

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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August 20th, 2009  
Start: 11:33am  
Recess: 11:40am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JOEL RIVERA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo  
Tony Avella  
Maria Baez  
Charles Barron  
Gale A. Brewer  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Bill de Blasio  
Mathieu Eugene  
Simcha Felder  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Alan J. Gerson  
Eric N. Gioia  
Sara M. Gonzalez

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

Vincent Ignizio  
Letitia James  
Melinda R. Katz  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Jessica S. Lappin  
John C. Liu  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Miguel Martinez  
Darlene Mealy  
Rosie Mendez  
Kenneth C. Mitchell  
Michael C. Nelson  
James S. Oddo  
Christine C. Quinn  
James Sanders, Jr.  
Larry B. Seabrook  
Helen Sears  
Kendall Stewart  
Eric A. Ulrich  
James Vacca  
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.  
Albert Vann  
David I. Weprin  
Thomas White, Jr.  
David Yassky

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

Imam Cunatsy Suliman

Betsy Gotbaum  
Public Advocate

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Please rise  
3 for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance  
4 to the flag of the United States of America and to  
5 the republic for which it stands, one nation  
6 [pause] and justice for all. [Pause] Roll call.

7 MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

9 MALE VOICE: Avella.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

11 MALE VOICE: Baez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: [No  
13 Response].

14 MALE VOICE: Barron.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

16 MALE VOICE: Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

18 MALE VOICE: Comrie.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

20 MALE VOICE: Crowley.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No  
22 response]

23 MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: [No  
25 response]

1

2

MALE VOICE: Dickens.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

4

response]

5

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

7

response].

8

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

10

MALE VOICE: Felder.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No

12

response].

13

MALE VOICE: Ferreras.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

15

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

17

MALE VOICE: Foster.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

19

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

21

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

23

response].

24

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I'm here.

1

2

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

4

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: [No

6

response]

7

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

9

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Here.

11

MALE VOICE: Jackson.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [No

13

response]

14

MALE VOICE: James.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

16

MALE VOICE: Katz.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: [No

18

response].

19

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

21

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: [No

23

response].

24

MALE VOICE: Liu.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: [No response]

1

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: [No

4

response]

5

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

7

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

9

MALE VOICE: Mitchell.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

11

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

13

MALE VOICE: Palma.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [No

15

response].

16

MALE VOICE: Recchia.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: [No

18

response].

19

MALE VOICE: Reyna.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [No

21

response]

22

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Here.

24

MALE VOICE: Seabrook. Seabrook.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

1

MALE VOICE: Sears.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

3

MALE VOICE: Stewart.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

5

MALE VOICE: Crowley.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

7

MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

9

MALE VOICE: Vacca.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

11

MALE VOICE: Vallone.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

13

MALE VOICE: Vann.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, here.

15

MALE VOICE: Weprin.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [No

17

response].

18

MALE VOICE: White.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

20

MALE VOICE: Yassky.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye. I'm

22

present, here.

23

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

25



1

2

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

3

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Here.

4

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

5

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

6

MALE VOICE: Katz.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Here.

8

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Call - -

9

please rise for the invocation that's being

10

delivered by Imam Cunatsy Suliman.

11

IMAM CUNATSY SULIMAN: [Foreign

12

language] In the name of Allah, the most gracious,

13

the most merciful, all the praise and thanks be to

14

Allah, the Lord of the alter exist. The most

15

gracious, the most merciful. The only owner and

16

the ruling judge of the day of recompense, you,

17

alone, we worship and you, alone, we ask for help

18

for each and everything; guide us through this - -

19

way, the way of those on whom you have blessed

20

through your grace, not the way of those who earn

21

your anger, not of those who went astray. Amen.

22

Thank you.

23

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member

24

Foster.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: It gives me

1  
2 great pleasure to make a motion to spread the  
3 Imam's invocation upon the record.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: If I could, thank  
5 you very much, Council Member Foster, if I could  
6 ask my colleagues to please stand. Sadly, we have  
7 three individuals to speak of who we've lost since  
8 our last Stated Meeting.

9 Just yesterday on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009,  
10 Marine Lance Corporal Leopold Damas, who was 26 of  
11 Floral Park Queens, lived in Council Member  
12 Weprin's district, was killed while supporting  
13 combat operations in Afghanistan. He was assigned  
14 to the Second Battalion, Eighth Marine Regiment  
15 based out of Fort Lejeune, North Carolina.

16 Lance Corporal Damas joined the  
17 Marine Corps in 2006 and was on his third  
18 deployment. He has served twice in Iraq and  
19 arrived in Afghanistan in May. He was the ninth  
20 casualty in his unit in the last six weeks. His  
21 older brother said 'I prayed for him, but I wasn't  
22 really fearful because he was a good soldier.'  
23 Over 32 American soldiers have died in Afghanistan  
24 so far this month.

25 On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Firefighter

1  
2 Paul Warhola, 47, died two days after suffering  
3 what we believe was a stroke while answering a  
4 fire call. Firefighter Warhola was a 15-year  
5 veteran who served his entire career with Engine  
6 221 in Brooklyn and Williamsburg.

7           On August 12<sup>th</sup>, Firefighter Warhola  
8 drove his fire engine to a building in  
9 Williamsburg in response to an alarm activation.  
10 Upon arriving at the scene, he checked for a  
11 working hydrant while the other members of Engine  
12 221 entered the building to investigate. While  
13 they returned to the street, Firefighter Warhola  
14 was experiencing weakness, dizziness and  
15 difficulty breathing. While providing medical  
16 treatment, his fellow firefighters called EMS, who  
17 recognized his symptoms as a possible stroke and  
18 he transported to a specialized stroke unit at  
19 Bellevue, where he died two days later.

20           Firefighter Warhola was among the  
21 responders of 9/11 and was well-known around his  
22 Engine Company as he would bring local kids into  
23 the fire house and show them fire trucks.  
24 Firefighter Warhola is survived by his wife,  
25 Arlene, a son, Paul, who is 15, a daughter, Tiana,

1

2 who is 13.

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I attended his funeral yesterday on behalf of the City Council. And, in addition to him having been there on September 11<sup>th</sup>, he responded numerous times on September 11<sup>th</sup>. He responded when the first of the two towers went down. He went back in again, even as other members of his Engine and his Company retreated, he stayed on the scene. His uncle, who was also a member of the Fire Department, died on September 11<sup>th</sup>, so this was a family who has given a great deal to our City.

