

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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May 11, 2011
Start: 2:10pm
Recess: 3:23am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
President Pro Tempore

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Speaker Christine C. Quinn
Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth S. Crowley
Council Member Inez E. Dickens
Council Member Daniel Dromm
Council Member Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member David G. Greenfield
Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Brad S. Lander
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Michael C. Nelson
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Council Member Deborah L. Rose
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams
Council Member Ruben Wills

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

Lisa Wright
Representative
Council for Unity

Theresa
Alumnae Coordinator
Council for Unity

Robovo Pierre
Member
Council for Unity

Francisco Gonzalez
President
Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade

Gina Quattrochi
CEO
Bailey House

Nicholas Soteropoulos
Reverend Father
St. Peter Greek Orthodox Church

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: All right, we have
3 two ceremonials today and one presentation, and
4 we're going to start first with the presentations,
5 if I could have Council Members Jackson and
6 Recchia come up. And any other Member who'd like
7 to, and we're going to have today Council for
8 Unity, a student delegation from the Organization
9 Council for Unity, who we well know at the Council
10 for their great work. And they're going to be
11 presenting us with an Anti-Bullying Petitions,
12 that they collected in their schools. So, I want
13 to thank them very, very much for doing that, and
14 ask all of the Council Members to come up, but in
15 particular the petitions come from Council Member
16 Vacca, Recchia, Levin, Williams, Nelson,
17 Koslowitz, Crowley, Oddo, and Barron, but
18 obviously all are welcome. And if the students
19 from Council for Unity could please make their way
20 up, that would be terrific. [pause, background
21 noise, applause] Is Lisa Wright--where's Lisa
22 Wright? Oh, okay, great, great. Let me turn the
23 mic over to Lisa Wright from Council for Unity.

24 LISA WRIGHT: Hi, I'm Lisa Wright,
25 from Council for Unity. Council for Unity has

1
2 been combatting violence and bias in New York City
3 for over 36 years. Our mission is to empower
4 individuals and groups to promote unity, safety
5 and achievement in our schools and community, and
6 I'm going to hand over to our student, Theresa.

7 [pause, background noise]

8 THERESA: Hello, good afternoon,
9 everyone. Oh, sorry. Good afternoon, everyone.
10 I am an alumnae coordinator for Council for Unity.
11 Before Council for Unity, I was a troubled teen, I
12 used to struggle with schoolwork, I had no family
13 and friends really to support me. And my home
14 life was basically terrible. Now, being a Council
15 for Unity for nearly three years, I am now proud
16 of a report card that I could actually be proud to
17 show. [cheers, applause]

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Theresa, I couldn't
19 say that about all of mine, let me tell you, so
20 good for you.

21 THERESA: [laughs] I have family
22 and friends that I could, I could depend on, which
23 is everyone here. [applause] And I can actually
24 be proud to be, to say that I am a proud supporter
25 of LGBTQ community. [cheers, applause] I now

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pass the thing to--

ROBOVO PIERRE: Good afternoon.

Good afternoon, Speaker Quinn, ladies, gentlemen and guests and Council Members. My name is Robovo Pierre [phonetic], I'm 16 years old, and I go to Edward R. Murrow High School. And my life before Council for Unity, I was quiet in school, nobody knew, really knew me, and couple of months passed by, you know, I started to come out my shell. I studied the new people, I was like the man. [laughter] And so, like, when I joined the Council, I found love, I found family, and I found peace in, within Council for Unity and within my brothers and sisters now. And now, Council for Unity, like we went to 13,000 students all over New York City, we asked them about bullying, and we asked them if they had been bullied, and 13,000 of them took the courage and had a lot of fortitude to come out they shell, to make a difference to stand out and say, you know, "Well, I have been bullied, and I want to do something about it." So, Council for Unity takes bullying seriously, even myself, I take bullying seriously, and I hate to see someone else get bullied. And

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2 so, in closing this morning, I want to leave you
3 guys with the pledges that the, that the 13,000
4 students signed. Thank you. [applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. And let
6 me just, wait-wait-wait one second, I just want to
7 say, myself, my colleagues, we've collected
8 petitions in the past ourselves for different
9 things. And we know how really hard it is to get
10 petitions signed, how hard it is to get somebody
11 to stop, have that conversation; it's even harder
12 when you're talking about something that's as
13 serious and as personal as bullying. So, I
14 really, really want to thank you 'cause we really
15 know what an enormous undertaking this, this was,
16 and all of you did it, as volunteers, just 'cause
17 you care about yourself and your schools and your
18 fellow young people. So, thank you very, very
19 much, and hand those off to our Education Chair.
20 Thank you, guys. [applause] [pause, background
21 noise] Thank you all, keep up the great work,
22 thanks guys.

23 ROBOVO PIERRE: [off mic] Nice to
24 meet you.

25 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Nice to

1
2 meet you, thank you. Thanks everyone, whoops.
3 Nobody fall or something. That's fine, as long as
4 it's something. Thanks everybody. Thank you.
5 All right, thank you, guys. Our next ceremonial
6 is going to be led by our Majority Leader, Joel
7 Rivera, and it is in commemoration of the 24th
8 Annual Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade on May 15th,
9 and they are honoring healthcare workers this
10 year, very important. So if the folks from the
11 parade--shhh!--can make their way up to the front,
12 that would be great. Majority Leader?

13 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
14 much, Madam Speaker, my colleagues in The Bronx
15 Delegation, and all my colleagues in the City
16 Council, can join us. This is for the 24th
17 Anniversary of The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade,
18 that for 24 year has been depicting what a benefit
19 it is to live in The Bronx and to celebrate Bronx
20 pride and pride within the Puerto Rican and Latino
21 Community. We have great leaders, with The Bronx
22 Puerto Rican Day Parade, that has been doing a
23 phenomenal job, making sure we can highlight the
24 tradition, and we have one of our great leaders
25 over here, Francisco Gonzalez, and if you can say

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2 a few words before we actually give out the proc.

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FRANCISCO GONZALEZ: Okay. On May 15th, we welcome everyone, from throughout the City of New York, to come and join us. We've been marching for 24 years, up and down the Grand Concourse. This year, we're celebrating, as we did last year, a multicultural parade. We have South Americans, we have Central Americans, we have African groups, we have stamp dances, we have Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, [cheers] Connecticut, that are part of our parade. So we're proud to say that "Mi Casa Es Su Casa," and thank you City Council Members for inviting us, and it's a great honor to personally invite Christine Quinn to march alongside me the day of our parade.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Thank you.

FRANCISCO GONZALEZ: Christine, it's my pleasure to have you there with us. Joel, everyone, everyone in the City Council delegation, everyone that's here present, all the delegation from the Borough of The Bronx, we love you all, the parade and our queens are here to show the

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2 beauty of our culture. [applause] So thank you
3 very much, on behalf of The Bronx Puerto Rican
4 Parade leadership. [applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Thank
6 you very much, thank you all for being here. If
7 we could ask the Clerk to please read the
8 proclamation.

