

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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April 16, 2026

Start: 1:35 P.M.

Recess: 3:21 P.M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Speaker Julie Menin

The Majority Leader (Council  
Member Abreu) presiding as the  
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol  
Joann Ariola  
Alexa Avilés  
Chris Banks  
Gale A. Brewer  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Tiffany L. Cabán  
David M. Carr  
Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Eric Dinowitz  
Elsie Encarnación  
Harvey D. Epstein  
Amanda C. Farias  
Simcha Felder

## COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Oswald J. Feliz  
James F. Gennaro  
Jennifer Gutiérrez  
Shahana K. Hanif  
Ty Hankerson  
Kamillah M. Hanks  
Crystal Hudson  
Rita C. Joseph  
Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farah N. Louis  
Virginia Maloney  
Christopher Marte  
Darlene Mealy  
Frank Morano  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Sandy Nurse  
Chi A. Ossé  
Vickie Paladino  
Lincoln Restler  
Kevin C. Riley  
Yusef Salaam  
Pierina A. Sanchez  
Justin E. Sanchez  
Kayla Santosuosso  
Lynn C. Schulman  
Althea V. Stevens  
Shanel Thomas-Henry  
Sandra Ung  
Inna Vernikov  
Nantasha M. Williams  
Julie Won  
Phil Wong  
Susan Zhuang

INVOCATION DELIVERED BY:

Reverend Doctor C. Vernon Mason,  
Minister in Residence  
Friendship Baptist Church  
144 West 131 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10027

1  
2 SERGEANT MARINO: This is a microphone  
3 check for the Stated Meeting of April 16, 2026,  
4 recorded by James Marino in the Chambers.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet on the floor,  
6 please, quiet on the floor, please. Council Members,  
7 please take your seats.

8 (PAUSE)

9 All quiet on the floor, please. All quiet  
10 on the floor, please. Can I have your attention,  
11 please? Can I please have your attention? Council  
12 Members, quiet down, please. Ladies and gentlemen, at  
13 this time place, please place all electronic devices,  
14 all electronic devices to vibrate.

15 Mr. Majority Leader, it's all yours.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: [GAVEL] Good  
17 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of April  
18 16, 2026. I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu, and I  
19 would like to thank you for joining us. As a  
20 reminder, decorum must be respected at all times. If  
21 you'd like to follow along, the agenda for today's  
meeting is posted on our website.

CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge  
of Allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Roll call.

CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Banks?

DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Encarnación?

DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: Presenté.

CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Present.

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CLERK: Council Member Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 7

CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I'm here! Here.

CLERK: Council Member Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presenté.

CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

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CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: In attendance.

CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Ung?

DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Williams?

DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

CLERK: Council Member Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here.

CLERK: Council Member Carr?

MINORITY LEADER CARR: Present

CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Present

CLERK: Speaker Menin?

SPEAKER MENIN: Present.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We will now have today's invocation, which will be delivered by Reverend Dr. C. Vernon Mason, the Minister in Residence at Friendship Baptist Church, which is located at 144 W 131st Street in Manhattan.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

2 REVEREND MASON: Speaker Menin, Council  
3 Member Salaam, Council Members and staff, I bring  
4 you greetings this afternoon from Friendship Baptist  
5 Church in the Village of Harlem and my pastor,  
6 Reverend Dr. James Arthur Kilgore.

7 Speaker Menin, as you preside over these  
8 legislative sessions, working with 50 other council  
9 members, 35 standing committees, and four  
10 subcommittees, we're praying that God will give you a  
11 double portion of strength and wisdom to do your job.

12 Let us pray. Spirit of the living God,  
13 Fall fresh on Speaker Menin, Deputy Speaker Williams,  
14 Majority Leader Abreu, Minority Leader Carr, Majority  
15 Whip Hanks, Minority Whip Vernacoff, City Clerk  
16 McSweeney, Deputy City Clerks Fuentes and Acosta.  
17 Lord God falls fresh on each of them and every  
18 Council Member in this chamber. Lord God, as we  
19 invoke your spirit, I pray that the faith community  
20 in this region, over 26,000 religious organizations,  
21 will support and pray for our beloved New York City  
Council. Lord God, we pray a prayer of Thanksgiving  
and thank you for creating us in the Imago Dei, I M A  
G O, D E I, image of God.

2 Today, we are thankful and grateful that  
3 51 special people on this City Council decided to  
4 serve their communities and to make a difference in  
5 the lives of over eight million people in New York  
6 City. I pray that the work that the Members of this  
7 City Council are doing will speak for them and become  
8 a model for the metropolitan region, the state, and  
9 the nation. From the balconies of heaven, Reverend  
10 Dr. Martin Luther King Junior has a wonderful message  
11 to public servants. Dr. King emphasized that serving  
12 the public is a noble struggle that is centered on  
13 equality, humanity, and justice, rather than simply  
14 administration. Dr. King's charge, therefore, is for  
15 you to act with compassion, uphold integrity, fight  
16 for economic and racial justice, and recognize that  
17 we're all bound in a single garment of destiny. Dr.  
18 King's urgent question today is, "What are you doing  
19 for others?"

20 Finally, we pray special prayers of  
21 sorrow, condolences, and comfort for our  
seven-month-old baby girl, Kaori Patterson-Moore, and  
continue to grieve with her family. Lord God, over 50  
years ago, Marvin Gaye sang a song that charged us to  
Save the Children. Save the babies. Spirit of the

2 living God, fall fresh on the New York City Council  
3 and let the words of my mouth and the meditations of  
4 my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my  
5 strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

6 ALL: Amen.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Council  
8 Member Yusef Salaam will spread the Invocation on the  
9 record.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: My colleagues,  
11 today, I rise before you at this Stated Hearing to  
12 enter into the official record the powerful  
13 Invocation just delivered by Reverend Dr. C. Vernon  
14 Mason, a man whose life's work reflects an unwavering  
15 commitment to justice, to faith, and to service.  
16 Reverend Mason's journey is both distinguished and  
17 deeply rooted in advocacy. Born in Tucker, Arkansas,  
18 he rose to national prominence as a civil rights  
19 attorney, taking on some of the most consequential  
20 and complex cases in New York City during the 1980s.  
21 Though his legal career ended in 1995, his dedication  
to uplifting communities did not. He continued his  
work as a leader in the nonprofit sector and answered  
a call, a higher call, in ministry. A proud graduate  
of Morehouse College, Reverend Mason earned his MBA

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2 from Indiana University, Bloomington, and his Juris  
3 Doctor from Columbia Law School. He later pursued  
4 theological study at New York Theological Seminary,  
5 where he obtained his Master's of Divinity and Doctor  
6 of Ministry degrees, further deepening his lifelong  
7 commitment to faith and to service.

8 In 1999, Reverend Mason was ordained as a  
9 Baptist minister at the historic Abyssinian Baptist  
10 Church in Harlem, an institution that has long stood  
11 as the cornerstone of spiritual leadership and social  
12 justice in austerity. For over three decades, he  
13 served faithfully on the Deacon Board as well as on  
14 the Trustee Board, while also teaching new members  
15 and supporting the Church's administrative life.

16 Abyssinian itself carries a profound  
17 legacy, having been led by towering figures such as  
18 the former congressman Reverend Adam Clayton Powell  
19 Junior, and Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts, a leader who  
20 shaped both the church and the broader struggle for  
21 social justice.

Today, Reverend Mason continues his  
ministry at Friendship Baptist Church in Harlem under  
the leadership of Reverend Dr. James A. Kilgore,  
where he serves as a Minister in Residence. This

1 church has a history spanning nearly 90 years, that's  
2 nine decades, and has long been a pillar in the  
3 Harlem community. Its legacy continues its role in  
4 the civil rights movement, most notably as a  
5 gathering place where Bernard (sic) **\*Bayard** Rustin  
6 helped organize the historic March on Washington.

7 Reverend Mason's life stands as a  
8 testament to resilience, to transformation, and to  
9 purpose. Whether in the courtroom, in the classroom,  
10 or in the pulpit, he has remained steadfast in the  
11 mission to fight injustice, uplift the marginalized,  
12 and inspire faith in action.

13 It is both fitting and necessary that his  
14 words and his witness be preserved in the very Record  
15 of this Council.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I now  
17 ask Council Member Carmen De La Rosa for the Adoption  
18 of Minutes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: I move that  
20 the Minutes for the Stated Meeting be adopted.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: One second.

(PAUSE)

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Sorry, I don't  
have the paper.

2 I make a motion that the Minutes of the  
3 Stated Meeting of March 26th, 2026, be adopted as  
4 printed. Thank you and sorry.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All good.

6 Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

7 CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Communication From  
9 City, County, and Borough Offices?

10 CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Petitions and  
12 Communications?

13 CLERK: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Land Use Call-Ups?

15 CLERK: M 59.

16 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. I would now ask  
17 that the Clerk take a roll call vote on today's Land  
18 Use Call-up.

19 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Banks?

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DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

CLERK: Council Member, Land Use Call-ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Encarnación?

DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yes.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Marte?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

CLERK: Council Member Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (ABSENT)

CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Ung?

DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: Aye. Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Williams?

DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Aye. Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

CLERK: Thank you.

Greetings, Council Member Mealy, Land Use

Call-ups.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

2 CLERK: Thank you.

3 Council Member Carr?

4 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Aye.

5 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

7 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Today's Land Use

10 Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 49 in the

11 affirmative and 0 in the negative.

12 Thank you. We will now have communication  
13 from Speaker Julie Menin.

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Good afternoon, everyone,  
15 and thank you for...

16 UNIDENTIFIED: Woohoo!

17 SPEAKER MENIN: Yeah, woohoo!

18 (LAUGHTER)

19 SPEAKER MENIN: Great, I love that energy.

20 Good afternoon. Thank you for joining us today on

21 what marks the 100th day of our new City Council.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: So happy 100th day.

First of all, I want to say what an honor

it's been to serve alongside all of you. And I'm so

2 proud of the work collectively that we have been able  
3 to accomplish in these past 100 days, and the work  
4 that I know that we'll be able to accomplish in the  
5 years ahead.

6 Since January 7th, the Council has laid a  
7 firm foundation for a productive next four years, and  
8 the numbers paint a clear picture of that  
9 productivity. We've introduced over 1,200 pieces of  
10 legislation. Yes. 1,200, more than any council has  
11 done in its first 100 days. We...

12 (APPLAUSE)

13 SPEAKER MENIN: Yeah. I love it. Yes.  
14 Okay. Council Member Mealy is bringing the energy  
15 today. Thank you.

16 We've passed 102 bills. Including 17  
17 overrides of vetoes from the previous mayoral  
18 administration, which is more than in the past decade  
19 combined. We also expect to pass nine additional  
20 pieces of legislation this afternoon.

