

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Start: 2:35 P. M.

Recess: 3:59 P. M.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

STATED MEETING  
COUNCIL MEMBERS CONTINUED

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  
Nantasha M. Williams  
Julie Won  
Kalman Yeger

## STATED MEETING

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

RABBI YAAKOV LEHRFIELD,  
Young Israel of Staten Island located at  
835 Forest Hill Road, Staten Island, NY 10314

1  
2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Microphone check, microphone  
3 check, Stated Meeting, April 27, 2023, located in the  
4 chambers, recording by Walter Lewis.

5 CITY CLERK: Please place all electronic devices  
6 to vibrate or silent mode, thank you.

7 Mr. Majority Leader?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

9 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

10 CITY CLERK: Quiet, please!

11 Good afternoon, and welcome to the New York City  
12 Stated Meeting of April 27, 2023. I am Majority  
13 Leader Keith Powers, and I would like to thank  
14 everybody for joining us today. If you would like to  
15 following along, the agenda for today's meeting is  
16 posted on the website.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the pledge of  
18 alliance.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

20 [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: (NO RESPONSE).

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye

STATED MEETING

5

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

STATED MEETING

6

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

STATED MEETING

7

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here  
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?  
4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present  
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?  
6 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present  
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?  
8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present  
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?  
10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Present  
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?  
12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present  
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?  
14 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present  
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?  
16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present  
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here  
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?  
20 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present  
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?  
22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (NO RESPONSE)  
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?  
24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here  
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

STATED MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordon?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (NO RESPONSE)  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera?  
COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: (NO RESPONSE)  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?  
COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?  
COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?  
COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Present  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?  
COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (NO RESPONSE)  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Williams?  
COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here  
COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

1 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (NO RESPONSE)

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: (NO RESPONSE)

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: (NO RESPONSE)

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Let's go, Knicks, I am  
8 here.

9 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

10 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Ditto what he said, I am here,  
12 too.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we are now  
14 going to hear today's Invocation, which will be  
15 delivered by Rabbi Yaakov Lehrfield, Young Israel in  
16 Staten Island, located at 835 Forest Hill Road in  
17 Staten Island.

18 Welcome.

19 RABBI YAAKOV LEHRFIELD: Thank you.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

21 RABBI YAAKOV LEHRFIELD: Thank you.

22 To the Oh Mighty, Master of The Universe, we  
23 involve Thy blessings upon this [INAUDIBLE]  
24 assemblage of people, the City Council of New York.  
25

1  
2 We gather this afternoon, dignitaries, elected  
3 officials, citizens of our great country, and our  
4 beloved city of New York. Imbue with wisdom and  
5 understanding, with a warm spirit of harmony, inspire  
6 us to labor zealously for fulfillment of economic and  
7 political democracy. Please grant us Thy guidance  
8 for all who live under our flag, the stars and  
9 stripes of America, regardless of race, color,  
10 religion, or creed. The Oh Mighty sustains living  
11 with unending kindness, He supports all who stumble  
12 and fall, He heals the sick. We pay tribute to all  
13 our elected officials, our country state, and beloved  
14 city need wise, sagacious, and bold leadership. This  
15 room is filled with the people who have the capacity  
16 to lead and effect change. We have put our trust in  
17 you, it is a privilege to stand before you today.  
18 May God grant the citizens of this great country, all  
19 of our serviceman in uniform, especially those  
20 serving in harm's way, health and happiness. May we  
21 be blessed with peace, prosperity, generosity of  
22 spirit, for many years to come. And let us all say,  
23 Amen.

24 [AMEN]  
25

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, I am now going  
3 to ask Council Member David Carr to spread the  
4 Invocation in full upon the record.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader.  
6 I am very proud to have my friend and Staten Island's  
7 own Rabbi Yaakov Lehrfield here with us today giving  
8 the Invocation for today's Stated Meeting.

9 Rabbi Lehrfield is a learned man, and actually  
10 begin studying at the University of Miami at the  
11 early age of 15, going on to earn a master's degree  
12 in Education and Jewish Letters from the Itri School  
13 in Jerusalem, where he learned directly under Rav  
14 Betzalel Zolty zt"l, then Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem,  
15 and continued his studies at the Mirrer Yeshiva. He  
16 received rabbinical ordination from Rav Zolty in 1984  
17 and from Rav Reuven Feinstein, Rosh Yeshiva of  
18 Yeshiva of Staten Island, in 2001. He received his  
19 doctorate in Jewish Law from the High Court of  
20 Jerusalem. And Rabbi Lehrfield's career of  
21 transmitting Torah began at the age of 25, first as a  
22 Professor of Jurisprudence at Yeshivas Beis Yisroel,  
23 in Jerusalem. He returned to New York City and has  
24 been the senior Rabbi and Young Israel of Staten  
25 Island, in the center of my district, for the past 22

1  
2 years, where he has been a committed and energetic  
3 faith leader in our borough ever since. In the time  
4 that he has been there, he has been in a leading  
5 voice, not only for Young Israel, but the entire  
6 Jewish Community of the borough, at which he is at  
7 the heart. And he has forged enduring bonds between  
8 different faith communities on Staten Island. His  
9 lessons, and speeches, and teachings have inspired  
10 generations of borough residents -- including many  
11 gentiles like myself -- and my elected colleagues and  
12 I are very fortunate to have been welcomed by him as  
13 we took office and to have him as just a wonderful  
14 partner in spiritual guide. Thank you, Rabbi  
15 Lehrfield, for being here today, God Bless you.