9 CLERK: Counsel, City of New York
10 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of
11 New York is proud to join all New Yorkers in
12 celebrating the 2011 Bronx Puerto Rican Day
13 Parade, for its outstanding service to Puerto
14 Rican communities in New York City and beyond.
15 And whereas, The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade was
16 established to foster a greater awareness and
17 appreciation of Puerto Rican culture, and to
18 recognize the extraordinary contributions to the
19 culture and society of the United States. And
20 whereas, on May 15, 2011, the 24th Annual Bronx
21 Puerto Rican Day Parade will march down the
22 famous--

23 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could quiet
24 in the back.

25 CLERK: --Grand Concourse, with the

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2 eager participation of many schools, corporate
3 sponsors, local businesses, elected officials,
4 community members, unions, more than 100
5 organizations and many others. And whereas, just
6 as the story of Puerto Ricans in New York City is
7 the story of New York itself, The Bronx Puerto
8 Rican Day Parade pays tribute this year to
9 individuals who are vital to the wellbeing of
10 everyone in our City, our healthcare workers. And
11 whereas, The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade
12 provides a fitting occasion of New Yorkers of all
13 backgrounds and ages to acknowledge the
14 contributions of Puerto Rican friends, neighbors
15 and community leaders, like the healthcare workers
16 honored at this year's parade, Puerto Ricans
17 themselves have made The Bronx a better place for
18 everyone. Today, as Puerto Ricans continue to
19 strengthen the fabric of our City and our Nation,
20 we reflect not only upon our shared history, but
21 our promising future, as well. Now therefore, be
22 it known that the Council of the City of New York
23 is proud to honor The Bronx Puerto Rican Day
24 Parade for its outstanding service to The Bronx
25 and to all of New York City. Christine C. Quinn,

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2 Speaker for the Entire Council, Joel Rivera,
3 Majority Leader, Council Member 15th District, The
4 Bronx, and all the other, and the Bronx
5 Delegation.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay! [applause]
7 Well--let me just thank you all for being here. I
8 just want to say I'm not 100 percent sure I can
9 come on Sunday, it is my goddaughter's singing
10 recital that's part of the special music school
11 she goes to, that I promised her I would go see.
12 But whether I can make it or not, I am going to
13 decree on behalf of the Majority Leader and the
14 Delegation and the Council that it should be a
15 beautiful sunny day, and that if it rains, it's
16 the Mayor's fault. So [laughter] but hopefully
17 I'll be able to make it up for at least a little
18 while. Thank you all. Happy Bronx Puerto Rican
19 Day Pride Parade. Thank you. All right, thank
20 you all, and we have one last ceremonial, and
21 that's, since we, if I could ask the folks who are
22 here from Bailey House, and in particular, Gina
23 Quattrochi to come up, we want to recognize Gina's
24 decades of service to Bailey House and the City.
25 So, if Gina and everybody who's here from Bailey

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2 House, can make their way up, that would be great.
3 And I'd like to invite all of my colleagues who
4 want to join us to come up. [pause, background
5 noise] Everybody make their way on up, we'll fall
6 in behind Gina, so to speak. [pause, background
7 noise] All right, if we could get a little quiet
8 for a second. Shhh! Now, the ceremonial today is
9 really in honor of Gina Quattrochi who is Robert
10 Jackson's constituent, which we wanted to make a
11 big point of. But Gina is somebody I've known for
12 a long time. She has run Bailey House--what was
13 its name before? AIDS Resource Center, AIDS
14 Resource, been working and really running most of
15 those 20 years, the AIDS Resource Center, now
16 Bailey House. And for folks who don't know,
17 Bailey House was really the first service provider
18 in the City of New York, to recognize the
19 incredible connection and need of housing for
20 people with AIDS. And they were the first to do
21 that at a time when nobody else was doing it, when
22 there was really no government funding, nobody
23 focused on it, and they not only created Bailey
24 House and other facilities, they didn't just do
25 it, they did it really setting the bar incredibly

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2 high, with really appropriate housing that sent a
3 message to people with AIDS, I believe, not that
4 they could just live any substandard place, but
5 that they were honored and respected and supported
6 by the City and by Bailey House, through the
7 quality of the housing. And Gina has kept that
8 work going, and kept that standard going, for two
9 decades. Beyond that, you know, a lot of issues
10 are complicated in this City, and a lot of issues
11 have a lot of opinions, and HIV/AIDS housing is no
12 exception. And when my staff come into see me,
13 and say, "Okay, there's a disagreement about this
14 or that," I always say, "What did Gina say?" And
15 if they didn't call Gina, I make them call Gina.
16 'Cause she is the clearest thinker, the most
17 focused on what is right for the people she is
18 charged with serving, not the politics within
19 government, not the politics within the community,
20 about what is right for the people with HIV and
21 AIDS. She is serving, I've said over and over, if
22 I was every lucky enough to be in charge of who
23 got to run HIV/AIDS services in the City of New
24 York, she might not want the job, but it would be
25 this lady, and it would take our services to an

1
2 even higher level. [cheers, applause] We--I
3 don't know how she's done it for 20 years, 'cause
4 I think she must be a little insane, thank god.
5 'Cause most sane people would've walked away from
6 this work long ago, it is so exhausting, and so,
7 you know, really charged at times. But Gina, I
8 just want to thank you for all of your service,
9 for all of your selflessness, and for all of the
10 times you have helped us in the City Council, and
11 in the Speaker's Office. And you know, people
12 might remember, there's a lot of great things you
13 could say about Gina, but not the least of which
14 is, if it wasn't for Gina's leadership, we
15 would've most definitely have lost the Division of
16 AIDS Services when Mayor Giuliani tried to kill
17 it. She really led that effort in an enormous way
18 [applause] and that led to Local Law 49, and that
19 led to so many other things. So, Gina, thank you
20 for giving us this opportunity to honor you today.
21 And I'm going to ask the Clerk to read the
22 proclamation, and then we'll get to hear from
23 Gina.

