

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

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December 21, 2009
Start: 02:44 pm
Recess: 05:18 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Charles Barron
Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Bill de Blasio
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Mathieu Eugene
Simcha Felder
Julissa Ferreras
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Daniel R. Garodnick

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro
Vincent J. Gentile
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
Sara M. Gonzalez
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Letitia James
Melinda R. Katz
G. Oliver Koppell
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Kenneth Mitchell
Michael C. Nelson
James S. Oddo
Annabel Palma
Christine C. Quinn
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Helen Sears
Kendall Stewart
Eric Ulrich
James Vacca
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.
Albert Vann
David I. Weprin
Thomas White, Jr.
David Yassky
Ydanis A. Rodriguez

A P P E A R A N C E S

Rabbi Jonathan Glass
Civic Center Synagogue

1
2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Ladies and
3 gentlemen please rise for the Pledge of
4 Allegiance.

5 COUNCIL: I pledge allegiance to
6 the flag of the United States of America, and to
7 the Republic for which it stands, one nation under
8 God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for
9 all.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Roll call.

11 CLERK: Arroyo?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

13 CLERK: Avella?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Here.

15 CLERK: Baez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: [No
17 response].

18 CLERK: Barron?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

20 CLERK: Brewer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

22 CLERK: Comrie?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Here.

24 CLERK: Crowley?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No

1

2 response].

3

CLERK: De Blasio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [No

8

response].

9

CLERK: Dilan?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Here.

11

CLERK: Eugene?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Here.

13

CLERK: Felder?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here.

15

CLERK: Ferreras?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

17

CLERK: Fidler?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Here.

19

CLERK: Foster?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Here.

21

CLERK: Garodnick?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

23

CLERK: Gennaro?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here.

25

CLERK: Gentile?

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

3

CLERK: Gerson?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Here.

5

CLERK: Gioia?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Here.

7

CLERK: Gonzalez?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Here.

9

CLERK: Ignizio?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No

11

response].

12

CLERK: Jackson?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Here.

14

CLERK: James?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Here.

16

CLERK: Katz?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: [No

18

response].

19

CLERK: Koppell?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Here.

21

CLERK: Lappin?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Here.

23

CLERK: Liu?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Here.

25

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

3

Here.

4

CLERK: Mealy?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Here.

6

CLERK: Mendez?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Here.

8

CLERK: Mitchell?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Here.

10

CLERK: Nelson?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Here.

12

CLERK: Palma?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Here.

14

CLERK: Recchia?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Here.

16

CLERK: Reyna?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Here.

18

CLERK: Rodriguez?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

20

CLERK: Sanders?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Present.

22

CLERK: Seabrook?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Here.

24

CLERK: Sears?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Here.

1

2

CLERK: Stewart?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Here.

4

CLERK: Ulrich?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

6

response].

7

CLERK: Vacca?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

9

CLERK: Vallone?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

11

CLERK: Vann?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Here.

13

CLERK: Weprin?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Here.

15

CLERK: White?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Here.

17

CLERK: Yassky?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Here.

19

CLERK: Oddo?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Here.

21

CLERK: Rivera?

22

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Here.

23

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

24

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

25

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: A quorum is

1
2 present. Ladies and gentlemen, please rise for
3 the Invocation being delivered by Rabbi Jonathan
4 Glass.

5 RABBI JONATHAN GLASS: Men and
6 women of the City Council, we find ourselves in
7 the near aftermath of the Hanukkah holiday that
8 concluded just this weekend. Many times from this
9 forum I have reminded you of the message of the
10 story being one of religious tolerance, which
11 first found its voice thousands of years ago.

12 This is a city that invited a
13 Jewish community to its shores over 400 years ago
14 who were victims at that time of religious
15 persecution. And the City Council is at the
16 vanguard of that legacy.

17 So it has been my honor and
18 privilege to be invited here today for all those
19 years in the past as well to invoke my blessing
20 upon your proceedings. It is also my distinct
21 honor to pronounce this blessing of 12 of our
22 members and to wish them well in all their future
23 endeavors, especially my dear friend and
24 classmate, Alan J. Gerson, of the First District.

25 Finally, for all our new members,

1

2 may they enjoy inspired leadership and
3 collegiality for the vital work ahead on behalf of
4 our great city of New York. Amen and thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
6 Gerson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Mr.
8 Majority Leader, it's with great pleasure and
9 gratitude, with appreciation for all of Rabbi
10 Glass' contributions to our Lower Manhattan
11 community and for his personal friendship to me, I
12 move to spread this Invocation in full upon the
13 record.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.
15 Adoption of the minutes?

16 CLERK: None.

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Messages and
18 papers from the Mayor?

19 CLERK: M 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695,
20 Mayors veto and disapproval message of Resolution
21 Numbers 2295, 2296, 2297 and 2298.

22 SPEAKER QUINN: Land Use.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Communication
24 from City, County and Borough offices?

25 CLERK: M 1696 through M 1707, base

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station licenses.

SPEAKER QUINN: Transportation.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Petitions and
communications?

CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Land Use Call-
ups.

CLERK: M 1708.

SPEAKER QUINN: Could we get a roll
call on the Land Use Call-up, Mr. Majority Leader?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Roll Call.

CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

CLERK: Avella?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [No
response].

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2

CLERK: De Blasio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: [No

4

response].

5

CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote aye

7

on all Land Use Call-ups and with permission I'd

8

like to vote aye on all items on the coupled

9

General Order Calendar and on all Resolutions.

10

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on

12

all.

13

CLERK: Dilan?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Aye.

15

CLERK: Eugene?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

17

CLERK: Felder?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [No

19

response].

20

CLERK: Ferreras?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote

22

aye.

23

CLERK: Felder?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

25

CLERK: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

2

CLERK: Foster?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

4

CLERK: Garodnick?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

6

CLERK: Gennaro?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Mr. Acting

8

Public Advocate, I ask consent to vote consent on
the entire calendar today. First of all, I vote
yes on the Land Use items and with your consent
I'll vote on the entire calendar.

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12

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote

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aye.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

16

much. Before you continue, if we can get silence
inside the chambers. Thank you.

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CLERK: Gentile?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

20

CLERK: Gerson?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye.

22

CLERK: Gioia?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.

24

CLERK: Gonzalez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

3

CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [No

5

response].

6

CLERK: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

8

CLERK: James?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Yes.

10

CLERK: Katz?

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

12

CLERK: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

14

CLERK: Lappin?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye on the

16

Land Use Call-up calendar.

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CLERK: Liu?

18

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

19

CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

20

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes.

21

CLERK: Mealy?

22

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

23

CLERK: Mendez?

24

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

25

CLERK: Mitchell?

1

COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Aye.

2

CLERK: Nelson?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

4

CLERK: Palma?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

6

CLERK: Recchia?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I vote aye

8

on the Land Use Call-ups and with permission, I'd

9

like to vote aye on all items coupled on the

10

General Order Calendar and Resolutions.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER: I object. Oh wait

12

a second, I'm sorry; this is the New York City

13

Council. For a minute I thought it was the United

14

States Senate. I'm sorry. I withdraw the

15

rejection and let the learned man from Brooklyn

16

get unanimous consent.

17

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I get it.

19

Aye.

20

CLERK: Reyna?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

22

CLERK: Rodriguez?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

24

CLERK: Sanders?

25

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COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

2

3

CLERK: Seabrook?

4

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

5

CLERK: Sears?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

7

CLERK: Stewart?

8

COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: Aye.

9

CLERK: Ulrich?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: [No

11

response].

12

CLERK: Vacca?

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

14

CLERK: Vallone?

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

16

CLERK: Vann?

17

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

18

CLERK: Weprin?

19

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

20

CLERK: White?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

22

CLERK: Yassky?

23

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

24

CLERK: Crowley?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

1

2

CLERK: De Blasio?

3

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye.

4

CLERK: Ignizio?

5

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

6

CLERK: Ulrich?

7

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

8

CLERK: Oddo?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

10

CLERK: Rivera?

11

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

12

CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

13

SPEAKER QUINN: Here.

14

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Today's Land

15

Use Call-ups are adopted by a vote of 50 in the

16

affirmative with zero in the negative.

17

Communication from the Speaker.

18

SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you. Sit

19

down, Mr. Oddo, please, you're disrupting the

20

meeting. Enough from the Minority Leader.

21

We're voting on a lot of important

22

items today. I also obviously want to, as the

23

Rabbi started out, by reminding us that today is

24

the final meeting for 12 of our colleagues. I am

25

not going to make comments about my colleagues

1
2 during the Speaker's time. I'll do that at the
3 end of the meeting in General Discussions and I
4 think that's the best time for all of us to do
5 that. But also, I did want to remind folks there
6 will be a reception in the red room following the
7 Stated Meeting for our colleagues for whom this is
8 their final meeting.

9 Let me recognize some our Council
10 Members-elect who are here. We have Council
11 Member-elect Mark Weprin who was here before but
12 is not here now, Dan Halloran, Jimmy Van Bramer,
13 Danny Dromm, Steve Levin and Fernando Cabrera.
14 Thank you all for being with us today.

15 We're voting on a number of
16 important pieces of legislation, Land Use actions
17 and veto overrides today. First, Intro 240-A, a
18 piece of legislation passed out of the Consumer
19 Affairs Committee chaired by Leroy Comrie, and a
20 bill written and introduced by Council Member Al
21 Vann. If we could get a little quiet in the
22 chambers. I want to thank Alix Pustilnik and
23 Lacey Clarke for their work on this legislation.

24 Intro 240-A does two simple but
25 very important things. It significantly increases

1
2 the fines on stores that sell imitation guns.
3 These are guns that get out there on our streets
4 and are fake guns but look incredibly real. These
5 are guns that put children's lives at risk and
6 imitation guns that put police officers' lives at
7 risk.

8 This bill will increase the fine
9 significantly, but perhaps most importantly will
10 give the Department of Consumer Affairs the
11 ability to shut stores down that break the law
12 around toy and imitation guns, to close them for
13 as many as three days. Increasing the fine,
14 giving DCA the ability to shutter these stores
15 will hit these stores in their pocketbooks.

16 Obviously, individuals who are
17 selling imitation guns don't really have a great
18 care for New Yorkers. They're driven by their own
19 greed. This bill the Council Member Vann has
20 introduced will cut into that greed, hopefully
21 stop this dangerous sale, protect children, their
22 families and our police officers. I want to thank
23 Chairperson Comrie for his work on the bill. I
24 want to thank Council Member Vann for his lifetime
25 of work trying to protect the children of New York

1
2 City. Let me call on the chair of the committee
3 and then on Council Member Vann.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
5 Speaker Quinn. I just want to take the
6 opportunity to thank Council Member Vann for his
7 diligence and focus and perseverance in getting
8 this bill passed. I want to thank my committee,
9 Lacey Clarke, Damien Butvick and Alix Pustilnik
10 for everything that they did. I'm going to defer
11 to Council Member Vann to talk about the specifics
12 of the bill as it is his baby.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,
14 Council Member Comrie and Speaker. Let me briefly
15 say, I think it was six years ago when a dispute
16 arose in my community between two individuals and
17 one went back and came back with what was thought
18 to be a gun. The police were called and there
19 were tragic results. Everyone thought he had a
20 gun and of course, tragedy follows that.

21 At that time I was motivated to see
22 about prohibiting the sale of toy guns altogether
23 and found out that the federal government
24 precluded and indeed preempted that type of
25 legislation. We could not do that, so the next

1
2 best thing was to increase the penalty and we did
3 that, but it wasn't sufficient.

4 This time I think we've got it
5 right. I think this will be effective. It's
6 hitting them in the pocketbook where in America
7 that's what counts. So hitting them in the
8 pocketbook we hope will be sufficient to prevent
9 the sale of these toy guns that look like real
10 guns that put our children in harm's way.

11 I'd like to thank the Speaker,
12 Council Member Comrie, and all of our colleagues.
13 Potentially it will save lives and so it's worthy
14 of every member's support and every member's vote.
15 Thank you very much.

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
17 much, Council Member Vann. We're also voting on
18 another piece of legislation out of the Consumer
19 Affairs Committee which was drafted and introduced
20 by the chair of the committee Leroy Comrie, Intro
21 853-A. I also want to thank Alix Pustilnik and
22 Lacey Clarke for their work on this bill.

23 This piece of legislation eases the
24 regulatory requirements, paperwork, red tape, et
25 cetera, for establishments that want to have

1
2 arcade machines in them. Presently if you're a
3 bar or restaurant owner and you want to have one
4 or two or three arcade machines in the back of
5 your establishment, you have to go through a
6 lengthy paperwork DCA permitting process. It's
7 quite frankly an out of date process, one of sadly
8 too many we still on the books that make the life
9 of small business owners harder.

10 I want to thank our Consumer
11 Affairs chair for changing this regulation and
12 eliminating some of the red tape that unfairly
13 burdens our small businesses. Let me call on the
14 bill's sponsor, Council Member Comrie.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Thank you,
16 Speaker Quinn. In this tough economic recession,
17 it's important that we try to work to help the
18 small business environment. Today's arcade game
19 is not like yesterdays for now they have
20 multiplayer games. It's very difficult for an
21 establishment to establish themselves and to do
22 all of the paperwork necessary if you have more
23 than five games. If you use Dance, Dance
24 Revolution or a multiplayer game, you quickly hit
25 the four-game limit and it was really unfair.

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2 I want to thank all of the people
3 that helped to put this legislation together.
4 again, Lacey Clarke, Damien Butvick, Alix
5 Pustilnik, Rob Newman, everyone on the Mayor's
6 Office and especially the Speaker's staff for
7 understanding that we need to help legitimate
8 businesses during these difficult economic times.
9 We need to give them a leg up and an opportunity.

