

STATED MEETING

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, February 2, 2023

Start: 2:13 P. M.

Recess: 3:26 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

## STATED MEETING

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

## STATED MEETING

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

REV. ANTHONY L. TRUFANT,  
Senior Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church; Located  
At 279 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, Ny 11238.

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STATED MEETING

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SERGEANT BRADLEY: Test, test, test, this is a test, this is a Stated Meeting being recorded in the chambers. This is being recorded by Shakeem (sp?) Bradley. Today's date is February 2, 2023.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentleman, at this time, please place all electronic devices -- all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

Mr. Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

[GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

Good afternoon, and welcome today's meeting. Welcome to the Stated Meeting of February 2, 2023.

Hello, everybody, I am Majority Leader Keith Powers, I would like to thank you for joining us. If you would like to follow along the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please join us for The Pledge of Allegiance.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

[PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

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1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: (NO RESPONSE)  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannon?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?  
16 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Here  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?

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1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: (NO RESPONSE)  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: (NO RESPONSE)  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Here  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

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1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Here  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Here  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: (NO RESPONSE)  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Present  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordon?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: (NO RESPONSE)  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Riley?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

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1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here, here.  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Here  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Here  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?



1 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: [INAUDIBLE]

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

3 Borelli?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I'm here.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now  
10 have today's invocation delivered by Reverend Anthony  
11 Trufant, Senior, Pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church;  
12 Located at 279 Lafayette Avenue in Brooklyn.  
13

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

15 PASTOR TRUFANT: Let us pray.

16 Thank you for welcoming us into this sacred  
17 space. We thank you for the privilege of not only  
18 being here in this historic chamber, but we thank you  
19 for the privilege of still being on the planet. We  
20 are grateful to receive from your gracious and  
21 merciful hand the gift of time, which we pray you  
22 will continue to teach us how to use wisely and well.  
23 By the end of this day, help us to offer back to you  
24 a days' worth of living, loving, and laughter. We  
25 ask that your grace, mercy, and guidance fall afresh

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2 upon these public servants, especially the City  
3 Council Speaker, the members of the City Council, the  
4 support staff, inclusive of the custodians. Even as  
5 the Big Apple has blessed them, may their collective  
6 work be a blessing to all five boroughs; to every  
7 community that makes up each borough, every block in  
8 each community, and every home on each block. May  
9 these public servants, who have responded to your  
10 call to serve your people, never forget who voted for  
11 them, whose voice ultimately they must heed, and why  
12 you have called them to be a force for the common  
13 good. We ask that you tutor them in how to leverage  
14 their position and power to improve the standing of  
15 all New Yorkers, irrespective of their race,  
16 ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, economic  
17 status, and sexual orientation. May they resist the  
18 temptation to hand out even more opportunities to  
19 those on Wall Street, Main Street, skyboxes and  
20 arenas, and corporate suites. Instead, may they light  
21 the Lady in the Harbor, offer more hope and help to  
22 the tired, the hungry, the whole masses to those  
23 yearning to be free. Give us heads and hearts that  
24 we see the most vulnerable among us who live not in  
25 the Upper East Side, West Side, Midtown, SoHo, or

1  
2 Tribeca, but who currently have no permanent  
3 residence, and no meaningful, supportive  
4 relationships. Teach us how to think and act  
5 strategically and creatively to break cycles of  
6 powerlessness, meaninglessness, and lovelessness.  
7 Help us to see the mentally ill as worthy of our  
8 respect and compassion instead of stigmatization,  
9 marginalization, and incarceration. Open doors of  
10 opportunity to formally incarcerated who have paid  
11 their debts to society, and who seek chances to be  
12 self sufficient assets to their families, and ongoing  
13 contributors to the quality of life in this haven on  
14 the Hudson. Oh, God, bless our public servants in  
15 DOE, Health + Hospitals Corporation, the FDNY, the  
16 NYPD, Sanitation, ACS, the Billing Department, the  
17 MTA, and the New York City Law Department. Please  
18 not only bless them, but also protect and provide for  
19 their families, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.  
20 Finally, we prayer for our mayor, his cabinet, and  
21 his appointees as city commissioners. Give them the  
22 dynamism, courage, and vision to chart the course in  
23 the future that benefits not only the same faithful  
24 few but would be a blessing to all who call New York  
25 home. Help your people remember that you have

1  
2 permitted them to rise to great heights, that they  
3 may see and follow the light which promises and  
4 better tomorrow if we plan together, pray together,  
5 work and walk together today. May we practice  
6 humility and hope, which reminds us we are all made  
7 up of sacred dirt and made for a shared destiny.  
8 This is our prayer, we ask in the names by which we  
9 have learned to call you; I ask in the name by which  
10 I am saved, the name who is the source of my  
11 strength, the name in which I experience and express  
12 love, the name in which enables and encourages me to  
13 be my best self -- not my worse self -- the name in  
14 which I still find hope in the midst of a world  
15 characterized by chaos, confusion, and conflict. In  
16 Jesus name, I ask it all. Amen.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you and thank you  
18 for being with us today.

19 And now we ask Council Member Crystal Hudson to  
20 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you, Majority Leader  
22 Powers.

23 I am honored that Reverend Anthony L. Trufant is  
24 in the Council Chambers today. I now make a motion  
25

1  
2 for unanimous consent to spread the Invocation in  
3 full upon the record.

4 For decades, Reverend Trufant has been a  
5 cornerstone of the Clinton Hill community, providing  
6 spiritual guidance to thousands and supporting the  
7 hard working folks of my district. Since November  
8 1990, Reverend Trufant has served as the senior  
9 pastor of the 4,000 member Emmanuel Baptist Church of  
10 Brooklyn. He has partnered with church leaders and  
11 members to empower congregants so that they can not  
12 only enjoy their lives, but also make an impact on  
13 their world locally, nationally, and globally. In  
14 just a few decades, Reverend Trufant has cemented his  
15 place as a stalwart of spirituality, lecturing or  
16 speaking at everywhere from Cornell University to  
17 Princeton Theological Seminary, to the University of  
18 Pennsylvania, and establishing groundbreaking forums,  
19 like the Rethink and Retool Conference, which helps  
20 urban pastors by providing them with the practical  
21 and conceptual resources needed to improve leadership  
22 and their churches.

23 As an inimitable public speaker, experienced  
24 workshop facilitator, licensed conflict resolution  
25 mediator, and innovative pastor, Reverend Trufant

1  
2 continues to help Brooklynites fulfill their  
3 personal, spiritual, and professional dreams. And,  
4 as a Spellman graduate, I am always proud to uplift a  
5 Morehouse brother; I am proud to call Reverend  
6 Trufant and friend, and I know his family, including  
7 his two young-adult daughters, Sharise and Toni, and  
8 his wife, Muriel Goode-Trufant, are just as proud of  
9 him as I am.

10 Thank you, Reverend Trufant, for all you have  
11 done for me, and all you have done for my  
12 constituents, and all you will continue to do in the  
13 years to come. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 And now the Adoption of Minutes by Council Member  
16 Linda Lee.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I make a motion that the  
18 Minutes of the Charter Meeting of January 4, 2023 be  
19 adopted as printed.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. Thank you.  
21 We will now go to Messages & Papers from the Mayor.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: M 113 through M 119, various  
23 budget documents.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.  
25

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: M 120, Preliminary Mayor's  
3 Management Report.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
5 Filed.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: M 121, City Debt and Reserves.

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
8 Filed.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,  
10 County and Borough Offices?

