

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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May 14, 2015
Start: 1:32 p.m.
Recess: 3:23 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

LETITIA JAMES
Public Advocate

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Public Advocate

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Inez D. Barron
Fernando Cabrera
Margaret S. Chin
Andrew Cohen
Costa G. Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Julissa Ferreras
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile

Vanessa L. Gibson
Daniel G. Greenfield
Vincent Ignizio
Corey D. Johnson
Ben Kallos
Andy L. King
Peter A. Koo
Karen Koslowitz
Rory I. Lancman
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark Levine
Alan N. Maisel
Steven Matteo
Darlene Mealy
Carlos Menchaca
Rosie Mendez
I. Daneek Miller
Annabel Palma
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Eric A. Ulrich
James Vacca
Paul A. Vallone
James G. Van Bramer
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills

2 [sound check, pause]

3 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Good afternoon,
4 everybody. So, we have three ceremonials today. The
5 first one by Council Member Helen Rosenthal So we
6 have three ceremonials today. The first one by
7 Council Member Helen Rosenthal on Student Voter
8 Registration Day participant organizations that I
9 guess helped out on that day.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic]
11 Yeah.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: A great, great
13 project. So, you can go on.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Great. Thank
15 you very much. If everyone can come on up real
16 quickly. Gather around so we can give you your
17 proclamation. I want to thank the Speaker, of
18 course, for giving us this opportunity to present
19 this proclamation to everyone who worked so hard, and
20 I am going to start by bragging for a moment about
21 the success of Student Voter Registration Day. This
22 coalition that we're recognizing today brought
23 together 15 council members, 16 council members
24 including the Speaker, three government agencies, the
25 primary unions representing our city's teachers and

2 administrators. Paul, are you here and CSA is here?
3 All right. Nearly a dozen civic education and voter
4 registration groups partnered with 25 schools in all
5 five boroughs and we registered over 2,000 young
6 people to vote on that day. [applause]
7 Extraordinary. Furthermore, if you look at the
8 numbers for April, and you go back the last five
9 years, every year roughly 1,000 people in that age
10 group registered to vote. This past April, 4,000
11 people registered to vote. [cheers, applause] So
12 there were a lot of mail-ins, which is great. The
13 accomplishment is huge. We increased the average
14 number of youth voter registrants by 42%, and just
15 what think--just think what the outcome could be if
16 this coalition worked with the Department of
17 Education to scale up Student Voter Registration Day
18 for every school in the city. Hint, hint.
19 [applause] I cannot say thank you enough to all the
20 partner organizations who made SVRD possible
21 especially New York City votes. Specifically,
22 Cheyenne Sapp who worked tirelessly to develop the
23 current [cheers, applause] the curriculum, train
24 volunteers, and coordinate all the details. It's my
25 pleasure--it's been my pleasure to work with all of

2 you. And just because we're in the Council Chambers,
3 I want to give a special shout out to the 15 council
4 members who helped make this happen. Reynoso,
5 Cornegy, Kallos, Lander, Ignizio, Levine, Vacca,
6 Torres, Arroyo, Dromm, Miller, Richards, Wills, Cumbo
7 and Melissa Mark-Viverito. [cheers, applause]
8 Pretty friggin' amazing. All right, you can read the
9 proclamation.

10 CLERK: Council City of New York
11 Proclamation.

12 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
13 York is proud to recognize NYC Votes and the member
14 organizations of the Student Voter Registration Day
15 2015 Coalition for making the first annual student
16 voter registration day a success; and

17 Whereas, the first Student Voter
18 Registration Day, March 2015 was designed to educate
19 students about the importance of voting and civic
20 engagement through a one-day intensive outreach
21 program bringing interactive civic education
22 activities and voter registration to high school
23 students across the city. The event was held on the
24 third Friday of March to commemorate the Democracy
25 Day on March 23, 1971, when 18-year-olds earned the

2 right to vote. Its core message is that all people,
3 particularly young people, whether or not they're
4 eligible to vote, can and should be active in their
5 communities because politics and elections impact all
6 of our lives today, and in the future; and

7 Whereas, spearheaded by the Office of
8 City Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Student Voter
9 Registration Day is a partnership between City
10 Council and NYC Votes, the non-partisan voter
11 engagement campaign of the New York City Campaign
12 Finance Board and its Voter Assistance Advisory
13 Committee. As well as the Department of Education,
14 the Board of Elections, the United Federation of
15 Teachers, the Council of School Supervisors and
16 Administrators and many other--and many voter
17 registration and civic engagement organizations,
18 school administrators, principals and teachers; and

19 Whereas, NYC Votes coordinated SVRD
20 events with 15 council members and 25 schools across
21 our five boroughs, and trained volunteers from many
22 voter registration and civic organizations to staff
23 the events. These organizations included the
24 Citizens Union, Common Cause New York, Every Vote
25 Counts, Generation Citizen, League of Women Voters,

2 New York Immigration Coalition, New York Public
3 Interest Research Group, and Women's City Club of New
4 York who together registered more than 2,000 young
5 voters.

6 Now, therefore, be it know that the
7 Council of the City of New York honors NYC Votes and
8 all members of the Student Voter Registration Day
9 Coalition for their outstanding work to make Student-
10 -Student Voter Registration Day a great success.
11 Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker for the Entire
12 Council, Helen Rosenthal, Council Member 6th District
13 Manhattan and many other members of the City Council.

14 [cheers, applause]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: So thank you.
16 So Lancman, next year you're going to do it. We're
17 going to double our numbers, double our districts.

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] All
19 right.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: And we're also
21 hoping for an initiative to be funded as well. Just
22 a subtle hint there. [laughter]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] All
24 right. Anybody want to say something? [on mic]

2 Anybody--anybody want to say something on behalf of
3 the group, or we're-- No? No. Okay, go ahead.

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: On behalf of NYC Votes,
5 the voter education program of the New York City
6 Campaign Finance Board, we'd like to officially thank
7 City Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal, Speaker Mark-
8 Viverito, all of the City Council Members, and all of
9 the Student Voter Registration Coalition members who
10 helped to put Student Voter Registration Day
11 together. It was a quick effort. It was the vision
12 of Councilwoman Helen Rosenthal who--and that Beth
13 Newcomer for sure, and Cheyenne Sapp. [applause]
14 And we thank them very much for all their hard work.
15 [cheers, applause]

16 [background comments]

17 FEMALE SPEAKER: The League of Women
18 Voters would also like to thank the City Council and
19 especially Council Woman Helen Rosenthal for
20 initiating this, and we hope that it will continue
21 every year. As you all know, for years the League of
22 Women Voters has been diligent in trying to get
23 people to register to vote, and we've gone into the
24 high schools, and we did it again this year. And we,
25 again, than you.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, thank
3 all of you that participated. Thank you so much.
4 Congratulations. [applause] [off mic] Where's our--
5 oh, there it is. Okay, we'll do Williams first. All
6 right, Council Member Williams has a proclamation for
7 honoring Nazareth Regional High School Girl'
8 Basketball Team, [cheers, applause] which won the
9 Federation Class A Championship. Come on up. Come
10 on up. [applause] I'll hand it over to the Council
11 Member. Actually, it's been a great day today. A
12 group of us and Council--Public Advocate Tish James
13 were this morning. We were at the New York Women's
14 Foundation Breakfast announcing our Young Girl's
15 Initiative that we're going to kick off in this
16 Council. So, it's really nice to know that we're
17 honoring some young women for their accomplishments.

18 [pause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, sir.
20 So today, we are here to celebrate Nazareth High
21 School's Girl's Team because they are champions.
22 Give them around of applause. [cheers, applause] So
23 Nazareth has a storied history, and in 2012-- [off
24 mic] Am I good?

25 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yeah.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: --they lost
3 their former coach Apache Paschall, and they still
4 had a very successful year. And in 2012, the school
5 almost closed, but with the help of my office and
6 many others in the community and donors and alumni,
7 they were allowed to stay open. Just as much as they
8 fight on the court, they fought in the community to
9 keep their school open. The school is a community
10 institution in the city of Flatbush, and they
11 graduate over 90% of the students on time. They give
12 scholarships to numerous many students, including
13 Gama Droiville, who we may remember lost an eye in a
14 shooting in Flatbush. Under the leadership of
15 Principal Providencia Quiles Nazareth is more than
16 jut a sports powerhouse. Most students excel
17 academically, and dozens win full scholarships to
18 college. Two Nazareth students this month won
19 Procedure Summer Research Institutions at Duke
20 University. [cheers] They also have former students
21 that are in the WMBA. But today, we're here to
22 celebrate Girl Power. [cheers, applause] This is--
23 Title IX is full effect in East Flatbush. Many of
24 these players you will see playing for Division 1 and
25 2 colleges. In fact, recent Nazareth alumni played

2 in the Women's Final Four this year. Nazareth is
3 definitely a place where our children's mind and body
4 are prepared to excel at the next level. I know any
5 one of them could beat Cornegy on a one-on-one
6 [laughter] because that's just how they roll. So, I
7 want to say congratulations. They won the State
8 Federation Class A. [applause] And they're used to
9 winning. So congratulations again. I want to call
10 the coach up. Oh, the coach up? Oh, can we please
11 read the proc.

12 CLERK: Council City of New York

13 Proclamation:

14 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
15 York is proud to honor the Nazareth Regional High
16 School Girl's Basketball Team, the Lady Kingsmen [sic]
17 for the outstand teamwork that lead to--that led them
18 to win the Class A Federation Championship; and

19 Whereas, when Nazareth Region High School
20 announced that it would close in 2012, students and
21 teachers redoubled their efforts to keep it open.
22 Thanks to the support, energy and conviction of the
23 entire community, the next announcement promised to
24 keep the school open for the next four years, fueling
25 everyone's hope and determination to extend that term

2 indefinitely. This same commitment to success has
3 been demonstrated by Head Coach Ron Kelly and the
4 Lady Kingsmen; and

5 Whereas, this year, the Lady Kingsmen
6 include ten talented young athletes: Alexis Skyes
7 Brittney Jackson--Brittney Jackson, Erykah Russell,
8 Jasmine Murray, Kia Rheubon--bottom; Natalie
9 Bonhomme, Niya Johnson, Shalix Hines, Shania
10 Springer, and Victoria Brown. On March 29th, the
11 Lady Kingsmen continued to prove their drive and
12 discipline earning their fourth consecutive trip to
13 the New York State Federation Tournament in Albany.
14 Their opponents began the third quarter in 9/0 run to
15 take a 31/29 lead, and at the top of the fourth
16 quarter Nazareth was fending off it's 40 to 39 lead
17 before going on a 10/1 to take control and win the
18 game; and

19 Whereas, all of these young women have
20 demonstrated the strength of character and commitment
21 to excellence that will help them pursue their
22 highest ambitions in the years ahead. And we wish
23 them all continued success.

24 Now, therefore, be it known that the
25 Council of the City of New York including all members

2 of its Brooklyn Delegation honors and congratulates
3 the Nazareth Regional High School Girl's Basketball
4 Team for their outstanding achievement and teamwork
5 that led them to win the 2015 Class A federal--
6 federation championship. Melissa Mark-Viverito,
7 Speaker for the Entire Council, Jumaane D. Williams,
8 Council Member, 45th District and the entire Brooklyn
9 Delegation of the New York City Council.