16 Thank you, and I am very privileged to move to  
17 spread the Invocation in full upon the record.

18 [APPLAUSE]

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, to Council  
20 Member Carr.

21 We will now have the Adoption of Minutes by  
22 Council Member Lynn Schulman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: I make a motion that the  
24 Stated Meeting of March 16, 2023 be adopted as  
25 printed.

1 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

2 We will now have Messages and Papers from The  
3 Mayor.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,  
6 County and Borough Offices?

7 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and  
9 Communications?

10 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will now have  
14 Communication from the, Speaker Adrienne Adams.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you very much, Majority  
16 Leader Powers.

17 And good afternoon, everyone, before we begin, I  
18 want to acknowledge the presence in our Chambers  
19 today, as someone who is very near and dear to this  
20 council, someone who has served this council, and  
21 someone who continues to give of her to give of  
22 herself in service, that is none other than our very  
23 own former Council Member Annette Robinson.  
24

25 [APPLAUSE]

1  
2 Now, before we begin, I want to take a moment to  
3 remember the lives of New Yorkers who died on the job  
4 these past few weeks.

5 We are mourning the death of Willis Moore, the  
6 longtime manager of the parking garage in Lower  
7 Manhattan, very close to this building, who died  
8 during the garage collapse earlier this month.

9 We are also mourning the loss a 36-year-old state  
10 DOT contractor, who was killed in Queens on Tuesday  
11 after being hit by a car while working on a wall  
12 inspection.

13 Our hearts are with their loved ones and their  
14 communities during this very difficult time.

15 These tragedies come as we approach Worker's  
16 Memorial Month on April 28th and Building Safety  
17 Month, which is observed every May to raise awareness  
18 about the importance of workplace safety. It is a  
19 reminder of the need to enact stronger protections to  
20 ensure that our workers are safe while on the job.

21 Yesterday, The Mayor released his Fiscal Year  
22 2024 Executive Budget. The Council has been pretty  
23 clear that our priority is ensuring that the budget  
24 delivers investments in the essential services that  
25 New Yorkers need to recover and succeed in our city.

1  
2 While there were some adjustments to the most recent  
3 PEG proposed by the Administration, the Executive  
4 Budget still includes another PEG, totally \$1.6  
5 billion in proposed cuts and maintains all other  
6 previously enacted and proposed PEGS that total more  
7 than \$4 billion over Fiscal Year 2023 and 2024.

8 Our libraries, CUNY, and other essential agencies  
9 and services that New Yorkers rely on are still  
10 facing significant cuts that are harmful. Chronic  
11 understaffing and inadequate recourses and City  
12 agencies have already made it difficult for them to  
13 fulfill their obligations to deliver critical  
14 services and programs. As a result, New Yorkers are  
15 not getting the help they need, whether it is food  
16 assistance, housing vouchers, or other important  
17 services. New Yorkers, especially our working  
18 families, are already stretched thin as they face a  
19 crisis of affordability in this City. As a  
20 government, it is our responsibility to deliver and  
21 we cannot afford to fail them at this critical time.

22 New Yorkers need smart investments in key  
23 services that will set them and our city up for  
24 success. For example, earlier this week, I was  
25 joined by Mental Health Committee Chair, Linda Lee,

1  
2 Majority Leader Keith Powers, Council Member Eric  
3 Bottcher, and mental health advocates and service  
4 providers to release our Mental Health roadmap. This  
5 detailed plan, that focuses on strengthening our  
6 mental health care infrastructure and services, with  
7 evidence based solutions, contains the type of  
8 investments that the City must prioritize. We are  
9 facing a mental health crisis, and if we do not take  
10 meaningful steps to meet this need, our city will  
11 fall short for New Yorkers. This is just one example  
12 when we talk about essential services that we must  
13 prioritize for investments. And the Council is  
14 fighting to deliver.

15 As we continue to negotiate the City Budget, we  
16 will be guided by these priorities to invest in the  
17 people of our city and for their needs.

18 Over the weekend, we celebrated Earth Day, which  
19 serves as an important call to action to act with  
20 urgency to protect our planet. During our last  
21 Stated Meeting, we passed several bills to reduce  
22 pollution and to support renewable energy, which are  
23 meaningful steps in the fight against climate change.  
24 I hope all New Yorkers had a great and active Earth  
25 Day.

1  
2 April 27th was also Eid al-Fitr, which marks the  
3 end of the blessed month of Ramadan for our Muslim  
4 communities. Earlier this week, the Council held a  
5 moving Eid celebration right here in the chambers.  
6 And I want to thank Council Member Shahana Hanif,  
7 Council Member Alexa Avilés, Council Member Tiffany  
8 Cabán, Council Member Amanda Farías, Council Member  
9 Sandy Nurse, Council Member Althea Stevens, and  
10 Council Member Nantasha Williams, for cohosting the  
11 event.

12 To the nearly 1 million New Yorkers who make our  
13 diverse city stronger, Eid Mubarak.

14 Today is Delta Day at City Hall, so I want to  
15 welcome all of the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta  
16 Sorority Incorporated to the People's house. We do  
17 have two Deltas proudly serving in the New York City  
18 Council, Majority Whip, Council Member Selvena,  
19 Brooks-Powers and Council Member Nantasha Williams.  
20 We appreciate everything they do for our communities  
21 through scholarships, service, and social action.

