

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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November 28, 2018  
Start: 1:30 p.m.  
Recess: 2:57 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: COREY D. JOHNSON  
SPEAKER

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicika Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin L. Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodenchik

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

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

Invocation Delivered by: Reverend Dr. Robert  
Waterman, Antioch Baptiste Church, 826 Greene Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11221

2 [sound check] [background comments/pause]

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, we're going to  
4 ask the wonderful, wonderful folks from 1707 to  
5 please come up. I want you to come up front all of  
6 you, please. We're do grateful you're here.

7 [cheers/applause] Yay. Hey. [background  
8 comments/pause] So, today, the New York City Council  
9 is very, very proud to honor DC 1707 [cheers/  
10 applause] of the American Federation of State and  
11 County and Municipal Employees Union AFSCME for four  
12 decades of—of four—four and a half decades of  
13 fighting for labor rights of thousands of and tens of  
14 thousands of union workers. They were founded in  
15 1932 by the Association of Federal Workers, but  
16 employees of the Independent Federation of Jewish  
17 Philanthropists and despite having gone through  
18 several changes, one thing has remained constant, the  
19 education of workers rights. We at the City Council  
20 are staunch supporters of the Labor Movement and of  
21 labor rights. So, I want you to know that we will  
22 always have your back and I want to call up—actually,  
23 I want to have the—the clerk read the—the  
24 Proclamation first, and then I would love to have  
25 Council Members Kallos and Miller introduce our

2 specials guest today. So, Mr. Clerk, if you could  
3 please read the Proclamation.

4 CLERK: Council City of New York  
5 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
6 honor New York District Council 1707 of the American  
7 Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
8 AFSCME for 45 years of outstanding contributions to  
9 the advancement of labor rights for thousand of New  
10 Yorkers; and

11 Whereas, DC 1707 was founded as the  
12 Association of Federal Workers in 1932 by employees  
13 of the Independent Federation of Jewish  
14 Philanthropists the IFJP. Throughout several changes  
15 in name and affiliation Local 1707 remained dedicated  
16 to educating federal workers on their rights. In  
17 1955, Local 1707 joined AFSCME and maintains  
18 membership to this day; and

19 Whereas, DC Local 1707 pioneered labor  
20 organizing in New York City subsidized child daycare  
21 center systems expanding their membership to 6,000  
22 daycare workers. As their membership and reach grew,  
23 Local 1707 reorganized into DC 1707 in 1973, which  
24 was initially comprised of four locals: National  
25 Membership and Fundraising Organizations Local 107,

2 daycare employees Local 205, Social Service  
3 Employees, Local 215, and Education Employees Local  
4 253; and

5           Whereas, in 1976, Local 1707 expanded  
6 into new territories in childcare unions by  
7 organizing Local 95 for Head Start employees, which  
8 currently has more than 3,000 members.

9           In 1987, their reach further extended to  
10 include private, non-profit homecare agencies, Local  
11 389, now the fastest growing Local in the DC 1707  
12 family with more than 11,500 members; and

13           Whereas, in collaboration with the  
14 Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, the  
15 CSA, and Daycare Council of New York, DC-DCCNY, DC  
16 1707 launched the Early Childhood Career Ladder, the  
17 EECL in 2018. The EECL has used combined funding  
18 from DC7-1707, Local 205, CSA and the DCCNY to  
19 improve the quality of care for New York City  
20 children by increasing the number of certifiable  
21 childcare professionals and providing financial  
22 support for those professionals who wish to further  
23 their education.

24           Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
25 York City Council gratefully honors the members of DC

2 1707 in celebration of their 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and  
3 their outstanding contributions to workers rights in  
4 New York City. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the Entire  
5 Council, Ben Kallos, Council Member Fifth District  
6 Manhattan, I. Daneek Miller, Chair of the Committee  
7 on Social-on Civil Service and Labor.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yeah. [applause] So,  
9 I'm really proud that we're joined by many Council  
10 Members here today with Council Members Margaret  
11 Chin, Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Rafael Espinal, Majority  
12 Leader Laurie Cumbo, Council Member Rory Lancman,  
13 Council Member Danny Dromm, and we're going to hear  
14 [coughs] from-in a moment from the Council Member Ben  
15 Kallos who is presenting this proclamation today, and  
16 the Chair of or Civil Service and Labor Committee  
17 Daneek Miller. I want to just say we're so happy to  
18 have Kim Medina here, and the other Leadership at  
19 1707, and I want you to know that the City Council is  
20 supportive and will be-we're standing with you so  
21 that your people get pay parity in the way that they  
22 need in New York City [cheers/applause] which we know  
23 predominantly is affecting women of color in New York  
24 City, and with that, I want to hand it over to  
25 Council Member Ben Kallos.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Let's hear it for  
3 that amazing news and that amazing support from our  
4 Speaker Corey Johnson. [applause] It is a pleasure  
5 to honor DC 1707 for 45 years of service to roughly  
6 30,000 members. DC 1707 is the union with the  
7 biggest heart. That could be because they represent  
8 more than 300 daycare centers, almost 200 Head Start  
9 Programs not to mention homecare, social service and  
10 special needs program workers and workers at our  
11 city's most important philanthropic institutions. As  
12 a new parent with a baby who will need a daycare, and  
13 as a child of a parent who has received homecare, I  
14 cannot emphasize how important DC 1707 is to me and  
15 my family. As DC 1707 members care for our children,  
16 our homebound, and those with special needs and run  
17 our city's most important non-profits, we have to be  
18 there for them. DC 1707 has been integral as we've  
19 rolled out Universal Pre-Kindergarten for 4-year-olds  
20 and expanse of 3-year-olds working at community based  
21 facilities, but unfortunately as Speaker Johnson  
22 noticed-noted, childcare workers are being paid  
23 different wages to do the same work, and we need wage  
24 parity now for public center based childcare  
25 employees. [cheers/applause] That is why I joined



2 Executive Director Kim Medina in a massive march  
3 supported by our brothers and sisters at CSA all the  
4 way from the tip of the Manhattan to City Hall, and  
5 it is also why I joined with our Majority Leader  
6 Laurie Cumbo in sponsoring Resolution 358, which  
7 Corey Johnson passed and brought through the City  
8 Council and voted through our floor, which calls upon  
9 the City of New York to rectify a decades long  
10 pattern of rent discrimination by paying substantial  
11 lower wages and benefits to public center base  
12 personnel in relation to employees of the Department  
13 of Education. [cheers/applause] That—that is a big  
14 deal, and I'm so grateful to both of them, and Kim  
15 has already made her mark at DC 1707 as a member and  
16 as an Executive Director. Her first official act was  
17 to lower her own salary and [applause] and in the  
18 face of a post-Janice world, she's increased her  
19 membership from 19,000 to 30,000 members.  
20 [cheers/applause] I want to thank all the leaders of  
21 the locals. I want to thank Kim for her leadership,  
22 but most of all like her, I want to think the members  
23 for the work that they do to care for our city day in  
24 and day out. You do serve this, and thank you for 45

2 years and to another 45 years and another 45 years.

3 [cheers/ applause]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you,  
5 Council Member Kallos, Speaker Johnson and Kim.  
6 Congratulations to 1707 and Brandon who took the time  
7 put together the statement.