Firefighter Warhola is the 1,141<sup>st</sup> member of the New York City Fire Department to die in the line of duty.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, former State Senator Olga Mendez, 84, passed away after a long bout with cancer. In 1978, Olga Mendez, already a distinguished City public servant, became the first Puerto Rican woman elected to the State Legislature in the continental United States, when she won a special election for the State Senate seat covering East Harlem and the South Bronx. Senator Mendez served for over 26 years before

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2 leaving office at the end of 2004.

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She was a tireless advocate for her constituents. Her election opened the door for so many to follow. And, her life was an inspiration to not only those of Puerto Rican descent, but to all people struggling for a better life and a seat at the table. Senator Mendez was born in Puerto Rico and came to New York City in the 1950s, earning a Doctorate degree in Educational Psychology from Yeshiva University.

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As a Senator, she fought for affordable housing, education and the reform of the Rockefeller Drug laws. Olga Mendez was predeceased by her husband. And, I know that Council Member Larry Seabrook wanted to say a few words about his former colleague and friend, Senator Mendez.

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20

21

22

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. And, it's indeed a pleasure to talk about a former colleague, who I had the opportunity to serve in the Senate with. But, I also had the opportunity to work under her when she was the Deputy Commissioner for the Agency for Child Development in the mid-'70s.

1  
2 And, Olga Mendez really was a  
3 tremendous woman because she never ever allowed  
4 you to ever forget that she was a Puerto Rican  
5 woman. And, she was very clear about her  
6 ethnicity and let everybody know it; not that she  
7 was in any way frowning upon any others, but she  
8 was certainly proud to be who she was. And, she  
9 was a tremendous person and what Olga always said,  
10 Olga was what you see is what you get because  
11 that's the way in which she was that she said what  
12 was on her mind and she spoke her mind. And, she  
13 was a tremendous public servant.

14 And, one of the things, the joke  
15 that I tell everybody is Olga Mendez never left  
16 the Democratic party to go to the Republican party  
17 because of ideological reasons. The reason was  
18 because in the Democratic conference, they voted  
19 that you couldn't smoke in the conference anymore  
20 because years ago, Al, we could smoke in the  
21 conferences. But, you couldn't smoke in the  
22 conference anymore.

23 So, Olga was a tremendous person  
24 and she was a trailblazer that allowed the doors  
25 to be opened for many women to follow her. And,

1  
2 she left an impression in the Legislature that  
3 said women are certainly capable, qualified and  
4 equal to serve and lead anybody. Thank you very  
5 much.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Madam  
8 Speaker. Oliver Koppell.

9 SPEAKER QUINN: Oh, I'm sorry,  
10 couldn't identify the voice.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I could  
12 not be here without saying as someone who--

13 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing]  
14 Council Member Koppell, could I just--

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: -- we just have one  
17 member who has a--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Oh.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: -- situation in the  
20 district and needs to vote. Why don't you just  
21 vote, Council Member Katz and then, we'll go back  
22 to Council Member Koppell. Thank you, Oliver.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Sorry, I--

24 SPEAKER QUINN: That's okay.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I ask

1  
2 unanimous consent to vote aye on all general order  
3 calendar and the Resolutions. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: And, call-ups,  
7 Melinda.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: And, call-  
9 ups. Wouldn't want to miss the Land Use call-ups.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: God, no.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye on all.  
12 Thanks.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
14 much. Thank you, Oliver.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,  
16 Madam Speaker. I couldn't be present in  
17 remembering Olga Mendez without adding my own  
18 memories and regard for a remarkable woman, who  
19 was absolutely no one's servant, but a leader and  
20 a woman who knew her own mind. And, we spent  
21 many, many hours together, both in Albany and in  
22 Puerto Rico. And, she was really a very good  
23 friend and we had a rapport even though we came  
24 from different backgrounds. And, Olga will be  
25 missed. She was unique.



1

2

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. [Pause]

3

Thank you, Majority Leader.

4

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

5

much. Adoption of the Minutes?

6

MALE VOICE: None.

7

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Messages and

8

papers from the Mayor?

9

MALE VOICE: None.

10

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communication

11

from City, County and Borough offices?

12

MALE VOICE: None.

13

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use call-

14

ups.

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[Pause]

16

sp: Have a roll call, please on

17

all of the Land Use call-up items. I may have

18

jumped ahead. You may need to list them first.

19

MALE VOICE: M-1560 through M-1562.

20

SPEAKER QUINN: What I meant to say

21

was after you said that, if we could please have a

22

call-up on all the Land Use-- vote on the Land Use

23

call-ups, please. Thank you.

24

MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

1

MALE VOICE: Avella.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Baez.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye on all

5

Land Use call-ups, with permission to vote aye on  
all coupled general orders.

6

7

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

9

MALE VOICE: Barron.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

11

MALE VOICE: Brewer.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

13

MALE VOICE: Comrie.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

15

MALE VOICE: Crowley.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on

17

all.

18

MALE VOICE: de Blasio.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: I vote

20

aye on all Land Use call-ups and ask permission to  
vote aye on all items coupled on general order  
calendar.

21

22

23

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER de BLASIO: I vote

25

1

2 aye. Thank you.

3

MALE VOICE: Dickens.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

5

response]

6

MALE VOICE: Dilan.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No

8

response].

9

MALE VOICE: Eugene.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

11

MALE VOICE: Felder.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No

13

response].

14

MALE VOICE: Ferreras.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote

16

aye. And, I'd like be excused to vote on all

17

general orders.

18

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank

20

you.

21

MALE VOICE: Fidler.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

23

MALE VOICE: Foster.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

25

MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Gennaro.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [No

5

response].

6

MALE VOICE: Gentile.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

8

MALE VOICE: Gerson.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

10

MALE VOICE: Gioia.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I vote yes

12

on Land Use call-ups and request permission to

13

vote yes on all coupled general orders.

14

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

16

MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

18

all.

19

MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

21

MALE VOICE: James.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye.

23

MALE VOICE: Koppell.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

25

MALE VOICE: Lappin.

1

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

2

3

MALE VOICE: Liu.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: [No response].

5

MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

7

on all.

8

MALE VOICE: Mealy.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Pass.

10

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

12

MALE VOICE: Mitchell.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

16

MALE VOICE: Palma

17

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [No

18

response].

19

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on

21

all.

