

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 23, 2018  
Start: 1:30 p.m.  
Recess: 3:07 p.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: LAURIE A. CUMBO  
Majority Leader

COREY D. JOHNSON  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Justin Brannan  
Joe Borelli  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry Grodenchik  
Robert Holden

(CONTINUED)

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Ben Kallos  
Peter A. Koo  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Carlos Menchaca  
Francisco P. Moya  
Keith Powers  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Carlina Rivera  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Paul A. Vallone  
Kalman Yeger

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

## PROCLAMATIONS/CEREMONIALS:

Dr. Peter H.R. Green  
Center for Celiac Disease  
Columbia University

Cynthia Beckman  
Center for Celiac Disease  
Columbia University

Julia Hakem  
Center for Celiac Disease  
Columbia University

Megan  
Apraxia Childhood Speech Non-Profit - CASANA

Christopher's Mother  
CASANA

Leslie Schultz  
President of BRIC

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Abdelrahman Badawi, Cleric  
Muslim American Society Youth Center  
Brooklyn

Jessica Ackerman  
Senior Financial Analysts  
New York City Council's Finance Division

Steve Riester  
Senior Financial Analysts  
New York City Council's Finance Division

15 young people from  
Foster Youth Shadow Day in Partner With  
Fostering Youth Success Alliance and  
Children's Aid

Students from  
Claremont International High School

Jaleka Hamilton  
Majority Leader Cumbo's Mentee

Nibro Kareem  
LeAnn Ma  
Interns to Council Member Chin

Anna Martin  
Council Member Levin's Mentee

Victoria Winham  
Council Member Rose's Mentee

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, we're gonna start  
3 our ceremonials. We're gonna start with Celiac  
4 Disease Center so if the folks from the Center want  
5 to come up, Dr. Peter Green, Cynthia Beckman and  
6 Julia Hakem [phonetic]. Hello, welcome. Thanks for  
7 being here. It's a pleasure Corey. Nice to meet  
8 you, hi. Nice to meet you, hi, Julia, nice to meet  
9 you. So this ceremonial is going to be presented by  
10 the Chair of our Health Committee, Council Member  
11 Mark Levine and the Chair of our Finance Committee,  
12 Council Member Danny Dromm. It's gonna honor and  
13 observe May Celiac Awareness Month and the Celiac  
14 Disease Center at Columbia University that has done  
15 so much great work in helping people fighting this  
16 autoimmune disorder which affects 1 in 100 people  
17 worldwide. In addition to treating this disease,  
18 they work hard to do outreach and educate the public  
19 and the medical community so that fewer cases go  
20 undiagnosed so today we're gonna honor the Celiac  
21 Disease Center at Columbia University for its  
22 extraordinary work in celiac disease, research,  
23 treatment and education and before I turn it over to  
24 these folks, we're gonna read the proclamation.

2 CLERK: Council, City of New York,  
3 Proclamation. In observance of May as Celiac Disease  
4 Awareness Month, the New York City Council is proud  
5 to honor a nationally and internationally recognized  
6 institution that continues to provide the highest  
7 quality compassionate patient care for children and  
8 adults with celiac disease. The Celiac Disease  
9 Center at Columbia University and whereas, celiac  
10 disease is a serious autoimmune disorder that can  
11 occur in genetically predisposed people where the  
12 ingestion of gluten leads to damage in the small  
13 intestine. It is estimated to affect 1 in 100 people  
14 worldwide. Two and one half million Americans are  
15 undiagnosed and are at risk for long term health  
16 complications; and

17 WHEREAS when people with celiac disease  
18 eat gluten their body mounts an immune response that  
19 attacks the small intestine. These attacks lead to  
20 damage on the villi, small fingerlike projections  
21 that line the small intestine and promote nutrient  
22 absorption. When the villi get damaged, nutrients  
23 cannot be absorbed properly into the body; and

24 WHEREAS the Celiac Disease Center at  
25 Columbia University Medical Center is one of the few

2 centers in the United States that provide  
3 comprehensive medical care including nutrition for  
4 adult and pediatric patients with celiac disease and  
5 is diagnosing and treating thousands of patients  
6 annually from around the world; and

7 WHEREAS the Celiac Disease Center  
8 strengths in research and treatment are enhanced by  
9 its location within Columbia University Medical  
10 Center which as a leading medical institution in New  
11 York City provides fertile ground for innovative  
12 research and translational studies across a variety  
13 of divisions, departments, centers and institutes.  
14 As a center in the Department of Medicine at Columbia  
15 University, the Celiac Disease Center is able to take  
16 advantage of many opportunities for interdisciplinary  
17 patient care and research; and

18 WHEREAS under the leadership of Peter HR  
19 Green, M.D. who has served as director since 2001,  
20 the Celiac Disease Center has excelled at everything  
21 from medical consultation, nutritional assessments  
22 and counseling and endoscopy to pathology genetic  
23 testing, patient advocacy and a wide range of ground  
24 breaking clinical research. These activities  
25 combined with successful treatment outcomes for its

2 patients have enabled the Celiac Disease Center to  
3 greatly impact the rate of diagnosis among physicians  
4 across the country; and

5 WHEREAS the Celiac Disease Center's  
6 outreach and education efforts continue to raise  
7 awareness about celiac disease and to educate others  
8 in the medical community so that each year fewer  
9 cases go undiagnosed. To educate the public, the  
10 Center's positions have been featured in the media.  
11 The Center has developed educational materials about  
12 the disease, conducts annual educational events and  
13 family screening programs and organizes conferences  
14 for physicians, nutritionists and other healthcare  
15 practitioners.

16 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN that the New  
17 York City Council gratefully honors the Celiac  
18 Disease Center at Columbia University for its  
19 extraordinary work in celiac disease research,  
20 treatment and education. Corey Johnson, Speaker for  
21 the Entire Council, Mark D. Levine, Chair, Committee  
22 on Health, Daniel Dromm, Chair, Committee on Finance.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.

24 [applause]



2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to, before I  
3 hand it off to you all, I want to allow the Council  
4 Members to say a few words then we'd love to hear  
5 from you. Council Member Dromm.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you  
7 Mr. Speaker and this is Celiac Awareness Month. A  
8 lot of people do not know what celiac disease is all  
9 about so I'm honored today to have the Celiac Disease  
10 Center at Columbia University represented by  
11 Dr. Peter Green, Cynthia Beckman and Julia Hakem here  
12 with us today to talk about celiac disease and to  
13 make people more aware of it and I think the  
14 awareness is a big part of the problem. A lot of  
15 people think that celiac disease is a fad or people  
16 just decide to go gluten free. What are glutens?  
17 Glutens are wheat, barley, oats, rye and oftentimes  
18 foods can be contaminated just by being on the same  
19 grill or in the same oil and so it creates a huge  
20 problem. My own mother had celiac disease and one  
21 time a friend of hers gave her a little, little,  
22 little piece of cookie and she ate it without  
23 thinking and she went into a terrible vomiting and  
24 violent reaction to having ingested that small little  
25 piece of wheat so when I learned of the Center at

2 Columbia University, I said we have to do something  
3 during this month to bring awareness to it and that's  
4 what today is all about is making people aware that  
5 celiac disease exists and that people really suffer  
6 from this disease. In fact, there's, before I turn  
7 it over to Council Member Levine, the Chair of the  
8 Health Committee, when my mother had her heart  
9 attack, she passed away on October 4, but when she  
10 had her heart attack I thought she was having a  
11 reaction to celiac. That's how violent sometimes the  
12 reaction to celiac can be and so we're very grateful  
13 that you're here and we're very grateful that you're  
14 making people aware of this disease. Council Member  
15 Levine.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, well  
17 said Council Member Dromm and thank you, Mr. Speaker,  
18 so much for giving us this chance. Anyone who cares  
19 about this disease needs to watch the video of Chair  
20 Dromm in last Friday's Finance Committee hearing. We  
21 had our oversight of the Health Department budget and  
22 he was absolutely brilliant and fearless in pushing  
23 the Commissioner on this. I think he would have done  
24 the community very proud for his leadership on this  
25 and so much has been said, I'll just briefly say that

2 it's hard to think of another disease which has so  
3 many people who suffer from it who don't know it and  
4 it's estimated to be in the millions nationally,  
5 certainly in the tens of thousands in New York City.  
6 That's a problem we can solve. We can solve it  
7 through awareness and education. Everyone needs to  
8 get screened who's at risk so we can get a diagnosis  
9 and then we as a city need to do more. This is  
10 something Danny's been very strong on to make sure  
11 that when you walk into a restaurant you know whether  
12 or not you're at risk of getting glutens and we're  
13 not up to the standard we should be and we're gonna  
14 continue to work with you as a counsel to make sure  
15 that we achieve that highest standard so  
16 congratulations. Thank you.