8 KIM MEDINA: Yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Forget about  
10 that. I'm going to tell you it's been 45 years.  
11 I've been affiliated in some shape, form or fashion  
12 for at least—close to half of that, right? Close to  
13 half of that, and—and I—I started my career as  
14 childcare advocate, and where I cut my teeth was with  
15 1707. Kim and I worked together, GL and Raglin and  
16 Josephine and—and—and so—and I was working for a  
17 different union at the time, but this is—the--  
18 education that they give to our children, and we  
19 talked about education to the Labor Movement, they  
20 have been there. They have opened up their doors to  
21 everyone, and which is—which is why not only are  
22 they—they caring for our most vulnerable seniors and—  
23 and—and our young scholars, young scholars, but they  
24 are training the labor movement, and they've been  
25 steadfast, and they've been uncompromising when it

2 comes to their membership, and the fact that they are  
3 not being paid equitably, is a travesty and it  
4 continues to be a travesty. The commitment that the  
5 Speaker is—and—and the Majority Leader has made and—  
6 and the legislation that has been passed, and the pay  
7 equity and all the other things that we're doing,  
8 this Council was absolutely committed to standing  
9 with 1707, and I'm proud to be a part of the Council  
10 that we're—we're going to be here with you because  
11 you have been there with me and with all of us for so  
12 long, and so that's the personal testimony. I just  
13 want to congratulate you on 45 years of service to  
14 our young people and to our city, and I look forward  
15 to 45 more years of great service. So, thank you to  
16 this well deserved population. [background  
17 comments/pause] [cheers/applause]

18 KIM MEDINA: Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I'll hold this  
20 for you.

21 KIM MEDINA: Thank you. [laughs] Thank  
22 you. Majority Leader, thank you, Councilman Kallos,  
23 my beautiful friend Laurie Cumbo, I thank you, and  
24 Daneek. We will—and all the other City Council  
25 members who have come out that I've known. We came

2 up through the ranks together, worked hard and put  
3 our membership and our constituents be-before us,  
4 sleepless nights, running around with our babies.  
5 Oh, no, [laughter] and our children and-and family  
6 members and knowing what came before us and what we  
7 had to leave behind for those will come up behind us.  
8 1707 is unique. I thank the City Council for the  
9 support. My daycare has 13 children and even those  
10 special needs are making tremendously less than our  
11 counterparts in the DOE, and it's a shame on our  
12 Mayor who wants an Early Childhood Initiative to move  
13 forward. This is his legacy, but it will become the  
14 City Council's legacy and what they do for childcare,  
15 and we appreciate everything you all are doing. You  
16 recognize our homecare workers who are barely making  
17 it, but they're proud to be in a union. Our daycare  
18 workers or our Head Start workers who give of  
19 themselves constantly, and my staff. I have to  
20 recognize my staff who stay until late hours of the  
21 night with their own babies. They are getting home  
22 all hours, but we thank you all for giving us this.  
23 It's 45 years. Daneek is right. I think we did  
24 about 30 years together coming up through the ranks  
25 and working on different initiatives for childcare

2 and for special needs. I think we've hit almost  
3 everything that we need--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [interposing]  
5 Yeah.

6 KIM MEDINA: --and t hat we do. So, I  
7 thank you for today. I think you for the wonderful  
8 support and especially with that, and all of you and  
9 1707 will be in the front, and we will stay in the  
10 forefront, and we will continue to work with the City  
11 Council and continue to be the conscious of the city.  
12 I thank you all. Good bless you all and thank you  
13 for this moment. [cheers/applause]

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.  
15 Let's get a picture together. [group of people  
16 chanting] [background comments/pause]

17 CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have  
18 your attention, please. Can I please have your  
19 attention, please.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet on the  
21 floor, please. Quiet on the floor.

22 CLERK: Quiet on the floor, please. At  
23 this time please place all electronic devices to  
24 vibrate, all electron devices to vibrate. Will all  
25 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of

2 the Chambers. There is additional seating upstairs  
3 in the balcony. Thank you. Madam Majority Leader.  
4 [background comments/pause] [gavel]

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon  
6 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of November 28,  
7 2018. I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. Please  
8 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:  
9 All rise.

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

11 [Pledge of Allegiance]

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Roll Call.

13 CLERK: Adams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

15 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

17 CLERK: Ayala.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

19 CLERK: Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

21 CLERK: Borelli. Brannan.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

24 CLERK: Chin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

2 CLERK: Cohen.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

4 CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.

5 CLERK: Deutsch.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

7 CLERK: Diaz.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.

9 CLERK: Dromm.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

11 CLERK: Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: here.

13 CLERK: Eugene. Gibson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I'm here.

15 CLERK: Gjonaj.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: [off mic] I'm

17 here.

18 CLERK: Grodenchik.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

20 CLERK: Holden.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

22 CLERK: Kallos.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

24 CLERK: King. Koo. Koslowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

2 CLERK: Lancman.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

4 CLERK: Lander. Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down please.

7 CLERK: Levin. Levine, Maisel.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

9 CLERK: Menchaca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

11 CLERK: Miller.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Here.

13 CLERK: Moya.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

15 CLERK: Perkins. Powers.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

17 CLERK: Reynoso. Richards. Rivera.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

19 CLERK: Rodriguez, Rose.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

21 CLERK: Rosenthal.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

23 CLERK: Salamanca. Torres. Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

25 CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

3 CLERK: Van Bramer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

5 CLERK: Lander.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

7 CLERK: Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

9 CLERK: Borelli. Yeger.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

11 CLERK: Matteo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

13 CLERK: Cumbo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

15 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for  
18 that. We will now have today's invocation delivered  
19 by Reverend Dr. Robert Waterman of Antioch Baptist  
20 Church located at 826 Green Avenue in Brooklyn. All  
21 rise.

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

23 REVEREND DR. WATERMAN: As we bow our  
24 heads, Oh, eternal and everlasting Father in heaven,  
25 some call you a supreme being and God. Others call

2 you Elohim, Allah. It is our request that you would  
3 bless this event, and we desire that your divine  
4 presence would be here with us this afternoon. Among  
5 other things, oh, God, you are the creator of the  
6 human mind, which you model in some fashion after  
7 your own great mind. Though we acknowledge that our  
8 thoughts are infinitely higher or your thoughts are  
9 infinitely higher and more profound than ours, we  
10 glory in the notion that we may on our own level  
11 think some of your thoughts after you in this place.  
12 Thank you for the precious gift of knowledge and  
13 discovery. May our efforts be blessed with insight,  
14 guided by understanding and grant us wisdom. We seek  
15 to serve with respect of all. May our personal faith  
16 give us strength and act honestly and well in all  
17 matters before us. Bless us today with a chance to  
18 grow, with friendship and a sense of community, with  
19 work to do. Let us be a positive influence to those  
20 we meet. May we act with integrity and truth to all  
21 things. Give us the very best of ourselves in all  
22 that we do, and living to appreciate the gift today.  
23 I ask on behalf of those that are gathered here that  
24 you would bless us indeed. Give us grace and make a  
25 difference for all that that we do wherever we may

2 find ourselves in years ahead, and now may you please  
3 with what is done this afternoon. Thank you for your  
4 presence. In Jesus' name according to my faith amen.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Amen. Thank you.

6 [background comments/pause] We are so pleased to  
7 have Dr. Reverend Robert Waterman who is a graduate  
8 from Drew University where he obtained his Doctorate  
9 Degree from New York Theological Seminary, Master of  
10 Divinity, Bachelor Degree from Hunter College,  
11 Political Science Degree and Associate's degree from  
12 Hostos Community College of the City of New York. He  
13 is a lifetime member of the MAACP and Kappa Alpha Psi  
14 Fraternity. Dr. Robert Waterman has served as  
15 Assistant to the Vice President and Dean of Student  
16 Affairs here at Medgar Evers College in my district,  
17 and conduct officer for three years. He has served  
18 in the Department of Education for six years in  
19 District 16. He pastors Antioch Baptist Church  
20 located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area for 17 years,  
21 which is headed by Council Member Robert Cornegy. He  
22 worked in the engineering field for over 20 years  
23 before going into education. Dr. Waterman is  
24 actively engaged in the fight against issues such as  
25 HIV and AIDs, poor education, poverty, lack of jobs