22

MALE VOICE: Seabrook.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Majority

24

Leader, I'd like to, with unanimous consent, to

25

vote on all Land Use matters and general call-ups

1

2 and be excused.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

4 MALE VOICE: Mealy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

6 Can I have permission to vote on all Land Use  
7 call-ups, all general orders and all coupled  
8 general orders?

9 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

11 MALE VOICE: Sears.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

13 MALE VOICE: Stewart.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye on

15 all.

16 MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

18 MALE VOICE: Vacca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye

20 on all and I ask permission to vote aye on all  
21 general order calendar items.

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

23 MALE VOICE: Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: - -

25 MALE VOICE: Vann.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

3

MALE VOICE: Weprin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [No

5

response].

6

MALE VOICE: White.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye

8

on all Land Use call-ups and request unanimous

9

consent to vote on all coupled general orders.

10

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye.

12

MALE VOICE: Yassky.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

14

MALE VOICE: Oddo.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [No

16

response].

17

MALE VOICE: Rivera.

18

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

19

MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

20

[Pause]

21

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Today's Land

22

Use call-ups were adopted by a vote of 40 in the

23

affirmative, with zero in the negative.

24

Communications from the Speaker?

25

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

1  
2 much. We're voting today on a number of important  
3 pieces of legislation. First, Intro 890-A, which  
4 is adding a regionally specific, I'm sorry,  
5 regionally significant project to an Empire zone.  
6 The regionally significant project is in Council  
7 Member James Sanders' district. And, this comes  
8 out of our Economic Development Committee, Chaired  
9 by Tom White. I want to thank both of those  
10 individuals for taking the attention that this  
11 matter needed and working hard on it. It's a  
12 regionally significant project that's going to  
13 help keep and expand lots of jobs in New York  
14 City. So, thank you, James and thank you, Tom. I  
15 also want to thank Jeff Haberman and his staff for  
16 working on Intro 890-A.

17 We're also voting today on Intro  
18 859-A. That is a piece of legislation that will  
19 require that pharmacies in the City of New York,  
20 which have four or more pharmacies, chain  
21 pharmacies, put up signage that makes it clear to  
22 all customers in seven different languages that  
23 that pharmacy is required by law to provide  
24 translation services as it relates to the  
25 information on labels and other important



1

2 prescription legislation.

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I want to thank Adira Siman, Joe Mancino and Terzah Nasser, who worked on this piece of legislation. I want to thank the Health Committee Chair, Joel Rivera, whose committee shepherded this legislation. I want to thank our Public Advocate, who we'll hear from later, for introducing this legislation and the long list of advocates from the New York Lawyers and the Public Interest, the Heart Association and, in particular, Make the Road New York, who brought this issue forward to us.

Twenty-four percent of New Yorkers have limited English proficiency. It's not acceptable to have a pharmacy system in our five boroughs that doesn't address the healthcare needs of almost a quarter of New York City's residents. And, at the hearing on the Public Advocate's bill, we heard very disturbing, but compelling, testimony from New Yorkers, themselves, who had taken medication incorrectly because they couldn't read the label. New Yorkers who didn't take their medication because when they went to their chain pharmacy and they asked for information and help,

1

2 it wasn't provided to them.

3

4 This piece of legislation will make  
5 sure that that doesn't happen anymore. This  
6 legislation, as I said, focuses on pharmacies,  
7 basically the chains, which have four or more  
8 stores. I want to make note that in a study done  
9 in 2006 by the New York Academy of Medicine, which  
10 clearly detailed the need for the Public  
11 Advocate's bill to become a law. That report also  
12 showed that the mom and pop pharmacies of our City  
13 had largely already stepped to the plate and begun  
14 providing translation services in different ways  
15 to their customers. There was a knowledge of the  
16 need of their customers there. And, they were  
17 meeting it. And now, we're going to make sure the  
18 chains do that, as well.

18

19 I, again, want to thank everyone  
20 who's worked on this, particularly Adira, Joe and  
21 Terzah and really thank our Health Committee  
22 Chair, Joel Rivera, for making sure this bill  
23 passed unanimously out of his Committee. And, let  
24 me call on the Chair and we will hear from the  
25 Public Advocate later.

25

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

1  
2 much, Madam Speaker. First, I want to thank you  
3 because you've always been a champion on immigrant  
4 rights in the City of New York and healthcare  
5 issues in the City of New York. And, of course,  
6 you know, to our Public Advocate for introducing  
7 the piece of legislation.

8           It's a pivotal piece of legislation  
9 that recognizes the need to make sure that every  
10 single person who looks to get medical treatment  
11 and get their prescription filled knows exactly  
12 what that means and have that translation service.  
13 Just to give an example, when I stated it earlier  
14 in the pre-Stated, if a Spanish-speaking person  
15 looks at their medication label and they see the  
16 word once. In Spanish, that means 11 'cause the  
17 way it's spelled out, once spelled out is once in  
18 Spanish, that's means 11 times. So, a person can  
19 inadvertently take their medication not as  
20 prescribed and it could be life-threatening.

21           So, this piece of legislation  
22 really targets the 24% of our City residents,  
23 which is a significant number, in making sure that  
24 they do not inadvertently take medication  
25 improperly and have the proper translation

1  
2 services. We are the melting pot in the United  
3 States and the world. We have a very diverse  
4 community. It's important that our services cater  
5 towards the different ethnicities and the  
6 different languages that are spoken here within  
7 the City of New York.

8                   And, again, I want to thank the  
9 Advocates. I want to thank all my Committee  
10 members on the Health Committee for recognizing  
11 the necessity of this bill. And, again, I want to  
12 thank the Speaker and the Public Advocate and, of  
13 course, to our Council and the Health Committee as  
14 well. Thank you.

15                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
16 much. We're also voting today on four pieces of  
17 legislation that relate to follow-up actions that  
18 this Council has taken in response to the Deutsche  
19 Bank fire and tragedy. Let me first thank Baaba  
20 Halm, Rob Calandra, Ben Goodman and Jeff Haberman  
21 for this work on these four pieces of legislation.

22                   But, you'll all remember a number  
23 of months ago, we introduced these four bills and  
24 others as a package of legislation. And, we did  
25 that with Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler. And, I want to

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2 thank the Deputy Mayor and his staff for working  
3 on this issue with us.