17 DR. GREEN: Mr. Speaker and Councilmen,  
18 on behalf of the Celiac Center at Columbia University  
19 I'd like to thank you for the Proclamation, the Bill  
20 and everything that you're doing because as you  
21 mentioned, celiac disease is very common and very  
22 much underdiagnosed and then when people are  
23 diagnosed, the only current treatment is a gluten  
24 free diet and this is a very socially isolating and  
25 restrictive diet. While it's a trend that many

2 people are adopting, it saves the lives of people  
3 with celiac disease so on behalf of the Center again  
4 I appreciate the interest in the disease because only  
5 a few years ago this was labeled as a rare disease  
6 and in the lists maintained by the CDC and it's only  
7 with the research that we and others have done that  
8 has shown that it affects about 1 in 100 people so if  
9 you know 100 people, you should know one person, you  
10 did. If you know 200, you probably don't know the  
11 second person as yet so it's much underdiagnosed and  
12 I think efforts from the City Council will improve  
13 awareness and most importantly improve the quality of  
14 life of individuals because we diagnose this and then  
15 subject people to a very restrictive diet and the  
16 diet then becomes the greatest burden so once again,  
17 thank you very much.

18 [applause]

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations and  
20 thank you for being here. Thank you, thank you for  
21 being here. Thanks for all the work you do. Thank  
22 you for being here. Thanks for all the work you do.  
23 Thank you. Next up we're gonna ask Council Member  
24 Mark Gjonaj to come up and we are going to now  
25 recognize May as Childhood Apraxia Awareness Month.

2 This is an extremely challenging, folks who are here  
3 for that want to come up. This is an extremely  
4 challenging speech disorder that affects thousands of  
5 children in New York City and without appropriate  
6 speech therapy intervention, these children suffer  
7 when it comes to reading, writing and other skills  
8 once they reach school. It is through the commitment  
9 and dedication of their parents and caretakers and  
10 researchers and policy makers, however, to bring  
11 awareness to this disorder and early intervention  
12 that will eventually lead them to succeed so for that  
13 we observe May as Childhood Apraxia Awareness Month  
14 and I want to ask the Clerk to please read the  
15 proclamation and then I'm gonna hand it over to  
16 Council Member Gjonaj.

17 CLERK: Council City of New York  
18 Proclamation.

19 WHEREAS the New York City Council is  
20 proud to observe the month of May as Childhood  
21 Apraxia Awareness month to help raise awareness  
22 throughout the five boroughs about this extremely  
23 challenging speech disorder in children; and

24 WHEREAS Childhood Apraxia of Speech  
25 causes children to have significant difficulty

2 learning to speak and is among the most severe speech  
3 deficits in children; and

4 WHEREAS while the act of learning to  
5 speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with  
6 apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle.  
7 Without appropriate speech therapy intervention,  
8 children with apraxia are placed at high risk for  
9 secondary impacts in reading and writing, spelling  
10 and other school related skills; and

11 WHEREAS most children with apraxia of  
12 speech will learn to communicate with their very own  
13 voices, only if they receive early intervention,  
14 appropriate, intensive and frequent speech therapy;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS it is imperative that there be  
17 greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of  
18 speech in New York City among community members,  
19 physicians, education professionals, policy makers  
20 and elected officials; and

21 WHEREAS funders such as insurance  
22 providers, schools and policy makers are encouraged  
23 to recognize the critical need to provide adequate  
24 speech therapy and other services so that the impact  
25 of this disorder are minimized and so that thousands

2 of affected children can grow into productive,  
3 contributing adult citizens; and

4 WHEREAS our highest respect goes to the  
5 children as well as their families for their effort,  
6 determination, and resilience in the face of such  
7 obstacles. Through our shared commitment, we can  
8 strengthen support systems for children with  
9 childhood apraxia of speech so they the best  
10 opportunity to learn to speak.

11 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN that the New  
12 York City Council hereby proclaims the month of May  
13 to be Apraxia Awareness Month in New York City and  
14 encourages everyone to increase their awareness and  
15 understanding of Childhood Apraxia of Speech. Corey  
16 Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council, Mark Gjonaj,  
17 Council Member, 13<sup>th</sup> District, Bronx.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much. I  
19 want to hand it over to Council Member Gjonaj before  
20 we hear from some of the folks that are here today.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,  
22 Speaker. Yeah, there are 1 in 12 children that  
23 suffer from some type of speech disorder and today's  
24 action by the City Council will recognize this entire  
25 month for some incredible children, moms and dads,

2 and families that have come together to bring public  
3 awareness to something that goes undiagnosed,  
4 misdiagnosed and unfortunately requires a tremendous  
5 amount of therapy. I just want to share with you  
6 that with us we have Christopher and Damien.

7 [applause]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: He's a natural.

9 [laughter]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: They were both  
11 diagnosed at an early age and both families were not  
12 able to get the information on how to deal with the  
13 challenges and they worked really hard. This past  
14 September, Damien was able to say his name out loud  
15 and maybe you'll help us out Damien by saying your  
16 name.

17 DAMIEN: Damien

18 [applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And I'll share  
20 another fantastic story about Christopher where  
21 there's a deli, a special deli in a borough of the  
22 Bronx at Bosco's that actually named a sandwich after  
23 Christopher called the Little Giant

24 [applause]



2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And it's a  
3 grilled sandwich with bacon, American cheese,  
4 mayonnaise and ketchup so.

5 [applause and laughter]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I want to thank  
7 you and all of the colleagues and the City Council  
8 for helping promote this speech disorder that affects  
9 so many and I'm grateful to the parents and I'm  
10 grateful in particular to Megan who brought this to  
11 my attention, has formed her own not-for-profit  
12 promoting the good work that she's done in making  
13 sure that families are better informed so thank you,  
14 thank you Megan and thank you to all the other  
15 families and thank you Damien and Christopher.

16 [applause]

17 MEGAN: Yeah, we just want to thank  
18 Council Member Mark Gjonaj and everybody else for  
19 spreading awareness about apraxia which is a  
20 neurological speech disorder where the child knows  
21 what they want to say but when they go to say it,  
22 they have trouble coordinating their muscle movements  
23 and the muscles required to make like clear speech  
24 sounds and it's important to have awareness because  
25 when my son was first diagnosed it was hard for me to

2 know what to do and before that I was also told a lot  
3 of times by even doctors, other parents, like your  
4 child's just a late talker. They'll talk when  
5 they're ready and sometimes it's more than that so  
6 it's important for parents to know that there's  
7 resources available in their city, in their community  
8 and people to reach out to and just find the right  
9 information about it, yeah so thank you so much.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you so much.

11 Congratulations -

12 CHRISTOPHER'S MOTHER: We're so excited  
13 to be here and I also wanted to add to what Megan  
14 said is that it's so important for us to be able to  
15 spread awareness and be able to create programs  
16 because our sons have that challenge of not speaking  
17 well. Some kids are, who don't speak are seen as  
18 well they can't function, they can't learn. We've  
19 been blessed for the past nine years to be able to  
20 find a school for Chris where he's able to do math,  
21 do reading, come home, work on science and he's had  
22 so much accomplishment in these nine years and it's  
23 all because of the work that we've been doing to push  
24 to make sure that everybody, all over the world,  
25 cause CASANA, the organization that Megan and I

2 belong to does that. There are so many families in  
3 our community who are not aware that we are  
4 supporters, that they're not alone and this day is  
5 very important to us

6 [applause]

7 CHRISTOPHER'S MOTHER: Because when we as  
8 mothers (emotional) stand here, stand here and say  
9 our sons are already somebody.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: That's so beautiful.  
11 Thank you so much. It's so nice to have you. Hi, so  
12 nice to have you here.

13 [Inaudible]

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: No, thank you. You're  
15 awesome, thank you so let's get a photo together with  
16 everyone.

17 [pause]

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I can't wait to have  
19 that sandwich. Congratulations, thank you all so  
20 much. Thanks for being here today. Welcome to City  
21 Hall. A pleasure, welcome, good to see you, welcome.  
22 So next up we are gonna call up and Majority Leader  
23 Cumbo is gonna present the next Proclamation and  
24 ceremonial. We are calling up Leslie Schultz.

25 [applause]

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: If Leslie and the BRIC  
3 family want to come up. [aside] Oh really, that's  
4 awesome. That's amazing, that's great. When is it?  
5 June 5, budget, budget.

6 Welcome, welcome, awesome. Come on up,  
7 stand right over here. Amazing, come on up so we  
8 are, everyone come on up, don't be shy. Come on up,  
9 come on up, both sides, both sides so we are really  
10 proud to honor Leslie Schultz for her amazing service  
11 and contributions as the president of BRIC providing  
12 free cultural programming in Brooklyn and as a  
13 supporter of Brooklyn artists and media influencers.  
14 Under her leadership, she was able to promote and  
15 amplify the stories that benefit the artists and  
16 community at large as well as opening an arts and  
17 media complex which has become a staple of the entire  
18 borough and of our city for impact to this community  
19 and for the entire city is deeply profound and she  
20 has distinguished herself as a powerhouse in this  
21 role.

22 [applause]

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We are sad to see her  
24 go but we wish her the best of luck in her future  
25 endeavors and before I call on the Majority Leader to

2 make a few comments, I'm gonna ask the Clerk to  
3 please read the proclamation.

