

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING OF THE CITY
COUNCIL

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Tuesday, November 22, 2022
Start: 2:16 p.m.
Recess: 3:42 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker

COUNCILMEMBERS:

- Shaun Abreu
- Joann Ariola
- Alexa Avilés
- Diana I. Ayala
- Charles Barron
- Joseph C. Borelli
- Erik D. Bottcher
- Justin L. Brannan
- Gale A. Brewer
- Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
- Tiffany Cabán
- David M. Carr
- Carmen N. De La Rosa
- Eric Dinowitz
- Amanda Farias
- Oswald Feliz
- James F. Gennaro
- Jennifer Gutiérrez
- Shahana K. Hanif
- Kamillah Hanks

Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Kristin Richardson Jordan
Rita C. Joseph
Ari Kagan
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Marjorie Velázquez
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

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

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Can I have your attention
3 please. Shhh. May I have your attention please:
4 For all those that are participating with us today,
5 all members of the public who want to view the
6 hearing, please take a walk upstairs to the balcony.
7 The seating on the floor is for staff only. So if
8 you are here to witness the meeting today, you are
9 welcome to join us at the balcony.

10 Sergeants, please start all recordings. Please
11 silence all electronic devices. Sir? We are ready
12 to go.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: [GAVEL] Good afternoon
14 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of November 22nd,
15 2022. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers. I would
16 like to thank everyone for joining us here today. If
17 you would like to follow along, the agenda for
18 today's meeting is posted on the City Council
19 website.

20 CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of
21 Allegiance.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

23 ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the
24 United States of America, and to the Republic for

25

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2 which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible,
3 with liberty and justice for all.

4 CLERK: Abreu?

5 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Present.

6 CLERK: Ariola?

7 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Here.

8 CLERK: Avilés?

9 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.

10 CLERK: Ayala?

11 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: Here.

12 CLERK: Barron?

13 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Here.

14 CLERK: Bottcher?

15 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here.

16 CLERK: Brannan?

17 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

18 CLERK: Brewer?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Here.

20 CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

21 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Here.

22 CLERK: Cabán?

23 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Present.

24 CLERK: Carr?

25 CLERK: De La Rosa?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

3 CLERK: Dinowitz?

4 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

5 CLERK: Farias?

6 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: Present.

7 CLERK: Feliz?

8 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Here.

9 CLERK: Gennaro?

10 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Here.

11 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

12 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.

13 CLERK: Hanif?

14 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Here.

15 CLERK: Hanks?

16 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Here.

17 CLERK: Holden?

18 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

19 CLERK: Hudson?

20 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: Present.

21 CLERK: Joseph?

22 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Present.

23 CLERK: Kagan?

24 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: Here.

25 CLERK: Krishnan?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

3 CLERK: Lee?

4 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Here.

5 CLERK: Louis?

6 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Present.

7 CLERK: Marte?

8 CLERK: Mealy?

9 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: Present.

10 CLERK: Menin?

11 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: Here.

12 CLERK: Moya?

13 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: Here.

14 CLERK: Narcisse?

15 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: Presente.

16 CLERK: Nurse?

17 CLERK: Ossé?

18 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: Here.

19 CLERK: Paladino?

20 COUNCILMEMBER PALADINO: Here.

21 CLERK: Restler?

22 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Here.

23 CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

24 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Present.

25 CLERK: Riley?

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2 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: Present.

3 CLERK: Rivera?

4 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: Present.

5 CLERK: Salamanca?

6 CLERK: Sanchez?

7 CLERK: Schulman?

8 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

9 CLERK: Stevens?

10 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Apologies. Sanchez
11 present.

12 CLERK: Thank you Councilmember.

13 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Here.

14 CLERK: Thank you Councilmember. Ung?

15 CLERK: Velázquez?

16 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present

17 CLERK: Vernikov?

18 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: Here.

19 CLERK: Carr?

20 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: Here.

21 CLERK: Williams?

22 CLERK: Won?

23 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Present.

24 CLERK: Yeger?

25 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: Here.

2 CLERK: Borelli?

3 CLERK: Powers?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I'm here.

5 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: I am also here.

7 CLERK: Mr. Majority Leader, we have a quorum.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I'm glad to know we are
9 all here.

10 Thank you. We will now have today's invocation,
11 which will be delivered by Rabbi David Niederman of
12 the United Jewish Organization of Williamsburg, in
13 North Brooklyn, located at 32 Penn Street in
14 Brooklyn.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

16 RABBI NIEDERMAN: Madam Speaker and honorable
17 members of the City Council. Your work is so
18 important and very much appreciated. May Hashem, the
19 Almighty, shine his light on all of you in this
20 chamber who represent all New Yorkers, and to succeed
21 in all of your endeavors.

22 At the end of this week, we will be entering the
23 Jewish Month of Kislev, in which we celebrate
24 Hannukah, when the Maccabees prevailed over the
25 Greeks. It is also a month when we celebrate the

2 rescue from Bergen-Belsen, Germany, of the Grand
3 Rabbi, Joel Teitelbaum of Satmar of blessed memory,
4 who was central to the rebirth of the Orthodox Jewish
5 Community in New York after losing 6 million Jews by
6 the Nazis.

7 Sadly, however, 3 years ago, the month of Kislev
8 brought horrific, horrific tragedy to the Jewish
9 Community of New York and New Jersey. On December
10 10, 2019, gunman entered the Hasidic Jersey City
11 Kosher Supermarket and opened fire. At the end of
12 the rampage, four beautiful, innocent people were
13 killed, including a young Williamsburg resident, who
14 volunteered to the UJO Moishe Caste[sp?]. During the
15 month... during that month, a machete-wielding man
16 entered the Rabbi's house in Muncie, attacked and
17 injured many people, and sadly one of them died.

18 This past weekend, we were reminded again of the
19 threat of hate-driven violence against the Jewish
20 community. Friday night, law enforcement learned of
21 imminent danger by two armed antisemites. Thanks to
22 the vigilance and diligent action by the NYPD, the
23 FBI, the MTA agents, they were intercepted at Penn
24 Station on their way to kill people in the synagogue
25 at Saturday night services. We are grateful to the

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2 Mayor, the Governor, and law enforcement agencies for
3 being vigilant and proactive to protect the Jewish
4 community.

5 I specifically would want to thank the City
6 Council and the Honorable Speaker Adams for funding
7 initiatives and promoting polices against hate, to
8 protect all of our people. Your work is so important
9 and so much appreciated.

10 Thus we pray to Hashem to bestow is blessing on
11 the Speaker of the Council and upon all its members
12 that you shall continue to use your energies to
13 spread kindness, to keep our families safe, all of
14 our communities secure, and to help all New Yorkers
15 succeed in their eyes. So help us, Hashem. Amen.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Rabbi
17 Niederman. Thank you for being us... with us today.
18 I am now going to ask Councilmember Lincoln Restler
19 to spread the invocation on the record.

20 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Thank you Majority
21 Leader. I would like to thank the distinguished
22 Rabbi David Niederman for being with us today. For
23 33 years, the great Rabbi David Niederman has been in
24 charge of UJO Williamsburg and North Brooklyn. There
25 is no more noble, no more compassionate, no more

2 altruistic community leader in District 33. Rabbi
3 Niederman and his tremendous team, notably Sam Stern,
4 and David Katz, who are with us today, do a
5 phenomenal job providing critical services and
6 addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our
7 community. Today, we are fighting back against
8 antisemitism and hate in all its forms. I feel
9 profoundly fortunate to be Rabbi Niederman's partner
10 and representative.

11 I make a motion for unanimous consent to spread
12 the invocation in full upon the record. Thank you
13 Rabbi Niederman.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Councilmember
15 Restler. We will now have adoption admitted by
16 Councilmember Amanda Farias.

17 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: I make a motion that the
18 minutes of the Stated Meeting of October 27, 2022, be
19 adopted as printed.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will go
21 to messages and papers from the Mayor.

22 CLERK: M 101 and 102, Public Design Commission
23 appointments.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Rules, Privileges, and Elections.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communication from city,
3 county, and borough offices?

4 CLERK: M 103, New York City Comptroller Annual
5 Report.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered, printed, and
7 filed.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
9 communications?

10 CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land use callups?

12 CLERK: None.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
14 hear... we will now have communication from Speaker
15 Adrienne Adams.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader, and
17 good afternoon to everyone. I'd like to start by
18 thanking... thanking our rabbi for the blessing
19 today. And I'd like to thank all New Yorkers who
20 voted in this past election. Congratulations to
21 Governor Kathy Hochul for being the first woman
22 elected to lead the State of New York. I look
23 forward to continuing to work with her and Lieutenant
24 Governor Antonio Delgado to advance our city and
25 state. I also want to congratulate our own Senator

2 Chuck Schumer for retaining his position as Senate
3 Majority Leader. His outstanding leadership will
4 continue to benefit not just our city, but the entire
5 nation. Lastly, I want to thank Speaker Nancy Pelosi
6 for her decades of leadership in the House of
7 Representatives. Speaker Pelosi shattered glass
8 ceilings and demonstrated what women's leadership can
9 achieve for our country. We are grateful for her
10 many years of dedicated public service as a
11 legislative leader, and we are better for it.