24 CLERK: Council, City of New York
25 Proclamation. Whereas, the Council of the City of

1
2 New York is proud to honor Gina Quattrochi for her
3 20 years of excellent leadership at Bailey House,
4 and for her tremendous service to people living
5 with HIV/AIDS in New York City, and throughout the
6 nation. And whereas, armed with a law degree, as
7 well as a black belt in karate, Ms. Quattrochi has
8 been a fearless warrior in the fight against AIDS,
9 especially through her tireless advocacy on behalf
10 of low income and homeless people living with HIV
11 and AIDS. For the past two decades, Ms.
12 Quattrochi has served as Chief Executive Officer
13 of Bailey House, founded in 1983 as the first AIDS
14 housing organization in New York City. And
15 whereas, since 1991, Ms. Quattrochi has led Bailey
16 house to develop and provide permanent supportive
17 housing and services, to assist low income women
18 and men to access HIV care and treatment. During
19 her tenure, Bailey house has also innovated
20 programs to fight poverty, food insecurity and
21 healthcare disparities. These programs have now
22 expanded into East Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant,
23 Flatbush, Hell's Kitchen, the Village of Harlem
24 and the Lower East Side, the South Bronx, Astoria,
25 Jamaica and other areas, with high rates of HIV

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2 infection and poverty. Since 1993, she has served
3 as Board Member of National HIV/AIDS Housing
4 Coalition and has played one of the leading roles
5 in producing its renowned "Housing, Health and HIV
6 Prevention Summit" series, which has generated
7 hundreds of research articles on the impact of
8 homelessness on HIV prevention, care and
9 treatment; and whereas, Mr. Quattrochi has
10 participated in development of national HIV/AIDS
11 policy under the Obama Administration as a member
12 of the consortium briefing, the Office of National
13 HIV/AIDS Policy, and members of the, of President
14 Obama's staff. This work, on behalf of HIV
15 infected New Yorkers resulted in national
16 recognition of the importance of stable housing,
17 and the critical role that homelessness plays in
18 fueling HIV incidents. In New York, Ms.
19 Quattrochi has been a great asset to the City
20 Council by providing the information needed to
21 make informed decisions about regulatory and
22 budget issues. Now therefore be it known, that
23 the Council of the City of New York most
24 gratefully honors Gina Quattrochi for 20 years of
25 extraordinary service to New York City and the

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2 nation. Christine C. Quinn, Speaker for the
3 Entire Council. [applause]

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Yay! And let me--
5 let me just add two quick facts. I, I was wrong,
6 Bailey House was not just, or AIDS Research
7 Center, the first AIDS housing organization in New
8 York, it was the first AIDS housing organization
9 in the country, when it was created, which is
10 really, speaks to vision. And when I used to work
11 for Tom Duane, Bailey House was down the hall from
12 where his office was then, and Gina not only was
13 running Bailey House then, was also giving birth
14 to two children, and it was great to get to see
15 her family grow. She's a public school parent,
16 all of that while doing all of this, which is
17 really, really incredible. So, Gina, thank you
18 for letting us honor you today.

19 GINA QUATTROCHI: [off mic] Thank
20 you, thank you. [crosstalk] [on mic] --
21 Microsoft. So, I think, I want to thank Speaker
22 Quinn, I want to thank all the City Council
23 Members, and I want you to know that when I'm
24 screaming at you at the General Welfare Committee
25 hearings [laughter] it's with great affection. I

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2 think it's, you know, it's really in the end about
3 teamwork. Everybody here, to the very last
4 person, and some of the folks in the audience,
5 have been a tremendous part of my journey. And
6 you know, it's about teamwork and partnership.
7 You know, I think it's best when we keep each
8 other honest, when we hold each other's feet to
9 the fire, many of the Bailey House clients here
10 have done just that. They've taught me about
11 grace, they've taught me about persistence and
12 perseverance. They've taught me that housing
13 really does, is really a part of AIDS care. We
14 know that now. And I think it's up to me, and
15 I'll keep fighting as long as I have the will to
16 fight, but I will keep fighting on behalf of
17 people living with HIV and AIDS, and I will keep
18 trying to help all of you stay educated, stay
19 concerned, because you know, AIDS is not over.
20 You know, we talk about AIDS as a manageable
21 illness, and that might be true right now, but the
22 things that create HIV incidents--poverty, racism,
23 homophobia, homelessness--those are not
24 manageable, nor will they ever be. And so we have
25 to keep fighting. So, thank you. [applause]

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Gina, so
3 very, very much. And I think we have some
4 beautiful flowers, as well as beautiful plastic
5 framed proclamation. Thank you. [laughs] And
6 this concludes our ceremonials for today. Thank
7 you everybody. [pause, background noise]

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Could I have
9 your attention, please. At this time, please
10 place all cell phones and pagers to vibrate.
11 Thank you.

12 [gavel]

13 PRESIDENT RIVERA: My colleagues,
14 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. [Pledge
15 of Allegiance] Roll call.

16 CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

18 CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]
20 Here. Here. You got me?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic] We
22 know, we know.

23 CLERK: Thank you. Brewer.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

25 CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Thank you. Chin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

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CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Here.

8

CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Dilan. Dromm.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

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CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

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CLERK: Fidler. Foster.

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Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off

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mic] Here.

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CLERK: Gennaro. Gentile.

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Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off

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mic] Here.

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Here.

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CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

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CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

17

mic] Here.

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

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CLERK: Lappin. Levin.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

22

CLERK: Mark-Viverito. Mealy.

23

Mendez.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]

25

Here.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

9

CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: [off mic]

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Here.

12

CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

16

CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

18

I'm here.

19

CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

23

CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

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CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

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Here.

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[gavel]

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

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CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

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Here.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

21

CLERK: Williams.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

23

Here.

24

CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Here.

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[pause]

2

CLERK: Oddo.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Here.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Here.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: If we can get

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silence in the back.

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CLERK: We have a quorum.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Quorum is

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present. If we get silence in the chambers, thank

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you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise

13

for the invocation being delivered today by

14

Reverend Father Nicholas Soteropoulos.

15

SPEAKER QUINN: Can I just, I just

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want to, if we can get quiet in the back, it's

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really loud for some reason today, and if we can't

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get quiet, we'll just have to clear the back. But

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if we could please get quiet, that would be very

20

much appreciated. Thank you.

21

NICHOLAS SOTEROPOULOS: Let us

22

pray. Oh mighty God, you created man and woman in

23

your image and likeness, to live together in peace

24

and happiness, but tempted by the Devil, man

25

1
2 turned his back and you and your promise.
3 Therefore, we now come to you, almighty God, in
4 all humility, to plead for help, guidance and
5 assistance. Give us the strength and inspiration
6 to harken to the message of the angels. Peace on
7 Earth, good will among people, give us the desire
8 and ability to accept this message. My peace I
9 give to you, which surpasses all understanding.
10 Restore us, oh God, to your original state by
11 putting an end to violence, terrorism, war and
12 establishing in us love, peace and harmony.
13 Furthermore, let us pray for the American nation,
14 our President, our Congress and those in civil
15 authority. Let us pray that our homeland will be
16 preserved and protected from violence and
17 terrorism. Let us pray that the nations of the
18 world will seek to work together in harmony, peace
19 and brotherhood. Let us pray that the hearts of
20 all men and women remove to pursue peace in, for
21 all mankind. Let us pray for the City, our Mayor,
22 the Speaker, and all Members of the City Council
23 of New York City. Help us, oh Lord, to find the
24 spirit of understanding and concern. May they
25 guard their sources of inspiration, working in

1
2 fellowship in serving the needs of this, our City.
3 Grant them the wisdom to make decisions that are
4 progressive and good for our City. Guide them as
5 they launch their dreams upon the sea of this day.
6 Set their visions on making the City a leader in
7 the hope of a new world, where man can live in
8 peace, harmony, brotherhood and caring for one
9 another. Amen. I'd like to just thank the City
10 Council for permitting me, after 50 something
11 years of serving in the New York area, to offer a
12 pray and pray with you. God bless you all.

