It's a Giuliani-era legislation and law that was not
8 justified then and shouldn't have been justified now.
9 Many large cities collect taxes and back taxes in
10 many different ways. We collect summonses. If you
11 don't pay your summonses, you get fined. And there's
12 one-- they figure out a way to collect it. The City
13 of New York always figures out a way to collect their
14 money. A lien sale is completely unnecessary and I
15 think over-reaching. I will actually ask that
16 Council Members vote no on this bill today, and
17 congratulations for the street vendors bill to
18 Council Member Chin and others, and again,
19 encouraging folks to vote no on [inaudible]. Thanks.
20

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
22 Member Reynoso. Council Member Koo?

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Street vending has
25 long been initial [inaudible] in Flushing [sic]. It

1
2 got so bad that I had to pass a law to completely
3 restrict vending in congested areas. Over the last
4 years, those areas have still been over-run by
5 vending, but it's been [inaudible] in law by every
6 city agency pass with regulating them, the Mayor's
7 Office, NYPD, Consumer Affairs, DOT. No one wants
8 anything to do with street vending and the
9 enforcement. We even have multi-agencies [inaudible]
10 after we got complaints, but many agencies just
11 didn't bother to show up. It's obvious that there
12 there's simply no appetite by the Mayor to direct any
13 city agencies to enforce street vending. It doesn't
14 matter that people complain or that people get sick
15 from the food, or their smoke goes in the windows, or
16 amongst all the garbage on the streets. If there's
17 no directive from the Mayor, then nothing gets done.
18 I should say if there's no directive from the Mayor,
19 then nothing gets done. I am sympathetic to street
20 vendors. I think they deserve a place in our city,
21 but they need to be regulated and enforced just like
22 everyone else. That hasn't happened in years.
23 Because of this, I will be voting yes today. The
24 reason is that this is the only concerted effort to
25 create a dedicated enforcement agency whose only job

1
2 is to enforce vending. I'm also pleased to see that
3 this agency will be created first before lifting the
4 cap and that you'll be authorized to enforce
5 unlicensed and licensed vending. It's time to stop
6 passing the buck. Our regulatory agencies--

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I need only 30
9 seconds more. Our regulatory agencies have spent too
10 long standing around in circle with everyone pointing
11 their finger at someone else. The bill is not
12 perfect, but it is a good first step, and surely hope
13 you will put us on a path to finally [inaudible]
14 among both street vendors and brick and mortar
15 businesses. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,
17 Council Member Koo. Are there any other members who
18 wish to speak at this time?

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes, Madam Majority
20 Leader. Council Members Van Bramer, Gjonaj, Cabrera,
21 and Cornegy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I just want to
23 remind everyone that we are only speaking on the
24 bills that are voting on today. Please proceed,
25 Council Member Van Bramer.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much. First, I just wanted to say street vendor bill, congratulations to all of the advocates, Council Member Chin, Chair Ayala, and of course, former Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, incredibly important. And while I have great respect for Council Member Adams who did amazing work on the tax lien sale issue, I want to echo and associate myself with the comments of Council Member Reynoso and say that I'll be voting no because this is still a problematic and even predatory model that harms people in particularly the most vulnerable and do so, and continue it in any way, shape or form, particularly during the pandemic is something that I can't support. But I know Council Member Adams made incredible changes for the good. And lastly, I know - I just want to thank Council Member Ampry-Samuel for her legislation. I know clearly the Majority Leader has very, very passionate feelings regarding this issue, and I'm sure she didn't mean it this way, but I just want to say that it is okay to emulate other cities. San Francisco has a long and storied progressive tradition, particularly when it comes to

1
2 recognizing the value of queer people and our lives,
3 and sometimes good ideas come out of San Francisco
4 and other places that we can emulate as well. So I
5 just wanted to say those three things with respect to
6 the issues that we're taking up today. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
8 Gjonaj?

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
11 Majority Leader. I just want to speak up on the
12 street vendor bill. There's no question that street
13 vendors play a vital role in our city, but so do
14 locally owned, brick and mortar businesses.
15 Unfortunately, this legislation unnecessarily pits
16 one against the other. I do not doubt the intent of
17 the bill, but there is an honest disagreement about
18 the impact that this legislation will have on our
19 struggling small businesses of which many are women,
20 minority, and immigrant owned. Street vending has
21 morphed into being a part of our lives and culture
22 that competes head-to-head against struggling brick
23 and mortar small businesses. In its current form,
24 this bill leaves too many unanswered questions, some
25 of which my colleagues have already mentioned. Others

1
2 are vendors operating within our Business Improvement
3 District. Will they contribute to the area's bid
4 assessment that they benefit from at the expense of
5 brick and mortar businesses. Open Store Fronts
6 Program enacted to help save struggling small
7 business and complied with COVID-19 protections, but
8 question is who will have the rights in the sidewalk
9 first, the vendor or the brick and mortar store?
10 Will it escalate confrontations and a race of
11 whomever gets there first? Who will be responsible
12 for dirty sidewalks subjected to Sanitation tickets?
13 Tickets rare issued to building addresses facing the
14 sidewalks. Storefronts must have a commercial car to
15 pick up their trash. Where will street vendors place
16 their garbage? At whose expense, the City's, where
17 trash is placed in corner baskets? Where will it be
18 placed? At the brick and mortar garbage that the
19 store pays for by weight. These are just a few of
20 the concerns and questions that have been left un-
21 addressed in this bill. Instead of an approach that
22 many feel is one-sided, I would have rather-- would
23 rather it been better for us to consider a
24 comprehensive set of business rescue bills that gives
25 much-needed assistance to all businesses--

SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: and not
[inaudible] the role of picking winners and losers.
I just need a few more seconds, Majority leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Please continue.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you. I
believe that brick and mortar businesses and street
vendors can co-exist in harmony with proper checks
and balances. This bill does not do that. My
opposition is not against street vendors. I would
have preferred a bill that was fairer and a bill that
would enforce street vendors to wait up to 10 years
for a permit. As small business Chair, I'll continue
to advocate and encourage my colleagues to advocate
for all small businesses that need rent, no-interest
loans, and relief today. So I'll be voting no on
Intro 1116B. Thank you, Majority Leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
Member Gjonaj. Council Member Cabrera followed by
Council Member Cornegy.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so
much. I want to address the street vendor's bill. I
want to echo my colleague, Council Member Mark

1
2 Gjonaj. Look, this bill comes I believe from a good
3 place. The sponsor of the bill, I know where her
4 heart is at and my colleagues as well, but it will
5 have unintended consequences. To be honest with you,
6 I couldn't think of a worse time to do this. One out
7 of seven chain stores are closed down. Forty percent
8 of restaurants, mom and pops stores right here in the
9 Bronx-- I have multiple friends they have already
10 lost the store. They're not going to open. It's
11 over totally for them. And then, the issue of who's
12 going to pay for this when we've been told that now
13 there's going to be a three-to-one attrition when we
14 have three workers in the City of New York that are
15 going to leave and we can only replace them with one,
16 and we know that we are broke in the City, and now, I
17 don't know where we're going to find this type of
18 funding. And when we have-- and the question I have
19 to ask, especially right here in the Bronx, what have
20 we done for our businesses? The Bronx only got one
21 percent, one percent of the SBS loans, the brick and
22 mortar, the people who have been there day in, day
23 out, for years, for years. I'm very, very concerned.
24 I would have hoped that we would have had a more
25 balanced-- and we do need to-- let me be clear, we

1
2 need to do something for our street vendors, but
3 there's a false balance here that at the end of the
4 day it's going to cause more businesses to close
5 down. Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much
7 Council Member Cabrera. We'll now hear from Council
8 Member Cornegy.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you,
11 Majority Leader Cumbo. I-- you know, I started to
12 have a conversation about the street vendors bill,
13 and then I heard Laurie speak, and you know, we
14 cannot negate the fact that African-American
15 communities across this country have had a history of
16 being disenfranchised from their vote, and I think,
17 you know, glossing over that really is a problem for
18 me. And while I agree that the implementation for
19 the Rank Choice Voting is here and we should pay
20 close attention to it and we should educate our
21 folks, just glossing over the idea that there's not a
22 real issue around-- I mean, the Federal Government,
23 for Christ sakes, had to weigh in to make sure that
24 our vote was protected as far as up north. So, it
25 wasn't even like-- I just want to be fair, and let's

1 not be disingenuous about the place where that kind
2 of passion comes from. And then to hear Council
3 Member Van Bramer draw a parallel between, you know,
4 Laurie's comments about the minimized demographics in
5 San Francisco to the LGBT community, I don't think
6 that's what she was talking about. I don't think
7 that's what she was talking about, and it's hard for
8 me to sit idly by, usually minding my own business.
9 Everybody in this council knows that I have my
10 opinions, and they usually-- I keep them to myself.
11 I am going about the business of educating my
12 community about Rank Choice Voting. I'm so glad for
13 Council Member Ampry-Samuel's bill which really puts
14 into place the idea that we have to have the
15 resources to educate, but I'm educating. I don't want
16 to draw this kind of divisiveness around the issue
17 that's germane to the black community. I think that's
18 unfair and it really hurt me [inaudible] hear that.
19 Laurie doesn't need anybody to stand up for her,
20 right? She doesn't. So, you know, I really wanted
21 to just talk about the street vendor's bill, but I
22 was so hurt by that exchange and how we so often
23 dissuade away from the real issue around--
24

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [inaudible]

disenfranchisement and add another layer to that, that I'm sorry. And I'm sorry to have, you know, broke-- but I sat by and that really hurt me, and so Laurie, I know you don't need anybody to stand up for you, but I think that it's important that there's a context by which that passion around Rank Choice Voting and the disenfranchisement make up the black vote is important that we don't gloss over. I'll leave my comments around the bill to my vote. Sorry.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council Member Cornegy. Are there any other members that wish to speak at this time?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. Council Member Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member Barron?