21 To recap, the Council has passed our Safe  
Access bills as a signature part of our five-point  
plan to combat anti-Semitism that we announced in  
early January. And today, we are passing our final  
bill in that package. We established a Committee to

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Combat Hate, as well as a new caucus on animal welfare.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: I knew you'd want that. Yes, I knew. Okay, can't miss that. And we also successfully passed a package of legislation that puts guardrails around the City's extended use of no-bid emergency contracts. Under prior administrations, these contracts accounted for billions of dollars in spending that was largely unchecked and that, in some cases, opened the door to potential fraud and abuse. We also passed a number of bills to allow more childcare facilities to be built around New York City and to really cut down on the red tape and the bureaucracy and rules that were preventing the construction of new childcare facilities.

(APPLAUSE)

SPEAKER MENIN: Great, the cheering squad over there. I love it.

On April 1st, we released our response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget, showing how we could close the budget shortfall without raising property taxes, raiding the rainy day fund, or cutting

2 critical services, or any services for that matter.  
3 Not only do we present a fiscally responsible path to  
4 closing the budget shortfall, but we also moved to  
5 restore \$1.1 billion in funding for libraries,  
6 cultural institutions, and other essential programs.

7 Our response highlighted the Council's  
8 support for a number of initiatives that are vital to  
9 making the city more affordable for working New  
10 Yorkers. They include a proposed expansion of the  
11 Fair Fares program. Anyone gonna cheer for that? Yes.  
12 Fair Fares.

13 (APPLAUSE)

14 SPEAKER MENIN: And a college savings  
15 program known as NYC Kids RISE, because studies show  
16 that those students who go to vocational school, a  
17 two-year Community College, or a four-year college  
18 over the course of their lifetime earn double the  
19 wages as someone who does not. So, it is a very  
20 important way to address income inequality.

21 This budget season, we also launched a  
22 Council's first-ever Public Finance Dashboard. Thank  
23 you to our Deputy Speaker for her hard work on that.

(APPLAUSE)

2 SPEAKER MENIN: And that is a major step  
3 towards transparency and equity in the budget  
4 process. This project allows everyday New Yorkers to  
5 have greater access to the numbers that show the  
6 different sources of revenue and how resources are  
allocated by city agencies.

7 We look forward to holding hearings on  
8 the Mayor's Proposed Executive Budget next month and  
9 to working with the Mayor and the Administration to  
adopt A budget that lifts up every New Yorker.

10 Moving briefly towards more recent  
11 events, on Monday, Jews across the world marked Yom  
12 HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. As a proud  
13 daughter and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, I  
14 certainly grew up listening to my mom and my  
15 grandmother's stories and to the miracle of their  
16 escape. At a time when anti-Semitism was rising  
17 alongside Holocaust denial, to never forget has  
18 become a new responsibility to actively remember, and  
19 it's a vow that we as a society must continue to  
20 uphold year after year. One of my first actions as  
21 Speaker was to commit to that responsibility,  
allocating \$1.25 million in funding to the Museum of  
Jewish Heritage to expand access to Holocaust

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2 education and to build on a program that we launched  
3 in 2024 to bring every 8th grader in our city's  
4 public school to the museum for free.

5 Separately, Monday was also a cause for  
6 celebration when the federal government finally caved  
7 to pressure and allowed the Pride Flag to rightfully  
8 fly at the Stonewall Monument in Greenwich Village.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 SPEAKER MENIN: When it was first taken  
11 down in February, I was so proud to stand alongside  
12 so many members of our LGBTQIA+ Caucus and many other  
13 Council Members at the monument to strongly denounce  
14 that move. And we wrote a letter to the National Park  
15 Service demanding that they return the flag. While  
16 this reversal was obviously long overdue, it was a  
17 victory not just for the LGBTQIA+ community but for  
18 every community in the five boroughs. And we in the  
19 City Council will continue to fight for the safety  
20 and dignity of the LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers and to build  
21 a more equitable and affordable city.

Now, part of our Affordability Agenda  
places emphasis on growing our city's economy. We  
know we've lost about 20,000 jobs last year, and that  
contrasts with the 190,000 jobs that were created on

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2 average each of the prior four years. We also know we  
3 lost 5,000 small businesses last year that went out  
4 of business. So we really have to have a laser-like  
5 focus on job creation and supporting our small  
6 businesses. So this summer will be a prime  
7 opportunity to do so when our region hosts eight FIFA  
8 World Cup matches, which the New York/New Jersey host  
9 committee has estimated would generate \$3.3 billion  
10 in economic impact.

11  
12 As a city, we have to be ready to meet  
13 this moment, and that's why today the Council is  
14 introducing a package of legislation that will  
15 advance the strategy to open up the five boroughs and  
16 their businesses for the millions of visitors who are  
17 coming here, and at the same time, better enable  
18 those visitors to enjoy all the opportunities that  
19 our great city has to offer. That includes publishing  
20 a calendar of 2026 World Cup activities, from viewing  
21 parties to recreational events, to street festivals,  
as well as other cultural programming, and conducting  
outreach to small businesses so that small businesses  
can truly be a part of this economic development as  
well. And expanding access to public bathrooms during

1  
2 the tournament so that when you need to go, you have  
3 a place to go.

4 We are also seeking to create an outreach  
5 and education program to spread awareness of common  
6 scams that are targeting tourists.

7 So with this global tournament coming to  
8 our backyard, we are beyond excited to showcase New  
9 York as a city that can do it all for all who come  
10 here and for all who live and work here, too.

11 Moving along, April is National Sexual  
12 Assault Awareness Month, a time when we raise  
13 awareness and advance public education about the  
14 prevalence of sexual assault across the country. As a  
15 city, we must continue to empower survivors and  
16 support them with necessary resources and pathways to  
17 recover, while, of course, working to prevent sexual  
18 assault.

19 It's also Autism Acceptance Month, which  
20 celebrates and uplifts the voices of people with  
21 autism. New York will always be a city that supports  
the well-being of people of all abilities and  
spectrums of neurodiversity.

We are also celebrating Arab American  
Heritage Month, and as a city, let us recognize the

1  
2 achievements and honor the many contributions of our  
3 Arab American communities throughout this month and  
4 beyond.

5 Last week was also National Library Week,  
6 a time to celebrate these incredible pillars in our  
7 neighborhoods that New Yorkers of all ages rely on  
8 for knowledge, for resources, and connection. For all  
9 that our libraries provide us, they deserve full  
10 funding in our City Budget, and that is why we put  
11 that funding back into our response.

12 This week is Black Maternal Health Week,  
13 a time when we recognize the stark inequities in  
14 maternal health outcomes that disproportionately  
15 affect Black women. There is much more work that  
16 needs to be done to secure the health and stability  
17 of mothers and their children. And as a  
18 majority-woman council, we are deeply committed to  
19 championing accessible maternal healthcare.

20 On Monday, we also celebrated Vaisakhi, a  
21 day which many Sikhs choose to be baptized. I hope  
that all who observed had a wonderful day of  
reflection and celebration.

2 Speaking of celebration, I want to wish a  
3 happy belated birthday to Council Member Crystal  
4 Hudson...

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 SPEAKER MENIN: who celebrated her  
7 birthday on the 14th, and Council Member Julie Won,  
8 whose birthday is on the 17th.

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 SPEAKER MENIN: I also just want to give a  
11 quick reminder to everyone that we are in the midst  
12 of Participatory Budgeting Vote Week. Until Sunday,  
13 April 19th, New Yorkers in 22 districts across the  
14 city can make their voices heard by voting for  
15 projects to improve their communities, from schools  
16 to parks to local libraries. I encourage everyone to  
17 vote online or in person. I've been proud to do  
18 Participatory Budgeting since I've been on the  
19 Council. It's such a great initiative to involve our  
20 communities. So I really want to thank our incredible  
21 council staff and volunteers who've worked so hard on  
22 Participatory Budgeting this year.

23 Now let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

24 First, we'll vote on the following land  
25 use items:

2 37-59 Hamilton Avenue Rezoning, which  
3 will facilitate the development of an 18-story  
4 mixed-use building with 369 units, 111 of which will  
5 be permanently affordable under MIH Option 2, as well  
6 as 146 parking spaces and outdoor public open space  
7 in Council Member Hank's District.

8 Two applications for revocable consent to  
9 operate a sidewalk café, Sabrosura, in Council Member  
10 Farías' District, and Cicchetti BK in Council Member  
11 Mealy's District.

12 We will also be voting on the following  
13 Finance item:

14 A Preconsidered Resolution sponsored by  
15 Finance Chair, Council Member Lee, approving new  
16 designations and changes of certain organizations  
17 receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

18 Next, we will move on to the Mayor's  
19 appointment of Nadia Shihata to serve as Commissioner  
20 of the New York City Department of Investigation.

21 Today, we are going to vote on the  
22 following legislation:

23 Introduction 327-B, sponsored by Council  
24 Member Mercedes Narcisse, would expand the City's  
25 program providing reimbursement to qualifying

2 non-public schools for costs related to employing  
3 security guards, to also include the purchase and  
4 installation of security cameras. Thank you to  
5 Jessica Boulet, Wiam Diouri, and Rachel Cordero.

6 Next, Introduction 722-A, sponsored by  
7 Council Member Lynn Schulman, would require the New  
8 York City Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health  
9 to submit twice a year, and post online, a report on  
10 mental health emergency calls from the previous six  
11 months. The report would include: the number of calls  
12 that were made to 911, how many calls were eligible  
13 for, and actually received B-HEARD response versus  
14 police or EMS, response times, and outcomes such as  
15 treatment, hospitalization, or involuntary removal,  
16 arrests, use of force incidents, and demographic and  
17 location information. The bill would also require  
18 FDNY to update its public 911 data set to include  
19 B-HEARD. Thank you to Sara Sucher.

20 Today we'll vote on a package of bills  
21 ahead of Earth Day:

Resolution 351, sponsored by Council  
Member Harvey Epstein, would recognize the  
contributions of the federal Endangered Species Act  
to the natural environment of New York City. Thank

1  
2 you to Ricky Chawla, Andrew Bourne, Natasha Benham,  
3 and Sierra Townsend.

4 Next introduction, 730-B, sponsored by  
5 Council Member Jim Gennaro, would require DEP to  
6 conduct water quality testing at a minimum of 15  
7 testing sites within New York City water bodies. The  
8 bill would require DEP to choose testing sites in  
9 areas that are used for secondary contact recreation,  
10 such as boating and fishing, within 1,000 feet of a  
11 combined sewer outfall and within five to 20 feet of  
12 a water body, shore, other access point, or as close  
13 as possible to a shore or other access point while  
14 remaining five feet of water depth. Okay, that was a  
15 mouthful. Under this bill, such testing would be  
16 required monthly from November to April and weekly  
17 from May to October. Finally, the bill would require  
18 DEP to post the water quality testing results online,  
19 with bacteria results posted every week and other  
20 water quality indicators posted quarterly. Thank you  
21 to Natasha Bynum for her work on that.