11 COUNCIL CLERK: M's 122 and 123, Budget  
12 Modifications.

13 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and  
15 Communications.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: M 124 2.75 Annual Report.

17 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and  
18 Filed.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 We will now have Communication from Speaker  
23 Adrienne Adams.

24

25

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2           SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader, and  
3 good afternoon, everyone, I hope you and your  
4 families are safe, healthy and well.

5           I want to begin by acknowledging the loss of Eric  
6 Garvin, a former City Council Staffer, who worked in  
7 The Community Engagement Division under former  
8 Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito. Eric was a dedicated  
9 public servant who cared deeply about ending the  
10 scourge of gun violence. He was a beloved colleague,  
11 and his work at the Council, and later at The Mayor's  
12 Office of Criminal Justice, focused on improving the  
13 lives of New Yorkers. Eric will always be a part of  
14 our council family, and his former colleagues at The  
15 Community Engagement Division are here today to honor  
16 his memory. His family is having a Celebration of  
17 Life Service on February 10th at 11:00 A. M. at the  
18 Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in Fort Washington, Maryland,  
19 and the service will be livestreamed as well. My  
20 thoughts and the thoughts of his council family are  
21 with his family and with his loved ones.

22           As a city and country, we are all mourning the  
23 killing of Tyre Nichols by police officers in  
24 Memphis, Tennessee. Tyre was a loving father, and  
25 avid photographer, and skateboarder, and a valued



1  
2 member of his community. He should be alive today,  
3 and the police brutality that took his life demands  
4 accountability. Black people in this country, as  
5 well as other communities, have lost too many of our  
6 children, mothers, fathers, and siblings to police  
7 violence and it must end. As a mother and  
8 grandmother, my heart aches for Tyre's mother and for  
9 his entire family as they continue to grieve his  
10 loss.

11 Hearing his mother express how she felt when she  
12 heard that her son called for her as he was being  
13 brutally murdered, was more than heartbreaking.

14 As we pursue accountability and change, it is  
15 important to prioritize measures that support the  
16 bereaved in their healing and recovery from the  
17 severe trauma that continues to impact our  
18 communities.

19 As a city, we must focus on the necessary policy  
20 changes that we can enact to end all forms of abusive  
21 and discriminatory policing and police violence.

22 Please join me in a moment of silence to remember  
23 the life of Tyre Nichols and of Eric Garvin.

24 [MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED]

25 Thank you.

1  
2 I also want to take a moment to discuss the  
3 situation that unfolded in front of the Watson Hotel  
4 in Manhattan this week. This is a difficult issue.  
5 It is disappointing that the administration chose to  
6 handle this situation outside of the Watson Hotel in  
7 the manner it did -- especially on a day when the  
8 governor proposed resources to support our City in  
9 helping asylum seekers and the neighborhoods  
10 welcoming them. From the beginning of the effort to  
11 move individuals to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal,  
12 there appear to be inefficient communication and  
13 transparency. There are also indications that some  
14 individuals outside of the hotel, who were not  
15 migrants, did not help the overall situation, but may  
16 have played a role in undermining trust.

17 I believe that some of this could have been  
18 averted with more openness about the Cruiser  
19 Terminal, earlier engagement, access, and clear  
20 communication regarding the challenge the City was  
21 facing that participated the need to move people to  
22 accommodate families. That did not happen, and,  
23 unfortunately, we ended up in a standoff with a lack  
24 of trust on all sides. Rather than utilizing law  
25 enforcement to target asylum seekers, who may have

1  
2 been uncertain and fearful, I would have preferred to  
3 see the administration engage credible voices,  
4 outside of their own officials, to play a  
5 constructive role. For those migrants who are  
6 working and had concerns about getting to their jobs  
7 in distant locations within a new city, and those who  
8 were worried, there could have been space for more  
9 constructive conversations to address their concerns.  
10 It is unfortunate that did not occur, and we must do  
11 better.

12 We understand the challenges facing our city, and  
13 it is critical that those committed to being  
14 constructive participants be included as part of  
15 achieving solutions. We need to stop treating each  
16 other as enemies and disregarding the input of those  
17 acting in good faith, because it is leaving everyone  
18 in our city who needs care left as collateral damage.

19 My hope is that we can start to address these  
20 issues far more collaboratively, because so many of  
21 us are committed to doing the right thing for our  
22 people. We need earlier engagement and more  
23 collaborate efforts from the administration rather  
24 than an indifference of partnership other officials  
25 and community members who are committed to being

1  
2 helpful. The reality is that our city faced a  
3 homelessness crisis well before we began welcoming  
4 people seeking asylum in our country here in our  
5 city. New asylum seekers only added to our high,  
6 unhoused population and the challenges we face as a  
7 city became even greater. The city has not focused  
8 enough on actions it can take on its own to reduce  
9 the population in our shelter system by removing the  
10 barriers to those transitioning into permanent  
11 housing, especially our longtime New Yorkers.

12 While the administration's efforts to advocate  
13 for more recourses and support from our federal and  
14 state governmental partners are critical, that cannot  
15 be to the exclusion of city led policy changes. The  
16 City should eliminate the 90-day rule that delays  
17 those in our shelter system from receiving CityFHEPS  
18 rental vouchers. We must ensure the adequate funding  
19 and staffing of our social service agencies that  
20 helps end delays to supportive housing placements  
21 which can also help move people out of the shelter  
22 system.

23 The administration can address the staffing  
24 issues and vacancies within its agencies that impeded  
25 solutions to our homelessness crisis.

1  
2       There are steps the City can and must take to  
3 address the bureaucratic inefficiencies within our  
4 system serving people in our city's homeless and  
5 social service systems.

6       It is unacceptable when half of food stamp  
7 recipients cannot access federal benefits due to  
8 agency understaffing or that housing agencies are  
9 unable to advance affordable housing development.  
10 This has presented real consequences for New Yorkers,  
11 and it cannot continue.

12       This week, the Council held a crucial joint  
13 oversight hearing by the Committees Youth Services,  
14 Aging, and Contracts on the issue of nonprofit  
15 contracting and our service providers being paid in a  
16 timely manner.

17       I also had the opportunity to meet with some of  
18 our nonpartisan sector leaders at a round table where  
19 we discussed concerns about workforce retention and  
20 inequitable wages, late payments, and bureaucratic  
21 hurdles facing nonprofits. Our nonprofit partners  
22 provide critical services that directly benefit the  
23 people of our city, and we need to ensure that  
24 support them and their workers to help meet the needs  
25 of all New Yorkers. I thank everyone who attended,

1  
2 participated in the hearing, and spoke up about the  
3 importance of our nonprofit sector.

4 We are a officially in the second day of Black  
5 History Month -- which is also Groundhog Day, my  
6 baby's birthday, just saying, Happy Birthday, Baby! -  
7 - who is not such a baby anymore... This month, and  
8 every month, it is important that we reflect,  
9 recognize, and celebrate the vast contributions of  
10 Black communities in our city and across the entire  
11 country. We can honor our ancestors and those who  
12 came before us, who shoulders we stand on today, by  
13 continuing the struggles for justice, liberation, and  
14 equality. As we celebrate Black History Month this  
15 year, let us remember how important it is for our  
16 children, and generations after us, to know the full  
17 breadth of our history and how rich it is.