13 [applause]

14 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
15 much. Council Member Koppell?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes, I'd
17 like, Mr. Majority Leader, to ask that the
18 invocation be spread on the record and to thank
19 Father Nicholas, who leads a Greek Orthodox
20 congregation in my district. Not all the Greek
21 Orthodox residents of our City live in Astoria, as
22 many of us know, and I'm glad to welcome Father
23 Nicholas and thank him for a most inspiring
24 invocation.

25 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very

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much, Council Member.

SPEAKER QUINN: And for the record, he used to be a head of Greek Orthodox church in my district.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]
Oh!

PRESIDENT RIVERA: There we go. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Next we move onto adoption of the minutes. Council Member Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of April 5, 2011, be adopted as printed.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered. Messages and papers from the Mayor.

CLERK: M495 through M502, Fiscal Year 2012 Expense and Capital Budgets and supporting documentation.

SPEAKER QUINN: Pardon me, Finance.

CLERK: M503, Ten Year Capital Strategy.

SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

CLERK: M504, Debt and Reserves.

SPEAKER QUINN: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

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2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Communications
3 from City, County and Borough Offices.

4 CLERK: M505, Chancellor's Five
5 Year Capital Plan.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Finance.

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Petitions and
8 communications.

9 CLERK: None.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Land Use Call
11 Ups.

12 CLERK: M506 and 507.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: If we could couple
14 both of those and have a roll call on the coupled
15 Land Use call ups, please.

16 PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

17 CLERK: Arroyo.

18 PRESIDENT RIVERA: And again, if we
19 can get silence in the chambers.

20 CLERK: Arroyo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Barron.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic]
24 Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Brewer.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.
3 CLERK: Cabrera.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
5 CLERK: Chin.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
7 CLERK: Comrie. Crowley.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.
9 CLERK: Dickens.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]
11 Aye.
12 CLERK: Dilan. Dromm.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
14 CLERK: Eugene.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.
16 CLERK: Ferreras.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
18 CLERK: Fidler.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.
20 CLERK: Garodnick.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
22 CLERK: Gennaro. Gentile.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.
24 CLERK: Gonzalez.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]

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2 Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes.

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CLERK: Halloran.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN:

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Permission to vote on all Land Use Call Ups and

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General Order items in the calendar.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]

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Yes.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: James.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Koo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Koppell.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Lander.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Levin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Nelson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye on all

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and permission to vote aye on all the General

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Order calendars.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

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CLERK: Recchia.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

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2 Aye.

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CLERK: Rodriguez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Rose.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

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CLERK: Sanders.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

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CLERK: Seabrook.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Ulrich.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

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CLERK: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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CLERK: Vallone.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic]

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2 Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Wills.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

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CLERK: Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I request

10 unanimous consent to vote aye on all General Order
11 items.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

14

Thank you.

15

CLERK: Rivera.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: I vote aye on

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all.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye on

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all.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: Today's Land Use

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Call Ups were adopted by a vote of 44 in the

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affirmative, with zero in the negative.

24

Communications from the Speaker.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

1
2 much. I first want to call on my colleague,
3 Council Member Steve Levin. I think many of us in
4 the Council are aware that a very important member
5 of Steve's staff, Hope Reichbach, passed away at a
6 very, very early age, very suddenly, a few weeks
7 ago. And just wanted to give Steve the
8 opportunity to share with us a little bit about
9 Hope. I also just wanted to extend to Steve and
10 to Judge Reichbach and Hope's mother, our
11 sympathies of the entire Council, but also just
12 wanted to recognize Steve, who has been
13 unbelievable support to the Reichbach family, to
14 his staff, to Hope's friends, since she passed
15 away, he delivered a very, very supportive and
16 well done eulogy, and really has been there for
17 Hope's family and friends, every moment since her
18 untimely death, and I just wanted to tell him how
19 proud we all are of him for that. Council Member
20 Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
22 Madam Speaker, and thank you for your support. On
23 April 28th, my office and the entire City Council
24 lost Hope Reichbach, beloved daughter of Hon.
25 Augustin Reichbach and Ellen Meyers. Hope was

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2 just 22 years old, but in those 22 years, she
3 touched countless lives and filled many of our
4 hearts, including my own with joy, amazement, and
5 a boundless energy that was as remarkable as it
6 was contagious. She was a blessing to all who met
7 her, and I have no doubt that in due time she
8 would've been sitting in either this legislative
9 body or some other in the City or in the State of
10 New York. Nowhere was this more apparent than in
11 her work for the New York City Council, where she
12 served as my Communications Director, my
13 scheduler, my community liaison for Boerum Hill
14 and Park Slope, and even my community liaison for
15 Cobble Hill and Carol Gardens, even though I don't
16 represent Cobble Hill and Carol Gardens. But she
17 was--and any other neighborhood that we would let
18 her represent. Last year, when budget cuts
19 threatened two daycare programs, a City pool and a
20 senior center in her neighborhood of Boerum Hill,
21 she took up their cause as if the future of the
22 free world depended on it. She organized and
23 fought and kept on fighting until those programs
24 were restored, and she continued fighting for
25 those programs, and for the people of her

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community, particularly those less fortunate, all the way to her last meeting two weeks ago today. I know that I speak for my staff, and the entire Council when I say that her loss is immeasurable, and that her memory and fighting spirit will be an inspiration not only to all of us here today, in this room, but to this institution permanently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her parents, Gus Reichbach and Ellen Meyers, her extended family and her friends. We love her and will miss her very much. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council Member Levin. On a happier note, I want to share with everyone that on Thursday, May 5th, our colleague Helen Diane Foster gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. [cheers, applause] Nia Amani McKay, and Nia weighed in at eight pounds, three ounces, and was 20 inches long. And Helen and her husband, Eric McKay, and Nia are doing great. And we also, in addition, wanted to congratulate Helen and Eric, want to congratulate the baby's proud grandparents, former Council Member Reverend Wendell Foster, and Helen, Sr. So, [applause] yay Helen. And I also want to note