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. I just want to talk briefly about four of the bills that we're voting on today. I'm so pleased that we're passing or we're going to pass 1116, the street vendors project. We've been working on it for many, many years. Former Speaker, Melissa

1
2 Mark-Viverito, and many members of that group
3 including my husband who was one of the prime
4 sponsors, worked very diligently on that, and I'm
5 glad to see that particularly at this time we're
6 going to give them an opportunity to be able to
7 engage in an economic platform that will help sustain
8 them. In terms of bill 2206, the basement
9 legalization, I'm so glad that that's being extended
10 as well. Council Member Lander and I spent many
11 hours talking with the Administration about how we
12 could strengthen that and make sure that we could
13 expand that, and we're pleased to see that that's
14 moving forward. Regarding the Rank Choice Voting
15 from Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, I think that
16 there's much that has to be done, because it is here
17 and we have to have it at this time, and I think we
18 should also remember to tell people they have a
19 choice of ranking. If they only want to vote for one
20 person that can simplify it, and that is legal. And
21 lastly, regarding bill 2166, the lien sale, I have to
22 echo the comments of my colleagues who cited all the
23 reasons why it should not be happening, particularly
24 at this time, and I join with them in their comments

1
2 in that, and I will be voting no on that bill. Thank
3 you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
5 Member--

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing] Oh,
7 one other thing. I forgot. One other thing, just to
8 ask us to be sensitive in our choice of words.
9 Someone referred to as the black market and the black
10 sheep of the family at one previous meeting, and I
11 would like for us to be sensitive to using the word
12 "black" when we're talking about things that are
13 negative. Doctor Martin Luther King in one of his
14 speeches reminded us that of the 120-odd synonyms in
15 the thesaurus, more than half of them related to
16 black or all associated with negative things that
17 were not positive, whereas, all of the synonyms
18 referring to white were positive. So, please, I would
19 encourage my colleagues to refrain from talking about
20 the "black market." Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
22 Member Barron. Are there any other members who wish
23 to speak at this time?

24 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. Council Member
25 Yeger.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
3 Yeger, you may begin.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
6 President. There are a number of bills that I
7 support and I'm grateful to my colleagues for
8 introduction, for introducing them and for moving
9 them to the floor today. Many of them for the reasons
10 that were stated earlier, so I'm not going to revisit
11 that. I would like to talk about Introduction 2166,
12 the lien sale bill, and I want to make it very clear
13 and it ought to be said before we vote, if we do
14 nothing today on this topic, there will be no lien
15 sale this year or next year or the year after that,
16 period. So the idea that we are doing reforms,
17 unquestionably this bill has reforms that the
18 previous versions of this law did not have, but if we
19 all go home right now and do not vote on this bill,
20 there will be no lien sale. So, when we wrap
21 ourselves around the idea that we've reformed the
22 lien sale, we also have to remember what the line
23 sale does. The lien sale privatizes the collection
24 of the City's debt into the market of debt
25 collectors. It takes away homes from people in our

1
2 city. It has done that historically. It will
3 continue to do that, and the next time it happens, it
4 will be because of us, this council, this session,
5 today. We're the ones who did it. So I'm not going
6 to vote for this bill. I appreciate incredibly the
7 work that my colleagues are particularly Council
8 Member Adams who has worked for hours to get the
9 City, the Administration, to roll back some of the
10 harshness of the previous ways that this legislation
11 has manifested itself, but at the end of the day, the
12 bottom line is very clear. If we do not pass this
13 bill, there will be no lien sale. So, with that, I
14 urge my colleague, please stand up today, vote now on
15 2166, end this misery that's being inflicted up on
16 our communities, and let's not have this lien sale
17 this year. This is not the time for it. Thank you
18 very much Madam President.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,
20 Council Member Yeger. Are there any other members
21 who wish to speak at this time?

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: No, Madam Majority
23 Leader.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Alright, thank
25 you. This has been a very good spirited and

1
2 passionate exchange on the floor today. We will now
3 move into the report of Special Committees.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: None.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Reports of
6 Standing Committees.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the
8 Committee on Civil Service and Labor, Intro. 2161,
9 Workplace Health and Safety Board.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
11 general orders.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Intro 2162A,
13 Occupational Safety and Health Information.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
15 general orders.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the
17 Committee on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing,
18 Intro 116B, Food Vendor Permits.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
20 general orders.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Repot of the
22 Committee on Finance, Intro 2166B, tax liens.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
24 general orders.

1
2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the
3 Committee on Governmental Operations, Intros 1420C
4 and 1832B, 311 service and complaints.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
6 general orders.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Intro 1994, Ranked
8 Choice Voting.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
10 general orders.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the
12 Committee on Housing and Buildings, Pre-considered
13 Intro 2204A, basement apartments.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
15 general orders.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Report of the
17 Committee on Land Use, Pre-considered LU716 and Reso
18 1536, Intermediate School Council District 39.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
20 orders, and at this time I'm asking for a clerk to
21 take a roll call vote on all of the items that are
22 coupled on today's general order calendar.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Adams?

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

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you. Thank
6 you. With all due respect to my colleagues who don't
7 agree with Intro 2166B, this is actually-- and I
8 wonder if a lot of my colleagues have read the bill.
9 That's my first concern. This is actually an anti-
10 Giuliani-esque reform that among other things removes
11 homeowners from eligibility of the tax lien sale. We
12 have substantial support from our advocates who are
13 at the table with us for this important reform. This
14 actually is going to keep folks in their homes,
15 something that has never been looked at before. So
16 to call it a tragedy, I think that is a bit extreme;
17 however, I respect your opinion. And I also doubt
18 that the original, original supporter and advocates,
19 former of special legislation, that being our
20 Attorney General, I hardly believe that she would
21 support this legislation if it were such a tragedy. I
22 thank my colleagues who are passing legislation
23 today, and once again, I ask my colleagues to fully
24 support this very important reform. Thank you very
25 much.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
3 Member Adams.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: And Council Member
5 Adams, your vote, please?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Ampry-
8 Samuel?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Permission
10 to explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I thank my
15 30 other colleagues who co-sponsored Intro 1994, and
16 I want to remind everyone that the vote was in
17 November of 2019, and I stood with Borough President
18 Eric Adams three months after in cold day in February
19 in front of the Board of Elections at 42 Broadway
20 speaking directly to the media, calling on the
21 Administration to allocate funding to the community
22 group to help in rolling out Rank Choice Voting, and
23 this bill was introduced last summer. I totally
24 understand everyone's points to Majority Leader and
25 Council Member Cornegy, I totally understand your

1
2 point and wish we were in a different place, but we
3 are here, and we're operating within the system that
4 is not necessarily designed to support us. As of
5 today, the State Board of Elections came out to say
6 that they will work with the City Board of Elections
7 to help implement RCV. So, if this is something that
8 is going to move forward, I don't want to miss the
9 opportunity to educate the people. The pandemic
10 climate makes voter education on a new system even
11 more imperative. I have a duty, and we all have a
12 duty and responsibility to do what we can when we can
13 with what we have. And so with that, I just want to,
14 you know, ask everyone for their support and to vote
15 yes on 1994, and with that, I vote aye on all.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
17 Member Samuel.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ayala?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Permission to
20 explain my vote?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Thank you. First
25 and foremost I want to thank Council Member Adams for