10 We will be making sure that this
11 legislation protects truancy and makes sure that
12 all of the issues around truancy will be followed.
13 All of the things that will make sure that we
14 protect the community will be enforced with this
15 legislation. It's clearly just making life a
16 little better for the small business community. I
17 urge all the members to vote for this bill. Thank
18 you.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
20 much, Chairman Comrie. We're also voting on a
21 regionally specific project today. I want to
22 thank Chairperson White for his work on that as
23 well as Jeff Haberman and Tom Donaldson. We're
24 voting today on Intro 1083-A, a piece of
25 legislation passed out of our Parks Committee, and

1
2 I want to thank Chairperson Foster for her work on
3 that and introduced by Council Member Melissa
4 Mark-Viverito. I want to thank Jeff Haberman and
5 Lyle Frank for their work on that piece of
6 legislation.

7 I think many of us have seen more
8 and more that the City of New York Parks
9 conservancies develop, entities that come together
10 to help support, raise money, manage, et cetera,
11 public parks in the City of New York. They have a
12 board and different governance structure.

13 But up until this piece of
14 legislation, there was no requirement that the
15 community where the park was located have a seat
16 at that board and be actually part of the parks
17 conservancy governance. As a result of this piece
18 of legislation, now parks conservancies will have
19 to have a member of the community, someone who
20 lives there or runs a business there on their
21 board from the community board where the park is
22 located and additional members from the
23 communities that abut the park.

24 This way we can make sure that
25 people and entities that are working to improve

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parks in the City of New York through these parks conservancies actually have the voice of the community where the park is located at the table to make sure that the functioning of the conservancies, the governance of the conservancies, the program work of the conservancies are actually one that fully represents and reflects the needs and desires of the community. So I really want to thank Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito for her work on this.

A number of the conservancies, the Friends of the High Line in my district, the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn already behave in this way and have public members, so we know it is a model that can work and make the functioning of conservancies even better.

We're now going to hear first from the chair of our Parks Committee, Chairperson Foster and then the sponsor of the bill, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Thank you very much, Speaker. First let me thank Council Member Mark-Viverito who probably is the district that is most affected by a conservancy where there

1
2 is a need to have community involvement. Let me
3 also thank Council Member James who conducted the
4 hearing in my absence while I attended a funeral
5 actually at her home church.

6 I think the importance of this is
7 making sure that community people, the folks that
8 are actually affected most by the conservancy and
9 live closest to the park have a place at the
10 table. For too long it has been others that are
11 dictating. Again, I applaud Council Member Mark-
12 Viverito for her insight in this legislation and
13 of course to Lyle Frank and everyone that worked
14 on this bill.

15 I urge you to vote for it so that
16 we can continue to see the partnership and the
17 word that is used so often, transparency, in these
18 conservancies. Thank you.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO:

20 Thank you, Speaker, for your support on this and
21 all the staff obviously that worked on it. Just
22 really bottom line, our public parks are a public
23 resource and we might need to ensure that we have
24 complete transparency and accountability in the
25 process.

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Conservancies, for the most part, are made up by local individuals but they really do encourage these public-private partnerships and at times they're making major decisions with regards to what happens in the park. If there is any sort of refurbishment in terms of use of the park and what is determined. So it's really imperative that community residents sit at that decision making table.

It has been noted, most conservancies do meet these criteria, but there are some, and particularly in my district, that absolutely don't. There is not one community member from the adjoining community boards that sits on the Randall's Island Sports Foundation and that is very problematic. Then also as we move forward, more conservancies may be set up in this city. So the sense of needing transparency and openness and ensuring that community voice is critical.

So this is just one small step that we're taking to provide some sense of consistency with regards to how we establish conservancies and the expectations of conservancies as they're set

1
2 up to kind of manage and oversee our public
3 resource. So thank you very much for your support
4 and I look forward to all my colleagues supporting
5 this and making this bill into law.

6 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
7 Member. We're also voting today on Intro 1063-A,
8 a piece of legislation that was passed through our
9 Transportation Committee by our Comptroller-elect
10 John Liu and introduced and drafted by Council
11 Member Alan Gerson. I want to thank Terzah Nasser
12 and Phil Hom for their work on this bill.

13 Quite simply, this is a piece of
14 legislation that puts in new legal requirements
15 for the Department of Transportation and other
16 agencies to notify Council Member and Community
17 Boards when they are doing large projects in their
18 district and prescribes a period of time for the
19 Community Board and the Council Member to make
20 suggestions, objections, et cetera, about those
21 projects and requires written response from the
22 agencies about whether or not they will following
23 the recommendations of the Community Board and the
24 Council Members.

25 Obviously there is an exception for

1
2 emergencies, but we think this is an appropriate
3 piece of legislation to require greater
4 coordination and consultation with Council Members
5 and Community Boards. Let me first call on
6 Chairperson Liu and then the author of the bill,
7 Council Member Gerson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you very
9 much, Madame Speaker. Thank you for your support
10 of this important bill. A number of major
11 projects have been proposed or have commenced in
12 our city with very little notification and
13 certainly no opportunity for input from local
14 communities, even our colleagues in the City
15 Council. That's why I support this measure put
16 forth by Council Member Gerson.

17 It's the right thing to do,
18 especially with major projects such at Chatham
19 Square, such as the closure of significant parts
20 of Broadway. It's time that at least the
21 Department of Transportation gets out there and
22 notifies Community Boards and notifies Council
23 Members and give the public an opportunity to
24 comment.

25 I also want to thank you for your

1
2 continued support, Madame Speaker, of the five-
3 minute grace period for parking and also for
4 permit rules that will make it easier for clergy
5 to park their cars.

6 At the end of the day, the five-
7 minute legislation simply codifies what was
8 practiced for many, many years prior to this
9 administration in this city and it restores a more
10 civil attitude towards the way we enforce parking
11 regulations in this city. New Yorkers will no
12 longer feel that there's a gotcha mentality behind
13 issuing these parking tickets.

14 With regard to the clergy parking
15 bill, this is important, not only for the clergy,
16 and I want to thank the clergy leaders who have
17 joined us today in these chambers for their
18 support and for bringing this problem to our
19 attention.

20 But the fact of the matter is that
21 this is a bill that's necessary to allow the
22 clergy members to serve their congregation, the
23 thousands of New Yorkers who rely on their
24 services from funerals to weddings to regular
25 church service on a weekly basis.

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2 So with all of these I urge my
3 colleagues to vote yes on these three items coming
4 from the Transportation Committee I'm happy to
5 report, Madame Speaker. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you
7 very much Madame Speaker and Chair Liu for your
8 support and leadership in propounding Intro 1063.
9 I also want to acknowledge and thank Council
10 Member Gentile for his role in shaping this
11 legislation.

12 My colleagues, this is a good
13 government, efficient government piece of
14 legislation. It will assure that our city makes
15 the best wisest possible decisions with respect to
16 our streets and sidewalks. We know the best
17 decisions are made only after full public input
18 and this will codify an efficient, effective
19 process.

20 I just need to note that the
21 requirements set forth in this bill are minimum
22 requirements with respect to time of notice, with
23 respect to the number of community presentations
24 and hearings. There is nothing to prevent any
25 city department from adding to the length of

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2 notice or the means of notice and conducting more
3 hearings.

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5 We expect that for appropriately
6 large and complex projects such additional notice
7 would be given. But in the meantime we have this
8 codified effective minimum process assuring that
9 our streets will continue to serve the public as
10 best as possible. Thank you.

11

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
13 much, Council Member Gerson. We're also voting on
14 a number of Land Use items today, the first of
15 which is the rezoning of the Western Rail Yards in
16 my district.

17

18 Before I speak specifically about
19 that, let me thank the staff in Land Use who
20 worked on all three of the items we'll speak about
21 today, Gail Benjamin, our terrific director of our
22 Land Use division, Carol Shine, Christian Hylton,
23 Alonzo Carr, Amy Levitan, Danielle Decerbo and
24 Ramon Martinez. There's a lot of Land Use actions
25 that we ended the year with, so if we could just
get a round of applause for everybody in Land Use
who has worked on all of these items in November
and December.

1
2 As it relates to the Western Rail
3 Yards, I want to particular thank Danielle Decerbo
4 who was the lead Land Use person on the Western
5 Rail Yards. She's somebody I was lucky enough to
6 have as an intern in my district office before I
7 was Speaker and she's gone on to just be an
8 amazing addition to our Land Use staff.

9 The Western Rail Yards, some might
10 remember, is the piece of the West Side of
11 Manhattan where there was one proposed a couple of
12 times a stadium. There is no stadium there but
13 what will be these 13 acres is a new neighborhood
14 in the City of New York.

15 It's a neighborhood that will have
16 commercial and residential development. It's a
17 neighborhood that will have a number of cultural
18 institutions, purposely smaller cultural
19 institutions, so we could have a diversity of
20 different cultural entities that reflected the
21 cultural history of the West Side of Manhattan.

22 There will be a new school. There
23 will also be 20% of the housing that gets
24 developed as a result of this rezoning will be
25 affordable housing with the different income

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2 levels of low, moderate and middle that the
3 community board requested.

4 Most significantly, of this
5 affordable housing, almost all of it will be
6 permanently affordable housing. The community
7 board made a conscious decision. If it was a
8 choice between a higher overall percentage of like
9 30% or a little bit lower at 20% but have more of
10 it be permanent, we wanted permanent affordable
11 housing. We didn't want people to live here for
12 30 years and then have to leave.

13 This is the largest amount of
14 permanent affordable housing we have ever
15 accomplished in a rezoning, I think setting a new
16 precedent and a new bar as it relates to the issue
17 of permanence in our housing work and in our land
18 use.

19 We'll also see, as a result of this
20 rezoning, new open spaces. We've gotten the city
21 to make a commitment to the greening of Hell's
22 Kitchen as the community board requested. We've
23 also gotten as a result of this action a
24 commitment for work on landmarks districts and
25 landmark buildings that about this new

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2 neighborhood.

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4 So overall with the Western Rail
5 yards rezoning, we're taking 13 acres that have
6 literally been stuck in almost three decades, 30
7 years of debate, battle, bad ideas beaten back,
8 new bad ideas beaten back, new bad ideas beaten
9 back, and come to a process where a piece of state
10 land was put through the ULURP process. There was
11 an open and public participatory process and we
12 will now have a wonderful addition with mixed
13 income residents to the West Side of Manhattan.

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I want to thank everyone who has
worked long and hard on this, first and foremost,
as I said, Danielle Decerbo, Deputy Mayor Bob
Lieber, Felix Ciampa, his chief of staff, everyone
in our Land Use division, everyone on Community
Board 4, everyone who is part of the Hudson Rail
Yards Alliance and Community Advisory Board, the
West Side Neighborhood Alliance, the Friends of
the High Line. The preservation of the northern
part of the High Line is also part of this action,
Ramon Martinez and Chuck Meara and everyone in the
Speaker's Office and Mayor Bloomberg for his
support on getting the community to table in this

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2 project.

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We're also voting today on the Broadway Triangle Urban Renewal Area Actions. I want to call on Council Member Yassky whose district that is in. This is also a project where we will be bringing, I think it's about 46% of the housing that gets developed as a result of the Broadway Triangle action will be affordable housing, most of it targeted low income New Yorkers as was the preference in this project. But I want to thank everyone in Land Use and Ramon Martinez who work on this project. Let me call on the Council Member whose district this is in, Council Member David Yassky.

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you, Speaker. While not as large as the Rail Yards, it's appropriate in some ways being done the same day because also a long history leading up to what I think is a terrific outcome. The Broadway Triangle is in the 33rd District, which I have the privilege of representing for another nine or ten days here. I support this rezoning 100%. My successor Steve Levin, who is there, supports it as well. I would ask every one of my colleagues

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2 here in the Council to support it as well.

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There is a long history here that I won't go through, but I will tell you this is a part of the city that has been poorly treated by the government in a lot of ways. It was declared urban renewal area more than 20 years ago with the idea of making a big industrial park because there was a large Pfizer factory there.

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That never materialized but as a result of it being declared urban renewal area, it has been off limits to any positive development use ever since then. Meanwhile, all around there in Williamsburg, housing prices have tripled, have literally quadrupled in parts of Williamsburg and there remains a desperate need for the kind of moderate priced housing and affordable low income housing that this project will bring, as the Speaker said, 46%.

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When we did the big waterfront rezoning a few years ago, we were thrilled that 31% of the apartments to be developed would be affordable. This is 46%. For the privately owned land, it has the inclusionary zoning provisions that we in the Council have put on the map. The

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2 city-owned sites will be developed 100%
3 affordable, every single one of them. So I have
4 heard people say as we've gone through this
5 process, I'd like to see more affordable housing
6 out of it. I honestly cannot imagine how we could
7 get more affordable than this plan does for this
8 site.

9 It has been approved by the
10 community board, by the borough president and I
11 would ask every single one of my colleagues here
12 to support this plan.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
14 much, Council Member Yassky. And before I speak
15 of the final Land Use item today, I want to thank
16 the chair of the Land Use Committee, Melinda Katz,
17 the chair of the subcommittees Jessica Lappin, Dan
18 Garodnick and Tony Avella. As I said, we're
19 voting on three big Land Use items today that all
20 of them had a role in, but we've also done a lot
21 of land use items over the past few years, so I
22 want to thank all four of you for your tremendous
23 and hard work. So thank you very much.

24 Lastly, we're voting today related
25 to the Kingsbridge Armory. We will be voting to

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2 override the Mayors veto of our denial of the plan
3 around the Kingsbridge Armory.

4 We discussed this at our last State
5 Meeting. There was much negotiation and
6 discussion and a very strong and hard fought
7 attempt by the Bronx Delegation to come to a
8 compromise that they believed met the needs as it
9 related to a number of important and significant
10 land use items, traffic as well as congestion and
11 other issues that were spelled out in the
12 environmental impact statement as well as some
13 non-land use related matters relating to salaries
14 relevant to the fact that there are finance bonds
15 and a transfer of city-owned property as part of
16 this project.