18 As we discuss Black History, I want to highlight  
19 the recent birthdays of historic Black leaders who  
20 spent their lives breaking barriers and fighting for  
21 our civil rights: January 31st, was the birthday of  
22 Jackie Robinson, who broke barriers as major league  
23 baseball's first Black player and served as fierce  
24 and outspoken advocate; February 1st was the birthday  
25 of the great poet Langston Hughes; and February 4th

1  
2 marks the birthday of Rosa Parks, who would have been  
3 100 years old. We honor her remarkable legacy and  
4 courage as a leader as the civil rights movement.  
5 And I also want to recognize, during Black History  
6 Month, this is not scripted, that we must protect the  
7 history that is threatened to be taken away in  
8 different sectors of this great nation of ours. We  
9 must protect and never erase the history that is not  
10 just Black History, but it is American history!

11 [APPLAUSE]

12 February, colleagues, is also America Heart  
13 Month, and it is important to highlight that heart  
14 disease is the leading cause of death for men and  
15 women in the country. Every year, one in four deaths  
16 is caused by heart disease, a staggering statistic  
17 that we must take steps to address.

18 We are also wearing red ribbons today in honor  
19 of National Wear Red Day, which is observed on the  
20 first Friday in February, to bring attention to  
21 women's heart health. Working together, we can take  
22 actions to promote greater heart health and work  
23 towards preventing cardiovascular diseases.

24 There are some other notable days I would like to  
25 acknowledge: February 1st is recognized as World

1  
2 Hijab Day, which honors the millions of Muslim women  
3 who choose to wear a hijab and fosters greater  
4 understanding and unity.

5 February 1st is also National Girls and Women in  
6 Sports Day. It has been more than 50 years since  
7 Title IX was implemented, but as the first women  
8 majority City Council, we remain more committed than  
9 ever to the goal of equitable funding and access to  
10 sports for girls and women across New York City.

11 February 6th is Tu BiShevat, which marks the  
12 beginning of a new year for trees on the Jewish  
13 calendar. On this holiday, we recommit to protecting  
14 and safeguarding our precious environment.

15 Borough presidents are currently accepting  
16 applications for New Yorkers to serve on our  
17 community boards. And as the former chair of Queens  
18 Community Board 12, the second largest community  
19 board in the borough, I do understand the importance  
20 of civic engagement and participation on the  
21 neighborhood level. It is how I got my start in  
22 public service, and our community boards play a  
23 crucial role in upkeeping the health and wellbeing of  
24 our communities. I encourage all New Yorkers to  
25 apply for your local community board to help make



1  
2 your neighborhood a better place to live, work, and  
3 thrive.

4 Before we conclude, I want to wish a very Happy  
5 Belated Birthday to our colleague, Council Member Ari  
6 Kagan.

7 [APPLAUSE]

8 And a Happy early Birthday to Council Member  
9 Shahana Hanif.

10 [APPLAUSE]

11 I hope you enjoy celebrating with your families  
12 and loved ones.

13 And, finally, today, February 2nd, not just marks  
14 my daughter's birthday, but it also marks the 370th  
15 anniversary of the creation of the City Council! We  
16 are 370 years old!

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 According to our friends at the Bowling Green  
19 Association, on this day, in 1653, New Amsterdam  
20 became the first place in America to create what was  
21 known as then as the Common Council, which eventually  
22 became a predecessor to the New York City Council.  
23 Join me in celebrating the 370th anniversary of our  
24 great legislative body.

25 [APPLAUSE]

1  
2 Now let's move on to our stated agenda.

3 First, we will be voting on the following  
4 appointments:

5 Steven Chu as member of the Landmarks  
6 Preservation Commission; Angie Master as a member of  
7 the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Mark Ginsberg  
8 as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Commission;  
9 Carol R. Edmead as a Commissioner of the Board of  
10 Elections; Deanna Hoskins as a member of the Board of  
11 Correction; Rachel Bedard as a member of the Board of  
12 Correction.

13 We will also be voting on the following finance  
14 items:

15 A transparency resolution approving new  
16 designations in changes of certain organizations  
17 receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

18 Next, we will be voting on the following Land Use  
19 Items:

20 46-448 Park Avenue Rezoning will facilitate the  
21 development of a six story residential building with  
22 11 housing units, including approximately 3 afford  
23 under MIH. The Council will be modifying under the  
24 MIH text amendment to strike option two, leaving only  
25

1  
2 option one as the requirement under MIH in Council  
3 Member Restler's district.

4 Reform Temple of Forest Hills Rezoning will  
5 facilitate the mixed-use redevelopment of the  
6 existing temple to increase its square footage,  
7 construct 153 housing units above, including -- may  
8 we have quiet in the chambers, please? Thank you! --  
9 to increase its square footage, construct 153 housing  
10 units above, including approximately 38 permanently  
11 affordable under MIH, 66 attended parking spaces on  
12 the cellar level, and 102 bike parking spaces. The  
13 community facility and house of worship will be fully  
14 ADA accessible, including flexible multipurpose  
15 sanctuary space, classrooms, and offices on the  
16 ground floor. The Council will be modifying the MIH  
17 text amendment to strike option two, leaving only  
18 option one as the requirement under MIH in Council  
19 Member Schulman's district.

20 The Annual Report pursuant to rule 2.75b in  
21 relation to complaints of sexual harassment as  
22 defined by the Council's Anti-Discrimination and  
23 Harassment Policy will also be submitted.

24 Next, we will be voting on the following pieces  
25 of legislation:

1  
2 First, we will consider a pair of resolutions in  
3 support of establishing Lunar New Year as an official  
4 federal and city holiday. As we all know, Lunar New  
5 Year is one of the more important annual celebrations  
6 in many East and South Asian cultures. With more  
7 than 15 percent of population in New York being of  
8 Asian descent, it only seems appropriate to have this  
9 annual holiday be observed as an official school  
10 holiday and an official holiday in the City of New  
11 York. Resolution 0331-A, sponsored by the Council  
12 Member Marte, calls for Lunar New Year to be  
13 recognized as an annual school holiday and as an  
14 official holiday in New York City.

15 Resolution 0421-A, sponsored by Council Member  
16 Sandra Ung, calls for Congress to pass, and the  
17 President to sign, H.R. 430, which establishes Lunar  
18 New Year Day as a Federal holiday. Thank you to our  
19 staff member, Regina Paul.

20 Next, Introduction 0421-A, sponsored by Council  
21 Member Kevin Riley, will provide for the Department  
22 of Homeless Services to provide monthly reporting on  
23 the total number of families with children living in  
24 the shelter system; their average length of stay; how  
25 many families have transitioned to permanent housing;

1  
2 and data related to school enrollment and attendance  
3 for youth in shelters.

4       Next, Introduction 0092-A, sponsored by Deputy  
5 Speaker Dianna Ayala, calls for an advisory board to  
6 advise the Mayor and the City Council on issues  
7 relating to accessibility for clients in City  
8 shelters. The advisory board would meet quarterly and  
9 include people living with a disability and who  
10 currently reside in or previously lived in a homeless  
11 shelter. The advisory board would provide an annual  
12 report on its review and recommendations. We give  
13 our thanks to our staff, Aminta Kilawan and David  
14 Romero.

15       Next, we will vote on a number of items designed  
16 to improve the accessibility of the City's housing  
17 stock to older adults and people with disabilities.

18       Introduction 0141-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker  
19 Ayala, would amend the New York City Building Code to  
20 require signage pointing users to the doors that are  
21 power-operated or low-energy power-operated.