1
2 all of her work. It takes great leadership to do
3 something. I mean, it's easy to just sit back and do
4 nothing, and I think that she's been working
5 tirelessly and we need to recognize her effort. I
6 trust her leadership and I will be voting in the
7 affirmative on her bill. I really wanted to also
8 address the issues regarding Intro 1116. I want to
9 thank Margaret. I want to thank the Speaker and his
10 team who have been, you know, phenomenal through all
11 this process. You know, I-- it really saddens me
12 when, you know, we in this body, you know, contribute
13 to pitting one community against the other. This is
14 a big city. There's room for all of us, and I think
15 that you have a committed body that is dedicated to
16 ensuring that brick and mortar businesses do not
17 suffer from any unintended consequences, and we look
18 forward to working with all of the colleagues who may
19 have issues or concerns in their own district to
20 address any of those. I support this bill
21 wholeheartedly because I have seen with my own eyes,
22 and I have spoken, you know, to countless primarily
23 women of color who get up extremely early in the
24 morning, four and five o'clock in the morning to be
25 out there in the cold, in the rain, in the snow to be

1
2 able to feed their families and still fall short
3 because they have to pay someone who actually has the
4 permit, you know, upwards of \$20,000 a year. That is
5 criminal, and the fact that we have allowed that to
6 happen for most of my lifetime is really a shame, and
7 it's a shame-- it's a stain on this city. so I am
8 really proud of this work, and again, I will-- I
9 happily work with any one of you that has any
10 concerns, but I really hope that you reconsider your
11 vote and that you support this, because supporting
12 this bill is supporting immigrants, the immigrant
13 community in this city. It's supporting people that
14 employ others in this city, a com--

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: That puts
17 resources into the local economy. Thank you for your
18 time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you Council
20 Member Ayala.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: [inaudible] on
22 all.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Barron?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Quest-- explain
25 my vote.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I just
6 want to make sure that I did understand the bill
7 related to the lien sale, and that it did say a
8 million dollars outreach by CBOs not DOS. It did
9 provide for some persons who had exemptions-- would
10 be granted exemptions because of COVID, and it did
11 reauthorize a taskforce to reform tax lien and remove
12 hedge funds, and in addition to that, it extends the
13 lien sale for one year. So, I wanted to make sure
14 that I had read it properly, and with that, I just
15 want to say I'm voting aye on all with the exception
16 of 2166, for which I'm voting no. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Council
18 Member Borelli?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. I am
20 voting aye on all except Intros 1116B and 2082.
21 Thank you very much.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Brannan? Council
23 Member Brannan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: We'll come back to
25 Council Member Brannan.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay. Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I'll be very brief. I just want to lend support to my colleague Council Member Ampry-Samuel. Look, I stood also before all with Council Member Miller and the BLAC. We stood against Rank Choice Voting, but we have to deal with a reality, not the situation that we don't - a reality that we wish we had. So, within that context, it just makes sense for our community to be properly informed. It does not take away any arguments that have been made here. All the arguments regarding RCV are valid, but we have to deal with what we have. Either we take what we have right now, or we could make it better [inaudible] idea but better. And so with that, I'll be voting aye on all with exception of 1116B and 2166 [inaudible].

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council Member Cabrera.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Chin?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I think
8 to my colleague, in the City Council, we have worked
9 very hard to support our small businesses, and street
10 vendors are also small businesses, and we have to
11 give them the hope that they can prosper, and I think
12 that, you know, colleagues that are concerned about
13 enforcement, this bill will start to address that.
14 It's not a perfect bill, but it's a beginning to
15 organize this chaotic system that has existed for so
16 long in our city. New York City is on our way to
17 recover, and we have to include everyone, and we have
18 to work together. And there are great examples of
19 vendors working together with more-- you know, brick
20 and mortar businesses. They bring customers to each
21 other. So, we have to see that is what's going on
22 out there too. And I also wanted to, you know,
23 congratulate my colleagues, Ampry-Samuel, Miller, and
24 Adams for this important legislation that we're
25 voting on today. And Chair Ayala, I'm so glad that

1
2 you're chairing the committee so we can finally get
3 out the vote out, and also to Jason Goldman for your
4 guidance and support to get this to the finish line,
5 and also all the advocates, all the vendors, and
6 street vendor project leadership, Mohammad, Rita
7 [sic], Matt, and all those marchers and rally in the
8 heat and the cold, all of these years of hard work.
9 Let's get this over to the finish line, and I really
10 urge my colleagues to really support this
11 legislation, and I' proudly to vote aye on all.
12 Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member
15 Borelli?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I apologize for
17 having to change the vote. I said the wrong number,
18 and I don't want the wrong Council Member to be mad
19 at me. So I'll be voting aye on all except 1116B and
20 now I'll be voting no on 2204 which is from Council
21 Member Powers. I just wanted to make sure he knows
22 that. Thank you.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Council
24 Member Brannan?

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 72

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Hey, can you
3 hear me?

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes, sir.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Okay, I vote aye
6 on all.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.
8 Constantindes?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Madam
10 Majority Leader, may I be allowed to explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Thank you
15 for the opportunity. I will be voting aye on all
16 today, but I am going to express my concern with the
17 Administration, and the Administration shrugging
18 their shoulders too often at small businesses. You
19 know, I know of three-- I brought two brothers and a
20 sister who came from Croatia who worked hard, worked
21 three jobs to open a restaurant, and because they
22 were across the street from a Cushershel [sp?] Zone
23 [sic], they were told they would have to re--
24 rezoning of their building to get a sidewalk café,
25 and that would have cost them fifty thousand dollars.

1
2 I know of a business, small business, in my district
3 where they're not able to do right in front of their
4 building outdoor dining, and everyone from DOT and in
5 this Administration shrugs their shoulders at them,
6 and yet this business and their employees are in
7 danger of closing. So, today, I'm glad to support
8 1116 and support our street vendors, but I hope this
9 Administration is not going to continue to shrug
10 their shoulders and continue to leave small
11 businesses in a bad way at a time when we need to
12 find solution and not just say, "Well, this is the
13 way things are." Asking 50 thousand dollars for a
14 sidewalk café to have their building rezoned, we
15 should be looking to make sure our streets are for
16 all. We should be making sure we're supporting small
17 businesses. We should make sure we're doing
18 everything possible because the world has changed in
19 the last year, and yet, the Administration's response
20 to small businesses has not. So, that's why I'm
21 passionate about fighting for our small businesses,
22 doing more, while I'm still supporting this bill
23 today, 1116. So, thank you to my colleagues.
24 Congratulations on all of your hard work, and I look
25

1 forward to continuing to work with you all on these
2 issues. I vote aye on all.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Cornegy?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to
6 explain my vote?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
8 granted.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you. I've
11 spent the entirety of my adult life committed to
12 supporting immigrant and minority entrepreneurs and
13 I've faced an uneven playing field. I was solidly
14 with 1116 when it was written. I remained solidly
15 with its goal, but COVID-19 drastically changed the
16 landscape. I reject the myth that vendors have to
17 compete with storefronts. We can support both. When
18 we wrote this bill we were not picking one side over
19 the other, but that changed because of the pandemic.
20 The bill must live up to its intention without
21 disenfranchising another valuable city resource, our
22 brick and mortar businesses. Increased street
23 traffic helps everyone, but how can we manage that
24 means success or failure for small businesses? It's
25

1
2 not mutually exclusive to support all entrepreneurs,
3 including street vendors, traditional brick and
4 mortars, and app-based companies, all of which will
5 play a respective roll in revitalizing the state's
6 economy. If we approach present and future
7 legislation with thoughtfulness, contextualize our
8 advocacy, we must stop pitting one against the other.
9 Failure to consult with all sides leads to unintended
10 consequences. So I propose an inclusive process with
11 more stakeholders. Let's live up to the goals of
12 this bill by adjusting the realities to the pandemic.
13 There is a reasonable expectation that we could start
14 a new dialogue that includes all small entrepreneurs.
15 Thank you, and I look forward to a better way to
16 support street vendors. I'll be voting yes on all
17 except 1116.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
19 Member Cornegy.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Deutsch?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Permission,
22 Majority Leader, to explain my vote?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted, Council Member Deutsch. Good to see you.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. Can
3 I get 15 minutes like the Majority Leader?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Don't do all that.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Every year on
6 January 27th, which was yesterday, we commemorate the
7 National Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is a day to
8 reflect up on the lives lost during the Holocaust,
9 and to honor the memories of the victims. I often
10 talk about the fact that my parents were survivors of
11 unspeakable horror during the Holocaust and how they
12 shaped my world view. Today, I want to take a moment
13 to speak about the incredible stories of bravery,
14 heroism and faith displayed by victims of Nazi
15 brutality. One story is about two sisters who were
16 imprisoned in Auschwitz during the war, just 14 and
17 16 years old. They had a friend who was in the same
18 barracks as them who fell ill without medical
19 attention, and being sick in the concentration camp
20 was a painful and slow death sentence, but these
21 girls tried everything to save their friend's life.
22 She was a desperate for water, but there was none
23 available. So every night these girls would borrow
24 through the floor boards and climb into the freezing
25 cold mud under the barracks. There under the

1 barracks there were pipes covered in condensation.
2 Each night they would spend hours sucking the
3 condensation off the pipes, spitting it into a bowl,
4 and then feeding their friend that liquid. They
5 saved her life. Another story tells the tale of a
6 young man who was in a concentration camp in Poland.
7 He was ordered by his Nazi guards to go into a shed
8 where dead bodies were stored until they could be
9 cremated. The Nazi told this young man to bring him
10 a pair of pants off one of the bodies. Inside the
11 shed, the man felt around and found pants for the
12 Nazi. Before he brought them outside, he noticed
13 there were pages in the pockets. He pulled them out
14 and found an entire section of the Talmud, a holy
15 Jewish book. He smuggled those pages back into his
16 barracks, and every night he and a friend would sit
17 outside under the moonlight studying the Talmud.