10 [cheers]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Lady Kingsmen,
12 that's how we do it in Flatbush. [cheers, applause]
13 I'm going to call the coach up to say a few words,
14 and then, yeah I go it. I'm going to, of course,
15 have to have one of the young ladies come and speak
16 as well. Okay. [background comments]

17 TEAM COACH: I just want to say thank you
18 very much to Councilman Williams, and the whole City
19 Council on recognizing these young ladies. These
20 ladies are a testament to hard work period, on and
21 off the court. All--they have nine here. One is
22 missing. All of these young ladies will go to
23 college. [cheers, applause] All of them are--all of
24 them are academically on course and on par to go to
25 college, and the hard work pays off because they're

2 all moving on for free. Thank you very much.

3 [cheers, applause]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic]

5 Brittney. Come on Brittney.

6 TEAM COACH: They accepted twice.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: They mentioned

8 you twice. [background comments] Brittney Jackson.

9 All right, all right. [cheers, applause] How does it
10 feel to be a champion?

11 BRITTNEY JACKSON: It feels good.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [laughs]

13 That's it?

14 BRITTNEY JACKSON: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: How was it?

16 Was it hard?

17 BRITTNEY JACKSON: It was hard. We had a

18 rough season, and we just got--we played together in

19 the playoffs, and we just went to the championship.

20 We won.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Lady Kingsmen,

22 East Flatbush, Nazareth. [applause]

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Congratulations.

24 All right, congratulations. Did you get enough

25 photos. [background comments] All right.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Congrats,
3 congrats. Girls, congratulations.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Congratulations.
5 [applause, background comments] All right, for this
6 next and last proclamation, I'm going to ask
7 everybody to rise, please.

8 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
10 Vallone is issuing a proclamation to Edward Kilduff,
11 who's retired, Chief of Department for the Fire
12 Department. If the chief could come up, and I'll
13 hand it over to Council Member Vallone. [applause]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you, Madam
15 Speaker. At this time I'd like everyone's attention
16 as we call forward the Fire Department Color Guard.
17 They come here in the room? They come in this--?

18 [pause]

19 [Color Guard enter]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Thank you
21 gentlemen. All right. This is a very special day
22 for all of us because it's not everyday we get to
23 honor someone with almost four decades of continuous
24 service to our Fire Department. Chief Kilduff has
25 exemplified what it has meant to spend a lifetime in

2 service to this city in keeping us safe. He's almost
3 been in service as long as there's been a Vallone in
4 City Council, by the way. So, it goes back. That's
5 pretty darn good with my dad and my brother. And the
6 Speaker and I along with the entire Council have this
7 proclamation that outline his amazing, amazing
8 achievements. And one only has to look back to the
9 terrible events of 9/11 where the Fire Department was
10 decimated. Chief Kilduff stood up at the point and
11 led. He was one of a small group of people that
12 turned around and rebuilt the Fire Department for us.
13 Which led to him becoming the Chief of the
14 Department. This past October, he retired after 37
15 years of service and an amazing 41 years married to
16 his beautiful wife Kathy. So, Chief,
17 congratulations. [applause] Not only that, we're
18 Part of Saint Andrew Avellino Parish together, and we
19 get to see each other at mass. We see each other
20 walking on the streets, and the reaction the
21 community has when the chief comes walking around is
22 testament alone to his amazing, amazing legacy that
23 he has. So, Chief, thank you very, very much.
24 [applause] Can we read the proclamations?

2 CLERK: Council City of New York
3 Proclamation.

4 Whereas, the Council of the City of New
5 York is proud to honor Edward S. Kilduff, retired
6 FDNY Chief of Department in recognition of his
7 extraordinary legacy of service to the city and to
8 the community; and

9 Whereas, on October 30th, 2014, Edward
10 Kilduff retired after a distinguished 37-year career
11 with the FDNY in which he rose through the ranks to
12 become Chief of Department, the FDNY's highest-
13 ranking uniformed post. He joined the FDNY in August
14 1977 and worked for six years at Ladder 34 in
15 Manhattan. In 1983, he was promoted to lieutenant,
16 and worked at Ladder 112 in Brooklyn until his
17 promotion to Captain of Engine 92 in the Bronx in
18 1989; and

19 Whereas, through demonstrated leadership
20 and professionalism he remained on a steady
21 trajectory with promotions to Battalion Chief in
22 1993; Division Chief in 2001; Deputy Assistant Chief
23 in 2002; Assistant Chief and Brooklyn Borough
24 Commander in 2004; and finally to Chief of Department
25 in 2010. He was also cited for bravery five times in

2 his career, including the rescue of 51-year-old woman
3 in Brooklyn 1988, and the rescue of five firefighters
4 trapped in a collapsed building on Atlantic Avenue in
5 Brooklyn in 1998. Furthermore, in the wake of
6 Hurricane Katrina, he helped lead more than 600 FDNY
7 members who were deployed to New Orleans to perform
8 rescue and recovery efforts; and

9 Whereas, in addition to his frequent
10 heroism in the line of duty, Edward Kilduff was also
11 instrumental in his role as one of the small number
12 of leaders who helped to rebuild the department after
13 the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. As the
14 Division Chief in 2001, he worked as night commander
15 for months after 9/11 supervising rescue and recovery
16 operations at Ground Zero. He was also a team member
17 of the senior management that created the FDNY's
18 first two strategic plans that served as road maps
19 for rebuilding after September 11th and advanced
20 numerous agency wide initiatives; and

21 Whereas, Chief Kilduff may be retired,
22 but he will always be one of New York City's bravest,
23 for his leadership and courage have saved countless
24 lives, and he is worthy of the esteem of all New
25 Yorkers.

2 Now, therefore, be it known that the
3 Council of the City of New York gratefully honors
4 retired FDNY Chief of Department Edward S. Kilduff
5 for his extraordinary service to the City of New York
6 and to the community at large. Melissa Mark-
7 Viverito, Speaker for the Entire Council, Paul A.
8 Vallone Council Member, 19th District, Queens.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right.
10 [cheers, applause] All right. So--so the Chief--the
11 Chief just leaned over and said, "Is all that on
12 here." [laughs] He was reading it, and I said yeah
13 it may not look like a lot, but all his history is
14 here. We thank you so much for your contributions.
15 We know our Fire Department is world class, and it is
16 that way because of contributions and the commitment
17 of people like yourself. So, thank you so much for
18 what you've done on behalf of the City of New York,
19 on behalf of the Fire Department, on behalf of all
20 our communities. Other than Staten Island, you've
21 been serving in every borough. So, congratulations,
22 Chief, on that--that trajectory, and if you want to
23 say a few words.

24 CHIEF EDWARD KILDUFF: Please.
25 [background comments] Well, first, I just want to

2 thank everybody in the Council for a few things. You
3 know, when we used to come and we'd talk every year
4 about budget. We'd talk about how the department is
5 moving forward. We had some pretty lean years going
6 through, you know, the old 2000s there. And I think
7 the Fire Department made their mark in the city, but
8 like everybody else, had to participate in the budget
9 process. Year after year the-the Council made the
10 Fire Department whole, all through the 2000s. And
11 their support was always firm, was always constant,
12 was always verbalized properly. And the message
13 always got through, and at the end of the day, the
14 Council always supported the Fire Department. And,
15 you know, as one of the folks that used to come and
16 testify and justify to the Council why that was so
17 necessary, the Council did get it. And, we were
18 always very appreciative of the support the Council
19 gave to the firefighters. And, I would--as she walks
20 in--I would have to point out Council Member
21 Elizabeth Crowley because she--she headed that
22 committee for quite a while. And--and, you know,
23 Council Member Crowley was very supportive, as all
24 council members were of the Fire Department. So
25 that's truly appreciated.

2 My family goes back in New York City
3 before the Civil War, and we've always been New York
4 City residents. I'm very proud to be a city
5 resident, and I'm very proud to be a member of the
6 Fire Department for 37 years. My wife Kathy's father
7 was firefighter for 20 years back in the '40s and
8 '50s. You know, it's a special place in New York
9 City. It takes special people, and there are very
10 special people in all the public safety in New York
11 City. And I really accept this award with deep
12 appreciation to Council Member Vallone, but I accept
13 the award for all firefighters, the paramedics and
14 the EMTs that are out there everyday doing their job.
15 You know, 90--96% of our uniformed personnel are in
16 ambulances and on fire trucks. And the Council gets
17 their money's worth and more from the Fire
18 Department. And it's been--it's been a pleasure to
19 represent the Fire Department everywhere we went, and
20 particularly here at the City Council and to the
21 elected officials. So, thank you very much to
22 Councilman Vallone. I want to recognize my wife
23 Kathy, who's my partner. [cheers, applause] There's
24 always--there's always--there's always a strong
25 family behind all public safety folks. Thank you to

2 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I just want to
3 say, you know, to the City Council continue your
4 great work and thank you very much for the honor
5 today. [cheers, applause]

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you so
7 much, Chief, and you said 41 years of marriage.
8 Well, enjoy your retirement, and again, thank you so
9 much for your contribution, and I'm glad we were able
10 to recognize you here today. Thank you for your
11 advocacy.

12 CHIEF EDWARD KILDUFF: Thank you.

13 [background comments, applause]

14 [pause]

15 [background noise]

16 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,
17 your attention, please. Your attention please.

18 [background noise] All members of the public please
19 make your way upstairs to the balcony. Only Council
20 staff allowed on the floor. Once again, all members
21 of the public if you are staying for the Stated
22 Meeting, please make your way up to the balcony.

23 [pause, background noise]

24 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Ladies, and gentlemen,
25 could I have your attention, please. At this time,

2 at this time, please place all cell phones and
3 electronic devices to vibrate. Quiet on the floor,
4 please place all electronic devices to vibrate. Will
5 all non-Council employees, non-Council employees
6 please leave the main floor the Chambers. Thank you.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All members
8 please have their seats. All visitors please find a
9 seat. Quiet in the Chambers, please.

10 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet, please.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
12 Chambers. Members, please find your seats.
13 Visitors, please find your seats. All rise for the
14 Pledge of Allegiance.

15 [Pledge of Allegiance]

16 [pause]

17 CLERK: Arroyo.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
19 Chambers, please. Quiet in the Chambers for roll
20 call.

21 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Keep it down.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Here.

23 CLERK: Barron.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

25 CLERK: Cabrera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May we have quiet
4 in the Chambers, please, for roll call? Please,
5 quiet in the Chambers. Thank you.

6 CLERK: Chin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

8 CLERK: Cohen.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

10 CLERK: Constantinides.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: [off mic]

12 Here.

13 CLERK: Cornegy.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Present.

15 CLERK: Crowley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: [off mic] Here.

17 CLERK: Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

21 CLERK: Dickens. Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: [off mic] Here.

23 CLERK: Espinal.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

25 CLERK: Eugene. Ferreras.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Here.

3 CLERK: Garodnick.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Here.

5 CLERK: Gentile.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Here.

7 CLERK: Gibson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Here.

9 CLERK: Greenfield.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [off mic]

11 Here.

12 CLERK: Johnson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Present.

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

16 CLERK: King.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

18 CLERK: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

20 CLERK: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic]

22 Here.

23 CLERK: Lancman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

25 CLERK: Lander. Levin. Levine.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

3 CLERK: Maisel. Matteo. Mealy.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

5 CLERK: Menchaca.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

7 CLERK: Mendez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Present.

9 CLERK: Miller. Palma.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Here.

11 CLERK: Reynoso. Richards.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

13 CLERK: Rodriguez.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

15 Here.

16 CLERK: Rose.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Here.

18 CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

20 CLERK: Torres.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

22 CLERK: Treyger.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

24 CLERK: Ulrich.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Present.

2 CLERK: Vacca.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Here.

4 CLERK: Vallone.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

6 CLERK: Weprin. Williams.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic] Here.

8 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio. Van Bramer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

10 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Here.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the

13 Chambers, please. All rise for the invocation.

14 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: All rise.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The Invocation

16 will be delivered by Reverend Robert Lowe of Mount

17 Moriah AME Church, 116-20 Francis Lewis Boulevard in

18 the Borough of Queens. All quiet in the Chambers.

