

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
STATED MEETING

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April 14, 2022
Start: 1:54 p.m.
Recess: 3:31 p.m.

HELD AT: Hybrid Hearing - Council Chambers
City Hall

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

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

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

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

Imam Khalid Latif
Chaplain and Executive Director of Islamic Center
of New York University

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you and good
3 afternoon, and welcome to today's hybrid New York
4 City Council Stated Meeting. At this time, would all
5 Council Members and staff please turn on their video?
6 To minimize disruption, please place electronic
7 devices on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you for
8 your cooperation. We are ready to begin.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Ladies and gentleman, at
10 this time, please place all electronic devices, all
11 electronic devices to vibrate. Majority Leader?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Good afternoon
13 and welcome to the Stated Meeting of April 14th,
14 2022. I'm Majority Leader Keith Powers. I'd like to
15 thank everyone here today for joining us. If you are
16 following along, the agenda for today's meeting is
17 posted on our website.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the
19 Pledge of Allegiance.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Roll call.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Abreu?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Here.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

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COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente.
COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?
COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?
COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Bottcher?
COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?
COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?
COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers? Cabán?
COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Carr? De La Rosa?
COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?
COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.
COUNCIL CLERK: Farías?
COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present.
COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?
COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente.
COUNCIL CLERK: Gennaro? Gutiérrez?
COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente.
COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.
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3 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Hudson?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Present.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Menin?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Narcisse?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse? Ossé?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Present.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Restler?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson-Jordan? Riley?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera? Salamanca?

12 Sanchez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Stevens?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Vernikov?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Present.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm here.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr? Won?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
13 now have today's invocation which will be delivered
14 by Imam Khalid Latif, Chaplain and Executive Director
15 of Islamic Center of New York University located at
16 238 Thompson Street in Manhattan.

17 IMAM KHALID LATIF: Let us pray. Almighty
18 God, giver of life and guider of hearts, bless this
19 gathering and all those who are in it. Assembled
20 here today are men and women who have dedicated their
21 lives to working in service of others. Increase each
22 of us in all that is good and make us a continued
23 source of benefit for your creation. Make us New
24 Yorkers who value people over profit [inaudible] find
25 ourselves in the midst of the month of Ramadan,

1 instill within each of us the ethic that the month
2 builds itself upon. Make our pursuits, pursuits
3 rooted in love, motivated by an unconditional
4 compassion, and manifest in acts of mercy intended to
5 achieve nothing other than a common good. let us
6 never be those who will hope of gaining some part of
7 this world or a fear of losing some aspect of it,
8 causes us to deny the rights of others. Help us to
9 never fear the path of truth for the lack of people
10 walking on it, and bless us to be leaders and to have
11 leaders to follow who walk firmly upon it. Let our
12 unity be not tied to uniformity of the external, our
13 race, our ethnicity, our class, but instead, make us
14 brothers and sisters of all backgrounds in our unity
15 based on a uniformity of our values and hearts.
16 Remove from our hearts any negative thoughts of
17 others and help us to never partake in acts of
18 injustice against people of any background. Let our
19 anger be only at injustice, oppression and
20 exploitation of people so that we will work for
21 justice, equality and peace. Let our tears shed only
22 for those who suffer from pain and rejection,
23 starvation, and conflict so that we will reach out
24 our hands to comfort them and change their pain into
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1 joy, and let our successes be many as we make a
2 difference in this world by doing the things which
3 others say cannot be done. A special prayer for our
4 brothers and sisters in Sunset Park and for all of
5 Brooklyn. Guide the footsteps of all those who are
6 impacted by the atrocious tragic act of violence that
7 happened in our city not long ago. Deepen us in our
8 trust, love, and care for them and each other so that
9 we might come together to help them at this time.
10 Send them only those who will be their helpers and
11 supporters. Protect them from any further
12 affliction, anxiety, or anguish. Grant them peace,
13 relax their fears, and remove for them any impediment
14 that keeps them from doing all that they are able to
15 do. Open the hearts of their-- in their chest to
16 receive all of the love that we are sending them on
17 this day, and envelope Brooklyn in your divine love
18 always. Watch over this city, and through us bring
19 strength to your creation. Help us to be the reason
20 people have hope in this world and never the reason
21 that people might dread it. Protect us always from
22 hearts that are not humble, tongues that are not
23 wise, and eyes that have forgotten how to cry.

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2 Forgive us for our shortcomings and guide and bless
3 us all. Amen.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
5 going to ask Council Member Chris Marte to spread the
6 invocation, and then we're going to have Council
7 Member Hanif to make some brief remarks.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Thank you,
9 Majority Powers. I'd like to thank Imam Khalid Latif
10 for being here today, and I want to make a motion for
11 unanimous consent to spread an invocation in full
12 upon the record. And now I pass it off to my
13 colleague, Council Member Hanif.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you so much.
15 [inaudible] and Ramadan Mubarak. I'm so honored to
16 host Imam Khalid Latif today and during this
17 beautiful month of Ramadan. Imam Khalid is the
18 University Chaplain for New York University and
19 Executive Director of the Islamic Center at NYU. He
20 was appointed the first Muslim Chaplain at NYU in
21 2005. He was also appointed the first Muslim
22 Chaplain at Princeton University in 2006. Spending a
23 year commuting between these two institutions, he
24 finally decided to commit fulltime to New York
25 University's Islamic Center where his position was

officially institutionalized in the spring of 2007.

Under his leadership, the Islamic Center at NYU

became the first-ever established Muslim Student

Center at an institution of higher education in the

United States. This is important and one that this

council should pay attention to. Imam Latif has not

only managed to solidify the basis of a strong Muslim

community at NYU that seeks to emphasize

inclusiveness and understanding of others without

compromise, but has also worked tirelessly to foster

dialogue with people of other faiths in order to

clarify misconception and encourage mutual education.

Through his work, Imam Latif has demonstrated not

only an exceptional dedication to gaining and

disseminating religious knowledge and values, but has

begun to carve out a much-needed space for young

American Muslims to celebrate their unique identity

and have their voices heard in the larger public

sphere. In 2019, Imam Latif co-founded and became the

Board President of Pillars of Peace, an NYC-based

nonprofit established in order to address a gap in

appropriate services for survivors of domestic and

gender-based violence from all backgrounds, and in

particular within the Muslim community. Pillars

1 completed a successful one million dollar capital
2 campaign for the Nurah [sp?] House, an emergency
3 confidential shelter for women and children in less
4 than two weeks and is expected to open in the spring
5 of 2022. He's also the cofounder of Honest Shops,
6 the first-ever organic Halal butcher in NYC and its
7 spin-off restaurant Burgers by Honest Shops, a
8 personal favorite. Ramadan is not an easy time for me
9 and many Muslims who live with chronic illness and
10 disabilities. Many Ramadan's ago, I was on a search
11 to find an inclusive, caring mosque in NYC, one that
12 recognizes women and folks with disabilities as
13 leaders and prioritizes our experiences, ideas, and
14 contributions, one that doesn't just offer a side
15 entrance for women to pray and strengthen their
16 faith, and I landed at the Islamic Center at NYC.
17 Sure, it's in a private university, but it was the
18 first time I felt welcomed and prayed seated on a
19 chair alongside the diversity of Muslims in one room.
20 This was a breath of fresh air for me and my faith
21 journey, because growing up my sisters and I didn't
22 have a safe space to continue to strengthen and learn
23 about Islamic juris prudence, organized in a post-911
24 New York City and so much more. Now, so many new
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1 spaces have emerged, and it give me hope for the
2 Muslims who've continue to be left out and on the
3 margin. For me, Ramadan is a renewed opportunity to
4 redefine what feminist leadership, democracy,
5 centering [sic] liberation, building a de-carceral
6 [sic] New York City, an anti-capitalist city means.
7 How do we lead when our neighbors don't have the
8 basics, feel unsafe? How do we cultivate joy in
9 times of grief, polarization, and anger? The beauty
10 of centering my faith is that this universe was built
11 on justice, that the natural state of the universe is
12 equity and dismantling oppression. We're all tasked
13 with liberation. And I'm really proud of the ways my
14 colleagues, all of us, bearers of justice continue to
15 stand up for New Yorkers with care and compassion.
16 Thank you, Imam Latif for bringing and building a
17 space so thoughtful and helping Muslims, especially
18 young Muslim women who haven't felt safe in our
19 neighborhoods to feel safe and protected in our city.
20 Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
23 Council Member Hanif. We are now going to have the
24 adoption of minutes by City Council Member Gale
25 Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I am stating that I'd like to move to spread the invocation in full upon the record. No-- sorry. I'd like to move that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of March 10th, 2022 be adopted as printed. Thank you very much.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member Brewer. Now I have messages and papers from the Mayor.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Communication from City, County and Borough Officers?

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M46 and 47, budget modifications.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Petitions and Communications.

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered-- okay. Pre-considered M48, the EEPC Annual Report and Communication.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, ordered, printed and filed.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Now, petitions and communications.