12 Today, I want to start by discussing the
13 important work and achievement of this Council to
14 advance affordable housing, as our city confronts a
15 dire housing crisis. We have too-few homes for New
16 Yorkers, and that is felt the most by those who need
17 affordable housing at the deepest levels. The
18 affordable housing units we need the most are the
19 least available. The New York City and Vacancy
20 Survey placed the vacancy rate for the lowest income
21 apartments at less than 1%. The overall lack of
22 housing is increasing. Housing costs and pressures
23 on New Yorkers. We need hundreds of thousands more
24 apartments with a focus on affordable units. The
25 lack of affordable permanent housing is the

2 underlying driver of our city's current level of
3 homelessness, which rivals the Great Depression with
4 over 60,000 New Yorkers left unhoused. We know that
5 this is likely an undercount, and that this crisis
6 disproportionately harms black and Latino New
7 Yorkers. The Council has an important role to play
8 in helping to advance the development of affordable
9 housing, and we have been contributing our part to
10 advance these efforts by approving major housing
11 development projects in our local... in our land use
12 process. Yesterday, the Council's Land Use Committee
13 voted to approve 4 Land Use applications in Brooklyn
14 and Queens that will collectively produce nearly 6000
15 new units of housing, 65% of which will be
16 affordable. Over 2000 of the housing units, 30%,
17 would be deeply affordable for extremely or very-low-
18 income households. These approved projects are the
19 types of major steps we need to take to address the
20 housing crisis. Today, we will vote on the 2 largest
21 projects, Innovation QNS and Innovative Urban
22 Village. They are different in Character, not only
23 because of their distinct locations, but the details
24 of financing, land use, and development teams, yet
25 they share a common feature. They push aggressive

2 affordable housing development forward by demanding
3 more of the administration and private developers by
4 working with this Council to advance affordable
5 housing at deep levels.

6 With Innovation QNS, this Council prioritized the
7 greatest housing needs of the city and community by
8 prioritizing a deepening of affordability. With the
9 land use and policy experts on our staff, we put
10 forward an innovative approach to use CITYFEPS
11 vouchers to increase affordability and address the
12 challenges New Yorkers have faced in utilizing them
13 to secure permanent housing. We pushed for the
14 administration to work towards this, and the
15 developer to set aside market rates for New Yorkers
16 with these rental housing vouchers.

17 This is major, not only for this project and the
18 local community, but from a citywide policy
19 perspective.

20 Innovative Village is a pivotal project in East
21 New York, by long-time stakeholder Christian Cultural
22 Center. It would create nearly 2000 affordable
23 housing units, 200 for senior housing, and 100
24 homeownership opportunities. Over 1100 rental units
25 or 60% would be reserved for extremely or very-low-

2 income households, and the remaining 750 rental units
3 would be set aside for low-income residents. 100
4 homeownership opportunities would be reserved for
5 moderate income households. The development would
6 provide a range of additional community benefits,
7 including a 24-hour, 7-day-per-week daycare, a cyber-
8 cafe, workforce training center, a fresh-food grocery
9 store, a performing arts center, publicly-accessible
10 open space, shuttle service to subway stations, and
11 resilient and sustainable features.

12 Yesterday was a prime example of this body's
13 leadership on housing. Members understand the scale
14 of this housing crisis, because our communities are
15 facing it. We hear about their housing challenges in
16 our communities day in and day out. This Council is
17 on the cusp of approving over 40 land use
18 applications since January 2022, creating over 12,000
19 total housing units with over 63% of them designated
20 as affordable to provide nearly 8000 affordable
21 apartments for New Yorkers. This is the type of bold
22 action that our city needs to address this crisis,
23 and I am proud that we are stepping up to meet the
24 moment. We must continue to lead, and I am confident
25 that this body will play a major part in the effort

2 to address New Yorkers housing needs. I will have
3 more to say on housing issues facing New York City in
4 the coming weeks, but today, I am proud of this body
5 and the work our members and staff have done to
6 understand the gravity of our challenge and are
7 willing to confront it.

8 I thank the Councilmembers who present the
9 districts where the land use applications we are
10 approving today are located, as well as the members
11 who have similarly advanced such projects throughout
12 this year to develop more affordable housing. There
13 are also partners in government who have played
14 important roles in working with us, and I want to
15 thank them as well.

16 Finally, I want to make sure to thank the staff
17 of our Council Land Use Division, who provide members
18 with the expertise and guidance to make this work
19 happen: Parris Strauder, Chelsey Kelly, Brian Paul,
20 Arthur Hu, Angelina Martez-Rubio, James Cottone, Ryan
21 Cotay, Tim Anderson, Julia Airman, Andrew Lassiter,
22 Kaitlyn Greer, Sandy Nicholas, Maria Salvavaro, and
23 Bridget James. Thank you all so much for your
24 tireless efforts and expertise.

25 [APPLAUSE]

2 In helping this Council advance projects that
3 deliver housing for thousands of New Yorkers and meet
4 the needs of communities by supporting our ability to
5 negotiate for our constituents.

6 And before I want to... Before I continue, I want
7 to take a moment also to acknowledge the loss of
8 seven New Yorkers who died while on the job over the
9 past month. We are so very saddened by each of their
10 deaths, and we send our condolences to their families
11 and loved ones during this difficult time.

12 Two days ago, we observed Trans Day of
13 Remembrance, which honors those whom we lost to anti-
14 trans violence. It also marks the end of trans
15 awareness week, during which we highlight the
16 visibility, experiences, and ongoing challenges
17 facing trans communities. It is so important that we
18 continue to recognize this week, because in states
19 across the country, government officials are taking
20 actions that would actually harm trans people.
21 Earlier this month, two Florida medical boards
22 approved new rules that restrict children from
23 receiving gender-affirming care to treat gender
24 dysphoria. Other states have similarly turned to
25 medical boards to limit or restrict access to gender-

2 affirming care. This is egregious and wrong, and it
3 will lead to people losing their lives. In this
4 city, we remain focused on supporting and uplifting
5 all LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers, and we will continue to
6 prioritize their health, safety, and well-being. On
7 December 1st, we will observe World AIDS Day, during
8 which we reaffirm our steadfast commitment to support
9 people living with HIV/AIDS and remember those we
10 have lost to AIDS-related illnesses. Established in
11 1988, World AIDS Day serves as an important reminder
12 about the importance of our united mission to
13 eradicate HIV/AIDS. The fight is not yet over, but
14 as a city, we will continue to stand strong in
15 support of all people living with HIV/AIDS.

16 Coming up on November 28th is Albanian
17 Independence Day. Last night, the Council hosted a
18 celebration of Albanian culture, heritage, and
19 history right here in the Council chambers. It was a
20 wonderful event, highlighted... that highlighted the
21 rich traditions of our Albanian communities, and I
22 want to thank Councilmembers Carr, Feliz, Holden, and
23 Velázquez for helping to make it a very special
24 evening. Thank you, Councilmembers.

2 And as we celebrate Thanksgiving in the next few
3 days, I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday
4 spent with your loved ones. I am thankful for all of
5 you. All of you, and the hard work that you and your
6 teams, your staff... your incredible staff have done
7 to serve the people of this city. Don't forget to
8 shop small on Small Business Saturday, and donate to
9 your favorite charities on Giving Tuesday.

10 Finally, please join me in wishing a happy
11 belated birthday to Councilmembers Kevin Riley and
12 Keith Powers whose birthday was on the 16th!

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 And a happy birthday to Councilmember Eric
15 Dinowitz, who celebrated his birthday yesterday!

16 [APPLAUSE]

17 I hope you all had a really good time celebrating
18 with your families.

19 Now let's move on to our stated agenda. Today,
20 we are voting on several legislative finance and land
21 use items. We'll be voting on the following finance
22 items: Introduction 798 sponsored by councilmembers
23 Justin Brannan, Farah Louis, Kristin Richardson
24 Jordan, and Diana Ayala, by request of the Mayor. It
25 will authorize an increase in the amount to be

2 expended to annually in the 125th Street and DUMBO
3 Business Improvement Districts. A pre-considered
4 resolution sponsored by councilmember Justin Brannan,
5 authorizes an article 11 tax exempt exemption for 12
6 buildings with a total of 251 residential units in
7 South Williamsburg. And lastly, a transparency
8 resolution approving new designations and changes of
9 certain organizations receiving funding in the
10 expense budget.

11 We will be voting on the following Land Use
12 items: The SCA site selection of a 252-seat early
13 childhood center in Councilmember Hanks district, 78-
14 18 164th Street rezoning, an application that will
15 bring an existing nonconforming medical laboratory
16 into conformance with the zoning. The Council will
17 modify the boundary of the proposed C2-3 overlay by
18 limiting it to the 164th street frontage in
19 Councilmember Gennaro's district.