17 Unfortunately, we could not come to
18 a compromise that met the needs of the Borough of
19 the Bronx and those who represent it. That's why
20 I would urge all of my colleagues today to vote to
21 affirm our denial. I think we're all disappointed
22 we couldn't come to a compromise where we all
23 could agree. This represents probably the only
24 economic development project we have not been able
25 to come to a compromise on, but sometimes you just

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2 can't get there and it's important that we stand
3 together when that is the case. I would urge all
4 of my colleagues to sustain this veto override.

5 On the theme of veto overrides, we
6 will also be voting to override the veto of Intro
7 662-A, which as Chairperson Liu said, is the
8 clergy parking permit. The changes we are going
9 to make as a result of overriding the veto are
10 ones that really make clergy parking permits
11 usable in a real sense.

12 I mean up until our change, you
13 could have lived in Rockland or Orange County and
14 gotten a permit as a member of the clergy to do
15 work in the five boroughs. But if you lived in
16 Hoboken or Jersey City or Stanford, reasonable
17 places people commute from, you would not be able
18 to get one.

19 The law presently, until we make
20 this change, stipulates how much money you have to
21 make from the religious establishment you work
22 for. Well, ask any manager of the clergy, they
23 all don't necessarily get paid from the religious
24 establishments they work for. So we now say you
25 have to work 20 hours a week, which makes more

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2 sense than a financial requirement. Some of the
3 vehicles that clergy use are registered to the
4 religious establishments, not to the clergy
5 themselves. Up until the change we're making
6 today, none of those clergy could have had clergy
7 parking permits. So this is an important change
8 to make this law actually something that works for
9 the religious leaders of our city.

10 I would also urge my colleagues to
11 vote to override the veto of Intro 907-A, which as
12 the chair of the committee said, is a piece of
13 legislation that establishes a grace period for
14 parking violations as it relates to municipal
15 meters.

16 This is something we used to have
17 in the City of New York. It's something White
18 Plains has. It's something Miami has. It is
19 something that is actually very implementable,
20 will not create chaos and something that just
21 gives people a little bit of a break during tough
22 times.

23 I want to thank Terzah Nasser and
24 Phil Hom of their work on this legislation. I
25 want to thank the chair of the Transportation

1
2 Committee John Liu for his work and also let me
3 just call on Council Member Robert Jackson, one of
4 the sponsors of the clergy parking permit
5 legislation and then Council Member Felder, the
6 sponsor of the grace period legislation.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you
8 Speaker Quinn and my colleagues. We voted on this
9 approximately a month ago and I believe at that
10 time 49 members voted in favor of our clergy bill.
11 We have clergy here today witnessing from an
12 historical perspective this piece of legislation,
13 Reverend James, reverend Lawson, Reverend Atkins,
14 Reverend Rodriguez, Reverend John, Reverend
15 Watson, and Reverend Melvin Wilson. Reverend
16 Melvin Wilson is a pastor of the church that my
17 father attends.

18 Let me just thank our colleague
19 John Liu, the chair of the Transportation
20 Committee, Phil Hom, the counsel to the committee,
21 Terzah Nasser who oversees part of that shop over
22 there and of course Robert Newman and Joanna
23 Garcia of my staff.

24 Let me just summarize to you.
25 Frank Lombardi of the Daily News wrote an article.

1
2 He said while these people of the clergy and all
3 dominations are out doing God's work, sometimes
4 they return back to their car to only find a
5 ticket for doing God's work and that must stop.
6 So with that, Madame Speaker, I thank you and my
7 colleagues for supporting the clergy parking bill.

8 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you, Council
9 Member Felder.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I know
11 there are a lot of people here waiting, so I waive
12 my right. I thank all my colleagues for your
13 support.

14 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
15 much, Council Member Felder. I will conclude
16 Communications from the Speaker with recognizing
17 Council Member Lou Fidler's son Harry who is
18 visiting with us today. Where is Harry? Stand up
19 Harry; you have to be fully embarrassed. You have
20 to stand up. I also failed to recognize one of
21 our former colleagues, Senator Martin Dilan who is
22 with us today. So thank you very much, Senator
23 Dilan. That concludes Communications from the
24 Speaker.

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

1
2 much. Discussion of General Orders, Council
3 Member Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
5 very much. My colleagues, before I make my
6 comments, I'd like for us to acknowledge the Bell
7 family. Ms. Valerie Bell please stand up and
8 Nicole, her mother. You all stand up. Give them
9 a big round of applause. They've been through a
10 lot.

11 I would also like to acknowledge
12 Ms. Tamika Mallory from the National Action
13 Network, representing the Reverend Al Sharpton.
14 So please give her a hand.

15 I rise today my colleagues to say
16 that on this day as we vote for Sean Bell Way, we
17 have to send a message to this city that this
18 should never ever happen again. This vote today
19 will send a signal that this city should never
20 ever forget Sean Bell, his attempts to be a father
21 to his children, a husband to his fiancé, attempt
22 for us as a people to receive justice and the most
23 gross miscarriage of justice that I've ever seen
24 occur second to the Amadou Diallo trial.

25 But this family has withstood that

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2 and they have a piece of bitterness or anger or
3 hatred in them. They have gone through a lot in
4 this city. The very least this city can do for
5 them is to honor this family by voting in a very
6 positive way Sean Bell Way. I hope my colleagues
7 do that today and I hope that the city settles out
8 of court with them. That would be the right thing
9 to do for a gross miscarriage of justice.

10 In addition, I disagree with the
11 Speaker on the West Side Railways. It is not
12 going to be affordable to who. When you figure
13 them figures out, I guarantee you that 76% of it
14 will be luxury, 24% is affordable and the
15 affordable formula is 60% of the AMI to 135% of
16 the AMI. Some of it is offsite. So not too many
17 of us will be able to move into this new wonderful
18 affordable community. So I say we should vote no
19 on that one until they make it real affordable.

20 I ask unanimous consent to vote on
21 all General Order items. I vote no on the West
22 Side Railways, no on the Broadway Triangle and no
23 on Intro 853-A, increasing the arcades for our
24 youngsters to play. I don't think it's a good
25 thing. I vote aye on all the rest. My

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2 congratulations, love and respect to the Bell
3 family. Thank you very much.

4 I vote no on LU 1227, 1228 and 1229
5 and 1230 and no on LU 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263,
6 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268 and 1273, all of the
7 West Side Railways, I vote no.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
9 Weprin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
11 Mr. Majority Leader. On Friday, April 24, 2009 at
12 approximately 4:50 p.m., a Con Edison gas pipe
13 explosion took place on 260th Street between 80th
14 and 81st Avenue right in the heart of my Council
15 District. As a result of the explosion and
16 subsequent fire, two families lost their homes but
17 one family lost something much more valuable, a
18 beloved wife and mother, Ghanwatti Boodram.

19 Thousands of members of the South
20 Asian community from every corner of the city
21 attended her wake or funeral. Mrs. Boodram served
22 on the PTA of P.S. 115, the school where her three
23 sons attended. She also took an active role in
24 the South Asian community in Bellerose, where she
25 raised and cared for her family. A dedicated

1
2 nurse for more than 20 years, Mrs. Boodram made it
3 her life's work in providing comfort and care to
4 others in the time of need.

5 So I believe that it's time that we
6 afford her with that same affection. That is why
7 I made a commitment shortly after the explosion to
8 pursue renaming 20th Street between 80th and 81st
9 Avenue after Mrs. Boodram as Ghanwatti Boodram
10 Way.

11 We are joined here today by Mr.
12 Dindial Boodram and his three sons, Ryan age 11,
13 Kevin age 9, and Chris age 7, if you could stand
14 up please.

15 I ask you to vote and approve the
16 renaming of 260th Street between 80th and 81st
17 Avenue, Ghanwatti Boodram Way. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
19 Ignizio.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, Mr.
21 Presiding Officer, may I have unanimous consent to
22 vote on all Land Use and General Orders before the
23 Council today?

24 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you.

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2 I vote no on Land Use 1292, 1227, 1228, 1229,
3 1230, no on 1103-A and no on 1087-A. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.
5 Council Member Gentile.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: May I have
7 permission to vote on all coupled General Orders?

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I abstain
10 on 1103-A and yes on the rest.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.
12 Council Member Jackson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I waive.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
15 Sanders.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Thank you.

17 I rise to speak of Intro 1103-A, the proposal to
18 create a Sean Bell Way. I want to first
19 acknowledge my constituents, the Bells and the
20 Paultre family. I want to speak, whatever we
21 agree or disagree; I want to commend them for
22 their dignity and quiet strength that they have
23 shown to the city. It would be a good thing if
24 all of us were able to realize these things.

25 These conversations usually produce

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2 more heat than light and everyone gets up and we
3 wax poetically and we do many different things. I
4 encourage everybody to really moderate the tone.
5 You're in a holiday season and we have to live
6 with one another. Let's imagine that everybody is
7 going to do what they think is right and that's
8 the key, that we do what we think is right. Some
9 people say that we should or should not name these
10 streets.

11 Let me give you a precedent for
12 this. This City Council several years ago named a
13 street after Joe Doherty, the Freedom Fighter from
14 Northern Ireland. Now it wasn't so much about the
15 individual, it was about a position that we wanted
16 to take and to show that we were unhappy with then
17 a state that was taking place.

18 I encourage people that we have
19 enough precedence here that we can actually do the
20 right thing here and we need not beat each other
21 up over this. We just need to see a thing
22 through, just as his family has stayed with it,
23 has not deviated into calling names or any of that
24 other stuff. We need to do the same thing.
25 Again, I encourage everybody to vote yes on this

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2 Intro and I wish everybody happy holidays. Thank
3 you very much.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
5 Reyna.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: My
7 colleagues, today we will be listening to reasons
8 as to why to support a Broadway Triangle plan. I
9 want to express to you that by far this is in no
10 way a terrific plan. This particular plan had no
11 open process, had no participatory process. It
12 was exclusive to two organizations. It was
13 possible for us to be shut out because it did not
14 favor a few to include others.

15 My community of Williamsburg has
16 been plagued with gentrification at rates unseen.
17 For any plan in Williamsburg not to address
18 displacement with more affordable housing and
19 denser structures is not a plan for our community.

20 In New York City the average park
21 space per 1,000 people is 3.5. In Williamsburg,
22 the average park space per 1,000 people is .6
23 acres. For any plan not to address the scarcity
24 of parkland in our community is not a plan at all.

25 But wait one second, the

1
2 modification we're approving here today modified
3 to restrict land that was supposed to be proposed
4 for affordable housing to now restrict it for open
5 space. That is how we find solutions. Let's take
6 from Peter to pay Paul.

7 This rezoning is allowing for the
8 minimum of economic development and job creation.
9 But on top of that it's providing eminent domain
10 for the city to take away generations of
11 businesses, minority and women-owned business.
12 Not only is it giving us the minimum, it is also
13 looking to displace hundreds of jobs within this
14 rezoning area, as well as people who probably
15 don't know today that they will be relocated due
16 to eminent domain. For any plan not to address
17 job creation and economic development is not a
18 plan at all.

19 What seems to be the case is my
20 community was excluded from a planning process and
21 issues that they need and want have not been
22 addressed, will not be addressed and have been
23 excluded. All I have been asking for is a plan to
24 produce for our community and we have failed them
25 once again. Vote no on this plan. Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
3 John Liu.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Thank you very
5 much, Mr. Chairman. I ask my colleagues to vote
6 in support of renaming a portion of Liverpool
7 Street in Queens, Sean Bell Way. The family is
8 here with us, Sean's mom, Sean's fiancé and her
9 parents.

10 This is important to do because no
11 matter what you think, what happened with Sean
12 Bell and his friends is a point in New York City
13 history that is not to be forgotten. And in fact,
14 when people drive by or walk by that stretch of
15 Liverpool Street, they already think about Sean
16 Bell and what happened. So it's only fitting to
17 rename this part of Liverpool as Sean Bell Way.

18 The family is here with us. They
19 really don't want to be here actually. They never
20 asked for this. They never asked for any street
21 to be renamed. I think they'd rather have Sean
22 than the street renaming. But what happened
23 happened and we shouldn't sweep things under the
24 rug. Let's do this. It's the right thing to do.
25 Thank you.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
3 much, Council Member Gerson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you
5 very much Mr. Leader. First of all, I want to add
6 to my previous remarks to acknowledge the
7 extraordinary hard work of Phil Hom and Terzah
8 Nasser on Intro 1063, the notice of major
9 transportation projects. And of course that's
10 under the great leadership of our chair, Council
11 Member John Liu.

12 Secondly, I'd like to reference
13 Land Use 1284. I urge all my colleagues to
14 support this. This is a commonsense provision
15 that will allow for additional parking where it's
16 needed and the appropriate associated sidewalk and
17 curb adjustment. I want to thank the Land Use
18 Committees, our chair Council Member Katz, our
19 Zoning Subcommittee Chair Tony Avella, of course
20 Gail Benjamin and all who worked on this.

21 The community, my office and the
22 Land Use Committee and staff spent considerable
23 time reviewing and investigating the details,
24 keeping track of the history of this project and
25 the proposal before us is the best possible

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2 outcome to serve the community and to serve the
3 city and to alleviate congestion.

4 Finally, under the Finance
5 Committee agenda, we're voting on three bills to
6 extend tax exemptions to the Grand Street Guild
7 Housing. These are houses over 600 units where
8 the majority of households are at or below poverty
9 level who have endured horrendous and unsafe
10 living conditions.

11 This financing which is predicated
12 on an agreement reached between the tenant
13 association and the owners will allow a long
14 overdue renovation to go forward while at the same
15 time protecting the affordability, assuring that
16 no one will pay more than 30% of their income in
17 rent and providing other critical protections to
18 assure that these units will remain affordable for
19 at least 40 years of financing and indeed well
20 beyond. So this is a major step forward to
21 preserve affordable housing in our city and I urge
22 all to support it. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
24 much. Council Member Dilan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Mr. Majority

1

2 Leader, I didn't request to speak.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
4 Yassky.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Thank you.
6 I spoke earlier on the Broadway Triangle. I just
7 want to make sure I set the record straight
8 because some objections have been raised. I just
9 want to make sure that my colleagues here do
10 understand the facts.