4 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
5 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
6 honor Leslie G. Schultz upon her departure for her 12  
7 years as the visionary President of BRIC, the leading  
8 presenter of free cultural programming in Brooklyn  
9 and a major incubator and supporter of Brooklyn  
10 artists and media makers; and

11 WHEREAS Ms. Schultz's leadership as  
12 president has enabled BRIC's extraordinarily  
13 dedicated, talented and creative staff and its  
14 tireless board of directors to expand the reach of  
15 the organization to promote access to arts and media  
16 for all, her work has provided meaningful support for  
17 artists and media makers and amplified voices and  
18 stories that benefit both the creators and the  
19 community at large; and

20 WHEREAS when Ms. Schultz arrived at BRIC  
21 in 2005, the organization consisted primarily of  
22 three loosely affiliated programs, the Celebrate  
23 Brooklyn Performing Arts Festival at the Prospect  
24 Park Bandshell, the Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn

2 Heights and Brooklyn Community Access Television  
3 BCAT; and

4 WHEREAS twelve years ago BRIC had annual  
5 operating revenues of \$3.7 million and \$2 million in  
6 long term investments, today BRIC has annual  
7 operating revenues of \$15.8 million and long term  
8 investments of \$17 million

9 [applause]

10 And the size of BRIC's staff has more  
11 than doubled; and

12 WHEREAS in 2013 under her leadership  
13 BRICK opened BRIC House, a 40,000 square foot arts  
14 and media complex that brings BRIC's year round  
15 programs together under one roof and attracts 100,000  
16 visitors each year. The facility includes two  
17 performance spaces, one of which doubles as a town  
18 hall meeting space, a major contemporary art  
19 exhibition space, a program room for small scale  
20 contemporary art exhibitions, a glass wall television  
21 studio where BRIC TV, the award-winning Brooklyn  
22 focused cable and digital network films and  
23 broadcasts at a state of the art public access media  
24 center; and

2 WHEREAS while at the helm of BRIC,  
3 Ms. Schultz also cofounded and provided leadership to  
4 two new major arts organizations, the downtown  
5 Brooklyn arts alliance consisting of 39 local arts  
6 organizations and the new coalition of culturals in  
7 city owned buildings. Upon her departure,  
8 Ms. Schultz has helped usher BRIC into its 40<sup>th</sup>  
9 anniversary year and into a very bright future. She  
10 truly distinguished herself in this role and we wish  
11 her continued success in all of her future endeavors.

12 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT KNOWN that the New  
13 York City Council gratefully honors Leslie G. Schultz  
14 for her outstanding service and enduring  
15 contributions to BRIC and all of New York City.

16 [applause and cheers]

17 Corey Johnson, Speaker for the entire  
18 Council, Laurie A. Cumbo, Majority Leader, 35<sup>th</sup>  
19 District, and many other members of the City Council.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to hand it over  
21 to our wonderful Majority Leader who is a BRIC house  
22 herself.

23 [laughter]

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, I am  
25 just so excited to have you here, Leslie. This is

2 such an incredible celebration of such a dynamic  
3 woman who has taken an institution and transformed it  
4 into a multi-million dollar state of the art art  
5 complex that everyone in the borough of Brooklyn and  
6 the City of New York feels welcome. You have created  
7 an open door, a town hall space where we can discuss  
8 critical topics affecting and impacting Brooklynites  
9 and New Yorkers alike but you're also able to create  
10 these amazing, wonderful concerts at Celebrate  
11 Brooklyn. We're gonna have Common on June 5 and we  
12 invite everyone to come out and make you see this  
13 because Leslie has done something really remarkable.  
14 She has recognized and looked at the culture of New  
15 York City and has made everyone feel welcome from art  
16 exhibitions to performances to gallery openings, to  
17 town hall discussions, to bar mitzvahs, to so many  
18 incredible things that happen at BRIC house and what  
19 I admire about you most is that as a woman to see you  
20 do all of this and to go through a very challenging  
21 health challenge during all of this but you still  
22 held your head high, you continued to push through  
23 and you continued to take this institution to the  
24 next level despite your own challenges and for that I  
25 certainly admire you and I certainly admire the



2 sacrifice you've made to take valuable time away from  
3 your family and your friends who are here with you  
4 today in order to realize this greater vision and  
5 dream for all of Brooklyn. Your legacy is gonna live  
6 on forever. We thank you for the work that you've  
7 done and we're gonna have some great retirement  
8 lunches and hangouts and I also want to note that  
9 Leslie was instrumental in having Utility Relief  
10 which is an important program in the City Council

11 [applause]

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: That we were able  
13 to have baselines because of Leslie's work and this  
14 will provide not-for-profit organizations that are on  
15 city-owned land will not have to pay utilities and  
16 can utilize those valuable resources in order to do  
17 programming, staff, salaries and all sorts of things  
18 so we applaud you for that for making Brooklyn and  
19 the City of New York better. Thank you Leslie, let's  
20 give it up for Leslie.

21 [applause]

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here you go, Leslie.

23 LESLIE SCHULTZ: I'm kinda speechless so  
24 luckily I wrote out some remarks. Laurie, Majority  
25 Leader Cumbo, you blow me away so thank you Speaker

2 Johnson, thank you Majority Leader Cumbo, thank you  
3 Council Member Lander, thank you Council Member  
4 Maisel and all the New York City Council for this  
5 incredible honor. As you might imagine, it's been an  
6 emotional and reflective time for me as I step down  
7 from BRIC. I hope you know that BRIC has the impact  
8 that it has and has become the leading cultural  
9 institution that it has only because of this body,  
10 only because of the New York City Council. Because  
11 of the City Council, BRIC House was built as Laurie  
12 said, a welcoming arts and media center in the heart  
13 of the Brooklyn cultural district which has been  
14 visited by nearly 500,000 people since we opened in  
15 2013. Because of the City Council initiatives such  
16 as the anti-gun violence initiatives, CASA, Su CASA,  
17 digital inclusion, BRIC has vastly been able to  
18 expand our education and community engagement  
19 programs throughout the borough including, thanks to  
20 Council Member Lander, lots of programming in the  
21 Brooklyn public libraries with our media program.  
22 Your Council initiatives change lives. They are  
23 invaluable. Because of the City Council's steadfast  
24 and critical support for New York City's public  
25 access organizations, and this is hugely important,

2 BRIC has been able to amplify community voices around  
3 the issues that matter to New Yorkers including  
4 school segregation, mental health as a civil right,  
5 and the opioid crisis and to win numerous Emmy  
6 awards. We're gonna be back next year, the cable  
7 negotiations, the whole relationship between the  
8 cable access organizations and the cable companies is  
9 coming right back up so I'm gonna be sitting here  
10 listening to you guys talk about this and because of  
11 the support from the City Council, BRIC has been able  
12 to welcome millions of people to the free BRIC  
13 Celebrate Brooklyn Festival for four decades. This  
14 body has been essential to sustaining BRIC as a value  
15 and service driven arts organization. I owe special  
16 thanks and recognition and love to Majority Leader  
17 Cumbo. Laurie, in my work I could not have asked for  
18 a better partner than you. Thanks to your vision and  
19 leadership, which even predates the Council when you  
20 were my colleague, when you founded MoCADA and we  
21 went to your opening and ribbon cutting in 2005 right  
22 when I started I think. The much needed process of  
23 really valuing the arts organization and as you just  
24 mentioned and gave me credit for, but I don't deserve  
25 credit for, challenging conventional wisdom about

2 cultural funding in New York City has begun. Utility  
3 Relief is the beginning of a really new conversation.  
4 Your leadership in advocating for more equitable and  
5 high impact cultural funding has had unimaginable  
6 results and on top of that I do treasure our  
7 friendship and look forward to those lunches. Thank  
8 you all for this honor, Speaker Johnson for your  
9 support and for the joy of getting to know so many of  
10 you over the years.

11 [applause and cheers]

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Congratulations.

13 [pause]

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Okay, we're gonna get  
15 started

16 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
17 can I have your attention please. Quiet on the floor  
18 please. Quiet on the floor please. At this time  
19 please place all electronic devices, all electronic  
20 devices to vibrate. Will all non-Council employees,  
21 non-Council employees please leave the main floor of  
22 the Chambers. Thank you. Madam Majority Leader.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All rise for the  
24 pledge of allegiance.

2 ALL: I pledge to the flag of the United  
3 States of America and to the Republic for which it  
4 stands, one nation under God indivisible with liberty  
5 and justice for all.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please be seated.  
7 Roll call.

8 CLERK: Adams?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

10 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

12 CLERK: Ayala?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

14 CLERK: Barron?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Present.

16 CLERK: Borelli? Brannan?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

18 CLERK: Cabrera?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

20 CLERK: Chin?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

22 CLERK: Cohen? Constantinides?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

24 CLERK: Cornegy? Deutsch? Diaz?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Here.

2 CLERK: Dromm?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

4 CLERK: Espinal?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

6 CLERK: Eugene? Gibson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

8 CLERK: Gjonaj? Grodenchik?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

10 CLERK: Holden?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

12 CLERK: Kallos? King? Koo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

14 CLERK: Koslowitz? Kallos?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

16 CLERK: Lancman? Lander?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

18 CLERK: Levin?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

20 CLERK: Levine?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

22 CLERK: Maisel?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

24 CLERK: Menchaca?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

2 CLERK: Miller? Moya?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

4 CLERK: Perkins? Powers?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

6 CLERK: Reynoso?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

8 CLERK: Richards?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

10 CLERK: Rivera?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

12 CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

14 CLERK: Rosenthal?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

16 CLERK: Salamanca?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

18 CLERK: Torres?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Here.

20 CLERK: Treyger?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

22 CLERK: Ulrich? Gjonaj?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

24 CLERK: Vallone?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

2 CLERK: Van Bramer? Williams? Yeger?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

4 CLERK: Matteo?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

6 CLERK: Cumbo?

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

8 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

10 CLERK: Rodriguez? Rodriguez? No, oh

11 I'm sorry. Okay, thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Please rise for  
13 the invocation.

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Today's  
16 invocation will be delivered by Abdelrahman Badawi  
17 from the Muslim American Society Youth Center,  
18 located at 1933 Bath Avenue in Brooklyn.