20 Innovative Urban Village will facilitate the
21 development of 11 new mixed-use buildings with 1975
22 affordable residential units, ground floor commercial
23 area, a performing arts center, residential and
24 public parking, and open space surrounding the
25

2 existing Christian Cultural Center house of worship
3 in Councilmember Barron's district.

4 Innovation QNS application to facilitate
5 development of a large scale mixed use development
6 with over 3100 housing units and 13 buildings,
7 ranging in height from 8 to 27 stories, and over two
8 acres of publicly accessible open space in
9 Councilmember Won's district in Astoria, Queens. As
10 negotiated by the council, the project will be
11 comprised of approximately 45% affordable units, as
12 the applicant and administration have agreed to
13 incorporate the development of HPD-Financed
14 affordable housing buildings and CITYFEPS vouchers in
15 addition to the requirements of MIH Option 1. The
16 updated project includes significant changes that
17 deliver major housing and community benefits for
18 residents of the area. It doubles the initial
19 commitment of affordable units from 700 to 11
20 units... to one... from 711 units to 1436 affordable
21 units. It increases deeply-affordable housing at an
22 unprecedented scale in the neighborhood, providing
23 825 deeply-affordable apartments for extremely or
24 very-low-income households, dedicates affordable
25 housing units for the formerly unhoused, and sets

2 aside units that were previously market rate for
3 extremely-low-income people with CITYFEPS... CITYFEPS
4 rental vouchers, and finally it secures community
5 benefits that include a \$2 million commitment towards
6 legal services to protect neighboring tenants from
7 housing displacement, discrimination, and harassment.

8 This project was a major priority for me and this
9 city to get... and the city to get done in the right
10 way and I'm very proud for how it advanced.

11 Finally, we will vote on the following pieces of
12 legislation: First Introduction 525 B, sponsored by
13 councilmember Gale Brewer, which would require that
14 any secondhand dealer purchasing... purchasing a used
15 catalytic converter must first obtain information
16 from the seller about the vehicle that catalytic
17 converter was removed from, which demonstrates that
18 the seller either owns the vehicle or was authorized
19 to remove the catalytic converter in connection with
20 a repair. In addition, the purchaser would be
21 required to determine if the catalytic converter
22 presented is consistent with the identified vehicle.
23 The purchaser would be required to hold records of
24 all of this information for at least six years and
25 make them available to law enforcement in real time.

2 Thank you to our staff, Richard Cordero and
3 Joshua Kingsley.

4 Next introduction 610 A, sponsored by
5 Councilmember Eric Bottcher, would require the
6 Department of Education to distribute information to
7 students annually regarding suicide prevention,
8 including information about the new national 988
9 suicide and crisis lifeline number, suicide warning
10 signs and risk factors, and other suicide prevention
11 resources. We think our staff, Sumita Desmukh, Sara
12 List, Malcolm Butehorn, Nadia Jean-Francois.

13 Next introduction 609 A, sponsored by Deputy
14 Speaker Diana Ayala would require the Department of
15 Health and Mental Hygiene to establish a year-long
16 pilot program to offer financial incentives for the
17 return of used needles, syringes, and sharps at
18 locations in the five council districts with the
19 highest need. The program would only be open to
20 individuals who use needles, syringes, or sharps for
21 non-medical reasons.

22 Lastly, introduction 404 A sponsor Environmental
23 Health, Disabilities, and Addiction Committee chair,
24 Councilmember Linda Lee would require DOHMH or
25 another agency designated by the Mayor to report on

2 funds allocated to the city through the opioid
3 settlement sharing agreement with the state, or any
4 agreement with an opioid supply chain participant.

5 That report must be made within 30 days of the
6 release of each city financial plan or update, and
7 would disclose the total amount of opioid funds,
8 where the funds are being sent, the number of New
9 Yorkers benefiting from the funds, and anticipated
10 appropriation of the funds broken down by fiscal
11 year. We thank our staff once again, Shamita
12 Deshmukh, Sarah Lists, Sarah Sucar, Christy Dwyer.

13 I also want to say welcome back to Councilmember
14 Julie Menin. Glad to see you when you in good
15 health. Welcome back Councilmember.

16 [APPLAUSE]

17 And I would like to greet the mother of our
18 General Counsel, Jeffrey Compagna, if she is here
19 today. I'm told that your mom is somewhere, Jeff.
20 So welcome to Jeff's mom today, if she's here.

21 [APPLAUSE]

22 Thank you for your attention. Now I'd like to
23 turn it back into the hands of our majority leader.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. And welcome
3 to Jeff's mom. He does a great job up here. I just
4 want to let you know that.

5 Thank you, Speaker Adams. We will now move to
6 discussions of general orders. We're going to start
7 with Councilmember Won.

8 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Thank you so much Majority
9 Leader. From day one, I stood with my community in
10 demanding deeper affordability from Innovation QNS.
11 When developers first certified this project, it was
12 majority luxury development that offered the minimum
13 25% affordability on private land. But because we
14 held the line, the Innovation QNS project has now
15 doubled the affordable units from 711 to 1436
16 affordable units, as well as doubling the number of
17 family-sized units that are affordable from 284 to
18 554.

19 In our negotiations, I never compromised on the
20 level of affordability at MIH Option 1, as well as
21 prioritizing low-income units and extremely-low-
22 income units for formerly homeless, as these homes
23 have to be accessible to the current residents of my
24 neighborhood, immigrants, working class families, and
25 our growing number of unhoused neighbors. As a

2 result, we have secured a project with unprecedented
3 private investment that will deliver 1436 permanent
4 affordable homes, including 658 deeply affordable
5 units for formerly homeless and extremely-low-income
6 New Yorkers. And within that, we also have 142
7 supportive housing units, 157 rental voucher units
8 specifically for those currently in our shelter
9 system.

10 Right now my very neighborhood, I have 6600
11 homeless people, and we know how important it is
12 during this homeless crisis where we have more than
13 56,000 homeless New Yorkers, to make sure that we are
14 building for them. We will no longer in my district
15 allow luxury development to outpace the development
16 of affordable units.

17 I am proud to have negotiated other immense gains
18 for our community, including \$2 million for anti-
19 harassment and anti-displacement legal fund to make
20 sure that those who are in fear of displacement are
21 protected. And we have also made sure that we
22 converted 600 parking spaces do affordable housing.
23 And we also have assistance for current residents and
24 businesses for the relocation, multilingual

2 applications for assistance for affordable housing,
3 and much more.

4 So I thank all of our community members were
5 organizing, advocating, as well as our council
6 members for holding the line with me and the Speaker
7 and the Mayor for allowing us to get to where we are
8 today, because we would not have accomplished what
9 many have said is impossible on private land without
10 all of you thank you so much.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

12 Congratulations, Councilman Won. We now go to
13 Councilmember Brewer.

14 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

15 Intro 525. The speaker mentioned the catalytic
16 converters, and according to the police and others,
17 the theft of these converters, depending on who you
18 ask, there are other statistics, is up 221% year-to-
19 date, or even 269%, somewhere between almost 5600 to
20 over 7000 citywide. In Manhattan is up 199%. In
21 Staten Island -- I don't know what's with Staten
22 Island -- 670%.

23 So it's not just an economic problem, because it
24 takes just two minutes to take out the converter.
25 I've never done it... done it, but two minutes is

2 really quickly. They the thieves resell the metals
3 found inside the device to chop shops or on the black
4 market. I don't like that term. But that's what is
5 sometimes called. Replacing that part can run a
6 crime victim anywhere from \$2000 to \$,000 for his or
7 herself. So it's not just an economic problem,
8 because you also have to call your insurance company,
9 you've got to find an auto repair shop, and you have
10 to get the converter replaced. And then the other
11 problem that the Speaker has had in her district and
12 I've had in my district is for whatever reason, the
13 trucks that bring seniors and others food on a
14 regular basis -- all these great nonprofit
15 organizations that have worked so hard to get
16 vehicles -- guess what: They get their catalytic
17 converter theft experienced often. That means no
18 food delivery for those seniors. And I've heard from
19 many who've had this problem.

20 So this bill will make it harder for thieves to
21 resell stolen converters. It requires sellers of the
22 catalytic converters to provide a vehicle ID number
23 and a copy of the certificate of title. Sellers and
24 buyers who fail to comply will be subject to fines.
25 And in addition, any violation may be grounds for the

2 suspension or revocation of a license for that
3 business. The new requirements will destabilize, we
4 hope, the activities of chop shops. Multiple local
5 police precincts are also ramping up awareness. I've
6 seen their fliers and I appreciate it.

7 And just finally, we know the governor signed
8 legislation which complements this in terms of
9 figuring out how they can do some records and
10 figuring out where they can have some...