22 Wednesday marked Israel's 75th Independence Day.  
23 I want to wish our Jewish Community a festive Yom  
24 Ha'atzmaut.

1  
2 Yesterday was Denim Day, a day committed to  
3 supporting survivors of sexual violence and  
4 increasing public awareness about this important  
5 issue. Denim Day was started in the aftermath of a  
6 rape trial in Italy, where the survivor was blamed  
7 because of the jeans she wore. It is a day of action  
8 where we show our collective solidarity for survivors  
9 around the world and recommit to supporting survivors  
10 with a trauma informed care and recovery they need.

11 And all week long we are celebrating National  
12 Library Week. Our libraries are a vital resource hub  
13 and neighborhood centers that provide critical  
14 programs and services. They enrich residents of all  
15 ages and backgrounds, and they are key to safe and  
16 healthy communities. As we continue to advocate for  
17 funding for our library systems, I want to thank the  
18 New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, and  
19 my very own Queens Public Library for which I served  
20 as a trustee. Thank you for everything you do to  
21 support New Yorkers.

22 As we enter the month of May, I want to recognize  
23 several upcoming holidays and notable days.

24 May 1st is May Day, also known as International  
25 Labor Day in honor of the workers who run our city

1  
2 and made it what it is today. We will continue to  
3 support our workers and union partners in the  
4 movement.

5 May 2nd, is National Teacher Day observed on the  
6 first Tuesday of May. On this day, we pay tribute to  
7 our teachers who keep our students educated, safe,  
8 and healthy. Thank you to all of the dedicated and  
9 hard working teachers who are truly our unsung  
10 heroes.

11 May 5th of course is Cinco de Mayo. We celebrate  
12 our Mexican communities here in New York City and  
13 across the county.

14 May 6th is National Nurses Day. We are so  
15 grateful to our essential frontline health care  
16 workers who keep our communities healthy and safe  
17 every day, and we continue their fight with them for  
18 parity.

19 And throughout the month of May we are  
20 celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander  
21 Heritage Month; Haitian Heritage Month; Jewish  
22 Heritage Month; Lupus Awareness Month; and Maternal  
23 Mental Health Month. It's a big month!

24 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]  
25

1  
2 I also want to take a moment to plug our ongoing  
3 New York City Government Hiring Halls that we have  
4 been hosting in partnership with the Administration  
5 to recruit New Yorkers to fill vacancies in our  
6 various City agencies. We recently held a hiring  
7 event in the Bronx in Council Member Sanchez's  
8 district. And there is an upcoming hiring event  
9 tomorrow at York College in South East Queens where  
10 Council Member Nantasha Williams and I serve that  
11 college. I urge all New Yorkers looking for  
12 opportunities to join the City's workforce to stop by  
13 and join us.

14 Finally, please join me in wishing a very Happy  
15 Birthday to Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, Council  
16 Member Christopher Marte, and Council Member Kalman  
17 Yeger!

18 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

19 And a very Happy early Birthday to Council Member  
20 Jim Gennaro!

21 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

22 Now, let's move to our Stated Agenda.

23 First we will vote on the following Finance  
24 items:  
25

1  
2 A transparency resolution approving new  
3 designations and changes of certain organizations  
4 receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

5 A Preconceived Resolution to authorize an Article  
6 XI Exemption for one building in Washington Heights  
7 in Council Member Abreu's District.

8 Five Preconsidered Resolutions to authorize one  
9 new Article XI Exemption and amend four prior Article  
10 XI Exemptions for four building in East Harlem in  
11 Deputy Speaker Ayala's district.

12 A Preconsidered Resolution to authorize an  
13 Article XI Exemption for one building in West Harlem  
14 in Council Member Richardson Jordan's district.

15 And a Preconsidered Resolution to authorize an  
16 Article XI Exemption for one building in the Upper  
17 West Side in Council Member Brewer's district.

18 Next we will vote on the following Land Use  
19 Items.

20 25-46 Far Rockaway Blvd Rezoning will facilitate  
21 the construction of a new mixed-use building and  
22 approximately 26 housing units. The Council is  
23 modifying the application to change the proposed R6B  
24 district to an R5D district, and remove an existing  
25

1  
2 school from the rezoning area to better reflect the  
3 surrounding community character.

4 The Council is voting on a motion for file the  
5 text amendment, which was withdrawn by the applicant  
6 in Majority Whips Selvena Brooks-Powers' district.

7 245-06 South Conduit Avenue Commercial Overlay,  
8 an application to bring an existing tire shop into  
9 conformance with zoning, also in Majority Whips  
10 Selvena Brooks-Powers' district.

11 Next we will vote on the following pieces of  
12 legislation:

13 Resolution Number 487, sponsored by Council  
14 Member Inna Vernikov, recognizing April 29 as End Jew  
15 Hatred Day annually in the City of New York. We  
16 thank our staff Christy Dwyer.

17 Resolution 460, sponsored by Council Member  
18 Amanda Fariás, a Resolution calling on the New York  
19 State Legislature and Governor to fully fund the  
20 Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in the  
21 State's upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 Budget so that  
22 riders have effective, affordable, and frequent  
23 public transportation, and to ensure that the MTA  
24 maintains fiscal stability. We thank our staff  
25 member Samuel Breidbart.