19 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

20 REVEREND ROBERT LOWE: Can we bow our

21 heads for a word of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, I

22 come to you this day on behalf of all of those who

23 are assembled in these Council Chambers. We thank

24 you for your abundant grace, and we thank you for

25 life, for health and for strength to be able to carry

2 out the assignment that you have given to us. We
3 thank you for the privilege and the opportunity to
4 have this opportunity to come into this day, and to
5 allow your people to be present under the sound of my
6 voice. So, I pray for elected officials everywhere
7 from the White House to Gracie Mansion. I pray for
8 the President. I pray for the Mayor. I pray for the
9 Speaker. All elected officials under the sound of my
10 voice, and I pray now that you would grant them the
11 wisdom to deliberate on this day. I pray that they
12 would have the confidence to do what is right and
13 good for the City of New York. I pray that they
14 would have the ability to work together for the
15 common good for the people of New York and for the
16 City of New York. That the welfare of this city is
17 now in good hands. I pray your blessings upon this
18 Council for the work of the day, and that at the end
19 of the day that you'll be pleased and the city will
20 be blessed. This I ask in your dear son's name, and
21 let all the Council say amen.

22 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.
24 Council Member Miller. Quiet in the Chambers,

25

2 please. Quiet in the Chambers. Council Member
3 Miller.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon,
5 Madam Public Advocate, and now it is an honor and joy
6 to spread invocation over the great Dr. Reverend
7 Robert Lowe of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, AME
8 Church, and excited we've had the opportunity to
9 visit with this ministry on a regular basis. They're
10 doing exciting work in our community. They are
11 growing by leaps and bounds. We just did the
12 groundbreaking on a long anticipated second portion
13 of this great church, and I am so excited to continue
14 to work with Pastor Lowe. And I apologize for the
15 tardiness, but again, I am proud to spread invocation
16 here today in the City Council. Proud to share and
17 be a part of the Mount Moriah ministry. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
19 Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Good afternoon.
21 Motion that the minutes of the State Meeting of April
22 16th, 2015 be adopted as printed.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
24 in the Chambers. Messages and papers from the Mayor.

25 CLERK: M279, Expense Budget.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

3 CLERK: M280, Capital Budget.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

5 CLERK: M281, CD Budget.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

7 CLERK: M282 to M285, various budget
8 documents.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

10 CLERK: M286, Ten-Year Capital Strategy.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

12 CLERK: M287, Budget Summary.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Finance.

14 CLERK: M288, Debt and Reserves.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Received order
16 printed and filed.

17 CLERK: M289, Submitting Karen Redlener
18 for appointment to the Board of Health.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
20 and Elections.

21 CLERK: M290, Submitting Ramanathan Raju
22 for appointment to the Board of Health.

23 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
24 and Elections.

25

2 CLERK: M291, Submitting Rosa M. Gil for
3 appointment to the Board of Health.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
5 and Elections.

6 CLERK: M292, Submitting William Aguado
7 for appointment to the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Rules, Privileges
9 and Elections.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication
11 from City, County and Borough Offices.

12 CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and
14 Communications.

15 CLERK: None

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use Call-
17 Ups.

18 CLERK: None.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
20 Chambers. And now, we will hear from the Speaker,
21 Melissa Mark-Viverito.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
23 Public Advocate. I want to ask my colleagues to rise
24 and join me for a couple of recognitions of police
25 officers.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 Please rise.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Today, we're
5 still mourning for Officer Brian Moore, who passed
6 away on May 8th after being attacked in the line of
7 duty. Violence against our police officer is never
8 justified, and the Council will always stand behind
9 our brave men and women in uniform. Today, we're
10 also recognizing the passing of Gertrude Schimmel,
11 the first female police chief in the NYPD's history.
12 Captain Schimmel passed away on Monday at the age of
13 96. While serving as a captain, Gertrude Schimmel
14 successfully pushed to allow women to serve in street
15 patrol and radio cars. And despite backlash from
16 many, she fought forward to expand opportunity for
17 all in what is now one of the most diverse police
18 departments in America.

19 Additionally, I want to mention the
20 horrible Amtrak train crash in Philadelphia on
21 Monday, which killed eight people and injured over
22 200. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families
23 of all those who were lost in the crash, but I want
24 to especially mention two people. Justin Zemser of
25 Rockaway Beach, a Midshipman at the U.S. Naval

2 Academy and a former City Council intern for Council
3 Member Eric Ulrich and Donovan Richards was among
4 those who lost their lives on Monday. At only 20
5 years old, he was on leave from studying at U.S.
6 Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland heading home to
7 visit New York when this horrific accident took his
8 life. And Derrick Griffith the Dean of Students of
9 Freshmen Enrollment at Medgar Evers College also lost
10 his life in the crash. Derrick had just completed
11 his Ph.D. requirements at the CUNY Graduate Center
12 and was scheduled to graduate later this month. New
13 York City mourns and misses both of these great New
14 Yorkers. And for those two and for those that I
15 mentioned Officer Moore and Schimmel I'd like to ask
16 everyone to join me in a moment of silence.

17 [Moment of Silence Observed]

18 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.

19 Today, the Council is voting on legislation--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]

21 [shushes audience]

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --that will
23 require landlords to provide their tenants with
24 advanced notice before performing work, which will
25 cause an interruption in building services.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 [shushes audience]

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: It's a simple
5 quality of life issue, and a common courtesy to let
6 residents know when their water, heat or power will
7 be unavailable. Under this law, landlords will have
8 to post notice a week in advance displayed
9 prominently in common areas of the building. And the
10 staff side, I want to thank Jeffery Baker, Ed Atkin,
11 Jennifer Wilcox, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde and
12 Sarah Gastelum, and I'll ask Council Member Rosie
13 Mendez to say a few words.

14 [background comments]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Okay, I don't
16 think Council Member--Oh, Council Member Mendez. Are
17 you going to speak on the bill?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I think I'll
19 pass.

20 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Okay, no worries.
21 The Council will also vote on legislation requiring
22 the Department of Environmental Protection to inspect
23 and unclog catch basins on an annual basis. A catch
24 basin is a type of storm drain that collects
25 rainwater from the streets, and directs it into a

2 sewer. Catch basins can become clogged with refuse
3 and debris, which can lead to flooding. The City
4 currently is only required to inspect and unclog
5 catch basins once every three years. This law will
6 keep our drains and sewers running efficiently
7 preventing avoidable flooding and property damage. On
8 the staff side, I want to definitely thank --

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
10 [shushing for quiet]

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --Jeffrey Baker,
12 Ed Atkin, Samara Swanston, Bill Murray, Jonathan
13 Seltzer, and I would like to ask Council Member
14 Williams, who is the lead sponsor to say a few words
15 about the bill.

16 [background comments, pause]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thanks again.
18 I want to give a shout out again to the Lady Kingsmen
19 who I honored in the ceremonial. Thank you for the
20 Speaker's leadership on this bill, and thank you to
21 the committee chair, Donovan Richards who shared my
22 passion with this bill. For parts of the city
23 including several residents--several residential
24 roads in my district the rain causes larger headaches
25 than it should because of frequently clogged catch

2 basins. It's an issue that not only inconveniences
3 neighborhoods, but can cause significant water damage
4 to property. It is one of those things that as the
5 Speaker pointed out, may not be the sexiest--the
6 sexiest things to deal with. But, it most certainly
7 affects larges swaths and portions of our city.
8 Though the Department of Environmental Protection
9 checks these drains every year, we know that it's not
10 enough to adequate ensure that problematic drains are
11 cleared. I'm very proud to sponsor Intro 240, which
12 will require DEP to submit semi-annual reports to the
13 Mayor and the City Council regarding inspection,
14 maintenance and repair of catch basins. It will be
15 disaggregated by community district. The bill would
16 also require NY DEP to inspect every catch basin at
17 least once per year, and to unclog and repair catch
18 basins within nine days from when a complaint is
19 filed. I'm proud of these types of bills. I can
20 take an issue that my constituents are dealing with,
21 match it up with other constituents throughout the
22 city and provide an answer that is citywide. Again,
23 I'd like to thank Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito,
24 Chair of Environmental Protection, Donovan Richards,
25 and the Administration for working with us, and

2 pushing this important legislation. I'd also like to
3 thank Samara Swanston, Counsel to the Environmental
4 Protection Committee for drafting the bill.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
6 Council Member and now Council Member Mendez on the
7 Tenant Notification Bill.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
9 Speaker. Today, my colleagues are asking you to vote
10 yes on Intro 222. It is legislation that was
11 introduced by then Council Member Gale Brewer, and
12 that I've co-introduced with her in this legislative
13 session. So this has been a long time in the works.
14 And this is a bill that is about common courtesy and
15 common sense. For way too long sometimes tenants
16 leave their homes. They'll come back at night, and
17 find that they don't have access to certain services.
18 So this legislation requires a landlord to give
19 tenants notification of non-emergency work from 24 to
20 48 hours prior notice, and to let tenants know how
21 long the repairs will take, and how long the services
22 will be out in their building. So, I want to thank
23 Jennifer Wilcox, who spent countless hours working on
24 this legislation. My former legislative director,
25 Jasmine Torres--

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
3 [shushing for quiet]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: --for her
5 dedication and Shula Warren from the Manhattan
6 Borough President's Office for her tireless work. I
7 ask everyone to vote yes. Thank you once again,
8 Madam Speaker.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you,
10 Council Member. We also have legislation requiring a
11 two-year study of the effect on hotel conversions on
12 the City's economy. During a two-year study, a hotel
13 conversation review board would consider requests to
14 convert hotel buildings into condominiums or for
15 other uses. This legislation would van such
16 conversions unless permission is obtain from the
17 board after demonstrating that the hotel is unable to
18 earn a reasonable financial return. On the staff
19 side, I want to thank Ed Atkin, Leslies Jones,
20 Jennifer Wilcox, Guillermo Patino, Jose Conde and
21 Sarah Gastelum, and I want to thank--ask the lead
22 sponsor, Council Member Corey Johnson to say a few
23 words.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Good afternoon.
25 Thank you, Madam Speaker. My district includes many

2 world-class tourist attractions such as the Theater
3 District, the High Line in Times Square, and it also
4 houses many of the city's largest hotels. New York
5 City's hotel industry is a bedrock component of our
6 economy. It funds critical services on our budget,
7 and provides many good paying middle-class jobs to
8 hard working New Yorkers. This vital sector of the
9 tourist industry and the jobs that it creates are
10 presently at risk by the rapid conversion of hotel
11 rooms into luxury condominiums. Already hotel
12 conversions have lost in the city over a thousand
13 jobs to this practice in the last decade, and this
14 trend may accelerate.