19 ABDELRAHMAN BADAWI: I begin in the name  
20 of Allah, the most gracious, the most merciful. All  
21 praise belongs to God. We seek his help, his  
22 forgiveness and his guidance and we seek refuge in  
23 God from the evil within ourselves and the evil that  
24 manifests in our actions. We pray for his guidance  
25 in all our affairs. Allah tells us in the holy Koran



2 (speaking/chanting in Arabic). All mankind, indeed  
3 we have created you from a male and a female and we  
4 made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know  
5 one another. Truly the most noble of you in the  
6 sight of God is the most virtuous of you. Indeed God  
7 is knowing and acquainted. During this blessed month  
8 of Ramadan, we are reminded that indulgence in  
9 worldly pleasures is not the be all, end all of our  
10 existence in this world, rather, this should be a  
11 time of reflection, spiritual growth and connecting  
12 with the community. In the spirit of Ramadan, I ask  
13 Allah to grant us a greater appreciation for one  
14 another and to imbue within us the ability to see  
15 right from wrong and to grant us also the strength to  
16 pursue that right. Oh Allah, grant these men and  
17 women the guidance, wisdom and strength to pursue  
18 justice, compassion and sound judgment. Amen.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, you  
20 may be seated. Now we will have the motion to spread  
21 the invocation in full upon the record by Council  
22 Member Brannan.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you Madam  
24 Majority Leader. I am proud to represent one of the  
25 largest and longest standing Muslim communities in

2 the entire country and I'd like to thank Cleric  
3 Abdelrahman Badawi for being here today and I wish  
4 all of my Muslim brothers and sisters celebrating a  
5 Ramadan mubarak and I make the motion that the  
6 invocation be spread in full upon the record.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and  
8 now we will have the adoption of the minutes by  
9 Council Member Brad Lander.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you, Madam  
11 Majority Leader. I move that the minutes of the  
12 stated meeting of April 11, 2018, be adopted as  
13 printed and without the post meeting cartoon margin  
14 notes proposed by Council Members Reynoso and Holden.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
16 Member Lander. We will now have messages and papers  
17 from the Major.

18 COUNSEL: None.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Communication  
20 from City, County and Borough Offices?

21 COUNSEL: Preconsidered M55, Taxes and  
22 the Discount Rate.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and  
25 Communications?

2 COUNSEL: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land Use Call-  
4 Ups?

5 COUNSEL: M56 and M57.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up  
7 vote and at this time I would ask for roll call vote  
8 on all items on today's Land Use call-up calendar.

9 CLERK: Adams?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Barron?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

15 CLERK: Borelli? Brannan?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Chin?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Cohen? Constantinides?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
21 all.

22 CLERK: Cornegy? Deutsch?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

24 CLERK: Diaz? Dromm?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

2 CLERK: Espinal?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

4 CLERK: Eugene?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

6 CLERK: Gibson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

8 CLERK: Cabrera?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
10 vote on all items and resolutions on today's  
11 calendar.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

15 CLERK: Gjonaj?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all except  
17 preconsidered Resolution 360 and 361.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: At this time,  
19 we're only voting on the Land Use Call-Ups at this  
20 time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: In that case, aye  
22 on all.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

24 CLERK: Grodenchik?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

2 CLERK: Holden? Kallos?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: King? Koo?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

6 CLERK: Koslowitz? Ayala?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

8 CLERK: Lancman? Lander?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

10 CLERK: Levin?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

12 CLERK: Levine?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Maisel?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

16 CLERK: Menchaca?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

18 CLERK: Moya?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

20 CLERK: Powers?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Reynoso?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Madam Majority

24 Leader, permission to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups

25 and items on today's calendar?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes, permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

6 CLERK: Richards?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

8 CLERK: Rivera?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

10 CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

12 CLERK: Rosenthal?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

14 CLERK: Salamanca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on  
16 all Land Use Call-Ups and with permission, I'd like  
17 to vote aye on all items on the general order  
18 calendar and all resolutions.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Go ahead,  
20 proceed.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I said I vote  
22 aye on all Land Use Call-Ups and with permission, I'd  
23 like to vote aye on all items on the general order  
24 calendar and all resolutions.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
3 granted and Council Member Reynoso, I need an  
4 official aye on all from you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all from  
6 Antonio Reynoso.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Torres? Treyger?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER (FEMALE VOICE):  
11 Ayoh.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER (FEMALE VOICE):  
14 Whatever.

15 CLERK: Ulrich? Vallone?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

17 CLERK: Van Bramer? Williams? Yeger?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

19 CLERK: Matteo? Cumbo?

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Today's Land Use  
24 Call-Ups are adopted by a vote of 39 in the

2 affirmative and 0 in the negative. We will now have  
3 communication from the Speaker.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon, first I  
5 would like to, if folks could shhhh

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Quiet in the  
7 Chambers.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: First I'd like to take  
9 a moment to remember all the victims of last Friday's  
10 tragedy at Santa Fe High School in Texas. Yet again  
11 we all stand and mourn for those who have fallen due  
12 to gun violence. To those who say that it's too  
13 early to talk about the need for common sense federal  
14 gun legislation, I, of course, vehemently disagree.  
15 It's always too late. It's too late for the kids in  
16 Santa Fe. It was too late for the kids in Parkland  
17 and my heart breaks for all the children and families  
18 and teachers affected by the horror that took place.  
19 We'll continue to keep them in our thoughts and  
20 prayers but we know that thoughts and prayers are not  
21 enough. Action is what we need and we are calling on  
22 political leaders to take action to end these  
23 incidents of horrific and needless violence. Today  
24 we're also thinking about two members of the NYPD,  
25 Michael Colangelo and John Martinez who died in a



2 tragic car accident on what was supposed to be one of  
3 the happiest weekends of their lives. Michael had  
4 just gotten married and he leaves behind his bride.  
5 Our thoughts and prayers are with her, these  
6 officer's families and friends and the entire New  
7 York City Police Department. Also, let us remember a  
8 hero we recently lost due to illness. After  
9 answering the call on September 11, 2001 as a New  
10 York City Police Department officer, Scott Blackshaw  
11 spent six weeks at Ground Zero. Scott battled cancer  
12 he contracted from being on the pile and has passed  
13 away at 52 years old. Our thoughts and prayers are  
14 with Scott and his entire family. In the last few  
15 days we lost a major labor leader in New York City,  
16 Thomas VanArsdale who was the former president of the  
17 New York City Central Labor Council, a former  
18 business manager of Local 3 of the IBW and he was a  
19 resident of Eletchester in Queens and I would also  
20 like to extend my deep condolences to a member of the  
21 City Council's Community Engagement Division, Lynn  
22 Schulman. Lynn's partner of almost 30 years,  
23 Adelaide Connaughton, passed away unexpectedly a  
24 little more than a week ago. Adelaide was a legend,  
25 truly a legend in Queens, having served in this body

2 for former Council Member Marguerita Lopez. In the  
3 last many years, she worked at the Fortune Society  
4 helping so many people who were formerly  
5 incarcerated. Lynn, we are so, so sorry for your  
6 loss and we will forever keep Adelaide in our hearts.  
7 Let us take a moment of silence if folks could please  
8 rise.

9 [pause]

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you all very  
11 much.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: At this time I would  
14 like to recognize two members of the New York City  
15 Council's Finance Division who are leaving us,  
16 Jessica Ackerman and Steve Riestler. Jessica and  
17 Steve both served as Senior Financial Analysts for  
18 three years here on the Council. Jessica worked on  
19 the Youth and Higher Education committees and Steve  
20 worked on the Public Safety and Justice System  
21 committees. We thank Jessica and Steve for their  
22 service and wish them well as they return to their  
23 home states of Virginia and Ohio respectively. Let's  
24 give Jessica and Steve a big round of applause.

25 [applause]

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finally today marks the  
3 third annual Foster Youth Shadow Day here at City  
4 Hall.