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Land Use Call-
3 ups.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I also
6 want to note that Council Member Richardson-Jordan is
7 here and present on Zoom for attendance. We are now
8 going to move to communication from Speaker Adrienne
9 Adams.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Majority
11 Leader. Good afternoon everyone. Happy Thursday and
12 Happy Birthday Council Member Crystal Hudson.

13 [applause]

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Just a quick reminder,
15 masks are strongly encouraged to be worn throughout
16 our Stated Meeting here in chambers. We're still in
17 the middle of a pandemic, and we want to be as
18 careful and safe as possible. That said, I really
19 want to thank all of you for your kind words, making
20 me smile, your best wishes while I recovered from
21 COVID. I'm really happy to say that I'm good, better
22 than good and feeling great, actually. I'm-- thank
23 you.

24 [applause]

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: You know, I'm so grateful
3 for vaccinations, and I have to let you know,
4 vaccinations that potentially saved my life, and I
5 know potentially saved some of your lives here in
6 this room as well. It may have potentially, had they
7 been available, saved the life of my own father who
8 passed away in March 2020 when we had no vaccinations
9 available. So, I'm thankful. I'm very thankful. As
10 a reminder to everyone, the pandemic isn't over, so
11 please, please remember to remain vigilant, get
12 tested, and get vaccinated and boosted if you haven't
13 done so already. So today we're voting on one bill,
14 one resolution, three finance resolutions, and one
15 Land Use item. Before I begin, though, I want to
16 officially congratulate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson
17 on her confirmation to the Supreme Court of the
18 United States. Justice Jackson's historic
19 appointment serves as an inspiration to young girls
20 and women across the world, especially black and
21 brown girls who may see themselves in her story.
22 Justice Jackson's journey, her grace, and her
23 powerful words moved me in so many ways. So
24 congratulations to her once again, her beautiful
25 family, and to all Americans who will benefit from

1 her continued public service to this country. On
2 Tuesday morning, a tragic incident occurred in our
3 city that shook us to our core. Like all New
4 Yorkers, I was horrified and saddened when I learned
5 about the mass shooting inside of a Manhattan-bound N
6 train heading towards the subway station in Sunset
7 Park in Council Member Avilés' district. We've since
8 learned that 10 people were shot inside the train,
9 nearly two dozen people were injured, and many more
10 escaped this terrifying act of violence. My heart is
11 with the impacted individuals, their families, and
12 all New Yorkers who endured the terror of that day.
13 I want to thank the NYPD, our first responders,
14 transit workers, and other law enforcement partners,
15 and everyday New Yorkers who all played contributing
16 roles that resulted in the apprehension of the person
17 suspected of committing this cruel act. Once again,
18 New Yorkers have stepped up and have shown compassion
19 for one another. These heroic acts by our friends and
20 neighbors likely saved lives. We all know that many
21 New Yorkers have been traumatized by this extreme
22 event and the continuing violence experienced in our
23 communities and across the City. The trauma of the
24 pandemic and resulting increase in violence in our
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1 city and across the country is compounding. There is
2 the extreme incident of Tuesday, as well as the more
3 common occurrences. I can't believe I'm actually
4 saying this-- the more common occurrences of violence
5 that have similar impacts on communities and those
6 harmed. Just hours after the shooting in Sunset Park,
7 there were several other shootings in the City later
8 on that night. Last Friday, a shooting in the Bronx
9 took the life of a precious 16-year-old child, and
10 across the entire country, including here in our
11 city, hate violence has continued to relentlessly
12 target our Asian-Americans, Jewish, and Sheik
13 communities, and other communities in our city. Many
14 New Yorkers are traumatized. We have to acknowledge
15 that and address it. Too often we talk about the
16 victims of violence without actually providing the
17 help that people need to recover and heal. When this
18 type of trauma goes unaddressed, it only continues
19 cycles of harm that destabilizes people's lives and
20 the communities where they live. It makes our
21 neighborhoods and our city less safe. It is
22 incumbent on the City to address this underlying
23 trauma. As a city, we have a responsibility to
24 provide mental health, trauma recovery, and victim
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1 services for survivors of violence. The Council is
2 very focused on this in a variety of ways, and we are
3 looking forward to do more. In the Preliminary Budget
4 response, we are calling for the creation of at least
5 one trauma recovery center in every borough and more
6 than one in other boroughs. This innovative model of
7 victim services will reach survivors who are often
8 left behind and don't receive the services that they
9 need. Our young people, immigrants, communities of
10 color, unhoused New Yorkers and others all face
11 different forms of violence, but don't have access to
12 the resources for recovery. In fact, victims of gun
13 violence, particularly in communities of color, are
14 often the least likely to receive victim services at
15 all. Nationally, black men under the age of 35 who
16 live in urban areas and have incomes below 25,000
17 dollars a year are more likely to be victimized than
18 any other group. Yet, they are the least likely to
19 receive assistance from support programs. So, the
20 least harmed are the least helped, or the most harmed
21 are the least helped. We cannot allow that to
22 continue, and it's important that all survivors get
23 help. That's why the Council is proposing the
24 creation of trauma recovery centers, which can
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1 provide culturally competent and community-based
2 assistance. These centers of care bridge the gap and
3 provide under-served victims and their families with
4 a trauma-informed recovery support they deserve. Of
5 course, there is more work to be done to address the
6 proliferation of guns flowing into our city, which is
7 often the cause of harm and violence we've
8 experienced. The Federal Government must take action
9 to curb the mass distribution of these guns in our
10 community. We will continue to pay our part by
11 employed smart strategies that involve all
12 stakeholders to keep New York City safe. Public
13 safety requires a nuanced, multifaceted approach, and
14 the Council's Preliminary Budget Response is focused
15 on these solutions. Whether it's health and mental
16 healthcare, affordable and supportive housing, youth
17 programs, or more services for unhoused New Yorkers,
18 we are putting forward investments that will result
19 in a healthier, safer, and stronger community in
20 communities across this city. This is what New
21 Yorkers expect and deserve, and we here in the New
22 York City Council are ready to deliver results. This
23 weekend, many New Yorkers of various faiths will be
24 observing important holidays with their families and
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1 community. Christians will be observing Good Friday
2 tomorrow, and Easter Sunday, or Resurrection Sunday
3 as some of us call it on Sunday. Jewish New Yorkers
4 will be celebrating Passover tomorrow. And wishing
5 our Muslim neighbors a blessed month of fasting and
6 Ramadan Murah [sic]. To all New Yorkers who are
7 celebrating major holidays this weekend, I wish you
8 all a happy and safe gathering with your families,
9 friends, and community. Now, let's dive into our
10 agenda for today. We will be voting on the following
11 Land Use items, 98-18 Queens Boulevard rezoning will
12 facilitate a new 15-story mixed-use building with
13 approximately 158 housing units, 40 units of which
14 will be permanently affordable. The Council will be
15 modifying the application to ensure the lower income
16 mandatory inclusionary housing options apply in
17 Council Member Schulman's district. Staff to thank
18 is James Kattow [sp?]. Thank you, James. We will
19 also be voting on three finance resolutions. The
20 first is an expense budget modification that
21 represents proposed movements of approximately 1.85
22 billion dollars in City Tax Levy funds within and
23 among city agencies. It reflects 1.1 billion dollars
24 in new federal funding received since the November
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1 plan and redistributes some of the program to
2 eliminate the gap savings toward new needs. The
3 second is a revenue budget modification that seeks to
4 recognize 1.94 billion dollars in new revenue. These
5 revenues when combined with 300 million dollars in
6 excess current year's reserve, and 400 million
7 dollars in the prior year payable will furnish a
8 total of 2.77 billion dollars to be added to the
9 Budget Stabilization Account to prepay expenses in
10 Fiscal 2023. The third is a transparency resolution
11 setting forth the new designation and changes in the
12 designation of certain organizations receiving local
13 aging, anti-poverty, and new discretionary funding
14 and funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the
15 budget. In addition, we're voting on two pieces of
16 legislation regarding recent actions taken by the
17 Report Advisory Board Review Commission. Established
18 by a Charter amendment in 2010, this Commission
19 reviews reporting requirements established by Local
20 Law and has the power, subject to the Council's
21 approval, to waive any requirement it deems no longer
22 useful. Pre-considered resolution sponsored by
23 Council Member Sandra Ung would disprove-- disapprove
24 the Commission's recent waiver of the 911 Response
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2 Time Report produced by the Police Department and the
3 annual Youth Services Report produced by the
4 Department of Youth and Community Development. The
5 resolution would also approve waivers of several
6 other reports that are now outdated or redundant.
7 Pre-considered Introduction also sponsored by Council
8 Member Ung is a clean-up bill that removes language
9 from the Administrative Code and Charter that will be
10 nullified by the passage of the resolution, and we
11 thank our staff member C.J. Murray for your help with
12 this. Thank you all for your attention. Now, I'd
13 like to turn it over to our Majority Leader.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, Madam
15 Speaker, and I wanted to just briefly-- Council
16 Member Avilés wants to speak about the Sunset Park
17 shooting [inaudible].