4

5 This package of legislation is  
6 quite simply one that was introduced and designed  
7 and will be passed to try to prevent anything like  
8 what happened at the Deutsche Bank from ever  
9 happening again. When we introduced the bills, we  
10 were joined by Joseph Graffagino, Sr.; of course,  
11 Joseph Graffagino, Jr., and Robert Beddia were  
12 lost in the tragic Deutsche Bank fire.

13 Mr. Graffagino joined us again today as we move to  
14 pass these four pieces of legislation. Sadly, he  
15 shared with us, today would have been his son's  
16 36<sup>th</sup> birthday.

17 So, these bills, which are really  
18 fairly common sense pieces of legislation, which  
19 the Council and the Mayor's Office have drafted  
20 together, they do things like require a color-  
21 coding system for standpipes so no one, again,  
22 accidentally cuts off a standpipe. It creates a  
23 schedule for checking, on a regular basis, that  
24 sprinklers and standpipes are operational. It  
25 creates a plan for if you have to dismantle or  
make repairs to a standpipe, a clear process for

1  
2 how that will be done. It requires that site  
3 managers and coordinators are there when  
4 demolition is done and requires a higher level of  
5 certification, training and proof as it relates to  
6 the staff who are involved in demolition.

7           You know, we said today we can't  
8 bring Robert Beddia or Robert-- or, Joseph  
9 Graffagino back. But, we can do everything in our  
10 power, as legislators, to make sure the next time  
11 a fire company responds to a fire at a building  
12 that is being demolished, that we've done  
13 everything we could to make sure that those men  
14 and women go home at night. We owe them and their  
15 families at least that.

16           I want to thank all of the Council  
17 Members who have really made these pieces of  
18 legislation and this work a real mission; in  
19 particular, our Chair of our Housing and Buildings  
20 Committee, Erik Dilan. I also want to single out  
21 Vinnie Gentile, who was single today out by  
22 Mr. Graffagino, Sr. as someone who stood with him  
23 and his family every step of the way. And, let me  
24 call on the three sponsors of today's legislation.  
25 And, again, there will be more pieces of

1  
2 legislation that come out of the Deutsche Bank  
3 reform package, as well. Let me first call on  
4 Council Member Vinnie Ignizio and thank him for  
5 his work and leadership.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you  
7 very much, Madam Speaker. And, I want to thank  
8 you and, obviously, Housing and Buildings and the  
9 Mayor's Office, Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler.

10 You know, it seems fitting that on  
11 the final day, on the birthday of Firefighter  
12 Graffagino, this hero once again gives a gift back  
13 to the City of New York in ensuring us all that  
14 because of him laying down his life for this City,  
15 no other firefighters will meet that same fate.  
16 It is a humbling experience to be part of this  
17 bill, to be associated at all with these two brave  
18 heroes and we can honestly look Mr. Graffagino and  
19 the Beddia family in the eye and say it'll never  
20 happen again. And, the loss that you suffered,  
21 while tragic, was not in vain.

22 So, I appreciate just being part of  
23 this. I appreciate this Council; very rare are we  
24 able to turn around and say that we made sure that  
25 we will not see the loss of life. And, today we

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2 did just that.

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And, if I could have one more second, Madam Speaker, somewhat off the topic, but I did want to point out that our South Shore Nationals are going to the Little League World Series--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Absolutely. That deserves--

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: -- and we are hoping that--

SPEAKER QUINN: -- mention.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: -- that will be mentioned, as well and you will all be rooting them on. So, thank you all very--

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] And, we're hoping to have them back here in September as the World Champs. So, we expect no less. Thank you for mentioning that, Vinnie. Let me next call on Council Member Dan Garodnick, who was the prime sponsor of Intro 994-A.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And, as you noted a few moments ago, it was two years this week that the City lost two of its bravest in a tragedy that



1  
2 might have been prevented if the laws that we're  
3 voting on today had been on the books in 2007.  
4 And, we all felt incredible sadness that day and  
5 the sadness was compounded by frustration as to  
6 how we might have avoided the tragedy. Today,  
7 we're taking some action on very straightforward  
8 measures that will respond to that disbelief that  
9 so many of us felt two years ago.

10           We asked ourselves then how  
11 firefighters could be put into the position of  
12 searching for 45 minutes for a working standpipe  
13 in the middle of a blaze. How the most elemental  
14 part of fighting a fire, the delivery of water,  
15 could not be available. And, what we could do to  
16 correct it. We, obviously, cannot foresee  
17 everything that can go wrong in a structural fire.  
18 But, we can, at least, put in some common sense  
19 protections to prevent a repeat of this tragedy  
20 that we've already endured. Once is enough.

21           Today, we will require that  
22 standpipes and sprinkler systems be painted in a  
23 way that will have them not be accidentally cut  
24 during the demolition of a building and,  
25 therefore, rendered useless. We can conform with

1  
2 national standards and implement proper oversights  
3 for handling these very critical building systems.  
4 We can help prevent the loss of critical minutes  
5 in fighting a fire and help prevent the loss of  
6 firefighters' lives. We all know that we have a  
7 tortured history with the Deutsche Bank building.  
8 But now, it also presents an opportunity for us  
9 and allows us to be a catalyst for life-saving  
10 measures. So, I want to thank you, Speaker Quinn,  
11 for your leadership and all of my colleagues for  
12 their introduction of companion legislation.

13                   SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very  
14 much, Council Member Garodnick. Let me now call  
15 on the sponsor of Intro 99-A, Council Member Alan  
16 Gerson and, of course, Council Member Gerson  
17 represents the district where the Deutsche Bank is  
18 located. Council Member Gerson.

19                   COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,  
20 Madam Speaker. And, thank you for your leadership  
21 in making our City as safe as possible for  
22 firefighters and for everyone. Two days ago, I  
23 joined with the family of New York's bravest at a  
24 memorial at the St. Anthony's Church on the second  
25 anniversary of the fatal Deutsche Bank fire. And,

1  
2 I know, speaking on behalf of all of us and all  
3 New Yorkers, I expressed the view that the most  
4 fitting, appropriate memorial will be for us, as a  
5 City, to do everything we possibly can to make  
6 sure that never again do we experience such a  
7 tragedy.

8 Today, as we pass these bills, we  
9 will take significant steps towards fulfilling  
10 that commitment to those who perished. We all  
11 know, and we learnt, one of the lessons of the  
12 Deutsche Bank tragedy is that the standpipe system  
13 literally is a lifeline to our bravest as they  
14 fight fires and protect our lives. By assuring a  
15 daily inspection and a weekly test, we will, as  
16 well as all of the other measures of which my  
17 colleague spoke, we will assure the availability  
18 of this lifeline. Let us do so in memory of those  
19 who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect us and  
20 keep us safe. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Alan.