18
19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: In the midst of
21 hell, they kept the Jewish souls alive through the
22 suffering. They both survived the war and lost
23 contact. Fifty years later, the [inaudible] was
24 marrying off his granddaughter. At the wedding, he
25 met this old friend from the concentration camp who

1 was the grandfather of the groom. Finally, I want to
2 share a story of another young man in Auschwitz. He
3 was only 15 years old and he was assigned to work in
4 the kitchen. Every day, under the watchful eyes of
5 the Nazi guards, he and other prisoners would prepare
6 food for their fellow inmates, and each day they
7 would watch as food went into the trash, even as the
8 prisoners were starving to death. Finally, this
9 young man couldn't take it anymore. Risking his
10 life, he would smuggle potato skins out of the
11 garbage under his shirt. In the barracks, he would
12 distribute those meager portions to the sick, the
13 elderly, and the children. That 15-year-old boy
14 survived the war and he moved to America where we
15 raised four sons with his wife, another survivor. He
16 was my father, and he was my hero. The victims of
17 the Holocaust endured tragedies we can hardly bear to
18 imagine, but we can honor their memories by
19 remembering their bravery and by continuing to
20 support the Holocaust survivors who remain here in
21 New York City. God bless America. God bless our
22 Holocaust survivors, and God bless you all. With
23 that, I vote aye on all. No on 1116B. Thank you.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
3 Member Deutsch, and thank you for allowing us all to
4 remember as well today. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member
7 Barron?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yeah, sorry. I
9 sent a note. That's for general discussion.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Okay.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: You're welcome.
13 Council Member Darma Diaz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: You're on mute?
15 Okay.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Yeah, I am. I was--
17 I'll be quick. Yes to all, but I'd like to just make
18 a comment on the food vendor bill. During COVID and
19 trying to speak locally, I experienced two allergic
20 reactions, which that was due to cross-contamination.
21 So I'm asking for in this process for the Department
22 of Health to do due diligence as we're out there and
23 we're grading. If a vendor says they have two
24 skillets, you know, let's test them and let's make
25 sure. I was trying to have a fish taco, and it was

1
2 contaminated with pork. I quickly began to have an
3 allergic reaction, and obviously that was not a good
4 point-- good time for me. So, in voting yes to the
5 vendor bill, I just ask that we do due diligence and
6 assure that we pay attention to us that-- to those
7 that have food allergies. Thank you. Yes on all.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ruben Diaz?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I'm voting yes on
11 all, except on 1116 and 2166. God bless you all.
12 Happy New Year [sic].

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
14 Member Diaz.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Dromm?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Eugene?
18 You're muted Council Member Eugene.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote-- thank
20 you very much. I appreciate it. Thank you. I vote
21 aye.

22 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Gibson?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you.
24 Permission to explain my vote?
25

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
6 Majority Leader, and good afternoon colleagues,
7 Speaker. This has been a very long Stated, but I have
8 appreciated all of the comments about the bills on
9 today's agenda. I definitely want to commend the
10 work of Council Member Adams and all the advocates
11 and our Attorney General for really putting together
12 a much better bill that we can support. I'm proud to
13 support that bill, and Council Member Ampry-Samuel,
14 thank you so much for your bill, as well, and all of
15 my colleagues. I wanted to speak very quickly about
16 the street vendor bill, because during this global
17 pandemic that hit our country, I really had the honor
18 to join the Street Vendor Project and our
19 entrepreneurs at many school distributions in my
20 district at a time when food insecurity was the
21 greatest. So many families lost their employment,
22 their income, and have struggled for basic
23 necessities such as healthy food. I want to thank
24 all the vendors who've support our residents and
25 families during this time. Our street vendors have

1 long-endured a system of inequity and un-regulation
2 for the past 40 years, the challenges they've faced.
3 Streamlining the vendor industry and achieving a
4 balance and recognizing all of the challenges that
5 have been faced is what we're talking about today.
6 Our vendors have experienced a crisis that has been
7 further exacerbated by COVID. They have been
8 subjected to harassment, inconsistent enforcement and
9 exploitation, because of a cap restriction that's
10 been in place since the 1980s. Today's legislation
11 put forth by Council Member Chin breathes new life
12 into this industry that has provided a valuable
13 service. There is room in our communities for all
14 small businesses, merchants and our vendors, many of
15 whom are entrepreneurs and small businesses of color.
16 This legislation is a great step forward to begin a
17 process to gradually increase the number of food
18 permits issued. I want to thank the street vendor
19 project, UJC, all of our Chambers of Commerce, our
20 BIDs, NSA, our supermarkets, grocery stores, bodegas,
21 small businesses who have all reached out to provide
22 important input and amendments to strengthen this
23 bill. I am grateful to have worked with our small
24 businesses and our vendors--
25

SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: during the pandemic-- I just-- 30 seconds-- during the pandemic to bring much needed relief. Businesses have stepped up and so have our vendors. This bill is really a step forward in the right direction to achieve economic justice and reform. Now the work will begin with our agencies and stakeholders on the advisory board and the implementation. Thank you, Council Member Chin, for your relentless efforts, Council Member Menchaca and all of my colleagues, the Street Vendor Project, and all the advocates on a job well down. I'm proud to support. I vote aye on all, and thank you, colleagues for all of your important bills today. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council Member Gibson.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Permission to explain my vote, Majority Leader?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission granted.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you. It's
3 "Don't tell me how much you love me, show me how much
4 you love me." And what we've told the borough of the
5 Bronx in particular and the outer boroughs and our
6 small businesses in their greatest time of need is
7 you don't matter, especially if you come from the
8 outer boroughs. The total rent and loan program that
9 was offered to all 240,000 small businesses in New
10 York City is a total of 8.5 million dollars-- 85
11 million dollars of which only four to five million
12 came directly from the City's tax payer's coffers
13 [sic]. The total equivalates [sic] to \$350 per
14 business, not enough to even pay the utility charges
15 for many of our small businesses. We have forced
16 them to shut down to not fault of their own. The
17 pandemic has been the devastation of their business
18 models, and in their greatest time of need rather
19 than give them relief in the form of grants, no
20 interest loans, or relief from real estate taxes, and
21 water and sewer, today we also discourage them from
22 opening their doors, if ever. One-third of our small
23 businesses will not survive this pandemic, and that's
24 of many small businesses that are women-owned,
25 minority-owned, and immigrant-owned. You don't have

1
2 to peg one against the other. Intro 2166 does not go
3 far enough to protect our homeowners from real estate
4 tax and water and sewer taxes. Another injustice
5 that we're allowing to occur today. I can't see the
6 light at the end of the tunnel--

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: any longer. I sit
9 side by side with all of those that are struggling
10 through this pandemic and crisis, shoulder to
11 shoulder, trying to help and encourage them to
12 survive. I don't no longer have the strength to
13 encourage them to survive this pandemic while we
14 continue work to undermine their very existence.
15 With that, I vote aye on all, with the exception of
16 1116. Thank you, Majority Leader.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,
18 Council Member Gjonaj.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Grodenchik?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you. I
21 don't request to speak on a legislation today, but I
22 would ask that I be added to the list of people who
23 wish to speak following our vote today when I will
24 discuss the vaccination dessert that is eastern
25 Queens. So, with that, I vote aye on all, except for