5 [applause]

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The Council is really,  
7 really proud to host Foster Youth Shadow Day in  
8 partner with Fostering Youth Success Alliance and  
9 Children's Aid. Today we have 15 extraordinary young  
10 people. I'm really happy to be joined by my new  
11 friends here who have spent time in the foster care  
12 system. They have been sharing their stories with us  
13 while also representing the experience of their  
14 peers. We are also inspired by these young adults  
15 and we've learned so much. I want to thank them for  
16 being here. I want to thank my fellow Council  
17 Members for participating and before we give these  
18 amazing young people a round of applause, I was  
19 wondering if Council Member Levin wanted to say  
20 anything about today because he's been instrumental  
21 in this.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Well, thank you  
23 Speaker. I just want to welcome all of the young  
24 people to the Council to, not only for you to learn  
25 about what happens here at the Council and how we

2 conduct the people's business here in New York City  
3 but also so that we may learn from you, learn about  
4 your experiences, learn how we can improve the foster  
5 care system in New York and indeed all of these  
6 services that go into supporting our young people.  
7 The first Foster Youth Shadow Day resulted in seven  
8 pieces of legislation being passed out of this  
9 Council and signed into law. We look forward to  
10 continuing to work with you so that we can be  
11 informed with new pieces of legislation in this term  
12 to continue to meet the needs of youth in foster care  
13 and so I want to thank all of you. I want to thank  
14 the Children's Aid Society for helping put this  
15 together as well, the Jewish Board Fostering Youth  
16 Success Alliance as well as Council staff who helped  
17 put this together. In particular, I want to thank  
18 Lynn Schulman who put in a lot of work to make sure  
19 that today is a success but I want to thank everybody  
20 that's been involved in putting this all together for  
21 another successful Foster Youth Shadow and Mr.  
22 Speaker I want to thank you for your incredible  
23 support of the youth in foster care and who have aged  
24 out of foster care in New York City. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Can we give a big  
3 hearty welcome and round of applause for the young  
4 people that are with us today and how amazing they  
5 are.

6 [applause and cheers]

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Welcome to each and  
8 every one of you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And I especially  
10 want to thank Anna, my shadow today. Thanks.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So we are now going to  
12 jump into our docket for the day. The Council will  
13 vote on several finance items, Introduction 882,  
14 sponsored by Council Member Dromm, the Chair of our  
15 Finance Committee, would change the date of initial  
16 eligibility for the small business tax credit against  
17 the commercial rent tax, the CRT, changing it from  
18 July 1, 2018 to June 1, 2018 to align with the CRT  
19 fiscal tax year. The Council will vote on seven  
20 Article XI exemptions, Seneca Avenue, Lafayette  
21 Morrison, Teller Avenue and Aquinas all in Council  
22 Member and Chair of the Land Use Committee  
23 Salamanca's district. We're also gonna be voting on  
24 Inwood House in Council Member Rodriguez's district,  
25 Essie Jeffries in Council Member Levine's district

2 and Rockaway Village in Council Member Richard's  
3 district. I want to thank the staff who worked on  
4 this, especially Rebecca Chasen, the counsel for our  
5 Finance Committee. The Council will also be voting  
6 on the following Land Use items: PRC Tiffany Street,  
7 the Council will be voting to approve an Article XI  
8 tax exemption to facilitate the development of a new  
9 100% affordable housing project with 161 residential  
10 units in Chair Salamanca's district. Bethany Place,  
11 the Council will be voting to approve an Article XI  
12 tax exemption to facilitate the preservation of one  
13 building totaling 23 residential units at 100%  
14 affordable housing in Council Member Perkins'  
15 district. Two Buildings Tenants United HGFC, the  
16 Council will be voting for approval of a UDAC project  
17 and a tax exemption for two, six-story buildings in  
18 Council Member Rivera's district. CSH, the Council  
19 will be voting to approve a tax exemption for two  
20 small buildings that are part of a larger portfolio  
21 of preserved affordable housing administered by the  
22 Corporation for Supportive Housing in Council Member  
23 Ampry-Samuel's district. MPLP Uptown Cluster 6, the  
24 Council will be voting for approval of a tax  
25 exemption in a UDAC project to facilitate the

2 disposition of six city-owned buildings totaling 82  
3 units. The units will be preserved at 100%  
4 affordable housing and these are in Council Member  
5 Perkins' district. 615 West 150<sup>th</sup> Street, we will  
6 also be voting to approve an Article XI tax exemption  
7 to facilitate the preservation of two buildings  
8 totaling 80 units of 100% affordable housing. The  
9 buildings are located in Council Member Levine's  
10 district. I want to thank the Land Use staff who  
11 worked on these items, Amy Levitan [phonetic], Julia  
12 Luben, Jeff Une [phonetic], Brian Paul and Liz Lee.  
13 Today the Council's gonna be voting on the following  
14 legislation: First, Introduction 210-B sponsored by  
15 Minority Leader Matteo, would require that property  
16 owners be given more time to make necessary repairs  
17 to sidewalks adjacent to their properties increasing  
18 the time allowed from 45 days to 75 days giving  
19 property owners an additional month. The purpose of  
20 this legislation is to allow more time for these  
21 owners to complete sidewalk repairs. I want to thank  
22 the staff who worked on this, Malick Nasaridine  
23 [phonetic], Jonathan Massarano [phonetic] and Emily  
24 Rooney. Next, another bill, it's Staten Island GOP  
25 day here at the Council. Next, Introduction 189-A

2 also supported and sponsored by Council Member and  
3 Minority Leader Steven Matteo would require that  
4 automated external defibrillators AED's be provided  
5 to youth softball leagues playing on city owned land  
6 at no cost. Cardiac arrest is the second highest  
7 cause of death in athletes under the age of 14 years  
8 old. Softball is the second highest incident rate of  
9 commotio cordis events and 75% of people who  
10 experience this type of cardiac arrest are under 18  
11 years old. An automatic external defibrillator AED  
12 is the only effective treatment for restoring a  
13 regular heart rhythm during a sudden cardiac arrest  
14 event and it's easy

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Shhhh, quiet in  
16 the Chambers.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And it's easy to  
18 operate for someone with no medical background. I  
19 want to thank the staff Zema Wahalu [phonetic], Emily  
20 Balkin, Christopher Sartori [phonetic], Patrick  
21 Movahill [phonetic] and Jeanette Merrill for working  
22 on that piece of legislation. Introduction 14-A  
23 sponsored by Council Member Borelli would require  
24 that mandatory citywide campaign dates be  
25 simultaneously broadcast on city owned or operated



2 television channels with the largest public audience.  
3 In 2017, some of the citywide debates were sponsored  
4 and aired by cable television stations leaving New  
5 Yorkers who did not subscribe to that service unable  
6 to watch that debate on their own televisions. This  
7 bill would ensure that no matter who the primary  
8 broadcast sponsor is, the citywide debates will be  
9 viewable by as many New Yorkers as possible. I want  
10 to thank the staff who worked on this, Brad Reed,  
11 Elizabeth Crunk [phonetic], Zack Harris and Rachel  
12 Cordaro [phonetic] and lastly, Introduction 895  
13 sponsored by Council Member Daneek Miller would  
14 extend health insurance coverage for surviving family  
15 members of DOT Bridge's electrician, George Staab who  
16 was killed on the Hutchinson River Parkway on April 4  
17 during the performance of his duties. The  
18 Administrative Code already recognizes and authorizes  
19 health insurance to be provided to family members of  
20 uniformed employees of the Police, Fire, Correction  
21 and Sanitations Department who have been killed in  
22 the line of duty and we want to ensure that  
23 Mr. Staab's wife and two surviving children are  
24 protected. I want to thank the staff who worked on  
25 this, Malcolm Buthorn [phonetic], Kim Macitaski

2 [phonetic], Kendall Stevenson and Teer Znaser  
3 [phonetic]. That concludes our agenda for today's  
4 stated and I look forward to proceeding with today's  
5 votes. I'll turn it back to you Madam Majority  
6 Leader. It's nice to see you up there today.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pay attention.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We're now gonna  
10 have, I'm used to sitting with my colleagues. Before  
11 we get to the discussion of general orders, I want to  
12 recognize Claremont International High School that is  
13 here with us today. Can you all wave.

14 [applause and cheers]

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And I want to  
16 take Majority Leader privilege just to introduce to  
17 you all my mentee for today. This is Jaleka Hamilton  
18 who graduated from LaGuardia College and headed to  
19 Queens College.