22 Also, today, we are voting on the appointment of  
23 Ernest Cavallo to the Environmental Control Board  
24 and Anna Levin to the City Planning Commissioner.  
25 And, I just want to take a second first to thank

1  
2 Council Member Comrie for stepping in as Acting  
3 Chair of the Rules Committee today. Diana Reyna's  
4 sister is having a baby today. So, Diana is with  
5 her sister. So, let's all think good thoughts.  
6 And so, thank you, Leroy.

7 And, just want to add that Anna is  
8 someone who has served as the Land Use Chair of  
9 Community Board 4, which is in my district and  
10 Council Member Brewer's district. And, I know I  
11 speak for myself and Gale when I say we could not  
12 be better served on the City Planning Commission  
13 than by having Anna join it as our Manhattan  
14 Borough President's representative. She's going  
15 to bring a breath of fresh air to the City  
16 Planning's Commission. And, that concludes  
17 Communications from the Speaker.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
19 much. Now, we move on to the discussion of  
20 general orders. We have Council Member Gentile.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Thank you.  
22 On this day, the day that Joey Graffagino, Jr.,  
23 would have celebrated his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday, we, in  
24 this Council, move these bills that arise from the  
25 tragedy at the Deutsche Bank building. Thanks to

1  
2 the bills, like these four, the chances of this  
3 happening again will go down. This is a step  
4 toward protecting men like Joey Graffagino, Jr.  
5 and Robert Beddia. Joey, from Dyker Heights in my  
6 district, was loved and admired by his entire  
7 community. And, his death was an unforeseen and  
8 unnecessary blow to his neighborhood and his  
9 family.

10 I want to thank Joe's father, Joe  
11 Graffagino, Sr. Since Joey's death two years ago,  
12 Mr. Graffagino has resolved to help protect New  
13 York City firefighters the way his son should have  
14 been protected. He has enlisted my help and has  
15 been a pioneer in pushing the FDNY to adopt  
16 sophisticated tracking devices on the men and  
17 women fighting fires so that they can be  
18 successfully located and rescued if anything goes  
19 wrong. FDNY is now in the process of testing  
20 those devices.

21 And, next week, he and I will be  
22 meeting with State legislators in an attempt to  
23 get legislation that would bring buildings owned  
24 by quasi-governmental entities in the City, like  
25 Commissions and others, under the same rigors and

1  
2 requirements of our Fire Code. It is my  
3 continuing honor to work with Joe Graffagino, Sr.

4 And, I thank our Speaker, and I  
5 thank my colleagues for their packages of bills  
6 that we are voting on today. This action is not  
7 an end, but it is a victory. And so, I will  
8 proudly vote aye on all the Intros presented  
9 today. There's no better way to honor Robert  
10 Beddia and Joe Graffagino, Jr. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member  
12 Oddo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm not going  
14 to take the full five minutes. But, can I just  
15 invoke the rule that allows the Minority Leader  
16 five minutes? I promise my colleagues I won't go  
17 over that much.

18 I'd just like to begin by thanking  
19 Council Member Gentile for those comments and  
20 thanking the Speaker and my colleagues to pass  
21 that legislation. I've been in the Council ten  
22 years. And, you know, the events of the last  
23 decade, we've had a lot of firefighters that we've  
24 lost. And, it's a personal thing for us on Staten  
25 Island. And, I thank you for that.

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I just want to rise in opposition to Intro 859-A, which is the pharmacy bill. And, yesterday, Council Members Yassky and Comrie and I sat across the hall with a dozen or so members of the Administration and Council staff trying to figure out how we're going to help small business. And, I have to tell you that I see government talking out of both sides of its mouth. And, I see government saying one thing and doing another.

Now, I understand that this bill applies to chains and doesn't necessarily apply to mom and pop stores now. But, do we honestly believe this is the endpoint? Do we not believe that there'll be other legislation coming down the pike? I have stood up here, as have my colleagues in the Republican delegation and in this body and have railed against this type of legislation.

And, I stand to you today and I say, again, I know it's well-intentioned, but I think it's misguided. The City of New York, the State of New York, I will not even talk about the federal government, we are on a path that is unsustainable. You cannot be, as a City government, all things to all people from cradle

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2 to grave and do it in fourteen different  
3 languages. And, when the Mayor--

4

SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing]

5

Mr. Minority Leader, I'm sorry, if we could just--  
6 we'll add any time back. But, if we could get  
7 quiet in the Chambers for the Minority Leader's  
8 comments.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: When the

10

Mayor issued Executive Order 120 back in July that  
11 required the City agencies to provide language  
12 assistance in the top six languages, we asked IBO  
13 to do an assessment to see how much it will cost  
14 taxpayers. I have a lot of respect for the IBO.  
15 They've been working diligently. But, they can't  
16 get the documents together to actually figure it  
17 out.

18

If the private sector, as the

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Speaker pointed out about the mom and pop stores,  
20 if the private sector makes a decision that it's  
21 in their financial bottom line to offer these  
22 services, well God bless them. But, to have  
23 government impose this on them is wrong. I was  
24 astounded when we imposed it on ourselves.

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We are now crossing the Rubicon and



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saying to private sector, you have to run your business this way. And, I stand here and I take note at ten to three on today's date, I guarantee we will be back for another piece of legislation that goes beyond this. Where does it end? That's the concern we have in the Republican delegation. I know some of my colleagues in this body have the same concerns. Again, I believe it's well-intentioned.

I respect and I like Betsy Gotbaum. But, I can't support this legislation. I think the taxpayers who are feeling overwhelmed want every government resource today in this climate to go to essential services. We can't be all things to all people. And, that's why I will be voting no on this piece of legislation.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member Gerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Advocate. I need to address a couple of Land Use matters. I urge my colleagues to vote aye on LU-1183 and the accompanying Resolution, which is a motion to disapprove. And, I thank Tony Avella and the Committee for their action.

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2                   This relates to a Sidewalk Cafe  
3 that has been operating improperly. I represent  
4 one of the districts probably with the greatest  
5 number of Sidewalk Cafes, maybe tied with the  
6 Speaker's district, maybe a few others. But,  
7 Sidewalk Cafes, when operated properly at the  
8 appropriate location, enhance our community,  
9 contribute to the economy and to the culture and  
10 ambiance of our City. I support, you know, the  
11 vast preponderance of Sidewalk Cafe applications  
12 in my district.