18 Introduction 355-A, sponsored by Council  
19 Member Sandy Nurse, would designate organic waste as  
20 a recyclable material for city agencies and require  
21 the Department of Sanitation to establish rules

1 governing the source separation of organic waste that  
2 is generated by city agencies in the preparation and  
3 service of meals. Thank you to Morgan Barrett, Ricky  
4 Chawla, and Dirk Spencer.

5 Introduction 805-A, sponsored by Council  
6 Member Phil Wong, would require the Department of  
7 Parks, along with the Departments of Health and  
8 Mental Hygiene, Environmental Protection,  
9 Transportation, and the Office of Long Term Planning  
10 and Sustainability, to conduct a study and pilot  
11 program concerning the use and installation of cool  
12 pavement materials on DPR property, abutting or  
13 directly adjacent to a playground. The study and  
14 pilot program will be conducted in at least one  
15 heat-vulnerable community in each borough. The Parks  
16 Department would be required to post the results of  
17 this pilot on its website, submit it to the Mayor,  
18 and to the Council no later than February 1, 2031.

19 Introduction 806-A, also sponsored by  
20 Council Member Wong, would create a Wildlife  
21 Management Advisory Board to develop a citywide  
wildlife management plan, analyze wildlife management  
issues, and recommend policies to preserve and  
promote biological diversity and the humane treatment

1 of wildlife. All Agencies (BACKGROUND NOISE) Yeah,  
2 all agencies would be required to consider the effect  
3 of their actions on wildlife. An annual report will  
4 be released by the Mayor's Office of Animal Welfare  
5 in consultation with the Parks Department, updating  
6 the status of ongoing wildlife management problems.

7 Introduction 577-A, sponsored by Council  
8 Member Jim Gennaro, would require the Department of  
9 Parks to post a map of trails located in each park or  
10 property under DPR jurisdiction on its website. DPR  
11 would be required to update the map after completing  
12 any project that improves an existing trail or  
13 creates a new one, and would have to consider how any  
14 project that improves or creates a trail would  
15 improve public access.

16 Finally, the last one, Introduction  
17 740-A, sponsored by Council Member Ty Hankerson,  
18 would require the Department of Parks and Recreation  
19 and other relevant city agencies to conduct a study  
20 to identify at least the top 10 community districts  
21 that lack the most green space and to make  
recommendations to the Mayor and the Council on how  
to increase green space, including Parkland, in those

2 areas. Thank you to Kris Sartori and Patrick  
3 Mulvihill.

4 Thank you for your attention to this;  
5 I'm going to turn it back to our Majority Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Speaker  
7 Menin.

8 We will now move into Discussion of  
9 General Orders. I just want to remind folks to make  
10 their disclosures before you vote.

11 Council Member Hanks, followed by Council  
12 Member Narcisse.

13 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Majority Leader.

15 Today, we will vote on the 37-59 Hamilton  
16 Avenue Development in my district. This is an  
17 important project because it speaks directly to the  
18 future of the North Shore of Staten Island. This is  
19 about creating the kind of housing that gives Staten  
20 Island families, and especially our young people, a  
21 real chance to stay in our community that they were  
raised in. For too long, we have watched working  
families get priced out of places to continue to grow  
and create opportunity.

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This project puts us in a better direction. It's uniquely suited for District 49 because it includes an opportunity for affordable home ownership. Something my community has pushed for because Staten Island families deserve the chance not only to rent, but to own, build equity, and remain in the community that they love.

It also includes permanent affordable housing, 700 square feet of community facility space, public accessible open space, and an investment in the surrounding neighborhood. This is how we move the North Shore of Staten Island forward, building towards the future by making developments that deliver real value to families who call this community home.

I am in support of this project, and I ask that my colleagues vote yes on LUs 45 and 46. Thank you to our Land Use team, Speaker Menin, for helping us shape this important project. Thank you so much.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Narcisse, followed by Council Member Hankerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Speaker Menin.

2 I rise today in support of Intro 327-B,  
3 which is a great piece of legislation, and I want to  
4 thank my co-sponsors and, of course, the Committee on  
5 Public Safety for moving this bill forward.

6 Every morning in this city, parents send  
7 their children to school and trust that they will be  
8 safe. That trust shouldn't depend on whether you or  
9 your child attends a public school or a nonpublic  
10 school. It shouldn't depend on whether your school  
11 has the budget to buy security cameras or not. Every  
12 child in New York City deserves to be protected. We  
13 already recognize this as a city. We reimburse  
14 nonpublic schools for security guards. We provide  
15 buzzing. We provide textbooks. We provide school  
16 lunches. We do this because we understand that the  
17 schools are part of the fabric of our city.

18 We serve hundreds of thousands of our  
19 children. And those children are New York City  
20 children, no matter what building they walk into each  
21 morning. But when it comes to something as basic as a  
surveillance camera at the front door, we left these  
schools on their own.

Intro 327-B closes that gap. Let's do it.  
Only schools that demonstrate a financial need are

2 eligible. The funding is capped, the reporting  
3 requirements are built in, and schools can apply once  
4 every six years. It's responsible, it's accountable.  
5 It is overdue.

6 We should not wait for something to  
7 happen, which many of us like to do. Don't wait at a  
8 school before we act. We have to act today. We know  
9 what these cameras do. They deter, they document,  
10 they give families and educators peace of mind, and  
11 of course, the parents. And at a time when hate  
12 crimes and threats against schools are rising, we  
13 cannot afford to leave any school unprotected because  
14 of the type of school it is.

15 At the end of the day, this is about one  
16 thing: (TIMER) keeping our children safe.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Please wrap up,  
18 Council...

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I urge all my  
20 colleagues to vote for this. Thank you.

21 New York City, let's be responsible for  
all our children. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
Hankerson, followed by Gennaro.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Thank you,  
3 Majority Leader. Thank you. Madam Speaker.

4 I am proud to bring forward Intro 748,  
5 which requires New York City to study green space and  
6 community districts, identifying the 10 districts  
7 with the least green space per person.

8 The Parks Department will issue a report  
9 describing the green spaces already in those  
10 districts and recommend ways to increase green space  
11 therein.

12 Too many neighborhoods still have less  
13 shade, less relief, and fewer nearby places for  
14 families to gather. Too many children still have  
15 fewer places to play close to home, and too many  
16 young people still rely on limited or worn down  
17 public spaces after school and on weekends.

18 For many families, green space is one of  
19 the few free places left to sit, walk, cool off, or  
20 breathe. In many neighborhoods, it is also a  
21 recreation space and a third space at the same time.  
22 These spaces are never missing in affluent  
23 neighborhoods, and I, for one, am tired of the Tale  
24 of Two Cities.

2 When it comes to the city infrastructure,  
3 as vital as our green spaces are, equity needs to be  
4 at the forefront. We need to analyze these data  
5 points holistically, in conjunction with what people  
6 are actually experiencing. Just because a park looks  
7 close on paper, it may still sit across a highway or  
8 behind a difficult crossing.

9 New Yorkers deserve a clearer picture of  
10 where the gaps are and where resources to create this  
11 new infrastructure have to go. That is exactly what  
12 this bill accomplishes, requiring the Parks  
13 Department to name the districts with the least green  
14 space and describe what is already there, and then  
15 come back with recommendations on how to bring more  
16 green space into those neighborhoods.

17 I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this  
18 bill. And again, thank you, Madam Speaker.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
20 Gennaro, followed by Council Member Schulman.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr.  
Majority Leader.

Next week we celebrate the 57th Earth  
Day. I remember the first Earth Day in 1970. Ten  
percent of the US population, 20 million people,

1  
2 came out to Earth Day events all over the country and  
3 made a big difference. Congress passed the nation's  
4 first environmental law, the National Environmental  
5 Policy Act. President Nixon created the EPA, and over  
6 the next few years, Congress passed a host of  
7 landmark environmental legislation, laws that still  
8 serve as a cornerstone of the nation's Environmental  
9 Protection—the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act,  
10 the Safe Drinking Water Act, just to name a few.

11  
12 In this era of an administration that is  
13 hostile to environmental protection, it is up to  
14 state and local governments to hold the line on  
15 protecting the earth that sustains us and the health  
16 and well-being of this and future generations.

17  
18 Our Speaker and this Council do not  
19 shrink from this challenge. I'm very impressed by the  
20 Earth Day package that Speaker Menin has put forward.  
21 There is much more work to be done with regard to  
climate change, adaptation, real and lasting  
environmental justice, and a host of other topics too  
numerous to mention.

I am grateful for Speaker Menin's  
environmental leadership and the environmental  
commitment of all my colleagues.

2 I urge all my colleagues to support every  
3 bill in the environmental legislative package being  
4 advanced today. Happy Earth Day.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
6 Schulman, followed by Council Member Wong.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you,  
8 Majority Leader.

9 Good policy depends on good data. I'm  
10 asking my colleagues to please vote on Intro 722-A.  
11 People experiencing mental health crises are too  
12 often met with force when they need care. Without  
13 clear, consistent reporting, it's difficult to  
14 measure progress or identify where improvements are  
15 needed.

16 Currently, the City doesn't really  
17 collect response data for 911 mental health calls, so  
18 this is something that's really important and needed.

19 This legislation comes at an important  
20 moment. Just last month, Mayor Mamdani signed an  
21 Executive Order creating the Office of Community  
Safety, signaling a commitment to strengthening the  
City's mental health crisis response. To support that  
effort, the Council needs the tools to evaluate  
whether programs like BE HEARD and others are working

1  
2 effectively and equitably, and this bill is a step in  
3 that direction.

4 So I'm asking my colleagues to please  
5 support this. I also want to thank Speaker Menin for  
6 her leadership on health care issues and for helping  
7 us get to a point where we've had 1,200 bills  
8 introduced and over 100 passed. She has provided the  
9 atmosphere for us members to have the resources and  
10 support that we need to pass significant bills like  
11 this. I also want to thank my staff, my Chief of  
12 Staff, Jonathan Boucher, Kevin McAleer, my  
13 Legislative Director, and Samie New, my  
14 Communications Director.

15 And I want to thank my co-sponsor,  
16 Tiffany Cabán, whose committee this was in. And this  
17 is a really important bill to make sure that New  
18 Yorkers in need get the resources and the services  
19 they need from our mental health system. Thank you

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Council  
21 Member Wong, followed by Council Member Cabán.

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Thank you, Majority  
Leader.

I speak today to urge Council Members to  
support Intro 804 and Intro 806. For years, our

1  
2 wildlife has suffered great neglect, and our children  
3 have continued to play on dangerously hot blacktop in  
4 city parks. Both of these bills will begin to right  
5 these wrongs—one unifies the City Wildlife  
6 management plan, which will put this city on the  
7 right track to protecting and reducing harm to our  
8 permanent and temporary wildlife. An expansion to the  
9 Cool Pavement pilot program that will cover parks and  
10 playgrounds will get us closer to a city where  
11 everyone will be comfortable enough to walk and play  
12 every day of the year. A city that continues to  
13 protect our animals and children is certainly a city  
14 worth living in.