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: This Tuesday,
19 April 12th, my 16-year-old daughter left our home at
20 8:20, headed to the 36th Street train station for
21 school. A citizen's app alert hit my phone. As any
22 mother, I immediately called her and told her the
23 alert. Within seconds she called me back that people
24 were running towards her. She was coming home. Like
25 every parent, I miraculously made it to her and got

1 her to safety. I returned to the scene just a few
2 blocks from my home as the horrific details of what
3 had transpired had just begun to emerge. Our Sunset
4 Park community has experienced what too many
5 Americans have experienced before us [sic], another
6 senseless act of violence. While we are still deeply
7 thankful that no casualties have occurred, we know 10
8 people suffered gunshot wounds, and up to another 16
9 injured, countless people in my community are
10 traumatized. Yesterday, a parent recounted that as
11 she was bringing her five-year-old child to school,
12 he told her, "Mommy, please, they're going to kill
13 us. I don't want to go to school." Despite her
14 broken heart and her own anxiety, she had to bring
15 him to school because she would lose her job. She
16 reassured him, "You're going to be okay [inaudible]."
17 their trauma is just now rearing its own ugly head.
18 Our community is deeply shaken by yet another mass
19 shooting. We are grateful to our first responders to
20 the transit workers to the heroic fellow commuters
21 who immediately sprung [sic] into action to help
22 wounded victims rather than run for safety. Their
23 actions likely saved lives. We're also thankful for
24 school principals whose quick response immediately
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2 ensured that students were safe and that the families
3 were informed. I am personally thankful to all my
4 colleagues in this body who immediately reached out
5 to support me and to support our community. As I
6 have said before, what our community needs right now
7 more than ever is reassurance that we will not be
8 abandoned in the aftermath of Tuesday's incident,
9 that our pain will not be used as a scapegoat for
10 policies that do not and won't keep us safe. We know
11 that more police presence on the trains and in
12 neighborhoods would not have prevented this. What we
13 need is to cultivate true public safety and that is
14 meaningful investment in social services, housing,
15 healthcare, mental health services, and education.
16 And just as urgently, we must stop the manufacturing
17 and flow of guns in this country, and yes, I said
18 that. Why do we as a country, a supposedly civilized
19 society feel more wedded to weapons of mass
20 destruction than to our own health, safety, and
21 wellbeing? This will never make sense to me. See,
22 more than 40 years ago, I watched my father die in
23 front of me when he was shot multiple times. And
24 what have we done 40 years later? We produced more
25 guns. We employ more police, and we have more mass

1 shootings, and ongoing acts of violence. Every
2 single day this country witnesses 321 people being
3 shot; 22 children are shot in a daily basis in this
4 country, and what do we do? We tinker around the
5 edges. We do background checks. We create loopholes,
6 and yet the flow of guns that's unabated, and the
7 creation of profits on their sale is higher than
8 ever. We must eradicate the guns. We have created
9 an entire industry to manage the impacts, and yet
10 never disrupt its flow. The definition of insanity
11 is doing the same thing over and over again and
12 expecting a different outcome. Perhaps, profiting
13 off of guns seems to be so much more important to us
14 than our own health, lives, and wellbeing. The
15 equation is rather simple. We owe it to our
16 children, to our families, to our neighbors. We must
17 do the math. We must have courage, and we must do
18 things differently. We are asking our partners in
19 city, state, and federal government for a
20 multifaceted, effective, evidence-based public safety
21 response, including abundant mental health resources
22 for the victims in the near term in addition to
23 dramatic investments in violence prevention. Let us
24 stop doing the same thing over and over again and get
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1 to the root causes of this situation. We need full
2 employment, guaranteed healthcare. We need housing.
3 We need services. Invest in people. Stop mass--
4 stop manufacturing weapons of mass destruction.
5 Thank you.
6

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you,
8 Council Member Avilés. Thank you for sharing those
9 words with us. We're now going to moving to our
10 agenda for the day. We have the report of special
11 committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Reports of
14 standing committees?

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
16 on Finance, Pre-considered Reso 107, transparency
17 Reso.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
19 Orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered M46 and
21 Reso. 123 and M47 and Reso. 124 budget modifications.

22 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General
23 Orders.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
25 on Governmental Operations Pre-considered Intro. 205A

and Pre-considered Reso. 120A, report and Advisory Board Review Commission.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: LU's 20 through 25 and LU's 29 through 33, various re-zonings.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to Section 1970 of the New York City Charter.

COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar, LU 26 and Reso. 125 and LU 27, Reso. 1269881 Queens Boulevard Rezoning.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders. I would now ask that the Clerk take a roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's General Order Calendar.

COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Mealy? Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all, except Reso. 0120.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Avilés?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: May I be excused
8 to explain my vote?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Yep, go ahead.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well, I want to
11 say assalamu alaikum [sp?] to and Ramadan Mubarak to
12 my Muslim brothers and sisters, and I want to say
13 happy Resurrection Sunday to my Christian brothers
14 and sisters who celebrate the rise of the
15 revolutionary black messiah, Jesus Christ. I want to
16 say thank you. I am voting no on LU27, 26, I think
17 the 60 to over 60 percent market rate. We can do
18 better than that in our communities. And I want to
19 vote no on Reso. 123, the expense modification. The
20 expense modification is calling for taking 1.1
21 billion away from city agencies that receive federal
22 funding, as though we should be punishing city
23 agencies because they got federal funding, and
24 putting into a fund where the Mayor can do different
25 kinds of things with it. This is an austerity

1 budget, and the Mayor continually uses cuts and money
2 when we actually have 6.1 billion in the rainy day
3 budget, in layaway money, and we had 1.9 billion come
4 in more than expected, but yet we still pushing an
5 austerity budget with PEGS and punishing agencies
6 that receive federal funding, as though that made up
7 for the PEGS and it didn't. So I vote no on Reso.
8 123, the expense modification and aye on all the
9 rest.
10

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh, sorry. I just
13 want to say also to my sister from-- Avilés, God
14 bless you. You got a thousand percent support on all
15 that you do, and I appreciate you speaking truth to
16 power even though you're in pain.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
18 Member. Council Member Bottcher?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Brewer?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye on all. I
24 want to congratulate Council Member Ung on the
25 Government Operation, on the advisory board in terms

1
2 of supporting to and making sure that others are
3 moved to the graveyard [sic]. But I do want to say
4 in general, I would like to see a lot more discussion
5 on the issue of the advisory boards and whether or
6 not the material is coming on a timely basis to the
7 City Council. Thank you very much.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye on
10 all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabán

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Carr?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'm going to just
15 disclose on the record that the budget-related
16 Resolutions we're voting on today on CUNY, and I have
17 a domestic partner who is a student at CUNY. With
18 that said, I'm going to vote no on Pre-considered
19 Resolution 120A, and aye on the rest.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: De La Rosa?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Dinowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Farías?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Aye on all.

1 COUNCIL CLERK: Feliz?
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3 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.
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5 COUNCIL CLERK: Genaro?
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7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.
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9 COUNCIL CLERK: Gutiérrez?
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11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.
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13 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanif?
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15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.
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17 COUNCIL CLERK: Hanks?
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19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye on all.
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21 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Holden?
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23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.
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25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Hudson?
COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Joseph?
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Kagan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye.
COUNCIL CLERK: Krishnan?
COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.
COUNCIL CLERK: Lee?
COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.
COUNCIL CLERK: Marte?
COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Menin?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all
except Reso. 0120.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Richardson Jordan?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Hi, I
would like to-- I would like to abstain on LU27 and
26, and aye on the rest.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Sanchez?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Schulman?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Permission to
7 explain my vote?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Go ahead.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: For-- aye on
10 all. LU26, Res 125, 9881 Queens Boulevard-- I'm very
11 pleased that one of the first Land Use actions in my
12 district since I joined the council will create new
13 deeply affordable housing, one of the key priorities
14 I campaigned on. I want to point out that it was
15 told to me by the Land Use that this is the first one
16 in this district ever. The proposed project would
17 bring over 50 new permanently affordable homes to
18 Regal [sic] Park in an environmentally sensitive
19 building whose design acknowledged the site's past
20 while looking towards the future. In addition, the
21 developer agreed to and is in the process of pursuing
22 environmentally-friendly, green building
23 certifications, and working on innovative bicycle
24 spaces within the development. I would like to take
25 the opportunity to thank Queens Community Board Six

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2 and the Queens Borough President for the insight and
3 collaboration on this proposal, as well as the Land
4 Use staff who was instrumental in assisting me during
5 this process, particularly James Patome [sp?]. I also
6 want to thank the applicant team for their
7 willingness to engage with the community throughout
8 the public review process to address community needs
9 and concerns. This project demonstrates that working
10 with the community can enhance rather than hinder
11 good development for New York City. Thank you. Aye
12 on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Stevens?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Ung?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Velázquez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Vernikov?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all
21 except Reso. 120.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Williams?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I just want to
24 disclose my association with CUNY as a student, and I
25 vote aye on all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Won?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Yeger?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Mealy? Borelli?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
8 except Reso. 0120.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye. I
11 want to congratulate both Council Members Ung and
12 Williams for passing their first bills today.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Adams?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: I also congratulate my
15 colleagues on the passage of their first bills before
16 the Council, and I do vote aye on all.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: All items on
18 today's General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote
19 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0
20 abstentions with exception of Resolution 120 which
21 was adopted by a vote 45 in the affirmative, 5 in the
22 negative, and 0 abstentions, and Pre-Considered M46
23 accompanying Resolution M20-- and Resolution 2123, 49
24 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, 0 abstentions,
25 and Land Use items 26 and 27 with accompanying

1
2 resolutions which were adopted by a vote of 48 in the
3 affirmative, 1 in the negative, and 1 in the
4 abstentions. We're now going to move on to the
5 introduction and reading of bills.