13                   But, in this particular case, I  
14 need to note, for the record, we had tried to work  
15 with the owner. We had reached an agreement with  
16 the owner on operating conditions. That owner  
17 flagrantly violated his agreement with this  
18 Council by extending the hours of operation of the  
19 Sidewalk Cafe well beyond the agreed-upon cutoff  
20 point. And, by so doing, inflicting noise and  
21 other inconvenience on neighbors. By extending  
22 the area, making it hard, in the words of one  
23 neighbor who uses a walker, for her to traverse on  
24 her sidewalk. The owner has served, has been  
25 found to serve, alcoholic beverages to minors and

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2 has taken no corrective action on any of the  
3 matters, the ones I've mentioned and others, when  
4 brought to its attention. The Community Board and  
5 the community stand with me in urging that the  
6 Council adopt this Resolution of this motion to  
7 disapprove.

8                   And then, finally, in the remaining  
9 ten seconds, I just want to note, as I hope we  
10 will adopt the LU-1187, pertaining to the special  
11 review plan for Coney Island. I will vote yes  
12 with a commitment to use that plan to keep the  
13 unique character and the affordable character and  
14 the amusement character of Coney Island. Thank  
15 you.

16                   CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
17 much. Madam Public Advocate.

18                   PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Sorry.  
19 Good afternoon, everybody. It's a pleasure to be  
20 back here again. And, I just wanted to say that  
21 with all of the respect I have for my friend,  
22 Jimmy Oddo, we definitely disagree. And, I  
23 believe that we're on the verge of passing, or I  
24 hope we're on the verge of passing, a bill that  
25 would make our City a little bit safer for people

1  
2 who don't speak the English language or who have  
3 limited ability in the English language.

4 And, I believe that requiring New  
5 York City chain pharmacies--

6 SPEAKER QUINN: [Interposing] Madam  
7 Public Advocate, I'm sorry, we'll give you your  
8 time back. But, there's a lot of conversations up  
9 in the balcony. So, if we could try to get quiet  
10 up there. People are speaking on their cell  
11 phones. They need to stop doing that. It's  
12 distracting to us hearing our colleague. So, if  
13 we've taken any time, please give it back to the  
14 Public Advocate. I apologize.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE GOTBAUM: Thank  
16 you, Miss Speaker. I think somebody may be paying  
17 me back, if you know what I mean. All right. The  
18 language access in the Pharmacies' Act will  
19 require New York City chain pharmacies to  
20 translate medical instructions into the top seven  
21 languages that are spoken by people who have  
22 limited English. This includes free language  
23 assistance, oral interpretations and translation  
24 services when filling prescriptions.

25 Without action, I'm particularly

1  
2 worried about two million New Yorkers who are put  
3 in danger when they take prescription medications.  
4 This bill will ensure that those New Yorkers are  
5 not left to fend for themselves. On Tuesday, the  
6 Health Committee passed the bill with a vote of  
7 nine to zero. And, I hope today's vote will be  
8 just as pleasing.

9 I also want to thank everybody who  
10 got us to this point and who will all deserve  
11 another round of thanks after the bill passes.  
12 Speaker Quinn and her staff, Mayor Bloomberg,  
13 Council Member Joel Rivera, the Health Committee  
14 and its staff, especially Adira Siman, Make the  
15 Road, in particular Andrew Freidman and Theo Shiro  
16 [phonetic], New York Lawyers for the Public  
17 Interest, especially Nisha Agarwal and my staff,  
18 in particular, my General Counsel, Mary  
19 Mastropaolo, Christina Mazachi [phonetic], Deputy  
20 General Counsels Brian Kaszuba and Larry Schimmel  
21 and my Chief of Staff, Mark Benoit.

22 I believe this bill is symbolic of  
23 change in our City and our country and a change  
24 that we must embrace. With its passage, we will  
25 become the first locality in the United States to

1  
2 require translation service in pharmacies. Our  
3 actions will signal the rest of the world that New  
4 York is once again the first in doing something  
5 that will help citizens and our immigrants. This  
6 is a proud day for New York and I encourage you  
7 all to vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
9 much, Madam Public Advocate. Seeing no others,  
10 okay, at this point in time, we will move on to  
11 reports of special committees.

12 MALE VOICE: None.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Okay. Reports  
14 of standing committees.

15 MALE VOICE: Report of the  
16 Committee on Economic Development, Intro 890-A,  
17 empire zone.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
19 on general orders, please.

20 MALE VOICE: Preconsidered Reso  
21 2148.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Couple on general  
23 orders.

24 MALE VOICE: Report of the  
25 Committee on Finance, Reso 2096-A and Reso 2139-A,

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Times Square Business Improvement District.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Preconsidered Reso 2147.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: LU-1162 and Reso 2149.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Health, Intro 859-A, language assistance services in pharmacies.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, Intro 993-A.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 994-A, painting of standpipes.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 999-A, site

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safety managers and coordinators.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Intro 1000-A, capping  
of standpipes and sprinklers.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled  
on general orders.

MALE VOICE: Report of the  
Committee on Land Use, LU-1092 and Reso 2150  
through LUs-1178 and Reso 2156, various  
applications.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

MALE VOICE: LU-1181 and Reso 2157,  
Sullivan Restaurant.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

MALE VOICE: LU-1182 and Reso 2158.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders.

MALE VOICE: LU-1183 and Reso 2159.

SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to  
disapprove.

MALE VOICE: LU-1184 and Reso 2160.



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2                   SPEAKER QUINN:  Coupled to be filed  
3 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

4                   MALE VOICE:  Preconsidered LU-1186  
5 and Reso 2162, UDAAP Queens.

6                   SPEAKER QUINN:  Coupled on general  
7 orders.

8                   MALE VOICE:  Preconsidered LU-1187  
9 and Reso 2163, Coney Island Amusement Park Project  
10 Plan.

11                   SPEAKER QUINN:  Coupled on general  
12 orders.

13                   MALE VOICE:  Report of the  
14 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections,  
15 M-1509 and Reso 2164, approving the appointment of  
16 Ernest Cavallo, Environmental Control Board.