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.

12 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: ...unique serial numbers.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Councilmember
15 Brewer. We'll now go to Councilmember Barron.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much,
17 Colleagues. I want to thank you for the support of
18 the Urban Village Project in my community. It's 100%
19 affordable, 60% for the very low, and 40% affordable,
20 as we define affordability for the income levels in
21 our community. However, honesty constraints me to
22 say, and maybe the Councilmember couldn't say it
23 herself, but let's Councilmember Won went through
24 none of you...

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please don't refer to
3 the other Councilmember. You can speak about the
4 topic but don't make alle... things against another
5 Councilmember.

6 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: But the Councilmember that
7 spoke before me said that she went through a lot.
8 Well before... the Councilmember before that
9 Councilmember. In any event, the Councilmember on
10 the Queen's Project went through a lot.

11 You are going to go through the same thing when
12 you try to reach for affordability. That was only
13 55% she was talking about. But when it came to the
14 local... the subcommittee, she asked for more time,
15 because she needed more time. The Speaker said no,
16 and she had to go forthe, and she didn't even show up
17 to the... she didn't even show up to the meeting
18 because she needed more time to negotiate it. But
19 whether you like it or not, whether I get in trouble
20 or not, The Queens Borough President: Pro real
21 estate. The speaker of this...

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please don't make
23 allegations to other a councilmember...

24 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Well first of all...

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: If you can speak about
3 the topic...

4 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: First of all, I didn't
5 mention...

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: But that's against the
7 rules of the City Council.

8 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: I didn't mention any
9 names. They are pro real estate people in this city,
10 the Speaker, the Mayor, and the Borough President of
11 Queens. She went under a lot of pressure and went
12 from 55% to 45%. And that is below... and they'll
13 tell you when you go for your projects, "We paid too
14 much for the land. It won't be economically
15 feasible. This is not an affordable project. We
16 made we've made a record. We usually get 25%...
17 30%." So I'll be voting no for this project on
18 principle, but y'all beware: You could be next.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We'll now go to
20 Councilmember Lee followed by Councilmember Hanks.

21 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Good afternoon Madam
22 Speaker, Majority Leader, my fellow Councilmembers.
23 As Chair of the Committee on Mental Health,
24 Disabilities and Addictions, it brings me great pride

2 to introduce my first bill, Intro 404, which we'll be
3 voting on today.

4 Across our country families are experiencing the
5 devastating effects on the ongoing opioid overdose
6 epidemic. In New York, the latest data shows that
7 one New Yorker dies of an opioid overdose every three
8 hours -- so let that sink in: every three hours --
9 with more New Yorkers dying of drug overdoses than
10 homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes
11 combined. Opioids are involved in more than 88% of
12 all overdose deaths, and the manufacturers of these
13 deadly opioids profited at the expenses of families
14 here in New York City.

15 Intro 404 will require DOHMH to track and report
16 on the funds secured for New York City by New York
17 State Attorney General Letitia James, from
18 settlements with opioid manufacturers and
19 distributors. Reporting will include a running total
20 of the funds, where and how they're being spent, and
21 the timeline of when this crucial funding for our
22 city will be depleted. While no amount of money
23 could ever bring back those we have lost, or repair
24 the damage to lives that were affected, our city
25 deserves clarity and transparency on how this vital

2 funding will be spent so that we can understand the
3 reasons for drug use and misuse, prevent addiction,
4 and create measures that incorporate preventative
5 care and resources.

6 I encourage my colleagues to support Intro 404
7 And I want to thank my staff and especially Council
8 Committee Staff, specifically Sarah Suture, Christie
9 Dwyer, and Sara List, my colleagues on the Committee
10 on Mental Health, Disabilities, and Addictions and
11 the leadership of Speaker Adrienne Adams for helping
12 me bring this important legislation to the floor.
13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. And now
15 we'll hear from Councilmember Hanks.

16 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Thank you Madam Speaker
17 Adams, Majority Leader Powers.

18 Today I wanted to express my support for the land
19 use item concerning the new 252-seat early childhood
20 center facility proposed by the New York City School
21 Construction Authority. As our populations keep
22 growing and changing, we are seeing an increased need
23 for children of all ages to have a safe, reliable,
24 and high quality options as they enter the
25 educational system. I look forward to having this

2 land use item pass and ensuring that the children in
3 my district have an advanced, well-rounded space in
4 which to begin their educational journeys for
5 generations to come. Thank you so much and join me
6 in supporting this item.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Do we have
8 any other members signed up to speak at this time?

9 Okay, we'll move on to the report of special
10 committees?

11 CLERK: None.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of standing
13 committees.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on consumer and
15 worker protection, Intro 525 B, catalytic converters.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Education,
19 Intro 610 A, suicide and crisis lifeline.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, Intro
23 789, Business Improvement Districts.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 CLERK: Pre-reconsidered Reso 380 A, transparency
3 resolution.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

5 CLERK: Pre-considered LU 147, Reso 398.
6 Property tax exemption.

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

8 CLERK: Report... Report of the Committee on Land
9 Use, LU 126 through LU 134, on page 8, Innovation
10 QNS.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and
12 refer to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
13 Section 197 of the New York City Charter.

14 CLERK: Excuse me. LU135 through LU 138, Livonia
15 4.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approval with modifications and
17 refer to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
18 Section 197 of the New York City Charter.

19 CLERK: LU 139 and Reso 399, and LU 140 and Reso
20 400, at 1571 McDonald Avenue rezoning.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled to be filed pursuant to
22 letter of withdrawal.

23 CLERK: LU 141 and Reso 401, and LU 142 and Reso
24 402, Innovative Urban Village.

25 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 CLERK: LUs 143 and 144, 280 Bergen Street
3 rezoning.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and
5 refer to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
6 Section 197 of the New York City charter.

7 CLERK: LU 145 and Reso 403, and LU 146 and Reso
8 404, Innovative Urban Village.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

10 CLERK: Pre-considered LU 148, and Reso 405, a
11 252-seat early childhood center.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental Health,
14 Disabilities, and Addiction, intro 404 A, opioid
15 settlement sharing agreement.

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General
17 Orders.

18 CLERK: Intro 609 A, needle syringe buyback
19 program.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and coupled on General
21 Orders.

22 CLERK: Under general orders calendar, LU 116
23 and Reso 356 A, 79-18 164th Street rezoning.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 CLERK: LU 126 and Reso 406 through LU 134 and
3 row 414 on page 16, Innovation QNS rezoning.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders. I now
5 ask the Clerk take a roll call vote on all of the
6 items coupled on today's general orders calendar.

7 CLERK: Abreu?

8 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: Permission to explain my
9 vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCILMEMBER ABREU: We are living in a dire
12 housing crisis in this city. We are seeing it
13 everywhere from... from Queens to Uptown Manhattan.
14 And I just wanted to say that today is a very... is a
15 proud vote of and Aye. And the reason being is we
16 took a stand for... for housing and true
17 affordability. We made tough decisions. We came
18 together at the table. We stayed at the table to
19 make sure that we negotiate in good faith to build
20 affordable housing. So I want to thank my
21 colleagues. But I especially want to thank our
22 Speaker Adrienne Adams. To think that there have
23 been 40 ULURP applications and over 12,000 units so
24 far this year is a big deal. And we're going to
25 continue this legacy because we're going to be the

2 council that supports affordable housing everywhere
3 in the city. Thank you. I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Thank you Councilmember. Ariola?

5 COUNCILMEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all except for
6 Intro 609 A, for which I am a no.

7 CLERK: Avilés?

8 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: Uh, permission to explain
9 my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCILMEMBER AVILÉS: First, I'd like to
12 congratulate Councilmember Baron on another 100%
13 affordable project. Given the crisis of the city, we
14 should be absolutely expecting every project that
15 comes through to set aside units for homeless New
16 Yorkers, for extremely-low-income New Yorkers. And
17 so while I congratulate the efforts of my colleague
18 Julie Won in Queens, and heroic... heroic efforts, we
19 as a city should never be developing projects below
20 at least 60% affordability given that it is the
21 number one crisis in New York City.

22 With that, I vote Aye on all projects. And while
23 I commend the efforts that are being made, it is
24 still a crisis, and we need to be braver and bolder
25 in building affordable units... in building low

2 income housing, excuse me. Thank you. I vote aye on
3 all.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Ayala?

5 COUNCILMEMBER AYALA: I vote Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Barron?

7 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: May explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead. First of all,
9 I want to commend Councilmember Won -- since we can't
10 mention names, not when it's not me mentioning them.
11 I want to commend you for your efforts. And I want
12 to criticize the Mayor, I want to criticize the
13 Speaker, and I want criticize the Borough President
14 of Queens for putting that kind of pressure on you.
15 Secondly, I want to vote no on the tax exemption...
16 exemption for LU 147 Reso 398. It's 244 units,
17 270... 207 of those units are 95 to 115% of the AMI,
18 and only 37% of those units are at 60% of the AMI.