2 and limited healthcare. He serves as the president  
3 of the AACEO African-American Clergy and Elected  
4 Officials Organization of Brooklyn for the last eight  
5 years. And I just want to say that we are so very  
6 proud to have you here as we in the New York City  
7 Council have kicked off World AIDS Day here early,  
8 which will begin December 1<sup>st</sup>, and we want to thank  
9 you Reverend Waterman for your leadership in keeping  
10 this critical issue in the forefront and recognizing  
11 that the epidemic is not over, particularly as it is  
12 continuing to ravish African-American and Latino  
13 communities, and more specifically African-American  
14 women. And we are pleased today to also have within  
15 our midst several individuals from the clergy as part  
16 of the City Council's faith-based initiative that  
17 utilizes our faith-based initiatives to provide  
18 support and help for those in need who are impacted  
19 by HIV and AIDS in our community. I want to  
20 recognize we have Reverend Cheryl Anthony, Reverend  
21 Glenn Dingle, Bishop Stacy Lattimer, Reverend Alonzo  
22 Jordan, Bishop Ismael Claudio as well as Dee Bailey,  
23 a Watchful Eye as well as Jessica Bailey. So, we are  
24 pleased to have you here as we continue to raise our  
25 voice surrounding issues of HIV and AIDS throughout

2 the city of New York. It is my honor and it is my  
3 pleasure to spread today's invocation, and we thank  
4 you so much for your leadership and for being a voice  
5 and not just a voice, but a powerful voice, a  
6 meaningful voice and a passionate voice throughout  
7 New York City. Thank you for recognizing this  
8 epidemic in the city of New York. Thank you.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, Speaker  
11 Corey Johnson.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I also want to thank-

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [interposing]

14 [shushing for quiet]

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Quiet in the  
17 Chambers.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: If folks could please  
19 take a seat. I really want to thank the Reverend Dr.  
20 Waterman for being here today. You said it Madam  
21 Majority Leader, but I think it's important to say-to  
22 have someone of his prominence that has shown is  
23 level of leadership not just in the Borough of  
24 Brooklyn but throughout the entire city on many  
25 issues, but it is special and important to have him

2 here in advance of World AIDS Day. The leadership  
3 that he has shown on this issue not just this year,  
4 last year but for many years. The leadership that he  
5 has shown as member of the clergy how he has been  
6 vocal, and how he has been open in talking about the  
7 need to have this conversation within congregations  
8 across our city is important, and that leadership has  
9 saved lives. That leadership has made it so people  
10 have not gotten infected because of the ability to  
11 have that conversation in an open and honest way. I  
12 stood with him and Dee Bailey when Watchful Eye and  
13 the organization that he leads of clergy members.  
14 They had an event earlier this year celebrating that  
15 special week, and I just am sincerely grateful for  
16 the work that he has done on this issues especially  
17 as an openly HIV positive man. So, I know you  
18 already, of course, Madam Majority Leader, made a  
19 motion to spread the invocation full and upon the  
20 record. I second that motion, and I want to thank  
21 the Reverend and Dr. Waterman for being here today.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
23 Speaker Johnson. [coughs] We will now have the  
24 Adoption of Minutes by Council Member Vallone.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you Madam  
3 Majority Leader. Good afternoon colleagues. I make  
4 a motion that the minutes of the State Meeting of  
5 October 7, 2018 be adopted and printed. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
7 much, and now we will have Messages and Papers from  
8 the Mayor.

9 CLERK: Preconsidered M 117 submitting  
10 Margaret Garnett for appointment to the Department of  
11 Investigation.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Rules, Privilege and  
13 Elections.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication  
15 from city, county and borough offices.

16 CLERK: None.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petition and  
18 Communications.

19 CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land Use Call-  
21 Ups.

22 CLERK: None.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We  
24 will not have communication from the Speaker.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. It's  
3 good to see you up there Madam Majority Leader.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good to be seen.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all for being  
6 here this Wednesday. I hope everyone had a beautiful  
7 Thanksgiving with their family and friends and loved  
8 ones. We have a busy agenda ahead of us today.  
9 Before I began, it's sad to do this at every Stated  
10 Meeting. I want to remember some of those that we've  
11 lost since the last Stated Meeting, and first, I want  
12 to remember four 9/11 First Responders who have died  
13 in the last few weeks from illnesses related to the  
14 service down at Ground Zero. I could say this every  
15 time, we can't thank these heroes enough for their  
16 sacrifice, and I want to take this time to extend my  
17 deepest condolences to the families of Firefighters  
18 Phillip Catrocci and Anthony Palazzolla as well as  
19 EMTs Joy Rodriguez and Martha Stewart. These fur  
20 heroes have passed from 9/11 related diseases in the  
21 last two weeks just before the holidays in service of  
22 what they did for our city. I also want to extend my  
23 condolences to the family of Roy Kim, another Yellow  
24 Cab driver who took his own life in desperation. Mr.  
25 Kim is the eighth driver to take his life this year.



2 This is a serious problem, and the Council is  
3 committed to helping drivers deal with changes in the  
4 industry so that they can make ends meet and support  
5 themselves and their families. Finally, before we  
6 give a moment of silence for these heroes, I want to  
7 take a moment to recognize World AIDS Day, which is  
8 coming up this Saturday. Since the start of the AIDS  
9 crisis [coughs] more than 675,000 Americans have died  
10 from AIDS. 675,000 individuals. That is bigger than  
11 the population of Wyoming or Vermont. These  
12 individuals are brothers and sisters, sons, mothers,  
13 children, friends, co-workers, Neighbors. It is such  
14 a loss it is hard to actually wrap your head around a  
15 loss that significant. Having lived with HIV for the  
16 last 14 years, I know the fear, the anxiety and the  
17 stress that living with this disease can bring, but  
18 when I was diagnosed, there were options for  
19 treatment that many people did not have before me. I  
20 can't imagine what those who died at the height of  
21 this epidemic went through, but I know that there are  
22 many, many people in this room who lost friends and  
23 family members and loved ones and who witnessed that  
24 epidemic in a way that I didn't have to. I never had  
25 to worry about losing my job because of my diagnosis,

2 and when I told my family, they told me they loved me  
3 unlike so many people who are cast out because of  
4 fear and discrimination and prejudice. On World AIDS  
5 Day we collectively remember those we lost, and we  
6 mourn for what might have been. We hold these  
7 675,000 people in our hearts. We will remember them.  
8 We will remember their struggle, and we will pledge  
9 that under our watch, we won't let this happen again.  
10 We will fight in their name for those still living  
11 with this disease. I say it and I think it's  
12 important to say over and over again. In 1991--and I  
13 know that Danny and Jimmy were actually involved in  
14 this--in 1991, I was nine years old and Tom Duane ran  
15 for the New York City Council at the height of the  
16 AIDS epidemic. People were dying every single day in  
17 New York City, and Tom didn't win that election, but  
18 he came out about his HIV status before there were  
19 any drugs to treat people who were living with HIV  
20 and AIDS. He did it in a moment of fear and anxiety  
21 and discrimination and grief and loss in our city  
22 when there was not much hope, and he did it with his  
23 head held high, and after he lost, he came back and  
24 he ran two years later and he won a seat on the New  
25 York City Council, and he became the first openly

2 gay, openly HIV positive member of this body. Now,  
3 Tom is but one example of the bravery that we saw  
4 during the epidemic and the dark years when people  
5 were dying every single day, but I would not be  
6 standing here today, I would not even be in this body  
7 never mind being Speaker if it were not for people  
8 like Tome Duane and Larry Kramer and Ann Northrup and  
9 Sylvia Rivera and Audrey Lord, and Michael Callen and  
10 Marsha P. Jonson, and the list goes on. The men and  
11 women, the activists who put their lives and body on  
12 the line, who blocked traffic on the Brooklyn Bridge,  
13 who shut down the New York Stock Exchange to get  
14 access to life saving drugs for their friends and  
15 family members who were dying and for themselves when  
16 they thought they were going to die. Yesterday, I  
17 visited Hart Island north of Rikers Island where the  
18 East River and the Long Island Sound meet, and on the  
19 very southern tip of Hart Island is an area marked by  
20 white headstones where tens of thousands of  
21 individuals in the 1980s and 1990s were buried in  
22 mass graves because many individuals, many businesses  
23 in this city would not provide funerals for people  
24 who died of HIV and AIDS and their family members  
25 many of them did not want to claim their bodies. And