1
2 1116B which I am voting no on today. Thank you,
3 Madam Majority Leader.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Holden?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye on all
7 with the exception of Intros 1116B and 2204, which I
8 vote no.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
10 Member Holden.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Kallos?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye on
13 all.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Koo?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
16 Koo, are you on mute?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yeah, yeah, I'm
18 here. Yeah. I vote aye on all.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Got it. Thank you.
22 Koslowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye on
24 all, and congratulations to Margaret Chin and also to
25 Council Member Adrienne Adams.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
permission to explain my vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
granted.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam
Majority Leader. I'll speak quickly on four of the
bills on today's calendar. First, I'm proud to be a
co-sponsor of 2204A, the basement accessory dwelling
unit bill, with Council Member Diaz. Congratulations
on your first bill. As Council Member Barron said,
we have been proud to work hard to get it to this
point. But we're handing it off to you and Council
Member Adams to get it across the finish line. That
program needs to succeed. It needs to scale up,
enabling New Yorkers to be able to regularize those
basement units critical for affordable housing.
Proud to co-sponsor it with you and look forward to
you and Council Member Adams carrying it forward.
Second, big props on 1994 to Council Member Ampry-
Samuel. We've been talking about this for a long
time, but it is so critical to have good public
education about Rank Choice Voting as we have the

1 first elections where it's taking place, and you have
2 not let a difficult issue or challenges or even your
3 own questions about whether it should happen let up
4 from making sure people get the information that they
5 need, and it's great we're voting on it today, and I
6 want to thank you for fighting to get it to this
7 point. Council Member Margaret Chin,
8 congratulations. This has been an incredibly,
9 incredibly long struggle, and I've been so lucky to
10 be, you know, your ally. You've been our champion.
11 Props to the Street Vendor Project. I want to say
12 thank you to all the folks who weighed in on this,
13 including small business advocates who made the bill
14 better even where they don't agree with it. It's
15 true, we have not done enough to show up for our
16 brick and mortar small businesses and we need to do
17 more. I'm introducing a bill today and there's a lot
18 of others, but that is no reason at all to make sure
19 that we stand by the set of immigrant, largely women,
20 hard-working New Yorkers. I don't know about all of
21 you, but one of my favorite kids' books was the Push
22 Cart War [sic]. I don't know if you read the Push
23 cart War. That was a war between the street vendors
24 and the trucks, not the brick and mortar businesses,

1
2 but it was one of the ways I thought about who's
3 working hardest. Madam Majority, can I have 30 more
4 seconds.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Please. Please,
7 you can continue.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very
9 much. So I urge people to go back and read the Push
10 Cart War, and remember just how heroic our street
11 vendors are, how much they matter for our city, but
12 we don't want any war here. What we want is to be
13 able do right by those street vendors and by our
14 brick and mortar small businesses. So let's pass
15 this today, and then let's get back to doing things
16 that help everyone. And finally, I want to speak to
17 Intro 2166. I first want to praise Council Member
18 Adams' work on this. She made this bill so, so, so
19 much better and fought tirelessly on something and
20 move things that I don't think anyone thought would
21 be possible. So I want to give you a lot of praise
22 on this Council Member. I had pledged publicly that
23 I would not support a lien sale during the pandemic
24 or during the remainder of my year in office, and I'm
25 going to live up to that and vote no on this bill,

1
2 but I think you have done an excellent job making it
3 better and working hard to defend homeowners in your
4 district and around the city. So, with that, I'm
5 voting aye on all, except for 2166 on which I vote no
6 with congratulations to all of those bill sponsors
7 and all of my colleagues. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
9 Member Lander.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Levin? Council
11 Member Levin?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Yes, I vote aye on
13 all. In particular I want to acknowledge the
14 significant work that Council Member Chin did on the
15 vendor bill, Council Member Adams did on lien sale
16 reform legislation, and Council Member Ampry-Samuel
17 did on the Rank Choice Voting bill. None of these
18 were easy issues. These were significantly
19 [inaudible] where they required a lot of judgement, a
20 lot of good faith effort and a lot of purpose and
21 intent, which is often what legislation requires.
22 It's not always that we get everything that we're
23 hoping for or everything that we want or even most of
24 what we want, but it is-- it requires an ability to
25 see the bigger picture, and work towards a just

1 resolution, and I commend all three of my colleagues,
2 in particular, for the work that they did on this
3 legislation, and I also want to acknowledge
4 [inaudible] and former Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito,
5 and our current Speaker Corey Johnson on the street
6 vendors bill. Really proud friend of the vendors
7 since my first term in office when we did the
8 [inaudible]. So I congratulate them on a hard fought
9 victory today, many, many [inaudible], and I want to
10 acknowledge the great work of Mohammad [inaudible],
11 and before him Sean [inaudible].

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And with that I
14 vote aye on all.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Levine?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
18 Majority Leader. Permission to explain my vote?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
20 granted.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you so
23 much. I first want to express my gratitude to the
24 leadership of Council Member Adams for doing so much
25

1
2 to reform the lien sale process and to provide more
3 protection than ever for struggling homeowners, and I
4 also want to thank all the leaders who have brought
5 1116 to the floor for a vote today, after years of
6 work, starting with Council Member Chin who's just
7 fought relentlessly for this. I want to thank Speaker
8 Johnson for making this possible. And I want to
9 thank the past Council Speaker Mark-Viverito who
10 really laid the ground work for this to make it
11 possible to happen today. I want to thank the street
12 vendors themselves who organized relentlessly,
13 strategically for years to make this possible, and I
14 want to thank small business owners who also worked
15 hard to help shape this bill and in many ways made it
16 better. And ultimately, 1116 does three important
17 things. First, it's going to drain the exploitative
18 illegal market in permits. Secondly, it's going to
19 create more economic opportunity for struggling
20 micro-entrepreneurs, and thirdly, it's going to bring
21 about more consistent and fair enforcement, and so
22 this really is a win for the City. I'm proud to be
23 supporting it, and will be voting aye on all.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Lewis?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Permission to
3 explain my vote?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Madam Majority
8 Leader-- I would like to congratulate all my
9 colleagues whose legislation is being passed today.
10 As a Council we have enacted several bills to support
11 small businesses, especially bills for our local mom
12 and pop shops. We also know that street vendors are
13 crucial to revitalizing local neighborhoods and our
14 city's economy by removing barriers to healthy and
15 affordable goods. Central Brooklyn has a heavy
16 immigrant population, and there are entrepreneurs
17 that will rely on opportunities that Intro 1116 would
18 create to support their families. So, I want to
19 thank you, Council Member Chin, and the advocates for
20 your leadership on this issue. I also would like to
21 thank the countless housing advocates who reached out
22 and helped support Chair Adams and all of our
23 colleagues to push back and get the Administration to
24 make significant reforms to Intro 2116. Thank you,

1
2 Chair Adams for your tireless efforts, and I vote aye
3 on all.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Maisel?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes on all except
7 2116-- 1116B.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Menchaca?

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

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Majority
16 Leader, and I want to continue with my remarks on the
17 street vendor bill, to also thank the incredible
18 organizers at the Street Vendor Project. They have
19 been incredible in bringing vendors from across the
20 City together, educating them about the process,
21 learning a lot about the legislative process, but
22 also pushing us to ensure that we had their interest
23 at heart. The New York Immigration Coalition was
24 incredible as well in ensuring that good information
25 got out and that we have the support at the end of

1 the day. The more special shout out goes to all the
2 street vendors in Sunset Park. You know, they're the
3 ones that reminded me the incredible work before I
4 became a Council Member that they have to do in
5 Sunset Park. That work was met with open hearts and
6 open minds, but led to a dysfunctional response from
7 the City. this bill is going to create the ability
8 for a sensitive, culturally sensitive, team of people
9 who will be able to react, not like the police do
10 right now, which often dangers so many of our
11 immigrants in our streets and lead them towards
12 deportation proceeding. That will all change.
13 That's something that makes me so proud to be a part
14 of this and so thankful to all of you to standing up
15 today and saying yes to the bill. On the
16 reauthorization of the tax lien sale, I want to also
17 echo the thanks to Council Member Adams for really
18 getting in there. I've learned so much about this
19 through her and her team and the advocates, but the
20 reduction of the authorization of one year, it is a
21 huge win, and I want to say thank you. Fundamentally,
22 I believe that we have to abolish the tax lien. We
23 have to abolish the tax lien and create alternatives
24
25

1
2 that support wealth creation in communities who have
3 historically been kept out--

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: [inaudible]
6 systemic inequalities that exist. That's what we're
7 fighting here, and we've got to prevent predatory
8 private actors. I will be voting no on 2166B and aye
9 on the rest. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
11 Member Menchaca.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Miller?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to
14 explain?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
16 granted.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
19 Majority Leader. I first like to congratulate my
20 sisters, Council Member Adams, Ampry-Samuel, and the
21 leader and conscience of the caucus, Council Member
22 Margaret Chin on the great work that they did on
23 today's legislation being passed. I also want to add
24 context to 2161 and 2162, the bills that are being
25 passed today from Civil Service and Labor. Last week

1
2 at the Board of Elections Queens site, on the hills
3 of-- last month on the Board of Elections Bronx site,
4 there was a Corona-19 outbreak. DCAS swooped in,
5 tested all of their workers on-site, did a deep-
6 cleaning, sent their workers home. DoITT did the
7 same, but the Board of Elections left their workers
8 there for another five days. It is these type of
9 inconsistencies and the lack of uniformity and
10 workplace safety governments that really makes this
11 legislation necessary, and time and time again we've
12 heard this over the past 10 months that workers
13 weren't given access to PPE, training for PPEs, and
14 the type of support that they need and going out and
15 doing the job that makes New Yorkers' lives so
16 seamless. So, I ask us all to-- all of our
17 colleagues to support 2161, 2162. I will be voting
18 aye on all with the exception of 2204. I will be
19 consistent and abstain. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Moya?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Perkins?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Powers?