20 [applause]

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: This is the new  
22 face of leadership here so now we are gonna call on  
23 Council Member Matteo, then followed by Council  
24 Member Deutsch.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you,  
3 Majority Leader Cumbo. Two years ago this Council  
4 passed legislation, Speaker Johnson who was then  
5 Chair of the Health Committee and I introduced  
6 legislation that requires an operable automatic  
7 external defibrillator or AED be present at every  
8 little league game and practice played on a city  
9 owned field. Under that legislation which became  
10 Local Law 57 of 2016, AED's and training sessions for  
11 coaches and league officials and their proper use are  
12 now provided free of charge by the Parks Department.  
13 As I said on many occasions, my intention has already  
14 been to continue to expand AED access and providing  
15 them for youth softball leagues is the next logical  
16 step. Intro 189-A will do just that. This bill will  
17 build on the great success we have already had with  
18 the Little League AED Program. In fiscal year 2018,  
19 Parks deployed more than 1,500 AED's to little  
20 leagues across the city, held more than 435 AED  
21 training sessions and certified more than 3,000  
22 people including coaches, little league officials and  
23 parents and their youths and just as important the  
24 Little League AED program is inexpensive and  
25 efficient. AED certification training is required

2 every two years and the AED's themselves must be  
3 replaced every seven years or so which means the  
4 annual cost of this program is about \$600,000. In  
5 the two little league seasons, not one AED has been  
6 lost or damaged and no league has been violation of  
7 the law. According to Parks, about 100 youth  
8 softball leagues that field about 500 teams would be  
9 added to this program under this introduction. The  
10 additional annual cost would be about \$300,000 per  
11 year. I will continue to introduce further  
12 legislation and to work with all of you in ways we  
13 can make AED's accessible for all New Yorkers. The  
14 reason is simple. AED's save lives. The second bill  
15 we are voting today is Intro 210-B which will give  
16 homeowners more time to correct sidewalk violations.  
17 Last year alone the Department of Transportation  
18 issued nearly 15,000 violations to property owners  
19 for defective sidewalks. Under current law, owners  
20 have only 45 days to repair these sidewalks before a  
21 lien is placed on their homes. This is simply not  
22 enough time. It is not enough time to get quotes  
23 from contractors, compare prices and to schedule and  
24 complete repair work and no work can be done during  
25 the cold months and inclement weather which this year

2 extended from November to one of the harshest early  
3 springs we have experienced. The time constraint  
4 exacerbated even further if the homeowner does not  
5 have the money to make the repairs readily available  
6 which is a reality for so many families or seniors on  
7 fixed incomes. Intro 210 will extend the time  
8 homeowners have to correct an unsafe sidewalk  
9 violation before a lien is imposed from 45 days to 75  
10 days. This is fairer, more reasonable and less  
11 punitive than the current law. I want to again thank  
12 the Speaker, Health Community Chair, Mark Levine,  
13 Transportation Committee Chair, Ydanis Rodriguez for  
14 their support. I also want to thank Jeff Baker and  
15 Malick Nasaridine and the rest of the staff who  
16 worked on these important bills as well as my own  
17 staff and I urge all my colleagues to vote in favor  
18 of these two bills. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
20 Minority Leader Matteo. Are there any others for  
21 discussion of general orders? Seeing none, we are  
22 now going to have the report of Special Committees.

23 CLERK: None

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We're now going  
25 to have the report of Standing Committees.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 54

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Civil  
3 Service and Labor Intro 895, Survivor Benefits.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
5 orders.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
7 Finance Intro 882, Commercial Rent Tax Credit.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
9 orders.

10 CLERK: Preconsidered M55 and  
11 Preconsidered Reso's 359, 360 and 361, Real Estate  
12 Taxes.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
14 orders.

15 CLERK: Preconsidered LU95 and Reso 364  
16 through Preconsidered LU101 and Reso 370, Various Tax  
17 Exemptions.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
19 orders.

20 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
21 Governmental Operations Intro 14A, Debate  
22 Broadcasting.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 general orders.

25

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health  
3 Intro 189A, Defibrillators at softball fields.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: And congratulations to  
5 Minority Leader Matteo who has been very passionate  
6 on this. Amended and coupled on general orders.

7 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
8 Use, LU66 and Reso 371 and LU68 and Reso 372, Tax  
9 Exemptions.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
11 orders.

12 CLERK: LU71 and Reso 373 through LU80  
13 and Reso 376, various UDAPS and another Tax  
14 Exemption.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
16 orders.

17 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
18 Transportation Intro 210-B, Sidewalk Repairs.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Matteo Day, Amended and  
20 coupled on general orders.

21 CLERK: On the General Order calendar,  
22 Intro 720, Site Safety Training.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid Over.

24 CLERK: Resolution Appointing Various  
25 Persons, Commissioner of Deeds.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
3 orders and at this time I would ask for Roll Call  
4 vote on all of the items on today's general order  
5 calendar.

6 CLERK: Adams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Ayala

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Barron?

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

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
16 granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. I  
18 vote aye on all with the exception of Land Use 68. I  
19 think that as we talk about the increasing number of  
20 homeless people, talk about those who are rent  
21 burdened and talk about people who can't afford to  
22 pay their rent, we are now creating another situation  
23 where in Harlem which I believe has a AMI of about  
24 probably 60, 60% of the AMI for the median  
25 population, we're gonna be introducing housing at



2 120% of AMI so with that I vote No on Land Use 68 and  
3 the accompanying resolution. I think it contributes  
4 to displacement and gentrification and I vote aye on  
5 all the other.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 CLERK: Borelli?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all  
9 except preconsidered Reso 360.

10 CLERK: Brannan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Chin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Cohen?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Constantinides?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
18 all.

19 CLERK: Deutsch?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Diaz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye on all except  
23 on Resolution 360 and 361.

24 CLERK: Dromm?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

2 CLERK: Espinal?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Eugene?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Gibson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Gjonaj?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all except  
10 for Resolution 360 and 361, if I can explain my vote.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I think charging  
13 18% interest on real estate tax defaults is not the  
14 right way to go. Some of these homeowners fall  
15 behind for a good reason and it's not because they  
16 choose not to pay their real estate taxes timely and  
17 18% will just further undermine their ability to get  
18 out of this debt, let alone be able to get a life  
19 preserver and assistance to pay back these taxes  
20 timely so I would encourage other colleagues to do  
21 the same understanding that this type of penalty and  
22 interest rate which is compounded annually is truly  
23 gonna hurt some of our homeownership and create more  
24 homelessness in the city.

25 CLERK: Grodenchik?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all  
3 except preconsidered Reso 360.

4 CLERK: Holden?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all except  
6 Resolutions 360 and 361.

7 CLERK: Kallos?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Koo?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Lander?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Levin?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

15 CLERK: Levine?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Maisel?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

19 CLERK: Menchaca?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Moya?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all with the  
23 exception of preconsidered LU99.

24 CLERK: Barron?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, I want to  
3 change my vote for the reasons that have been stated.  
4 I'm voting No on 360 and 361. Thank you.

5 CLERK: Powers?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Richards?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all  
9 except preconsidered Reso 360.

10 CLERK: Rivera?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye on all  
12 except Land Use 66 of which I've abstained from the  
13 decision making process. My husband is affiliated  
14 with Camber Property Group that is the subject of  
15 this legislative vote and for this reason I elect to  
16 recuse myself from Land Use 66 but I vote aye on all,  
17 everything else.

18 CLERK: Rose?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Permission to  
20 explain my vote.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
22 granted.

23 SPOKESPERSON FOR COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE:  
24 Aye on all except preconsidered Resolution on 360 and  
25 361.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
3 and I'll just need a further confirmation from  
4 Council Member Rose if you could just speak into the  
5 mike.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes, aye on all  
7 except for preconsidered Resos 360 and 361. Thank  
8 you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, you've  
10 had a wonderful spokeswoman today. Thank you.

11 CLERK: Rosenthal?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Torres?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on  
15 all.

16 CLERK: Treyger?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

18 CLERK: Ulrich?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all  
20 except preconsidered Reso 360 and I also ask for  
21 unanimous consent to vote on all Land Use Call-Ups.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
23 granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you. For  
25 the Land Use I vote aye on all.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

4 CLERK: Vallone?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all with  
6 the exception of Reso 360 and 361.

7 CLERK: Yeger?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Madam President,  
9 may I be excused to explain my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission  
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. I vote  
13 aye on all with the exception of Resolution 360 and  
14 361 and I wish to associate myself with the comments  
15 of my colleague, Council Member Gjonaj, as has been  
16 stated and as I've stated previously in conversations  
17 in this Council, I believe that these interest rates  
18 are [Inaudible]. My feeling and I'm a renter so I  
19 don't have the privilege of paying real property  
20 taxes like so many other New Yorkers but my feeling  
21 is that when people don't pay their property taxes,  
22 it's not because they choose not to pay their  
23 property taxes. It's because they're having some  
24 tough times. Generally speaking, people pay their

2 property taxes because the penalty for not doing so  
3 is the city will sell the lien

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Quiet in the  
5 Chambers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, the  
7 city will sell the lien and people will lose their  
8 properties so when people have the trouble of paying  
9 their property taxes on time, the city shouldn't put  
10 its foot on the neck of the homeowner and for that  
11 reason I respectfully and with admiration for my  
12 colleagues who are unable to join me on this, I vote  
13 no on 360, 361 and I proudly join in voting in favor  
14 of Mr. Minority Leader's bill which I cosponsored to  
15 make it easier for people to repair the sidewalk  
16 violations in front of their homes. We know and  
17 we've all heard anecdotally and we've all handled  
18 cases like this in our offices and myself as a  
19 community board member before I joined the Council,  
20 of people who received the sidewalk violation notices  
21 and the clock starts ticking immediately and they're  
22 unable to comply on time and the next thing they  
23 know, they get a bill from the city for, you know, an  
24 untorrid [phonetic] amount. This bill will make it  
25 fairer, easier, more responsible for people to comply

2 with the law and I congratulate Mr. Minority Leader  
3 on introducing this bill. Thank you Madam President.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Matteo?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [Inaudible]

7 CLERK: Cumbo?

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We're going to  
12 allow some time for the votes to be tallied.