15  
16 Thank you to my staff and the committee  
17 staff for their hard work in getting the perfect  
18 version of these bills, and to the Speaker for her  
19 support of these bills.

20  
21 I urge everyone to vote yes on both of  
these bills to make the city a better place to call  
home. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

1 I share my colleagues' desire to increase  
2 safety in this city. However, I have serious concerns  
3 about Intro 327-B. We should not be funneling  
4 millions of public dollars towards private  
5 institutions that serve only a select few in the  
6 city. Not to mention that there is no data-driven  
7 evidence that surveillance technology in schools is  
8 an effective public safety intervention in schools.  
9 Most recently, a national longitudinal study bore  
10 that conclusion out. It's like lighting money on  
11 fire, money that could be invested in our public  
12 schools. And I also share and honor the concerns of  
13 students who continue to call for what does work,  
14 fully investing in our public schools, including  
15 investments in restorative justice and mental health  
16 resources and school climate, additional resources,  
17 not more cops and not more surveillance. And we're  
18 living in a reality where the federal government is  
19 ramping up its surveillance of immigrants, activists,  
20 and other marginalized people in this country. And I  
21 have concerns about passing a bill that provides no  
guardrails to ensure that the videos and data from  
the City-funded cameras do not go to ICE, to private  
companies, or other bad actors.

2 So for those reasons, I'm going to be  
3 voting no on Intro 327-B, and I urge my colleagues to  
4 do the same. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no one else  
6 signed up for General Orders, Reports of Special  
7 Committees?

8 CLERK: None.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reports of  
10 Standing Committees?

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee to Combat  
12 Hate, Intro 327-B, surveillance cameras.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Madam Speaker?

14 SPEAKER MENIN: Yes?

15 CLERK: Intro 327-B, surveillance cameras.

16 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
18 Environmental Protection and Waterfronts Intro 730-B,  
19 water quality testing?

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

CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
Finance, Preconsidered Resolution 420, Transparency  
Resolution?

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
3 Use, LU 45 and Reso 432 and LU 46 and Reso 433, 37-59  
4 Hamilton Avenue.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

6 CLERK: LU 49 and Reso 434 and LU 50 and  
7 Reso 435, sidewalk cafés?

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental  
10 Health and Substance Use, Intro 722-A, mental health  
11 emergency response data?

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on  
13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks  
15 and Recreation, Intro 577-A, trail maps, and Intro  
16 740-A, green spaces?

17 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on  
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: Intro 805-A, cool pavement pilot,  
20 and Intro 806-A, wildlife management plan?

21 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on  
General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
Privileges, Elections, Standards, and Ethics M 53 and

2 Reso 436, approving the appointment of Nadia Shihata  
3 as DOI Commissioner.

4 SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders.

5 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
6 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Intro 355-A,  
7 organic waste recycling.

8 SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and Coupled on  
9 General Orders.

10 I now ask that the Clerk take a roll call  
11 vote on all items coupled on today's General Order  
12 Calendar.

13 CLERK: Council Member Aldebol?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye on all  
15 except Intro 327-B, and I disclose that my  
16 brother-in-law works for the Department for the  
17 Aging.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I also want to  
19 remind folks to make their disclosures before you  
20 vote. Thank you very much.

21 CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I'd like to  
disclose that my son works for the DSNY, and I will

20

21

1  
2 vote aye on all, with the exception of Reso 420 and M  
3 53 with accompanying Reso 436. Thank you.

4 CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Avilés?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: I would like to  
7 disclose that my daughter goes to the New York City  
8 Public School System.

9 I vote aye on all except 327-B.  
10 Permission to explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: It's important to  
14 note that this bill, 327-B, claims that public  
15 subsidy will enhance safety. We must stop peddling  
16 safety theater, safety snake oil.

17 Peer-reviewed studies examining the  
18 efficacy of surveillance cameras found little to no  
19 evidence that they actually reduce violence or serve  
20 as a deterrence. It appears we need a reminder of  
21 that fact. As a body that is constantly asking for  
data and how important it is to prove the efficacy of  
services, we seem to be okay with passing policies  
that are based on no data at all.

2 And now we are allocating public dollars  
3 to be used in private religious institutions for  
4 expanded surveillance, with absolutely nothing in the  
5 bill that would resemble guardrails. What are we  
6 doing?

7 I would also be remiss not to mention the  
8 abhorrent violence that we saw—two NYPD detectives—  
9 these two individuals must be fired. They betrayed  
10 the public trust when they stomped on a man's head  
11 who was lying on the floor. They betrayed New York  
12 City when they stomped on his kneecaps while he lay  
13 on the floor. Anything less than firing these  
14 officers is an affront to accountability, to New York  
15 City, and to New Yorkers. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

17 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Aye on all,  
18 especially 327-B.

19 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all, except  
21 I am abstaining on 805-A, only because I think it is  
already the law. Thank you very much.

CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye  
on all.

2 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote no on 327-B,  
4 and aye on the rest.

5 CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Council Member Encarnación?

10 DEPUTY WHIP ENCARNACIÓN: I vote aye on  
11 all.

12 CLERK: Council Member Epstein?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all,  
16 with the exception of Introduction 327-B. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Council Member Felder?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I vote aye on all,  
19 except M 53 and the underlying Resolution, 436.

20 CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all,  
3 except for Intro 327-B, of which I am a no.

4 CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

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

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Students deserve  
10 safe spaces where they can learn and engage in open  
11 debate, especially as we're seeing a real rise in  
12 hate violence.

13 I've supported measures like ensuring  
14 smaller schools have access to trained security  
15 guards for de-escalation and incident response.  
16 However, I have serious concerns about Intro 327-B,  
17 which would expand this program to include video  
18 surveillance cameras. The bill lacks basic guardrails  
19 on data ownership retention and use, opening the door  
20 to unchecked surveillance and public funding flowing  
21 to private vendors without oversight.

I'm particularly concerned about the use  
of error-prone AI technologies that can lead to  
discriminatory and harmful outcomes in our schools.  
Research from the American Civil Liberties Union

1 shows little evidence that surveillance cameras  
2 reduce school violence. Instead, they are often used  
3 to monitor and punish students for minor infractions.

4 I'm not convinced this bill meaningfully  
5 improves safety. It reads more as a giveaway to the  
6 surveillance industry than a solution for our  
7 schools.

8 For these reasons, I joined civil rights  
9 and pro democracy advocates in opposing this bill. I  
10 vote aye on all except intro 327-B, for which I vote  
no.

11 CLERK: Council Member Hankerson?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I vote aye on  
all.

13 CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

14 MAJORITY WHIP HANKS: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all, with  
the exception of 327-B, for which I vote no.

17 CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I would like to  
19 disclose on the record that my son is a student in  
New York City Public Schools.

20 I vote aye on all, and no on 327-B.

2 CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Permission to  
4 explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: I'm proud to  
8 support the nomination of Nadia Shihata, a leader who  
9 has shown she is ready to take on the hard fights as  
10 Commissioner of the Department of Investigation.

11 As a prosecutor in the Eastern District  
12 of New York, she led many critical cases and took on  
13 the hard fights to defend New Yorkers against  
14 powerful interests. She's always carried that same  
15 integrity throughout her career as a lawyer.

16 We all know that this department needs to  
17 do the hard work to move us beyond the years of the  
18 Adams administration, the stain of corruption, and to  
19 rebuild from a culture that encouraged that  
20 corruption without accountability.

21 We need a DOI that is unafraid to take on  
public corruption, to call out bad landlords and  
billionaire corporations taking advantage of New  
Yorkers, and to take on any injustice happening in  
our city. The independence of the Department of

1  
2 Investigation is sacred. It is a commitment to not be  
3 tied to any politician, corporate interest, or  
4 ideology. That is what it means to be our city's  
5 watchdog, and that will be key as we rebuild from the  
6 prior administration that did everything to evade  
7 accountability.

8  
9 Nadia has made it clear through her  
10 hearings that the DOI, under her leadership, will be  
11 the department that is not afraid to take risks and  
12 take on the hard fights that will safeguard the  
13 integrity of city government and its trust with New  
14 Yorkers and solidify and fight for the department's  
15 independence.

16  
17 With Nadia Shihata at its helm, the  
18 Department of Investigation will root out corruption  
19 and hold bad actors accountable so that City Hall can  
20 deliver for New Yorkers. I'm proud to support her  
21 nomination and confirmation today.

And with the disclosure that my children  
are students within the Department of Education, I  
vote aye and all. Thank you.

CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Council Member Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I would like to disclose for the record that my brother works for the MTA, and aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: I vote aye.

CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you.

On my Resolution-- letting you know that I have family members working for the Board of Elections.

I vote aye on all, and no on M 53 and Reso 436, DOI.

And I'm proudly supporting the 37-B (sic) \*837 legislation. No matter if you have money or do not have money, we do need security, such as the

1 times that we live in right now. I vote aye on all  
2 the rest.

3 And thank you, Madam Speaker, for doing  
4 the best that you possibly can for this great city.

5 Thank you.

6 CLERK: Council Member Morano?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Permission to  
8 explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you.

12 First, I want to congratulate the  
13 sponsors of all today's bills. I know it comes with a  
14 lot of hard work to get here, but I want to give a  
15 special shoutout to my co-chair of the Common Sense  
16 Caucus, Phil Wong, on passing his first bills today,  
17 and the great bills they are.

18 But I also wanted to explain my vote on  
19 the nomination for Commissioner of the Department of  
20 Investigation. I want to start by saying that this is  
21 not about the nominee's qualifications. By all  
accounts, she's accomplished and has had a strong  
career in public service, as my colleague alluded to.

2 But this vote isn't about credentials.  
3 It's about the role. The Department of Investigation  
4 is the City's watchdog. It's responsible for  
5 investigating corruption, fraud, and abuse, including  
6 within the very administration that appoints its  
7 commissioner. Because of that, the standard here has  
8 to be higher. Not just actual independence. But the  
9 appearance of independence. Like Caesar's wife. We've  
10 heard concerns about prior political activity and  
11 relationships that fairly or unfairly raise questions  
12 about how this will be perceived by the public. And  
13 it's going to bring a cloud over everything she does  
14 in this role as long as she has it. And perception  
15 matters, because DOI only works if people trust it,  
16 as we've seen with prior DOI commissioners and prior  
17 mayors.

18 This is also one of the few positions  
19 where the Council has a true advice and consent role.  
20 That responsibility means something. It means we're  
21 supposed to exercise independent judgment, not simply  
rubber-stamp and ratify appointments. If we don't  
take that role seriously here, when will we?

It's not a personal vote, it's an  
institutional one. And out of respect for the

2 integrity of the Department of Investigation and the  
3 need for public confidence in its independence, I'll  
4 be voting no.

5 So with that, I vote aye on all, with the  
6 exception of Reso 420, M-53, and accompanying  
7 resolution 436.

8 CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to  
10 explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
12 granted.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I want to say  
14 thank you to all my colleagues who have been pushing  
15 and all this legislative team that I've been pushing  
16 that bill forward for us, 327-B, and working on it  
17 very hard.