11 On the question of process and
12 whether there was adequate process leading to this
13 rezoning, this is not an Atlantic Yards type
14 situation where ULURP has been circumvented. This
15 went through the full ULURP, the full complement
16 of public hearings and beyond that had dozens of
17 public and semi-public meetings in the decade
18 leading up to this. We first tried to do this in
19 2004; it went through ULURP, was rejected then and
20 came back now. So there have been years and
21 years.

22 Anybody who wanted to put forward
23 an alternative proposal for this site has had that
24 proposal heard and not necessarily adopted. What
25 we're voting on today is what I believe is right

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2 for the community, what the community board
3 approved and the borough president approved. So
4 not every suggestion was incorporated but every
5 suggestion was heard.

6 On the core issue of how this
7 affects gentrification in Williamsburg, that is
8 absolutely what is at stake here because there has
9 been an enormous rise in housing prices that have
10 pushed people out of Williamsburg. That is why it
11 is essential to do this because this will create
12 800 affordable apartments that will not be built
13 if we reject this rezoning. Plain and simple,
14 that is what's at stake here, 800 families that
15 will have some shelter against the forces of
16 gentrification or not. So again, I would ask each
17 of my colleagues to support this. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
19 Mendez.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,
21 Majority Leader. I rise to speak in favor of the
22 co-naming of a street for Sean Bell. I think what
23 we do in our life is very important and merits a
24 street renaming. But also, when a tragedy happens
25 and how that tragedy comes about through no fault

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2 of your own, sometimes that also merits a street
3 renaming.

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5 I think in situations like this
6 where someone has died so tragically, sometimes we
7 don't want to remember the situation, but I think
8 it is important. So that when people walk down
9 that street we can hope that we will never have
10 another tragedy like this again. And equally as
11 important, this is something the community wants.
12 Community determination is very important to me,
13 so I urge my colleagues to vote in favor. Thank
14 you.

15

16 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
17 White.

18

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Thank you
20 very much. I thought about what it means to be a
21 young man in your early 20s. Most 23-year-olds are
22 starting their lives by graduating college,
23 joining the police force, completing a union
24 apprenticeship or signing up for military service.

25

26 I think it also is fair to say that
27 many or even most individuals have made mistakes
28 throughout their early 20s, some of which could
29 have been to entanglements with law enforcement

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2 while they were attempting to figure out how to
3 lead a productive life.

4 However, the vast majority of New
5 Yorkers have made youthful indiscretions
6 throughout their teens and 20s and go on to lead
7 successful lives by their mid 30s. Many overcome
8 their entanglements with the criminal justice
9 system or even with drugs or alcohol.

10 The tragedy in the situation in
11 that Sean Bell was in his early 20s and was in the
12 process of getting married, obtaining and
13 education and finding steady employment to support
14 his family. One cannot know what Sean Bell would
15 have become if he had survived that fatal night in
16 2006.

17 But by renaming a street after Sean
18 Bell, we are creating a symbol for the community,
19 one which will last through generations. Not only
20 serving as a reminder of what happened on November
21 25th, but also what arose out of the ashes of the
22 tragedy.

23 Therefore, the importance of naming
24 a street after Sean Bell cannot be measured by his
25 life story but rather by the symbolic nature of

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the positive changes and reforms that have occurred within our communities and throughout the police department.

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Community leaders have worked hard to improve community relations with law enforcement; police tactics and training have been altered. The use of excessive force within the police department scrutinized and analyzed.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member we need to sum up.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: One moment. Breathalyzer tests required every time an officer discharges his or her weapon.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to have to move on Council Member, I apologize. We have a very long day.

COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I understand that and this is my last day for this year. But I would just like to go on to say that many good things have happened out of this. I think that one of the things that when we talk about the quality of life in the City of New York, we're not talking about building bridges, we're not talking about converting armories, we're not talking about--

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: [interposing]

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I'm sorry, I'm going to have to move on because

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it's going on exceedingly long. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I would like

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everyone to vote yes on naming Sean Bell Way.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

8

much. Council Member Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I want to

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salute the Bell family to have it co-named Sean

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Bell Way. I salute you 100%.

12

I want to honor someone else, Ms.

13

Janice Marie Knight for her excellent service and

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contribution to Public School 235, in my district

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in Brooklyn. Ms. Janice Knight was born in

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Brooklyn and she attended my alma mata, George W.

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Wingate High School before continuing her

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education at Hampton Institution in Virginia where

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she graduated cum laude with a science degree in

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early education.

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Ms. Knight launched her stellar

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career as an early childhood educator at the Early

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Learning Center in New York City. Three years

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later she became a teacher of gifted pre-

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kindergarten children at Public School 235 in

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2 Brooklyn. She then served as the early childhood
3 screening coordinator for Community School
4 District 18 as assistant principal of P.S. 235.
5 She truly distinguished herself in her work. On
6 May 13, 1999 she was appointed principal.

7 After a violent battle with cancer,
8 Ms. Knight passed away on December 30, 2007, but
9 her presence made extraordinary impact on P.S. 235
10 that is worthy of our enduring gratitude. Her
11 legacy will continue to resonate not only within
12 the walls of her school but also within the minds
13 of students, parents, teachers and alumni
14 throughout the community. We thank our Speaker
15 Christine Quinn, the City of New York most
16 gratefully honored the life and memory of Janice
17 Marie Knight for the outstanding service and
18 contribution to this United States of America.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
21 much. Council Member Seabrook.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I know
23 I've got two minutes but this is important, a
24 street renaming after an individual who I met at
25 the age of 12. He was a policeman for the New

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2 York City Housing Authority. He was a guy who set
3 us on the right path. He had been one of the
4 longest serving police officers in the history of
5 this city. His name is Detective Rudolph Vincent
6 Edwards Sr. We called him Rudy. Rudy later
7 became the mayor of Edenwald. But he had started
8 at the Millbrook Houses where we grew up. He was
9 there and he was a real friend. You know Rudy?

10 So Rudy was there, so we had the
11 opportunity in all of the years. It was a real
12 pleasure to have a street renamed after someone
13 who had been there for us and guiding us in the
14 right way for so many years. He was a real
15 inspiration to all of us who were growing up in
16 the housing projects there. He guided us and
17 directed us in the right way. He will be honored
18 with this street renaming, Detective Rudy Edwards
19 who has given so much for so many years. Thank
20 you very much. I'll speak later about the others.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
22 much. Speaker Quinn.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
24 much. In the Speaker's time I inadvertently
25 failed to mention the street co-naming we're doing

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2 today of about 70 thoroughfares and public places.
3 So I just wanted to rise to make note we are
4 voting on that piece of legislation today.

5 I would urge all of my colleagues
6 in memory of some of the individuals who have been
7 mentioned so far, but certainly not all of them
8 have been mentioned, to vote in support of this
9 piece of legislation.

10 Of course there has been much
11 discussion about one of the thoroughfares, Sean
12 Bell Way. I just wanted to say two things about
13 that. I just wanted to say two things about that.
14 One, I want to thank everyone, both the people who
15 are supporting this street renaming and even those
16 who are opposing it. Everyone in the conversation
17 about this issue has behaved in a thoughtful and
18 dignified way and kept the conversation in an
19 appropriate tone and appropriate level and I want
20 to thank everyone for that very much.

21 The procedures we put in place
22 around street renamings in the City Council speak
23 to somebody's life or death having made a
24 contribution to the City of New York. As we've
25 said, I'm sure the Bell family would much have

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2 preferred it been Sean's life. But the truth is
3 that the death of Sean Bell and the response
4 thereafter has caused significant change to the
5 public policies of the City of New York. Over a
6 dozen changes to police procedures that will
7 certainly keep New Yorkers safe and police
8 officers safe.

9 So I want to just remind everyone
10 of what is actually in the procedures as it
11 relates to street renamings and urge them to vote
12 in support of all 70 co-namings today. Thank you
13 Mr. Majority Leader.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you,
15 Madame Speaker. Council Member Comrie.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to
17 thank all my colleagues to speak to me about the
18 issues regarding Sean Bell Way. I want to echo
19 what the Speaker said. This body is a body of
20 colleagues. This body is a body of democracy with
21 a big D. This body is a body of members that talk
22 to each other about their issues and explain their
23 issues to each other. I think that I am truly
24 happy to be a member of this body. I'm truly
25 pleased to have worked with all my colleagues.

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2 I'll speak to the 12 members that are leaving
3 later. But what people have to understand is that
4 we have to communicate together in an honest and
5 forthwith way about the things that concern us and
6 the things that we are passionate about.

7 I agree with all of the statements
8 that people said earlier regarding the Bell family
9 and the Paultre family and their dignity, their
10 pride, their focus on making positive change,
11 their focus on taking a tragedy and creating
12 opportunities for people to develop scholarships,
13 for people to have after school programming, for
14 people to have an opportunity to change their
15 life.

16 This was a tragic incident. This
17 street renaming is being done by a community board
18 that has named streets for officers that were
19 killed in the line of duty within their community
20 board. This is a conservative community that
21 cares about effective strong policing. This is a
22 community board that wants to make sure that when
23 people get off the bus at night from one of the
24 longest commutes in the city that they can walk
25 home safely. This is a community that has many

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police officers that are residing within the community and want to make sure that their community is safe.

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This is a conservative community.

This is a community wanting to honor this family by putting up this street renaming. That is the only issues that were talked about when this street renaming was proposed at the community board level when it was passed overwhelmingly.

I want to urge my colleagues to focus on those issues and those issues alone. I want to thank all of the colleagues that reached out to me to discuss all the issues around this bill. I want to affirm and ask all my colleagues to vote for this bill. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very much. Seeing no others, we're going to move on to the reports of special committees.

CLERK: None.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Reports of standing committees.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on Consumer Affairs, Intro 240-A, sale of toy guns.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled

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on General Orders.

CLERK: Intro 853-A, amusement
devices.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
on General Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Economic Development, Intro 1014-A, regionally
significant projects.

SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
on General Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 2304.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Finance, Intro 1106, Business Improvement
Districts.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

CLERK: Preconsidered Intro 1110,
budget extender bill.

SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders with a message of necessity.

CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 2303,
organization funding.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Preconsidered LU 1294 and
Reso 2305 through Preconsidered LU 1296 and Reso
2307, Grant Street Guild.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Land Use, LU 1256 and Reso 2295, LU 1257 and Reso
2296, LU 1258 and Reso 2297, LU 1259 and Reso
2298, Kingsbridge Armory application.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Motion to
disapprove.

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CLERK: M 1692 through M 1695.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be
filed.

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CLERK: LU 1271 and Reso 2308.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: LU 1282 and Reso 2309,
public pay telephones.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: LU 1283 and Reso 2310.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: LU 1284 and Reso 2311
through Preconsidered LU 1298 and Reso 2318,
various application ULURPs, exchange of city-owned
property, landmark designations.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Parks and Recreation, Intro 1103-A, naming of 70
thoroughfares and public places.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
on General Orders.

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CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Transportation, Intro 662-A, clergy parking
permits.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Intro 907, grace period for
parking violations.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
Orders.

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CLERK: Intro 1063-A,
transportation projects.

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2 SPEAKER QUINN: Amended and coupled
3 on General Orders.

4 CLERK: M 1688 and M 1689.

5 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled to be
6 filed.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: The General
8 Order Calendar.

9 CLERK: Intro 1083-A, park
10 conservancies.

11 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
12 Orders.

13 CLERK: LU 1227 and Reso 2319
14 through LU 1230 and Reso 2332, Broadway Triangle.

15 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
16 Orders.

17 CLERK: LU 1260 and Reso 2323
18 through LU 1273 and Reso 2332, Western Rail Yards.

19 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Resolution appointing
22 various persons Commissioner of Deeds.

23 SPEAKER QUINN: Coupled on General
24 Orders. At this point I ask for a roll call on
25 all items that have been coupled on the General

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2 Order Calendar, Mr. Majority Leader.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Before we go to a roll call, I have to read this into the record. When we vote on Intro 662-A and Intro 907 and the motion to disapprove on Land Use 1256 and Reso 2295, Land Use item 1257 and Reso 2296 and Land Use item 1258 and Reso 2297, Land Use issue 1259 and Reso 2298, the question before us is whether to re-pass these items, notwithstanding the objections of the mayor. At this point in time roll call.

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CLERK: Arroyo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

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CLERK: Avella?

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote aye on all items except no on the override of Intro 907 and no on the Broadway Triangle application, Land Use 1227, Reso 2319, LU 1228, Reso 2320, LU 1229, Reso 2321, and LU 1230 and Reso 2322.

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CLERK: White?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: May I be

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2 excused to explain my vote.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: yes.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I will be
5 particularly interested in mentioning Power
6 Memorial Way which is one of the streets being co-
7 named on West 61st Street and that is of course
8 celebrating the high school Power Memorial which
9 was there for many, many years. It's now a tall
10 building. The incredible work that the alumni
11 association put into this as well as Community
12 Board 7 is to be commended. It's an alumni
13 association that we can all look to raising funds
14 for other students around the city. It's a great
15 group of individuals, so I hope that it will pass.
16 I'm sure it will.

17 I also want to mention that I will
18 be abstaining. I'll be voting yes on everything
19 except 1227 and Reso 2319, LU 1228 and Reso 2320,
20 LU 1229 and Reso 2321 and LU 1230 and Reso 2322 I
21 am abstaining because we have two colleagues with
22 difference of opinions. Also, I want to mention,
23 however, that I feel very confident that if this
24 shall pass that HPD will do an excellent job of
25 selecting residents. That should not be an issue.

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2 I don't think it will be. I want to say that that
3 is not the reason that I'm abstaining, it's
4 because of the two colleagues. All other items I
5 vote yes. Thank you very much.