15 Hotel with over a thousand rooms
16 typically also employ over a thousand employees.
17 Even if one-quarter of those rooms are converted, we
18 are talking about hundreds of jobs that are lost. If
19 this trend continues, we will continue on a
20 trajectory towards our city being geared toward the
21 very wealthy with fewer small businesses and living
22 wage jobs to show for it. This moratorium on
23 conversions for two years not yet contemplated--
24 conversions that have not yet been contemplated will
25 allow us in consort with city agencies to determine a

2 long-term fix to protect our vibrant neighborhoods,
3 our local businesses, the tourism industry, and good
4 middle-class jobs. Its analysis will provide us with
5 clear short-term--

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
7 [shushing for quiet]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: -- and long-term
9 impacts.

10 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet place. Sit down.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [shushing for
12 quiet]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Its analysis
14 will provide us with clear, short-term and long-term
15 impacts of hotel conversion with respect to our
16 city's economy including on tourism and job
17 availability as well as the land use repercussions
18 and other potential impacts. In drafting the report,
19 the city will consult with stakeholders in the hotel
20 industry to ensure that people who know it best are
21 contributing to an accurate assessment. This bill is
22 incredibly important for the lives of so many
23 individual New Yorkers, as well as our City's
24 economy. I want to thank my colleagues who have
25 supported me thus far. I encourage the rest of you

2 to stand with the rest of New York, and vote for this
3 important bill. And lastly, I want to thank my
4 Legislative Louis Cholden-Brown, Chair of the Housing
5 and Buildings Committee Jumaane Williams, and the
6 amazing staff that has spent an inordinate amount of
7 time of time on this, Ed Atkin, Wes Jones, Jeff
8 Baker, Jen Wilcox, Laura Popa, and last but not least
9 who was up late at night many nights, the incredible
10 Matt Gewolb. I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of
11 this legislation. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
13 Additionally, the Council is voting on legislation
14 that would require the Department of Cultural Affairs
15 to provide reasonable advance notification of its
16 intention to include works of art in a One Percent
17 for Art project on DOCA website. The Percent for
18 Art Law requires that one percent of the budget for
19 eligible city-funded construction projects be spent
20 on artwork for city facilities. The program offers
21 city agencies the opportunity to acquire art
22 specifically for city-owned buildings--

23 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet
24 down, please.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
3 quiet].

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: --throughout the
5 five boroughs. However, there have been concerns
6 about not enough community involvement goes into--
7 that not enough community involvement goes into
8 choosing these works of art. I want to thank Aminta
9 Kilawan, Chloe Rivera, Lyle Frank and Terzah Nasser,
10 and Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Council
11 Members Cumbo who will speak to their bill.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you
13 very much, Madam Speaker. This is the second state
14 meeting in a row where we're passing significant
15 cultural legislation. I want to thank you for your
16 leadership. The Percent for Art Law was passed in
17 1982, and mandates that one percent of city--of the
18 City's budget for city-funded construction projects
19 be used to commission public arts of work. Since
20 1983, over 300 permanent works of art have been
21 commissioned. Over \$40 million in taxpayer dollars
22 spent on public art in the City of New York. That is
23 a wise investment. Public art inspires and enrichen-
24 -enriches all of our lives including works of art in
25 schools and libraries, parks and in my district at

2 the Department of Transportation Street Improvement
3 Project. But the law has not been amended since its
4 passage in 1982, and if we're going to spend \$40
5 million of taxpayer money on public art, which I, of
6 course, believe we should, we should also make sure
7 that taxpayers are included in a meaningful community
8 engagement process, as those works of art are
9 considered. So this law, which I'm proud to sponsor,
10 along with Council Member Cumbo, is going to mandate
11 a significant community engagement process by making
12 sure that there is notification of and interest in a
13 public art project as a percent of a construction
14 project. And number two, and most importantly, it
15 will require the Department of Cultural Affairs to
16 have a public hearing where the community will be
17 involved, meet the artist and have an opportunity to
18 voice support, concerns, and suggestions about a
19 percent for our project. This is meant to strengthen
20 the Percent for Art Program to create more support
21 for public art, and to strengthen artists who get
22 these commissions. I support public art. This bill
23 supports public art, but it also makes sure that
24 communities have a say, a meaningful say in works of
25 art that will become permanent fixtures in their

2 communities. They will live with these pieces of art
3 forever. So I want to thank the Commissioner of the
4 Department of Cultural Affairs, Tom Finkelparl.
5 Again, as with the cultural plan, he worked with us
6 to craft this legislation and supports it. I want to
7 thank Council Member Cumbo, and I want to thank the
8 staff, my chief of staff Matt Wallace, my Deputy
9 Chiefs of Staff, Cody Reiter and Jason Bandry, and
10 our Counsel Aminta Kilawan, our Policy Analyst Chloe
11 Rivera, Matt Gewolb and the entire team. It is a
12 great day where we pass another piece of cultural
13 legislation that will strengthen the arts and keep
14 the arts and culture at the center of New York City.
15 Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

16 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
17 Cumbo.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, Madam
19 Speaker. I am very excited about Intro 742. As a
20 life long lover of the arts and as founder of
21 Brooklyn's first museum dedicated to the African
22 Diaspora, I value artistic freedom, self-expression
23 and the vital role that it play within our society.
24 It is imperative now more than ever that we support
25 open dialogue and active civic engagement around art

2 in our public places. For the past 33 years, the
3 Percent for Art Program has operated successfully
4 under the guidance of the New York City Department of
5 Cultural Affairs, but it has left out one important
6 voice, the public. And today, we're going to change
7 that. In my collaboration with our colleague,
8 Majority Leader and Chair of the Committee on
9 Cultural Affairs Jimmy Van Bramer, and I thank you
10 for your support and your partnership on this. We
11 have introduced an amendment to the Local Law calling
12 for an increase in community input and greater
13 transparency within the Percent for Art Program.

14 Art in our public spaces remains of the
15 greatest forms of collective community expression.
16 It is an opportunity to see our society from
17 different viewpoints, to explore new ideas and to
18 appreciate our cultural similarities as well as
19 differences. The City of New York is home to over
20 eight million residents. So we must work to ensure
21 that artist of all backgrounds have an opportunity to
22 beautify the city that inspires them daily. As a
23 member of the Council Committee on Cultural Affairs,
24 it brings me great pleasure to unit the diverse
25 voices of our artistic communities. And the arts

2 have an incredible power to unite us, and to bring
3 forth so many different perspectives. But this is
4 such an important opportunity, and I'm so proud to be
5 a part of it today. Again, thank you to all of my
6 colleagues, and a special thank you to Council Member
7 Jimmy Van Bramer.

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right, thank
9 you. We're also voting on a bill require
10 transparency in the recruiting and hiring process of
11 the FDNY pertaining to women and minorities. The law
12 would require them to report on the number of females
13 and people of color it hires as firefighters at every
14 phase of the hiring process. Additionally, all
15 recruiting expenditures and events would be reported.
16 Our city's Fire Department is world class, and we
17 want to ensure that firefighters reflect all the
18 talent and diversity that New York has to offer. I
19 would like to thank on the staff side Brian Crow and
20 Rachel Cordero, and I would like to ask Elizabeth
21 Crowley and Helen Rosenthal, who are lead sponsors of
22 the bill, to say a few words.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
24 quiet]

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Council Member
3 Crowley.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Thank you, Madam
5 Speaker. Thank you for your commitment to
6 diversifying the Fire Department. A big thank you to
7 Council Member Helen Rosenthal, who is the lead
8 sponsor on this. Which is a very important bill that
9 will require the Fire Department to provide to the
10 City Council the statistics on the firefighter
11 application pool broken down by race and gender for
12 each phase of the application process who is signing
13 up to take the written exam, entering into the
14 Academy and finally graduating. New York City has
15 the toughest, strongest and bravest women in the
16 world. Are we to believe that in a city with over
17 eight million people there are less than 50 that
18 would like to be a firefighter? Other major cities
19 have 30 times more women firefighters than we do.
20 How are we to remain the greatest city in the world,
21 an example for others when we have not diversified
22 our uniformed services? Women serve on the front
23 line of combat in our armed forces, but can't become
24 New York City fighters? That's simply not
25 acceptable. Again, I want to thank Council Speaker

2 Melissa Mark-Viverito for her attention to ending
3 this injustice as well as Council Member Rosenthal,
4 and all the women members of the caucus as well as
5 other leaders in the city. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you.
7 Council Member Rosenthal. Thank you for your
8 leadership in this issue, Madam Speaker. I
9 appreciate your work on this bill. You know, the
10 numbers just don't add up. 13% of San Francisco's
11 firefighters are women. Roughly 15% of the active
12 duty U.S. Military are women. 17% of New York Police
13 Officers are women, and less than half of a percent
14 of New York Firefighters are women. I'm eager to
15 learn what is so unique about being a firefighter in
16 New York City that it excludes women. The data we
17 will receive from this bill both retrospective and
18 prospective will shed light on how many women apply
19 to be firefighters and where they drop off along the
20 long application process. Which can take several
21 years from start to finish. We wouldn't be here
22 today without the leadership of Elizabeth Crowley,
23 Chair of the Committee on Fire and Criminal Services,
24 who has persistently pursued this issue for years. I
25 would like to thank Chair Crowley for her commitment

2 for equal treatment for all who are able to
3 accomplish the physical task relevant to being a
4 firefighter. And for those who are willing to risk
5 their lives and join the brave cohort of FDNY
6 firefighters. I also want to sincerely thank Brian
7 Crow, who was the Legislative Counsel on this bill.
8 He was incredibly patient with me, and to the 42 co-
9 sponsors of this legislation. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you. And
11 finally, the Council will be voting on the creation
12 of an aging in place guide for New York's residential
13 landlords. The majority of New York's seniors have
14 expressed a strong desire to stay in their homes as
15 they age. But, this can present certain challenges.
16 Things such as limited mobility and impaired vision
17 make the buildings that our seniors call home less
18 accessible to them as they grow older, but there are
19 simple fixes that landlords can put in place to
20 address this. In consultation with the Department of
21 Buildings, Department of Housing Preservation and the
22 Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, the
23 Department for the Aging will create a guide that
24 helps landlords understand the unique challenges
25 their aging tenants may be facing and how they can

2 make their properties more accessible and welcoming
3 for seniors who wish to stay in their homes. I'd
4 like to staff Eric Bernstein, James Subhudhi, Lyle
5 Frank and Terzah Nasser, and I'd like to ask Council
6 Member Chin, the lead sponsor to say a few words.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Madam
8 Speaker. Good afternoon. I asked my colleagues to
9 vote in favor of Intro 702, which will require the
10 development of an aging in place guide for building
11 owners. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this
12 important legislation with our Speaker, which is
13 aimed at making our city more livable for seniors.
14 Most seniors want to stay in their homes. Aging in
15 place is also a cost-effective--more cost-effective
16 for the city compared to the cost of nursing homes.
17 But, in order to make it possible for seniors to age
18 in place, we have to make sure buildings are
19 appropriately designed with features like grab bars
20 and wide doorways. Intro 702 will lead the way in
21 these efforts to that private building owners can
22 make their buildings more age-friendly in a city
23 that's more than 15% seniors and growing. I thank
24 the Speaker for her leadership on this bill, and I
25 urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it. And, I

2 want to thank all the Council staff that worked on
3 this legislation. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All right. Thank
5 you, council member, and with that, thank you to all
6 my colleagues, and this ends the communication from
7 the Speaker.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussion of
9 General Orders. Seeing none, calling upon Council
10 Member Koo for a vote.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Madam Public
12 Advocate, I would like to have permission to vote--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
14 quiet]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: --on all land use
16 call-ups items on the General Order Calendar, and
17 other resolutions.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote yes.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

21 Council Member Lancman for a vote.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you. With
23 your permission, I'd like permission--with your
24 permission, I'd like to be able to vote aye on all
25 matters before the Council.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of Special
5 Committees.