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

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. There
10 are no resolutions on today's agenda. We're now
11 going to move into general discussion. I will note we
12 have a very, very long list, so please if you can,
13 keep it to two minutes. We'll have you on the clock.
14 We're going to start with [inaudible] Minority Leader
15 Joe Borelli, who by the rules of the City Council
16 does I believe get five minutes. We'll now move to
17 Minority Leader Joe Borelli who has agreed to only do
18 two minutes.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: When you change
20 the rules to include free ice cream like the State
21 Legislature, then I'll bend a bit. I rise today to
22 speak about Intro-- rather, Reso. 106. As of today,
23 we have vaccines that have proven effective. We have
24 natural immunity amongst so many of our citizens. We
25 have methods of mitigating spread should we need

1
2 them, and we have treatments that have proven to be
3 tremendously effective given how far we've come since
4 the spring of 2020. So why are we still operating in
5 this state of emergency? How long can the Executive
6 Branch both here in the City and in Albany make laws
7 without the consent and oversight of this body and
8 the state legislature? When will the public have a
9 say on rules that have the effect of law have drastic
10 ability to change lives, when will they get their
11 say? The problem I have with the current private
12 sector mandate and the public employee mandate is a
13 question of equity. When something's not equal, this
14 body has always stood at the very least for giving
15 the public a say. We need to have a hearing on
16 Intro. 106, because for too long our health officials
17 in this city have come to this chamber sporadically,
18 and they've come here in their lab coats with their
19 name and their fancy titles and their degrees next to
20 their name, and they've dictated us. And that was
21 fine for a while, but with the rates low, with the
22 hospitalization rates tremendously low and the death
23 rates low, how long must we operate in this scenario
24 where this body doesn't have a say in laws that
25 affect the lives of so many of our constituents? I

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2 suspect they don't want to come and talk about this
3 resolution or about the mandates, because despite the
4 fancy lab coats, despite the fancy titles, they can't
5 lecture us on equitable outcomes and equitable access
6 and equitable treatment. When you create an
7 exception for anyone, you lose the scientific high-
8 ground and you lose the moral authority. Exceptions
9 for some is inherently equal. So I ask you,
10 colleagues, some of you have neighborhoods where
11 attendance at schools is less than 50 percent
12 regularly. Some of you have neighborhoods where
13 sanitation doesn't do a great job of cleaning up.
14 Some of you have neighborhoods with high crime. Some
15 of you have neighborhoods where things burn down.
16 Some of you have neighborhoods where the grass grows
17 too high, and yet our rules are firing city workers
18 who do those jobs, but made the same choice as
19 athletes and performers who we now are excited are
20 going to play. Now, bear in mind you, the Yankees or
21 whoever have the best doctors money can buy. Does
22 anyone dispute that? They're spending millions of
23 dollars on someone's athletic performance, and they
24 don't have the best doctors money can buy? No, of
25 course, they do, and those doctors are okay

1
2 apparently with some of their players playing
3 unvaccinated around players and staff who are. What
4 does it also say long-term for some of our
5 constituents? Some of our neighborhoods have
6 vaccination rates where 10 percent, 20 percent even.
7 Some boroughs have a 10 percent rate of unvaccinated
8 adults. We're saying that one out of every 10, one
9 out of two-- one out of every five in some
10 neighborhoods, adults, are ineligible to work in the
11 City of New York. So now this has to be in our
12 wheelhouse. We have to take a stand. We can't
13 operate in this state of panic forever. We have to
14 restore the authority of this body, and I'm asking
15 you as colleagues to take a stand on the issue. Join
16 me in the Resolution. Say you don't support the
17 mandates and the treatment of our city employees and
18 our private sector employees as pariahs. They can't
19 work in this city. What are they going to do?
20 They're going to leave. Or, don't sign onto the
21 resolution, but at least have the courage to say to
22 your neighbors, I don't want you to work in this city
23 anymore. We don't value your performance of the job,
24 and up until a few months ago, we actually did value.
25 So I ask you friends and colleagues, please sign on

1
2 to Intro. 106. Please support having a hearing on
3 this. please support, at the very least, just having
4 a hearing on this so the Health Commissioner could
5 come here and explain how basketball players are less
6 threatening to the public from COVID spread than the
7 person selling hotdogs. Thank you.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Thank
9 you, Minority Leader Borelli. I'm not sure Mets fans
10 would say they have the best doctors, but to each
11 their own. We'll-- we will now go to the Minority
12 Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
14 Majority-- but thank you Majority Leader. First, as
15 my colleagues have already shared, I'd like to
16 acknowledge the tragic shooting that took place in
17 the 36th Street station in Council Member Avilés'
18 district earlier this week. I am relieved that no
19 victims were fatally injured, and I wish them all a
20 quick recovery. As we encourage New Yorkers to
21 resume using our subways and buses at pre-pandemic
22 levels, we must restore riders' confidence that the
23 system is safe. Our constituents deserve to commute
24 without fear of physical harm. According to the
25 NYPD, surveillance cameras in the 36th Street station

1 turnstile area were malfunctioning during the
2 incident, and there are no cameras on the platform.
3 Surveillance cameras in adjacent stations were also
4 not transmitting video at the time. These gaps
5 prolonged the search for the suspect and potentially
6 put many more people in danger. That's why Speaker
7 Adams, Finance Chair Brannan, and I sent a letter to
8 MTA Chair Janna Leiber [sp?] this morning. We are
9 requesting the MTA to submit to the council a full
10 report of the agency's surveillance network, the
11 number of cameras installed in the system, their
12 placement within stations, whether each camera stores
13 footage locally or in the cloud, and the agency's
14 inspection and maintenance schedule. This
15 information will allow the Council to ensure our
16 constituents that the MTA is working to keep the
17 subway safe. I also wanted to highlight three
18 resolutions which I have submitted for introduction
19 today. One resolution calls for the MTA to make
20 permanent the Atlantic Ticket Pilot, a successful
21 fare capping program that has provided lower cost
22 tickets to commuters across the LIRR network.
23 Unfortunately, the Fare pilot has not been extended
24 to my constituents in Far Rockaway who are still
25

1 paying full fares to commute within the City. I urge
2 the MTA to expand this pilot to a community that
3 would strongly benefit from more affordable and
4 faster commutes. My other two resolutions call for a
5 continued evaluation of the proposed inter-borough
6 express, and for a more frequent rush-hour service
7 and adjusted train schedules for distant subway
8 terminal lines. I look forward to continue working
9 with my colleagues to elevate their constituent's
10 transportation issues, and I encourage you to join me
11 as co-sponsors on these important items. Thank you.

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
14 now going to go to Council Member Gennaro, followed
15 by Council Member Vernikov, and Council Member
16 Restler.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you.
18 Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. I have some good news
19 today. About two hours ago the State Public Service
20 Commission voted to move forward with the two tier
21 for renewable energy projects. We had a sign-on
22 letter from the Environmental Protection Committee,
23 and then we did another one from the Council at
24 large, and the PSE, you know, took the right step and
25 moving forward with those projects. Combined we'd

1 have 4,200 megawatts of renewable power, that's about
2 a third of the City's demand. The City now is about
3 90 percent-- 90 percent powered by fossil fuels, and
4 yes, this is about carbon and climate, but it's much
5 more about clean air. People that live around power
6 plants, these have been your neighborhoods that have
7 suffered environmental injustice for decades, and
8 very pleased that PSE has taken this step. I'd like
9 to thank this Council and Speaker of the Council and
10 my colleagues on the Environmental Protection
11 Committee and members of the Council at large that
12 signed the letter. Also, the Adams Administration,
13 the League of Conservation Voters, the Environmental
14 Justice Community, the environmental community, and
15 much of organized labor that was behind this. So
16 this is a good day at least when it comes to
17 renewable energy in New York City. Thank you.