22       Introduction 0375-A, also sponsored by the Deputy  
23 Speaker, would require HPD to report on the number of  
24 the affordable housing units marketed for people with  
25

1  
2 disabilities that are actually rented to persons with  
3 disabilities.

4 Introduction 0676-A, sponsored by Council Member  
5 Crystal Hudson, would mandate that new construction  
6 housing projects receiving City financial assistance  
7 ensure all unit adhere to universal design, a housing  
8 design approach that addresses barriers faced by  
9 individuals with disabilities, older adults, and  
10 youth with more robust accessibility features. We  
11 thank our staff Audrey Son and Taylor Zelony.

12 This brings us to our Pay Equity Package, which  
13 will provide key data and analysis on inequity in our  
14 municipal workforce across race and gender and enact  
15 practices that help promote workforce diversity and  
16 pay equity.

17 First is Introduction 0527-A, sponsored by  
18 Council Member Carmen De La Rosa, which would require  
19 each City agency and department that requires job  
20 applicants to take a civil service exam, to report on  
21 data related to those exams in order to evaluate and  
22 expand diverse recruitment and retention within City  
23 government. It would also require reporting on the  
24 agencies and departments' training programs to  
25 evaluate recruitment efforts across government. The

1  
2 Department of Citywide Administrative Services -- or  
3 DCAS -- would be tasked with coordinating the data  
4 collection and reporting to the Council.

5 Next is Introduction 0541-A, sponsored by  
6 Council Member Louis, which would expand on the  
7 existing Pay Equity Law, Local Law 18 of 2019, by  
8 requiring DCAS to collect and provide additional  
9 employment and pay data to the Council. It would  
10 capture more of the City workforce and provide year-  
11 round access to pay and employment data so the  
12 Council can provide more robust oversight at its  
13 direction.

14 And, finally, Introduction 0515-A, sponsored by  
15 yours truly, requires city agencies to conduct an  
16 analysis of compensation data and measures to address  
17 pay disparity and occupational segregation,  
18 diversity, and inclusion training, and scheduling  
19 workplace accommodations. The head of each agency  
20 would be required to submit an annual report on staff  
21 retention, promotion, termination, and resignation  
22 with accompanying compensation information. Finally,  
23 this legislation requires DCAS to contract with a  
24 private sector expert to conduct a three-year year  
25 pay equity analysis on a minimum number of civil

1  
2 service titles. The analysis would examine civil  
3 service titles within the largest gender and racial  
4 or ethnic demographic difference from the demographic  
5 found in New York City. We thank our staff: Alaa  
6 Moussawi; Jayasri Ganapathy; Malcolm Butehorn  
7 Nicholas Connell; and Rose Martinez.

8 Thank you all for your attention, and I turn it  
9 back into the hands of our Majority Leader.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.

11 We are now going to move into Discussion of  
12 General Orders. We currently do not have anyone  
13 signed up, so we will move into Reports of Special  
14 Committees.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing  
17 Committees.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil  
19 and Human Rights. Intro 0515-A Agency diversity  
20 plans.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
22 Orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil  
24 Service and Labor, Intro 0527-A, City Recruitment and  
25 Retention.



1  
2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
3 Orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 0541-A, pay and employment  
5 equity data.

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
7 Orders.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
9 Finance, Preconsidered Resolution 472, Transparency  
10 Resolution.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on General  
13 Welfare, Intro 0092-A, Shelter Accessibility Advisory  
14 Board.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
16 Orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 0421-A, Report on  
18 Families with Children.

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
20 Orders.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing  
22 and Buildings, Introduction 0141-A, Automatic Doors.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
24 Orders.

1  
2 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 0375-A, HPD Lotteries  
3 for Tenants with Disabilities.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
5 Orders.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 0676-A, Universal  
7 Design for Housing.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General  
9 Orders.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
11 Privileges and Elections, M 106 and Resolution 0489,  
12 approving the appointment of Steven Chu - Landmarks  
13 Preservation Commission.

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: M 107 and Resolution 490,  
16 approving the appointment of Angie Master -  
17 Landmarks Preservation Commission.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: M 108 and Resolution 491,  
20 approving the appointment of Mark Ginsberg - Member  
21 of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: M 109 and Resolution 492,  
24 approving the appointment of Carol R. Edmead - Board  
25 of Elections.

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SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: M 110 and Resolution 493,  
approving the appointment of Deanna Hoskins - City  
Board of Correction.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: M 111 and Resolution 494,  
approving the appointment of Rachel Bedard - New  
York City Board of Correction.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar: LU  
158 and Resolution 495, and LU 159 and Resolution  
496, 446-448 Park Avenue Rezoning.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU 160 and Resolution 91, and LU  
161 and Resolution 498, Reform Temple of Forest Hills  
Rezoning.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

And, I now ask that the clerk take a roll call  
vote on all of the items coupled on today's General  
Orders Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all, except for  
3 Preconsidered Resolution 472, for which I am a no.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

5 Council Member Avilés?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I abstain from M 106, 107,  
11 108,109, 110, 111, and accompanying Resolutions. And  
12 I vote no LU 158, 159, and accompanying Resolutions.  
13 And no on 160 and 161. I do believe the MIH needs to  
14 be increased from 25 percent to 60 percent, so we can  
15 have real affordable housing and not have an MIH that  
16 has 25 percent and 75 percent market.

17 And aye on all of the rest.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

19 Council Member Bottcher?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye and I look  
25 forward to working with those who are being

1  
2 appointed. I hope that they take their jobs very  
3 seriously and they hold their agencies accountable,  
4 and then work for the people of the City of New York,  
5 thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Brooks - Powers?

8 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: No on Preconsidered  
13 Resolution 472, and aye on the rest.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

15 Council Member De La Rosa?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Farías?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all with the exception of Preconsidered Resolution 472, of which I vote no.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: So, I am voting no on Preconsidered Resolution 472; I cannot support \$125,000.00 from New York City taxpayers to VOCAL-NY. And their representative was here right in this chamber and his spewed hate toward Asian-Americans. That organization never condemned his speech - never

1  
2 severed ties. Here's this guy who is a convicted  
3 rapist and I cannot vote to support this group,  
4 especially using so much money from New York City tax  
5 payers.

6 And I am voting yes on everything else.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Krishnan?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Narcisse?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

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COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all.

2

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COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

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COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

5

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

6

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote no on Resolution

7

472 and aye on all of the rest.

8

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

9

Council Member Restler?

10

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my

11

vote?

12

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you so much,

14

Majority Leader.

15

So, firstly, uh, I just want to commend the

16

inspired appointments to the BOC by the speaker,

17

Deanna Hoskins and Rachel Bedard -- Dr. Bedard, will

18

bring much needed and rigorous oversight to The

19

Department of Correction. And they are great

20

additions to the board.

21

And I would like to speak in support of VOCAL-NY,

22

which is based in the 33rd council district and does

23

extraordinary work mobilizing directly impacted

24

individuals -- homeless individuals, formally

25

incarcerated individuals, people who use drugs, and



1  
2 ensure that their voices are at the center of the  
3 policy debates that we are having. This is an  
4 organization that I deeply respect and value. And I  
5 am proud to be allocating resources to support today  
6 and will continue to support for as long as I serve  
7 in the New York City Council.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

10 Council Member Richardson Jordan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: (NO RESPONSE)

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Permission to explain my  
14 vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.