1
2 that today is the final coun--Stated Council
3 Meeting for Domenic Recchia's Chief of Staff,
4 Karen Becker. Is Karen here? [applause] Where
5 is Karen? Karen? Everyone is really, really,
6 really mad at Karen. She's going to work to the,
7 for the Parks Department, which we will hold
8 against Commissioner Benepe. I want to be clear.
9 But Karen has, Karen, you have been just a
10 pleasure to work with, a joy to work with, a real
11 professional, somebody who, you know, no matter
12 how late at night it was doing the budget stuff,
13 you needed something else done, you were always,
14 the answer was always yes, you would always stay
15 longer, you kept that guy in line, which ain't
16 easy, let me tell you about that right now. But
17 Karen, we wish you, with all our, you know, anger
18 and resentment, that you're leaving. I wish you
19 the best of luck, and really want to thank you so
20 much for everything you've done for Brooklyn,
21 everything you've done for Domenic, everything
22 you've done for me in the Speaker's Office, and
23 the Finance Division, and everything you've done
24 for the City, 'cause you're support of Domenic
25 when he was Cultural Affairs and Library's Chair

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2 made this City a better place, and your support of
3 him and work with him since he's been Finance
4 Chair has without a doubt made this City a better
5 place. So thank you so much. [applause] You
6 want to say anything? And let me call on our
7 Finance Chair, Council Member Domenic M. Recchia,
8 Jr.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I wrote
10 something. [laughter] No, I wrote it, Vinnie
11 Ignizio--No, I wrote it. No, I, I put some I
12 [laughter] All right, Carl. As many of you heard,
13 my Chief of Staff Karen is moving on to the Park
14 Department. She has been an incredible Chief of
15 Staff, she has been with me for five years. She's
16 always been a hard worker and very dedicated, not
17 just to my district, but to the City Council. A
18 lot of what I've accomplished has been thanks to
19 her guidance and her support. So I want to take
20 this moment to thank her for her service to my
21 office, and for all the work she's done for New
22 York City. As this is her last Stated Council
23 Meeting, as Council staff member, I was hoping we
24 could give her a round of applause as a way of
25 saying thank you, and saying, Karen, I will miss

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2 you, my family will miss you, but I want you to
3 know one thing: You are definitely an A worker.
4 [cheers, applause]

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Karen,
6 very much. Do you want to say a few words. I
7 didn't think so, but I thought I would extend the
8 offer nonetheless.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Oh, and
10 everyone's invited to a party for her Friday night
11 at the Kitchen.

12 SPEAKER QUINN: The Woolworth
13 Kitchen. Great, all right, so what are we voting
14 on today? Got a little confused there for a
15 second. We're voting today on Intro 521-A, it's a
16 piece of legislation that was sponsored by the
17 Chair of our Finance, Chair of our Transportation
18 Committee, Jimmy Vacca, also passed through his
19 Committee, introduced with the support of the
20 Mayor. I want to thank Lyle Frank and Terzah
21 Nasser, and Novarto Lopez, who all worked on this
22 legislation. And 521-A seeks to create higher
23 penalties, stiffer fines, revocations of licenses,
24 for taxi drivers who break the law. For taxi
25 drivers who don't take passengers where they want

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2 to go, who over charge passengers for where they
3 take them, for taxi drivers who inquire "Where do
4 you want to go?" and then when they hear it isn't
5 midtown Manhattan, they drive away. The number of
6 complaints that 311 gets on a monthly basis, of
7 fares that people believe were overcharged, is up
8 to 500 in some months. We have hundreds and
9 hundreds of complaints of passengers who have not
10 been taken where they wanted to go, usually
11 because they are going to Northern Manhattan or to
12 boroughs outside of Manhattan. This is
13 unacceptable, and Chair Vacca will tell us about a
14 situation in his district where it was actually
15 life threatening. We want to send a clear message
16 to taxi drivers today, this is unacceptable, we
17 will not tolerate it, and if you act in this way,
18 you will lose the privilege of being a taxi driver
19 in our City. We will not allow this type of
20 discrimination to go unchecked in our City. So I
21 want to call on the Chair of our Transportation
22 Committee, Jimmy Vacca, and thank him for moving
23 so quickly and efficiently on 521-A. I also want
24 to thank the Democratic Caucus for their input at
25 last week's meeting, which made this bill more

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2 focused, but Jimmy I know you have a lot going on
3 in the Committee, but you really made sure this
4 happened quickly, and I very much appreciate that.
5 Chair Vacca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Thank you,
7 Speaker Quinn, and I hope that when the Council
8 adopts this legislation today, we're sending a
9 message that if you drive a cab in the City of New
10 York, the passenger is entitled to a ride home,
11 whatever that passenger looks like, or wherever
12 that passenger is going. Too long, we've heard
13 about people who cannot go to boroughs outside of
14 Manhattan. We've heard from people that they
15 cannot get a cab. They are asked before they
16 enter the cab, "Where are you going?" and when
17 they are told, when the cabdriver is told where
18 the person is going, the cabdriver disappears. We
19 are increasing fines today because that is
20 unacceptable conduct. And I think this Council
21 has an obligation to understand that his practice
22 is very widespread in this City. 311 registers
23 between 300 and 500 complaints a month from people
24 who complain about cab refusals. That number is
25 much, much too high. Any number is much, much too

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2 high. So for something that's commonplace, and
3 for something that the Transportation Committee
4 had hearings on, we today have an opportunity to
5 increase those fines and send a message that we
6 mean business, and that refusal will not be
7 tolerated. I want to thank the Committee, the
8 staff, Council Member Rose, the prime cosponsor of
9 this bill, the Speaker, the Members of the
10 Transportation Committee. And lastly, as the
11 Speaker indicated, this bill really came because
12 of an incident that occurred in my own district
13 maybe six weeks ago. It was on a Sunday night,
14 and it was late in the evening, and I was on
15 Facebook. I basically do my Facebook late at
16 night and early in the morning. And I respond to
17 constituents on Facebook. And one of my
18 constituents emailed me to tell me what had
19 happened to him and four of his friends. He told
20 me that him and four of his friends had gone to
21 Manhattan for the evening, they were in their 20s,
22 they knew that they may not have been in a
23 condition to drive, on the way home, and they
24 sought a cab. And when they sought a cab, and
25 wanted to go back to The Bronx, with them already

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2 in the car, the drive said to them, "I don't go to
3 The Bronx. And then they said, "But you have to
4 go to The Bronx. And if it's a matter of money,
5 we'll give you extra money if you're concerned
6 that it's going to cost you more." And he says,
7 "No, I don't go to The Bronx." And then these
8 gentlemen said, "Well, the law says you have to
9 take us to The Bronx." So, they said to him,
10 "Take us to the--" they told the driver, "Go to
11 the nearest police station and the police will
12 tell you that you must take us home." And they
13 went to the nearest police station, and the
14 officer in the station house said, "You must take
15 these gentlemen home." The cab driver then gets
16 back in the car and leaves these guys basically on
17 the sidewalk, and one of them was practically run
18 down in the process. And thank god he's doing
19 better today, but he's had weeks in hospitals and
20 rehab. And that incident, in my mind, brought
21 home that this should not happen to anyone else,
22 because of what they look like, what age they are,
23 where they're going. This is abhorrent to all
24 that we believe in in this City. So I hope the
25 Council will vote yes, and I hope the Mayor will