18
19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
20 now go to Council Member Vernikov followed by Council
21 Member Restler

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you.
23 First of all, I'd like to express my condolences to
24 Council Member Avilés and all the victims in the
25 horrific acts of terror that took place in Sunset

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2 Park this Tuesday, but I also would like to thank all
3 our brave police officers who risked their lives to
4 protect us every single day. We need more police
5 officers on our subways, not less. Today, I also rise
6 to support the Minority Leader's Resolution seeking
7 to rehire those employees which were fired for non-
8 compliance to the City's vaccine mandate. Several
9 weeks ago, the Mayor exempt professional athletes
10 from the mandate and allowed them to continue playing
11 their sport. Exempting those athletes, rightfully,
12 gave them the opportunity to continue to making a
13 living. But most professional athletes are not of
14 poor means. Their standard of living is already way
15 above those in the middle class. It's way above
16 teachers, police officers, fire fighters, nurses, and
17 just the average New Yorker. It is neither
18 scientific nor equitable to exempt athletes but not
19 the average New Yorker. Athletes do not have an
20 immune system to protect them from the pandemic
21 better than it does everyone else. They are just as
22 susceptible to both getting and spreading COVID-19.
23 This council is all about equity, and there is no
24 equity in exempting one class of people and not the
25 other. It's not scientific to exempt athletes but

1 not teachers, athletes but not nurses, athletes but
2 not members of the law enforcement. These New
3 Yorkers need to put bread on their table and feed
4 their families. It is discriminatory to single them
5 out for their personal health choices. We are on the
6 eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover. On Passover
7 we celebrate freedom from slavery, and we repeat the
8 saying, "Let me people go." But today, I would like
9 to say let New Yorkers work. Ramadan Mubarak, Happy
10 Easter and [inaudible]. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We go
13 to Council Member Restler.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you,
15 Majority Leader. Firstly, my heart is with Council
16 Member Avilés and the Sunset Park community, and of
17 course, Ramadan Mubarak, [inaudible] and Happy Easter
18 to all. I wanted to just speak briefly today about
19 the very concerning news put out by the Rent
20 Guidelines Board. Earlier today they released their
21 preliminary ranges, and this is an issue that effects
22 each and every one of our districts. Indeed, we have
23 over a million rent regulated apartments in New York
24 City, and the Rent Guidelines Board has just proposed
25 draconian increases that would have massive

1 implications for each and every one of the rent
2 regulated tenants in our community. Indeed, the two-
3 year rent increases are as high as nine percent, nine
4 percent. So for the family with a thousand dollars in
5 rent, increased by 90 bucks, add that up over two
6 years, they're paying thousands of dollars in
7 additional rent over the course of this-- the
8 proposed terms. So now is the time for us to
9 mobilize the tenants in our community to push back.
10 Now is the time for us to speak up and speak out and
11 to call on the Rent Guidelines Board to recognize
12 that our city has been struggling through this
13 pandemic, that working people can't afford these
14 massive absolutely unacceptable rent increases. Now
15 is the time to organize. So I hope that this is a
16 call-- this can be a call to action for each and
17 every one of my colleagues, and thank you very much.

18
19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Now
20 go to Council Member Brewer, followed by Council
21 Member Abreu and Council Member Marte.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
23 much. A couple of things. First of all,
24 Introduction that would talk about establishing
25 minimum neighborhood services when we do EIS's, known

1 as environmental mitigation reports, EIS is also on
2 large scale ULURP development. I think we all know
3 that this is a constant in our city. so, all
4 development projects that go through ULURP and
5 require environmental impact statements, now will
6 undergo if this bill passes, review of the Department
7 of Education, whether or not the schools are
8 impacted, environmental protection review, parks
9 review, sanitation review, transportation review, and
10 uniformed services review. The City Planning
11 Department would review the EIS and identify current
12 level of services and provide a detailed plan of each
13 agency's plan to address differential between current
14 service levels and minimum neighborhood services, and
15 of course, the reports would be sent to all the
16 relevant city agencies. This came about thanks to a
17 report that I did with the then Council Member and
18 now Borough President in January 2018 when we were
19 talking about the challenges we were having on
20 getting some of these issues into the ULURP process.
21 And then I also want to thank tremendously Council
22 Member Rivera. I know she'll talk more. We're trying-
23 - all trying to figure out how do we keep vacant
24 apartments be actually occupied. I know there are
25

1 bills that are pending also in the state legislature,
2 but this is a way that we have accomplished. We'll
3 talk more about it, so that we register them and at
4 least get the discussion going, because we have
5 70,000 potential vacancies of stabilized apartments
6 in the City of New York. Thank you very much for
7 this opportunity.
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
10 now go to Council Member Abreu followed by Council
11 Member Marte.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Good afternoon and
13 thank you Majority Leader and thank you Madam
14 Speaker. I am honored to be introducing my first
15 piece of legislation today. Intro 139 is designed as
16 a tool to understand and address one of the greatest
17 tragedies in this COVID era, which is families
18 scarred by the loss of a parent, grandparent, or
19 caregiver. Several components comprised this
20 legislation. Number one, ACS is required to report--
21 would be required to report on the impact of deaths
22 of parents and guardians during the pandemic. It
23 would also capture critical information of young
24 adults who have now had to become caregivers now for
25 their [inaudible], and it's something that is-- I

1 think requires a lot of attention. And finally, and
2 perhaps most importantly, it requires that ACS
3 produce an assessment of the needs of the families,
4 but also to provide a responsive plan to address
5 those needs as well. The fact remains that for every
6 four Americans that died from COVID, one child has
7 lost a parent. We can't move forward without an
8 honest assessment of the impact COVID has on our
9 families and our most vulnerable. I would like to
10 thank Nicole Remstead [sp?] for her hard work and
11 insight as our bill drafter, the indomitable Julisa
12 Guigley [sp?], my Deputy Chief of Staff, for her
13 unwavering commitment to building policy to make our
14 city a better place to live. And of course, I'd like
15 to thank Deputy Speaker Ayala, not only for her
16 capacity as Deputy Speaker, but also as the Chair of
17 the Committee on General Welfare. I urge my
18 colleagues to co-sponsor this important piece of
19 legislation. Thank you so much.

20
21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
22 now go to Council Member Marte.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Today, I'm honored
24 to introduce my first bill, Intro. 175 which will end
25 the 24-hour work day for home attendants in New York

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2 City. Every night in our city there are thousands of
3 homecare workers who are forced to work 24-hour
4 shifts, while only being paid for 13 hours. Growing
5 up as a son of a home attendant, I would days without
6 seeing my mom as she worked 24-hour shifts. This
7 took a toll on her health and on our family, and
8 these shifts continue to inflict racist exploitations
9 of families to this day. Two weeks ago, Charlene Ma
10 [sp?] who was one of the first home attendants to sue
11 her employer, CPC, for wage theft and forced labor
12 passed away. Her final message to her friend was,
13 "To this day, I still don't think I'll get my back
14 pay. I guess I am fated to have no justice." Today,
15 we take a step forward in making sure not another
16 woman dies without getting justice, not another child
17 of immigrants have to grow up without seeing their
18 mom because she has to work a 24-hours a day. Home
19 attendants are primarily women and women of color,
20 and though some are union members, even they don't
21 get back pay or protected eight-hour work days. Many
22 of these brave women homecare workers who have been
23 fighting to end the 24-hour days have been fighting
24 for decades. They've organized lawsuits, protested
25 home care agencies, and now have thousands in their

1 ranks. Their demand is simple. They want to be
2 emancipated from this practice of modern day slavery.
3 They want to be paid for what they're owed, provide
4 the quality care that they trained to provide, and
5 end the shifts that give them insomnia, intense
6 physical disabilities. Intro. 175 prohibits homecare
7 agencies from assigning home attendant shifts longer
8 than 12 hours and consecutive 12-hour shifts. I look
9 forward to a hearing on this urgent issue soon so
10 that many of my colleagues can hear from these
11 workers themselves. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
14 now going to go to Council Member Farías, followed by
15 Council Member Menin, Sanchez, and Ariola.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you,
17 Majority Leader. March 26th marks the 51st
18 anniversary of Bangladesh's independence from
19 Pakistan. Since then, Bangladesh has been one of the
20 largest contributors to peace keeping operations
21 worldwide. I'm proud that my district is home to a
22 vibrant community of Bangladeshi immigrants who I was
23 able to celebrate their independence with last month
24 on Sterling [sp?] Ave. Due to our delayed Stated, I
25 wanted to make sure I highlighted this important

1 moment and applaud those who fought for their
2 independence 51 years ago and are now hard working
3 New Yorkers and Bronxites. I also want to wish our
4 City's Hindu community a belated happy Navratri.
5 Navratri is a Hindu festival in April that spans over
6 nine nights in celebration of the Goddess Durga and
7 all her different manifestations. I was thankful to
8 be able to celebrate with the community at our local
9 temple, the Vishnu Mondir [sp?]. It is important for
10 us in government not only to highlight our community
11 but to be present within the community, too. We
12 don't always have to understand another person's way
13 of prayers, but respecting the way they worship and
14 doing what you can to understand and highlight that
15 is important for this city. Wishing everyone many
16 blessing during this time of celebration. I'm always
17 grateful to be able to celebrate with folks within my
18 community and I'm proud to represent the beautiful
19 diversity I have in District 18. Lastly, I'm
20 extremely saddened about an incident that happened
21 this morning in my community. We had another
22 domestic violence incident where a school safety
23 officer and a school admin was slashed with a knife
24 at PS69 while intervening to protect a school staff
25