6 CLERK: None.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Reports of
8 Standing Committees.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Aging,
10 Intro 702-A, Aging in Place Guide.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
12 coupled on General Orders.

13 CLERK: Reso 426-A, Rent Increase
14 Exemption Program.

15 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and laid
16 over.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
18 Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
19 Intergroup Relations, Intro 742-A, Percent for Art
20 Law.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
22 coupled on General Orders.

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
24 Environmental Protection, Intro 240-A, Catch Basin
25 Cleanup.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
3 Coupled on General Orders.

4 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
5 Finance, Reso 666, Lower East Side BID.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
7 [Shushing for quiet]

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on General
9 Orders.

10 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 6--

11 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
12 please.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
14 quiet] Quiet in the chambers.

15 CLERK: Preconsidered Reso 689,
16 Organization Funding.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
18 General Orders.

19 CLERK: LU 216 and Reso 699 through
20 Preconsidered LU 222 and Reso 703, various tax
21 abatements.

22 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
23 General Orders.

24

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Fire
3 and Criminal Justice Services, Intro 579-A, Fire
4 Department Reporting.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
6 coupled on General Orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
8 Health, Intro 761, Pet Shop Requirements.

9 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
10 General Orders.

11 CLERK: Intro 772, Pet Shop Requirements.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: Report of the Committee on
15 Housing and Buildings, Intro 222-A, Tenant
16 Notification Requirement.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
18 Coupled on General Orders..

19 CLERK: Intro 592-A, moratorium and hotel
20 study.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Amended and
22 Coupled on General Orders.

23 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
24 Use, LU 197 through LU 201, Various applications.
25 201 on page 7.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yeah, no, no.
3 I'm sorry. I just lost track a second.

4 CLERK: That's all right.

5 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Yes, approved and
6 modifications and referred to the City Planning
7 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of
8 the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New City
9 Charter.

10 CLERK: Thank you. LU 209 and 210,
11 Ladies Mile Historic District.

12 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and
13 modifications and referred to the City Planning
14 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of
15 the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York City
16 Charter.

17 CLERK: Thank you. LU 211, Zoning
18 Amendment.

19 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Approved and
20 modifications and referred to the City Planning
21 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70(b) of the Rules of
22 the Council and Section 197-(d) of the New York City
23 Charter.

24 CLERK: LU 218 and Reso 724 UDAPP
25 Manhattan.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
3 General Orders.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: General Order
5 Calendar.

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

8 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Coupled on
9 General Orders, and at this time I ask for a full
10 roll call on al the items on the Coupled and General
11 Order Calendar.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
13 chambers, please for the roll call. Quiet in the
14 Chambers.

15 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet down, please.

16 CLERK: Arroyo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Barron.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

20 CLERK: Thank you. Cabrera.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: [off mic] Aye..

2 CLERK: Constantinides.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

4 CLERK: Cornegy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

6 CLERK: Crowley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

8 CLERK: Cumbo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to
10 explain my vote.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to really
13 congratulate all of my colleagues, Corey Johnson,
14 Margaret Chin, Rosie Mendez, Jimmy Van Bramer,
15 Jumaane Williams. But I really wanted to especially
16 call out Council Members Helen Rosenthal and
17 Elizabeth Crowley. It's been an honor to work with
18 you both in terms of creating greater awareness of
19 the fact that there are so many more women than those
20 44 that are currently in the Fire Department, and
21 that we have so much more work to do. And the work
22 that you are doing today is certainly going to trail
23 blaze a new path for so many women who have attempted
24 to become firefighters, the opportunity to actually

25

2 do so. So I vote aye on all and I congratulate all
3 of those who have passed legislation today.

4 CLERK: Deutsch.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Dickens.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Dromm.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Espinal.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Eugene.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Ferreras.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic] Aye

16 on all.

17 CLERK: Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: No on 592-A and

19 aye on the rest.

20 CLERK: Gentile.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Gibson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to

24 explain my vote.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you very
4 much, Madam Public Advocate. I, too, want to
5 congratulate all of my colleagues--

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
7 [shushing for quiet]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --Council Members
9 Crowley, Chin, Cumbo, Van Bramer, Rosenthal, Johnson,
10 Williams and others that have bills today. But, I
11 really wanted to just speak up in support of two
12 nominations of Dr. Rosa Gil to the Board of Health,
13 someone I've worked with very closely as the Director
14 working very closely in Comunilife, a great
15 organization that does an incredible amount of health
16 services and social services for many women and
17 children and families in the City. As well as my
18 good friend from the Bronx William, Bill Aguado, who
19 is being appointed to serve on the Taxi and Limousine
20 Commission. He's been a trailblazer, and a big
21 supporter of the arts, formerly serving as Executive
22 Director of the Bronx Council of the Arts. I know
23 both of these appointees will make great assets to
24 the Board of Health, as well as TLC. And with that,
25 I vote aye on all. Thank you, Madam Public Advocate.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Quiet
3 in the Chambers, please.

4 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Keep it down, please.
5 Keep it down.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continue with
7 roll call.

8 CLERK: Greenfield.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Madam, Public
10 Advocate, may I explain my vote?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yeah.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you for
13 your generosity. I'm voting aye on all with the
14 exception of Intro 592-A. I support what this bill
15 is trying to accomplish, and congratulate Council
16 Member Johnson for accomplishing it. Specifically,
17 the protection of good paying jobs in our city, but I
18 think there are better ways to do that. The Council
19 has supported the special permits for hotels, which I
20 have supported. The Council has supported
21 legislation notifying the community and stakeholders
22 when a hotel is being built. I was proud to support
23 those as well. I believe what we're doing today is
24 going a little too far. By preventing hotels to
25 converting to permanent housing, we're going where

2 we've never gone before as a Council. For one thing,
3 what is to stop supermarkets from asking us for the
4 same protections. For another, in many cases a hotel
5 is simply no longer the best use for that
6 neighborhood. The neighborhood is made strongly for
7 housing, for example. Finally, I believe this is a
8 land use issue, and would strongly prefer that this
9 bill go through the City's charters, transparent
10 ULURP process. Not every neighborhood needs a hotel.
11 Not every neighborhood wants a hotel. Many
12 neighborhoods would prefer housing over a hotel. We
13 shouldn't get in the way of what communities want.
14 While I approve of the goal of the bill, I do not
15 approve of the method in achieving its goal. So,
16 therefore, I vote no on Intro 592-A.

17 CLERK: Dickens.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And how do you
19 vote on the rest of the bills?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: As I
21 indicated when I first spoke, Madam Public Advocate,
22 I vote aye on all with the exception of 592-A.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Okay.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Normally, you
25 get me, but not this day.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [laughs] Okay.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: It's the jet
4 lag.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Continuing with
6 the roll call.

7 CLERK: Council Member Dickens.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you, Madam
9 Public Advocate--

10 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
11 please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you Madam
13 Public Advocate. Permission to amend my vote.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: All right.

16 First of all, this Introduction 592-A, is interfering
17 in the private property that operates in accordance
18 with the City's Land Use Plan and Zoning Resolutions
19 that permits both residential and hotel uses in
20 nearly all commercial zones where most of the
21 potential affected hotels are located. This
22 legislation will also side step the ULURP process.
23 And when we talk about transparency, then how can we
24 talk about transparency on one hand, and then give
25 legislation for the City that side steps the ULURP

2 process? Secondly, with the tourism at an all-high
3 time booming when hotel rooms are increasing by
4 30,000 and thousands of construction jobs in the last
5 ten years. And according to the NYC [sic] Company,
6 it forecasts at least 23,000 more rooms be built by
7 2017. Tourism brings badly needed revenue to our
8 city. In addition, the hotel employment will rise
9 from 37,900 to 49,400 in the--in a span of ten years.
10 Most of these jobs are filled by Black and Latino
11 members of all of our communities. Although this
12 newly revised bill tries to address some of the
13 issues property owners have had, their property
14 rights are being denied Constitutionally without an
15 explanation or a clear purpose. For this reason, I'm
16 voting against Intro 592-A, and aye on all the rest.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

18 CLERK: Johnson.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I still love
20 Inez and David, and I vote aye on all.

21 CLERK: Kallos.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: King.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Koslowitz.

2 CLERK: Koslowitz.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Lander.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Levin.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all with

8 particular congratulations to Council Members

9 Rosenthal and Crowley on their legislation.

10 CLERK: Levine.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all with

12 congratulations to all the sponsors.

13 CLERK: Maisel.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: [off mic] Aye.

15 CLERK: Matteo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No, on 592-A.

17 Aye on the rest.

18 CLERK: Mealy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: No on 592-A and

20 aye on everything else.

21 CLERK: Menchaca. Mendez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Miller.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to

25 explain.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
4 Public Advocate. I'd first like to congratulate
5 Council Member Williams and Richards on this
6 fantastic piece of legislation, Intro 240 to require
7 similar annual--semi-annual reports to catch basin
8 cleanup, annual maintenance of these basins in my
9 district. And Southeast Queens is a landlocked
10 district made up of mostly one and two-family homes,
11 and has long been a victim of severe flooding to the
12 residents of Southeast Queens. Many have paid time
13 and time again over the years because of the type of
14 flooding to these homeowners. The city has been--
15 this part of the city has been ignored far too long,
16 and has not addressed the issues of flooding concerns
17 that affect this community here in Southeast Queens,
18 Flatbush, Canarsie and East New York. I am proud to
19 be a part of that, and I urge everyone to vote yes.
20 And I vote aye on all.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

22 CLERK: Palma.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: No on 592-A. Aye
24 on all the rest.

25 CLERK: Reynoso.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
3 all.

4 CLERK: Richards.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
6 explain my vote.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: According to
9 the Mayor's Management Report of the 148,000 catch
10 basins citywide, the city received 53,350 catch basin
11 complaints from Fiscal Year 2010 through Fiscal Year
12 2014. DEP's own reports indicates that their
13 responses acquired of catch basin complaints are
14 slower in Queens and Manhattan than they are in other
15 boroughs. In addition, damages from flooding results
16 in significant payments by a city through homeowners
17 as a result of sewer backups and overflow according
18 to the Comptroller's Complaint between 2012 and 2013.
19 More than 1,000 complaints for damages due to sewer
20 overflow were filed against DEP with an average
21 payout of \$4,000. DEP currently cleans catch basins
22 once every three years. However, they will now have
23 to follow the suggestions of EPA by cleaning them out
24 once every year. I will--and lastly I know Jumaane
25 spoke on the--the annual reporting. Southeast Queens

2 has been flooded, flooded, flooded for decades, and
3 this particular bill is going to certainly help bring
4 relief. I want to thank Jumaane Williams for his
5 leadership on this issue. Also, Reggie Thomas from
6 the Mayor's Office; Commissioner Emily Lloyd, who
7 bucked the trend of not really solving these issues,
8 and stood up courageously on this issue. Samara
9 Swanston for her work on the bills. Jerrel Burney,
10 Mercedes Buchanan and Nick Smith from Jumaane's
11 office. And with that being said, I vote aye on all.