17 I would just like to thank all of my colleagues  
18 today for supporting me on Introduction 421, which  
19 would quantify the number of families with children  
20 in shelters and their length of stay; identify the  
21 individualized needs and eligibility for assistance  
22 as well as [INAUDIBLE] to the children's enrollment  
23 and attendance records in schools. This is a  
24 important legislation that will help us accurately  
25 get information about children and families within

1  
2 the shelter system. And I am truly excited that my  
3 colleagues are here today supporting this  
4 legislation.

5 And I would like to vote aye on all. Thank you,  
6 everyone.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Rivera?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I am looking forward to  
10 working with the appointees to the various positions  
11 including The Board of Correction.

12 And I vote aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member Ung?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: I would like to  
3 disclose that my brother is a board member of  
4 Samaritans, and my husband is a Deputy Commissioner  
5 of DAP.

6 Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: No on Preconsidered  
9 Resolution 472 and aye on the rest.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Williams?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the  
17 exception of Resolution 472 on which I abstain, Thank  
18 you.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you

20 Council Member Borelli?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote no on reconsidered  
22 472, aye on all of the rest.

23 And, if I may add, we look pretty good, uh, most  
24 of at least, for being 378 odd years old. God bless.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Powers?

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye, and I would  
3 like to echo the Minority Leader's sentiment. You  
4 all look for good from up here for 300 plus years.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: We all do look good for 370 years  
7 old don't we?

8 I vote aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I would like to disclose on  
11 the record that my fiancé is affiliated with an  
12 organization we fund, the New York Immigration  
13 Coalition.

14 [APPLAUSE]

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I would normally gavel  
16 you guys be quiet, but I actually enjoyed that, so...

17 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

18 COUNCIL CLERK: All items on today's General Order  
19 Calendar are adopted by a vote of 49 in the  
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions,  
21 with the exception of Land Use Items 158, 159, 156,  
22 and 161 accompanying Resolutions, which was adopted  
23 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, and 1 in the  
24 negative, and 0 abstentions; and Resolution 472 with  
25 a vote of 41 in favor, 7 against, and 1 abstention.

1  
2 And items M 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111 and  
3 accompanying Resolutions, which had 48 in favor, 0  
4 against, and 1 abstention.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will now move to  
6 Introduction & Reading of Bill.

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to  
8 committees as indicated on today's agenda.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 We will now move into the Discussion on Today's  
11 Resolutions. We will begin with Council Member Ung,  
12 followed by Council Member Marte.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Good afternoon to my  
14 colleagues and thank you to Speaker Adams and  
15 Majority Leader Powers for giving me the floor to  
16 urge my colleagues to support the resolution that we  
17 will vote on later today. Resolution 424 expresses  
18 the expresses the New York City Council support for  
19 HR 430, a bill introduced by Congress Member Grace  
20 Meng, in the U.S. House of Representatives to  
21 designate Lunar New Year as a Federal holiday.

22 In Asian societies across the globe, Lunar New  
23 Year is the most important holiday on the calendar,  
24 including the Asian-American community here in the  
25

1  
2 United States and New York City, where we are the  
3 fastest growing ethnic group.

4 Designating Lunar New Year as a Federal holiday  
5 would be important recognition of the contributions  
6 the Asian-Americans in this countries, as well as a  
7 powerful sign of the awareness of our country's  
8 cultural diversity. One of the most significant ways  
9 we can acknowledge this positive contributions of the  
10 Asian-American Community and its importance to the  
11 history of this nation is by designating Lunar New  
12 Year as a Federal holiday, and that is why it is  
13 important we as a City Council express our support  
14 for HR 430.

15 Here in the chamber, we have the most diverse  
16 group of city council members in this legislative  
17 body with a historic six API members. The passage of  
18 this Resolution shows [TIMER CHIMES] law makers in  
19 Washington D.C., in the largest city in the United  
20 States, as a force of [INAUDIBLE] making Lunar New  
21 Year a Federal holiday. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

23 We will now call on Council Member Marte.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Thank you.

1  
2 I want to thank Speaker Adams for her support  
3 for this important piece of legislation. I also want  
4 to thank my staff, Ian Wang and Steven Wong, and  
5 Regina Paul from central staff, for making this  
6 Resolution possible.

7 I wanted to start out by wishing everyone a  
8 belated Happy Lunar New Year, (SPEAKING FOREIGN  
9 LANGUAGE); I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and  
10 prosperous Year of The Rabbit.

11 Lunar New Year is one of the most important  
12 annual celebrations for our Asian communities. In my  
13 district, which includes Chinatown, local Chinese  
14 community organizations host parades, lion dances,  
15 firework viewing, and street fairs. For weeks,  
16 confetti lines every block, and you can buy oranges  
17 on every corner.

18 The past few years have had much more muted  
19 celebrations. The pandemic and the rise in anti-Asian  
20 hate crimes led families to stay inside. But, this  
21 year, Chinatown came out in full force proving the  
22 resiliency and strength of this immigrant community.

23 Lunar New Year must be recognized as a City  
24 holiday. [TIMER CHIMES] In addition the DOE has not  
25 even allowed students to take the day off when the

1  
2 first day of the New Year lands on a weekend. This  
3 caused a lot of confusion for students and kept them  
4 from celebrating with their families.

5 I am proud to pass this resolution today to honor  
6 the traditions of Asian-American New Yorkers, and to  
7 allow all of us to fully ring in the Lunar New Year,  
8 thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 We will now call on Council Member Narcisse.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Intro 912, I am asking  
12 that we support, requiring the Department of Health  
13 and Mental Hygiene to prepare and submit a plan to  
14 improve nurse staffing levels at hospitals...

15 (CROSS-TALK)

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Council Member, is this  
17 one of today's Resolutions we're voting... (CROSS-  
18 TALK)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: That is my Intro that I  
20 am pushing for.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We are going to add you  
22 to the list for General Discussions. We're still on  
23 Resolutions right now.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you.

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: No problem, thanks.



1  
2 Anyone else like to speak on today's Resolutions?

3 Okay, we will now have a voice vote on today's  
4 Resolutions. If you wish to vote against or abstain  
5 from any of today's Resolutions, please notify the  
6 Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching  
7 the dais before the vote.

8 I will now read the Resolutions into the record.

9 Resolution 0331-A Recognizing Lunar New Year as  
10 an annual school holiday and as an official holiday  
11 in the City of New York.

12 Will all of those in favor please say aye?

13 CHAMBERS: Aye.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed? Any  
15 abstentions?

16 The ayes have it.

17 Resolution 0424-A calls on the United States  
18 Congress to pass, and the President to sign, H.R.  
19 430, establishing Lunar New Year Day as a Federal  
20 holiday.

21 All those in favor please say aye?

22 CHAMBERS: Aye.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed, say nay?

24 Any abstentions?

25 The ayes have it.

1  
2 We will now move into General Discussion. We  
3 will start with Council Member Paladino, followed by  
4 Council Member Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Thank you so much for  
6 the opportunity.

7 Good afternoon, everybody. Today, I introduced  
8 Introduction 913 to the Council, which will amend the  
9 City Charter And The Administrative Code of the city  
10 of New York, in relation to delaying the greenhouse  
11 gas emission reduction requirements outlined in Local  
12 Law 97 by seven years.

13 Local Law 97 as it currently exists would have  
14 drastic negative impacts on housing costs in our  
15 city. The steep fines associated with this law will  
16 be financially disastrous for already struggling  
17 middleclass and working people -- In fact, the  
18 potential to end middleclass ownership of co-ops and  
19 condos in the City of New York in its entirety while  
20 furthering increasing rents across the board.