19 So I want to vote no for that, and no for all of
20 the Innovative QNS rezoning LUs and Resos...
21 Accompanying Resos. And on the question of DUMBO,
22 being... the BID getting more money, there was some
23 criticism of it in the finance meeting, because they
24 don't... they're not transparent. And they haven't
25 put neighborhood residents on the board that are

2 truly neighborhood residents. Some people on board
3 our real estate neighborhood residents, so I voted
4 yes in finance, but I want to change that to a no
5 vote until they put the right residents on the board,
6 until they engage in transparency. So that's a no
7 vote, as well. And I want to... for transparency say
8 that my son works for a Brick Brooklyn Media Arts.
9 Aye on all of us. And I want to commend once again
10 for the 100% affordability for CCC, and all of the
11 negotiators, my staff. I want to give them credit
12 over the years, and the former Councilmember Ines
13 Barron. It started with her, and ended 100%
14 affordability with us. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Just before
16 we call the next bullet, I just want to remind
17 members, we do have rules about decorum here in the
18 chamber, and how you talk to your colleagues, and how
19 you talk about issues and you talk about things we're
20 working on. I'd ask members to look at those rules
21 again and remind themselves of it before you come to
22 a stated meeting. Thank you.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Councilmember Ossé?

24 COUNCILMEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all.

25 CLERK: Thank you Councilmember. Bottcher?

2 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: Permission to explain my
3 vote?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

5 COUNCILMEMBER BOTTCHER: I want to also commend
6 Councilmember Won on this project that will create
7 homes for thousands and thousands of people who are
8 currently living in the homeless shelter system, and
9 will create lots of housing that will help relieve
10 some of the pressure out there, that will help bring
11 down rents and all of our districts. I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Brannan?

13 COUNCILMEMBER BRANNAN: Congrats to Julie. Aye.

14 CLERK: Brewer?

15

16 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: I want to thank everyone
17 who has... from the staff and from the Speaker's
18 office who has been working on the catalytic
19 converters. I want to thank one of the BIDs, the
20 125th Street BID. Barbara Askins does a great job
21 with monumental challenges, and I think this extra
22 funding will help. And then, finally, I too want to
23 thank Julie Won. I know what it's like to do maybe
24 200 ULURPs when I was Borough President, and they're
25 all difficult, but this one was particularly

2 difficult and you did a great job, along with the
3 speaker staff. Thank you very much.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Brooks-Powers.

5 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: First, I'd like to
6 disclose that I'm a member of the Grand Island AME
7 Cathedral of New York. We are voting on a
8 transparency resolution for one of our community
9 programs. Next I'd like to explain my vote, Majority
10 Leader?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCILMEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Okay. I'd like to
13 ask everyone to lift up in prayer my community, as we
14 suffered a tremendous loss recently with a triple
15 homicide in the Springfield Gardens community, where
16 we lost Patrice Johnson, Hyacinth Brown-Johnson, and
17 Latoya Gordon. This was a very quiet, quaint
18 community block. And I just really ask that we
19 continue to keep the community lifted in prayer
20 during this time.

21 I also want to thank my colleagues for their work
22 on today's slate of bills, including Councilmember
23 Eric Bottcher for his work on Intro 610, to ensure
24 students have access to crucial resources in times of
25 crisis. I deeply admire Councilmember Bottcher's

2 advocacy on these issues. He has been open and
3 courageous when discussing his own experiences with
4 mental health and he's a strong advocate for the
5 LGBTQ community.

6 Young people who are a part of the LGBTQ
7 community are more likely to attempt suicide or
8 experienced mental health conditions. So I'm proud
9 to be a co-sponsor of this important piece of
10 legislation, which is Intro 610, and I believe we
11 need to do everything we can to help students get the
12 help and support they need. So again, I'm grateful
13 to Councilmember Bottcher for his work around this.
14 And with that, I vote aye on all

15 CLERK: Thank you. Cabán?

16 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Carr?

18 COUNCILMEMBER CARR: I'd like to disclose on the
19 record that my spouse is a student at CUNY, and we
20 are funding CUNY in this transparency resolution.
21 And with that I vote no on Intro 609 A, and aye on
22 the rest. Thank you and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

23 CLERK: Thank you. De La Rosa?

24 COUNCILMEMBER DE LA ROSA: I'd like to disclose
25 on the record that my daughter is a student in a New

2 York City public school that is listed on the
3 transparency Reso today, and I vote Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Dinowitz?

5 COUNCILMEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Farias?

7 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: I'd like to disclose for
8 the record that my sibling attends in New York City
9 public school, MS 127, and my mother works at NYU
10 Langone, for this transparency Reso. And I vote aye
11 on all. Congrats, Councilmember Won. It's hard to
12 build on private lands in the way that you did for
13 your community.

14 CLERK: Thank you. Feliz?

15 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: Permission to explain my
16 vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCILMEMBER FELIZ: I vote Aye on all, and I
19 want to congratulate Councilmember Julie Won. The
20 affordable housing crisis and the homeless crisis
21 affecting our city is well-documented. We resolve
22 that crisis by building affordable housing, and we
23 cannot allow anyone to make any excuses on the issue.
24 We need to build affordable housing.
25 Congratulations, Councilmember Julie Won, on that

2 well-negotiated agreement, which includes lots of
3 deep-affordable housing. It's a great agreement, not
4 only for your district, but it's a great agreement
5 for the rest of our city. So congratulations. Aye
6 on all. Thank you.

7 CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro.

8 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

9 CLERK: Gutiérrez?

10 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

11 CLERK: Hanif?

12 COUNCILMEMBER HANIF: Aye. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Hanks?

14 COUNCILMEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Holden?

16 COUNCILMEMBER HOLDEN: I would like to disclose
17 on the record that my son is an adjunct lecturer at
18 CUNY, and we're voting on the transparency Reso
19 today, and I'd like to vote Aye on all, except for
20 Intro 609 A, of which I vote no. Thank you.

21 CLERK: Thank you, Councilmember. Hudson?

22 COUNCILMEMBER HUDSON: I'd like to disclose on
23 the record that my domestic partner is employed by
24 Planned Parenthood, which we're funding in the
25 transparency resolution. I am Aye on all. And I

2 also want to add that earlier this year, I approved a
3 project, private... private land, private developers
4 with an unprecedented 35% deeply affordable housing.
5 Councilmember Won: You took the bar, you raised it,
6 you ran with it, and I am hopeful that this council
7 will continue to raise the bar and that we will get
8 closer and closer to even higher levels of deeply
9 affordability. Thank you. Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Thank you. Councilmember Barron?

11 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Yeah. I just want to
12 change that DUMBO vote, because I did get a
13 commitment from the Chair of Finance to send a letter
14 to them to deal with transparency and neighborhood
15 residents on the board. So I change that No to an
16 Aye.

17 CLERK: So Councilmember, you are speaking of
18 Introduction 789, to two BIDs?

19 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Yes.

20 CLERK: Yes. Thank you. You got it.
21 Councilmember Joseph?

22 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Permission to explain my
23 vote?

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

2 COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH: Congratulations,
3 Councilmember Won. Also, I'd like to disclose that
4 my son is a student at... in the DOE system that
5 we're voting on today.

6 I got a firsthand glimpse at the mental health is
7 facing our city's children, and how hard the past
8 couple of years has been on them. The isolation
9 caused by COVID 19 hit us all in real ways, but in
10 particularly affected our young people. In the last
11 year alone, more than 11% of New York State youths
12 had experienced at least one major depressive
13 episode. And of these young people, only 41% of them
14 receive mental health services. That means 85,000
15 students residing this city didn't receive any help
16 for their mental health needs. As a result of that
17 failure. Hundreds of our young people took their own
18 lives. Every single one of these deaths could have
19 been prevented. It is our job as elected leaders to
20 bring suicide as close to zero as we can. The
21 problem is that while there is help available many
22 are unaware because they have not been informed of
23 that fact. As the chair of the Council and Education
24 Committee, I'm so proud to have passed this bill
25 along with Eric Bottcher, to inform students about

2 suicide prevention and warning signs as well as how
3 to reach 988, The National Suicide Prevention,
4 lifeline, and other resources.

5 Informing our students about suicides, giving
6 them the help they need, and how we prevent needless
7 death, and how we can improve the future city mental
8 well-being. This bill is about knowledge as... as we
9 all know, knowledge is power. Thanks to
10 Councilmember Eric Bottcher for being the driving
11 force behind this bill, as well as my fellow prime
12 co-sponsor, Linda Lee, for hard work to make this
13 bill pass a reality. And thank you... And thank you,
14 Speaker.

15 Thanks as well to the mental health providers and
16 advocates who helped get this bill over the finish
17 line. These leaders can be frequently overlooked,
18 but their dedication and commitment is how the work
19 really gets done on the ground. I vote Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Thank you. Kagan?