1  
2 Next we will vote on a package of bills aimed at  
3 improving government efficiency and eliminating  
4 outdated entities.

5 Resolution 566, sponsored by our Governmental  
6 Operations Chair, Council Member Sandra Ung, a  
7 Resolution approving The Report and Advisory Board  
8 Review Commission's determination recommending waiver  
9 of eight reporting requirements that was communicated  
10 to the City Council on January 24, 2023.

11 Introduction 984-A, sponsored by Council Member  
12 Gale Brewer, would repeal certain outdated and  
13 unnecessary provisions, temporary programs, and pilot  
14 programs, and unconstitutional provisions from the  
15 Administrative Code of the city of New York.

16 Introduction 986-A, sponsored by Council Member  
17 Amanda Farías, would repeal certain outdated and  
18 unnecessary advisory boards, task forces, and  
19 commissions from both the City Charter and the  
20 Administration Code.

21 And Introduction 1004-A, sponsored by Council  
22 Member Nantasha Williams, would repeal certain  
23 reporting requirements selected for waiver by the  
24 commission and amend certain outdated and unnecessary  
25 reports and studies. We thank our staff members

1  
2 Michelle Lee, Jessica Foong, Chris Pepe, and Malcom  
3 Butehorn.

4 Next, Introduction 891-A, sponsored by Council  
5 Member Rafael Salamanca, will allow gaming for  
6 charitable purposes at professional sporting venues.

7 This bill would authorize sports venues to conduct  
8 raffles during professional and collegiate sporting  
9 competitions from two hours before the beginning of  
10 play until the end of play. Venues like Yankee  
11 Stadium and City Field would be able to host gaming  
12 when operated by authorized charitable organization.

13 Thank you to our staff members Austin Malone, Natalie  
14 Meltzer, and Sarah Swain.

15 Next, Introduction 190-A, sponsored by Public  
16 Advocate Jumaane Williams, would recognize the  
17 Department of Homeless Services to create a bill of  
18 rights that inform individuals experiencing  
19 homelessness of the rights and services available to  
20 them. DHS would have to make this information  
21 publicly available on its website, in shelters, and  
22 in social service offices. Thank you to our staff  
23 member Aminta Kilawan.

24 And Introduction 704-A sponsored by Council  
25 Member Shaun Abreu, would provide landlords with the

1  
2 option to receive rental assistance payments like  
3 City SEPS, via an electric transfer to their bank  
4 accounts. We thank, once again, our staff member  
5 Aminta Kilawan for her hard work.

6 Next Introduction 273-B, sponsored by Mercedes  
7 Narcisse, would require that the NYPD provide  
8 officers with training related to recognizing and  
9 interacting with individuals with autism spectrum  
10 disorder.

11 The training would be incorporated in as part of  
12 a new recruits' academy process and all uniformed  
13 members would receive the training on a bi-annual  
14 basis. Thank you to staff members Josh Kingsley  
15 and Jeremy Whiteman.

16 And, finally, we will be voting on a package of  
17 critical street safety bills, while traffic  
18 fatalities have fallen sharply over recent decades,  
19 the overall increase in traffic violence since 2018  
20 has been concerning, particularly in the increase of  
21 children killed on our streets. This year alone, we  
22 have already lost 41 people to traffic related  
23 fatalities with are preventable tragedies. Behind  
24 every crash is a family and a community impacted by  
25 this violence and it is important that the Council

1  
2 advance equitable polices like the legislation we are  
3 voting on today to ensure that all New Yorkers can  
4 live, work, and commute on safer streets.

5 Introduction 805-A, sponsored by Public Advocate  
6 Jumaane Williams would accelerate and modify the  
7 study and reporting of traffic violence incidents as  
8 required by Local Law. It will require the  
9 comprehensive study that DOT is required to conduct  
10 after all traffic crashes involving a pedestrian  
11 fatality or serious injury take place every four  
12 years instead of every five years. DOT will now be  
13 required to submit this study to every community  
14 board. In addition, the legislation will require  
15 that the reports that DOT produces every three months  
16 of serious vehicular crashes now be submitted to the  
17 Speaker and all community boards as well.

18 Introduction 679-A, sponsored by Rita Joseph,  
19 would require the installation of traffic calming  
20 devices to safely slow or reduce traffic in senior  
21 pedestrian zones, which are areas that DOT in  
22 conciliation with DFTA has determined to be  
23 especially dangerous for senior pedestrians. Each  
24 year, The Department of Transportation will evaluate  
25 each senior pedestrian zone for the installation of

1  
2 traffic calming devices and install at least one in  
3 each senior pedestrian zone and at least 50 across  
4 all senior pedestrian zones.

5 Finally, Introduction 854-A, sponsored by  
6 Transportation and infrastructure Committee Chair  
7 Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers, would require  
8 DOT to implement daylighting at no less than 100  
9 intersections per year, beginning in 2025.

10 Daylighting prevents vehicles from occupying certain  
11 areas near an intersection as a way to expand site  
12 lines for approaching motorist and all road users.

13 DOT will also be required whenever certain criteria  
14 are met to install daylighting barriers such as  
15 bollards, bike racks, and other physical  
16 infrastructure to prevent vehicles from occupying  
17 those areas which have undergone daylighting. We  
18 thank our staff member Samuel Breitbart.