13 [pause]

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All items on  
15 today's general order calendar were adopted by a vote  
16 of 42 in the affirmative, 0 negative and 0  
17 abstentions with the exception of preconsidered  
18 Resolution 360, which was adopted by a vote of 30 in  
19 the affirmative, 12 in the negative and 0  
20 abstentions. For preconsidered Resolution 361 was  
21 adopted by a vote of 35 affirmative, 7 negative and 0  
22 abstentions and for Land Use 68 and Resolution 372  
23 which was adopted by a vote of 41 affirmative, 0  
24 negative and 1 abstention. For Land Use 99 and  
25 Resolution 368, which was adopted by a vote of 41 in



2 the affirmative, 1 negative and 0 abstention. The  
3 revised Land Use Call-Up vote is 42 in the  
4 affirmative and 0 negative. Give us one moment.  
5 Okay, we will now move into Introduction and Reading  
6 of Bill.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All items have been  
8 referred to the Committees as indicated on the  
9 printed agenda.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We're gonna have  
11 discussion of Resolutions. Please remind the members  
12 that anyone wishing to vote no or abstain on today's  
13 resolutions should approach the desk before the  
14 meeting ends to register their vote. For Resolution  
15 190 a resolution calling on the United States Supreme  
16 Court to protect public sector collective bargaining  
17 in *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and*  
18 *Municipal Employees*. All those in favor,

19 CITY COUNCIL: Aye.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any opposed? The  
21 ayes have it and now we're gonna go to a Resolution  
22 acknowledging workers' gains through the American  
23 Labor Movement. All those in favor,

24 CITY COUNCIL: Aye.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any opposed? The  
3 ayes have it. Shhhhh. Okay and we have a vote  
4 revision. Just want to bring to your attention for  
5 Land Use 68 and Resolution 372 which was adopted by a  
6 vote of 41 in the affirmative, 1 negative and 0  
7 abstentions. For Land Use 66 and Resolution 371  
8 which was adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative  
9 and 1 abstention. Now moving on to general  
10 discussions starting with Council Member Koo.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Majority  
12 Leader. I stand here today to ask my colleagues to  
13 join me in supporting three bills. The first bill,  
14 Intro 942, will require the city to develop and  
15 publish a comprehensive plan regarding the  
16 distribution and use of city issued parking permits.  
17 Until there's a serious investment in public  
18 transportation, many of my constituents must still  
19 rely on calls to get around northeast Queens and  
20 parking is at premium. We must find a way to ensure  
21 that our police officers and teachers are able to go  
22 to work while ensuring that the number of permits  
23 they are issued make sense and that we stop any abuse  
24 of these permits. Reso 363 is a common sense  
25 legislation that will call upon the NYCDOE to enforce

2 an existing regulation which requires students on  
3 school buses to wear seat belts until the bus comes  
4 to a destination stop and the last bill is a  
5 Resolution 362. I would defer to Council Member  
6 Holden to explain the details. Lastly as May is  
7 Asian American Pacific Heritage month, I invite you  
8 all to join us next Wednesday, May 30, in Chambers  
9 for a celebration. Yes, there will be plenty food  
10 available. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I most certainly  
12 will be there. You do a very fine celebration.  
13 We'll now hear from Council Member Chin:

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, good  
15 afternoon. I want to ask my colleagues to take a  
16 look at Intro 932, legislation to curb parking permit  
17 abuse that plagues our residents, small businesses  
18 and communities. Any given day, more than 160,000  
19 legally issued placards are in circulation in New  
20 York City. They are given to court workers,  
21 teachers, police officers and staff of various city  
22 agencies. When used properly placards allow  
23 government employees to temporary park in certain  
24 spaces in order to do their jobs. However, when  
25 these people abuse this privilege, they park at one

2 spot for days at a time or park at the crosswalk, bus  
3 stop, bus lane, and no standing zones and in front of  
4 fire hydrants. At best, placard abuse is an  
5 inconvenience to drivers who follow the rules. At  
6 worse, it's a safety hazard for the community. Worst  
7 of all, it is nearly impossible to see and  
8 distinguish real placards from fabricated ones.  
9 Intro 932 will allow the city to immediately revoke a  
10 person's placard parking permit and prohibit the  
11 issuance of new permits to anyone who is guilty of  
12 misusing their city issued parking permits more than  
13 three times in one calendar year or using a  
14 fraudulent or altered placards. In neighborhoods hit  
15 with congestions, misuse of these permits shows a  
16 blatant disregard for residents whose family and  
17 businesses depend on access to parking spots in their  
18 own neighborhood. I want to thank Nusat Todarie  
19 [phonetic] for her work on this bill and I hope that  
20 my colleagues will help me to curb placard abuse by  
21 signing onto Intro 932 and I also want to take this  
22 opportunity to thank two of my interns, Nibro Kareem  
23 [phonetic] and LeAnn Ma [phonetic] for their work in  
24 our district. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much  
3 Council Member. Now we will hear from Council Member  
4 Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
6 much, Madam Majority Leader. I want to take this  
7 opportunity to welcome my friend, my shadow for the  
8 day, Anna Martin. Anna is a 10<sup>th</sup> grade student at  
9 Linden High School and she has a lot of great dreams  
10 and aspirations. She wants to be a social worker  
11 when she enters her career and I think that is a  
12 fantastic profession and a fantastic objective and I  
13 want to take this opportunity to introduce her and  
14 have her say a few words.

15 ANNA MARTIN: Okay, I just wanted to just  
16 speak and say thank you for everybody involved on  
17 letting me participate in this wonderful event for  
18 the day. It was a very great experience. I learned  
19 a lot. Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to  
23 say thank you. You have tremendous courage to speak  
24 here today before the Council and we all know as  
25 members, the first time we come into this Chamber it

2 can be quite an intimidating experience so for all of  
3 you to be here to speak on the microphone, to  
4 introduce yourself to members, takes a great deal of  
5 courage and we appreciate it, we support it, and we  
6 thank you so much for being here. It's an honor to  
7 have you here and hopefully one day you'll be sitting  
8 in these same chairs as us. Thank you.

9 [applause]

10 ANNA MARTIN: Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
12 Deutsch.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you, I do  
14 feel intimidated by our acting public advocate so.

15 [laughter]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Congestion and  
17 lack of parking plaques nearly neighborhood here in  
18 New York City. It can be particularly frustrating  
19 for drivers when the Department of Transportation is  
20 conducting milling and paving work while closing down  
21 street and removing parking spots for several weeks.  
22 Intro 935 aims to minimize the effect of this  
23 roadwork on local residents by suspending alternate  
24 side parking regulations within a five block radius  
25 of any DOT resurfacing work. When parking is

2 reduced, it can contribute to additional traffic as  
3 drivers circle endlessly looking for a parking spot  
4 but Intro 935 will have the added benefit of reducing  
5 that congestion by providing drivers with ample  
6 parking options that would not otherwise be available  
7 to them. I invite my colleagues to support this  
8 common sense law and sign on to Intro 935. As a co-  
9 sponsor, I want to thank Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo  
10 for joining me as a sponsor on this bill. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
12 Member Deutsch. It's an honor to partner with you.  
13 We now have Council Member Kallos.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you  
15 Majority Leader. I am partnering with our public  
16 advocate, Tish James, on our reintroduction for Bill  
17 941 which would actually require that when we have  
18 public meetings, the city would be required to  
19 provide child's care. As many of you may know, when  
20 you go to meetings in the evenings, oftentimes you  
21 won't really see parents out and that's because if  
22 they want to show up, it will actually cost them  
23 money to be involved in their government and as we  
24 look around this body with a dwindling representation  
25 for women, it should be 26. A majority of this city

2 is women but you see fewer and fewer and sadly  
3 child's care responsibilities more often than not  
4 fall to women and we can't hope to have more people  
5 involved in government, let alone parents, if we  
6 don't offer the childcare when we have government  
7 meetings. This would not cost the community boards  
8 or anyone else additional funding. The Department of  
9 Youth and Community Development would provide it but  
10 I urge my colleagues to please sign on and also  
11 consider bringing child's care to your meetings. We  
12 do it in my district and it helps parents participate  
13 in our local events. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
15 Council Member Kallos. Child care is music to my  
16 ears. Council Member Espinal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Thank you,  
18 Majority Leader Cumbo. First and foremost I want to  
19 congratulate your mentee who is going to Queens  
20 College. As a former graduate of Queens College, I  
21 can tell you only the best go and graduate from there  
22 so congrats. I just want to point everyone's  
23 attention to Intro 936 and it will phase out and ban  
24 plastic straws from eating and drinking  
25 establishments in New York City. Right now there's a



2 growing movement to get plastic straws out of our  
3 restaurants and bars and this means that we'll have  
4 millions of straws out of our city and will not make  
5 its way into our oceans. There are some bad actors  
6 in this room like Chaim Deutsch who is sipping on his  
7 straw. Hopefully, it's his last straw

8 [laughter]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: And well there  
10 are many people around you with straws but there are  
11 many great alternatives like paper straws and metal  
12 straws and pasta straws and compostable straws that  
13 are available that we can make that switch to. As I  
14 said, the business community is getting on board.  
15 They're making the switch. There's a big growing  
16 movement across the country and now it's time for us  
17 here in New York City to lead on the issue so Intro  
18 936. Hopefully everyone can sign on. Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
20 Council Member Espinal, and now we'll hear from  
21 Council Member Lander.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you Madam  
23 Majority Leader and I'm thrilled that Council Member  
24 Espinal is helping strengthen the plastics caucus in  
25 the City Council. It's an important issue. I want