21 COUNCILMEMBER KAGAN: I would like to disclose
22 with my daughter as a CUNY student and we are voting
23 today for transparency resolution that includes CUNY
24 funding. I'm voting yes on all.

25 CLERK: Thank you. Krishnan?

2 COUNCILMEMBER KRISHNAN: I just want to disclose
3 on the record that my son has a child was in the DOE
4 system. And I vote Aye on all. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Thank you. Lee?

6 COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I would also like to disclose
7 that my child as a student in the DOE system. And I
8 vote Aye on all. And congratulations, Councilmember
9 Won for a hard-fought battle. And congratulations to
10 my colleagues on all the bills being passed. And I'm
11 excited to pass two bills in particular that will
12 address the mental health and opioid crisis. So
13 thank you.

14 CLERK: Louis?

15 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Permission to explain my
16 vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority Leader
19 and Speaker. First I want to commend all bill
20 sponsors on... on the vote today. I want to
21 personally commend Councilmember Won on your efforts
22 to stand with your community. I know this process
23 wasn't easy for you. But I want to commend you for
24 standing with your community. I want to congratulate
25 and thank former Councilmember Inez Barron,

2 Councilmember Barron himself, for your support and
3 leadership on the East New York Innovative Urban
4 Village Project. And I want to thank Senior Pastor
5 A.R. Bernard from CCC for staying the course, and for
6 allowing God to lead and ensure this project became
7 the reality that he envisioned. It took six years,
8 sleepless nights, much diligence, and many
9 contentious fights and hard work to get to this point
10 where East New York Innovative Village is now a
11 reality, resulting in partnerships, and it equates to
12 shared values that strikes the right balance for the
13 community to receive both affordability and
14 feasibility so that they can continue to thrive.

15 Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't use this
16 moment to share my disdain regarding a major human
17 rights issue facing Haitian descendants in the
18 Dominican Republic. And if I could get an
19 opportunity later like to share more, thank you. I
20 vote aye on all.

21 CLERK: Thank you, Councilmember. Marte?

22 COUNCILMEMBER MARTE: I vote Aye.

23 CLERK: Mealy?

24 COUNCILMEMBER MEALY: I vote Aye.

25 CLERK: Menin?

2 COUNCILMEMBER MENIN: I vote Aye.

3 CLERK: Moya?

4 COUNCILMEMBER MOYA: I vote Aye.

5 CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

6 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: A second to explain my
7 vote please?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

9 COUNCILMEMBER NARCISSE: I want to say thank you
10 and congratulate to Councilmember Won for, you know,
11 fighting through this, and ask for the support.
12 While we have private lands and city lands, so not
13 every time we're going to have project 100% of what
14 we want. But you showed the leadership and I want to
15 say thank you to you.

16 And Eric, I am so proud of you for Intro 610.
17 It's a needed Introduction for the time that we're
18 going through. There's so much mental health and
19 suicide around us. And I want to say thank you to
20 Madam Speaker for being the leader that you are in a
21 time that is very difficult, and there's tests...
22 that we're under a lot of tests all the time, but for
23 your strength for standing and pushing us through and
24 helping us and holding our hands to some matter.

2 So I want to say thank you. And let's continue.
3 There is a need. There is a crisis in our city for
4 housing, but being the person that you are, I want to
5 say thank you. And for my colleague, Charles, that
6 has been fighting for East New York. So I want to
7 say thank you for that. And I'm hoping that I have
8 public land... city land on my part so I can have
9 100% like you, so thank you.

10 I vote Aye. Sorry.

11 CLERK: Thank you. Nurse? Palladino? Restler?

12 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: I vote aye on all. And
13 just want to congratulate Councilmembers Won and
14 Barron, and the DUMBO BID, who do a really great job
15 in our community. So I'm really pleased that we were
16 able to increase their assessment. Thank you.

17 CLERK: Thank you. Richardson Jordan?

18 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Permission to
19 explain my vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

21 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I just want to
22 say again, and I've said it before how profoundly
23 undemocratic the Land Use process is. And while I do
24 think there's... I feel there's something inherently
25 imperialist about weighing in on other people's

2 communities, I do want to just urge my colleagues to
3 work towards community standards with your community
4 in a democratic way, and then stick to them as we
5 have done in... in district nine. I also want to
6 congratulate the 125th Street BID, and Aye on all.
7 Thank you.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

9 COUNCILMEMBER RILEY: I just want to disclose for
10 the record that both my daughters are students in the
11 DOE, and I vote Aye on all. Thank you.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Rivera?

13 COUNCILMEMBER RIVERA: I vote Aye.

14 CLERK: Thank you. Salamanca? Sanchez?

15 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to explain my
16 vote?

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

18 COUNCILMEMBER SANCHEZ: First, I'd like to
19 disclose on the record that my brother is... works at
20 Community MCC. And then I've also want to extend a
21 deep congratulations to Councilmember Won for a hard-
22 fought negotiation.

23 And I just want to make a statement for Progeny,
24 I suppose. But we elected a majority female council
25 of powerful women. And I just want to make sure that

2 we... in these conversations, and as we congratulate
3 Councilmember Won, we also continue to stand by
4 strong women, not just because we're strong women,
5 but when we... our values are aligned, and we're
6 fighting for things that we believe for, and we... we
7 share beliefs, deeper affordability, a better New
8 York, that we stand by each other. So with that, I
9 vote Aye on all, and congratulations to my
10 colleagues.

11 CLERK: Thank you. Schulman?

12 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to explain my
13 vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

15 COUNCILMEMBER SCHULMAN: I actually wasn't going
16 to say anything, but I am now. So, one, I want to
17 congratulate my colleague, Councilmember Julie Won,
18 and I want to say as somebody who was a member of the
19 Zoning and Franchise Subcommittee, got my own
20 pressures in terms of how to vote on this. And I...
21 every time that I got asked the question, I said,
22 "It's up to the member to negotiate this out." And I
23 wasn't going to say anything until that happened.
24 And I was in direct contact with her, which is the
25 way it should be. This is... We should keep in

2 mind, this is private property. This isn't city
3 property. She did the best that she could do. And
4 not only that, she got more than probably anybody
5 else would have. So I want to congratulate her. And
6 I also want to say that this... without the Speaker's
7 leadership, this wouldn't have happened either. So I
8 wanted to say that. And with that, I say Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Thank you. Stevens?

10 COUNCILMEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ung? Velázquez?

12 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Permission to explain
13 my vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

15 COUNCILMEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: I'd like to disclose my
16 brother is a board member of Samaritans New York, my
17 husband is a Deputy Commissioner of DEP. With that
18 being said, I want to thank Councilmembers Bottcher
19 and Joseph for 610 A. It is deeply, deeply personal
20 for me and my family. And thank you. Thank you for
21 that. I also want to give a shout out to my girl,
22 Councilmember Won. It wasn't easy. Trust me. I've
23 been in those shoes very, very, very publicly. And
24 at the end of the day, you did what was right. And
25 you stuck to your guns. And I'm always here to keep

2 on supporting not only yourself, but other
3 Councilmembers who are here to actually build within
4 the community and move each other forward. So thank
5 you so much for that.

6 Lastly, I'd like to vote aye on all with the
7 exception of 609 A which I abstain.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Councilmember Barron?

9 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Yes. Just for a point of
10 clarification: To my colleague, my project is not
11 city-owned land. It is not city-owned land. It's
12 privately owned. Many of my projects are privately
13 owned. So I think we need to get clear when you say
14 things to make it appear as though, unless it's city
15 on land, you can't get affordability. We've gotten
16 100% affordability on privately-owned land. This is
17 not city-owned land.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Vernikov?

19 COUNCILMEMBER VERNIKOV: I vote aye on all except
20 no on 609 A. Thank you.

21 CLERK: Thank you. Williams?

22 COUNCILMEMBER WILLIAMS: I'd just like to
23 disclose for the record that I'm a CUNY student
24 receiving fellowship support, and I vote Aye on all.
25 Congrats Councilmember Won

2 CLERK: Thank you. Won?

3 COUNCILMEMBER WON: Permission to explain my
4 vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

6 I just want to show my extreme thanks and
7 gratitude to all of my colleagues, and the Speaker,
8 and the Mayor. And, you know, the negotiations... I
9 always knew that it was going to be a compromise.
10 And we got to a level, of course, I want more for my
11 community. And I will continue to fight for more and
12 all of my battles for land use, but I just wanted to
13 say thank you to everyone holding the line with me
14 and just showing so much support today, because it is
15 not easy when your community is disappointed and sad,
16 but we know that we're doing the best that we can in
17 the circumstances that we're in, during an affordable
18 housing crisis. Thank you. Sorry. Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Yeger?