19 I believe that our former Council Member  
20 Annette Robinson is back in chambers, we will give  
21 her her due as we salute her and welcome her back to  
22 her house, the People's House! Council Member!

23 [APPLAUSE]

24 Thank you for your attention, and now I turn it  
25 back into the hands of our Majority Leader.

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Speaker Adams.

3 And, now we will move into Discussion of General  
4 Orders.

5 We will first hear from Council Member Narcisse .

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, today it is  
7 very important... And before I get to the bill  
8 today, let me be clear, I am not asking police to get  
9 a call to interact with people with autism spectrum  
10 disorder. Because there is word going around that we  
11 want police. There is no way. We want to irradiate  
12 that police to deal and interact with folks with  
13 autism spectrum disorder.

14 Let's be clear. I am a nurse for over 30 years,  
15 and I have my [INAUDIBLE] in the balcony telling me  
16 that they need this, because the police are first  
17 responders, but if they don't have the knowledge that  
18 is required to deal with young people and young men,  
19 young women with autism, they don't know. So, once  
20 you are educated from being a nurse, it's education,  
21 you need to educate. You need to empower people with  
22 knowledge. And, then, you can have us then, let's  
23 say for arguments sake we are in court, so if the  
24 person never had knowledge, they have never been  
25 trained, they can tell you they did not see the

1  
2 signs. That is what this bill is about. It is  
3 protecting, saving one life at a time. That is why  
4 we are here -- to educate and prevent, from both  
5 sides, to interact and have escalation in any front.

6 So, when we lead with kindness and compassion,  
7 our city moves in the right direction. Today with  
8 the passing of Introduction 273, we are doing just  
9 that. There are more than 3000,000 New Yorkers who  
10 are on the autism spectrum. And the number of New  
11 Yorkers with autism spectrum disorder is on the rise.  
12 This increase will ultimately lead to more  
13 interaction between the NYPD and New Yorkers -- and  
14 New Yorkers ASD. New Yorkers with ASD have unique  
15 needs, at times, their behavior and mannerisms can be  
16 misinterpreted by police officers [TIMER CHIMES] as  
17 an act of aggression. This bill will fully be  
18 retrain our police force on how best to approach and  
19 engage with people with autism spectrum. This will  
20 lead to a safer outcome for all parties involved.  
21 This interaction -- they will have to stop and they  
22 have to understand. I don't need police to be  
23 called. But, when the call is made, it is a police  
24 officer who will respond. Thank you, Madam Speaker!  
25 Thank you to my Safety Chair Hanks, and all of my

1  
2 colleagues who vote on this bill, and Council Mealy,  
3 as well, thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, thank you,  
5 Council Member.

6 We will now hear from Council Member Hanks.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you so much, Mr.  
8 Majority Leader, thank you so much, Speaker Adams.

9 So, I want to reiterate the comments of my  
10 colleague, Council Member Narcisse, who is the  
11 sponsor of this bill and I am the prime co-sponsor.

12 My story is a little different, Shane Quinn is 16  
13 years of age. He is 5'10", he is 260 pounds, and he  
14 is a Black man. His father, my cousin, was driving  
15 Shane home when he had an episode, attacking his dad  
16 from the back seat of the vehicle. Two police  
17 officers saw the jumping around and the commotion in  
18 the back seat -- in trying to get to the front seat -  
19 - and approached the car with their hands on their  
20 weapons. All my cousin, this dad, could do was  
21 scream from the window that his son was a nonverbal  
22 autistic person who was simply having an episode. He  
23 screamed the name of everybody he knew -- my name,  
24 the inspector's name -- and the fear that my cousin  
25 had at this moment is the inspiration and reason I am

1  
2 co-prime of this bill. As you all may know, autism  
3 diagnosis rates are increasing. This trend is  
4 observed all across our city. As a Council Member  
5 with loved ones, acquaintances, and community members  
6 who are autistic New Yorkers, I consider it essential  
7 to prioritize their protection and well-being. To  
8 this end, I am proud to co-sponsor Introduction 273  
9 with my colleagues Council Member Narcisse and  
10 Council Member Mealy, a bill that will equip the NYPD  
11 with training tools to ensure the safety and the  
12 respect of autistic New Yorkers and the police  
13 officers alike. I am optimistic of The City  
14 Council's passage of this legislation and the  
15 positive impact it will have on this community. Thank  
16 you.

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

19 We will now hear from Council Member Brooks-  
20 Powers.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you

22 Every year, far too many New Yorkers are  
23 victimized by preventable traffic violence. Today,  
24 we will vote on my legislation Introduction 854-A.  
25 This bill require The Department of Transportation to

1  
2 day light more than 100 intersections a year across  
3 the city as well as study the benefits of daylighting  
4 for public safety. The Council is committed to  
5 improving street safety infrastructure and  
6 enforcement citywide and to helping realize Vision  
7 Zero in New York City. Daylighting is a proven  
8 safety measure that expands site lines at  
9 intersections where traffic violence often takes  
10 place. These bills are part of a long-term project  
11 of this council to improve street safety. I thank my  
12 colleagues for their partnership on this crucial  
13 issue, and I look forward to seeing these bills  
14 become law.