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye on
3 all, and I want to say congratulations everyone for a
4 number of bills on here today which I know came with
5 a lot of work for a very long period of time. So, I
6 want to say congrats to everyone who worked on those.
7 And I want to say a very special shout out to my
8 colleague Joe Borelli in Staten Island. I vote aye.
9 Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Reynoso?

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

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you, Madam
17 Majority Leader. I just want to start by saying
18 congratulations to Council Member Margaret Chin for
19 the work that she did with the street vendor's bill,
20 but I do think we need to pay attention to the fact
21 that helping the street vendors does not mean that we
22 can't help small businesses. I was able to pass a
23 bill related to outdoor dining that really reimagined
24 our streets and gave a lifeline to many small
25 businesses in our community. We did it equitably by

1
2 allowing all restaurants to be able to use the
3 outdoor spaces without having to spend any money.
4 Because of it, we're going to be a new New York City
5 when we come out of this pandemic making that
6 permanent, but there's a lot more we can do as a City
7 Council to help small businesses. There's tons of
8 bills that have been introduced by Council Members
9 that can really effect change for small businesses,
10 and they're not up. They're just not up, and we need
11 to start forcing the hand here and make sure that the
12 Small Business Committee is hearing these and that
13 we're passing them so that this is not a street
14 vendors versus small business conversation. This is
15 about helping them all, and we can do that. We have
16 the power. We have the authority, and we have the
17 legislation. So I'm hoping that in the next Stated
18 there are a slew of small business bills that we can
19 pass and not make this an us versus them when
20 everyone should be getting help during the pandemic.
21 I want to vote aye on all with the exception of Intro
22 2166. I agree that Council Member Adrienne Adams has
23 done an amazing job at looking towards the reform,
24 but I still think that this is one item that should
25 have never existed in the first place, and if there's

1
2 an opportunity for us to stop it from continuing to
3 exist, we should take that. So again, I vote aye on
4 all with the exception of Intro 2166B, and I do want
5 to say for the last 10 seconds, Council Member Alicka
6 Ampry-Samuel is absolutely right. There's some
7 people that are going to fight, some people that are
8 going to educate.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: We all play our
11 roles in exactly how this Rank Choice Voting is going
12 to happen, and for her to find money and resources to
13 educate I think is valuable. It doesn't mean that
14 other parallel fights can happen. So again, I'm
15 grateful for her work there as well. I vote aye on
16 all with the exception of Intro 2166. Thank you.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Council
18 Member Riley?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rivera?

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

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you, Madam
3 Majority Leader. I want to thank Council Member
4 Margaret Chin, Speaker Johnson, and all of the
5 advocates who fought to pass this important
6 legislation, 1116. This is your victory. Let's
7 remember many of our city's most successful
8 restaurants started out as food carts owned by
9 immigrant entrepreneurs looking to make their way in
10 the city. Vending is simply put, one of the most
11 crucial economic pathways out of poverty for
12 immigrant New Yorkers, and they are undoubtedly New
13 York City's landmark businesses. Hot pretzels, juice
14 carts, Mr. Softee [sp?], people follow them on social
15 and they go to them like fans to an artist. But our
16 city has failed for decades to address the bad
17 policies, the bureaucracy the inaction that resulted
18 in a 30-year cap on new food vendor permits. The
19 exploitation and corruption is so widespread that an
20 estimated 70 to 80 percent of the city's vending
21 permits are being used illegally according to data
22 from the street vendor project. Earlier today we
23 rallied with street vendors. They said this was a
24 tremendous relief like a boulder was being lifted
25 from their shoulders. People who are street vendors

1
2 because their fathers were, because their children
3 are hungry. They have fed our New York City families
4 forever bringing their own cultural identity to our
5 city blocks, and we should thank them for that. And
6 the ultimate goal here was always to balance the
7 needs of vendors, customers, residents, and brick and
8 mortar establishments, and I want to thank our
9 legislative and legal divisions, and Jason Goldman
10 for working tirelessly with vendors, BIDs,
11 supermarkets and restaurants. I know not everyone
12 agrees with this bill, but at the very least I can
13 say that people across the City, and at least BIDs in
14 Manhattan have recognized the real work done to make
15 improvements to the legislation and they respect the
16 tremendous organizing done. So with respect to all
17 of these small businesses, our street vendors, I
18 proudly vote aye on all to ensure that vendors are a
19 welcomed part of any community in New York City.
20 Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rodriguez? Council
22 Member Rodriguez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: So, aside
24 [inaudible] I'm proud of how hard Margaret Chin and
25 all the colleague been working when it comes to the

1 street vendor. However, I do want to highlight that
2 for me it is important also to recognize the great
3 job, not only the great leader of the Street Vendor
4 Project, but also other members of the small business
5 community such as [inaudible] from the Supermarket
6 Association, Jeffery Garcia [sp?] from the Restaurant
7 Association who also have been part of this
8 conversation, and I hope again that the most
9 important thing that they've been asking for,
10 enforcement, enforcement, enforcement must be done.
11 Whatever time we want to use it, we have to take
12 away, take out those people who are conducting
13 criminal action by charging people those permits that
14 we [inaudible] the city to possibly [inaudible] work
15 on it, and they are renting those permits that have
16 been saved for 15 or 20,000 dollars. [speaking
17 Spanish] I would already [inaudible] street vendor
18 that have one or two table in the street saying
19 tamale, saying any type of item, but I have issue
20 when there's 20 tables in the street turning the
21 bodega and supermarket and call it street vendor. So
22 let's work on enforcement. Let's be sure that we
23 support those street vendors that are selling food in
24 the truck, those that have one or two table, but
25

1
2 let's go after those that they turn a corner in our
3 street as supermarket and bodega. [speaking Spanish]

4 With that, I vote aye.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
8 Member Rodriguez.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Rose?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye on all,
11 and I want to especially commend and congratulate my
12 colleague for shepherding these very difficult but
13 beneficial bills across the finish line. I want to
14 especially give a shout out to my women's caucus
15 colleagues, Council Members Chin, Adams, and Ampry-
16 Samuel who worked really hard to make sure that the
17 bills that we are passing today have benefit to the
18 communities that all of us represent. Thank you. I
19 vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council
21 Member Rose. Rosenthal?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on
23 all, and I just want to point out that of all the
24 bills we're passing today, there are three very
25 complicated bills that I know took a great deal of

1 negotiation and grace, and I want to congratulate the
2 Council women, Council Members Chin, Adams, and
3 Ampry-Samuels that got them over the finish line, and
4 Council Member Rose, great minds think alike. I vote
5 aye on all.
6

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Salamanca?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Treyger?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Ulrich?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am asking for
14 permission to vote on all Land Use items as well, if
15 I may, Madam Majority Leader? I'm requesting
16 unanimous consent. I apologize.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
18 granted.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. I'm
20 voting aye on all Land Use matters, and I'm voting
21 aye on all today with the exception of Intro 1116B,
22 and I hope everybody's staying healthy. Thank you
23 very much. I vote no on that bill and aye on all
24 others. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Vallone?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Madam Majority
4 Leader, may I explain my vote, please?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, my
9 dear. You know I am at multi-tasking, and now I'm
10 mobile at the moment. Bear with me, this is not
11 easy. You know, listening to the passions of the
12 Council Members today, for your as Majority Leader
13 should make you very proud--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: [interposing] I am.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: for the amount
16 of work, yeah, the amount of work that everyone has
17 put in over the years, and wherever you fall on these
18 bills is a testament to the Council Members and how
19 hard they've worked and how needed they really are.
20 you know, I've always been a steadfast supporter of
21 our small businesses and restaurants, and I think
22 what's important to know what everyone's kind of
23 saying today is we're all in agreement that the time
24 is overdue for re-regulations and protection for the
25 vendor industry, and that they've been working under