21 I have solicited widespread community input and  
22 consulted with local stakeholders -- including the  
23 Queens Presidents' Co-Ops and Condo Presidents Board  
24 with the looming impacts of Local Law 97. Their  
25 feedback was dire and unanimous. They cannot afford

1  
2 it. A delay of seven years would give building  
3 management, co-op boards, and property owners  
4 breathing room to adequately prepare and upgrade over  
5 a long timeframe in an affordable and thoughtful  
6 manner -- without fear of immediate and arbitrary  
7 ruinous penalties looming. It would also give our  
8 city and state time to further recover from the  
9 economic turmoil of the last few years and accomplish  
10 much needed work to upgrade our own electrical grid  
11 and energy production capacity in anticipation of  
12 this new demand.

13 This is not a partisan issue. This is about  
14 giving our city a fair chance to reach the goals put  
15 forth by this law, while doing so in [TIMER CHIMES]  
16 in recognition of our changed circumstances with the  
17 sensitivity those who stand to be gravely harmed by  
18 it.

19 I hope the Council can come together and support  
20 my bill and delay the implementation for the sake and  
21 future of our economic well-being. Thank you very  
22 much, everybody.

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
24 Member.

25

1  
2 We will now call on Council Member Barron,  
3 followed by Council Member Brewer.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much.

5 My colleagues, I rise today to say that Black  
6 History is every day. We are not just the shortest  
7 and coldest and month of the year -- February -- but  
8 it is every day. And Black history is not just  
9 personalities; Black history is the ironing board;  
10 Black history is the traffic light; Black history is  
11 air condition, thousands of inventions that Blacks  
12 never got credit for. Black history is every day.  
13 Black history is just not popular personalities you  
14 know, it is also Huey P. Newton and the Blank Panther  
15 Party, it is also Assata Shakur who is stuck Cuba and  
16 needs to come home. It is John Henrik Clarke. It's  
17 the honorable Elijah Muhammad. It is Marcus Garvey  
18 who was the greatest nationalist and organizer ever  
19 that lived.

20 The best way we can honor Black history right now  
21 in this body is to support an elected Civilian Review  
22 Board and an independent prosecutor's office to  
23 prosecute police. I find it contradictory and  
24 interesting that Vice President Kamala Harris was at  
25 the funeral and said, "We need to immediately enact

1  
2 the legislation around George Floyd," but right here,  
3 this speaker won't even give us a hearing on an  
4 independent agency on an elected civilian complaint  
5 review board. Right now, we have a civilian review  
6 board that the mayor picks the appointees, the city  
7 council picks, and after they finish the  
8 investigation, the Police Commissioner determines the  
9 punishment. A slap on the wrist.

10 In the name of our brother Nichols, we should do  
11 this. Don't get up and talk all that stuff when you  
12 have an opportunity to do what the vice president  
13 said. Have something concrete connected to the  
14 demonstrations and the rhetoric. Pass it now. The  
15 speaker should at least [TIMER CHIMES] give us a  
16 hearing... (CROSS-TALK)

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
18 Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: At least a hearing.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

21 We will go to Council Member Brewer, followed by  
22 Council Member Sanchez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

24 I first want to thank the speaker for mentioning  
25 the history of the city council and to thank Arthur

1  
2 Piccolo, from the Bowling Green Association, who  
3 brought it to my attention. I also want to thank  
4 Council Members Hanif and Ayala, because we are all  
5 pushing for the IDNYC application process to be more  
6 available and transparent to New Yorkers. I get  
7 complaints of it's a great idea, but sometimes hard  
8 to implement in terms of accessing the application  
9 and getting the I.D.

10 And, then second, Intro 910, with Council Member  
11 Hudson, again, the same issue. Trying to make sure  
12 that people could get the benefits that they are  
13 actually entitled to, particularly those who need  
14 public assistance. And to say that as we are dealing  
15 people's challenges in terms of poverty and need for  
16 food and shelter, it has to be -- picking on what the  
17 speaker said in her remarks today -- has to be a  
18 government that is responsible to the people who need  
19 the help the most. And we keep forgetting that.  
20 Thank you very much.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

22 We will go to Council Member Sanchez, followed by  
23 Council Member Riley.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority  
25 Leader, and I also want to thank the speaker for the

1  
2 mention; 370 years ago, they didn't think there would  
3 be women breast pumping during council hearings, so  
4 this is great.

5       Colleagues, I want to draw your attention to  
6 Intros 914, 915, and 917 a package of Fair  
7 Residential co-op disclosure bills that I am  
8 introducing today alongside Public Advocate Jumaane  
9 Williams.

10       Intro 914 would require co-ops to provide  
11 communication to the board of board decisions for  
12 sales for cooperation apartments.

13       Intro 915 would ensure that boards provide  
14 written statements outlining the reasons for why a  
15 perspective purchaser was not chosen for the sale.

16       Intro 917 would require cooperative corporations  
17 to provide financial information to perspective  
18 purchasers. A history of discriminatory practices  
19 both overt and more insidious, have long served as  
20 barriers for home ownership for people of color in  
21 the United States and in our city. And with this  
22 package, we hope to take strides in increasing  
23 transparency in the byzantine process of purchasing a  
24 co-op. A board and shareholders that are acting in  
25 good faith should have nothing to fear. But boards

1  
2 that have secretive practices which serve to  
3 perpetrate discrimination will need to revisit their  
4 own practices.

5 So, I am proud of this package, and I hope that m  
6 colleagues will join me.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We will now hear from Council Member Riley,  
9 followed by Council Member Schulman.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority  
11 Leader.

12 I am happy to join my colleagues in government,  
13 Council Member Borelli and Council Member Ariola, to  
14 co-sponsor legislation that safeguards FDNY employees  
15 providing emergency medical services to protect their  
16 body armor and comprehensive training. Intro 903  
17 would seek to guard all E. M. S. with suitable body  
18 armor that will prove most effective during extreme  
19 crisis.

20 And, importantly, Intro 904 focuses on vital  
21 training that equips these professionals on how to  
22 comprehensively deescalate and resolve these crises  
23 to administer patient care.

24 Introducing legislation that provides new  
25 protective measures and training not only strengthens



1  
2 the department and the protection of its members, but  
3 it also improves the quality of service for patients  
4 and affected communities.

5 Thank you, Majority Leader Powers.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 We will hear from Council Member Schulman,  
8 followed by Council Member Stevens.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Majority  
10 Leader Powers.

11 Today I am proud to introduce Intro 918, which  
12 would require the Department of Health and Mental  
13 Hygiene (DOHMH) to develop and implement a citywide  
14 diabetes reduction plan for Type 2 diabetes. The  
15 first really in the nation. And I want to the  
16 speaker and her staff and the committee staff for  
17 their support on this because it is tremendous. It is  
18 estimated that more than 37 million Americans have  
19 diabetes and approximately 90 percent of those cases  
20 are Type 2 diabetes. This plan is modeled off of the  
21 United Nations HIV/AIDS '90-90-90' plan, and it will  
22 empower the City to develop strategies to reduce Type  
23 2 diabetes, including goals for a percentage by the  
24 which the number of individuals with Type 2 diabetes  
25 in the City shall decrease in a time period in which

1  
2 the City plans to achieve such a decrease. With this  
3 legislation, New York City will lead the way towards  
4 reducing diabetes and ensuring New York is the  
5 healthiest city in the country. I urge my colleagues  
6 to sign on to this extremely important legislation,  
7 thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will now hear from Council Member Stevens,  
10 followed by Council Member Hanif.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: "It is the reach of my  
12 arms, the span of my hips, the stride of my steps,  
13 the curl of my lips, I am a woman phenomenally.  
14 Phenomenal woman, That's me," and every Black woman.