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CLERK: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes to all.

8 I just want to mention that one of the other
9 street renamings is for Mr. Morris Lee, a black
10 Republican district leader, a community board
11 activist. I just wanted to get your attention, a
12 president of Cambridge Heights Civic Association.
13 Morris Lee's primary thing in life was that he
14 created the Council for Airport Opportunities.
15 There were many young people that had an
16 opportunity to work at the airport jobs throughout
17 the Port Authority. He worked with the Port
18 Authority of New York and New Jersey and gave so
19 many opportunities to so many young people to get
20 major jobs in the Port Authority. He started with
21 getting jobs for people doing baggage checks and
22 wound up getting jobs for people to be assistant
23 managers at the airport. He will be missed. Aye
24 on all.

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CLERK: Crowley?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye
3 on all with the exception of Intro 1103-A in which
4 I vote no.

5 CLERK: De Blasio?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO:
7 Permission to explain my vote?

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: So ordered.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: First, I
10 want to offer my best wishes to the Bell family
11 and I hope our action provides you some measure of
12 comfort. I also want to express my respect for
13 the way you have handled the aftermath of this
14 tragedy over these last years and your commitment
15 to trying to bring justice to other people through
16 your actions. So thank you very much.

17 I'd also like to address the
18 Broadway Triangle proposal before us today. There
19 have been decades of painful and divisive history
20 in the area around this parcel of land. Very
21 serious concerns have been raised about the
22 process that led to this proposal. But I'm
23 convinced that this can be worthwhile project
24 because it's based on a realistic proposal that
25 can provide a substantial amount of affordable

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2 housing soon.

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4 It will only prove to be worthwhile
5 if it is done right, which means to me that the
6 process going forward must be more inclusive and
7 representative of the surrounding communities and
8 there must be a careful monitoring to make sure
9 there is equity in the process of selecting those
10 who will benefit from this housing. I believe the
11 City Council should carefully monitor this
12 implementation and I pledge to do so as well in my
13 new capacity as Public Advocate. With that said,
14 I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Dilan?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [No
response].

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CLERK: Eugene?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Felder?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes on all,
no on 1103-A.

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CLERK: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote
aye on all.

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CLERK: Felder?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Majority Leader Rivera, may I be briefly excused to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: First, I'm not sure if Frank Lombardi is still in the room. I've been desperately searching for a quote from Dave to give him equal time but I just couldn't find one, Frank.

On a much more serious note, there are a lot of tough votes that are being asked for today. I first want to say that the easiest vote for me is the override of the parking meter five-minute grace rule, which again I hope will change the culture in this city, as John Liu said, the gotcha mentality, tickets are for quality of life, not for raising revenue. So that one is easy.

I'm going to be voting aye on all. I want to point out that our street co-naming bill also includes the name of Sheila Nelson, the wife of our friend and colleague Mike Nelson, Ken Seigelman the former Poet Laureate of the City of New York and Veterans Way for Garrison Beach which is a street that I asked to be named.

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2 I'm frankly moved somewhat by the
3 words of Council Member Sanders today. In the
4 holiday spirit I do believe the Bell family has
5 conducted themselves in a dignified way and I do
6 think that this event is something that we
7 shouldn't forget, no matter what perspective one
8 brings to it. There are 70 names that are
9 involved in this bill and I think that this bill
10 should be passed. I hope Harry has enjoyed his
11 day here at City Hall and I vote aye on all.

12 CLERK: Foster?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: May I be
14 excused to explain my vote?

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: First of
17 all, to the Bell family and the fiancé/wife of
18 Sean Bell, I got married just over a year ago and
19 I know the morning of my wedding I couldn't sleep
20 I was so excited. So I can't imagine the pain
21 that you went through and are probably still going
22 through.

23 I won't say or comment on the
24 dignity because I don't or wouldn't expect
25 anything else. I think that what is most

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2 important is the reforms that have come from the
3 shooting. And for whatever it's worth, it was not
4 in vain. For those that believe in Jesus, we know
5 that earth really has no sorrow that heaven cannot
6 heal. Especially in this holiday season I extend
7 my blessings and God's blessings upon you because,
8 again, I can't imagine it.

9 As we go forward and look at these
10 overrides, having a father who has been in the
11 ministry for 57 years and clearly I haven't been
12 around for all those 57 years, I understand the
13 importance of clergy parking and shame on the
14 mayor. I should say it never ceases to amaze me
15 how low we can stoop.

16 Knowing that the clergy, not just
17 funerals or weddings, but communion, the sick and
18 shut-in, they're the first to arrive and the last
19 to leave, that they are really for many of us and
20 especially in the black community our backbone.
21 So it's too bad that many of the clergy that put
22 their commercials on when he was running for mayor
23 aren't here today, but maybe they have special
24 parking permits.

25 I vote aye on all except LU 1227,

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2 Reso 2319, LU 1228, Reso 2320, LU 1229, Reso 2321,
3 LU 1230 and Reso 2322 and I thank the opponents of
4 the Broadway Triangle for reaching out and having
5 the conversation with me that no one else did.
6 And just lastly, with the street renaming,
7 Reverend Lane who not only pastured a very small
8 church--

9 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: [interposing]
10 Council Member.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: You're
12 right. Thank you. I won't say any more.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

14 CLERK: Garodnick?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
16 you. I vote no on 907 and aye on the rest.

17 CLERK: Gerson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Mr. Leader,
19 in addition to the other street co-namings, we are
20 voting today on renaming Bowery Mission Way, just
21 a few blocks from where we sit. As we hopefully
22 co-name that street, we remind ourselves and all
23 New Yorkers, especially at this time of the year,
24 that the mission of reaching out to those New
25 Yorkers shivering in our streets, housing the

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2 homeless, feeding the hungry remains unfulfilled
3 and that all New Yorkers in even the most direst
4 of straits are our brothers and sisters and we
5 must endeavor to uphold each and every New Yorker
6 no matter what their situation, how desperate it
7 may be, especially those in the most desperate of
8 situations and especially at this time of year.

9

10 With my heartfelt wishes and
11 thoughts extended to the Bell family, I vote aye
12 on all.

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CLERK: Gioia?

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14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Request a
15 moment to explain my vote.

15

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Today we are
18 joined by two great Queens' families, Nicole and
19 Mrs. Bell, the entire Bell family, Mr. Boodram and
20 your beautiful boys. Two families that have been
21 touched by tragedy through absolutely no fault of
22 their own and through this and through their own
23 despair they've shown a grace, a quiet courage and
24 a spirit that has, I think by anybody who has
25 known them, and I know for me who has gotten to
know both families a little bit, really inspiring

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and I thank you immensely for that.

I think what we do today in renaming these streets is just the very least our city can do for both of your families. With that I proudly vote yes on all with the exception of LU 1227 and accompanying Reso 2319, LU 1228, Reso 2320, LU 1229 and Reso 2321, LU 1230 and Reso 2322 on which I abstain on all of those. Thank you very much. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to everyone.

CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on all.

CLERK: Jackson?

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

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you. First, I was discussing Intro 662-A, the override, I clearly left out one individual that was involved on a continuous basis and she needs to be recognized and that's Carrie Mobley. So Carrie, thank you for everything you have done to help move 662-A along.

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2 But also, concerning the Broadway
3 Triangle, I've listened to many people in this
4 particular matter. Obviously, as you know, with
5 the committee vote, I abstained from that
6 particular matter. Quite frankly I guess there is
7 a long history there and trying to understand
8 everything that was going on there so that I could
9 make the best decision, I'm still at the same
10 conclusion that I was then.

11 I'm not going to vote in favor of
12 it. So I vote yes on all General Order items with
13 the exception of LU 1227 and accompanying Reso
14 2319 and LU 1228 and Reso 2320 and LU 1229 and
15 Reso 2321 and LU 1230 and Reso 2322.

16 Let me just say I agree with all
17 that we're colleagues and hopefully our language
18 here in the Council demonstrates a certain type of
19 decorum and respect for one another even though we
20 disagree.

21 With respect to, as I indicated,
22 and I vote aye on all except the Broadway
23 Triangle, and clearly the Bell family with the
24 tragedy of the death of their son needs to be
25 recognized. Some people say this is anti-police

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2 but it has nothing to do with anti-police because
3 if you know anything about me, I'm involved with
4 education. I say the most important thing for the
5 families of New York City is the safety and well
6 being of our family. So I vote aye on all and pay
7 respect to the Bell family.

8 CLERK: James?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: May I be
10 excused to explain my vote?

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: To the Bell
13 family, you have displayed grace under fire,
14 strength in the face of all of the challenges
15 before you. But I vote in support of this co-
16 naming for the little girl, Sean's daughter. I
17 believe her name is DJ. I vote because I remember
18 her when she was crying. I remember holding her
19 in my arms. I remember the tears coming down her
20 face.

21 No matter what people may feel
22 about this issue, the bottom line is that she was
23 daddy's little girl. No matter what flaws he may
24 have had, she no longer has a daddy. She doesn't
25 care what the circumstances were, she does not

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2 have a daddy. So it's because of that when she
3 can stand at that street and look up at the sign,
4 she could think about her father, know what
5 happened that day and realize that he will always
6 live on in her heart.

7 That's why I'm supporting this
8 bill, out of no disrespect for NYPD, but I will
9 never ever forget the fact that that little girl,
10 the brightness in her eyes was lost that one day.

11 On Broadway Triangle, I know most
12 of you were expecting me to vote against it and/or
13 abstaining, but as someone who believes that she
14 has advanced most progressive causes, I basically
15 want to associate myself with the comments of
16 Council Member de Blasio.

17 I have been assured that I will be
18 involved in the monitoring of this project and
19 will ensure that there is fairness with regards to
20 the distribution of the housing units. So for
21 that reason I am voting aye on all. And also,
22 because it is my understanding that the three
23 individuals whose properties have been taken by
24 eminent domain, I have been assured that they will
25 be paid fair market value for their property. I

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vote aye on all.

CLERK: Katz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you Mr. Majority Leader to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: First of all, I'd like to vote aye on all, except LU 1227 through 1230 which is known as the Broadway Triangle, LU 1260 through 1268 and LU 1273, Western Rail Yards, 15 Williams Street and LU 1256 through 1259 known as Kingsbridge. I vote aye on all except for those items mentioned. I abstain on those items due to future possible conflicts of interest.

I'd also like to take this opportunity because I think they may not stay here during the last parts of session today, to thank Gail Benjamin and the Land Use staff for all the work that they have done in the last eight years. Through her guidance, her professionalism and the entire staff's just knowledge of this city, how it works and what we needed to move this city along eight years ago, I believe that the Land Use staff, the Land Use Committee, all the members on

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2 the Land Use Committee are leaving this city much
3 better off than it was when we got here eight
4 years ago. I congratulate all of them for their
5 great work. I look forward to working with them
6 in the future as well. Thank you and I know that
7 we're going to have future comments. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Koppell?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: May I
10 explain my vote?

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.
13 Majority Leader and colleagues, we have been
14 roundly criticized by the media with respect to
15 the Kingsbridge Armory. I think the story has
16 only been half told. I was very anxious as
17 someone who represents a district immediately
18 adjacent to the armory to see the armory
19 developed.

20 I was intimately involved in
21 lengthy negotiations to discuss the issues that
22 the Speaker raised and others with the
23 administration and with the related companies.
24 The administration took it on itself to take over
25 those negotiations. So the negotiations were with

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2 the administration and this Council and the Bronx
3 Delegation. We came very close to an agreement on
4 a whole host of issues.

5 And then within 48 hours of the
6 vote, after coming so close, the agreements that
7 had been advanced by the administration were
8 pulled off the table. Do you think that under
9 those circumstances we in the Bronx delegation
10 could vote for a project where we had negotiated
11 in good faith for benefits of many kinds important
12 to the community that were then denied us and we
13 were asked to vote in essence for a pig in the
14 poke. That could not in fact be acceptable. No
15 way was that a legitimate fair negotiation by the
16 administration.

17 If that project goes down, as it
18 seems to be going down, there is only one
19 administration and one mayor to blame for that
20 going down. It is not the Bronx Delegation; it is
21 not this City Council that sought to accomplish
22 many important objectives.

23 It is with regret that I vote to
24 override the mayor's disapproval. But that is the
25 only vote that is acceptable under the

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2 circumstances, acceptable to this Council and
3 acceptable to the community and the only vote that
4 this city should accept in light of the good faith
5 negotiations that were undertaken.

6 The only other thing I'd like to
7 say is unfortunately today I invited my whole
8 community to my office at 5:00. You can see what
9 time it is, so I won't be able to be present to
10 say goodbye to those wonderful colleagues who I am
11 unfortunately saying goodbye to at least as
12 members of the Council. I hope we continue to
13 work together. I want to say what a pleasure it
14 was to those who are leaving, working with you.
15 Thank you. I vote aye on all with that
16 explanation.

17 CLERK: Lappin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: May I be
19 excused for a moment to explain my vote?

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you.
22 For the last couple of years I have abstained on
23 each of the street renaming bills that have come
24 before this body and I will be doing so today. I
25 want to say it has nothing to do with the 70

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2 people who are mentioned. In fact, like many of
3 my colleagues who have spoken today, I have been
4 greatly moved and inspired by the Bell family and
5 cannot imagine what you have been through and I do
6 believe it has changed our city forever.

7 But I don't think the City Council
8 should rename streets. I think there are other
9 ways that are appropriate to remember those that
10 we have lost. So I will be voting aye on all
11 today with the exception of 1103-A which I will
12 abstain.

13 I wanted to echo Council Member
14 Koppell's comments because I won't be able to say
15 too much longer. I wanted to wish the 12
16 colleagues who are leaving today well. We will
17 certainly miss you. I hope that 2010 is a blessed
18 year for all of us.