18 This--we reimburse non-public schools for  
19 security guards. We provide buzzing, we provide  
20 textbooks, we provide school lunches. We do this  
21 because we understand that the schools are part of a  
fabric of our city. And it's about our children. We  
cannot imagine-- it's just the entrances and exits  
right now. We can go back and forth, but if we  
remember Connecticut, what took place at Sandy Hook,

1 we lost so many kids. But with the cameras, we're  
2 able to see what happened. We're talking about  
3 Florida, so many places, the schools, and we are in a  
4 challenging time. It's not that I am advocating for  
5 giving money to private schools. And it's a  
6 financial--it's not going to be given to everyone.  
7 It's those that need the little, you know, break to  
8 make sure our children, the parents, can actually  
9 safely send the kids, or the teachers can be safe.  
10 We're talking about exit and entrance. We're not  
11 talking about the overall camera of the building.

12 So, my colleagues, as a nurse, I do  
13 believe in prevention, and I don't want to see  
14 something happen and for me to wonder how I'm going  
15 to fix it. And for those that have children, I  
16 wonder--because if my kids are going to a school that  
17 has challenges, then for us to help the parents make  
18 their independent choices to educate their children...  
19 I have four kids, and I wanted to see that. Now we  
20 have everything else for security.

21 So I'm asking my colleagues, look into  
what you're doing, what you're saying, think, and  
process it.

2 And I will say aye on all, and thank you,  
3 Majority Leader.

4 CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: No on 327-B,  
6 abstain on 805-A, and aye on all the rest.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Ossé?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (ABSENT)

10 CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all,  
12 except for Resolution 420, Transparency Resolution M  
13 53, and Resolution 436.

14 CLERK: Thank you.

15 Council Member Restler?

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

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye on  
21 all.

22 And I am proud to vote in support of my  
23 constituent, the future DOI Commissioner Shihata, who  
24 has a remarkably distinguished record in public  
25 service. Her 12 years in the Eastern District,

1 including leading the Organized Crime Division, have  
2 been highly impressive. Folks like former US Attorney  
3 General Loretta Lynch, former US Attorneys from the  
4 Eastern District have enthusiastically endorsed her  
5 candidacy. Her integrity is unimpeachable. I am  
6 surprised that I've heard from colleagues who  
7 question her independence. Having had three  
8 conversations with the counsel to the Mayor over a  
9 15-year period, I don't think it makes somebody too  
10 close to an administration. Having been inspired by a  
11 political campaign to donate one of the 100-odd  
12 donations that this person has made in their career,  
13 I don't think it is grounds to question someone's  
14 independence.

15 I met with the candidate, as I believe  
16 many of my colleagues have, and she said she's going  
17 to emulate Commissioner Strauber, who demonstrated  
18 time and again her independence and rigor in this  
19 role. She investigated City Hall, and Commissioner  
20 Shihata said to me that if there is wrongdoing at  
21 City Hall, if there's wrongdoing at an agency, she  
will investigate it fully to the full extent of the  
law. And I'm confident that she will bring the  
independence and oversight that is required of the

1  
2 role. And I look forward to working with her as our  
3 next DOI Commissioner.

4 CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Riley?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

7 CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Salaam?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye on all.

10 CLERK: Council Member Justin Sanchez?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JUSTIN SANCHEZ: Aye on  
12 all, with the exception of 327-B, for which I am a  
13 no.

14 CLERK: Council Member Pierina Sanchez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: I vote  
16 aye, with the exception of 367-B (sic), on which I am  
17 a no, and I abstain on 805.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I think you  
19 said... You meant to say 327?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: 327,  
21 thank you... (CROSS-TALK)

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I think you said  
367.

COUNCIL MEMBER PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank  
you, 327, thank you.

2 CLERK: Thank you.

3 Council Member Santosuosso?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I vote aye on  
all, with the exception of 327-B, on which I vote no.

5 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

6 Council Member Schulman?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all,  
except Introduction 327-B, for which I am a no.

10 CLERK: Council Member Thomas-Henry?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

13 DEPUTY LEADER UNG: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

15 MINORITY WHIP VERNIKOV: Aye on all, with  
the exception of Resos 420, M 53, and 436, on which I  
am a no.

16 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

17 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member Won?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye on all,  
except Introduction 327-B, which I vote no.

20 CLERK: Council Member Wong?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote aye on all,  
3 except for M 53 and Resolution 436.

4 CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Zhuang?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I vote aye on all,  
7 except M 53, Reso 436.

8 And I want to share on the record that my  
9 kids go to Public School.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Carr?

12 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Permission to  
13 explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
15 granted.

16 MINORITY LEADER CARR: Thank you, Majority  
17 Leader.

18 I just want to begin by congratulating  
19 our Majority Whip for successfully championing  
20 affordable homeownership in the Hamilton Avenue  
21 Rezoning project. It's a great win for the North  
Shore of Staten Island and Staten Island generally  
that that got included. So kudos to her for her  
efforts in that matter.

1  
2 I wanted to speak briefly about the  
3 appointment of Nadia Shihata to the Department of  
4 Investigation. I said this earlier today at the  
5 Committee hearing, but chiefly, my no vote there and  
6 here today is centered on the notion that we were  
7 never given access to her social media accounts. Ms.  
8 Shihata testified at the Committee that she had  
9 several. And I think it's absolutely reasonable to  
10 want to go through and vet public utterances on  
11 potentially public and other matters, at least from  
12 the Committee's perspective, so that we can come to a  
13 full and complete judgment as to, you know, what her  
14 views are on particular matters and what she may have  
15 said. I think that is something that we should expect  
16 of all the appointees that get sent to us for advice  
17 and consent. And because that was never given to us  
18 by the candidate or by the Mayor's Office, I'll be  
19 voting in opposition here against her appointment.

20 And with respect to the support of the  
21 camera program at nonpublic schools, I would just  
remind colleagues that at the end of the day, we're  
supporting the safety of children, children who,  
whether they go to public or nonpublic schools, did  
not get to choose, generally speaking, which school

1  
2 they attend. And so I think if we can do something  
3 that is going to enhance the safety of school  
4 children anywhere in the city of New York, whether  
5 they are in our care in our public schools, or  
6 they've been sent elsewhere by their parents and  
7 families, I think we should strive to do that, and  
8 that's why I am supporting today's legislation.

9 So with that said, I'll be voting aye on  
10 all, with the exception of M 53 and Resolution 436,  
11 as well as Preconsidered Resolution 420, on which I  
12 vote no. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Speaker Menin?

16 SPEAKER MENIN: I vote aye on all, and  
17 congratulations to my colleagues on their bills  
18 today.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All items on  
20 today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote  
21 of 49 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0  
22 abstentions, with the exception of:

23 Introduction 327-B, which was adopted by  
24 a vote of 35 in the affirmative, 14 in the negative,  
25 and 0 abstentions.

2 M 53 and Resolution 436, which was  
3 adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 9 in the  
4 negative, and 0 abstentions.

5 Resolution 420, which was adopted by a  
6 vote of 44 in the affirmative, 5 in the negative, and  
7 0 abstentions.

8 Introduction 805-A, which was adopted by  
9 a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative,  
10 and 3 abstentions.

11 Introduction and Reading of Bills?

12 SPEAKER MENIN: All bills have been  
13 referred to Committee as indicated on today's Agenda.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you.

15 We will now move into the Discussion of  
16 Resolutions. Seeing no one signed up for Resolutions,  
17 we will now have a voice vote on today's Resolution.

18 If you wish to vote against or abstain  
19 from today's Resolution, please notify the  
20 Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching  
21 the dais.

I will now read today's Resolution into  
the Record:

2 Resolution 351 recognizes the  
3 contributions of the federal Endangered Species Act  
4 to the natural environment of New York City.

5 Will all those in favor say aye?

6 ALL: Aye

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All opposed say  
8 nay?

9 ALL: (SILENT)

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Any abstentions?

11 ALL: (SILENT)

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: The ayes have it.

13 We will now move into General Discussion.  
14 There are more than 10 of our colleagues signed up to  
15 speak, and we are going to add some more, so if you  
16 can just keep it to two minutes, if not, I will have  
17 to cut you off.

18 I will start off with Council Member Rita  
19 Joseph, followed by Yusef Salaam.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you,  
21 Majority Leader.

22 Today, I rise to honor the life and  
23 legacy of Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer, a fellow Haitian  
24 American in government, the Vice Mayor of Coral  
25 Springs, Florida, a trailblazer, a public servant,

1  
2 and a woman whose leadership left a lasting imprint  
3 on every community she touched.

4 I had the privilege of working alongside  
5 Nancy through NeON (Neighborhood Opportunity  
6 Network), where her passion for service and her deep  
7 commitment to uplifting our communities were evident  
8 in every conversation and every initiative. She led  
9 with purpose, with grace, and with an unwavering  
10 belief that government must work for the people...

(CROSS-TALK)

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Keep it down in  
12 the Chambers, please.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet on the floor,  
14 please!

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Keep it down, please!

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Can we please add  
17 some more time for her? Thanks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you,  
19 Majority Leader.

20 She led with purpose. She led with grace  
21 and with an unwavering belief that government must  
work for the people, especially those too often left  
unheard.

1 Nancy represented the very best of us.  
2  
3 As a proud Haitian American leader, she carried her  
4 heritage with strength and dignity, inspiring so many  
5 young people, especially young women, to see  
6 themselves in positions of leadership.

7 Nancy Metayer's life was one of impact,  
8 courage, and service. Let us honor her, not only in  
9 words, but in the work we do every day to protect,  
10 uplift, and empower our communities. May her memory  
11 be a blessing, and may her legacy continue to guide  
12 us forward.

13 Also, I'd like to shout out Congresswoman  
14 Ayanna Pressley for her incredible work around TPS  
15 and Congressman Max Frost. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
17 Yusef Salaam, followed by Thomas-Henry.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you,  
19 Majority Leader.

20 I want to take a moment to speak about  
21 two bills I am asking my colleagues to sign on to  
today, and to thank Speaker Menin for her continued  
leadership in ensuring this Council reflects the full  
diversity of the people we serve.

2 It gives me great pride to introduce  
3 Intro 837 alongside my colleagues, Council Member  
4 Epstein and Council Member Hanif.

5 This would direct the Department of  
6 Consumer and Worker Protection, in consultation with  
7 the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of  
8 Immigrant Affairs, and the Department for the Aging,  
9 to establish an ongoing public education program on  
10 Hajj-related scams.

11 Every year, New York City Muslims,  
12 preparing for one of the most sacred obligations of  
13 their faith, are targeted by fraudulent travel  
14 agents, fake visa brokers, and predatory booking  
15 services. This is not a small-dollar scam. Families  
16 save for years, sometimes decades, to make this  
17 pilgrimage. And there are bad actors ready to steal  
18 all of that from them. This bill ensures that city  
19 agencies are proactively getting information into the  
20 hands of their residents before they become victims.