17                   SPEAKER QUINN:  Coupled on general  
18 orders.

19                   MALE VOICE:  M-1510 and Reso 2165  
20 approving the appointment of Anna Hayes Levin,  
21 Planning Commission.

22                   SPEAKER QUINN:  Coupled on general  
23 orders.

24                   CHAIRPERSON RIVERA:  Roll call.

25                   SPEAKER QUINN:  On the general

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2 order calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: General order  
calendar.

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MALE VOICE: Resolution appointing  
various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on general  
orders. And, at this point, I'd like to ask for a  
roll call on all items that have been coupled on  
the general order calendar, please.

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MALE VOICE: Arroyo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Avella.

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

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MALE VOICE: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be  
excused to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you,  
sir.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Anytime.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Council  
Member Oddo's not here. But, I wonder how he  
would feel if all of the pharmaceuticals or  
pharmacies was written in Spanish or Swahili and

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2 we said we can't be all things to all people and  
3 therefore his English language wouldn't be on any  
4 prescriptions. I wonder if he still would feel  
5 that we can't be all things to all people.

6 This is an excellent, excellent  
7 bill. We want to thank the Public Advocate for  
8 this. This is a very serious bill. We can save  
9 lives with this. Some people can actually lose  
10 their lives if misinterpreting prescriptions. So,  
11 I think it's timely. I think it's right on. I  
12 want to congratulate the Public Advocate for this.

13 And, I hope we do come back with  
14 more legislation to address this issue again in  
15 other ways to make sure that the 35% foreign-born,  
16 the 47% of the people that are 5 years or older  
17 and speak a language other than English, so I hope  
18 we do come back with more legislation to deal with  
19 this very serious issue. Congratulations to the  
20 Public Advocate. We thank her for this bill. I  
21 want to encourage my colleagues to vote aye on  
22 this matter. I vote aye on all items, except LU-  
23 1182 and the accompanying Reso 2158, I vote no.

24 MALE VOICE: Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

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2 I want to second the Speaker's nice words about  
3 Anna Levin, City Planning Commission. She'll be  
4 one of the greats of our City.

5 And, second, just in terms of  
6 language and pharmacies, language, in general, I  
7 just want to say that there are now, thanks to the  
8 Department of Defense and other innovative, many,  
9 many ways to translate instantaneously with a  
10 small machine. It's done across campuses, across  
11 countries. And, it's a very inexpensive. So, I  
12 think one of the suggestions that we might have to  
13 deal with language is look at the ways in which we  
14 can translate quickly, inexpensively using  
15 technology. Thank you very much. I vote aye.

16 MALE VOICE: Comrie.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm going  
18 to vote aye on all.

19 MALE VOICE: Crowley.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I'm going  
21 to vote aye on all, with the exception of Intro  
22 859-A and that I vote no.

23 MALE VOICE: Eugene.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

25 MALE VOICE: Fidler.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Majority  
3 Leader, may I be briefly excused to explain my  
4 vote?

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I happen to  
7 use a mom and pop neighborhood pharmacy for my  
8 prescription drug needs, precisely because they  
9 deal with me as an individual and provide me with  
10 the kind of neighborhood service that's  
11 appropriate to my family and my community. And,  
12 that's why I prefer them to chains. And, I'm not  
13 unsympathetic to the points that Council Member  
14 Oddo made.

15 But, I have to tell you that, you  
16 know, we regulate the pharmaceutical industry. We  
17 regulate the healthcare industry. And, you know,  
18 this does not seem to be a grossly onerous burden  
19 to be placing on large pharmacies. I was  
20 particularly moved by the example that you gave,  
21 Chairman Rivera, about someone who's a Spanish-  
22 speaker as their primary language, confusing the  
23 word once with once. And, you know, the fact of  
24 the matter is if someone would take 11 pills,  
25 instead of one, that could be a matter of life and

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2 death. And, I would add that, you know, while we  
3 are talking about saving the expense to the  
4 taxpayer, that emergency room visit, that  
5 ambulance trip that would most likely be borne by  
6 the taxpayers in the City of New York would become  
7 unnecessary.

8                   And so, when we're talking about  
9 the health and welfare of the human being and, you  
10 know, contrasting it with the dollar value that  
11 might be saved or might not be saved by a large  
12 company that has profit as motive, as opposed to  
13 doing the best thing for the health of citizens, I  
14 think we have to err on the side of the health of  
15 the citizen. And so, having said that, I am going  
16 to vote aye on all.

17                   MALE VOICE: Foster.

18                   COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

19                   MALE VOICE: Garodnick.

20                   COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: No on  
21 859-A; aye on the rest.

22                   MALE VOICE: Gentile.

23                   COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on  
24 all.

25                   MALE VOICE: Gerson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

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all.

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like

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to vote no on 859-A and commend the Presiding

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Officer in doing a fine job today.

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MALE VOICE: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: - - on

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all. What happened with Felder?

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MALE VOICE: Lappin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Liu.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I vote yes on

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all items and request unanimous consent to vote

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yes on all items on the call-up calendar.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you. I

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vote yes on the call-ups.

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MALE VOICE: Mark-Viverito.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye

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on all.

MALE VOICE: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

And, Felder's here. Apparently, he never got called.

MALE VOICE: Felder.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: No on 859-A and yes on the rest.

MALE VOICE: Mitchell.

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Nelson.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Sears.

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

MALE VOICE: Stewart.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: No on Intro 859-A and aye on all others.



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MALE VOICE: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: May I  
briefly be excused? Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I want to  
go on the record as agreeing with Mr. Oddo. Our  
Minority Leader summed it up correctly. Sometimes  
we accidently wind up on a slippery slope. This  
time we are purposely hurling ourselves over the  
side. This is absolutely not the end of this type  
of legislation, as Charles Barron just said. I'm  
sure he's drafting similar bills right now. There  
are many essential services out there; doctors,  
lawyers, cops, yep, teachers, you name it. Lots  
of essential services. And, I'm positive, as is  
Minority Leader Oddo, that we will be back here  
again imposing these new costs, not just on  
government, as we've done in the past, but on  
private businesses. And, that's why I vote no on  
859-A and aye on the rest.

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MALE VOICE: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on  
all. And, on 859-A, I vote aye twice.

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MALE VOICE: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Yeah, I'd like permission to vote on all Land Use call-ups.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all Land Use call-ups. Aye on all general order calendar.

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MALE VOICE: Yassky.

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye on all.