2 so, they were sent to a Potter's Field in the East  
3 Rivers buried in 30-foot deep mass graves. I am  
4 alive today because of those people. I was able to  
5 run for City Council because of those people. I was  
6 able to be elected Speaker because of the wonderful  
7 members of this body, but on the shoulders of those  
8 individuals. And so, you said it earlier Madam  
9 Majority Leader when we stood with Dee Bailey and the  
10 folks from Watchful Eye, but it's important to say  
11 not just about HIV and AIDS. There are many issues.  
12 You are only as sick as your secrets, and I do not  
13 want to be sick. I want to be a person of healthy  
14 mind, body and soul, and so I stand here today to  
15 honor the lives of the people who came before me and  
16 us who blazed the trail and path for me to be able to  
17 run for City Council. I do this work in their name,  
18 with their honor, and I do it remembering that there  
19 are still people in New York City that are suffering.  
20 This disease is no longer a disease by and large of  
21 sexual orientation. It's a disease of poverty and  
22 it's a disease that is centered in communities of  
23 color across New York City. This Council has come up  
24 in the last five years with \$6.9 million to end the  
25 epidemic and two years ago our Health Department

2 recorded the lowest level of new infections ever  
3 recorded in the history of the epidemic. [applause]  
4 So, I stand here today proud of this body. I stand  
5 here today. I want to thank all of you, each and  
6 every one of you for your leadership, and the work  
7 that you do for waring this red ribbon not just as a  
8 mere gesture, but to really remember the lives of  
9 those that have lost. I am exceedingly grateful to  
10 have benefitted from their leadership, from their  
11 activism and from their advocacy. Lastly, I want to  
12 recognize and say I know a lot of people here are  
13 grieving over the loss of our colleague State Senator  
14 Jose Peralta who died unexpectedly just before  
15 Thanksgiving with a wife and two sons, someone who  
16 was a history maker being the first Dominican elected  
17 to the New York State Assembly and into the Senate,  
18 and I am so sorry for his sudden passing, and we hold  
19 his family and his loved ones in our hearts during  
20 this holiday season. He is a many who stood up for  
21 immigrants, who stood with the LGBT community and who  
22 loved the neighborhoods that elected him and the city  
23 that he served so ably, and so with that, I'd ask for  
24 everyone to rise and take a moment of silence for all  
25 of those that we've lost this year and in years past.

2 [moment of silence observed] Thank you. Now, we are  
3 going to dive into docket for today. The Council  
4 will vote on one Article XI Property Tax Exemption  
5 located in Council Member Diana Ayala's district,  
6 which will preserve 53 units of affordable housing  
7 located on East 106–East 116<sup>th</sup> Street. The Council  
8 will vote on the following Land Use items as well:  
9 Park and Elton. It's for 37 affordable housing units  
10 in Land Use Chair Rafael Salamanca's district. MEC  
11 125<sup>th</sup> Street, another Article XI tax exemption in  
12 Council Member Diana Ayala's district. 550 Madison  
13 Avenue a landmark designation of the former AT&T  
14 Corporate headquarters in Council Member Keith  
15 Powers' district. I want to thank the staff who  
16 worked on these items, Jeff Yuen and Emma Wong. We're  
17 going to vote on the following pieces of legislation  
18 today. First, we'll vote on Introduction 480-A  
19 sponsored by Council Member Danny Dromm, which would  
20 required the Department of Youth and Community  
21 Development to establish a plan to provide  
22 information about resources and services related to  
23 immigration relief and benefits for Runaway and  
24 Homeless Youth and programs operated by DYCD. I want  
25 to thank Paul Senegal, Andre Vasquez and Smita

2 Deshmukh from the staff for their work on this  
3 important piece of legislation. We'll also vote on  
4 Introduction 1069 sponsored by Council Member Mark  
5 Levine that require the Taxi and Limousine Commission  
6 or another agency or office designated by the Mayor  
7 to study the problem of Medallion owner debt.  
8 Council Member Levine and Council Member Gibson are  
9 not with us today because they are in Cleveland at  
10 the National Right to Counsel Conference, but I want  
11 to congratulate Council Member Levine on this and  
12 thank the staff who worked on this: James de  
13 Giovanni, Mel Beakman, Terzah Nasser and Laura Popa.  
14 Next, we'll vote on two pieces of legislation  
15 creating special suspensions of the alternate side of  
16 the street parking. Introduction 497 sponsored by  
17 Council Member Peter Koo would amend the  
18 Administrative Code of the City of New York in  
19 relation to suspending alternate side street parking  
20 regulations on Lunar New Years Eve and Introduction  
21 370, sponsored by Council Member Rafael Salamanca  
22 would amend the Administrative Code in relation to  
23 suspending alternate side of the street parking  
24 regulations on Three Kings' Day. I want to thank the  
25 staff, James De Giovanni, Rick Arbello, and Emily

2 Rooney from the Transportation Committee for their  
3 work on these two pieces of legislation. The Council  
4 will vote on a package of legislation introduced by  
5 Council Member Joe Borelli, the Chair of our Fire and  
6 Emergency Services Committee. This is going to be in  
7 relation to the operations and reporting of the FDNY.  
8 Introduction 1054 would require the Fire Department  
9 to make all components of applications for fire alarm  
10 plan examinations and inspections to be available for  
11 online submission. Introduction 744 would require  
12 the Fire Department to report to the City Council on  
13 staffing ratios of FDNY, Emergency Medical Services,  
14 supervising officers to FDNY EMS stations. And  
15 finally, Introduction 746 would require the FDNY to  
16 annually report to the City Council on potential  
17 impacts to fire protection and Emergency Medical  
18 Services that resulted from rezonings that took place  
19 in the previous year. I want to thank the staff who  
20 worked on this package of bills: Rachel Cordero, Rob  
21 Collandra, Josh Kingsley, and Will Hungatch. We will  
22 also vote on two pieces of legislation that I  
23 introduced to demonstrate our collective opposition  
24 to President Trump's proposed change to the Public  
25 Charge Rule. Resolution 608 would grant the Speaker



2 of the City Council the authority to submit a comment  
3 on behalf of the City Council in opposition to the  
4 Public Charge Rule and Resolution 609 urges the  
5 federal government not to move forward with the  
6 rule's adoption. I urge everyone to submit a comment  
7 on this rule's change. We are of nation and of  
8 immigrants and I truly believe that this proposal is  
9 unfair to our immigrant friends and neighbors. We  
10 have until December 10<sup>th</sup> to have our voices heard,  
11 and I hope that as many people as possible will let  
12 the Trump Administration know how much harm this will  
13 do. I want to thank the Chair of our Immigration  
14 Committee Carlos Menchaca who held a hearing on this  
15 and who has done an incredible job bringing this  
16 issue to lighting talking to communities all across  
17 the city and being one of the foremost activists,  
18 allies and advocates for immigrants not just in the  
19 city but across the country. Carlos has been  
20 phenomenal. So, I want to thank him for his  
21 leadership, and I also want to thank the staff who  
22 worked on this Rob New, Laura Popa, Andrea Vasquez,  
23 Brian Crowe, Harbani Ahuja, Tanya Cyrus, and  
24 Elizabeth Cronk. Finally, the Council will vote on a  
25 package of legislation aimed at protecting the voting