12 CLERK: Rodriguez.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye
14 on all.

15 CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all and
19 I congratulate my colleagues on their bills being
20 passed today.

21 CLERK: Torres.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Treyger.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With
25 congratulations to Council Members Rosenthal,

2 Williams, and all the bill sponsors, I vote aye on
3 all.

4 CLERK: Ulrich.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Vacca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Vallone.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Due to my
10 ongoing constitutional and procedural concerns, I
11 vote on Intro 592-A and aye on all the rest.

12 CLERK: Weprin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Permission to
14 explain my vote.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I am just on--on
17 592-A, I'm actually going to vote yes because I think
18 it is a limited enough bill. But I do want to share
19 some of the concerns that were raised here today on
20 this bill as far as the effects in the future on
21 other businesses. You know, this protects good jobs,
22 good strong jobs that we want to keep here in New
23 York City, but sometimes when you act to restrict one
24 type of job or one type of industry, you end up
25 creating a ripple effect that actually discourages

2 development, discourages those jobs and the building
3 of, in this case, hotel potentially. And as was
4 mentioned before, there were other businesses that
5 similar things can be applied. And you may have the
6 unintended consequences of limiting that very
7 business in the future. So I am concerned about
8 that, but I have the utmost respect for the sponsor
9 and for some of the advocates on this bill who are
10 fighting for good paying wages in a very important
11 industry in this city. So I am going to vote aye on
12 all. Thank you.

13 CLERK: Menchaca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I proudly vote
15 aye on all. Thank you.

16 CLERK: Williams.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excuse to speak
18 for my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So ordered.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I
21 neglected to thank the people on my bill. I just
22 want to give a shout out to Reggie Thomas who was
23 very instrumental in moving this forward, and my
24 Deputy Chief of Staff Nick Smith. Just want to say--

25

2 thank him very much for helping get this through, and
3 with that, I vote aye on all.

4 CLERK: Wills. Ignizio.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I ask if I can
6 explain my vote. I vote no on 592 on the equal
7 protection clause issue that I have. And I also just
8 wanted to congratulate and wish well, Brendan Lantry,
9 the Minority Counsel who is off to become the
10 District Director for Congressman Donovan. Where are
11 you, Brendan. I will you well, Brendan and thank you
12 for serving us--serving the City Council. [applause]
13 Thank you very much. I vote aye on all.

14 CLERK: Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

17 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: [off mic] Yes.

18 [pause]

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All
20 items on today's General Order Calendar were adopted
21 by a vote of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative
22 and 0 abstentions with the exception of Intro 592-A,
23 which was adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative,
24 8 in the negative and 0 abstentions. Introduction
25 and Reading of Bills.

2 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: All bills are
3 referred to committees, as indicated on the Agenda.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Discussions of
5 Resolutions beginning with the first Resolution 329-
6 B, Council Member Maisel. Quiet in the Chambers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Thank you very
8 much, Public--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
10 quiet]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: --Advocate. I
12 appreciate it and Speaker. I just want to thank
13 Chairman Ulrich and his staff for putting this
14 resolution together with myself. This is a very
15 important resolution. Everybody talks about the
16 weather, but nobody seems to do anything about it.
17 And the same thing with the veterans. Everybody
18 talks about how important veterans are, and not
19 enough is being done. So this bill hopefully will
20 pass in the Legislature. It will really give a very
21 important assist to our veterans. So, thanks to all.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. And
23 now on Intro 549, Council Member Richards.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: All rightee.
25 Good afternoon again.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
3 Chambers. Quiet in the Chambers. Quiet in the
4 Chambers, please. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: All rightee.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: For those in the
7 balcony, please do not respond. You can respond by
8 waiting your hands. Council Member Richards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: All rightee.
10 Today the Council is making a bold declaration by
11 passing a resolution calling upon Governor Andrew
12 Cuomo to reject an application made by Liberty
13 Natural Gas, LLC to build a liquefied natural gas
14 terminal off the coast of New York. LNG is a
15 natural--is natural gas cooled at extremely low
16 temperatures to reduce its volume for transport. As
17 this altered--at this altered state liquefied natural
18 gas is highly volatile, consists almost entirely of
19 methane, and as to be expected with hydrocarbons has
20 a great economic and carbon footprint. Considering
21 there is no pressing need for natural gas imports to
22 the U.S., it will be safe to conclude that there is
23 no need for an import facility less than 20 miles
24 from off our coast. Port Ambrose may contribute to
25 an increase in hydrofracking across the region.

2 While New York State has banned hydrofracking, this
3 facility will encourage production elsewhere, which
4 threatens the quality of air and water hundreds of
5 miles away from the physical locations of these
6 wells. LNG conversion does not only magnify the harm
7 produced by fracked gas--

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
9 Council Member, please conclude your remarks.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: --but also can
11 propose significant safety risks with its transport.
12 With that being said, I just want to thank many of
13 the advocates who have been a part of this battle,
14 Sane Energy Project, Clare Donohue; Ling Sue, United
15 for Action; League of Women, Consort Voters [sic];
16 New York City Environmental Action Committee; Bill
17 Murray, Samara Swanston, Jerrel Burney, Mercedes
18 Buchanan, Janelle Edwards, Frank Joseph--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 Thank you, Council Member.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: --Speaker Mark
22 Melissa Mark-Viverito. We are moving towards a
23 renewable future. I will sit down now.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, we are.
25 Thank you. Thank you. [cheers] Quiet in the--quiet

2 in the balcony. Quiet in the balcony. And now to
3 vote on Resolution 329-B, an Amended Resolution
4 calling upon the New York State Legislature to pass
5 and the Governor to sign legislature--legislation
6 requiring that SUNY and CUNY Boards of Trustees to
7 adopt policies requiring system universities and
8 colleges to award college credits based on military
9 service. All those in favor say aye.

10 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All those
12 opposed? Any abstentions. The ayes have it. And
13 now to Resolution 549, a Resolution calling on
14 Governor Andrew Cuomo to veto the application by
15 Liberty Natural Gas, LLC to construct the Port
16 Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal off the coast
17 of New York. All of those in favor say aye.

18 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
20 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it. [cheers,
21 applause] Quiet in the balcony. Quiet in the
22 balcony. Thank you. Resolution 652, a Resolution
23 calling upon the United States Congress to pass--
24 Quiet in the Chambers, please.

25 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet down, please.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: The United States
3 Congress to pass, and the President to sign the Grow
4 America Act. All those in favor say aye.

5 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Aye.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those
7 opposed? Any abstention? The ayes have it. General
8 discussion. Council Member Richards.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Wow, okay.
10 Today, I rise to introduce an introduction on Indian
11 Point a reso. The 40-year-old Indian Point Nuclear
12 Power Facility located on the Hudson only 25 miles
13 from New York City has had a constant and dangerous
14 operating problem over the years. A report issued by
15 a Commissioner appointed by former Governor Pataki
16 concluded that there is no way to evacuate the
17 metropolitan area in case of a meltdown. Governor
18 Cuomo has called--

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
20 [shushing for quiet]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: -- for its
22 closure, and in response, the nuclear power industry
23 has lobbied Congress to prevent any State from
24 closing down nuclear power plants. Placing that
25 authority with pro-industry nuclear regulatory

2 commissions. Today, we stand boldly to decide that
3 the lives of our children and the safety of this
4 earth we live in cannot be compromised. Saturday's
5 explosion at the Indian Point Nuclear--nuclear plant
6 was a reminder of the potential environmental hazards
7 posed by the plant. This is after just two days
8 earlier the plant was forced to shut down because of
9 a supposed steam leak. We should not take these
10 warning slightly, but instead, we must move with a
11 sense of urgency for our safety. The risk that we
12 face by keeping this plant open impacts all New
13 Yorkers. Today, we call for the--we ask--I ask my
14 colleagues to support our resolution calling on the
15 United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission to close
16 the Indian Power--the Indian Point Nuclear Power
17 Plant, and move towards a renewable future. Thank
18 you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council
20 Member. [cheers, applause] Quiet in the balcony,
21 please. Quiet in the balcony.

22 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet please.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
24 balcony. [shushing for quiet] Council Member
25 Johnson.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [coughs] Thank
3 you, Madam Public Advocate. Where are my remarks?
4 Okay. Today, I'm introducing a resolution calling on
5 the State Legislature to amend the Mansion Tax to
6 more accurately reflect today's economy. This tax,
7 which has not been altered for 26 years is clearly
8 out of date, and must be adjusted to match
9 inflacement--inflation and no longer burden middle-
10 income home purchasers. Passed in 1989, the Mansion
11 Tax has always been levied on the purchase of real
12 estate--

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
14 [shushing for quiet]

15 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet on the floor,
16 please.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the
18 Chambers.

19 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet on the floor.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Has been levied
21 on the purchase of real estate of a million dollars
22 or more. Of course, in 1989, a million dollars was
23 very different than it is today. Adjusted for
24 inflation, one million dollars in 1989 is equal to
25 just over \$1.9 million in today's terms. Also

2 important is that this tax is meant to apply to
3 luxury properties. Under the most common
4 circumstances, the average home in New York City now
5 costs just over \$1 million. So, by these standards
6 we cannot rightfully call a million dollar property,
7 particularly luxurious that is actually quite
8 standard. This resolution calls on the State
9 Legislature--

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [shushing for
11 quiet]

12 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet, please.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please exit the--
14 please exit the Chamber quietly, please. We're still
15 in session.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: [interposing] --
17 Calls on the State Legislature to raise the maximum
18 tax threshold from \$1 million to \$1.75 million, an
19 additional point and assess an additional .5 tax on
20 all sales over \$5 million. This is not a new law. A
21 brings a 26-year-old law up to date, and it would
22 generate \$34 million in increased revenue for the
23 city. This proposal has both the support of the
24 Mayor and REBNY, and I hope that my colleagues will
25 join us as well. I also ask my colleagues to co-

2 sponsor Introduction 786, which will be an important
3 step as we try to strike the right balance between
4 maintaining effective law enforcement procedures and
5 respecting the civil liberties of our citizens.
6 These two goals are not mutually exclusive by nature.
7 Yet, we continue to treat them as if they are.
8 Contrary to the prescriptions in the State Civil
9 Rights Law and unlike the State DNA Data Bank, the
10 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has created its
11 own database, that retains for the purpose for the
12 continuous searching of the DNA profiles of
13 individuals that the NYPD has identified not as
14 suspects and who have never been convicted of a
15 crime. We need to have a proper balance, and we
16 should get rid of this database that is collecting
17 people's DNA even though they are not suspects. OCME
18 should not have its own database. Thank you very
19 much.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
21 Council Member Rodriguez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
23 First of all, I would like to Mayor de Blasio for
24 spending many hours going to Washington, D.C. leading
25 large numbers of measures throughout the nation that