15 I also want to discuss the two Land Use proposals  
16 up for vote today, both of which concern projects in  
17 my district. I support both projects, and I want to  
18 note that the developer for the project located at  
19 25-45 25-46 Far Rockaway Boulevard worked extremely  
20 closely with not only the community board, but the  
21 community members who reside in that vicinity to come  
22 to a resolution that their neighbors could support.  
23 I recognize the commitments that he has made to at  
24 least 45 percent local MWBE businesses across the  
25 project. I note, too, his commitment to enter in to

1  
2 workforce agreements with local community based  
3 organizations, and to provide a multi-purpose  
4 community space accessible to the public on the  
5 ground floor of the project. I appreciate the  
6 attention the developer paid to my constituents and  
7 the work done to get us to this point. I look  
8 forward to holding the applicant accountable to these  
9 commitments as well. And, I encourage my colleagues  
10 to vote aye on these pieces of legislation. Thank  
11 you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

13 We will now hear from Council Member Rafael  
14 Salamanca.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Thank you, Mr. Majority  
16 Leader for allowing me to speak on 891. Across the  
17 country professional sports teams are raising  
18 incredible sums of money for local charities through  
19 games that are completely separate from the action on  
20 the field. The game, 50/50 fan raffles. The very  
21 rare exception; however, it is teams who play in New  
22 York City sporting venues, who as a result of  
23 antiquated sections of the City Charter, are  
24 prohibited from hosting games of chance at stadiums  
25 and arenas. For those of you who don't know, 50/50

1  
2 Raffles are a staple of stadium fan experiences that  
3 have been around for decades. Teams sell a number of  
4 raffle tickets before and during the game. Before  
5 announcing the winning ticket near the end of the  
6 game, 50 percent of the proceeds go to a winning fan,  
7 the other 50 percent goes to a far more meaningful  
8 purpose, a local charity of the team's choice. With  
9 Introduction 891, we are bringing the City in line  
10 with what is already allowed at sports venues across  
11 New York State and virtually every other state in the  
12 country, all the while paving the way for sports  
13 teams to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for  
14 charities each season, thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

16 We will now hear from Council Member  
17 Amanda Farías.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Majority  
19 Leader.

20 Today I am excited to see Introduction 986-A, a  
21 bill that prioritizes the efficiency of our city  
22 government being vote on, focusing on amending and  
23 repealing more than 15 non-essential task forces,  
24 advisory boards, and commissions. This bill is the  
25 beginning of our council's spring cleaning effort,

1  
2 and it is in tandem to a larger bill package of my  
3 colleagues Council Member Ung, Council Member Brewer,  
4 and Council Member Williams that focuses on removing  
5 duplicative efforts, already commonplace rules, and  
6 more that need to be repealed to ensure our  
7 Administrative Code and City Charter are not only  
8 operating with efficiency but just make sense. Thank  
9 you, Madam Speaker and to my colleagues for your work  
10 and leadership on this issue. I look forward to  
11 continuing to clean up our Admin Code and City  
12 Charter.

13       While we are in General Orders, I do want to say  
14 I am also happy to see Resolution 460, which calls on  
15 Governor Hochul, to fully fund the MTA and make Six  
16 Minute Service a reality for New Yorkers citywide.  
17 Right now, our transit system is a barrier to our  
18 city meeting its full potential. Six Minute Service  
19 is about streamlining our city for the benefit of our  
20 local communities and tourists alike. When our  
21 transits system fails us, it is a direct reflection  
22 of how our budget priorities are not meeting the  
23 needs of New Yorkers. While we wait for the state's  
24 finalized budget, we at the Council are making our  
25 commitment to our public transit known by passing

1  
2 this resolution. I send my support to our state  
3 colleagues as they continue to fight for Six Minute  
4 Service. And finally I would like to just say, thank  
5 you, to Chair Brooks-Powers for your support on  
6 moving this forward.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

8 We will now hear from Council Member Shaun Abreu.

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

11 Today we are passing Intro 704, which would  
12 mandate that the City allow landlords to opt in to  
13 the instant electronic delivery of rental assistance  
14 payments. An E-payment system would greatly reduce  
15 the risk of late, incorrect, or undelivered checks.  
16 Sadly, we heard directly from stakeholders during the  
17 hearing on this bill that incorrect payments have led  
18 to evictions and homelessness for some families. It  
19 is long overdue that we bring our city's rental  
20 assistance payment system into the 21st century.  
21 Source of income discrimination remains absolutely  
22 rampant in our city. We are dealing with a housing  
23 crisis so extreme that even council members have  
24 trouble finding affordable apartments -- Council  
25 Member Chi Ossé -- but in all seriousness, rents are

1  
2 skyrocketing, and it is our most vulnerable that are  
3 bearing the brunt of this crisis. If we remain with  
4 the status quo of paper checks that are subject to  
5 human error and processing delays, due in large part  
6 to the municipal workforce shortage, we are leaving  
7 tens of thousands of New Yorkers vulnerable to  
8 homelessness due to our own inefficiencies. This  
9 unacceptable. I thank Speaker Adams, Deputy Speaker  
10 Ayala, Jeremy John, Andrea Vasquez, Jeffrey Baker,  
11 David Romero, and my colleagues for their  
12 overwhelming support of this bill, and I look forward  
13 to its passage today, thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 We will now hear from Council Member Rita Joseph.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority  
17 Leader.