2 rights of the formerly incarcerated. Introduction  
3 367 sponsored by Council Member Rafael Salamanca  
4 would require the Department of Probation to  
5 distribute written notices of voting rights while  
6 folks are on probation to persons who have been  
7 sentenced to probation. Introduction 514-A sponsored  
8 by Council Member Rory Lancman would require the  
9 Department of Corrections to provide written notice  
10 regarding the voting rights of formerly incarcerated  
11 individuals in the State of New York upon release  
12 along with other—along with voter registration forms.  
13 And finally, Introduction 1115-A sponsored by Council  
14 Member Fernando Cabrera would require the Voter  
15 Assistance Advisory Committee to develop and  
16 distribute guidance for agencies covered by agency  
17 based voter registration laws on the voting rights of  
18 formerly incarcerated individuals. Such covered  
19 agencies would required when feasible and when  
20 request to by an applicant current on parole to check  
21 publicly available information to inform that  
22 applicant if a restoration of their right to vote has  
23 been granted. I want to thank the staff who worked  
24 on this package of bills, Rachel Cordero, Brian  
25 Crowe, Alana Simon, Brad Reed, Keshawn Denny, and

2 Elizabeth Cronk, and I also want to thank our  
3 Legislative Director Jeff Baker for all of his work  
4 on all of this legislation that we are passing today.  
5 That is it for our agenda for today's Stated Meeting  
6 and I look forward to proceeding with today's votes.  
7 Thank you very much, Madam Majority Leader.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
9 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. [coughs] We will now  
10 move into discussion of General Orders. Seeing none,  
11 Report of Special Committees.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] I hope—on  
13 Reports of Special Committees we are going to be  
14 getting a—a report from the Committee from Chair Diaz  
15 I believe. It's not listed here today, but I want to  
16 thank him for working on a report related to for-hire  
17 vehicle and his counsel and I look forward to  
18 reviewing that report and working with him. I  
19 apologize for interjecting. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
21 much, and thank you so much Reverend Diaz for your  
22 incredible work on this critically important issue to  
23 the city of New York. We will now have Reports of  
24 Standing Committees.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Criminal Justice Intro 514-A, Voting rights. [pause]

4 CLERK: 514-A.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Mr. Clerk, I-I was  
6 remiss earlier when the Majority Leader asked about  
7 Messages and Papers from the Mayor, and you read  
8 Preconsidered M 117, which was the submission of the  
9 name of Margaret Garnett to be the Commissioner of  
10 the Department of Investigations. We had a hearing  
11 this morning chaired by our Rules Committee Chair,  
12 Chair Koslowitz and we had a hearing earlier this  
13 week where the Council engaged in our advice and  
14 consent process related to the DOI Commissioner, and  
15 it was a hearing that I thought was very important  
16 for this body. Chair Torres, the Chair of our  
17 Oversight and Investigations Committee played a  
18 significant role in asking important questions to  
19 this nominee. It was a long and exhaustive hearing  
20 talking about the importance of the Department of  
21 Investigations, and who would succeed former  
22 Commissioner Peters. I was satisfied to-by Margaret  
23 Garnett's answers to our written questions, and I was  
24 satisfied by how she conducted herself at that  
25 hearing by her temperament, by her professional

2 record, and by how her vision comports with the  
3 Department of Investigation. So, I did not include  
4 that in my remarks for my Communication from the  
5 Speaker today, but we will be voting on this  
6 nomination engaging in the Advice and Consent  
7 process. I am proud to support her nomination.  
8 Chair Koslowitz voted for her nomination earlier  
9 today in Committee as did Chair Torres, and I think  
10 it's important to acknowledge that before we get to  
11 the other pieces of legislation in today's package,  
12 and with that, we can resume the docket, and I  
13 apologize for not mentioning that earlier.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for the  
15 additional information, and we will now wait for the  
16 results to be read onto the record.

17 CLERK: Report of Committee on Criminal  
18 Justice Intro 514-A Voting Rights.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
20 General Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
22 Finance, LU 264 and Reso 642, Tax Exemption.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
24 Orders.

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire  
3 and Emergency Management, Intro 744-A, 746-A and  
4 1054-A Fire Department Reports and Alarm Plan.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on For-  
8 Hire Vehicles Intro 1069-A Medallion Owner Debt.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
10 General Orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
12 Governmental Operations, Intros 367 and 1115-A Voter  
13 Registration.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
15 General Orders.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
17 Use, LU 218 and Reso 643 Landmark Designation.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
19 Orders.

20 CLERK: LU 232 and Reso 644 Park and  
21 Elton apartments

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
23 Orders.

24 CLERK: LU 240 and Reso 645 MEC 125<sup>th</sup>  
25 Street.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4 CLERK: LU 260 and Reso 646 through LU  
5 263 and Reso 649, Sidewalk Cafes.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
7 Orders.

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
9 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered M 117 and  
10 Reso 650 appoint--approving the appointment of  
11 Margaret M. Garnett, Commissioner, New York City  
12 Department of Investigation.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
14 Orders.

15 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
16 Transportation Intro 378-A and 497-A Alternate Side  
17 Parking.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled--Amended and  
19 coupled on General Orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Youth  
21 Services Intro 480-A, Homeless Youth Immigration  
22 Plan.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 General Orders.

2 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar  
3 Intro 720 Site Safety Training.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

5 CLERK: Resolution Appointing Various  
6 Persons Commissioner of Deeds.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
8 Orders, and at this time I would ask for a roll call  
9 vote on all of the items on today's General Order  
10 Calendar. That includes the legislation, the  
11 nomination of Margaret Garnett and the Land Use  
12 issues that we talked about today. I ask for a vote  
13 on these items.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Adams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: aye on all.

17 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Ayala.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all with  
23 the exception of Land Use 240. Again, my usual  
24 rationale. I think the 33% at market rate doesn't



2 reflect what we need to for the population that's  
3 homeless and looking for housing. Thank you.

4 CLERK: Borelli.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Permission to  
6 briefly explain my vote.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you. I  
10 just want to say a quick thanks for these three bills  
11 that came out of the Fire Committee this-this month.  
12 I thank the Speaker, Jeff Baker, Laura Popa, Rachel  
13 Cordero, Josh Kingsley, William Hungatch, Jali Urik  
14 Shabbat (sp?), the New York Electrical Contractors  
15 Association, the Mechanical Contractors Association,  
16 Local 2507 the Uniformed EMTs, Paramedics and Fire  
17 Inspectors and Local 3621 the Uniformed EMS Officers  
18 Union, and with that, I vote aye on all except 367,  
19 480, 514, 1115. Thank you.

20 CLERK: Brannan.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER Cabrera.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
24 explain my vote.

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you. We  
5 need to ensure that an eligible voter that is  
6 disenfranchised of their voting rights because of  
7 misinformation. The justice involved person only  
8 loses the right to vote when convict—convicted of a  
9 felony. Anyone convicted of a misdemeanor or is  
10 charged with a felony, but waiting for a—still has  
11 the right to vote, and people on probation can still,  
12 can also still vote. Intro 115-A addresses the  
13 matter by requiring the staff of agencies covered by  
14 the Agency Based Voter Registration Law receive  
15 guidance on the voting rights of formerly  
16 incarcerated persons to be developed by the Voter  
17 Assistance Advisory Committee. Intro 115-A also  
18 requires the agencies to check if a formerly  
19 incarcerated person is eligible to register to vote  
20 if requested. We know that civic participation  
21 integrates formerly incarcerated people back into the  
22 community and reduces recidivism. Intro 115—1115-A  
23 is an important step in ensuring voter rights and  
24 civic participation and civic life. Thank you so  
25 much, and I vote aye on all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you

3 CLERK: Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Cohen.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Aye.