2 they've been advocating for the Grow America Act as
3 well as that they voted. [sic] Everyone should know
4 how important it is to restore funding for our
5 transportation. At the same time, I would like to
6 say shame on the House of Republicans by cutting \$252
7 million the day before Amtrak has a tragic accident.
8 There should be an uproar to say we need to call to
9 all good Republicans nationwide and Democrats to
10 support President Obama in his initiative for the
11 Grow America Act. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
13 Council Member Kallos.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Today I rise to
15 introduce Resolution 691 urging Congress to pass and
16 the States to ratify a Constitutional amendment
17 giving Congress the authority to limit political
18 spending. Ever since Citizens United versus the FDC
19 and the controversies with the FDC money has flooded
20 our political system ensuring that special interests
21 and the wealthy have an outsized influence while
22 everyday American voices are drowned out. As we
23 enter into the next presidential campaign season, it
24 is time to stop the free flow of money into politics,
25 which is only getting worse. New York State has the

2 opportunity to become the 17th state to sign onto the
3 amendment and we should certainly do so. Thanks to
4 the Democracy for People Campaign for all their work,
5 and all of my Council colleagues who have expressed
6 support for similar goals in the past. I look
7 forward to working together to get New York on board
8 as the 17th state to support a constitutional
9 amendment to protect our democracy. Lastly, I'd also
10 like to welcome Ann Balick [sp?] and Michael Fiedler,
11 two graduate students who have been working on food
12 policy office. I thank them for all their hard work
13 this semesters and their contributions to the city.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
15 Council Member Chin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Good
17 afternoon. I'd like to draw my colleagues' attention
18 to Resolution 686 in support of the national
19 grassroots movement Women On 20s. I'm introducing
20 this resolution with my colleagues and the Women's
21 Caucus. Our resolution is calling on President Obama
22 and Secretary of the Treasury to replace Andrew
23 Jackson on the \$20 bill with a woman. Currently, the
24 important figure of history on our currency are
25 exclusively male. There are no women and no people

2 of color, but that's not the lack of importance to
3 celebrated women figures in our country's history.
4 Who we put on our currency matters. It sends a
5 message about the kind of people we value in our
6 society. Andrew Jackson who was on the \$20 bill is a
7 controversial president credited with devastating
8 policy against our Native-American population.
9 Replacing him with a woman like Harriet Tubman who
10 show our young girls [applause]--

11 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,
12 please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --who are nation's
14 real leaders are. It's past time to modernize our
15 country's currency and with this resolution, we are
16 joining the national movement to say a woman's place
17 is on the 20. I hope my colleagues will join me in
18 supporting this resolution. I also want to take this
19 opportunity to thank our legal intern, Caitlin Gilles
20 [sp?]. Congratulations on her grad--graduation from
21 law school and good luck in the bar exam. Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
23 Council Member Williams. Quiet in the Chambers.

24 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Sit down, please.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'd
3 like to call my colleagues' attention to two bills
4 I'm introducing today. One is Intro 794. It's a
5 bill to create a tax force to assess safety risks at
6 construction sites. While the city is experiencing a
7 construction boom, unfortunately we're also
8 experiencing increasing construction related
9 injuries. Where responsibility demands safety around
10 our construction sites. The DOB is putting out
11 actually some recommendations, and this is one of the
12 recommendations they're putting out. I'll be hoping
13 to look forward--I'm looking forward to working with
14 them on this.

15 The second one is Intro 795, a bill
16 clarifying bicycle access in office buildings. I
17 want to give a shout out to my Director of
18 Constituent Services, Dana Turner, for participating
19 in today's Bike to Work event. The Department of
20 Transportation has rolled out vast improvements to
21 bicycle laws through bikes in buildings. Currently,
22 bicyclists--bicyclists are able to retrieve their
23 bikes in commercial buildings using freight
24 elevators. But many buildings won't allow bikes in
25 passenger elevators if the freight elevator is shut

2 down for the day. This bill would require commercial
3 buildings to allow bikes on passenger elevators in
4 these instances, and would build on the Bikes in
5 Buildings Initiative to improve access to bikes and
6 encourage more bicycle commuting. I also want to ask
7 my colleagues to hopefully meet me and a bunch of
8 housing advocates at the Bridge at roughly two hours
9 and a half where we'll be marching across the
10 Brooklyn Bridge fighting for rent regulation
11 strengthening in Albany. So hope to see you all
12 there.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you,
14 Council Member Eugene.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very
16 much, Madam Speaker. My colleagues, I'm speaking
17 before you today about the Resolution 688-A, that I
18 have to introduced to call upon the Secretary of the
19 Department of Homeland Security to grant the Top
20 Priority--Protected Status, TPS to Nepal and Nepalese
21 living in the United States. As we are aware, Nepal
22 has been devastated by two earthquakes. There are
23 approximately 600,000 homes damaged and another
24 140,000 destroyed altogether. Over 8,000 people have
25 been killed and more than 18,000 more displaced and

2 injured. The United Nations estimates that eight
3 million people, nearly one-third of the Nepalese
4 population, have been affected by the earthquake.
5 According--accounting for 39 of the 27 town
6 districts, the combination of widespread devastation,
7 the major infrastructure and eminent amounts on rent
8 have also critically complicated the recovery
9 efforts. You may probably remember that on January
10 12, 2010, my native country of Haiti was also hit by
11 a major earthquake, and I will never forget the
12 generosity. And also the support to Haiti. I'm
13 calling upon all of you, my colleagues, to support
14 Resolution 688 to call upon the State Department to
15 grant TPS to Nepal. Thank you.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
17 Council Member Levine.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
19 Public Advocate. I'm pleased to call my colleagues'
20 attention to Intro 788, which I'm introducing today
21 to deal with the alarming proliferation of illegal
22 hotels and apartment buildings all over New York
23 City. One of the most powerful tolls we have to
24 fight back against this spread is unknown to most New
25 Yorkers. It is currently illegal for tenants to

2 withhold rent if their landlord is using apartments
3 in their buildings as legal hotels. Few know this.
4 So our bill would insert language clarifying this
5 right into the list of rights and responsibilities
6 sent out to all tenants and landlords. We hope and
7 expect that this would increase the leverage we have
8 in fighting against this unfortunate trend. Thank
9 you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
11 Council Member King.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Madam
13 Public Advocate. I just rise today to just say a
14 brief gratitude for all the mothers again. Happy
15 Mothers--a belated Mother's Day to everyone. I also
16 want to remind the members of the BLAC that we have
17 our general meeting today right after Stated. And
18 also, this morning and this week is Bronx week where
19 we're celebrating the accomplishments of the Bronx.
20 I want to thank the Borough President and our Speaker
21 Carl Heastie for this morning's labor breakfast. I
22 want to give a shout out to all my brothers and
23 sisters in labor especially those in the Doctors
24 Council, plus 32 BJ and also the members of 1199, all
25 those who were the purple and gold. God bless.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
3 Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Madam
5 Public Advocate. I do want to add my voice to that
6 of the Speaker as we acknowledge that who have died
7 in that horrific Amtrak accident. I want to call
8 special attention to Dean Derrick Griffith, whom I
9 knew from his work at Medgar Evers College. And I
10 also want to add that he was the founding principal
11 of CUNY Prep High School in the Bronx. Secondly, I
12 want to say that I'm pleased to know that many women
13 have been freed from captivity in Nigeria, but we're
14 still looking to bring home our girls. I want to
15 keep that in the forefront. And finally, I was
16 pleased to be at a press conference yesterday from a
17 woman to be placed on the \$20 bill. I want to
18 comment the sponsor Margaret Chin and the Women's--
19 the Women's Council--the Women's Caucus for their
20 leadership in this regard. And the founders of this
21 movement here in New York conducted an online poll to
22 see who that person should be. And there were
23 several women who were nominated, and the winner was
24 Harriet Tubman. So I just wanted to share briefly
25 with you some of Harriet's accomplishments and why

2 she's so qualified to be that person. She endured
3 the atrocities and indignities of slavery. She
4 escaped, became a conductor on the Underground
5 Railroad and went back 19 times to free others from
6 slavery. [shushing for quiet] She was a Union spy, a
7 Union cook, a Union nurse, and she collaborated with
8 one of the colonels in the Union Army. And as
9 documented by the Smithsonian Magazine, freed over
10 750 others. She worked vigorously in the Women's
11 Suffrage Movement, and she's just an outstanding
12 person. So I certainly would support her being that
13 person represented on the 20. We're aiming for this
14 to occur in 2020 and we know in terms of vision,
15 20/20 is clear sight. And that would be a clear
16 representation of a great woman representing us and
17 the leadership and the commitment that we've made to
18 this society. Thank you.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
20 Council Member Cumbo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you. I
22 would say that all of my colleagues have clearly
23 expressed so articulately all of the things that I
24 wanted to say. But, I would like to say that the
25 Medgar Evers Community is certainly in mourning at

2 this time, and I wanted to inform everyone that Dean
3 Derrick Griffth's candlelight service will be today
4 at 5:30 p.m. on the college campus at 1650 Bedford
5 Avenue in Brooklyn. And so, let us continue to keep
6 the passengers, crew and their affected families in
7 our thoughts and prayers. And I hope that you all
8 will join me with this college campus who is
9 experiencing a great loss. I spoke with Dr. Rudy
10 Crew today, who has told me that there are many
11 individuals there, mental health professionals that
12 are helping many of the young people at this time.
13 And so, I do hope that many of you will be able to
14 come and join us tonight at 5:30. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
16 Council Member Cornegy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Thank you, Madam
18 Public Advocate. On behalf of Council Member Ruben
19 Wills, who was unable to be here because of a death
20 in his family, I'd like to bring my colleagues'
21 attention to Resolution 698. It's a Reso that calls
22 on the State of New York to establish and innocence
23 inquiry commission to investigate credible post-
24 conviction claims of innocence. The commission would
25 be set up as a neutral body to investigate criminal

2 cases in which there are claims of innocence. The
3 commission's members would consist of credible,
4 verifiable evidence of innocence presented during a
5 formal inquiry, which would also be evidence in the
6 underlying criminal case. The commission's members
7 would then determine whether the inquiry warrants the
8 consideration of exoneration by a judicial tribunal.
9 This method has been tried and prove in the state of
10 North Carolina where it has resulted in eight post-
11 conviction exonerations. Brooklyn's District
12 Attorney Ken Thompson has prioritized the exoneration
13 of wrongfully convicted individuals. To date, 13 men
14 have been exonerated through his acclaimed Conviction
15 Review Unit. Nationwide, 125 overturned convictions
16 were recorded last year by the National Registry of
17 Exonerations, and there have been 1,597 overall since
18 1989. New York State Chief Judge Lippman created a
19 task force to study the causes of wrongful
20 convictions, and proposed reforms, which is a good
21 first step. But bolder action is necessary to
22 address the existing inequities and inadequacies of
23 our criminal justice system. North Carolina has
24 shown the way. It is now time for the State of New
25 York to adopt this transformative measure. I ask you

2 to add your support by signing onto Reso 698. Thank
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
5 Dickens.