15 It is a pleasure to introduce Resolution 486  
16 today. This resolution recognizes the  
17 accomplishments of, and issues faced by Black women  
18 by designating February 15th annually as Black Girl  
19 Magic Day in the City of New York.

20 For too long, our stories have been overlooked  
21 even when Black women have exemplified the capacity  
22 of excellence in all facets of life -- especially in  
23 spaces that we were never once to be imagined to be  
24 there. We have birthed nations, we have saved this  
25 country from itself time and time again. We have

1  
2 shared our magic and love with the world, and that is  
3 where the real magic resides -- in our passion, in  
4 our poise, in our love, in our dedication, in our  
5 fuel, in our fire, in our presence every day. To all  
6 the past generations of Black girls, thank you. For  
7 without you, we would not be here. To all my fellow  
8 Black women, remember you are the definition of true  
9 strength, and magic will always and forever be  
10 unmatched.

11 I ask all of my comrades and colleagues to sign  
12 on to Resolution 486.

13 And I would also like to send thoughts and  
14 prayers to the family of Council Member Dwumfour, who  
15 was shot and killed last night in New Jersey --  
16 another Black woman.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
18 Member.

19 We will now hear from Council Member Hanif,  
20 followed by Council Member Nurse.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority Leader  
22 Powers.

23 I am excited to introduce Intro 909 today with  
24 co-prime sponsors Deputy Speaker Ayala and Council  
25 Member Brewer.

1  
2 IDNYC is a vital piece of identification for New  
3 Yorkers providing us with access to a wide range of  
4 benefits and services. It is a particularly critical  
5 resource for immigrant New Yorkers and asylum seekers  
6 who may have difficulty obtaining alternative I.D.  
7 When I was a council staffer helping more  
8 constituents enroll in IDNYC it was some of the work  
9 of which I was most proud. However, despite its  
10 importance, many New Yorkers are still unable to  
11 obtain IDNYC due to an inefficient enrollment  
12 process. Currently appointments need to be made far  
13 in advance on an online scheduler that is extremely  
14 difficult to use for even the most tech savvy New  
15 Yorkers. Intro 909 addresses this issue by requiring  
16 DSS to offer same day walk-in appointments for IDNYC.  
17 The bill also requires an onsite appeals process for  
18 applicants who are denied, regular training for staff  
19 to ensure they are up-to-date in any changes to  
20 documentation that is accepted as proof of  
21 identification, and regular assessments to determine  
22 the amount of appointments that need to be made  
23 available. This will make IDNYC much more accessible  
24 to our most vulnerable New Yorkers. I want to thank  
25 Brooklyn Defender Services you used their firsthand

1  
2 experience with clients to help shape this bill. And  
3 I encourage my colleagues to sign on as a sponsor.  
4 Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

6 We will hear from Council Member Nurse, followed  
7 by Council Member Brooks - Powers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.

9 Good afternoon, colleagues, today, I, along with  
10 advocates and many council members launched a  
11 framework to abolish and replace the predatory tax  
12 lien sale. Thanks to years of hard work by our  
13 speaker and others, we know the complexities of  
14 abolishing this harmful practice, but we also know  
15 the opportunities. The tax lien sale is designed to  
16 target low-income, senior, Black and Brown  
17 homeowners. It was also designed to privatize an  
18 essential government responsibility which is  
19 municipal debt collection. When we privatize  
20 essential government services, we abdicate  
21 responsibility and accountability, and the City gives  
22 up all leverage to take a more active role in housing  
23 our neighbors. For the last year, many council  
24 offices have been meeting every two weeks with  
25 advocates to devise an alternative to the tax lien

1  
2 sale. This alternative would bring municipal debt  
3 collection back into the public realm; protect small  
4 home owners from foreclosure; ensure small property  
5 owners can retain their equity; ensure tenants are  
6 not displaced due to neglectful landlords; and  
7 leverage the city's authority to crackdown on  
8 speculation and create more affordable housing. I  
9 look forward to talking with you all more about this,  
10 and, of course, if you have any questions, my doors  
11 is always open. Thank you very much.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

13 We will hear from Council Member Brooks-Powers,  
14 followed by Council Member Farías.

15 MAJORITY WHIP BROOKS-POWERS: First, before the  
16 clock starts, I would just like to acknowledge and  
17 disclose that I am a member of The Greater Allen  
18 A.M.E. Cathedral of New York, and we have voted on a  
19 transparency resolution [INAUDIBLE] money for the  
20 organization.

21 So, on the heels of our Subway Safety Hearing  
22 back in December, I am excited to be a co-prime  
23 sponsor along with Council Member Louis, on her  
24 Resolution calling on the MTA to provide non-police  
25 staff working in the subway system with training and

1  
2 a protocol when encountering people who are  
3 experiencing mental health issues. We all know how  
4 important it is that we provide compassionate care to  
5 all New Yorkers, and that ensuring our subways are  
6 safe means doing more than increasing police  
7 presence. The MTA should help ensure those who work  
8 in our subways have the tools to respond when the  
9 encounter someone in crisis. This is a benefit to  
10 those who need our help in the subways, and also to  
11 the MTA workers who do so much to ensure New York's  
12 transit system is healthy and functioning. So, I  
13 thank Council Member Louis for advancing this  
14 legislation, and I am proud to co-sponsor it.

15 I am also proud to be co-sponsor on Resolution  
16 486, Black Girl Magic, in honor of Black History  
17 Month, recognizing the contributions of Black women  
18 in this city.

19 And, last, but certainly not least, I am  
20 extremely proud to be a co-prime sponsor along with  
21 Council Member Williams on Resolution 488 as a proud  
22 member of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,  
23 Incorporated, almost 18 years this year as a member.  
24 I am so honored to be a part of this resolution.  
25 This is historic for us, thank you.

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will now hear from  
3 Council Member Fariás, followed by Council Member De  
4 La Rosa.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: Thank you, Majority  
6 Leader.

7 I wanted to take the time to highlight two street  
8 co-namings that I am introducing today: The first is  
9 for Glen Mario Housing Way (sp?) more popularly known  
10 as DJ Mario. He was a beacon of light and joy in  
11 Soundview and frequently hosted block parties across  
12 the street from Bronxdale Houses, which has recently  
13 named, Sonia Sotomayor Houses. He was the pillar of  
14 the emerging hip-hop community , because of the  
15 mentorship he gave to up and coming musicians to help  
16 them make a name for themselves. DJ Jazzy Jay had  
17 his first appearances with Mario, and artists like  
18 Grandmaster Caz referenced in their music. The  
19 history of hip-hop is often not written in history  
20 books. While we all know that this industry changing  
21 genre emerged from the Bronx in the 1970's, the names  
22 of those who helped create and foster it are often  
23 left unsaid and without the recognition they deserve.  
24 In honor of Black History Month, I am proud to  
25 introduce the co-naming that emphasizes Black



1  
2 excellence. DJ Mario was a trailblazer, a visionary,  
3 and a man who invested in his community. I cannot  
4 wait to see his name above Rosedale and Watson  
5 Avenue.