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2 sign it, and I, I do thank the Speaker and
3 everyone for their help. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
5 much, Chair Vacca. Let me next call on Chair
6 Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.
8 Thank you, Speaker Quinn. As someone who has been
9 refused a taxi ride on multiple occasions, because
10 the driver assumed that I was going to an area
11 that he felt was unsafe, or to a distance in an
12 outer borough where he was unwilling to drive to,
13 I want to urge my colleagues to vote on Intro 521-
14 A, which would increase the fines that taxi
15 drivers would have to pay, if they refuse to take
16 passengers to their respective destinations, or
17 engage in price gouging. I fully understand and
18 appreciate that the vast majority of taxi drivers
19 are hardworking men and women, who obey the law.
20 And let me make it clear that this legislation is
21 not meant to harm or discredit them in any way.
22 This bill will, however, serve as a deterrent for
23 any driver who is thinking about breaking the law,
24 by affecting them where it will hurt the most, in
25 their wallets. I want to thank the sponsor of

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2 this bill, and the Chair of the Transportation
3 Committee, Council Member Vacca, for his
4 leadership on this issue. And for listening to
5 all of my stories about rejected services. And I
6 urge my colleagues to vote yes for Intro 521-A.
7 Thank you.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
9 much, Chair Rose. Today we are also voting on a
10 very significant rezoning of the South Jamaica
11 part of Queens. I want to thank Chair Comrie and
12 Carol Shine and Gail Benjamin, and all the other
13 members of the Land Use staff who worked very long
14 and hard on this rezoning. I want to thank
15 Council Member Sanders and Council Member Wills,
16 who worked on this rezoning as well, and also the
17 Chair of our Zoning Subcommittee, Council Member
18 Weprin. This rezoning, which is close to 550
19 blocks, is one of the biggest, if not the biggest
20 rezoning, we have ever done in the City Council.
21 This rezoning comes out of years and years of
22 work, and requests from the South Jamaica
23 community, for there to be a rezoning which
24 preserves the integrity of that neighborhood,
25 which preserves the low rise nature of that

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2 neighborhood, which preserves the one and two
3 family home nature of that neighborhood, this
4 rezoning will accomplish that on behalf of this
5 community and their community boards. But it will
6 also do another important thing. We all remember
7 in the Council that the City Council created the
8 fresh mechanism in rezoning. A part of our zoning
9 resolution that takes action as it relates to
10 neighborhoods that are lacking in supermarkets,
11 neighborhoods that are so-called "food deserts."
12 Putting this fresh mechanism in place in a
13 neighborhood is a way to encourage more
14 supermarkets to come into a neighborhood, or ones
15 that are there to expand and really become first
16 class supermarkets, we have seen the fresh
17 rezoning already preserve, expand and create new
18 super markets. The South Jamaica rezoning
19 includes in it expansion of the fresh mechanism to
20 this neighborhood, so we will not only preserve
21 the low rise one and two family nature of this
22 neighborhood, we will also make sure that those
23 families living in those one and two family homes,
24 will have greater access to the food resource they
25 and their families need. So I want to thank

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2 everyone one on the staff, Amy and Carol and Gail
3 and everyone on the staff, who worked on this, and
4 all of the Council Members, and let me call on the
5 Chair of our Land Use Committee, Leroy Comrie.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
7 Speaker Quinn. I want to thank all of the people
8 in City Planning, especially the Queens staff,
9 John Young, and--John Young and his staff, for
10 everything they did, there were many meetings held
11 around the South Jamaica rezoning. They attempted
12 to meet with every entity that was involved with
13 the development of the rezoning. It encompassed
14 and crisscrossed commercial areas with residential
15 areas, there was a need to look at the
16 opportunities to increase space on commercial
17 areas. As I've told many of you, I don't have a
18 white, sit down restaurant in my district, only
19 one that just got recently created because we have
20 stores that only go back 80 feet, and which are
21 not really large enough to encompass a real
22 opportunity for a restaurant. They looked at the
23 opportunities to make that happen. The fresh
24 component is a component that our district needs
25 because it is underserved with groceries, and

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2 underserved with fresh fruits. I'm proud to say
3 that when I was Consumer Affairs, Consumer Affairs
4 Chair, I helped start the impetus to create the
5 Fresh Initiative, which allowed the opportunities
6 for supermarkets to get incentives to come into
7 underserved neighborhoods. And that is an
8 important component, as well. I, I want to thank
9 all of the communities, especially Ms. Johnson
10 from One Block at a Time, who was, Connie Johnson,
11 who was a major impetus in making sure that this
12 500 block rezoning got done and was completed. I
13 also want to thank, on the Addisleigh Park
14 rezoning, the Historic Districts Council, the
15 Landmarks Commission, and the Addisleigh Park
16 community. It was the true collaborative effort
17 that I would suggest to any member that is
18 considering rezoning. We had an opportunity for
19 the Historic Districts Council to come and do pre-
20 work with the community, inform the community of
21 what all the aspects of landmarking would entail
22 for them, what their, what their obligations would
23 be. And after working with the Historic District
24 community, Historic District Council, and the
25 community, there was even a desire to expand the

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2 original boundaries of the landmark district. I
3 want to thank the Landmarks Preservation
4 Commission for their thorough review, and working
5 with this community, to allow the Addisleigh Park
6 community to become landmark property. And I also
7 want to thank all of the Members that came out to
8 the VA hospital to look at--well, oh that's on the
9 Resolutions.

10 SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Yes. - -

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: But we'll
12 talk about that in a minute. But I want to thank
13 Speaker Quinn and her staff and her office, and
14 especially the Land Use Committee for everything
15 that is on today's Land Use agenda, and for
16 putting up with me, 'cause I've been late all day.
17 Thank you, thank you, Speaker Quinn.

18 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
19 much, and that concludes Communications from the
20 Speaker.