18 It is with honor and pride that I ask to vote  
19 favorably on the proposed bill Introduction 679-A, A  
20 Local Law to amend the administrative code of the  
21 city of New York, in relation to the installation of  
22 traffic calming devices in senior pedestrian zones.

23 This bill is about protecting seniors. It is  
24 about safety, transportation -- safety is a real  
25 issue in our community. Our constituents are

1  
2 primarily seniors and have been calling for better  
3 laws to help them keep them safe in the streets  
4 within their communities, and this bill is doing just  
5 that. By voting yes to my bill Intro 649-A, you are  
6 contributing to keeping our seniors safe. So, I want  
7 to thank my colleagues, Council Member Mealy, Council  
8 Member Louis, Council Member Restler , Council Member  
9 Hanif, Council Member Hudson, Council Member Sanchez,  
10 Council Member Won, Council Member Gutiérrez, Council  
11 Member Brannan, Council Member Riley, Council Member  
12 Schulman, Council Member Cabán, Council Member  
13 Fariás, Council Member Avilés, and Council Member  
14 Narcisse who co-sponsored the bill. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

16 Do we have anyone else signed up to speak for  
17 General Orders?

18 Okay, we will now remove in to the Report of  
19 Special Committees.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing  
22 Committees?

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
24 Consumer and Worker Protection, Intro 891-A,  
25 charitable organizations and games of chance.

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

4           COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee Finance,  
5 Preconsidered Resolution 575, Transparency  
6 Resolution.

7           SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

8           COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered L U 192 and  
9 Resolution 593 through Preconsidered L U 199 and  
10 Resolution 600 on page three, Property Tax Exemption.

11          SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

12          COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on General  
13 Welfare, Introduction 190-A, Statement of Rights for  
14 Those Living in Shelters?

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

17          COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 704-A, Rental  
18 Assistance Payments?

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

21          COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
22 Governmental Operations, Introductions 984-A, 986-A,  
23 and 1004-A, Eliminating Outdated Programs, Advisory  
24 Boards, Task Forces, and Reporting Requirements?  
25

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

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
5 Use, L U 181, 25 25-46 Far Rockaway Boulevard  
6 Rezoning?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and  
8 referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to  
9 Section 197 of the New York City Charter.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 182 and Resolution 601, 25-46  
11 Far Rockaway Boulevard Rezoning?

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled to be filed pursuant to  
13 Letter of Withdrawal.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 183 and Resolution 602, 245-  
15 06 South Conduit Avenue Commercial Overlay?

16 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on Public  
18 Safety, Introduction 273-B, Police Officer Training  
19 for Autism Spectrum Disorder?

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

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on  
23 Transportation and Infrastructure, Introduction 679-A  
24 and 805-A, Traffic Calming Devices and Pedestrian  
25 Safety Reporting?

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

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Introduction 854-A, Daylighting  
5 Measures?

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

8 COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar,  
9 25-46 Far Rockaway Boulevard Rezoning?

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

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

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Uh, first, I would like  
16 to disclose on the record, my husband is the Deputy  
17 Commissioner at DEP, my brother is a board member of  
18 Samaritans of New York.

19 Then I would like to ask permission to vote on  
20 all of today's Coupled General Orders and  
21 Resolutions?

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

25 Council Member Borelli?

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all with the  
3 exception Intro-854-A.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all, with the  
8 exception of 854-A.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Uh, I would like to ask  
11 permission to vote on all, uhm, matters and  
12 Resolutions?

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: And permission to explain  
15 my vote.

16 Uhm...

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Also go ahead.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all except for  
19 abstaining for 487 and a no on 273-B, and I would  
20 like to ask my colleagues to support Introduction  
21 805-A, and I would like to thank Council Member  
22 Brooks-Powers, Chair of The Transportation Committee,  
23 who has helped move this legislation through. I, of  
24 course, want to also thank the prime sponsor, Public  
25 Advocate Williams, for his hard work and tireless

1  
2 advocacy on this legislation, starting with the first  
3 iteration in 2018. While Vision Zero had helped  
4 reduced pedestrian deaths and injuries overall, we  
5 have more recently seen some alarming trends emerge  
6 in our neighborhoods. The first trend we see is a  
7 general uptick in pedestrian deaths, with 2022  
8 marking a 24 percent increase in fatalities since  
9 2018. In 2022, we also tragically saw more children  
10 killed by traffic violence than in any other year  
11 since Vision Zero was implemented. We must do more to  
12 protect the lives of our children in our communities.  
13 While I believe that there are still more solutions  
14 on the table that could further enhance our efforts  
15 to improve pedestrian safety, especially from the  
16 onslaught of truck traffic in our environmental  
17 justice communities, I am proud to have co-prime  
18 sponsored Intro 805-A, which will create a starting  
19 point for collaboration between DOT and our  
20 communities. And, while many of us may know those  
21 interactions in our districts... those  
22 intersections, that are particularly dangerous, and  
23 even intuitively understand the cause of why those  
24 intersections might be dangerous, what we lack is  
25 clear data that will help us all make better choices

1  
2 for our districts. One of the most important  
3 features of Intro 805, is that it will require DOT to  
4 report to the Speaker and our Community Boards  
5 specific information regarding crash investigation  
6 results, including factors that may have contributed  
7 to the crash and whether changes to street design or  
8 infrastructure improvements would reduce the risk of  
9 similar crashes at similar locations. [TIMER CHIMES]  
10 I look forward to the implementation of this bill,  
11 and thank you to all of my colleagues.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Council Member  
13 Mealy?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Can I explain my vote?