6 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Sit down, please.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: No. Council
8 Member Gibson.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam
10 Public Advocate. I, too, want to echo the sentiments
11 expressed by our Speaker in certainly continuing to
12 extend our thoughts and prayers to everyone affected
13 in the Amtrak derailment, particularly those we've
14 lost here at home. And I, too, want to continue to
15 keep my thoughts and prayers for the family and
16 friend and the colleagues in the Police Department,
17 in the 105 Precinct in Queens for Detective Brian
18 Moore as well as Ms. Gertrude Schimmel. It was an
19 honor and pleasure for me to have met Ms. Schimmel
20 twice in February and in March at two events hosted
21 by the Police Women's Endowment Association. And
22 what an honor to see such history in the making of
23 breaking barriers, fighting for equity and fairness
24 and opportunities for women. And just really
25 becoming the first Sergeant, Lieutenant, Deputy

2 Inspector rising to Deputy Chief. And so, I want to
3 thank her for her legacy, her life and her life's
4 commitment to equity will continue to live on for
5 generations to come. And I also want to thank many
6 of my colleagues that joined together this afternoon
7 on the steps with the Alternative to Incarceration
8 Re-Entry Coalition who is very, very firm--

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
10 [shushing for quiet]

11 SERGEANT-A-ARMS: Quiet, please.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: --in fighting
13 for additional funds for alternative measure that
14 keep our young people out of the prison system
15 focusing on prevention and not detention of our young
16 men and women. I'm thankful to be a part of that,
17 and to work with my colleagues so we can ensure that
18 they get the sufficient funding that is necessary in
19 the budget. And I, too, want to thank Council Member
20 King for recognizing that until Sunday we are still
21 celebrating Bronx Week, and how proud we are that we
22 are in a great place in the Bronx. We have a new
23 renaissance. We're booming and we have lots of
24 opportunities and events that are scheduled until
25 Sunday culminating with our Bronx Parade. Please

2 join us at 11:30. It's going to be fun, and I also
3 want to thank all of my colleagues for really
4 promoting opportunities for women. I can't wait to
5 see the day when I can use my \$20 bill and it has
6 Harriet Tubman on it. Thank you, Madam Public
7 Advocate.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
9 Miller.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you, Madam
11 Public Advocate. I'd like to start by thanking the
12 Speaker Mark-Viverito, Chair Gibson, Council Member
13 Richards and other council members for their support
14 in the tragic passing or killing of Detective Brian
15 Moore. The support was very important not just to
16 our community, but particularly to the 105th--the men
17 and women of the 105th Precinct. I also would like
18 to say congratulations to Chair Rodriguez on the
19 passage of 652. This Build American Act is very,
20 very vital to transportation infrastructure funding
21 across America, but in particular here in the Tri-
22 State area. For years, urban America and this city
23 has been disproportionately funded, and this will
24 certainly address the 70/30 split.

25

2 Today, I rise to introduce Resolution 692
3 to 693 to support the plight of farm workers across
4 America. Farm labor has historically been and
5 industry of oppression and it continues to be so with
6 the modern day farmer who's right here in New York
7 State. Collective bargaining is not extended to
8 them, and they are not afforded a full day's rest.
9 Most labor and sanitary laws are not even applied to
10 these men and women. Over the years, the Gerwin
11 workers in California have become a symbol of this
12 movement to improve the lives of those in the farming
13 industry. These workers have been fighting for fair
14 treatment in contract over the past 20 years since
15 Cesar Chavez first organized them. Cities across the
16 nation such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and
17 Washington, D.C. have recently passed resolutions. I
18 ask you all today to support this resolution. These
19 workers--so that these workers have not only the
20 dignity that they are befitting of, but they are
21 treated in the manner that they deserve and that--
22 which is only their inalienable right. So please
23 enact this, and I am privileged [bell] to introduce
24 this resolution today. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member
3 Greenfield.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Almighty and
5 exalted Public Advocate I thank you for [laughter]
6 and allowing me to speak for 120 seconds. I, too,
7 would--would like to recognize and, of course, offer
8 my condolences to the family of Detective Brian Moore
9 and, of course, the extended NYPD family. I want to
10 thank Council Member Miller for his leadership in
11 brining the communities together. I join my
12 colleagues in extending my condolences to the victims
13 of the Amtrak tragedy. I want to actually thank the
14 Public Advocate for traveling recently to Israel for
15 her support with our Chief of Staff and our Jewish
16 Liaison. My only regret is that I wasn't on the trip
17 because I can only imagine that any seven-day trip
18 with the Public Advocate has to have some excitement.
19 So I'm looking for the reels, and I hope that that
20 will be released to the press very shortly. I want
21 to congratulate Jumaane William--

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
23 Please conclude your remarks.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Oh, I want to
25 congratulate-- [laughter] I want to congratulate my

2 colleague Jumaane Williams for his recent birthday on
3 Monday. He says he's 39 years old. We're not sure
4 if that just means that he's 39 forever or he's
5 really 39. No one can sing quite the way he does,
6 but we do wish you a very happy birthday.

7 Congratulations to our dear friend Jumaane Williams.

8 I want to congratulate my friend and colleague Mark
9 Weprin for his new position and appointment with the
10 Governor's Office. I want to thank all of my
11 colleagues who mentioned the 2020 Initiative. When
12 Council Member Chin was discussing it, I was thinking
13 to myself hold on a second. Why don't we just put a
14 female president on the \$20 bill, and then it
15 occurred to me we don't have any female presidents.
16 So maybe we can change that by 2020 as well. And
17 finally, I want to thank the Speaker as well as
18 Laurie Cumbo, Julissa Ferreras, Elizabeth Crowley and
19 Darlene Mealy for their terrific announcement today
20 at the New York Women's Foundation Breakfast on the
21 Young Women's Initiative. I'm very thrilled to hear
22 about that, and wish you a lot of success. Thank
23 you, Madam Public Advocate. I accede to you my final
24 second.

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.
3 Council Member Mendez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you, Madam
5 Public Advocate. My colleagues, today I rise.
6 Today, we voted on Land Use No. 218, which is a UDAAP
7 designation and disposition, which will create in the
8 East Village a LGBT homeless shelter for LGBT youth.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
10 [shushing for quiet].

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: It will create 18
12 beds, and through the years we've been working on
13 this measures and we've allocated through the LGBT
14 Caucus capital funding. And we are now at the point
15 where we're doing this UDAAP designation, and I look
16 forward to everyone joining us when we do the ribbon
17 cutting. And I want to thank our former colleague
18 Lou Fidler, who really worked really hard to help us
19 get--

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing]
21 [shushing for quiet].

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: --these extra
23 beds for LGBT homeless youth. Thank you very much.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now, newly
25 married Council Member Steve Levin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very
3 much, Madam Public Advocate. I just want to take
4 this opportunity to offer my condolences to the
5 family of Detective Brian Moore, and the extended
6 NYPD family. As well as the family of Dean
7 Derrick Griffith and the extended Medgar Evers
8 family. And as well, the family of Justin Zemser,
9 Midshipman, and his family and to the offices of
10 Council Members Eric Ulrich and Donovan Richards. My
11 condolences to you. Thank you.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And lastly, I'd
13 like to invite my colleagues to sing onto Intro No.
14 789, a bill that calls upon the Administration to
15 establish a pilot program to install collision
16 avoidance technology in no fewer than 100 city
17 vehicles. At a time when our city is more than ever
18 attuned to the risk that motor vehicles represent to
19 pedestrian safety, collision avoidance technology
20 promises an approach that will keep our children,
21 elderly. And, even the ever-common oblivious person
22 wearing headphones and staring at their Smart Phones
23 safe--allow them to be safe in the streets of New
24 York City. And so, I urge everyone to sign onto my

2 bill, and now to close, the Speaker Melissa Mark-
3 Viverito.

4 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Madam
5 Public Advocate. I want to thank all the support
6 that colleagues have been expressing when we were--
7 you know, we launched this morning the Young Women's
8 Initiative. Obviously, my female colleagues we've
9 been talking today about having a woman on the \$20
10 bill. We were recognizing some young women here in
11 the Chamber today. You know, I just want to continue
12 to raise awareness on something I've been speaking
13 publicly very much about. We unfortunately in this
14 Council out of 51 council members only have 15 women.
15 We are strong, powerful, very strong and very vocal,
16 but let's be clear that in the next election cycle,
17 six of those 15 women are term-limited and the six
18 are women of color. If we do not actively raise
19 awareness and actively work to make sure that we are
20 recruiting and encouraging women to run. We have the
21 most progressive legislative body in the City of New
22 York that potentially could have less than nine women
23 in the City Council. And so, we really have to be
24 aware of that. Work actively towards making sure
25 that we encourage women to run, and that we nurture

2 them because we know that at these local municipal
3 levels are the pipelines to which we have
4 congressional representatives. We have senators, et
5 cetera. So, let's not forget that. Let's continue
6 raise women up to really fight for our rights. But
7 we also need to make sure--we need to make sure that
8 this legislative body is truly reflective of that
9 gender in terms of the equity in the city. So thank
10 you for that. Thank you for all the work that
11 everybody does and I think we overlooked Debbie Rose
12 who wanted to say something. Okay, Debbie. Go
13 ahead.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. I guess
15 when I was waving my hand you thought I was excited
16 about [laughter] about the bills and I am, and I
17 really am. And, I stand to commend and support my
18 Council Member Chin and all of the women who are in
19 the Women's Caucus for brining this wonderful
20 resolution 686 to the floor. In almost every level
21 of government even including here in the City Council
22 women remain under-represented. And this is true in
23 our currency as well. Almost 100 years ago we won
24 the right to the ballot box, but we still don't
25 receive equal pay for equal work. Putting a woman on

2 our currency would be a constant reminder of that
3 ongoing struggle. Women on 20s announced yesterday
4 that after weeks of online voting Harriet Tubman
5 became the choice to replace Andrew Jackson on the
6 \$20 bill.

7 It is heartening to see an African-
8 American woman on our currency. One who was born a
9 slave replace a slaveholder on the \$20. Who then
10 escaped to freedom, and helped countless others
11 escape to the north via the Underground Railroad.
12 She served Union forces in the Civil War as a scout,
13 nurse, spy and afterward she joined the Susan B.
14 Anthony fight for Women's Suffrage. And speaking of
15 equal pay, despite her years of service in the Civil
16 War, Harriet Tubman never received a regular salary,
17 and was for years denied her compensation. She did
18 not receive a pension for her service in the Civil
19 War until 1899. Again, a reminder that the fight for
20 equal pay continues. I have encouraged countless
21 young women to get more involved in their communities
22 and in government. And I know that for these young
23 women role models are important. So, let's show our
24 young women that we as a nation honor the
25 contributions of women and take the long overdue step

2 of putting a woman on our \$20 bill by 2020. Thank
3 you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [laughs] Thank
6 you.

7 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: We are getting
8 that point [sic] and I think--I guess with that we'll
9 be adjourned.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes, and may all
11 the victims of the Amtrak tragedy rest in peace.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I want my face on
13 the \$20 bill.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [interposing] We
15 stand adjourned.

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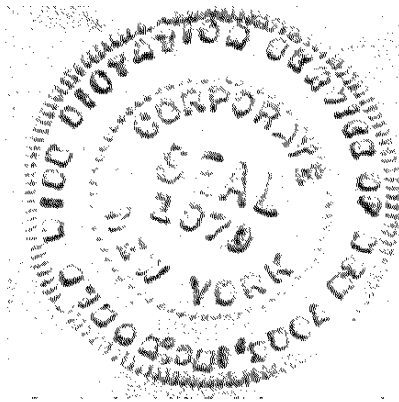
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 May 19, 2015