1 member. The suspect is in custody and there are no
2 life-threatening injuries thankfully, but this kind
3 of toxic violence is unacceptable. I applaud those
4 who stood up for their co-worker, and I'm thankful
5 for school safety officers, the NYPD, school faculty
6 for taking swift action in this incident. Really,
7 though, at the core, we need to address trauma,
8 violence against women, and how to not only assist
9 the victims in these incidences, but also the man who
10 perpetuate this violence. Lastly, I would just like
11 to say thank you to all my colleague who signed on to
12 Reso. 65, restoring TAP made it into the New York
13 State budget, and I'm proud of all of our work
14 leading it out here in the Council. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
17 now go to Council Member Menin, Sanchez, and Ariola.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Thank you,
19 Majority Leader Powers. Today, I am proud to
20 introduce along with Council Members Schulman, De La
21 Rosa, Abreu, and Velasquez, Resolution 115 which
22 calls upon the New York State Legislature to pass and
23 the Governor to sign the Hospital Equity and
24 Accountability Law, also known as the HEAL Act. We
25 must reign in hospital costs so that every New Yorker

1 can access affordable healthcare that they deserve.
2
3 The HEAL Act is aimed at preventing anti-competitive
4 hospital contracting prices and out of control
5 pricing structures that hurt patients and act as a
6 barrier to affordable care. For example, in my
7 district, New York Presbyterian Hospital, as well as
8 others, are charging up to 300 percent of Medicare
9 rates. This is costing the City billions of dollars
10 a year as well as labor unions like DC37, 32BJ, the
11 UFT, and others hundreds of millions each year in
12 excess costs. City agencies are being asked to take
13 a three percent PEG, yet the City is not reigning in
14 these out of control hospital costs. Stakeholders
15 and unions, including the UFT, 32BJ, DC37, HTC, and
16 Local 1500, and others who created the Coalition for
17 Affordable Hospitals do fully support the HEAL Act. I
18 hope you will join me and my colleagues in supporting
19 and singing on to Reso. 115. Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
21 now going to go to Council Member Sanchez followed by
22 Council Member Ariola and Hanif.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you,
24 Majority Leader. Good afternoon to Speaker Adams and
25 all of our colleagues. Today, alongside nine of my

1
2 fellow Council Members, I'm introducing Introduction
3 204 which addresses re-inspection fees on complaints
4 for repeat housing code violations. We're tired.
5 We're tired of the repeated calls from our
6 constituents about negligent landlords who
7 deliberately withhold or refuse to provide heat and
8 hot water to tenants, address mold, and other
9 hazardous violations inside of people's homes. These
10 landlords sometimes pay a slap-on-the-wrist fine or
11 fee in lieu of providing the real solutions in those
12 homes. In the last year, myself, Council Member De
13 La Rosa, Richardson-Jordan, Joseph, Stevens,
14 Salamanca, Dinowitz, Abreu, Ayala, and Feliz, we've
15 had about 200,000 complaints for heat and hot water
16 violations alone. This, among us, a fifth of the
17 Council totals about half of the citywide complaints.
18 In my district alone, tenants have submitted a total
19 of 22,000 heat and hot water complaints. So for many
20 of these complaints come repeat violations. That is a
21 waste of city resources, as the agency goes back
22 again and again to the same building for the same
23 issue. And so Intro. 204 would increase the re-
24 inspection fee from 200, more than doubling it to 500
25 and giving HPD the authority to raise the present

1 inspection fee to even a thousand dollars for
2 inspection. Let me be clear about oen thing. If you
3 are a good landlord, this is not a problem for you.
4 This is specifically about landlords who refuse to
5 provide good service to tenants who pay rent and
6 deserve a high quality of life. As we consider
7 raising fees for these inspections, we'll also be
8 continuing to look at HPD operations, DOB operations,
9 and anybody in the City of New York who is
10 responsible for keeping home safe to identify further
11 improvements. Thank you so much and if I may,
12 Majority Leader, I also just want to join in
13 expressing condolences to Council Member Avilés, and
14 in my district just a week ago we lost a 61-year-old
15 woman Juana De-Perdomo Soriano [sic] to a stray
16 bullet due to an unrelated altercation happening near
17 one of our busiest subway stations. Donia [sic]
18 Juana could have been my mother. She could have been
19 any of our mothers, and I just want to express my
20 condolences to the family and join in with our
21 colleagues to call for all of the guns to be removed
22 from our streets and for us to really re-invest in
23 the root causes of this violence. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. Now go to Council Member Ariola.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you, Majority Leader. I would also like to say that my heart goes out to everyone who was injured yesterday in that heinous attack on the subway. I'd also like to add that although I agree that we do need more mental health professionals and people to intervene and to work with those who have mental illness, it was not any one of those worthwhile professionals that arrested the person who perpetrated that crime. It was the NYPD and law enforcement. In the hate crime that happened, as well, yesterday, it wasn't anyone but the NYPD who worked hard, diligently investigating to bring two perpetrators to-- into custody. We do need the NYPD. We do need law enforcement, and we do need that coupled with social programs. I'd like to now speak about Reso. 106 that I'm happy to be part of with my colleagues. For nearly two years our city workers put their lives on the line each and every day assisting other New Yorkers regardless of COVID status. Our teachers changed their lives to begin teaching remotely. Our police continued to patrol our streets. Our fire

1 fighters and EMS personnel responded to calls every
2 single day, while thousands of their fellow citizens
3 died from the virus. And how have we repaid them for
4 their service during this critical time? By
5 demanding that they receive a vaccine that many had
6 deep objections to. They had those injections
7 because of their convictions or their chronic
8 illnesses, and thousands of people who dedicated
9 their careers to serving the people of this city lost
10 their jobs and their livelihoods. To add further
11 insult to their injury, the City has recently agreed
12 to allow athletes to play within the five boroughs
13 regardless of their vaccination status. What a slap
14 in the face. What kind of message does that send to
15 the people who have given so much to the citizens of
16 New York? Do we really prioritize a multi-
17 millionaire athlete over a teacher, a fireman, or a
18 police officer? How can anyone justify this kind of
19 standard? It is imperative that we give our city's
20 workers the respect they deserve, and we return those
21 who lost their jobs due to vaccine non-compliance
22 back to work immediately. I'd also like to wish
23 everyone a blessed Passover, Easter, Ramadan Mubarak,
24

1 [inaudible], and Navrami [sp?]. Thank you for your
2 time.
3

4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
5 going to go to Council Member Hanif, followed by
6 Council Member Rivera, and Council Member Riley.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. A
8 special thank you to Council Member Fariás for
9 acknowledging Bangladeshi victory and independence.
10 We don't talk enough about the genocide that took
11 place to cultivate and create an independent
12 Bangladesh. It's not in our history books, and
13 Bangladeshi's are the fastest growing and one of the
14 most visible faces that we see very single day in New
15 York City, so a special shout out to Council Member
16 Fariás and also all the members who are working so
17 diligently to make sure that Bangladeshi residents
18 are included in their work. And I want to extend all
19 of my gratitude to my neighbor and sister Council
20 Member Avilés who has helped lead her district
21 through this crisis with so much care, grace, and
22 being so clear about where we need to invest urgently
23 to make our community safer. I also want to lift up
24 my brother Zach Dahan [sp?], a 21-year-old Syrian
25 immigrant who while fasting was able to spot the

1 shooter and help end the 30-hour search. This is an
2 incredible example of community members coming
3 together to support one another, and immigrant New
4 Yorkers stepping up in times of crisis. I'm thrilled
5 to be introducing Intro. 158 with Council Members
6 Krishnan, Powers, and Rivera and co-prime sponsoring
7 Intros 184, 185 with Council Member Powers. This
8 legislative package would strengthen our detainer
9 laws to ensure our city government is not funneling
10 immigrant New Yorkers into ICE custody. I'm also
11 grateful to partner with Public Advocate Williams to
12 introduce Resolution 112 in support of the State New
13 York for All Act which would broadly prohibit state
14 and city agencies from collaborating with ICE. New
15 York City proudly proclaims itself a Sanctuary City,
16 and passing these bills is critical in getting us to
17 truly live up to that name. Lastly, I want to praise
18 my colleague, Council Member Cabán, for introducing
19 Intro. 153, which I'm proud to co-prime sponsor. This
20 bill would create a fund dedicated to providing
21 grants and essential resources to ensure domestic
22 violence survivors can find safe and stable housing.
23 With the support, we can help thousands of people
24 leave abusive situations and create a more caring and
25

1
2 safer city for everybody. I hope members will
3 consider joining me in supporting these bills. Thank
4 you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And
6 Council Member Rivera?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so
8 much, and thanks to Council Member Hanif for shouting
9 out Zach who was on the streets of the East Village
10 and made the call, because New Yorkers are amazing
11 and we look out for each other. While we meet here
12 this afternoon, our communities are battling a
13 housing crisis on the heels of a public health
14 crisis. To confront these compounding crises, today
15 I'm introducing a legislative package addressing
16 housing as a matter of public health and safety
17 because it absolutely is. the community opportunity
18 to purchase at COPA [sic] is a bill to accelerate
19 affordable housing development to the expansion of
20 CLT's and joins other bills that I'm introducing
21 including one to address emergency lead remediation
22 as a Class C violation that warrants immediate action
23 in homes with children, as well as a vacant unit
24 registry bill to tackle the challenge of warehousing
25 in our city. This package will ensure we are