7 CLERK: Deutsch.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Diaz.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
13 granted, Reverend Diaz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Thank you, Madam  
15 Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen and Mr. Speaker, I  
16 take this opportunity to thank you—you especially,  
17 Mr. Speaker and Council Member Rafael Salamanca.  
18 This is Introduction 37. It's about us Christians  
19 (sic). It's about us Hispanic, and that is the  
20 celebration, the religious celebration that we  
21 Hispanics celebrate as a Christian believer where the  
22 visit of the three kings came to Jesus to Baby Jesus  
23 to bring toys. So, celebrate that every January 6.  
24 I do that in the Bronx, and I will do—distribute one  
25 thousand free toys every year for the children of the

2 Bronx. So, today, I am glad that you allowed us to  
3 come to the floor because Councilman Salamanca is  
4 telling me that for the last two years he has been  
5 trying to introduce this legislation but before you,  
6 Mr. Speaker, the was a Hispanic, there was one of us  
7 and they would not allow this to come to the floor.  
8 So, I got to be very grateful to you, Mr. Speaker and  
9 Councilman Salamanca for allowing this. By showing,  
10 Mr. Speaker, that you are a person of a great  
11 tolerance, and that you are for everybody, not only  
12 for us Christians, you're also doing it for the  
13 Muslims. So, thank you very much, and thank you to  
14 Mr. Speaker and Councilman Salamanca, and also I  
15 would like to take this opportunity—this opportunity  
16 to thank my Counsel man—my Counsel Christopher Ling  
17 for the help that he has give my committee and put it  
18 together Introduction 1069-A. So, I—I thank all of  
19 you guys, all of you colleagues and I will vote yes  
20 on this and today—on all these bills today [bell] and  
21 I vote yes on all.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
23 Reverend Diaz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: And you—you looked  
25 good in purple. (sic)

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Oh, thank you.

3 You've good taste. [laughter]

4 CLERK: Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Correction. It's  
6 not a no vote on LU 240 but an abstention. Thank  
7 you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Dromm.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

11 CLERK: Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I request  
15 permission to explain my vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
19 much, I would like to commend Council Member Dromm  
20 for being the prime sponsor of Intro 480 and also the  
21 Chair of the Youth Services Committee Council Member  
22 Rose and the Chair of the Immigration Committee  
23 Council Member Menchaca and all the co-sponsors as we  
24 all know of Intro 480—as we all know, the young  
25 people it is absolutely essential that the young

2 people receive or are provided an environment that  
3 enable them to learn, grow and achieve to the fullest  
4 level of their abilities. As a city, we can  
5 rightfully claim that we stand strong in our  
6 commitment to all youth, and the many immigrants from  
7 every corner of the globe who proudly claim the city  
8 as their home. I strongly believe that Intro 480 is  
9 well considered legislation that will provider  
10 greater resources and protection to immigrant and  
11 homeless and runaway youth. With that, I vote yes,  
12 and aye on all.

13 CLERK: Gjonaj.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

16 CLERK: Grodenchik.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

18 CLERK: Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Kallos.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be  
24 excused to explain my vote?

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Certainly.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I echo the  
3 comments of our Speaker. I was very impressed with  
4 Mr. Garnett's testimony. She was asked many, many  
5 questions, and she answered them so professionally  
6 and so great. So, I vote aye on her, Ms. Garnett and  
7 aye on all others.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Lancman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: aye.

11 CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

13 CLERK: Levin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Permission to  
15 explain my vote.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam  
19 Majority Leader. I just want to—I vote aye on all,  
20 and I want to thank the Speaker and my colleague  
21 Council Member Carlos Menchaca Chair or the  
22 Immigration Committee and Council Member Mark Levine,  
23 Chair of the Health Committee on—on calling attention  
24 and getting this Council on the record against the  
25 Public Charge propose rule that's put forward by the

2 Trump Administration that could have absolutely  
3 devastating effects, and just to put it into some  
4 kind of context here, this could potentially cost the  
5 State of New York 25,000 jobs. So, when we talk  
6 about everything around Amazon, that would be impact  
7 if this rule went in effect costing New York State  
8 25,000 jobs because of the loss of benefits to  
9 everyday New Yorkers and the ripple effect that that  
10 would have. And just to—to further clarify what this  
11 would do, this means if this were to go into effect  
12 that if you were seeking a Green Card from—seeking  
13 permanent status in—in our country, you would not be  
14 able to receive Medicaid. You would not be able to  
15 receive Medicare. You would not be able to receive  
16 SNAP benefits. All of these benefits that people  
17 rely on in our country just to be able to meet their  
18 basic healthcare needs and food needs this  
19 Administration so cruelly—so cruelly, and from a very  
20 dark and mean place is putting forward this rule to  
21 try to force people to decide or choose whether they  
22 want to be here permanently in the United States or—  
23 or care for their families and have decent healthcare  
24 and that shameful. Everybody of good conscience in  
25 our country should stand up against this and say this



2 is not in our name. We will not stand for this, and  
3 we'll fight against it every step of the way, and so  
4 I want to thank again Carlos Menchaca our Chair  
5 Immigration and the Speaker for—for championing this—  
6 these resolutions, and I proudly vote aye on all.  
7 Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you  
9 Levine, Maisel.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

11 CLERK: Menchaca.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
13 explain my vote.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
17 Madam Majority Leader, and I want to pick up where my  
18 colleague and Co-Chair of the public hearing that he  
19 mentioned, Council Member Steve Levin that this is—  
20 this is the opportunity that we are taking here today  
21 by supporting not just the resolutions, but your own  
22 individual comment. There are more than 83,000  
23 comments already submitted to the Federal Register.  
24 We want to get it to 100,000. So, please all of you,  
25 we'll be following up to make sure that we get

2 affirmatively response from all of you that you're  
3 going to representing with the voice. This is a  
4 cruel-a cruel draconian move by this administration,  
5 and it is not the first when we think about our  
6 immigrants and the people who we represent, the folks  
7 who are entitled to the services that this city is  
8 providing because we are providing services for every  
9 single New York no matter your gender, sexual  
10 orientation or immigration status. I do want to say  
11 that this is just yet another move by this  
12 administration that is whitening America. This is a  
13 white supremacist move and we've got to call it out for  
14 what it is. Everything that-that has happened  
15 between the-the things that have been shut down by  
16 the court, this proposed public rule change and the  
17 tear gas and military actions at the border or all  
18 connected to this one premise, and we will not stand  
19 for that. We are not going to stand for that, and  
20 I'm so happy this-these two resolutions and other  
21 things that are coming are going to send the message  
22 that's not only strong, but further fortifies our  
23 sanctuary city status. So proud to stand with all of  
24 you support of 608 and 609. Thank you so much, and I  
25 vote aye on all.

2 CLERK: Miller.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye on all.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to  
5 make an announcement that we—in order to maintain  
6 quorum, we cannot have any addition members asked to  
7 be excused. So, I just want to make that announcement  
8 and we're going to try to keep this meeting on a time  
9 basis as—as best as we can. Thank you.

10 CLERK: Moya.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Perkins. Powers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Permission to  
14 explain my vote. Permission granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I just wanted to  
16 echo what others have said about the new—the nominee  
17 for DOI and Margaret Garnett. I—I was at the  
18 hearing. I thought she's a fantastic choice and  
19 represents the right—right blend of know-how and  
20 independence, I think will be a—an appropriate and—  
21 and a strong replacement. I think that many of us  
22 heard her answers and felt very comfortable with the  
23 answers she gave in addition to the resume she has.  
24 So, I applaud both the nomination that came from the  
25 Mayor and us moving her forward as well. I also

2 wanted to just say thank you and congratulations to  
3 my colleagues who have the bills on voting rights  
4 today because we have hearing, and I thought that  
5 they were important ways to make sure that—so, even  
6 city materials are not appropriately allowing people  
7 to know what their rights are when—when you are on  
8 probation or when you leave the city jail system. I  
9 think it's a good way to make sure that people know  
10 what their rights are and the public understands what  
11 their rights are as well. So, with that, I vote on  
12 all. Thanks.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Reynoso. With congratulations to  
15 all my colleagues [coughs] especially Council Member  
16 Carlos Menchaca and the work that he's doing, I vote  
17 aye on al.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you/

19 CLERK: Richards.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Rivera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Rodriguez. [background  
24 comments/pause] Rose.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

2 CLERK: Rosenthal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: With  
4 permission, I'd like to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups  
5 and Coupled items on the General Order Calendar and  
6 all resolutions. I vote aye.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.  
8 Permission granted.