20 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: May I be excused to explain
21 my vote.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

23 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: I'll just be very brief.
24 Thank you very much. As you can imagine, I'll be
25 voting No on Introduction 789. I just want to

2 briefly point out one of these BIDs, the... the total
3 assessment is going up by 100%. The other one, it is
4 going up by 36%. They are called BID assessments.
5 They are tax increases. There's no question about
6 it. And we ought to at least say so. So I'm here to
7 say so. I vote aye on all with the exception of
8 Introduction 609 and Introduction 789. Thank you
9 very much.

10 CLERK: Thank you, Councilmember. Borelli?

11 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: Permission to briefly
12 explain my vote.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Briefly permitted.

14 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: And thank you, Majority
15 Leader, for reminding us of the rules today.
16 You've... We shouldn't call each other by name. But
17 perhaps Karen would be an appropriate name. I'm
18 kidding with you. I'm kidding. I'm kidding. That
19 was my joke. That was my joke.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Permission taken away.

21 [laughs]

22 COUNCILMEMBER BORELLI: But what I'm not joking
23 about is something that we've all sort of hinted
24 around -- those of us who explain their votes and
25 discussed the rezoning -- and that's the concept of

2 member deference. And it's sometimes a dirty word.
3 It's sometimes a word that people like to fight
4 about, and argue about, whether we should have it or
5 not. I just want to remind everyone in this room
6 that each of you are the only real elected
7 representatives at the municipal level of what would
8 be the 150th largest city in the United States of
9 America, all of you represent about 172,000 people
10 now. And unlike the 149th city and up, you are the
11 only person that represents them on a municipal
12 level.

13 And I always use the comparison with one of my
14 favorite places: Savannah, Georgia. In Savannah,
15 you elect a mayor, two Councilmembers at large, a
16 district Councilmember, and a legislature... a
17 legislator for Chatham County. All of those people
18 represent the people of the city of Savannah, smaller
19 than your district. And you are expected to have the
20 power of all of those people. So whether you like it
21 or not, and whether your constituents like it or not,
22 you're their only voice.

23 So don't be quick to cast aside the idea that we
24 should be supportive of our colleagues, no matter
25 what their vision, no matter what their goals, they

2 should be the one in my opinion, who should have the
3 final say on what gets built in what would be the
4 150th largest city in America.

5 With that, I vote Aye at all, except Intro 609.
6 Thank you.

7 CLERK: Thank you. Powers?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Councilmember
9 Borelli. Always enlightening when you get up and
10 share your thoughts with us. I'm voting Aye. I want
11 to say very big congratulations to Councilmember Won
12 for staying at the table and driving a very... a
13 very, very good deal for not only constituents in
14 Queens, but also for people citywide, and people that
15 don't even live here yet who are going to have the
16 opportunity to live in a great neighborhood and live
17 in a great place to live. So I think it really shows
18 a lot of... a lot of strength here to be able to cut
19 a deal that I think will be transformative, and I
20 think on its own represents almost more housing than
21 we will have approved this year before now. So I
22 think we have now doubled that.

23 And I of course want to thank the Speaker and all
24 the staff for support this quest to try to create a
25 more affordable city, and create not only the housing

2 supply we need but also to empower members to get to
3 the table and stay there, and like Councilmember Won
4 has shown, drive a deal that will be generous to
5 everyone that is here and everyone that is coming
6 next, and to create a city that we all deserve. So
7 with that, I vote Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Speaker Adams?

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's
11 general order calendar are adopted by a vote of 47 in
12 the affirmative, zero negative, and zero abstentions
13 with the exception of introduction 609 A which is
14 adopted by a vote of 40 in the affirmative, 6 in the
15 negative, and 1 abstention, and Land Use Item 147 and
16 Resolution 398, adopted by a vote of 46 in the
17 affirmative, 1 negative, and 0 abstentions. Land Use
18 Items 126 through 134, and accompanying resolutions
19 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 1
20 negative, and 0 abstentions, and introduction 789
21 adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative, 1
22 negative and 0 abstentions.

23 We will now move to the introduction and reading
24 of bills.

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been for two
3 committees as indicated on today's agenda.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. There are no
5 Resolutions on today's calendar. So we'll move into
6 general discussion. And we will first call on
7 Councilmember Gennaro followed by Councilmember
8 Barron.

9 COUNCILMEMBER GENNARO: Thank you, Mr. Leader. I
10 just want to point out to my colleagues that today is
11 the 59th anniversary of the assassination of John F.
12 Kennedy. He doesn't get a lot of attention these
13 days, but he should certainly be remembered. And
14 it's very hard to paint a picture of those who don't
15 remember that day. But it was a day of sorrow that I
16 can't describe. Gale is raising her hands. I know
17 she remembers, and I'm sure some people remember.
18 But we were let out of school early that day. You
19 know, in Catholic school, the nuns were going nuts.
20 It was a very sad, tragic day and, and I always
21 depended upon my dad, you know, the World War Two
22 Vet, who could abide any situation and make
23 everything right, make everything feel okay. And I
24 walked into the house, and he was... he closed his
25 business early. He was kneeling in front of the

2 televisions set, crying his eyes out, saying the
3 rosary, like with the rosary beads in his hand. He
4 was completely destroyed. And I knew that my rock
5 would... you know, if something could get to him,
6 then the world was never going to be the same again.
7 And it's point... and could go on, but like the grief
8 cannot be imagined what it did to the country. And I
9 just think it's fitting to remember him and... and
10 there you have it.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
12 to go to Councilmember Barron. And before we do
13 that, I was asked by Councilmember Riley, to inform
14 members of DLAC, to stay here in the chamber
15 afterwards to take a picture.

16 COUNCILMEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Once again, to
17 my colleagues, we are the only conscience. We are
18 the only power that the people really have. And the
19 reason why I constantly tell you to use your power on
20 behalf of the people, not a Speaker, not a Mayor, not
21 a Borough President. The Speaker has one vote. The
22 Mayor has none. And the Borough President has none.
23 You have 50 votes. And if you would have said for
24 the Councilmember, look, we're going to go with you
25 on your definition of affordability for your

2 community and that 55%, they would have told you that
3 we won't do it if you stay there. And they would
4 have come back to the table like so many of them
5 have. One or two may go away and never come back.
6 And they'll try to blame that on you... that you're
7 anti-development. But I just want to encourage you
8 to allow yourselves to be strong. The Councilwoman
9 has to go against a large segment of our community to
10 get this done. And that didn't have to be. That did
11 not have to be, if you would have stood strong with
12 her when she was at 55%. And no matter what they
13 said -- I've seen it in my 20 years; they told me
14 it's not economically feasible; we pay too much for
15 the land; if we do that affordability, then we're
16 going to have to raise the rents -- all of that
17 stuff. And when I said, "No, go ahead", they come
18 back to the table. And to my colleagues, do your
19 research before you start saying stuff. A lot of my
20 projects are not city-owned land. It's privately-
21 owned and city-owned, but when we stay together as a
22 council, you are the power. You are the power around
23 anything: a budget, any legislation, all of the
24 development stuff that comes in. The people in this
25 city are counting on you because you have the power,

2 and you should exercise it on behalf of the people,
3 not on your personal interest.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you Councilmember.
5 We're going to go now to Councilmember Jordan
6 followed by Councilmember Cabán.

7 COUNCILMEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Hi... Hi
8 everyone. So again, I want to congratulate
9 Councilman Barron on his project. But I also would
10 like to congratulate all the housing advocates and
11 activists who won a significant victory last week in
12 pushing the Mayor to expand much needed rental
13 assistance. We cannot continue to call the current
14 housing situation a crisis while using a status quo
15 approach. This is what got us here in the first
16 place. This is why we must do more, and I am
17 introducing a bill that would push city departments
18 towards using housing first strategies. As our city
19 continues to manage the influx of migrants who
20 deserve compassion and care, and also black unhoused,
21 who have been here for generations who also deserve
22 compassion and care, we must move beyond the shelter
23 system.

24 My bill would amend the duties of the Department
25 of Homeless Services Commissioner to emphasize

2 permanent housing. It would clarify DHS housing
3 readiness training and require the commissioner to
4 give an annual report on such and posted online. It
5 would also require the commissioner to make DHS
6 permanent housing clearinghouse available to each
7 transitional housing facility, who would create a
8 plan to utilize the clearinghouse to help move folks
9 into permanent housing.

10 Lastly, it would update the five year plan to
11 relieve homelessness and houselessness and require
12 the commissioner to post the plan on the DHS website.
13 We know from experts that prioritizing permanent
14 housing leads to an increased sense of agency,
15 stability, and participation in support services. It
16 can also save this city millions by avoiding
17 expensive emergency service costs. This bill would
18 be crucial in removing barriers and starting needed
19 coordination between departments to plan methods to
20 house all of the unhoused in the city. Thank you.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We have
22 Councilmember Cabán followed by Councilmember Farias.

23 COUNCILMEMBER CABÁN: Yes. I'll be super brief.
24 I'm proud to be introducing two resolutions today
25 that are really dear to me. The first calls for the

2 end to the Luma Energy contract in Puerto Rico and
3 immediately transitioning to a new public corporation
4 based on democratic governance principles.