1
2 this ridiculous market that has existed. My
3 opposition to the bill is we could have done all of
4 that, or we should have done all that long ago, but
5 we didn't have to expand and double the amount of the
6 licenses at a time when that industry is collapsing.
7 The restaurants and small businesses industry simply
8 put is collapsing. The timing of this bill, we could
9 have done the re-protection of the industry without
10 doing everything at once, which is what my point was
11 from the very beginning. We should have held off and
12 advanced the expansion until the COVID crisis has
13 been in place. So many Council Members have said we
14 should be doing more, and we haven't for restaurants
15 and small businesses, and the time is now, and I
16 cannot support that bill that does not create the
17 equity for all. We keep saying we should do more for
18 small business, because it's time for this. It was,
19 and we could have, and we should have changed this
20 market. So we heard Council Member Rivera's passion
21 about how hard it was to get into that field, and
22 that ended to be addressed, but we did too much.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: And so what I'd
25 like to say is we need to immediately, critically

1 look at surviving restaurants and explained. We
2 should have given exclusionary zones. We should have
3 listened to the BIDs. We should have made sure that
4 [inaudible] it was fair to all. We didn't do that.
5 So, with that, I'd like to say aye. I vote aye on
6 all, except for Intro 1116 and Pre-considered Intro
7 2204, and thank you Council Member Chaim Deutsch for
8 your passionate remarks about your [inaudible]. God
9 Bless him.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Van Bramer?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to
13 explain my vote?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
18 very much. Once again, congratulations to Council
19 Member Chin and Chair Ayala. The street vendor bill
20 is an amazing victory for workers for immigrants and
21 I'm proud to support it, and everyone who fought to
22 make it happen should be proud. I am voting no on
23 2166B, but again, want to extend my great respect to
24 Council Member Adams for the amazing work that she
25 did on this. Few could have done what she did, and I

1
2 respect that work a great deal. I do want to say
3 because it just became public while we're meeting
4 that the Mayor has agreed to open up the outer
5 roadway at the Queensboro Bridge for cyclists, which
6 is something I have been fighting for for years, and
7 Council Member Kallos joined me in that effort,
8 because that bridge spans our two districts. The
9 Mayor will be announcing this in his State of the
10 City speech, but I want to applaud all of the
11 activists, all of the folks who fought for a safer
12 Queensboro Bridge. For years we've marched, we've
13 rallied, we've put up the money, Council Member
14 Kallos and I, to make this happen, walked the bridge
15 with the DOT Commissioner, and it is going to save
16 lives. It is going to make this bridge safer for
17 everyone to walk across and to ride their bike
18 across, and in a time when more people are riding
19 bikes because of the pandemic to get into and out of
20 Manhattan and to Queens, this could not come at a
21 better time. This is a major victory for everyone
22 who cares about a safer Queensboro Bridge and for the
23 right of everyone to traverse their streets and even
24 their bridges safely. So congratulations to every
25 single person--

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 110

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER:

4 transportation alternatives, and everyone who fought
5 to make this a reality. Thank you very much. And I
6 vote aye on everything else except for 2166B. Thank
7 you.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yeger?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
10 President, may I be excused to explain my vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission
12 granted.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Madam
15 President. First, I'd like to begin just by thanking
16 Councilman Deutsch for his words on Holocaust
17 Remembrance Day. He's well-known for speaking about
18 his parents whom I knew and their trials and how they
19 made it to America, and Ms. Chaim knows four of my
20 great grandparents, dozens of my great aunts, uncles,
21 cousins were murdered by the Nazi's along with six
22 million members of Chaim and my family. If never
23 again is to mean anything, I think we have a lot more
24 to do, and I'm grateful for Chaim's words today.
25 He's always a strong voice of moral authority on

1 this. Council Member Darma Diaz's bill, Intro 2204,
2 I'm proud to co-sponsor it with her. I'm very proud
3 of the work that she's done. I look forward to
4 seeing how we can appropriately replicate this
5 throughout the City, and I join the co-sponsor in
6 this as I did with the original version of Local Law
7 49 of 2019. I think this is an important step
8 towards creating affordable housing in our city.
9 With respect to Introduction 1116, my remarks more
10 fully extended earlier this morning in the committee,
11 but you know, I just want to quote my colleague
12 Councilman Constantinides, his words were, "The world
13 has changed." And indeed it has. Our hearing on
14 this bill was held in April of 2019. We're a year
15 and a half or longer since then, and a lot has
16 changed, and I think before we ought to have passed
17 this bill today, we probably could have done
18 ourselves good and the people of New York good by
19 having another hearing to really hear how at least
20 right now whether or not this is a good idea to pass,
21 and for that reason I'm going to vote no on that.
22 And with respect to the lien sale, as I said earlier,
23 I do not feel comfortable looking my constituents in
24 the eye when they have their lien sale troubles later
25

1
2 this year after the Administration turns it back on,
3 and saying that this is my fault that it's happening
4 to you. I will not do that.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I ask Madam
7 President for just a couple more seconds.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I won't do that. I
10 don't believe it's right. I don't believe we ought to
11 be doing it, and as I said before, if we did not do
12 this today, if we did not take this vote, the lien
13 sale would be dead as it is already right now. The
14 City of New York does not have the authority for the
15 last 28 days to do a lien sale. We are giving the
16 City the authority to do this to our own communities,
17 to our own constituents. I won't look my friends, my
18 neighbors in the eye and tell them it's me who did
19 it. I won't do it. So, Madam President, with that,
20 I-- with great respect to those members who worked on
21 this topic, it's just not something I feel
22 comfortable with. I will vote aye on all with the
23 exception of Introductions 1116 and Introduction
24 2166. Thank you very much for the additional time,
25 Madam President.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Matteo?

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on 1116 and no on 2204, and aye on the rest.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I just wanted to close with clarifying a few points that were said. For me, when the voters voted on Rank Choice Voting, it came with an education plan promised, and we all know that in the midst of this pandemic with such a delayed response to how the education plan would roll out, it is in fact an impossibility to educate New Yorkers at this time. It's not only impossible, it's also unsafe, and so that is where my passion for this comes from. In addition to that, it's also very difficult for me to be a part of a process that elected Letitia James as Attorney General, Jumaane Williams as Public Advocate, Borough Presidents like Eric Adams and Ruben Diaz, the level of diversity that we've seen in New York City politics from the LGBTQ community to women to people of color, we have one of the most diverse political bodies I would arguably say in the world, and this movement to unravel or to come up

1
2 with a solution to a problem that does not exist is
3 very difficult for me to participate in. I respect
4 Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel. This is the right
5 bill for 2019. And so I thank you for your advocacy,
6 for your courage and for your strength to continue to
7 push this forward, because as this is railroaded
8 throughout New York City, at a certain point I
9 suspect we may have to vote in a Rank Choice Voting
10 system. So, with that, I vote no on 1994. I vote
11 aye on all of the rest. I applaud the courage of
12 Council Member Adams on her particular bill. I
13 understand the challenges on both sides, but it takes
14 a true leader and a true voice to come up with a
15 solution knowing that not all parties are going to
16 agree or to come to the same conclusion, and I thank
17 you for your tenacity and your courage. Thank you.

18 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Johnson?

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I thank you, Madam
20 Majority Leader. Thank you to all the members. I
21 vote aye on all.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I'm ready.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: You're ready?
25

1
2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Yes. All items on
3 today's General Order calendar have a vote of 47 in
4 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions
5 with the exception of the following bills:

6 Introduction 1116B has a vote of 34 in the
7 affirmative, 13 in the negative, no abstentions.

8 Introduction 2166B has 39 in the affirmative, 8 in
9 the negative, no abstentions. Introduction 2204A has
10 42 in the affirmative, 4 in the negative, 1
11 abstention, and Introduction 1994A has 46 in the
12 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and no abstentions.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. The
14 items on today's General Orders Calendar are adopted.
15 Introduction and reading of bills?

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills are referred
17 to committees as indicated on today's agenda.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Speaker
19 Johnson. There are no resolutions on today's
20 calendars, so we'll now move into general discussion.
21 As a reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms
22 begins the countdown clock before you begin your
23 remarks. Mr. Parliamentarian, are there any Council
24 Members who wish to speak?
25

1
2 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, Madam Majority
3 Leader, Council Members Barron, Kallos, Grodenchik,
4 Rodriguez, and Koo.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Alright, Council
6 Member Barron?