1 supporting community-led development and expands and
2 strengthens multiple dwelling safety requirements to
3 protect tenants. New York City is at a crossroads
4 for the future of housing justice. I hope you will
5 join me, Council Members Sandy Nurse and Council
6 Member Gale Brewer in signing on. And to support our
7 economy especially through what we have seen happen
8 to our small businesses throughout the pandemic, some
9 which have closed unfortunately, I am today
10 introducing legislation with Council Member Menin to
11 create a legacy business registry and preservation
12 fund to give special designation protections and
13 support to longstanding small businesses who have
14 contributed so much to the character and history of
15 their neighborhoods, for the shuttered gym spa, for
16 our outstanding Casa Arella [sp?] for the local
17 favorite and kind of famous Stromboli's Pizza, for
18 that upcoming, unnamed cannabis business that will
19 represent the best of our intentions, and for all of
20 the legacy businesses past, present, and future that
21 have shaped who I am, who we are, and what we strive
22 to protect. We must get this done. I'll also be
23 joining Council Members Keith Powers and Shahana
24 Hanif and introducing a critical package of
25

1
2 legislation to protect immigrant New Yorkers. All of
3 these bills brings us one step closer to justice that
4 our fellow New Yorkers desperately need. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
6 now go to Council Member Riley, Cabán, and Ossé.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you. As you
8 heard earlier today by my colleague, Council Member
9 Fariás, Fariás excuse me, the City must be-- set the
10 standard for survivor protection domestic, gender-
11 based, intimate partner violence. As elected
12 officials, it is our duty to ensure that appropriate
13 legislation exists and is conducive to maximizing the
14 support and resources survivors rely on to maintain
15 their healing. With the push for an online portal
16 and the written resources guide for the Mayor's
17 Office, we will create opportunities for more
18 expansive, cultural competent outreach to survivors.
19 I'm happy today to co-prime, co-sponsor in prime,
20 this piece of legislation with my colleagues Council
21 Member Cabán, Louis, Ayala, Ung, and Public Advocate
22 Williams. Leading the charge against domestic and
23 gender-based violence, this bill will ensure
24 survivors feel more confident and comfortable in our
25 relief services with the addition of this

1 comprehensive online portal. I encourage my
2 colleagues in the New York City Council to support
3 this legislation will improve the network for
4 survivor's resources citywide. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
6 now go to Council Member Cabán.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Today,
8 joined by esteemed colleagues I'm introducing the
9 Support Survivors Legislative Package. It's a bold
10 step towards a city where survivors of violence can
11 find healing, growth, and safety. The first bill,
12 Intro 0153, I want to thank Council Members Hanif,
13 Louis, Ayala, Ung, and Public Advocate Williams for
14 their co-sponsorship. Again and again we hear from
15 survivors that economic precarity [sic] is central
16 barrier to safety and healing. That's why the city
17 must establish a program that provides low-barrier,
18 urgently-accessible grants to survivors for whatever
19 expenses they have, ranging from housing, medical,
20 counseling, legal to mobile phone costs and moving
21 trucks. Second, Intro 0154, I want to thank Council
22 Members Riley, Louis, Ayala, Ung, and Public Advocate
23 Williams for their co-sponsorship. Many times, even
24 when the City already offers the services a survivor
25

1 needs, it's hard to find, locate, and access that
2 service, and different services are housed in
3 different agencies and organizations, making finding
4 one prohibitively difficult for many survivors. And
5 so this bill mandates the creation of an online
6 portal and a written resource guide where all of the
7 services offered by every agency and CBO are clearly
8 laid out in all the major languages, including
9 braille, all in one place. And lastly, Reso. 0111, I
10 want to thank Public Advocate Williams for his
11 partnership on this. Like the vast majority of my
12 fellow New Yorkers, I support universal paid leave.
13 However, even if it takes a while to win that, I
14 think we can agree that survivors of domestic,
15 intimate partner, sexual, and gender-based violence
16 have a unique need for paid leave. For too long this
17 city has cynically used survivor's trauma and pain
18 merely as a pre-text to ramp up policing prostitution
19 and incarceration, leaving the actually survivors
20 without access to the services and protections that
21 they need. No more. These are supports that are
22 trauma-informed, survivor-centered, improve overall
23 public safety, and on an individual level will be
24 life-changing for the folks to access them, and it is
25

1
2 for all survivors, including those historically
3 criminalized, black, brown, immigrant, trans, non-
4 binary, the disability community who we know are
5 significantly more likely to be abused or assaulted.
6 I hope my colleagues will join us in proudly and
7 urgently supporting survivors in our city. Thank
8 you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
10 going to go to Council Member Ossé followed by Barron
11 and Paladino.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Majority
13 Leader. I want to start by expressing my love and
14 solidarity with Council Member Avilés as well as my
15 condolences from the horrific attack in Sunset Park a
16 couple of days ago. I also do want to acknowledge
17 that in my district on the same day, three people
18 were also shot in another shooting Bed-Stuy. With
19 that being said, I do want to acknowledge and express
20 gratitude for both the Mayor as well as colleagues in
21 this room for advocating and pushing for our Federal
22 Government to stand up against the gun lobby and to
23 truly shut down the influx and flow of guns within
24 our city. I also do want to say that over the past
25 couple of days I've taken the subway three times.

1
2 Every single time I've taken the subway, I have seen
3 cops on their phone, and I do want to also call on
4 this Administration and my colleagues in the room
5 too, to tell this Administration that before we spend
6 more of our tax-payer dollars on sending more cops
7 into the subway or even implementing metal detectors
8 in our subway system, that we tell the NYPD and the
9 cops that are already there, the 3,800, to get off
10 their phones. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We
12 now go to Council Member Barron.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very
15 much. My colleagues, I want to introduce you to a
16 bill I'm introducing, Intro. 143, to remediate lead
17 hazard and water in our schools. There's lead
18 hazards in our water that our children drink and cook
19 with. So we got to do something about that, and my
20 bill will require testing and remediation-- remedies that
21 go along with cleaning this up. And the reason why
22 I'm stumbling, because I got to get to this mayor. I
23 cannot believe that I heard him today talking about
24 where's the Black Lives Matter movement? How come
25 they aren't in the streets? Shame on you, Mayor.

1
2 You are trying to hide behind the fact that after 100
3 days your policies have failed. There's more police
4 on the streets. There's more police in the subways.
5 You want to end the no-cash bail which has nothing to
6 do with crime going up, because the fact of the
7 matter is crime didn't go up under no-cash bail,
8 because it was for non-violent misdemeanors, and 98
9 percent didn't commit another crime. We need to put
10 not lip service into mental health and youth centers
11 and job creation and no more jails. We need to put
12 the real bucks into that. Hey, Mayor, how about
13 taking that 513 million dollars' worth of overtime
14 that your police use, and put that 500 million into
15 the violence interrupters, not 100 million, 200,
16 million, a half a billion. Until you adequately
17 address the root causes of this, you know what it is.
18 Everybody speaks to it. Put your money where your
19 mouth is. Stop trying to goad Black Lives Matter
20 like that has something to do with it. Shame on you,
21 Mayor. People are dying and we need to do the real
22 thing, get to the root causes of our problems.
23 Poverty, Mayor, unemployment, and finance the
24 violence interrupters through the tune of a billion

1 like your police 10-point plus billion dollar budget.
2 Shame on you, Mayor.

3
4 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: We'll go now to
5 Council Member Paladino, Council Member Krishan, and
6 Council Member Carr.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Good afternoon
9 everybody. I'd like to address this Chamber today on
10 several different things. I'd like to start first
11 with some common sense here. All I'm listening to
12 right now is defund the police and get the police out
13 of the subways. I think that's absolutely ridiculous.
14 How can you sit here and actually say we don't need
15 police officers? That's ridiculous. The next thing
16 I'd like to talk about is addressing the
17 reinstatement of the police officers, the fire
18 fighters, and those civil servants, the average Jane
19 and Joes who fought and were on the front lines
20 during 2020 when this city was burning to the ground.
21 They deserve their careers back. I stand with Joe
22 Borelli and my other colleagues in this chamber, and
23 I hope to God everybody could understand that
24 violence is here. It's not going anywhere. Social
25 workers are not the end-all. We need a combination