5 Privatization has failed at reducing costs, improving
6 service, or depoliticizing the electrical system,
7 which is essential to the well-being of the island.

8 And it's time for the power to be in the hands of the
9 people. And so I want to thank some of my fellow
10 Boricua Councilmembers for their partnership,
11 Councilmembers Avilés, Rivera, Farias, Velázquez,
12 Deputy Speaker Ayala, Councilmember Stevens, and then
13 also ask y'all: I am preparing a letter to send
14 directly to the Governor of Puerto Rico and I'd love
15 to have you all sign on that. I know most of you
16 have.

17 And then the second is a resolution that
18 Councilmember Nurse and I are introducing in
19 partnership with the dedicated advocates of the
20 campaign to release aging people in prison, also
21 known as RAPP. And it calls for Governor Hochul to
22 use her clemency powers frequently, inclusively, and
23 transparently as well as to pass the state bills for
24 fair, and timely parole, and elder parole. And I
25 would encourage my peers to visit

2 NewYorkersForClemency.com, and to get to know the
3 some of the faces of clemency. And just a quick
4 thank you to policy analysts, Chad Benjamin and
5 Regina Paul for drafting those Resos. Thanks.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
7 to Councilmember Farias, followed by Councilmember
8 Gutiérrez.

9 COUNCILMEMBER FARIAS: Thank you majority leader.
10 I'm introducing a bill today, Intro 821, which is
11 very personal to my district and many residents of
12 the Bronx. In May of this year, my district had
13 several positive cases of Legionnaires, as did many
14 other districts across the Bronx, where we even had
15 some fatalities. I've spoken about this before. But
16 I'm excited to be introducing this bill as it is
17 urgent and necessary, as we see the water quality
18 cont... water quality issues continue to exist
19 throughout our city and our boroughs.

20 With this bill, we have an opportunity to be
21 proactive and establish real protocols that mitigate
22 risk. This is a complex issue that could be solved
23 with a simple cost effective solution that's listed
24 in my bill. And I'm encouraging and asking all of my

2 colleagues to put your communities first, and to sign
3 on to Intro 821. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

5 Councilmember Gutiérrez followed by Councilmember
6 Louis.

7 COUNCILMEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you Majority
8 Leader. Today I'm introducing two bills to add to
9 the package of bills introduced by my colleagues, and
10 increasingly serious conversation around the
11 proliferation of E-bikes across New York City. E-
12 bikes are a key tool of a workforce that is essential
13 to our city's economy, and our delivery workers need
14 and deserve the same safety protections as anyone
15 else in a dangerous job. After the oversight hearing
16 a few weeks ago with a committee on fire and
17 emergency, the two bills I'm introducing today look
18 towards how we can create a new safe career path that
19 contributes to the economy and enables New Yorkers to
20 provide for their families.

21 Intro 892 would establish a battery safety
22 certification for E-bike battery mechanics. This
23 would not only establish standards that could improve
24 the safety of batteries and prolong their usage,
25 which helps workers, it would also create a pathway

2 for new careers. There are already hundreds of
3 deliveristas who are doing this mechanical work. And
4 as a council, we should be supporting and
5 standardizing it so that it becomes a safe and viable
6 career option.

7 I'm also introducing a Resolution calling on the
8 US Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish
9 rules and regulations for the safe sale and use of E-
10 bike batteries. As a city and state, we will
11 continue to do what we can to regulate this market.
12 But as long as there are unsafe batteries flowing
13 into the country and regulated, we are facing an
14 uphill battle. There have been close to 200 E-bike
15 battery fires in New York alone in the past two
16 years, including children, and it's time the federal
17 government steps in to regulate these products. I
18 also want to wish my daughter a happy early birthday.

19 [CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]

20 She's turning one year old on Sunday. That's
21 right. I finally finished being pregnant last year.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We are going
23 to go to Councilmember Louis, followed by
24 Councilmember Restler, and finally Councilmember
25 Brewer.

2 COUNCILMEMBER LOUIS: Thank you Majority Leader.
3 As I shared earlier, I wanted to share my disdain
4 regarding a major human rights issue facing Haitian
5 descendants in the Dominican Republic. The Haitian
6 Diaspora around the world are troubled with news
7 regarding the expulsion of Haitians in the Dominican
8 Republic to Haiti. And we're calling on the
9 Dominican Republic to cease forced deportations of
10 Haitian migrants and people of Haitian ancestry amid
11 a growing human rights crisis in Haiti. And I'm sure
12 all of you have seen that in the news. So I'm also
13 asking this Council to stand with Haitians and Haiti,
14 as we do for every other racial and social justice
15 issue in this city, every human rights issue in this
16 city. We're asking for you to also stand with us and
17 not to forget that Haitians are descendants of
18 Africa, and that these are the same people that
19 helped to build this nation. So we hope to get the
20 support of this Council. Thank you so much.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We're going
22 to Councilmember Restler and Councilmember Brewer.

23 COUNCILMEMBER RESTLER: Thank you Majority
24 Leader. There are half a million dogs in New York
25 City. Half a million dogs, but only 84 dog runs in

2 New York City parks. That is one dog run for every
3 6000 Dogs. 21 Council Districts have zero dog runs
4 in your parks, and 12 Council Districts have just one
5 dog run in their local parks. That means that in two
6 thirds of the Council Districts in New York City,
7 there is one or zero dog runs in your local parks.
8 That doesn't make any sense.

9 And do you want to know what's even worse? Dog
10 runs are the one portion in a park that the Parks
11 Department doesn't take any responsibility for. They
12 think it's up to all of us... up to neighbors to
13 clean, to maintain, to improve the conditions in our
14 dog runs. The conditions are totally unacceptable.
15 They are deplorable. There is no drainage and most
16 of the dog runs and our dogs are living in filth.

17 We all love our dogs. They bring joy they are
18 so... They deserve a decent place to run around and
19 exercise and socialize. So we've introduced two
20 pieces of legislation today, and I hope you'll all
21 co-sponsor them.

22 One, for the Parks Department to identify five
23 viable dog runs in every community district in New
24 York City, and two, for the Parks Department to take
25 responsibility for maintaining our dog runs. This is

2 common sense, basic stuff that we should have done a
3 long time ago. But together this Council we can look
4 out for our dogs. I know speaker Adam cares about
5 her dog more than anyone. She really does. So let's
6 make it happen. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you for your vigor
8 on the issue, Councilmember Restler. We'll go to
9 Councilmember Brewer.

10 COUNCILMEMBER BREWER: My dog runs have drainage.
11 I just want to let you know. [BACKGROUND VOICES]
12 Okay, we have drainage.

13 A few things. Number one, I just want to thank
14 Councilmember Gutiérrez and everyone who's working on
15 this issue of the batteries. It is complicated. We
16 have other bills that we've introduced, but this one
17 would basically... 819... says that there should be
18 safety guides wherever there is batteries sold. On
19 the other hand, we have to do a lot about the
20 batteries.

21 Number two, Richard Murphy was a youth
22 Commissioner under Mayor Dinkins he has passed, but
23 he always said every young person in the public
24 school should get a water bottle and there should be
25 water filling stations everywhere. It's hard to tell

2 people not to have sugar drinks, if it's hard to find
3 the water. So this would start the discussion with
4 every fire station, police station, and so on, should
5 have a publicly accessible water bottle filling area
6 and then we'll work on getting it in more places, and
7 every young person getting them a water bottle.

8 I also want to just say we're all very supportive
9 -- at least I am -- of the Temporary Schedule Change
10 Act, but we need to do some consumer and worker
11 outreach, and that is Intro 18. And then when... I
12 know... I appreciate very much the upcoming
13 helicopter oversight hearing. This bill, Resolution
14 389, we'll just talk about... We've got to get rid
15 of the Hudson River Park Trust heliport. This would
16 say, don't have any helicopters flying out of it.
17 We've been trying on every level. What we really
18 need is the federal government to come forward and
19 say: no helicopter not essential over any city of
20 over 8 million. That's us. Thank you very much.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. And we have
22 one more. We have Councilmember Yeger.

23 COUNCILMEMBER YEGER: I'll be very brief. I just
24 am rising to object to the use of the term common

2 sense to describe... as the gentleman used to
3 describe those bills. That's it for me,

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Objection overruled.

5 We'll now call Speaker Adrienne Adams to close out
6 today's meeting,

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: I was remiss in disclosing that I
8 too am a member of the Grand Island AME Cathedral,
9 and they are in our transparency resolution today.

10 I also want to just say to this body, number one,
11 how amazing you all are. And in addition to that,
12 decorum, should always be upheld in these chambers,
13 and repeating unvalidated hearsay is egregious at
14 best. We can and should do better. Happy
15 Thanksgiving to you all. The stated meeting of
16 November 22, 2022, is hereby adjourned.

17 [GAVEL]

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1 STATED MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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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 11/28/2022