21 Second, Intro 836 requires the Department  
of Education to distribute information for every  
student and parent at the start of each school year  
on the availability of halal and kosher meals in our  
public schools, how to request them, and how the

1 schools will ensure their religious integrity. That  
2 information would be provided in English and in the  
3 nine most common home languages of enrolled students.  
4 No family in this city should miss out on a religious  
5 accommodation that already exists simply because no  
6 one told them that they could ask for it. This is a  
7 basic equity issue that this bill fixes. I urge my  
8 colleagues to sign on. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
10 Thomas-Henry, followed by Council Member  
11 Brooks-Powers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Thank you,  
13 Majority Leader.

14 Today I'm introducing my first...

15 (CROSS-TALK)

16 PROTESTORS: (YELLING)

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Sergeants, please  
18 remove them from the Chambers.

19 PROTESTORS: (CONTINUE YELLING)

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Please remove them  
21 from the Chambers.

PROTESTORS: (CONTINUE YELLING)

2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: We saw that one  
3 coming. Can you guys keep it down, please? And  
4 Council Member Brooks-Powers, you may begin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: I didn't...

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Oh, my apologies,  
7 gee, Council Member Thomas-Henry, you may begin from  
8 the beginning.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Today, I'm  
10 introducing my first pieces of legislation before  
11 this body, bills that speak to safety, access, and  
12 quality of life in our communities.

13 First, I'm introducing Intro 844, a bill  
14 that will require massage businesses operating in  
15 fixed locations to publicly post their licenses and  
16 prohibit the hiring of individuals who are not state-  
17 licensed.

18 Second, I'm introducing Legislation 845  
19 that will require the Department of Transportation to  
20 assess streets and sidewalks underneath elevated  
21 train infrastructure and install lighting where it is  
needed within a set time frame.

For too long, along Roosevelt Avenue and  
in corridors like it, our communities have raised  
concerns about safety and visibility and have not

1  
2 seen the level of response they deserve. This  
3 legislation is about finally addressing those  
4 long-standing challenges with real, lasting  
5 solutions.

6 Finally, I'm introducing a bill that will  
7 require the Department of Transportation to provide  
8 regular ferry service from Willets Point in Queens to  
9 Manhattan. Intro 846 will expand access, improve  
10 connectivity, and ensure communities are not left out  
11 of critical transit investments.

12 Together, these bills are about setting a  
13 standard that every community deserves—to feel safe,  
14 connected, and seen. Because at the core of our work  
15 is a simple principle: How we design our city and  
16 policies reflects how we value people.

17 That's why, as we mark Black Maternal  
18 Health Week, this conversation is front and center.  
19 When I think about Black maternal health, I don't  
20 just think about data; I think about lived  
21 experience. As a mother, I know the vulnerability  
that comes with bringing life into this world. I know  
the stories shared between women, often rooted in  
love but shaped by fear, the moment that is supposed  
to be one of the most powerful, joyful experiences of

2 your life, but for too many Black women, that tension  
3 between what birth should be and what it often is, is  
4 (TIMER) driven by generations of underinvestment and  
5 inequality in our healthcare settings.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Please wrap up,  
7 Council Member.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Okay.

9 To ensure that Black mothers are not just  
10 heard but valued, not just cared for but protected,  
11 the same commitment we bring to building safer  
12 streets and stronger infrastructure must extend to  
13 building systems that deliver safe and equitable  
14 care.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Council  
16 Member... (CROSS-TALK)

17 COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: As a mother,  
18 this is personal. As a governing body, it is our  
19 responsibility. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: You got it.

21 Council Member Brooks-Powers, followed by  
Council Member Banks.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,  
and good afternoon.

2 Today, I am proud to introduce several  
3 pieces of legislation focused on improving the  
4 quality of life in our communities and strengthening  
5 conditions within our correctional system.

6 First, I'm introducing Intro 811 to  
7 address a persistent issue across our neighborhoods,  
8 neglected city-owned lots. Too many of these  
9 properties are left in disrepair, overgrown, filled  
10 with trash, and creating unsafe and unsightly  
11 conditions for surrounding residents. Constituents  
12 are often bounced between agencies with no clear  
13 accountability for maintenance. This bill would  
14 designate the Department of Sanitation as the sole  
15 agency responsible for cleaning and maintaining all  
16 city-owned vacant lots. By centralizing  
17 responsibility with the agency best equipped to do  
18 the job, we can ensure consistent upkeep, improved  
19 neighborhood conditions, and finally bring clarity  
20 and accountability where it has so long been lacking.

21 In addition, I am introducing two bills  
related to the Department of Corrections:

First, Intro 809 would require the  
Department of Corrections to establish clear policies  
to address medical needs during and after lock-ins,

1  
2 ensuring that individuals in custody have access to  
3 necessary care even during periods of restricted  
4 movement.

5 Second, Intro 810 would prohibit  
6 excessive triple tours for correctional officers. An  
7 important step towards improving working conditions,  
8 reducing fatigue, and promoting safety for both staff  
9 and those in custody.

10 Finally, I'm introducing Reso 417 in  
11 support of State legislation expanding parole  
12 eligibility for older incarcerated individuals. We  
13 must prioritize fairness and rehabilitation when  
14 continued incarceration no longer serves public  
15 safety.

16 I urge my colleagues to support these  
17 important measures. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
19 Banks, followed by Council Member Santosuosso.

20 DEPUTY LEADER BANKS: Thank you, Majority  
21 Leader.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge  
the recent passing of a great man with great  
character and enormous integrity, the late Chair of

1  
2 Community Board 17, Mr. Roderick Daley, also known as  
3 Ruddle, who passed away Monday night.

4 Roderick was deeply committed to his  
5 community. That commitment led him to step forward to  
6 serve as the Chair of Community Board 17, and in  
7 multiple positions he held. Throughout my time in  
8 office, it was always a pleasure to work alongside  
9 him. He was someone who cared profoundly about the  
10 people he served and took his responsibility  
11 seriously to hold the community, community leaders,  
12 and local elected officials accountable. For that  
13 dedication and leadership, we will miss him, and we  
14 appreciate his service.

15 To Roderick's family, his friends, and  
16 the entire community, on behalf of the 42nd Council  
17 District, we extend our deepest condolences. And to  
18 the many students he taught as an educator, I hope  
19 you carry forward the lessons of a man who worked  
20 tirelessly to improve his community and his city.  
21 Honor his legacy and go out into the world committed  
to continuing the work he began. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
Santosuosso, followed by Council Member Encarnación.

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

4 Next week begins National Infertility  
5 Awareness Week, and in honor of that, today I am  
6 introducing Intro 840, which would require the City  
7 to provide insurance coverage for pre-implantation  
8 genetic testing and analysis, otherwise known as  
9 PGTA, which is a crucial part of IVF treatment for  
10 those struggling with infertility.

11 Many of you know I welcomed my daughter  
12 into the world this month, but for many years, I  
13 struggled with infertility. Those who have also  
14 experienced this know that it is an incredibly  
15 difficult journey physically, emotionally, and  
16 especially financially.

17 While City employees enjoy coverage for  
18 IVF treatment, that treatment does not cover crucial  
19 and deeply expensive portions of IVF procedures. One  
20 of these is PGTA testing, which helps test embryos  
21 created through the IVF process to determine if they  
are genetically normal and therefore viable for an  
embryo transfer. PGTA testing is shown to decrease  
the overall number of IVF rounds required to reach a  
healthy birth. Fewer IVF rounds mean less stress on

2 women's bodies and fewer dollars spent by both  
3 patients and insurance companies. The problem is that  
4 this test can run on average \$5,000 per test and is  
5 usually not covered by insurance. This means that IVF  
6 patients often forgo the test, resulting in a higher  
7 number of IVF rounds required to reach their goal of  
8 parenthood.

9 This legislation would see to it that PGA  
10 testing is covered for non-Union City employees,  
11 would not impact collective bargaining, and would  
12 immediately increase access to IVF for many City  
13 workers.

14 This is a cost savings measure, and also  
15 a measure that will help hopeful, would-be parents  
16 reach their goal of parenthood faster. I look forward  
17 to discussing this legislation further with my  
18 colleagues and hope to see its swift passage. Thank  
19 you so much.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
21 Member. Council Member Encarnación?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACIÓN: Thank you,  
Majority Leader.

Extreme weather is no longer a distant  
threat. It is here. It is hitting our most vulnerable

1  
2 neighbors the hardest. From dangerous heat waves to  
3 bitter winter cold, these conditions are not just  
4 uncomfortable for older adults; they are  
5 life-threatening.

6 Intro 812 is a straightforward,  
7 compassionate response, ensuring that older adults  
8 are not left behind when extreme weather strikes.  
9 This legislation establishes proactive wellness  
10 checks for seniors living alone or only with other  
11 seniors. It helps maintain independence while  
12 creating a critical safety net, ensuring that someone  
13 is checking in before the situation turns into a  
14 tragedy.

15 At the same time, it strengthens our  
16 city's ability to identify and support those most at  
17 risk. By improving coordination and data sharing, the  
18 Department of Aging can deliver smarter, faster, and  
19 more targeted services, reaching people who might  
20 otherwise fall through the cracks. I want to thank  
21 the Speaker for entrusting me with getting this bill  
to the finish line, and to my fellow freshman council  
members, along with Council Member Thomas-Henry, this  
one puts me on the board. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
3 Riley, followed by Council Member Morano.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority  
5 Leader.

6 Today, I'm proud to introduce Resolution  
7 424, declaring January 5th as Kappa Alpha Psi Day in  
8 the city of New York.

9 As a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity  
10 Incorporated for the last 18 years, I've experienced  
11 firsthand what this brotherhood represents: it's a  
12 lifelong commitment to discipline, service,  
13 leadership, and uplifting our communities.

14 Founded in 1911 at Indiana University  
15 Bloomington by 10 powerful Black men who were denied  
16 opportunity, Kappa Alpha Psi was built on a vision of  
17 excellence and purpose, guided by our model  
18 achievement in every field of human endeavor.

19 That legacy continues today with more  
20 than 250,000 members and 700 chapters worldwide.  
21 Kappa men show up every day, mentoring young people,  
supporting families, and creating pathways forward  
through programs like Kappa League and "Learn 2  
Live".

2 The Resolution affirms Kappa's  
3 long-standing commitment to brotherhood, academic  
4 achievement, leadership, and community service. And  
5 while we recognize the broader impact of the Divine  
6 Nine, today we center Kappa Alpha Psi and the  
7 standard it continues to set.

8 Designating January 5th as Kappa Alpha  
9 Psi Day ensures that legacy is not only recognized  
10 but carried forward across our city.

11 I would like to thank my colleagues for  
12 their support and look forward to advancing this  
13 resolution.

14 And just want to state for the record,  
15 I've been joined by some of my fraternity brothers  
16 here alongside our new brothers, Senator Kevin  
17 Parker, the new brother who's part of Kappa Alpha  
18 Psi. Thank you, Majority Leader.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
21 Member, and thank you for joining us.