1 of both. Be wise people when you think, and think
2 before you speak, because this is outrageous what I'm
3 hearing on this floor today. and my heart and my
4 sympathies goes out to Council Member Avilés, but I'm
5 a realist, and what a realist is-- what a realist
6 means to me and to so many other people, to hear that
7 Council Member say police officers get off your
8 phone. Really? How could you say that with a
9 straight face? When people run into the subways with
10 their guns drawn, they got their-- they're wearing
11 their-- they got the guts to wear those guns and put
12 their life on the line for people like you and people
13 like me. And the fire fighters went into those
14 burning buildings, you got something to say about
15 them, too? Yes, I totally agree, social services,
16 but we need balance here, and what I hear and see
17 here today is extremely frustrating. There is no
18 balance. We need balance. We need common sense.
19 And I beg each and every one of you to look inside
20 yourselves and get off the high horses that you're on
21 and deal with reality. I've been around 68 years.
22 I've watched it come; I've watched it go. Council
23 Member Barron has been around as long as I have, and
24

1 we've seen the city go through different things, and
2 we're going to agree--

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]

4 Thank you, Council Member.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Okay, thank
6 you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We're
8 now going to Council Member Krishnan, Council Member
9 Carr, Council Member Feliz, Council Member Yeger, and
10 remember it's 80 degrees out. Thank you.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: starting time.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Afternoon
13 everyone. First, I want to extend my condolences, my
14 love to Council Member Avilés and all those of Sunset
15 Park and the victims of this horrific attack. I
16 couldn't agree more with Council Member Avilés'
17 statements and the way in which we truly need
18 community-based solutions that keep our community
19 safe, whether it's investing in mental health
20 services, whether it's engaging our youth in positive
21 and constructive ways, whether it's offering true
22 supports, permanent housing and services for our
23 homeless, not sweeps, and as well as ending the
24 public health epidemic which is gun violence in this
25

1 city. The need to address those issues could not be
2 clearer. We all stand with you. We all stand with
3 Sunset Park. I'd also-- today is also the-- this
4 weekend as well. There are a number of holidays
5 coming up, too. So I want to wish everyone that
6 celebrates a happy Vysaki [sp?], a happy Bengali New
7 Year, [inaudible], happy Vishu [sp?], Happy Easter,
8 Happy Passover. I hope I didn't omit anything, but
9 happy-- happy weekend and celebration to all those
10 who celebrate these days in their different forms. I
11 wanted to talk about two pieces of legislation, my
12 two first pieces of legislation that I'll be
13 introducing today, Intros 173 and 174. Earlier, or
14 last month at this point, I joined colleagues at the
15 Parks Committee to announce our five-point plan.
16 These two bills, Intro 173 and 174 help to advance
17 the goals of parks equity in our city which we
18 desperately need. Intro 173 will ensure that the
19 Parks Department comes up with a rating system to
20 grade the satisfactoriness of parks and maintenance
21 services in our parks, and those that don't meet the
22 satisfactory criteria requires parks to submit
23 reports to the Council every six months of the plan
24 and the timeline and the repairs that will be needed
25

1
2 to bring the parks up to satisfaction. Intro 174
3 requires the Parks Department to also submit a report
4 on a regular basis of capital projects and the status
5 of those projects and the timeline for completion,
6 because we do know that we must perform, radically
7 reform, the capital process for parks construction in
8 this city. And finally, I'd be remiss if I did not
9 mention again my call and so many advocates that we
10 do need one billion dollars for parks in the City
11 budget.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you. Just
14 last thing, I'll close, is just to echo Council
15 Member Restler's comments that the Rent Guideline
16 Board's increases at a time when so many tenants
17 cannot pay their rent is utterly atrocious. Nine
18 percent is highway robbery of so many tenants who
19 have struggled so much during this pandemic. It
20 cannot be implemented as policy for rent stabilized
21 tenants. Thank you.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Council Member.
23 Council Member Carr, Council Member Feliz, and
24 Council Member Yeger.
25

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader. Good afternoon, colleagues. I'm speaking in support of Resolution 106 of which I'm a prime co-sponsor and many of my colleagues are sponsoring as well and have spoken eloquently on the subject. I'm supporting this resolution not simply because of the exemption offered to professional athletes, but because I don't believe that these employees should have been terminated to begin with. There were reasonable measures that could have been taken to ensure workplace safety and workplace health, even when the mandate was put in place. And for all we know, the individuals who were terminated were good, able, competent, model employees of the City of New York, and I know how important workplace protections are in this body, how important the principles of organized labor are and civil service protections, and to see these individuals terminated for a personal health decision that could have been accommodated, is to me unfortunate, and I think it needs to be reversed. And that's chiefly why I'm supporting this resolution and call on my colleagues to do the same, and to support a hearing on this subject so we can really have the public discussion

1 that this issue deserves, and hopefully get these
2 people back doing the good work on behalf of New
3 Yorkers that they were doing for years. I also want
4 to just extend my support and my well wishes to
5 Council Member Avilés and all the folks in Sunset
6 Park after the tragedy that occurred this week, and
7 my tanks to all the first responders for their great
8 work, and just wish a happy Easter, Bona Pasqua
9 [sp?], [inaudible], and happy [inaudible] to all
10 those who are celebrating, and Ramadan Mubarak.
11 Thank you.

12
13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. We'll
14 go to Council Member Feliz, and to wrap us up, go to
15 Council Member Yeger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Thank you so much.
17 I want to reiterate what many of my colleagues have
18 mentioned. I too want to emphasize how concerned I
19 am about public safety crisis affecting our city,
20 especially the borough of the Bronx. Last Tuesday we
21 witnessed a horrible tragedy in the borough of
22 Brooklyn. There were other tragedies in our city,
23 including in my district. Approximately 10 people
24 shot in my district in a span of two hours.
25 Approximately 10 people of color shot in my district

1
2 in the span of two hours. New Yorkers and people of
3 color, including those living in the Bronx, should
4 not have to live with constant fear of having to hear
5 the ring of those gun shots when they're leaving
6 grocery stores, when they're leaving our schools,
7 when they're leaving liquor stores as we saw two days
8 ago. Three individuals shot in my district as they
9 were leaving a liquor store. Ten individuals
10 approximately, those aren't just numbers. Those
11 numbers represent lives, some that have been lost,
12 and others that will live the rest of their lives
13 traumatized. So I hope that we can come together as
14 a city, as a state, and as a country. It's a problem
15 affecting our entire country, including the City of
16 New York, including Chicago, California. Hope we can
17 come together and find real solutions and truly,
18 truly resolve the problem for all New Yorkers. Thank
19 you so much.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And
21 now go to Council Member Yeger.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr.
23 President. Members of this chamber spoke today about
24 many heinous crimes committed in their district. My
25 colleague to the north of me who represents a part of

1 the neighborhood that I serve in, had a train station
2 where we all know what happened there. The lines
3 that go through that travel through my district,
4 travel through other member's district, not exclusive
5 to one member. Other members spoke about shootings
6 in their neighborhood, about a stabbing where a
7 school safety agent was stabbed trying to-- I forget
8 the term-- be a violence interrupter to protect an
9 innocent person from being harmed. New York City has
10 violence interrupters. We talk about violence
11 interrupters or at least others talk about violence
12 interrupters all the time. Violence interrupters in
13 the city are the police. Those are the violence
14 interrupters. It's not mutually exclusive to say we
15 need police and we need mental health services. We
16 need police and we need youth programs. We need
17 police and we need social services. Those are not
18 concepts that contradict each other, but to say that
19 we don't need police and we only need these other
20 things prejudices that every single person who does
21 something bad in this city necessarily has mental
22 problems. There are people who do bad things who are
23 core evil. They're just evil. They're bad people.
24 They shoot. They kill. They stab. They're doing

1 bad things because they're bad, and a civilized
2 society has to-- has to have a measure by which we
3 separate the good from the evil. That's the police.
4 That's the justice system. Those who are
5 unfortunately on the streets have clear mental
6 problems who are not being served by the mental
7 services that the City provides and need more
8 services should get those services. That's something
9 that it doesn't matter what spectrum you fall on or
10 what neighborhood you come from. We can all agree on
11 it in this chamber, but the idea that it's exclusive,
12 that we don't need-- I don't think-- I don't know if
13 I heard that on the floor today, so I'm not
14 attributing that to any member, but that we don't
15 need more cops on the subway, but we do need mental
16 health services, we do need social services is truly
17 an insane concept. We have to cops on our subways.
18 We can't have a subway system where it is simply not
19 patrolled when we know there is core evil in this
20 city where there are people attacking other people
21 because they're simply bad. And I think it's also
22 clear-- and I've read as many articles, and I've
23 watched as much TV as anybody else over the last
24 couple of days-- I don't know that we've heard that

1 this gentleman has mental problems. I don't know that
2 we heard-- correct me if I'm wrong-- I don't' know
3 that we heard that he was released from a psychiatric
4 institution, that he had sought services, that he had
5 mental problems. We do know that he has a criminal
6 history. We do know that he got on a train--

7
8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Clock
9 expired.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: weaponized, and he
11 intended--

12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: [interposing]
13 Thank you, Council Member Yeger.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: to do harm, and he
15 did the harm, and he was caught by the police with
16 the help of New Yorkers who called in the tips line,
17 and for that we're very grateful. Thank you very
18 much, Mr. President.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. And
20 that is the end of General Discussions. I'll now
21 call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close out today's
22 Stated Meeting.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Stated Meeting of April
24 14th, 2022 is hereby adjourned.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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 7, 2022