6 The second co-naming I am proud to introduce  
7 today, is for Sahan Ergude Way. He was the owner of  
8 a local gas station in Castle Hill and an inspiration  
9 to the community. His shop was once penned as an  
10 oasis in the Bronx because of his warm hearted and  
11 kind spirit. Sahan's small business is a long time  
12 staple in my Castle Hill community. He and his place  
13 really have looked out for all us -- including when  
14 my mom was a young single mom with her first car, he  
15 was her first mechanic, and is still my mechanic, and  
16 many others in the community. So, I am really  
17 excited to be bringing this back to our home. Sahan  
18 and DJ Mario's lives and legacies are exactly what  
19 the Bronx is about. And I look forward to seeing  
20 those green street signs up to honor both of their  
21 legacies. Thank you

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

23 We will now go to Council Member De La Rosa,  
24 followed by Council Member Narcisse.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you so much. I want

1  
2 to join Speaker Adams in a moment of reflection for  
3 Tyre Nichols. A system that is built on oppression  
4 and racism took Tyre's life. We cannot reform  
5 hatred, we must cut it out at its root;  
6 deinstitutionalize it decommission it. It is  
7 dehumanizing and devastating to live in a world where  
8 the callus murder of Black men in American by police  
9 is seemingly becoming the norm. We can longer turn a  
10 blind eye to this broken system. My heart and  
11 prayers are with the Nichols family and their loved  
12 ones. This is a pain no family should ever have to  
13 endure. As mothers, we are not built to bury our  
14 children. My deepest condolences are with them in  
15 these moments.

16 In 2011, we lost another dear New Yorker to the  
17 blight that is police brutality. Today we are  
18 introducing a co-naming in his honor so that we may  
19 remember that this should have never happened and  
20 should never happen again John Collado, who was my  
21 neighbor, a friend to the community, a husband who  
22 tried to do the right thing. In his attempt to  
23 settle a dispute, a plainclothes detective took his  
24 life down the street where I grew up.

1  
2       The use of excessive force is an unnecessary  
3 practice that should never become what feels like the  
4 standard practice today. I look forward to working  
5 with my colleagues, as we seek solutions within the  
6 power we hold as elected officials, as we hold  
7 abusive police officers accountable and eradicate  
8 brutality in our city, thank you.

9       MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10       We will now go to Council Member Narcisse,  
11 followed by Council Member Kagan, followed by Council  
12 Member Lee.

13       COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Intro 912, that is what  
14 I am asking for support, requiring the Department of  
15 Health And Mental Hygiene to prepare and submit a  
16 plan to improve nurse staffing levels at hospitals at  
17 hospitals. There is a clear connection between nurse  
18 staffing ratios and the quality of care that patients  
19 receive. A growing body of evidence has shown that  
20 the rate of mortality in acute settings decreases  
21 with higher rate of the number of registered nurses  
22 to patients. One nurse can only do so much. I have  
23 been a nurse for over 30 decades working in the ER  
24 and acute care. Inadequate and poorly management  
25 nurse staffing practices jeopardizes the delivery of

1  
2 quality health care services and adversely impacts  
3 the health of the patients who enter the hospitals --  
4 possibly resulting in dangerous medical errors and  
5 patient infection or worse. But, I am not here to  
6 scare you. You still can go to the hospital.  
7 Further, the rate of injury and infection decreases  
8 with increased nursing staff. Research has shown  
9 that appropriate nursing intervention can reduce the  
10 length of stay in acute care settings and improved  
11 the quality of life in long term care settings.

12 I hope that you will join me in supporting  
13 Introduction 912 as we take a big step towards  
14 improving the quality of health care for all New  
15 Yorkers. And I have to remind you that health is  
16 wealth. So, let's practice it by improving nurse  
17 staff ratios. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

19 We will now hear from Council Member Kagan, and  
20 lastly, Council Member Lee.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you, first of all I  
22 would like to thank everyone who sent me best wishes  
23 on my birthday. Thank you so much, I really  
24 appreciate it. I would also like to say that I  
25 proudly voted today on two resolutions related to

1  
2 Lunar New Year, and I would like to encourage all of  
3 my colleagues to co-sponsor and to help for support  
4 on bringing legislation Introduction 0622, no metered  
5 parking during the Lunar New Year to the floor of New  
6 York City Council, thank you very much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We are going to hear from Council Member Lee and  
9 then Council Member Louis.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Good afternoon Madam Speaker,  
11 Majority Leader, and my fellow council members.

12 Today I am proud to introduce Resolution 483  
13 alongside Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams, and  
14 Education Chair, Rita Joseph, in support of state  
15 legislation from State Senator Leroy Comrie, which  
16 would require high schools to make financial literacy  
17 classes a graduation requirement for all students.

18 Pre-pandemic surveys showed that approximately 41  
19 percent of New Yorkers did not have savings to cover  
20 three months of expenses incase of an emergency and  
21 that 11.5 percent of our older adults live in poverty  
22 compared to 9.7 percent nationally. Much of this  
23 reflects how New Yorkers are not being taught the  
24 basics of financial literacy in school. Too many of  
25 our students, particularly those who come from low-

1  
2 income households, graduate without skills and the  
3 know how to make long term decisions about student  
4 loans, budgeting, and debt management. Our city  
5 currently teaches about economics and free  
6 enterprise, but none of these courses provide  
7 students with the more practical basics of  
8 responsible personal finance. This Resolution is in  
9 pursuit of a vision where every student, regardless of  
10 socioeconomic background, is equipped to make  
11 informed financial decisions and improve their  
12 quality of life. So, I hope you will all join me,  
13 thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 Now we will hear from Council Member Louis.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Majority Leader  
17 and Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues.

18 Today I would like to encourage my colleagues to  
19 support Resolution 484, calling on the MTA to provide  
20 non-police staff working in the subway system with  
21 training and a protocol for handling issues with  
22 mentally ill customers.

23 The COVID-19 pandemic is winding down, but it has  
24 left us with a catastrophic mental health crisis  
25 within our city. We see this and feel it every day

1  
2 particularly on our subways. Everyone deserves to  
3 feel safe on the subway and in New York City more  
4 broadly.

5 In recent years, we have seen high profile  
6 episodes where people have either been pushed,  
7 slashed, or jumped to their deaths on subway tracks.  
8 Deploying police officers to patrol the subways and  
9 address people with mental illness, is not the best  
10 use of resources, nor is it the best way to keep  
11 people safe. Various aspects of police response,  
12 including uniforms, handcuffs, and/or sirens, can  
13 exacerbate a mental health episode. This is counter  
14 productive in accomplishing the goal keeping people  
15 who use the subways safe and healthy. This  
16 resolution calls on the MTA to replace some police  
17 officers with non-police, who are trained in  
18 responding to mental health episodes and have clear  
19 protocols to follow. This will allow for the de-  
20 escalation of mental health crises as well as greater  
21 transparency and clarity for everyone involved. More  
22 importantly, we will get police officers out of the  
23 business of responding to mental health crises, so  
24 that they can use their time and taxpayer money more  
25 effectively. By passing this resolution, we will

1  
2 send a clear message to Albany and to our  
3 constituents that we are serious about their well-  
4 being and safety for all New Yorkers. I encourage my  
5 colleagues to sign on. Thank you to Council Member  
6 Brooks-Powers for supporting this bill.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 Do we have anyone else signed up to speak?

9 Okay, with that, I will now call on Speaker  
10 Adrienne Adams, to close out today's Stated Meeting.

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

12 The Stated Meeting of February 2, 2023, is hereby  
13 adjourned.

14 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date February 23, 2023