Council Member Morano, followed by  
Council Member Zhuang.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you,  
Majority Leader.

2 Today, I'm proud to introduce Intro 830,  
3 legislation that deals with something uniquely New  
4 York: the bodega cat. Now, anyone who has spent more  
5 than five minutes in the city knows the reality,  
6 which is that bodega cats are everywhere. They're  
7 part of the fabric of our neighborhoods. They greet  
8 customers, and they bring a little personality to our  
9 corner stores. And yes, they play a very real role in  
10 deterring rodents. But here's the problem: under our  
11 current rules, they're technically illegal.

12 So we have this strange situation where  
13 something that's widely accepted, widely loved, and  
14 frankly widely relied upon is still against the rules  
15 on paper. And that leaves small business owners in a  
16 tough spot, subject to fines and inconsistent  
17 enforcement.

18 This bill takes a simple, commonsense  
19 approach. It removes the city-level prohibition on  
20 cats in retail food stores. At the same time, it does  
21 something important. It supports the health and  
well-being of these animals. It creates voluntary  
programs for vaccinations, spay and neuter services,  
and outreach so store owners know how to properly  
care for them.

2 Now, to be clear, this doesn't fully  
3 resolve the issue overnight. The State still has a  
4 role to play, but this is the City doing its part to  
5 bring our laws in line with reality. And one of our  
6 predecessors, Keith Powers, who's now in Albany, has  
7 assured me he's going to be working on this at a  
8 state level.

9 I think this is about supporting small  
10 businesses, it's about promoting responsible animal  
11 care, and it's about having rules that actually make  
12 sense. Sometimes the best legislation isn't  
13 complicated; it just recognizes what's already  
14 happening and makes it better.

15 I urge my colleagues to consider  
16 supporting this bill, along with two other very  
17 interesting pieces of legislation that I hope you'll  
18 look at. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
20 Member.

21 Council Member Zhuang, followed by  
Council Member Gutiérrez.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you. Next  
time, I don't want to speak after Council Member  
Morano. He's too good.

2 I'm proud to introduce a package of  
3 legislation today that fights for children, older  
4 adults, people with disabilities, and anyone dealing  
5 with food insecurity:

6 First, Intro 853 requires the City to do  
7 a study on how language access needs, income, and  
8 geographic location affect access to special  
9 education programs and services.

10 This bill is the sister bill to Intro  
11 684, requiring a study on how language access needs  
12 and geographic location affect access to early  
13 elementary gifted and talented programs. This bill  
14 would establish that the City close the gap in  
15 education access that often especially harms Black,  
16 brown, Asian, and immigrant children.

17 Second, Intro 856 requires the DOT to  
18 paint and install overhead school safety signs at  
19 each school—I still have schools that don't have  
20 those signs—where a school entrance is located.

21 Intro 854 creates a SNAP anti-fraud  
officer and fraud awareness campaign. This bill will  
pair with Intro 512, creating a 311 category for SNAP  
safety. That bill will help a lot of people with SNAP  
fraud.

2 The fourth one supports older adults.  
3 Resolution 431 calls upon the State to pass  
4 legislation authorizing property tax incentives for  
5 property owners who dedicate 20% of existing housing  
6 stock to senior citizens and individuals experiencing  
homelessness.

7 And the final one, Intro 855, would  
8 require DSNY to establish a program to assist seniors  
9 and people with disabilities with snow removal, and  
10 reduce their fines for not removing snow (TIMER) on  
time. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
12 Gutiérrez, followed by Council Member Hanif.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you,  
Majority Leader.

14 I just want to take a moment to extend  
15 my condolences to the family of Kaori  
16 Patterson-Moore, who passed away two weeks ago. She  
17 was murdered, a 7-month-old baby in a stroller. And  
18 as you can imagine, it is a community's worst  
19 nightmare, but a parent's just unfathomable  
20 experience. I was picking up my own daughter from  
21 school when I heard the helicopters, and I was  
informed of it. And while the community has held

1 multiple vigils, there's an ongoing vigil right now  
2 on the corner of Humboldt and Moore if anyone wants  
3 to stop by.

4 I just want to take a second to just shed  
5 a little bit... give a little bit of flowers to the  
6 way that the City has really come together to support  
7 this family. I think obviously there's a lot more  
8 work to be done. There are a lot of unanswered  
9 questions, but I want just to recognize DA Gonzalez;  
10 I want to recognize The Wick, which is a wonderful,  
11 wonderful collaboration between Los Sures in my  
12 district, which really targets uplifting youth,  
13 providing jobs, providing access to resources that do  
14 this work day in and day out, right across the street  
15 at Bushwick Houses. Actually, a week before the  
16 murder, I was here uplifting the work of Los Sures  
17 and commending the fact that Bushwick Houses had seen  
18 extensive progress since this organization had been  
19 there and this partnership had been there.

20 And so while we are very much still in  
21 mourning, while we may never, ever forget this  
gruesome, gruesome murder that happened in District  
34, I hope that we can come together as a council to  
continue to support groups like The Wick that are

1 there for the family, helping with funeral services.  
2 When you lose someone, when the lights go out, when  
3 the cameras turn off, that is the toughest part,  
4 y'all. And to have an organization there like The  
5 Wick is paramount for me. I want to continue to  
6 support them. I hope that you never experience this  
7 in your district, but if you have organizations that  
8 do this work, we as a council can come together to  
9 fund and invest in the work that they do. Thank you  
so much.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
11 Hanif, followed by Council Member Restler.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority  
13 Leader.

14 I rise today to speak about a deeply  
15 disturbing incident that took place in my district in  
16 Gowanus, an incident that many of you have now seen.  
17 A video circulating this week shows two officers  
18 arresting Timothy L. Brown, a Black man, a Gowanus  
19 Houses resident and my constituent, with force that  
20 was excessive, aggressive, and violent. They punched  
21 him, kicked him, and threw him against a wall of  
glass bottles, causing him severe injuries. The  
footage is deeply disturbing. No one can watch it and

1  
2 conclude that this level of force was justified. No  
3 New Yorker deserves to be kicked, beaten, and  
4 bloodied during an arrest. This is not public safety.  
5 That is injustice.

6 What happened to Timothy is not abstract.  
7 It is personal to our community, and I stand today in  
8 the People's House to speak out for our community, to  
9 demand accountability. The officers have been  
10 stripped of their shields and guns and are off our  
11 streets for now. While I'm heartened that the  
12 Brooklyn DA has dropped all charges of resisting  
13 arrest against Timothy, and that Police Commissioner  
14 Tisch is calling for a thorough investigation into  
15 this incident, this is not enough. These officers  
16 must be fired, arrested, and prosecuted for their  
17 violence and actions outside the law. We cannot allow  
18 officers who have demonstrated such violence to  
19 return to our streets, and we cannot allow such  
20 harmful acts to go without consequence.

21 I also want to thank Abelee Moran, who  
recorded this incident, for her courage, because of  
her bravery; the truth is visible. She not only stood  
up for Timothy, but for all of us when she bore  
witness in the face of violent authority.

2 I'm relieved that my constituent is home  
3 and recovering. I'm grateful that he is alive. But we  
4 should not have to feel relieved that a violent  
5 encounter with police did not end in death.

6 Colleagues, I share this with you because  
7 we cannot normalize this kind of brutality. We cannot  
8 allow another case like this to go unaddressed. I  
9 stand with my constituents, advocates, and with all  
10 New Yorkers calling for justice. We are demanding the  
11 immediate arrest and permanent removal of these  
12 officers. If we are serious about public safety, then  
13 we must be equally (TIMER) serious about  
14 accountability. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
16 Restler, followed by Council Member Mealy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I want to thank  
18 Council Member Hanif for her leadership in speaking  
19 out about the terrible police brutality that we saw  
20 in our community earlier this week, and thank Council  
21 Member Gutiérrez for her moving words about the  
horrible murder of a 7-month-old in Williamsburg.

I'd like to speak today about two pieces  
of legislation that I'm introducing, the first with  
Chair Dinowitz, Council Members Cabán, Marte, Council

1  
2 Member Pierina Sanchez, and Council Member Hudson,  
3 which will bring some much needed transparency to  
4 school bus performance. I think every single one of  
5 us hears from constituents every single week about  
6 school bus routes that are late. We need  
7 comprehensive data on every single school bus route,  
8 what time it arrived at school, at home, and when it  
9 was late. We need to look holistically at how every  
10 single school bus vendor is performing. We've seen  
11 far too much corruption in the school bus industry  
12 for far too long. And we deserve better. Our families  
13 deserve better. Our kids deserve better. And with  
14 this data that the DOE would be required to report in  
15 real time, we will have the comprehensive  
16 understanding we need to ensure that the same crappy  
17 and frankly corrupt school bus operators no longer  
18 can run school bus routes in our system.

16 And then secondly, we're introducing a  
17 piece of legislation with Deputy Speaker Williams and  
18 Council Member Stevens that would require nonprofit  
19 organizations to report on when they subcontract to  
20 MWBEs (Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprises)

20 You know, we contract about \$15+ billion  
21 a year with nonprofits, and many billions of dollars

1  
2 of that are subcontracted out. Think about a homeless  
3 shelter that engages a company that provides food or  
4 security, and the like. We want those subcontracts to  
5 go to MWBEs, but if we don't have the data and  
6 nobody's ever reporting on it, then there's no  
7 accountability.

8 So when nonprofits are reporting already  
9 to city agencies on who they subcontract with, they  
10 should inform us if it is an MWBE. Because then we  
11 can incentivize those nonprofits to prioritize  
12 engaging MWBEs and direct more city funds (TIMER) to  
13 support women and minority owned businesses. Thank  
14 you, Majority Leader, for the opportunity.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
16 Mealy, followed by Council Member Pierina Sanchez.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I want to give  
18 my condolences, and the whole 41st (INAUDIBLE)  
19 District, to our beloved Roderick Daley from  
20 Community Board 17. He has been a warrior for years  
21 that I know of, always fighting for the community.

Also, yesterday we recognized Purple Up!  
Day, a time to honor and support the incredible  
resilience of military children like my niece Nicole  
Stubbs, who just graduated from the Air Force, my

1  
2 Uncle Ted McQueen, Marines, and so on and so many  
3 other friends. Purple symbolizes unity and the  
4 sacrifices these young individuals make every day,  
5 from frequent moves to long separations from loved  
6 ones. Military kids show strength, adaptability, and  
7 courage beyond their years.

8 And I also would like to proudly  
9 recognize Principal Lena Gates of Dr. Ronald E.  
10 McNair/P.S.5 school in my district, who just won the  
11 honor of National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence,  
12 through the national assessment process. This school  
13 met all nine categories, an achievement that reflects  
14 excellence in education and a strong school  
15 community. Congratulations to Dr. Lena Gates and the  
16 P.S.5 scholars. Thank you, Principal Gates, for  
17 creating a positive learning environment for all  
18 students. And in that school (INAUDIBLE) put in a  
19 grocery store. Our young people know how to handle  
20 money-- and a computer room, and Dr. McCurklin's  
21 music room. So I just want to thank her so much for  
what she's doing for our community.