19 CLERK: Liu?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I vote yes on
21 all items on the General Order Calendar with the
22 exception of LU 1227, 1228, 1229 and 1230 and
23 their accompanying Resolutions 2319, 2320, 2321,
24 and 2322. I abstain on LU 1282 and its
25 accompanying Resolution 2309. Thank you.

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CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I'd

like to vote aye on all items except LU 1227

through 1230 and their accompanying Resolutions.

I also would like to wish the best to all the

colleagues we've served with the last four years

that will not be with us as of the new term. I

wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: May I

explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: In the

spirit of this holiday season, I rise to support

the override of the veto of Intro 662-A, the

clergy parking legislation. And override of this

veto will be a fitting gift for the members of the

clergy during this holiday season.

Clergy members provide a great

service to the communities of the City of New

York. It is only right that we give something in

return. Allowing clergy to park in restricted

areas for these periods of time is the least we

can do given all that they do for the community

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2 and the people.

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Too often in the past while performing their duties, while either at a hospital, a church, a synagogue or other places of worship, clergy members have had to be mindful of their time restraints and have had to be distracted while providing supportive services during a time of bereavement, illness or worship. This bill allows for a little more leeway for clergy members in the performance of their duties.

I live in a community where religion plays a significant role in the people's every day lives. Clergy members are given a great deal of respect. It is only fitting that this respect is reflected in the laws of this great City of New York, allowing the clergy members to more easily perform their duties. I vote for this veto.

I want to wish all my colleagues who are leaving, it was an honor serving with you and I'm looking forward to serving with the new colleagues that are coming in. I wish all of you a blessed holiday season. Thank you.

CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission
to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I'd like to
vote no on LU 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230 and the
accompanying Resolutions because process is
important and because we need to look more closely
at all these issues of eminent domain.

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In regards to 1103, I want to tell
the Bell family nothing can bring Sean back, but I
hope this helps ease the pain. And also to
mention that there is a co-naming in my district,
Dr. Saul Farber Way over on the edge of my
district on First Avenue by NYU and Bellevue, a
doctor who contributed lots of hours to the
community and to those institutions. So I vote
aye on everything else. Thank you.

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CLERK: Mitchell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: I vote
aye on all with the exception of 1103-A which I
vote no.

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CLERK: Nelson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Permission
to explain my vote?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: For the purpose of full disclosure among the streets being duly designated includes one named for my beloved wife Sheila. I'd like to wish good luck to all of the departing colleagues. I know we'll miss them all. I hope everybody had a happy Hanukkah and I wish all my colleagues a merry Christmas, happy Kwanzaa and a happy New Year. I vote aye on all.

CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all with the exception of LU 1227 through 1230 and its accompanying Resolutions.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote no on LU 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230 and accompanying Resolutions 2319, 2320, 2321, and 2322. I vote aye on all the rest.

CLERK: Rodriguez?

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: May I explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all, to the family of Sean Bell, I hope that you

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2 see some justice today. We will not be able to
3 bring your son back or your husband back. I was
4 there in the street marching for justice for Sean
5 Bell. I was in jail for leading the last one that
6 I did asking for justice for Sean Bell. Today I
7 hope that all my colleagues here vote on renaming
8 the street on the name of Sean Bell because if
9 that happened to any of my brother or sister, to
10 anyone, we would like to see the same thing
11 happening or more. I hope that we vote a yes on
12 renaming the street after Sean Bell. I vote aye
13 on all. Thank you.

14 CLERK: Sanders?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Permission
16 to explain my vote?

17 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: I also
19 have another street naming, a major leader in my
20 community, J. Clifford Gadsden is being honored
21 and I wanted to recognize that. I wanted to
22 abstain on Intro 1014-A.

23 I want to say that in terms of the
24 Broadway Triangle, many people have come to me on
25 this issue and it was very useful to dialogue and

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2 I commend them. I think that both sides have made
3 a worthy presentation and have nothing to be
4 ashamed of. They have made very worthy
5 presentations. I'm going to honor a commitment
6 that I made earlier and vote no on the Broadway
7 Triangle, LU 1227 through 1230 and all of its
8 accompanying Resolutions.

9 I want to thank my colleagues who
10 will not be hear with me in the future. I wish
11 you well on your journey. I have learned so much
12 from you and I will take those things forward.

13 I also want to speak to both
14 families being recognized here today and speak to
15 the loss of both and wish you well in your
16 journeys. I wish you well and trust that this
17 measure allows you to go further, to be all that
18 we can be under these conditions.

19 I want to thank all of my
20 colleagues a very dignified way that we too
21 handled this debate. It didn't have to go this
22 way. It could have been silly and ugly and
23 undignified on all of us, whether one agrees or
24 disagrees, I think that all of you need to be
25 commended for how we handled ourselves today. We

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2 did New York City proudly today. Whatever you
3 vote, we did New York proudly today.

4 I want to again, God bless the
5 families and to wish you well, everyone on their
6 holiday season. I vote yes to everything with the
7 exception of what I said.

8 CLERK: Seabrook?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Yes, Mr.
10 Majority Leader, may I be excused to explain my
11 vote please?

12 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: There are
14 a couple of people that I want to recognize with
15 the street renaming here today as well, and I'll
16 talk about the Bell family.

17 There was Dorothy Gomes Way.
18 Dorothy Gomes was a community leader, an
19 entrepreneur and a female businesswoman of high
20 excellence. They had the first original
21 franchise, the first franchise for a bus company
22 in the Bronx, the first ever distributor under the
23 old Board of Estimate. Dorothy and her husband
24 Carl Gomes and the family and the daughter, you
25 want to stand up Carl, the daughter who is here,

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2 who have been real entrepreneurs.

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They had a business in this city and the first African Americans to have a franchise that was licensed by the City of New York here. Dorothy was truly an inspiration to our community and we wanted to make sure that there would be something that would be named after Dorothy Gomes.

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Secondly, Christian Regenhard, he was a firefighter who lost his life in 9/11. Christian grew up where I represent and he went to high school at Bronx High School of Science. Christian was there and he was one of the firemen who lost his life. His mother is very active, Sally Regenhard, you always see her. I told Sally that we would never ever forget Christian and this is a way that we will rename the street after him where he lived.

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To the Bell family, I want to say that Sean Bell will never ever be forgotten because remember now when you send a letter, it won't be Liverpool Street, it will be Sean Bell Street. So the world will know him. Whether a letter comes from here to England to France to

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2 Africa or wherever, it always will have the name
3 Sean Bell. So, he will never ever die, he will
4 live on, and no matter what, there will be mailed
5 to Sean Bell and that would be the address. Thank
6 you so very much. I vote aye on all.

7 CLERK: Sears?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Permission
9 to explain my vote please.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Thank you.
12 First, I really want to thank all my colleagues
13 for the time that I have spent in the City Council
14 and to my Speaker and to all the staff. It has
15 been eight years of truly a very learning, a very
16 kind experience and a very, very friendly one. So
17 they are years that I will always remember.

18 I have to tell you my family thanks
19 you because they felt that somehow I grew taller
20 in this job and I really want to thank you. I
21 wish you all the very best. For those that are
22 not returning, I know that you will do very well
23 and everyone is to have a wonderful holiday, as I
24 will, I have memories of all of you. I truly do.
25 Thank you.

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2 Now, for the business of the day,
3 at the last Stated Meeting, I was very clear about
4 my feelings on Kingsbridge. Those sentiments have
5 not changed. So I vote no today for LU 1256,
6 1257, 1258, 1259, Resos 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298 and
7 I vote aye on all the rest. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Stewart?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEWART: First of
10 all, I would like to use this opportunity to say
11 it's just not enough that we say that we care
12 about education and I am happy of the fact that we
13 focused on after-school programs, quality teachers
14 and programs.

15 It's just not enough to say that we
16 care about the health of our constituents and I'm
17 happy to say that we focused on quality health
18 care for all regardless of ability to pay.

19 It's just not enough to say that we
20 care about our seniors. I can assure you that we
21 have focused on quality programs and nutritious
22 meals.

23 And not forgetting immigrants, just
24 not enough to say that you care about the
25 immigrants. All of us are immigrants, even though

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2 we have our citizenship now. I hope we have not
3 forgotten those who have just arrived.

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5 I want to use this opportunity to
6 thank each and every one of you who have worked in
7 the past eight years with me, especially the
8 Speaker and the staff of the Speaker. All those
9 folks, especially even in the Immigration
10 Committee, I want to say thank you very much for
11 giving me the opportunity to really focus on some
12 issues that are very dear to me. I want to say I
13 hope you continue the good work. Thank you and
14 God bless you all. I vote aye on everything.

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CLERK: Ulrich?

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16 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote no
17 on Intro 1103-A and aye on all others.

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CLERK: Vacca?

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19 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye
20 on all and I'd like to wish all my departing
21 colleagues all the best and thank them for their
22 service to our city. We will miss them. Thank
23 you and the best of the holidays.

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CLERK: Vallone?

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25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Permission
to explain?

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: First of all, a merry Christmas to everyone, especially to my colleagues who are sharing their last Stated with us. It's been a pleasure to have worked with all of you.

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Now to the street renamings, no one has held more substantive hearings than I have after this incident together with many of the people in this room. To work hard to make improvements after a tragic mistake is one thing, but to name a street after one is a completely different thing.

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The men in that car made many mistakes that evening. The police officers while trying to prevent another Sadie Mitchell also made a mistake. They thought a gun was pulled. Those mistakes led to a tragedy. But two wrongs don't make a right and they don't add up to a street renaming.

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To the heroes on the list, including police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, they know how much respect I have for them and I hope they would understand

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2 this vote. I'm going to vote no on Intro 1103-A
3 and aye on the rest.

4 CLERK: Vann?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Explain my
6 vote?

7 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I'd like to
9 extend love and respect to the Bell family and to
10 the other guests in our chamber of families who
11 also experienced tragedy. I admire your strength.
12 I admire your resolve. I hope that God will
13 continue to bless you and to give you strength.

14 Best of wishes to our colleagues
15 who are departing, I wish you well. There is life
16 beyond the chamber, thank God.

17 I withdraw my requests and I vote
18 aye on all.

19 CLERK: Weprin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Yassky?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Just very
23 briefly I would also pay my respects to the family
24 of Sean Bell that is here with us. I also just
25 want to note that a street is being renamed for a

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2 young man named Benny Lyde who lost his life also
3 in a shooting, a shooting that thankfully was
4 solved, or the shooter was apprehended only
5 recently, two years and some after the shooting.
6 This is not in my district but it is in Crown
7 Heights in Brooklyn.

8 I've gotten to know Robin Lyde,
9 Benny's mother well, and his life is being honored
10 and his death is being honored here today by the
11 Council and I thank my colleagues for doing that.

12 I will vote aye on all the items
13 before us. I just want to also tell each of you
14 how grateful I am to have served with you for
15 these last eight years. I am enormously proud of
16 my service on the Council.

17 Certainly not proud of every minute
18 of it or everything I've done in it, but looking
19 at the whole, enormously proud of this body that
20 I've been a part of for eight years and the impact
21 that we've made on issues from affordable housing
22 to the environment to schools and to the cause of
23 a balanced government on behalf of the citizens of
24 New York. I think that this Council is held in
25 deserved esteem thanks to its leadership and to

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2 each of you and the people that we served with in
3 the first four years I was here a well.

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I just want to say to each of you
how much I appreciate your collegueship and your
friendship. While I know that there will be great
things ahead and many of us will continue to work
together, I will miss working with you as a body.
I thank you again for your friendship here. Thank
you.

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CLERK: Oddo?

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

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Yes.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: On April 6th,
2009 the former New York City Police Department
Borough Commander Eugene S. Devlin III died. In
the words of former Staten Island Borough
President Guy Molinari, he was the quintessential
Staten Islander.

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Chief Devlin was a member of the
New York City Police Department for more than 33
years, rising through the ranks from a Manhattan
beat cop to assistant chief. He ended his career
as the top cop on Staten Island and during his

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2 tenure crime dropped 74%. In the words of former
3 Council Member, my predecessor John Fusco, he was
4 a wonderful man and he continuously was admired
5 for his professionalism and dedication. Former
6 Council Member Jay O'Donovan said his handshake
7 was his bond.

8 It was a pleasure getting to know
9 him. It was a pleasure working with him. It
10 pains me to stand up and have to vote against a
11 bill that honors my friend Gene Devlin. I would
12 like to publicly apologize to the friends and
13 family of Chief Devlin, to Police Officer Kevin
14 Lee, to Michael Primiano and Sal Somma and of
15 course our former colleague John J. Marchi who are
16 being honored in a bill that I cannot support.

17 I will simply say to my colleagues,
18 those who are returning and those new members, you
19 have to help me help this institution shed the
20 albatross of street name changes. My sentiments
21 predate this controversy; they predate the Sonny
22 Carson controversy. If you are a good member, a
23 hard working member, you do not need the political
24 crutch of street renaming.

25 If there is to be a body full of

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2 press and full of anticipation and full of
3 expectation, let it be over a debate that means
4 something to the people of the City of New York,
5 for something that we are elected to address. Let
6 it be about education. Let it be about the
7 budget. We can't continue to have moments like
8 this. I've said it now for five years.

9 I am proud of the tone and tenor of
10 today. I really am. And I hope people saw that I
11 went up to Council Member Barron and gave him a
12 Christmas card to thank him for that. But this is
13 not something we should be doing. If particular
14 communities want to honor someone, God bless them.
15 But why should we put the institution or the name
16 of the institution, there are so many other things
17 that this body should be focusing on.

18 So respectfully, regretfully, I
19 vote yes on all with the exception of 1103-A on
20 which I vote no.

21 CLERK: Rivera?

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
23 much. I just want to thank the body, our Speaker
24 for all your support on the Kingsbridge Armory
25 issue. The Bronx Delegation thanks you, the

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2 community thanks you and the City of New York
3 thanks you.

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5 To my colleagues who will not be
6 joining us back here next year; it's been a great
7 pleasure working with you over the past eight
8 years. I know that the contribution you've made
9 to this body has been phenomenal, has been great
10 and your efforts and your work will never be
11 forgotten and will continue in the hard work in
12 the legacy that you had presented.