9 CLERK: Salamanca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you,  
15 Madam Majority Leader. Today we'll be voting on  
16 Intro 367, which will require the Department of  
17 Probation to inform people on probation of their  
18 voting rights. The issue of ass incarceration in our  
19 nation largely affects our black and brown  
20 communities, and with the persay-pervasive  
21 misinformation of who can and can't vote, it is up to  
22 us to educate and improve voter turnout. Communities  
23 of color like the ones I represent feel the heavy  
24 burden. I believe that creating or instilling a  
25 sense of civic duty can begin at a very basic level.

2 Integrating back into a community can begin with  
3 feeling like you have a voice, and in this case,  
4 casting a vote can be that voice, and we should—we  
5 should be encouraging participation in government.  
6 We've made great strides in increasing voter turnout  
7 and we should keep up this moment, and with that, I  
8 vote aye on all.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

10 CLERK: Torres.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to  
12 explain my vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
14 granted.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I just want to—  
16 I'm excited by the confirmation of Margaret Garnett.  
17 I'm confident that she's going to be every bit as  
18 independent as she is qualified, and it's important  
19 to note that the nomination of a first class nominee  
20 did not happen in a vacuum. I think it's a testament  
21 to the power of checks and balances and the advice  
22 and consent role that the City Council plays and the  
23 Speaker's insistence that the DOI Commissioner has to  
24 be fully independent of both the Council and City  
25 Hall and—and the Mayor's office. And so it's a real

2 tribute to the leadership of the Speaker, and I want  
3 to thank the Speaker for being as diligent as he has  
4 been in defending the integrity and independence of  
5 DOI. With that said, I proudly vote aye.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Treyger.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

9 CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Williams.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be excuse  
15 to explain my vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
19 much. Also, please excuse my voice. I am voting aye  
20 on all with the exception of Land Use 240 and  
21 accompanying Reso, and kudos to all my colleagues. I  
22 also want to speak on Margaret Garnett for DOI  
23 Commissioner. Attending the hearing, obviously there  
24 I no question she had an impeccable resumes and I'm  
25 proud to support here, but I do want to talk about he

2 way which she came be as one the sole members of the  
3 former committee abstaining on the Mark Peters'  
4 previous appointment my concern with him was the  
5 close relationship to Bill de Blasio. Thankfully, he  
6 did put forward reports that were pointing out issues  
7 of the administration, but perhaps their relationship  
8 may be even difficult—more difficult for the Mayor to  
9 accept what was being done. The McGovern Report was  
10 very concerning of the actions that occurred there.  
11 We should all be very concerned about it, but it's  
12 hard to take what the McGovern Report said and then  
13 not accept the remedies that were put forth and Mark  
14 Peters to did accept those remedies. None of them had  
15 to do with firing. I'm not sure if the report at  
16 that time obviously mentioned what is coming to light  
17 now, which was basically just shelving of reports or  
18 highlighting of the improprieties particularly  
19 testilying, which is when NYPD testified and not give  
20 accurate information and know what happens. So,  
21 hopefully that report will come out soon. All those  
22 things together obviously are concerns and my hope is  
23 moving forward particularly with the Charter  
24 Commission there's a look at not only this body being  
25 a part of approving a DOI Commissioner, but also



2 being a part of firing a DOI Commissioner. I don't  
3 think that is something that should be left up to the  
4 Mayor Administration especially if they're being  
5 investigated, but with that, congratulations to the  
6 new DOI Commissioner, and I hope she continues the  
7 good work that was being done, and I hope the first  
8 report that comes out is that testilying report, and  
9 with that, I vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

11 CLERK: Yeger.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,  
13 may I excused to explain my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. I vote  
17 aye all. I echo Mr. Speaker's remarks and my  
18 colleague's remarks about the employment of Ms.  
19 Garnett of the next Commissioner of DOI. I think  
20 anybody as Chair Torres indicated, anybody who  
21 attended the hearing again as Councilman Williams  
22 said, saw somebody who has remarkable intellect,  
23 remarkable poise, skill, honor. Frankly, when I  
24 first saw the resume, she also had the resume—a dream  
25 resume of any first year law student, an incredible

2 accomplished career, and I'm confident and I'm  
3 faithful that the—that the Mayor in his choice  
4 affirmed and it seems really that this was his first  
5 choice this go-around, made the right choice and I'm  
6 proud to vote aye, and I vote aye on all. Thank you,  
7 Madam President.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: thank you.

9 CLERK: Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on  
11 367, 514, 1115 and 480 with congrats to my colleague  
12 Joe Borelli and passed at least three bills out of  
13 this committee. I vote aye on the rest.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Cumbo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [off mic] I vote on  
19 all. [off mic/inaudible]

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We'll now wait  
21 for the tally of the vote. [background  
22 comments/pause] Thank you. All items on today's  
23 General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote of 42 in  
24 the affirmative, 0 negative and 0 abstentions with  
25 the exception of LU 240 and Resolution 645 we have 40

2 in the affirmative 0 negative and 2 abstentions. For  
3 Intro 367, which was adopted by a vote of 40 in the  
4 affirmative---

5 CLERK: [off mic] Ulrich needs to  
6 vote.(sic)

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, we are now  
8 going to add Council Member Ulrich into the tally  
9 vote. Give us one moment. Only for Council Member  
10 Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'm-I'm  
12 consulting my leader. One second please.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: If you listen to him,  
14 you're voting no on all. [laughter] [background  
15 comments/pause]

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Humming.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I'll vote aye on  
18 all. [background comments]

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wow.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hurry up and give the  
21 tally before he changes his mind. [laughter]

22 [background comments/pause] Alright, I will read it  
23 quickly. All items on today's General Order Calendar  
24 are adopted by a vote of 43 in the affirmative, 0  
25 negative and 0 abstentions with the exception of LU

2 240 and Resolution 645, which was adopted by a vote  
3 of 41 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 2  
4 abstentions, and Intro 367, which was adopted by a  
5 vote of 41 in the affirmative 2 negative and 0  
6 abstentions. For intro 480-A, which was adopted by a  
7 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 2 negative and 0  
8 abstentions. Intro 514-A was adopted by a vote of 41  
9 in the affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions.  
10 Intro 1115-A, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in  
11 the affirmative, 2 negative and 0 abstentions, and  
12 that completes the vote tally sheets. We will now  
13 move into the Introduction and Reading of Bills.  
14 [shushing for quiet] Quiet in the Chamber.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
16 referred to committee as indicated on the Agenda.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Okay, we will now  
18 move into a discussion of Resolutions. Are there any  
19 members who wish to speak on any of today's  
20 resolutions? Seeing none, we—Council Member Inez  
21 Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
23 just want to say that the Resolution is going to be  
24 introduced. You're not talking about the ones for  
25 introductions.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: No, we're voting--

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]

4 Okay.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: -just on the

6 Resolutions on the Calendar today.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. So,  
9 we'll begin today with Resolution 608, a resolution  
10 authorizing the Speaker to submit a public comment on  
11 behalf of the Council to the Federal Register  
12 concerning the proposed changes to the Public Charge  
13 Rule. All in favor say aye.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Aye.

15 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed. Any  
17 abstentions. The ayes have it. Resolution 609 a  
18 resolution opposing the newly proposed Public Charge  
19 Rule and using the federal government not to move  
20 forward with its adoption. All in favor say aye.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Aye.