And please sign on to sponsor Intro 828,  
training support for staff at food pantries. And  
Happy Earth Day, thank you.

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

4 Council Member Pierina Sanchez, followed  
5 by Council Member Schulman.

6 CHAIRPERSON PIERINA SANCHEZ: Thank you,  
7 Majority Leader.

8 Every New Yorker deserves to live in a  
9 safe, dignified home, and that includes living free  
10 of tenant harassment.

11 Today, I'm excited to be introducing  
12 Intro 839, which would permanently codify the  
13 Certification of No Harassment pilot program. CONH  
14 directly links tenant treatment to an owner's ability  
15 to get permits for major construction work. The  
16 process is intended to ensure that an owner does not  
17 advance a demolition or an alteration project by  
18 harassing tenants into leaving or giving up their  
19 rights. It is an anti-displacement tool. Before  
20 certain covered work can move forward, the owner has  
21 to clear a harassment review.

There have been two successful pilots,  
the first in 2018, the next in 2021, and now it is  
time to make this program a fixture of HPD and DOB's  
enforcement toolbox.

2 On Monday, which is the 20th at 10:00  
3 a.m., Intro 839 will be heard as a part of a joint  
4 hearing with Chair Encarnación and the Committee on  
5 Immigration, where we will investigate tenant  
6 harassment against immigrant New Yorkers and how the  
7 CONH program can be adapted to meet new housing  
8 challenges in our city. I invite all New Yorkers and  
9 everyone who cares about these issues to join us at  
10 this hearing on Monday. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
12 Schulman, followed by Council Member Louis.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you,  
14 Majority Leader.

15 Today, I am introducing Intro 841, which  
16 provides another tool to help with the city's  
17 affordability crisis. With the rising cost of living,  
18 it's getting harder for New Yorkers to care for their  
19 pets. For many families, the difference between  
20 keeping a beloved animal and surrendering them can  
21 come down to something as basic as access to food.  
This legislation would require the Department of  
Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a pilot pet  
food pantry, providing free pet food to New Yorkers  
in need and helping keep animals in the homes where

2 they belong. Owning a pet should be about bringing  
3 love into our lives and not worrying about their  
4 affordability. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
6 Louis, followed by Council Member Dinowitz.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority  
8 Leader.

9 I rise today to acknowledge the passing  
10 of Roderick, also known as "Ruddie" Daley, the  
11 Chairperson of Brooklyn's Community Board 17, a proud  
12 resident of my district, and a tireless advocate for  
13 the people of Central Brooklyn. Chairman Daley was a  
14 steady and respected voice in our community, someone  
15 who understood deeply the responsibility of  
16 leadership deeply and carried it with humility,  
17 strength, and unwavering commitment to public  
18 service. His advocacy touched every corner of CB17,  
19 and he remained grounded in his love for our  
20 community, which he served well. This loss is not  
21 felt in isolation; it's shared across districts and  
across this council, particularly amongst my  
colleagues, Council Members Banks, Mealy, and Joseph,  
whose communities were equally impacted by his  
leadership and partnership. Chairman Daley brought

2 people together, and his presence will be deeply  
3 missed by all of us who had the honor of working  
4 alongside him.

5 We also want to mourn the tragic passing  
6 of Nancy Metayer Bowen, a rising leader whose life  
7 and service reflected extraordinary purpose and  
8 impact, and I had the distinct honor to serve with  
9 her in NeOn. She led with distinction as Vice Mayor,  
10 championing environmental justice, public health, and  
11 immigrant advocacy. Her loss is profound to us, and  
12 while her time with us was far too short, her legacy  
13 of service, advocacy, and unwavering belief and  
14 equity will continue to inspire future generations to  
15 lead with courage and conviction.

16 We carry their legacy of service and  
17 dedication with us each and every day. May they rest  
18 in peace. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
20 Dinowitz, followed by Council Member Maloney.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you.

This past Friday, surrounded by his  
family, our beloved Congressman Engel passed away.  
Eliot was a Bronx boy, grandson of immigrants, the  
son of an iron worker, and was raised in NYCHA,

1 educated in our public schools. As a teacher.  
2 guidance counselor, Assemblyman, and Congressman  
3 Eliot never stopped giving of himself to make our  
4 community and our world a better place.

5 Our families were close, so much so that  
6 I called him "Daddy Eliot". So I almost felt like a  
7 proud son when the man who took me to dinner, to  
8 baseball games, to the fair was also a member of the  
9 Energy and Commerce Committee and helped negotiate  
10 the Affordable Care Act and brought billions of  
dollars to our city and our state during COVID.

11 Eliot rose up the ranks of the House  
12 Foreign Affairs Committee to become its chairman, a  
13 role that he used to fight for people around the  
14 world. And whether it was the Syrian Accountability  
15 Act that he authored and passed by a Republican  
16 House, Senate, and presidency to hold the Assad  
17 regime accountable, or the Harkin-Engel Protocol that  
18 stopped chocolate manufacturers from using slave  
labor in Western Africa, Eliot Engel was not afraid  
to speak out.

19 And he stood up against the ethnic  
20 cleansing of Albanians in Kosovo. Eliot's work to  
21 bring the case of Kosovo to the world eventually led

1  
2 to the birth of a new nation. He was the first  
3 foreign dignitary to address the Kosovo parliament,  
4 and they even put him on a postage stamp.

5 And with all that, Eliot always cared for  
6 his district. He helped thousands upon thousands of  
7 individuals with personal and local problems,  
8 delivered millions of dollars to the district, and,  
9 as anyone who met him knows, always listened.

10 He was grounded in his family and  
11 community, and in his values, and was able to work  
12 with others for the safety and dignity of people here  
13 and around the world. In that respect, we should all  
14 be a little more like Eliot Engel.

15 The world mourns an American hero who was  
16 a champion for justice. I mourn my "Daddy Eliot". May  
17 his memory be a blessing. (TIMER)

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
19 Maloney, followed by Council Member Fariás.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you.

21 As Chair of the Economic Development  
Committee, I can share that we have spent months  
preparing for a major moment for our city, the World  
Cup this June. Millions of visitors from around the  
globe will come to New York City for this global

1 moment, giving us an opportunity to showcase our city  
2 on the global stage. From planning for increased foot  
3 traffic, supporting local storefronts, and ensuring  
4 our public spaces are welcoming and accessible, our  
5 goal is to make sure the experience is seamless, but  
6 also that every neighborhood benefits.

7 Today's legislation helps our city  
8 prepare by requiring a plan to expand access to  
9 public restrooms, establishing an events calendar,  
10 and a citywide map so that visitors can easily  
11 navigate our neighborhoods and connect with local  
12 small businesses, and creating a cultural passport  
13 program to encourage visitors to get to all five  
14 boroughs.

15 And where will fans gather to watch the  
16 games? They'll be in official fan zones in Queens at  
17 the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center and in my  
18 district at Rockefeller Center. That is why Council  
19 Member Thomas-Henry and I are introducing legislation  
20 to co-name streets at these locations in honor of two  
21 soccer legends, Thierry Henry and Pele, in  
recognition of their contribution to the sport and  
the global reach of the game.

2 These and other initiatives will help  
3 ensure that the benefits of the World Cup are felt  
4 across our city, reaching all New Yorkers, and that  
5 residents and visitors alike are able to fully  
6 experience and enjoy this historic moment. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
8 Farías, followed by Council Member Epstein, who is  
9 our last person signed up to speak.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you.

11 Today, I'm introducing Intro 816, a bill  
12 drafted to address a critical gap in our shelter  
13 systems.

14 Shelters in New York City are supposed to  
15 be a safeguard for individuals and families at their  
16 most vulnerable, but the current intake practices at  
17 PATH and AFIC impose documentation requirements that  
18 do not reflect the lived experiences many applicants  
19 are navigating today. Families are required to  
20 reconstruct and verify housing histories going back  
21 one to two years. When they're unable to do so,  
they're being denied a resource-backed pathway out of  
homelessness.

This only further aggravates the  
precarious conditions people are already struggling

1 through, including those fleeing domestic violence or  
2 relying on temporary living arrangements like staying  
3 with family or friends, which, in most cases, leave  
4 no formal record at all.

5 Applicants are repeatedly placed in this  
6 position, having to verify circumstances that were  
7 never documented, including securing confirmation  
8 from third parties who may be unreachable or  
9 unwilling to respond. When that verification cannot  
10 be obtained, families are then placed into a  
11 conditional status. And while they are physically  
12 sheltered, they are excluded from critical resources  
13 like CityFHEPS and other housing assistance programs.  
14 They are then trapped in a loop required to reapply,  
15 only to face another inevitable denial for the same  
16 unattainable documentation.

17 Our partner in this work, Women in Need,  
18 reported that one individual was denied shelter 25  
19 times under these conditions. This is not a failure  
20 on the part of the applicant; it is a short-sighted  
21 cost-cutting scheme that effectively penalizes the  
vulnerable to protect the bottom line.

I'm proud to introduce Introduction 816  
as a means of reform by accepting self-attestation--

2 for folks to self-attest, rather than demanding  
3 non-existent paperwork, we are realigning our system  
4 with the actual lived experiences of New Yorkers  
5 seeking housing.

6 Today, I urge all of my colleagues to  
7 join us in supporting this practical (TIMER)  
8 common-sense legislation.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
10 Epstein?

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

13 As you know, Earth Day approaches next  
14 week, and I want to thank the Speaker for being able  
15 to introduce some green legislation today, and a  
16 package of bills that we passed today.

17 We're doing dimmable streetlights, a bill  
18 that will require dimmable streetlights across our  
19 city, and to maintain energy, as well as legislation  
20 around making sure that when there's illegal dumping,  
21 there's an ability to enforce those illegal dumping  
activities to create a cleaner, safer New York City.  
And a third bill just around--we've seen a  
proliferation of illegal cannabis stores across our  
city, we want to make sure that DCWP has the

1 enforcement power to be able to enforce and close  
2 those illegal shops.

3 These pieces of legislation will help  
4 move things forward in a practical way. I want to  
5 thank all my colleagues for being here, and thank the  
6 Speaker for her leadership in getting this done  
7 today.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no one else  
9 signed up to speak, I will now call on Speaker Julie  
10 Menin to close today's Stated Meeting.

11 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you so much. Before  
12 we close, I want to wish Council Member Sandy Nurse,  
13 who had her birthday recently, a happy birthday. I  
14 think she has left, but happy birthday to her. Oh,  
15 it's Kayla Santosuosso's birthday, too! Okay, a lot  
16 of birthdays. Happy Birthday.

17 The Stated Meeting of April 16, 2026, is  
18 hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]  
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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 no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 19, 2026