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MALE VOICE: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I went over to Council Member Barron after his very eloquent speech and said now, I know I'm right. So, I vote-- keeping it light, folks, keeping it light. I vote yes on all with the exception of Intro 859, I vote three times no, since Al Vann voted no twice.

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MALE VOICE: Rivera.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. I vote four times for 859-A, just so we could be over the top. You know, I want to thank all my colleagues here today. I think that, you know, the debate on the issue is warranted and justified. But, at the end of the day, we do need to protect, you know, people's lives. And,

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2 unfortunately, if someone, you know, takes in 11  
3 pills instead of one, it is life-threatening.

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And, you know, the cost burden is  
negligible to a, you know, a major corporation.  
It's not impacting small mom and pops. Actually,  
small mom and pop businesses have been at the  
forefront in keeping, you know, up to date with  
the neighborhood demographics. And, to their  
credit, we want to say thank you and to the larger  
chains stores, we want to make sure that they  
understand one size does not fit all. New York  
City is a diverse community and this is a bill  
that does not have any onerous burdens on a major  
corporation. But, I do want to thank everyone for  
their support and for the debate. And, I vote aye  
on all.

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MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And,  
just before I vote, I want to mention that today  
is a Adira Siman's birthday. So, I want to say  
happy birthday and whether you voted six times no  
or 48 times yes, Adira, we're all very impressed  
with your skills as a Counsel to our Health  
Committee. So, happy birthday and a great way to

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2 celebrate your birthday. I vote aye on all.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Okay. All

items on today's general order calendar were

adopted by a vote-- well, we're still waiting for

that. [Pause] Okay. All items on today's

general order calendar were adopted by a vote of

43 in the affirmative, with zero in the negative

and zero abstentions, with the exception of Land

Use call-up 1182, plus Resolution 2158, which was

adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative, one in

the negative and zero abstentions and Intro 859-A,

which was adopted by a vote of 36 in the

affirmative, with seven in the negative. And, the

revised Land Use call-ups were adopted by a vote

of 43 in the affirmative, with zero in the

negative.

Introduction and reading of the

bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

referred to committees as indicated on the agenda,

please.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Discussion of

Resolutions. There are none. Moving on.

SPEAKER QUINN: I'm sorry, no folks

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2 are exiting. But, if folks could be quiet, that  
3 would be helpful.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
5 much. Okay. General discussions. Council Member  
6 Sanders.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.  
8 I want to draw my colleagues' attention to Intro  
9 1070, which has to do with the foreclosure  
10 problems that we have in New York City. I want to  
11 remind everybody that the essence of our financial  
12 meltdown was the predatory lending problems that  
13 we had. And, this bill is but one of the things  
14 necessary to stop this. Many of the same people  
15 who robbed people and got them into a bind with  
16 these mortgages are the very people who are  
17 turning around and saying that they are the ones  
18 who can get them out of a problem. Indeed, in one  
19 sense, they should be the ones who can get them  
20 out of a problem. They know the problem best.  
21 They created the problems for them.

22 This bill is an attempt to say  
23 fairness in language. That if you're going to  
24 provide a service, let it be known that you cannot  
25 charge, that you can't take money in advance for

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2 your service. This bill is a worthy attempt and  
3 we need more of these. And, I commend the Speaker  
4 and the City Council for not allowing this matter  
5 to go quietly into the dark that many of our  
6 citizens of New York are still suffering and  
7 trying to hold on in a storm, a quiet storm now,  
8 of foreclosures.

9 I urge HPD, I urge the Mayor's  
10 Office, I urge all of us to become far more  
11 creative; that this is a quiet killer and we need  
12 to find ways of ensuring that the City does  
13 everything that it can to make sure that our  
14 neighbors stay in their homes. I thank you very  
15 much for this and I urge my colleagues to pay  
16 attention to this one. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member  
18 Vann.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, thank  
20 you. If I did not reach you personally, if you  
21 can hear me, I do encourage you, my colleagues, to  
22 sign on to Intro 1071, the Water Lien Reform Bill.  
23 This legislation will amend Local Law 68, the  
24 standalone water lien legislation that we enacted  
25 in November of 2007. At that time, we really

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2 wanted to avoid the threat of a mid-year water  
3 rate increase. I think we got them anyway.

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5 In the event, we gave authority to  
6 the Administration for the Department of  
7 Environmental Protection to place a lien on a  
8 person's home if they were delinquent in their  
9 water bills. Now, it may have been well-intended,  
10 but it's affected the neighborhoods where you have  
11 the highest rate of unemployment. They've been  
12 suffering on a decade of predatory lending. And  
13 now, they're the highest concentration of tax and  
14 water liens, as well.

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16 So, 1071 amends this law  
17 specifically to better protect our seniors, our  
18 disabled persons and, indeed, our war veterans, as  
19 well. Essentially does a few things. It will  
20 increase numbers of seniors who will be exempted  
21 from the lien sale.

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23 It will require Department of  
24 Finance and the Department of Environmental  
25 Protection to provide a diligent review of seniors  
and disabled persons who are eligible to be  
exempted. In other words, they won't have to  
self-identify, which hasn't been working for them.

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2 We'll take on that responsibility.

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It will lengthen the delinquency threshold before being included on the lien. For property taxes, it's three years. For water, it's one. So, we're going to make water the same as property for three years.

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And, finally, it'll provide more frequent and transparent notification concerning water debts. A very significant bill; be very helpful to our seniors, our disabled, our veterans. Everyone should come on it and sign on to this legislation. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member Foster.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you. Just briefly, I was fortunate enough this summer to have an intern work with me who is going back. Tomorrow's her last day. She's going back to Temple, majoring in Corporate Finance. And, I just want Jasmine to stand up. She's been a terrific intern. And, her future really is so bright it's blinding. So, thank you, Jasmine. You've set the standard for interns.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member



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Brewer.

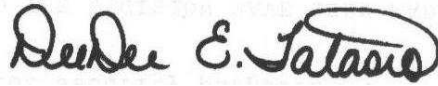
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. I'm just bringing to your attention Intro 1059, which is the earned paid sick leave. This is a bill that exists in San Francisco, Washington, D.C., in Milwaukee, where there has been rave reviews. There has not been an impact on small business. I think you're all aware of it. I have material if you need it. And, we look forward to working with it in the coming months. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, okay, this meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DeeDee E. Tataseo certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "DeeDee E. Tataseo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date

September 7, 2009