21 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
22 much, Madam Speaker, next we'll move on to
23 discussion of General Orders. First we have
24 Council Member Jackson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

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2 Majority Leader. My colleagues, I rise this
3 afternoon to ask you to support Intro 521, that
4 was submitted by our colleagues Jimmy Vacca and
5 Debbie Rose. And obviously you've heard what they
6 had to say, and I say to you, as a Member of this
7 body, as someone that is a person of color, as
8 someone that lives outside of the midtown area
9 where 95 percent of taxis roam our streets in
10 order to pick up passengers, that I support this
11 bill because clearly any taxi driver that drives a
12 yellow cab, when a passenger gets into the car,
13 they are by law expected to take them anywhere
14 they wish in the City of New York. Whether they
15 be white, black, Latino, short, tall, big, small,
16 disabled, blind, it doesn't matter. They need to
17 take them. They don't need to roll down their
18 front window and ask them "Where are you going?"
19 and say "No, I'm not going there." They don't
20 need to get in the car and then be asked and told
21 "No, get out." And I say to you, that one time,
22 my experience, when I flew back into New York City
23 to JFK, and I told the driver where I was going,
24 he basically refused, and stopped the car. And I
25 got into an argument with him. We don't need that

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2 in our City. We need drivers to obey the law, and
3 the law says you cannot discriminate. So I ask
4 all of you to support this increase in fine for
5 those that are willing to disobey the law, let
6 them be punished, and if necessary revoke their
7 license. If they need a job, let them serve all
8 New Yorkers, 8.4 million New Yorkers. So, I
9 support this piece of legislation, and I ask you
10 to do the same. Thank you.

11 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
12 much. Next we move on to Council Member Williams.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank
14 you. I, I just too wanted to add my voice, I'm
15 sure this is going to pass with flying colors,
16 820. I want to congratulate the sponsors of the
17 bill, Jimmy and Jimmy Ro--and Debbie Rose. As
18 also a person of color, who has routinely
19 experienced this, I not only have experienced it,
20 I was successful in actually getting a cab fined,
21 the driver fined, I took it as far as the cabbie
22 court, to make sure that they were fined. And I
23 want to encourage people who go through this not
24 to go through it silently, to get the cab number
25 and follow through with the TLC. Maybe then we

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can actually put some more pressure to make sure this gets stopped. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very much. Next we have Council Member Sanders.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I, too, want to speak on this one. I want to congratulate Council Members Vacca and Rose, and I want to say that it's so bad that I had to have Council Member Gale Brewer flag a cab for me, and only then was I able to get a cab, right outside 250 Broadway. Very embarrassing, I mean, I'm very happy that she was kind enough, but very embarrassing. I just want to remind everybody that the first time that this group handled this, we had Danny Glover the actor who came before all of us and said he couldn't even get a cab. So, it's, and I think Danny Glover could pay the bill, I think that he would be able to must up the money for the cab. So I congratulate this, this City Council, under our good Speaker, for continuing to see this thing through, until finally there's only one New York, and we all have it, and we all live in peace here. Thank you very much, and congratulations to Vacca and Rose again.

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2 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
3 much, Council Member. Seeing no others, we'll now
4 move on to Reports of Special Committees.

5 CLERK: None.

6 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Reports of
7 Standing Committees.

8 CLERK: Report on the Committee on
9 Finance, Preconsidered Reso 818, organization
10 funding.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 819,
14 Chinatown Business Improvement District.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 386 and
18 Reso 822, Clinton Commons.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
22 Land Use, LU 346 and Reso 823 through 348 and 825,
23 various UDAPS.

24 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
25 Orders.

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CLERK: LU 367 and Reso 826,
sidewalk café.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 372 and Reso 827, zoning
map amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 373 and Reso 828,
through 374 and 829, Jamaica rezoning.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 375 and Reso 830, zoning
amendment.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 376 and Reso 831 through
380 and 835, landmark designations.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: LU 381 and Reso 836, UDAP
Brooklyn.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: LU 382 and Reso 837,

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sidewalk café.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU 383 and Reso 838, In Rem

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Actions.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: LU 384 and Reso 839, new

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school facility.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on

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Transportation, Intro 521-A, penalties for taxi

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cab drivers.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended an coupled

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on General Orders.

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PRESIDENT RIVERA: General Order

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calendar.

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CLERK: Resolution appointing

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various persons commissioner of deeds.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General

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Orders and at this time I'd like to ask for a roll

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call on all the items that have been coupled on

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the General Order calendar, please.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: So ordered.

CLERK: Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: They went
backwards. You're going backwards?

FEMALE VOICE: Yes. [laughter]

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

[laughs]

CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]
Aye on all. [on mic] Aye on all.

CLERK: Crowley.

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
all.

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CLERK: Dickens.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Dromm.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

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CLERK: Eugene.

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

11

all.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: If I may,

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Mr. Majority Leader, I think up to now the largest

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rezoning the Council had done was in Canarsie,

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where we topped 300 blocks, so I, I regret losing

17

the crown, but if I have to lose it, losing it to

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Council Member Comrie is a good thing. So, I vote

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aye on all.

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CLERK: Garodnick.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

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CLERK: Gonzalez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

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CLERK: Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD:

Congratulations to Chair Comrie, Chair Vacca and my seatmate Debbie Rose, vote aye on all.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I, too,

wanted to offer congratulations to Chair Rose and Chair Vacca. As a person who's from the furthest district, I've been told many times coming out of a club or a bar, "Too far to go to Staten Island, too far," and because they wanted to make money staying in the main district. So, I hope this legislation helps. I want to wish Karen well, and I'm voting aye on all. Thank you.

CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

all.

CLERK: James.

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Aye on all.

And Hope, rest in peace.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: May I

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explain my vote?

PRESIDENT RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I just would observe that many of you have seen the commercial for Channel One talking about real New Yorkers. And in one of those commercials, it says, "Real New Yorkers know they have to get into the cab first, before they tell the driver where they want to go." I hope this legislation will make it no longer relevant to show that kind of commercial or to say that in the commercial. And I might observe, coming from Riverdale and living there pretty much all my life, that there's so many times that I've been refused a ride, not to say that our colleagues who are from minority community aren't worse off, but my constituents have faced this constantly, not only facing refusals, but then if you insist that you go, you kind of take your life into your hands because the driver's so annoyed that he has to go that long distance, that he drives 80 miles an hour up the highway. That's got to end, and this is one way to start ending that. I will tell you the truth, there are many nights when I have not taken a cab,

1
2 just 'cause I didn't want to face the kind of
3 resistance that you get when you try and go far
4 from the midtown business district. Thank you,
5 Mr. Majority Leader, I withdraw my request and
6 vote aye on all.

7 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you.

8 CLERK: Koslowitz.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on
10 all.

11 CLERK: Lander.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Want to
13 thank Steve Levin for his beautiful words about
14 Hope, both here at the, and at the funeral. As
15 the Council Member for Cobble Hill and Carol
16 Gardens, I also saw her as my community liaison
17 there. She was wonderful and it's a, it's a true
18 loss, so thanks to him and condolences to the
19 family. Congratulations to the Chairs on today's
20 bills, and aye on all.