2 to invite members to sign on to Intros 946 and 947  
3 which would strengthen safety and workers' rights for  
4 underground utilities. Safety workers, we had a  
5 public hearing earlier this year about the set of  
6 workers. Most of them used to be employed by ConEd  
7 or National Grid. They're the folks who mark and  
8 identify where the utilities are underground before  
9 we dig up the streets and right now as a result of  
10 that work having been outsourced to one of the, a big  
11 large multinational, they are earning minimum wage,  
12 they don't get health care, they don't have paid sick  
13 days, they're on call, they don't get advance notice  
14 of their schedule and they have no training  
15 whatsoever about how to do a pretty critical job that  
16 puts the public at risk so these two bills would both  
17 prohibit on-call scheduling and require that they get  
18 some basic safety training before they identify where  
19 the utilities are underground when they cut up our  
20 streets so please join me in signing on to 946 and  
21 947. Thank you.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
23 Council Member Lander, and we'll now hear from  
24 Council Member Holden.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you  
3 Majority Leader Cumbo. I am proud today to announce  
4 my first set of bills as a council member  
5 representing district 30. First, I introduce Intro  
6 939 which addresses a big issue in my neighborhood  
7 and most neighborhoods around the city of New York  
8 that we have. It's a parking issue, illegal curb  
9 cuts. This bill addresses the police response to  
10 that. We've had several members of my area that were  
11 constituents that have gotten tickets at illegal curb  
12 cuts so this bill will mandate that the NYPD come up  
13 with a better system working with DOB in which a  
14 responding officer can determine whether a curb cut  
15 is legal before issuing a summons. That's an issue  
16 in days of computer now, we certainly should be able  
17 to do that. Next together, this is a resolution,  
18 next together with Council Members Chin, my  
19 colleagues, and Koo, I am proud to introduce a  
20 resolution calling upon the United States Congress to  
21 pass and the President to sign, HR2358. This  
22 resolution would provide an award of a single  
23 congressional gold medal to the Chinese American  
24 veterans of World War II in recognition of their  
25 dedicated service during World War II. It is

2 important to recognize brave Chinese Americans who  
3 served in the military during the war. By the war's  
4 end, over 13,000 Chinese Americans were serving in  
5 all the branches of our armed forces. Approximately  
6 40% of these soldiers were not native born citizens  
7 making the ultimate sacrifice for a country that only  
8 a few years earlier had repealed the Chinese  
9 Exclusion Act and, of course, we know during the war,  
10 most non-white soldiers were segregated and that was  
11 an issue and certainly this medal will ultimately be  
12 housed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of  
13 American History along with other congressional  
14 medals and finally along with Council Members  
15 Vallone, Gjonaj, Ulrich, and Yeger, I introduce 940  
16 calling on a commission to examine the cost of  
17 renovating jail facilities on Rikers Island relative  
18 to the cost of building borough based jails.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: You're cutting me  
21 off, okay. All right, all right, I'm sorry.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you and  
23 congratulations on the introduction of your new  
24 bills. Thank you.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay, thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
3 Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you. It's  
5 good to see you in that chair.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. It  
7 feels good to be up here.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Great, I want to  
9 thank Council Member Levin for arranging for us to  
10 have this day. I think that there's a lot that goes  
11 on in the foster care system that we don't know and I  
12 think this body's been very instrumental in  
13 legislating, trying to legislate some of the ills and  
14 the negatives. It's a system that's very hard to  
15 navigate and it takes a lot of tenacity in order to  
16 do it so I want to introduce to this body my young  
17 person who is Victoria Winham [phonetic] and I want  
18 to commend her and all of the attendees today for  
19 their tenacity to overcome and thrive in the foster  
20 care system and Victoria is on her way to pursuing  
21 her education to become a forensic anthropologist and  
22 I want to thank Steve Levin for making this day  
23 possible.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you Council  
25 Member Rose. Thank you, and now we have Council

2 Member Koo briefly and then we'll close with Council  
3 Member Yeger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you Majority  
5 Leader. I just want to add on something Council  
6 Member Bob Holden just said on the Reso 362 calls on  
7 Congress to pass and the President to sign HR2358  
8 which will provide an award of a single congressional  
9 gold medal to recognize the contributions of Chinese  
10 American veterans during World War II. Please do not  
11 forget that Chinese Exclusion Act was the first  
12 federal law in the United States to restrict  
13 immigration on the basis of race and that this law  
14 was still in effect when World War II began. Despite  
15 this, almost one-third of Chinese American population  
16 at that time enlisted in the war to serve our country  
17 but only one, Captain Frances Wai was ever recognized  
18 for his service. Awarding this flying tigers and war  
19 heroes a collective congressional gold medal will be  
20 a huge step towards recognizing the contributions of  
21 Asian Americans to our country.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,  
23 Council Member Koo.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you, and  
3 now we will hear from Council Member Yeger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you Madam  
5 President. Along the lines of the wise common sense  
6 legislation that Mr. Minority Leader had passed in  
7 this Council today, I am introducing Intro 953 which  
8 would place greater regulations and restraints on the  
9 creation of new driveway curb cuts. This is a  
10 problem we see in my neighborhoods in southern  
11 Brooklyn. I know that neighborhoods in Queens and  
12 the Bronx have this often where people just cut the  
13 curb in front of their houses. They create  
14 themselves a parking spot or even if they apply for  
15 the permission to do so with the Department of  
16 Transportation, the Department of Buildings, they're  
17 not getting the community notification that is  
18 necessary in my view for the community to be able to  
19 opine whether or not this makes sense and too many  
20 permits granted on one block would suddenly mean no  
21 more street parking on that block. My bill would  
22 require that upon an application being filed with the  
23 department, the department would have to notify the  
24 community board, the community board would have an  
25 opportunity to opine on it and the department would

2 have to take the opinion of the community board into  
3 consideration before granting an application. It  
4 would also require that if a curb cut is unlawful,  
5 the department would notify the homeowner of the  
6 unlawful curb cut and if the homeowner does not  
7 repair the curb cut, similar to what the city does  
8 with a sidewalk defect, the city will go and repair  
9 the curb cut back to its original state and bill the  
10 homeowner accordingly which I think is an appropriate  
11 penalty at the very least for an illegal curb cut so  
12 I urge you, my colleagues, to join on to Intro 953.  
13 I think this is the common sense legislation that our  
14 communities expect of us and I look forward to a  
15 prompt hearing. Thank you so much, Madam President.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member  
17 Barron.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very  
19 much. I just want to acknowledge the fact that this  
20 past week, last Thursday, we had the opening of the  
21 Prince Joshua Avitto Community Center. You may  
22 recall that Prince Joshua Avitto was only six years  
23 when he was killed in an elevator in the NYCHA  
24 development, Boulevard Houses and at that time, we  
25 challenged the Mayor to step up and add the money



2 that was needed for the construction of a community  
3 center. My predecessor, former Council Member  
4 Charles Barron, had designated \$3.5 million and NYCHA  
5 had designed a pot of money also for the construction  
6 of a community center but they pulled their money out  
7 so the initial pot of money was just languishing  
8 there but we did prevail upon the Governor, upon the  
9 Mayor to add some money and former Speaker Melissa  
10 Mark-Viverito added money and you know this body also  
11 as I noted a few weeks ago under the direction of our  
12 Speaker did add \$400,000 as well so the Center is  
13 open. It is beautiful. It has a regulation college  
14 size gymnasium. It has a media room for children to  
15 be able to go and create their own music. They have  
16 a dance studio room. They have an arts and crafts  
17 room. There's several community meeting rooms.  
18 There will be a portable stage and chairs that will  
19 be able to be brought out for productions to be  
20 conducted there and it's just a beautiful state-of-  
21 the art facility so I want to thank all of those who  
22 contributed their effort to making it a reality and  
23 want to invite you to come by. It's 876 Prince  
24 Joshua Avitto Way in Brooklyn between Stanley and  
25 Workman. It's a beautiful place and a great

2 testimony to a very tragic situation but his name  
3 will live on in that street naming as well as in the  
4 name of his Community Center. Thank you.

5 JALEKA HAMILTON: General discussions  
6 have concluded. I would just like to say it's been  
7 an honor to be here with you guys and as well as to  
8 shadow Majority Leader Professor Cambo, oh I'm sorry  
9 Cambo, Cumbo. Finals week is over, sorry for calling  
10 you Professor

11 [laughter]

12 JALEKA HAMILTON: I would also like to  
13 thank her for teaching me the ins and outs of policy  
14 and the making of it and how it affects New York  
15 City. I appreciate a lot that you took time out of  
16 your day to do this for me and it just shows that  
17 there are effective New York City citizens and  
18 government Congress men and women that area trying to  
19 make change, good change. Now I'll turn it over to  
20 Speaker Johnson and we'll close.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam  
22 Majority Leader.

23 [applause]

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Due to upcoming, due to  
3 the upcoming budget adoption, today's meeting will be  
4 held in recess. Thank you all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Can all the  
6 mentees come forward for a photo with their member?

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes, if everyone wants  
8 to come forward for a photo.

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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 June 14, 2018