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority Leader. I just want to call attention to the
10 passing of Mr. Melvin Faulkner [sp?], a gentleman who
11 is well-known in our community, a father,
12 grandfather, a husband for 58 years, is married to
13 Carolyn Faulkner. He served in the Air Force. He's
14 a veteran, and he was a deacon at Mehobahs [sp?]
15 Church. He also served with the Black Vets for
16 Social Justice, and when I was in the Assembly, he
17 was a staff member for me, and currently just serving
18 with Assembly Member Charles Barron in his office.
19 Mr. Faulkner was a gem. He was a gentleman. He was
20 kind. He was intelligent. He was forceful. He was
21 unafraid to speak what he thought to be the case, and
22 he was effective in helping over 200 families avoid
23 foreclosure on their homes. He worked with them. He
24 represented them at hearings, and he was very
25 successful, and he will be greatly missed. Secondly,

1
2 I just want to talk about this week in January in
3 1972, Shirley Chisolm announced her candidacy for
4 Presidency. She was a [inaudible]. She grew up in a
5 Garvyite [sp?] family where they had conversations
6 about white oppression, black radical consciousness,
7 and black pride. She moved on and moved from being a
8 teacher to moving into the Assembly where she was one
9 of the architects of the Sheik program. She then
10 moved to Congress where her platform addressed the
11 issues of police brutality, prison reform, gun
12 control, drug abuse, and women's rights. Not much
13 has changed in all these years. Shirley Chisolm
14 challenged the local democratic club restrictions on
15 penalties that they imposed on members who did not
16 fall in line.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Her slogan was,
19 "unbought and unbossed," and she said that, "If you
20 decide to operate on the basis of your conscience
21 rather than your political advantage, you must be
22 ready for the consequences and not complain when you
23 suffer them. There is little place in the political
24 scheme of things for an independent, creative

25

1
2 personality for a fighter, and anyone who takes that
3 role must pay the price." Thank you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Madam Majority
6 Leader, Council Member Kallos does not wish to speak.
7 You can move to Council Member Grodenchik.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Council Member
9 Grodenchik?

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,
12 Madam Majority Leader. Let me add my words to those
13 of Councilman Deutsch. Yesterday I remembered
14 members of my family, the Grodenchiks, the
15 Boarshonskis [sp?], the Rosenfelds, and the Molamads
16 [sp?], all murdered for the crime of being Jewish
17 people in Eastern Europe under the rein of the
18 tyrannical Nazi regime. So, today, and every day
19 actually, I remember them. I want to speak about
20 vaccinations today, Madam Majority Leader, or
21 actually what I want to speak about is the lack of
22 vaccinations in my district, in Paul Vallone's
23 district, in Councilman Miller's district, in
24 Adrienne Adams' district, and in the district that
25 was formerly represented by the new Queens Borough

1 President Donovan Richards. Eastern Queens is a
2 vaccination desert. We knew this vaccine was coming.
3 We knew that the day would come and it did come when
4 vaccines would be available, and the people of
5 eastern Queens pay their taxes. They generally pay
6 them on time, and in many cases like that of my aunt,
7 they have been living here for decades. In the case
8 of my Aunt Bevy [sic] she's been living in Bell Rose
9 1948 and still paying her property taxes. It is
10 outrageous that the City of New York has made
11 absolutely no accommodation. I read on Twitter that
12 one of my constituents is being taken by her son from
13 Northshore Towers to the Javits Center this Sunday.
14 Do you know how far it is from Northshore Towers--
15 Northshore Towers borders on Nassau County? It is
16 almost criminal that she has to trek all the way
17 across the city in her tenth decade to get to the
18 Javits Center. So, today, I am calling upon the
19 Mayor of the City of New York and all the people who
20 work for him, to find a way to pick us up on the
21 opportunities we have offered to them. Queensboro
22 Community College is available. The Sam Field
23 Center, which is part of the Common Point Social
24 Service Network, is available.
25

1 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

2
3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Just a few
4 more words. Martin Van Buren High School is
5 available. The high school for teaching, and if
6 those sites are good enough, I can find others, and I
7 know my colleagues further south of me can also find
8 sites so that the people of eastern Queens don't have
9 to schlep all over creation to get vaccinated for
10 COVID-19. With that, I thank you Madam Majority
11 Leader, for the time. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. We
13 will now have, I believe, Council Member Rodriguez
14 followed by Council Member Koo.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Can anyone
17 help me to describe-- how should we call a scenario
18 where during the COVID, most people who died and died
19 of COVID in New York City, they were Latino, black
20 and Asians, and now within 600,000 people that got
21 the vaccine, that's the group that got the vaccine in
22 less number. Can we call it racism and
23 discrimination? Or can we call it something that we
24 didn't know how to plan, and we will learn to do it
25 better? My people are disappointed. My people are

1 completely, you know, so concerned on what is the
2 city that we're building. I want to hear from the
3 city leader, from the state leader. I want for them
4 to realize and recognize that as we're speaking right
5 now, a developer in Midtown purchased one thousand
6 vaccine to provide it to the tenants who live in that
7 building, and that elected official in those area,
8 they know who is the developer. No one is talking
9 about it. So, I think that as people think about our
10 history, and so mad and disappointed what happened.
11 I'm mad and disappointed to see the Latinos, black
12 and Asian have been left out on getting the vaccine.
13 It's like [inaudible] with our Brooklyn Borough
14 President Eric Adams, [inaudible] asking for the city
15 to disclose the numbers of who got the vaccine so far
16 in the City of New York. [speaking Spanish]

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [speaking
20 Spanish] Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you.
22 Council Member Koo?

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Majority
25 Leader. I want to congratulate Margaret and others

1 and Jason for passing this vendor bill today. So, I
2 want to also use this opportunity to say that we need
3 to be fair to our small business owners. I have a
4 bill, Intro. 1145, that will exempt stores from item
5 pricing requirements, provided they have scanners
6 accessible to customers. During the pandemic, this
7 will help with use-- they're already significant
8 burdens. So, I encourage all my colleagues to sign
9 on to this bill. That's all I want to say. For
10 those who are not familiar with item pricing, it is
11 when you go to supermarket, you have the-- you see
12 these workers pricing all the items on the cans, on
13 the jars, every one of them have a price, but if you
14 have a scanner on the shelf, you don't need to spend
15 hours of time to tap [sic] all the price stickers on
16 the cans, on the jars. We live in a modern age now
17 where scanners are all over. So, and the scanners
18 are really cheap to obtain now. So, if the store has
19 a couple scanners, customers want to know the price,
20 they go to the scanner and scan it, and it will save
21 a lot of time and save a lot of stickers. It's good
22 for the world in times where we don't have to use so
23 much papers. Thank you very much.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you so much,
3 Council Member Koo. Are there any other members that
4 wish to speak at this time, Mr. Parliamentarian?

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, Council Member
6 Miller.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you very
9 much, Madam Majority Leader. There's been a lot of
10 conversation and discussion by the body this
11 afternoon about the COVID vaccine and its
12 distribution. I want to add my voice to that, and we
13 met three weeks ago, members of the Black, Latino,
14 and Asian Caucus and others were at City Hall with a
15 plan on a roll out. We wanted to ensure that the
16 communities that had been disproportionately impacted
17 by COVID-19, those communities that have been ravaged
18 by death and destruction, that they had not been left
19 out of the vaccination process. Unfortunately, we
20 were back again this past Sunday at the Department of
21 Health with Borough President Adams again with others
22 to show and demonstrate that over the past three
23 weeks, and on the roll-out of the vaccine, those same
24 communities had been left out. The fact that less
25 than five percent of those who received the

1
2 vaccinations in the first two weeks were black,
3 Latino, or Asian. Less than one-third of all the
4 folks who received the vaccine came from outside of
5 the City of New York. In particular, the workers
6 that make our lives so seamless and do the work that
7 keep us safe each and every day, many of these
8 workers had to wait until March to be vaccinated,
9 while others who have the privilege of working from
10 home have gotten vaccinated, and so this is unfair,
11 and we will be introducing a Resolution to that
12 effect. The resolution that has been sponsored by
13 myself and executive members of the Caucus along with
14 other members of the Caucus and the Borough President
15 demands that these communities--

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: that were
18 impacted by the pandemic be prioritized, that
19 communities of color, immigrants, and other at-risk
20 communities and demographics equitably be included in
21 the vaccine program, that eligibility criteria to be
22 expanded to include underlying conditions of health,
23 that the New York State Department of Health should
24 create a more understandable, color-coded, tiered
25 system to define eligibility levels. Vaccination

1 sites should be open 24/7. The state must develop a
2 publicly accessible real-time vaccination dashboard
3 that discloses vaccination data disaggregated by
4 race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation,
5 employment, and zip code. I ask my colleagues to
6 join us in signing on to this. Look forward to doing
7 this work and making sure that the City and State has
8 the continuity to ensure that their communities that
9 are most impacted are served and have access to the
10 vaccine. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. Thank
11 you, colleagues.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Council
14 Member Miller. Are there any other members that wish
15 to speak at this time?

16 UNIDENTIFIED: No, Madam Majority Leader.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Alright. With that
18 being said, I'll now call on Speaker Corey Johnson to
19 close today's Stated Meeting, and thank you all so
20 much for the spirited and passionate exchange on the
21 floor today.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I thank you, Madam
23 Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting of January 28th,
24 2021 is hereby adjourned. Everyone be safe and
25 healthy.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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 March 15, 2021