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13 To the Bell family and to the 70
14 other names that we're going to be renaming in the
15 City of New York, I being to differ of my
16 colleagues position, I think it's important that
17 we as a body remember the lives of those who in
18 some way, shape or form made a contribution to our
19 great city.

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20 When a child walks down the street
21 and they see the name Sean Bell or they see other
22 names, they're going to ask their parents who the
23 individual was, and the story will be told about
24 either that tragic day or the contribution that's
25 been made. That's where we will not fail our city
and our society by repeating history but by

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2 learning from the historical context and what took
3 place on that day.

4 So I think street renamings and
5 street name changes are extremely important to
6 this body because we get to honor the lives and
7 the memories of the people that we honor with that
8 effort. I proud vote aye because I think it is an
9 important function of this body to remember the
10 lives. Thank you. I vote aye on all.

11 CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

12 SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very
13 much. I just want to say a few quick last things.
14 I failed when discussing Western Rail Yards to
15 thank HPD and in particular their Commissioner
16 Rafael Cestero. We could not have done what we
17 did with Western Rail Yards if it was not for
18 Rafael who is doing a terrific job as our HPD
19 commissioner, so I just wanted to add that.

20 I'm going to say some things about
21 our departing colleagues later on in the meeting,
22 but before voting aye on all, I just want to thank
23 the Boodram family for being with us today and for
24 your steadfast care of your sons and your family
25 and your community in the face of your terrible,

1
2 terrible loss. So thank you so much. Mr. Boodram
3 said he would usually never take his sons out of
4 school but this was very, very important and both
5 of those statements speak volumes about you as a
6 father. So thank you very much for being with us
7 today.

8 I also want to thank the Bell
9 family for being with us today and for all of your
10 courage since your tragic loss. I vote aye on
11 all.

12 [Pause]

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All items on
14 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a
15 vote of 50 in the affirmative with zero in the
16 negative and zero abstentions, with the exception
17 of Intro 853-A which was adopted by a vote of 49
18 in the affirmative with one in the negative and
19 zero abstentions.

20 Intro 1103-A was adopted by 42 in
21 the affirmative, six in the negative and zero
22 abstentions. LU 1292 with accompanying Reso 2316
23 was adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative,
24 one in the negative and zero abstentions.

25 LU 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230 and

1
2 accompanying Resolutions were adopted by a vote of
3 38 in the affirmative, 10 in the negative and 2
4 abstentions.

5 LU 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264,
6 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, and 1273 and the
7 accompanying Resolutions were adopted by a vote of
8 47 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 1
9 abstention.

10 LU 1256 though 1259 and the
11 accompanying Resolutions was adopted by a vote of
12 48 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 1
13 abstention.

14 LU 1273 and Reso 2332 were adopted
15 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the
16 negative and 1 abstention.

17 LU 1282 and Reso 2309 were adopted
18 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 1 in the
19 negative and zero abstentions.

20 Intro 1014-A was adopted by a vote
21 of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
22 with one abstention.

23 Discussion of General Orders,
24 Council Member Gerson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Mr. Leader,

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2 in my final statement on a matter of official
3 business pending before this Council, I return to
4 the issue which has informed virtually all of my
5 service over the past eight years and that is the
6 act of evil and tragedy of 9/11. I call upon all
7 of my colleagues to vote to adopt Resolution 1924-
8 A. This Resolution calls upon the Congress to
9 implement the so-called Zydroga bill to provide
10 and assure--

11 SPEAKER QUINN: [interposing] I'm
12 sorry. Can we get a little quiet? If we could
13 get the Council Members and everyone back in their
14 seats. The meeting is not over yet. If the press
15 could go back to the press area. Let's restart
16 the clock for Council Member Gerson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Thank you,
18 Madame Speaker. This is a Resolution on behalf of
19 all of the victims, the heroes who rushed into
20 harm's way, the residents who remain to rebuild
21 their communities and all impacted potentially by
22 the toxins in the air of 9/11. The Resolution
23 calls on the Congress as it hopefully adopts
24 historic health care reform to also adopt the
25 bipartisan legislation spearheaded by Congress

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2 Members Nadler and Maloney to assure ongoing
3 monitoring and treatment for victims, ongoing
4 research and reopening of the victim's
5 compensation fund.

6 The Resolution also calls for
7 important clarifications, specifically that all
8 victims, be it residents of responders be treated
9 with parity and that the city's adjustment to the
10 fund be fairly accommodated, the city's
11 contribution to the fund. And finally that cancer
12 be included and noted as one of the diseases
13 covered by the act. With that, I urge all my
14 colleagues to vote aye on this very important
15 resolution. I thank Madame Speaker for your
16 leadership in assuring that this goes forward as
17 the Resolution's prime sponsor. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
19 much. I skipped over inadvertently the
20 introduction and reading of the bills.

21 SPEAKER QUINN: See attached.

22 [Pause]

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: There is an
24 adjustment to be made on the official tally for
25 the votes. LU 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230 and the

1
2 accompanying Resolutions were adopted by a vote of
3 36 in the affirmative, 10 in the negative with 4
4 abstentions.

5 [Pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Now we're
7 going to call a voice vote on the Resolutions
8 before us, Resolution 190-A. All in support say
9 aye.

10 COUNCIL: Aye.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
12 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
13 Resolution 1087-A, all in support say aye.

14 COUNCIL: Aye.

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
16 say nay. The ayes have it. Resolution 1924-A,
17 all in support say aye.

18 COUNCIL: Aye.

19 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
20 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
21 Resolution 1930, all in support say aye.

22 COUNCIL: Aye.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed
24 say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.
25 Resolution 2256-A, all in support say aye.

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed

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say nay.

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COUNCIL: Nay.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Any

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abstentions? The ayes have it. Resolution 2261,

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all in support say aye.

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COUNCIL: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: All opposed

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say nay.

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COUNCIL: Nay.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Any

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abstentions? The ayes have it. General

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Discussion, we have our Speaker Christine Quinn.

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SPEAKER QUINN: Thank you very

17

much. I just wanted to take a moment to thank our

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12 colleagues for whom this is their last Stated

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Meeting. I wanted to briefly mention something

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about each of them, but in total I want to thank

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them for their support over the past eight years,

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their friendship, their incredibly hard work and

23

their commitment to the City Council and to the

24

City.

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I think all of their work together

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2 has left this city and this City Council a better
3 place than they found it. If I was a more
4 creative person I would have written the 12 Days
5 of Christmas or something.

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Let me make note of something about
each of our colleagues. Alan Gerson, no one
worked harder to help Lower Manhattan rise after
September 11th than he did.

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Melinda Katz as chair of our Land
Use Committee, for eight years which probably
feels like 800 years, has watched over every
project with an incredibly careful eye to make
sure all T's were crossed and all I's were dotted
and that we held ourselves to the highest ethical
standard, and in doing so has created tens of
thousands of jobs and opportunities for New
Yorkers in all five boroughs.

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Tony Avella, he's not here, I'll
just keep going. I'm just kidding. Although we
didn't always agree, Tony Avella and I on most
things did not agree, but Tony Avella put his
heart and soul into everything he did. He has a
passion for what he believes and brings it to work
every single day.

1
2 Kenny Mitchell was someone we knew
3 but then came to us in a new capacity and kept
4 very, very clear to the message that we could
5 never forget Staten Island and particularly never
6 forget its north shore. So thank you so much for
7 that Kenny.

8 Bill de Blasio, as chair of our
9 General Welfare Committee stepped into some big
10 shoes but rose to the occasion reminding us always
11 that poor people in this city matter and that one
12 of our most important jobs is to serve them and
13 make sure they never fall through the crack,
14 particularly if they're children who cannot speak
15 for themselves, and in particular the work you did
16 after the Nixzmary Brown tragedy was something
17 we're all very, very proud of.

18 No one has worked harder to keep
19 the MTA honest and keep the MTA serving the people
20 of New York than John Liu and I know he will bring
21 that tenacity to the Comptroller's office and will
22 serve all of us well.

23 Helen Sears, there's been a lot of
24 conversation nationally and internationally now
25 about the tragedy of sex trafficking and the

1
2 problem that it is causing all over the world.
3 The first person at any level of government to
4 raise that issue, Helen Sears in they New York
5 City Council when she was chair of the Women's
6 Issue Committee. Helen, you have never gotten the
7 credit you deserve for that, so thank you very,
8 very, very much.

9 David Weprin is chair of our
10 Finance Committee through some good times when we
11 had a lot of money and not so good times when we
12 didn't have a lot of money. You have worked so
13 hard to make sure that all of the core services of
14 the City of New York have stayed intact and that
15 the voices of taxpayers were always heard loud and
16 clear in the process, so thank you so very, very
17 much.

18 Kendall Stewart, I know from when I
19 was chair of the Health Committee but now as
20 Speaker, you have brought your experience as a
21 medical professional to the table over and over
22 again to make sure that the issues of health care,
23 particularly for new New Yorkers and for
24 immigrants is something that gets focused on in
25 this body, so thank you very, very much. Also,

1
2 thank you for your work on behalf of LGBT
3 immigrants through your time as chair of the
4 Immigration Committee.

5 I want to thank Eric Gioia for all
6 of his work around food stamps and the hungry in
7 the City of New York. He set the Council on that
8 track with Chairperson de Blasio eight years ago.
9 I was proud to follow your lead when I became
10 Speaker, though I will not be living a week on
11 food stamps as you did. But thank you for putting
12 all of yourself, literally and figuratively, into
13 this effort to make sure New Yorkers who are
14 hungry get fed. We've seen people who need food
15 stamps have an easier time of getting them and
16 that is in large part due to your work, so thank
17 you so much, Eric.

18 I know she's not here today,
19 Council Member Baez, she's someone who is in our
20 thoughts and prayers. But I want to thank her in
21 particular for the work she's done as chair of the
22 State and Federal Legislation Committee pushing
23 the issue of domestic partnership and making sure
24 that all benefits go to all domestic partners in
25 the City of New York.

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That is a short list of a long list of contributions that these 12 New Yorkers have made to their city. So I just want to say I am incredibly grateful to all of you. Any of the accomplishments that I have been able to achieve in my time in the Council from when I was on the Health Committee to LGBT legislation to the work as Speaker, none of that would have happened without all of your, without all of your support, without all of your ideas, without all of your suggestions, without everything you brought to the table and with whatever Chuck is going to say.

I did skip David Yassky but I didn't mean to. And he's even on the list. I am so sorry. Thank you. That's a good staff. You're right here, David and I actually had two points. I'm so sorry.

One is I wanted to remind folks of the work you did in your last term and then again in the beginning of this term around film tax credits. Much gets raised about Mayor Bloomberg's work around film tax credit but you were really one of the leaders of that in the City Council and that work has helped put lots and lots of New

1
2 Yorkers to work. You did it in a way working with
3 Tish and others that made sure all New Yorkers got
4 a piece of the film tax credits. So thank you so
5 very much.

6 I also wanted to thank you for
7 constantly pushing the good government envelope in
8 the sense of asking us over and over as colleagues
9 about how we could think about being more
10 transparent, being more open and being a more
11 productive legislative body. So thank you very,
12 very much. I apologize for skipping over.

13 In close, I thank you all. I think
14 if all of us in our next four years can live up to
15 the job that you all have done in your four or
16 eight years with us, we will be a great City
17 Council. So I wish you all the best. I urge you
18 all to stay in touch, to stay an active part of
19 the City Council's family. I really just want to
20 thank all of you for everything you've given the
21 city.

22 Everything I mentioned came at the
23 cost of less time with your family, less time with
24 your friends, less money than you could have made
25 in the private sector and often a lot of headache,

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2 drama and problems to deal with, so I thank you
3 for caring so much about your city that you put
4 yourself through all of this. Thank you all so
5 very much.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I too want
to take a minute to thank all of my 12 colleagues
that I've had the pleasure of working with over
and throughout the past eight years. But as you
know, Queens is losing six strong people. We're
losing more than any other borough and while we
have new members coming in, I just wanted to take
time to reflect on the loss of six strong links in
the City Council that have provided so much to the
city over the past eight years.

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Council Member Gioia, Council
Member Weprin, Helen Sears, Melinda Katz, Tony
Avella and John Liu have all contributed greatly
to the integrity of this body, to the decorum of
this body, to coming up with new and innovative
legislation and ideas to make this city a stronger
and a better place. They will be missed. I will
be staying in contact with them because they all

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2 are people that are still going to be great
3 contributors to the city down the line.

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5 I just want to say to the other
6 members that we'll be losing also; I have enjoyed
7 working with you. I have enjoyed being a part of
8 learning from you and learning with you and I
9 intend to continue to keep relationships with
10 people that truly have been contributors to this
11 city.

12

13 I also want to say during this
14 holiday season to thank all of the staff that work
15 in the City Council that impact the City Council
16 and all of the advocates during this holiday
17 season, may you have a happy, blessed, happy and
18 prosperous holiday season. Thank you all.

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20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
21 Weprin.

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23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Thank you,
24 Mr. Majority Leader. In just ten days I will be
25 ending my tenure as the Council Member from the
26 23rd District and as chair of the Finance
27 Committee.

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29 Earlier today I chaired my last
30 Finance Committee meeting, something that I've

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1
2 done with great pride for the last eight years. I
3 have been honored to oversee eight budgets and
4 many local laws and to have worked closely with
5 two individuals that I consider great leaders in
6 our city and will always go down in the history
7 books and that's Gifford Miller and Christine
8 Quinn.

9 We have successful navigated
10 through tough and sometimes highly complicated
11 choices to make the best possible decisions. I'll
12 always look back fondly on what we have been able
13 to accomplish both the city as a whole and for my
14 district in Queens.