22 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed? Any  
24 abstentions? They ayes have it. We will now move  
25 into general discussion.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Madam Majority Leader,  
3 I'm very happy to see very few people signed up for  
4 General Discussion today, and I hope we keep it that  
5 way. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: That is a trend  
7 that we are moving towards. We will now move into  
8 General Discussion. We'll begin with Council Member  
9 Mathieu Eugene.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
11 much, Madam Majority Leader and thank you very much  
12 Mr. Speaker.

13 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Please  
14 keep it down.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: My colleagues, I  
16 would like to take this moment to address several  
17 bill that I am introducing at today's Stated Meeting.  
18 As we all know, Alzheimer's Disease is a horrible  
19 affliction that steadily erodes the cognitive ability  
20 of so many of our senior population every year. In  
21 fact, this pathology is the most common cause of  
22 disease among older adults, and it's estimated that  
23 more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's and  
24 that it is the sixth leading cause of death in the  
25 country. In response to these terrible facts about

2 Alzheimer's Disease I have introduced Intro 1267 a  
3 Local Law that would create taskforce to provide  
4 assistance to people affected by Alzheimer's Disease  
5 and Resolution 636, which call upon the U.S. Congress  
6 to continue annual funding for the research and  
7 treatment of Alzheimer's Disease while injecting any  
8 future effect to reduce critically needed funding in  
9 the area of medicine. Everyone here is also aware of  
10 the great threat that the spread of infection disease  
11 can present to any population and, of course, here in  
12 New York City we are always on outreach for search on  
13 outbreak. With that in mind, I have introduced  
14 Resolution 637 calling on the United Department of  
15 Health and Human Resources and New York City's--New  
16 York State Department of Health to create a special  
17 commission empowered to address health emergency and  
18 infection disease. In addition, I have introduced  
19 Reso 638, which calls upon the New York State  
20 Department of Health to create a standalone self-  
21 contained Isolation Center and with needs (sic) that  
22 will specifically treat patients with infection  
23 disease, and I would like to ask my colleagues to  
24 support those legislations.

25 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
3 much, Madam Majority Leader.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, Dr.  
5 Mathieu Eugene. We'll now have Council Member  
6 Cabrera, Reverend Cabrera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you.  
8 Thank you. Thank you so much. It's okay. E-Scooters  
9 are coming to town. I'm introducing a bill today  
10 Intro 1250. It's an important transportation option  
11 for New Yorkers, and I want to thank all of you who  
12 really communicated with my office, and want to get  
13 on the bill even before its very introduction, and  
14 we're talking about e-Scooters that will go at a  
15 maximum speed of 15, 1-5-15 miles per hour, and we  
16 would-and will not be in sidewalks. So, I'm very  
17 excited about this viable option that is going to be  
18 green, and it's going to be affordable for a constituent  
19 in my district where over 50% of people who live in  
20 my district do not have-own a vehicle, a car now my  
21 young people are going to be able to get-make it to  
22 Bronx Community College, make it to work, go from one  
23 train station perhaps to another bus stop without  
24 having to wait for anybody or-or having a higher  
25 expense if they were going to use a cable. This is



2 a good day. I can't wait and looking forward to my  
3 colleagues joining in and passing this bill, and on  
4 the very first day to have my very first e-Scooter  
5 ride to-to my office. Thank you so much.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
7 Council Member Reverend Cabrera. Will now be  
8 followed by Council Members Barron and then finally  
9 with Council Member Treyger.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I just  
11 want to briefly remind s that 63 years ago on  
12 December 1, 1955 Rosa Parks disobeyed the law and  
13 refused to give up her seat to a white woman whom the  
14 bus driver had instructed her to give up her seat to,  
15 and it led to another level of the fight in the Civil  
16 Rights Movement and brought other notables to the  
17 forefront who emerged as leaders at that time, and  
18 the result was they were asking for the bus company  
19 to not have people have to go to the back after they  
20 paid their fare at front to go to the back and  
21 brought to the back, and it escalated. The demands  
22 increased and they finally were able to have people  
23 pay at the front, go in the front and even get  
24 positions within the bus company. So, it was a very  
25 successful venture, and I just wanted to remind

2 people of that, and as a result the Federal Court did  
3 declare it unconstitutional for that segregation of  
4 the buses. And briefly just to let my colleagues  
5 know that I have introduced Reso 332, which calls for  
6 the Department of Education to create a diabetes and  
7 free diabetes health based curriculum. According to  
8 the American Diabetes Association, 33 million  
9 Americans or 9.4% of the older population had  
10 diabetes, and 84 million Americans age 18 and older  
11 have pre-diabetes factors, and it's estimated that  
12 40% of elementary school children in New York City  
13 are overweight, which puts them at risk of developing  
14 this chronic disease. So, neither the State  
15 Education Department or the City DOE currently has  
16 any explicitly—an explicit requirements for  
17 instruction of diabetes or pre-diabetes, and we're  
18 hoping—we're hoping to be able to change that. Thank  
19 you very much.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
21 much. Council Member Treyger. Yes.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I do want to  
23 thank several people for getting this resolution  
24 forward: Speaker Corey Johnson, Deputy Counsel Kelly  
25 Taylor, Deputy Director Andrea Vazquez, Legislative

2 Policy Analyst Jan Atwell, Chief of Staff Joy Simmons  
3 and my Legislative Director N'digo Washington. Thank  
4 you. Council Member Treyger.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you,  
6 Majority Leader. Today I'm introducing Intro 1282,  
7 which would require the Voter Assistance Advisory  
8 Committee, which is housed under the Campaign Finance  
9 Board, to provide interpreters a poll sites in the  
10 designated citywide languages where appropriate. Our  
11 city must fight back against voter suppression. We  
12 must do everything possible make voting easier and  
13 more accessible. Almost 40% of New Yorkers are born  
14 outside of the U.S. it's crucial that our city  
15 recognizes this diversity, and makes sure that all  
16 New Yorkers are able to vote. Other cities readily  
17 provide language access programs. Why can't the BOE?  
18 New York City only provides interpreters in a few  
19 languages at poll sites: Korean, Spanish, Chinese,  
20 and Bengali. My bill will add interpreters in New  
21 York City's other most spoken languages, which  
22 currently are Arabic, and I recognize my colleague  
23 Council Member Justin Brannan who is also very much  
24 on this issue of adding Arabic interpreters. I would  
25 add—we add Russian speaking, Haitian, Creole, Urdu,

2 French and Polish. I'm also pleased to have  
3 colleagues that have been very supportive of this  
4 issue. Improving access has been one of my top  
5 priorities during my time in the Council. I'm proud  
6 to a have proposed and funded a pilot program last  
7 year with the help of the Speaker, which helped  
8 ensure interpreters were available for Russian,  
9 Haitian and Creole Speakers throughout Brooklyn.  
10 This year I worked with Speaker Johnson and the Mayor  
11 to expand the program at 101 poll sites on Election  
12 Day in November, but there's more work to be done.  
13 Interpreters were forced to stay a hundred feet away  
14 in the freezing rain from poll sites. Why? Because  
15 the DO—the BOE had the audacity to state that  
16 interpreters were electioneering. Language access is  
17 not and should not—never be confused with  
18 electioneering. My bill will make sure the  
19 interpreters can best assist New Yorkers in the poll  
20 sites, and that all New Yorkers will have the  
21 language access services they deserve. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so  
23 much, Council Member Treyger and I think we all  
24 enthused and excited with so much hope to see that  
25 voter turnout that we saw so recently, but also

2 distraught at the level of difficulty and challenge  
3 that so many people face. As we close today's  
4 meeting, I just encourage everyone to know your  
5 status and get tested as we kick off World AIDS Day  
6 on December 1<sup>st</sup>. It's so important that we continue  
7 this work, and we will now have closing remarks by  
8 Speaker Corey Johnson.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Happy Thanksgiving.  
10 Have a good night. This meeting is now adjourned.

11 LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you. [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 interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 20, 2018