21 CLERK: Levin. [pause] Mealy.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Mendez.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Palma.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.
3 CLERK: Recchia.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
5 all.
6 CLERK: Reyna. Rodriguez.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
8 CLERK: Rose.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
10 CLERK: Sanders.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on
12 all.
13 CLERK: Seabrook.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: [off mic]
15 Aye on all.
16 CLERK: Vallone.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic]
18 Aye on all.
19 CLERK: Van Bramer.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on
21 all.
22 CLERK: Vann.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.
24 CLERK: Weprin.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:

Congratulations to Chairs Comrie, Rose and Vacca.
Aye on all.

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

CLERK: Rivera.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: I vote aye on
all.

[pause]

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

SPEAKER QUINN: [off mic] Aye on
all.

[pause]

PRESIDENT RIVERA: All items on
today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a
vote of 45 in the affirmative, with zero in the
negative, and the revised Land Use Call Ups were
adopted by a vote of 45 in the affirmative, with
zero in the negative. Introduction and reading of
the bills.

SPEAKER QUINN: All bills are

1
2 referred to committees as indicated on the agenda.
3 And I just want to remind my colleagues of the
4 upcoming hearings on the Executive Budget. The
5 schedule is attached, please make note of the
6 attendance requirements, and also occasionally
7 there'll have to be changes in the schedule, so
8 please check with my office and monitor the
9 Council's website.

10 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
11 much, Madam Speaker. Discussion of Resolutions?
12 There are none--Oh--

13 SPEAKER QUINN: There is one
14 resolution, yes.

15 PRESIDENT RIVERA: There is one, no
16 discussions. Okay, so we'll have a vote on the
17 Resolutions, Reso 422-A an amended Resolution
18 calling upon the U.S. Department of Veteran
19 Affairs to completely renovate and utilize the
20 existing St. Alban's Community Living Center, to
21 provide a full service VA hospital with an
22 emergency room, a primary and extended care
23 facility for female veterans, and a comprehensive
24 treatment facility with domiciliary for homeless
25 veterans. All in favor, say aye:

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COUNCIL: Aye.

PRESIDENT RIVERA: All opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. General Discussion? We have Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you. My colleagues, if you look at our agenda, there's a proposed Resolution No. 802, which basically says where a candidate for the Chancellorship does not meet the minimum requirements under the law, that their candidacy must go in front of a joint committee of the State Legislative body, the Assembly and Senate, in order to have approval by them. And obviously, you know that the last four Chancellors, Chancellor Dennis Wolcott, Chancellor Kathy Black, Chancellor Joel Klein, and Chancellor Harry Lev--Harold Levy, neither one of them, met the minimum qualifications under the law. Why do we have a law if we doesn't, if we don't follow it. So, State Senator Eric Adams of Brooklyn and State Assemblyman Marcos Crespos of The Bronx, has, they've sponsored this Resolu--this amendment to the law, in the Assembly and Senate, which basically says where an individual doesn't meet the minimum qualifications, he must be approved by

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2 a joint session of the legislative bodies. And
3 this is Resolution 804, and I ask all of you to
4 support this on behalf of the children of New York
5 City. Thank you.

6 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
7 much, Council Member. But we are still conducting
8 a Stated Meeting, so if we can have silence within
9 the Chambers, have respect for the Members who are
10 speaking. Thank you very much. Next we have
11 Council Member Debbie Rose.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I
13 rise this afternoon to ask my colleagues to
14 support Resolution 820, which calls upon the
15 Administration of Children's Services, Division of
16 Youth and Family Justice, to require all juvenile
17 detainees in the New York City detention
18 facilities, during the summer months, to attend
19 summer school. In 2009, there were a total of
20 5,387 youth placed in detention with an average
21 stay of 26 days. For many of these youth an
22 emphasis on education has been lost in the context
23 of incarceration. According to the assessments
24 conducted by the Department of Education, 94
25 percent of the residents in Juvenile Detention

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2 read below grade level and 40 percent read below a
3 fourth grade level. Additionally, recent studies
4 conducted by the National Evaluation and Technical
5 Assistance Center indicate that youth with
6 learning disabilities have a higher propensity for
7 gang membership, and that academic outcomes
8 achieved during incarceration, including reading
9 improvement, reduce recidivism. Detained youth
10 have the right to a higher educational standard
11 and an environment that sustains an emphasis on
12 education year round. Now, more than ever, the
13 detained youth of New York City need legislation
14 passed that will perpetuate their educational
15 opportunities, and combat the poor statistics that
16 plague incarcerated youth. I hope that you will
17 join me in support of my resolution 820, by
18 signing on as a sponsor. Thank you.

19 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
20 much. Next we have Council Member Rodriguez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank
22 you. I just would like to invite my colleague to
23 sign on a Resolution that already has submit in
24 the past calling on New York State not to
25 participate in Secure Community. And as everyone

1
2 probably heard in the news, Illinois already
3 decided, the Governor of Illinois, that that State
4 should not participate. The Latino Congress
5 Caucus also called President Obama to stop the
6 plan of secure communities, since 80 percent of
7 people that have been deported through Security
8 Community, they're being deported by manner a
9 criminal record. So, I know that there's a number
10 of votes that we already have signed, and I
11 invite, including the Chairman on the Immigration
12 Committee, and I invite the rest of my colleagues
13 to look at it and sign on the resolution. And I
14 hope that in the future of the Council, we pass a
15 resolution calling on New York State to resign and
16 not to participate in Secure Community. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you very
19 much, Council Member. Do we have any others?
20 Council Member Levin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you
22 very much. I would like to call my colleagues'
23 attentions, attention to Intros 563, 564 and 565,
24 being introduced today regarding the presence of
25 PCBs in our City schools, Council Member Vinnie

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2 Ignizio who has taken the lead on this issue for,
3 for years now, has, I've worked with him to, to
4 introduce these, these, these introductions to, to
5 have reporting requirements, as it relates to, to
6 PCBs in our schools, as we've had hearings most
7 recently just last month, on, on the presence of
8 these PCBs and what the Department of Education is
9 doing about it. And I encourage my colleagues to
10 sign on to all three bills so that we can get
11 these passed, so we can make sure that the
12 information is out in the open to the parents and
13 to the public on the presence of PCBs when they
14 are found in the schools, and, and what the
15 Department of Education is doing to address it
16 and, and so forth. So, thank you very much and
17 again, I encourage my colleagues to sign on.
18 Thanks.

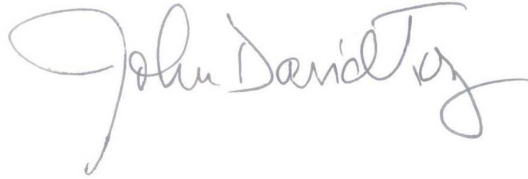
19 PRESIDENT RIVERA: Thank you.
20 Seeing no others, this meeting is adjourned.

21 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date May 27, 2011