15 Under the leadership of Speaker
16 Quinn, Mayor Bloomberg and all of you, we have
17 come together for the benefit of all New Yorkers.
18 For this I am very proud. I want to thank the
19 director of the Finance Division, Preston Niblack,
20 first deputy director Jeff Rodus and our
21 incredible Finance staff for all the hard work and
22 making me look good as Finance chair. It has been
23 an honor serving within this body.

24 I look forward to continuing
25 working with my successor and all my former

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2 colleagues in making this city truly the best city
3 in the world. I want to wish my 11 colleagues who
4 are departing as well the best of luck. Thank you
5 all and have a happy holiday season and a happy
6 new year.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member

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Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I just

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wanted to wish all my colleagues that are

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departing; I wish them well in 2010 and beyond.

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It was nice working with them. I wanted also to

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communicate to everyone that I wish them a happy

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holiday season, don't drink and drive and be safe,

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and I look forward to working with you in 2010.

16

Congratulations to everyone.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member

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Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: A farewell

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and I wish you all the best. Like I said, 2009 I

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was going to shine. In 2010 we all going to win.

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So let's get ready. Take care.

23

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member

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Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I also want

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2 to thank and congratulate the 12 of our colleagues
3 that are going to be leaving. I'm going to miss
4 most of them very much. I wish for them that as
5 they look back at their eight years or whatever
6 time they spent here and look in the mirror that
7 they will know that they made a real contribution
8 to the lives of the people of this city and made
9 someone somewhere life better.

10 I also want to mention, as I do
11 from time to time, and it is the holiday season,
12 and particular on a day when I have my own son
13 here to hug, that 3,800 children will be sleeping
14 on the streets of this city tonight without
15 shelter and I ask each and every one of you to
16 keep them in your prayers and in your thoughts
17 this holiday season. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.
19 Council Member Dilan.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Thank you,
21 Mr. President Pro Tempore. I too wanted to wish
22 farewell to my colleagues who are leaving. I
23 would say that the public sector's loss will be
24 the private sector's gain. I know a lot of people
25 that are leaving us that have already secured jobs

1
2 and some are on the cusp of securing employment in
3 the private sector and we certainly wish them well
4 in their endeavors.

5 I do want to bust chops in a
6 friendly way with some of the ones who are leaving
7 that are still here. And I would say to David,
8 and this is with all love and respect, I don't
9 know what a press conference is going to be like
10 anymore without you here.

11 To Alan, you know, I'm sure
12 personally going to miss your speeches that you've
13 made on the floor of this body throughout the
14 years. They'll be sorely missed.

15 To the rest of my colleagues that
16 I've served with, all the love and respect I've
17 enjoyed your support, I've enjoyed fighting and
18 arguing with you throughout the years and I wish
19 you all the very best in your lives and your
20 private endeavors and wish you the kind of success
21 that only having a beautiful family and love of
22 your family and friends can give you.

23 Thank you all for your service on
24 behalf of the people of this city and the
25 communities you respectively represent. Thank you

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2 all.

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I do want to also say thank you to the Sanitation Department because at least in the areas that I know of, they did a great job plowing yesterday, even on the small streets. From talking to people I think in all five boroughs I think it's true.

SPEAKER QUINN: Can we get a little quiet for Council Member Brewer please?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Second, I want to mention that in Washington with the health care issues, obviously we've talked about the choice issue in the past. I think it's going to be right back to the states which is a shame for all of us in this country in my opinion, but I think it's something that we need to pay attention to.

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I want to thank the Speaker's office, Chuck Meara for reaching out to me about West 84th Street. I guess what it does say to us is guns, again and again and again are a bad thing. There were two illegal guns involved, not

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2 to mention drugs and a family in distress in more
3 ways than one.

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5 Finally, as we're talking about the
6 street names, whether you're for or against them,
7 I think it would be nice to know who some of the
8 people are and I hope that maybe next session we
9 can talk about my bill that says put information
10 about these people on the web so that people know
11 who is there when you look up and you have a
12 moment of remembrance.

12

13 Finally, I think it was Melinda
14 Katz who said at one point; it's nice to really
15 think about your class. I think that those of who
16 came in right after 9/11 as well as those who came
17 more recently certainly contributed a huge amount
18 to this body. I've learned a lot. I'll certainly
19 miss them. For those of us who were part of our
20 class it's kind of like something that you never
21 forget as alums of that primary that we'll never
22 forget in September 11, 2001 and then joining the
23 class in January. We've done a lot together and I
24 hope we remain friends. Thank you very much.

24

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CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
de Blasio.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Thank
3 you very much. First of all, I want to thank the
4 Speaker for her friendship and for the opportunity
5 to work together over these years. I think we can
6 say that this City Council has gotten better with
7 every passing year. I really think the role we
8 have played in the life of the city continues to
9 gain more and more respect. I think it deserves a
10 lot more respect than it gets but we have made the
11 place better consistently and thank you for your
12 leadership.

13 Thank you to all my colleagues.
14 It's been a profound honor to serve with you. I
15 am always struck by how passionate every member of
16 this council is in the work they do, how much they
17 care about their communities and trying to make
18 the city better. Many a day I've been engaged
19 with conversation with or another of you and felt
20 such pride in how much people cared and tried to
21 really work on their beliefs to make an impact.

22 To the staff of the Council which I
23 think is extraordinary, I thank you for the
24 opportunity to collaborate with you. You've done
25 so much for the city and I feel a special

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appreciation to the staff of my office who have just worked tirelessly. I have been so blessed to have their support throughout.

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I just want to say in closing that all the work we do is important but I've been very, very lucky to be chair of the General Welfare Committee and to see how much the people of this city really do care about those in need.

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I want to say there were many a day in this chamber or in the budget negotiating team or in the committee hearings where there were tough issues before us and I was always struck at how members chose to do the right thing and chose to put their energy and to put resources toward those in need, whether it was politically, the "smart" thing to do or not, whether it was the convenient thing to do or not, the people chose what I think was the moral thing.

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There is many a day particularly in the budget negotiating team when I'd look across at Jimmy Oddo because we would often comment on this that people decide to put children in need in front of other constituencies that had the right to vote or had more power because they realized it

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2 was the right thing to do to protect out children.
3 So I'm just gratified to have had all these
4 experiences with you.

5 Finally, if you need me, I'm right
6 across the street and I'm happy to help any time
7 on anything. Let's work together and make this
8 city a better place. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Minority
12 Leader Oddo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: To our 12
14 departing colleagues, let me wish you peace and
15 health and happiness and prosperity. By all
16 accounts, Melinda is already working on the
17 prosperity part. To all 12 of you, take me with
18 you, please. No, just a joke.

19 I just want to say to 3 members, I
20 wish all 12 nothing but good things, but to 3
21 members, to my boy Bill de Blasio, the budget
22 negotiating team's loss is the public advocate
23 position's gain.

24 To my friend Melinda Katz who to
25 this day she and I had one of the best exchanges

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2 on the floor of the City Council many years ago,
3 probably can't get away with that exchange today.
4 I forgive her for her vote on the bat bill but not
5 her speech. We haven't always agreed but she is a
6 smart, strong lady whom I respect.

7 And finally, to my friend Ken
8 Mitchell who while I knew him as a staffer to the
9 chief of staff; I really didn't get to know Kenny
10 until we were colleagues. Vinny and I had a lot
11 of fun, Ken. You were a great teammate. You
12 cared about Staten Island and you are going to be
13 sorely missed. Godspeed to all of you folks.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.
15 Council Member Mitchell.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MITCHELL: Thank
17 you. I'd just like to say it's been my pleasure
18 working with this body for the past nine years.
19 My first eight years and then Council Member
20 McMahon's chief of staff and then as Council
21 Member for the 49th Council District.

22 I'd like to thank Speaker Quinn for
23 her friendship and her kind words on my behalf.
24 When you start mentioning names you get in
25 trouble, you always forget someone. But I would

1
2 like to mention Councilman Oddo and Councilman
3 Ignizio. We represented separate districts on
4 Staten Island, but every day we worked not only on
5 behalf of Staten Island but the entire city and I
6 thank them for that.

7 I'd just like to close with this,
8 you know my Irish grandmother, the late Mary
9 Hannigan always said, "don't say goodbye; say so
10 long". So my friends in the City Council, I say
11 so long. I wish you a merry Christmas, happy
12 holidays and God bless each and every one of you.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
14 Gerson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: I was just
16 going to say thank you all very much and move on
17 but then Erik Dilan said he would miss all my
18 speeches, so blame it on Erik.

19 On a serious note, to all of my
20 colleagues for your support and friendship under
21 the most difficult of times, in the aftermath of
22 9/11, thank you so very much. We've all served on
23 many bodies and many organizations, but never have
24 I served on a body with a group of people more
25 idealistic, more committed to the betterment of

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2 the world, nobler than each and all of you and I
3 thank you.

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5 We really have made a difference
6 and are worthy of being the extended arm of the
7 people of the City of New York. Our hearings have
8 hastened and improved the recovery in Lower
9 Manhattan. Lou Fidler is just one of many
10 examples of the work of this Council. Because of
11 our work there are young people who are safe and
12 sound rather than dying on the streets of the city
13 because of the shelters we opened up.

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15 Madame Speaker, you and I go way
16 back when and we're going to continue to
17 collaborate together. I am just so proud of our
18 work together and my support of you and I know
19 great things ahead. I've worked in the private
20 sector and the public sector with many, many staff
21 but never before with a team more professional and
22 more committed than the City Council staff led by
23 the great Chuck Meara.

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25 I won't list names because I'll go
over time, but this includes all of the sergeant-
at-arms, including the Sergeant who has had to put
up with all my transgressions over here in this

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2 part of the chambers. I'll leave that at that.

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Gale Brewer, you've been a fantastic leader of the Manhattan Delegation. Finally, to the people of Council District 1, I thank you for the privilege of serving you over these years, and including the most recent outpouring of support and encouragement over the past few weeks.

And to my friends and to my family, especially to my mother who has also endured so much difficulty and suffering over the past years, I thank you for putting up with my difficult crazy schedule and your love and support has meant everything.

Really, really, finally, lest anything think this is the last of my long speeches, there will be plenty more to come in plenty more forums. But everyone, merry Christmas and happy New Year and happy holidays. God bless, thank you all.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member Katz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Thank you Mr. Majority Leader. First of all, let me thank the

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2 Speaker for her leadership and Ramon and Chuck who
3 always look like they're going through something.
4 It always worries me, but we've had a great time
5 working together. I want to thank you. I thank
6 the Land Use staff but I also want to thank Jay
7 who has been with me almost 16 years. He's been a
8 great friend, a great colleague, one of the flat
9 out smartest people I know. And Ashley is working
10 with him now.

11 We've been through a lot together
12 this body and this class. We've been through a
13 lot of elections together. We have been through
14 the cleaning up and the rebuilding after 9/11.
15 You all went through the birth of my son with me
16 and were extremely supportive and I will never
17 forget how supportive this body was of me when I
18 gave birth and announced my pregnancy and then
19 three weeks later gave birth. I want to thank you
20 for all of that.

21 I want to congratulate and wish all
22 the best to my two colleagues who are going on to
23 citywide office, Bill de Blasio and John Liu, who
24 I know will both do a very good job in their
25 citywide capacity. Really, I wish just all the

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2 best to all of you and merry Christmas and happy
3 Hanukkah.

4 Two final things, first of all to
5 my colleague Jimmy Oddo, I will be delivering not
6 only a flashlight to your office, for those of you
7 that remember the joke many years ago, but I am
8 also asking the sergeant-of-arms officially to
9 give you one of my nameplates because I would like
10 to go up in your hall of fame in your office. But
11 Jimmy, as a Minority Leader, and just as someone
12 who believes deeply in Staten Island and the City
13 of New York, it has been my pleasure to work with
14 you.

15 To all of my other colleagues, I
16 wish you luck, and I want you all to know that
17 I've noted that when I sent out my announcement
18 that I'll be going to Greenberg Traurig, at least
19 half of you sent back solicitations for funds. So
20 I look forward to working with you in the future.
21 I thank you very much for all of the work we've
22 done together.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Council Member
24 and Comptroller-elect John Liu.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I'll simply

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2 say thank you to my colleagues, thank you to the
3 staff members who are dedicated public servants in
4 their own right. It's been a great eight years.
5 It's gone by quickly. It's been real. Have a
6 nice life, and I hope I'll be in some way part of
7 it. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Seeing no
9 others, I just want to thank everybody and this
10 meeting is closed. Before I close out the
11 meeting, sorry, one second, I've got to reread for
12 the record the final revised votes. All items in
13 today's General Order Calendar were adopted by a
14 vote of 50 in the affirmative, zero in the
15 negative and zero abstentions with the exception
16 of Intro 853-A which was adopted by a vote of 49
17 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and zero
18 abstentions.

19 Intro 1103-A was adopted by 41 in
20 the affirmative, 7 in the negative and 2
21 abstentions. LU 1292 and Reso 2316 were adopted
22 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 1 in the
23 negative and zero abstentions.

24 LU 1227 through 1230 and
25 accompanying Resolutions were adopted by a vote of

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2 36 in the affirmative, 10 in the negative and 4
3 abstentions.

4 LU 1260 through 1268, and the
5 accompanying Resolutions were adopted by a vote of
6 47 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 1
7 abstention.

8 LU 1256 though 1259 and the
9 accompanying Resolutions was adopted by a vote of
10 48 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 1
11 abstention.

12 LU 1273 and Reso 2332 were adopted
13 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 1 in the
14 negative and 1 abstention.

15 LU 1282 and Reso 2309 were adopted
16 by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 1 in the
17 negative and zero abstentions.

18 Intro 1014-A was adopted by a vote
19 of 49 in the affirmative, zero in the negative
20 with one abstention.

21 Intro 907 was adopted by a vote of
22 48 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and zero
23 abstentions.

24 Revised Land Use call-ups were
25 adopted by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, zero

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STATED MEETING

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in the negative and I hope that's all. Meeting is

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adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 

Date December 31, 2009