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just want to, uhm, I want  
17 to vote aye on all. And I want to commend Rita  
18 Joseph on the great legislation, and my Council  
19 Member Narcisse, and Council Member Hanks on the  
20 legislation that I am proud to be a co-sponsor of.

21 And I vote aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

23 Council Member Ayala?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Oh! And Happy Birthday  
25 Council Member Narcisse.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh, may I be excused to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no on LU 181 and the accompanying Resolution 603; and I am voting no on Introduction 273-B. And the reason being is because I understand that police do need training to deal with autism and other kinds of those individuals who are mentally challenged, but policeman trained with a whole lot of things, and in spite of their training, they should not be the ones responding to these issues. There should be an emergency service team that has a psychiatrist, psychologist, and safety officers, and not police. And this bill will say justify it or legitimize them responding and say they training. You know, you... You could train people in the specifics of autism, but if that officer has emotional issues themselves, and if they don't have emotional intelligence, then regardless of the training, when they meet, and when they get to that spot, and get in that situation, it can be

1  
2 deadly for people who are having mental or autism  
3 issues. So, I really think that is should be an  
4 emergency medical service team that responds to these  
5 cases with a psychiatrist, with safety officers, not  
6 police. Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 Council Member Bottcher?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I want to  
14 thank the staff that worked so hard on figuring out  
15 which past bills, task forces, et cetera are no  
16 longer relevant. It is a lot of work. I think it  
17 was done in the past, but not updates. So, thank you  
18 very much. And if we are still talking, I don't know  
19 about Land Use, I do want to thank the staff for  
20 working on Saint Matthews and Saint Timothy's  
21 Apartments, which are owned by Mother Carla and the  
22 folks at Saint Matthews and Saint Timothy's, and to  
23 have this in the future -- forever-- permanent  
24 affordable housing at a very low income is incredibly  
25

1  
2 important to our community. Thank you very much, and  
3 I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

5 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to  
7 explain my vote?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: First I would like  
10 to thank both Council Member Narcisse and Council  
11 Member Hanks for their leadership on such an  
12 important bill, Intro 273. As a proud aunt of a  
13 nephew who is on the spectrum, we want to make sure  
14 that we are culturally sensitive... Just a month  
15 ago, they spoke about the increase in Black and Brown  
16 communities in terms of diagnosis for autism. And,  
17 so, we have a responsibility as legislators to make  
18 sure that the City is responsive to this condition.

19 I also would like to commend Council Member  
20 Joseph and the Public Advocate, and Council Member  
21 Farias for their pieces of legislation coming out of  
22 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.  
23 bringing us a step closer towards safer streets.

24 And, with that, I vote aye on all.  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

Council Member Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: (NO RESPONSE)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I would like to disclose on the record that in the Transparency Resolution, CUNY is listed and my spouse is a student at CUNY.

And, with that said, I am going to be voting no on Introduction 845-A, and aye on all the rest.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: All right, first I am present, uh, second, I want to congratulate Council Member Narcisse, Council Member Mealy, and Council Member Hanks on their very important bill.

1  
2 I also want to congratulate, Council Member Shaun  
3 Abreu for the very important housing bill. As a  
4 former Housing Lawyer, I litigated tons of cases  
5 including many unnecessary cases. Cases that were  
6 initiated and cases where families [BACKGROUND NOISE]  
7 [INAUDIBLE] were unnecessarily put at risk of losing  
8 their homes, because HRA checks were never properly  
9 processed by the landlord or cases where landlords  
10 alleged that they didn't receive the HRA checks. So,  
11 this bill help resolve that problem, and it will help  
12 resolve the problem that we have with eviction cases.  
13 So, congratulations to all colleagues on the bills.

14 I vote aye on all, thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

16 Council Member Gennaro?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: (NO RESPONSE)

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye on all, with  
20 the exceptions of Resolution 487, of which I abstain,  
21 and no on Introduction 273.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

23 Council Member Hanif?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to explain my  
25 vote?

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I vote aye on all with the  
4 exception of Introduction 273-B, and Resolution 484,  
5 om which I vote no. Protecting New Yorkers with  
6 autism from police violence is an absolutely critical  
7 goal, but we have seen that mandated training is not  
8 successful... Is not a successful method in reducing  
9 the NYPD's use of force. In 2015, the NYPD launched  
10 the Crisis Intervention Team Program, that required  
11 all officers to be trained in managing incidents in  
12 which people are experiencing mental health crises.  
13 At that time, the approach made sense, but by all  
14 measures, this program was a failure. Over the past  
15 eight years, the NYPD has continued to kill New  
16 Yorkers in mental health crises at alarmingly high  
17 rates. In the particularly tragic case of Kawaski  
18 Trawick, who was murdered by the NYPD in 2019, both  
19 responsible officers had received the mental health  
20 response training, and one of them had been trained  
21 just three days earlier. I think that it is  
22 particularly illustrative that in 2019, The Court  
23 Advocate Collation, who pushed for the training  
24 program, came to the conclusion that this program  
25 was not working and not reformable, and moved to

1  
2 fighting for a non-police response system to mental  
3 health crises. Ultimately, our north star must be to  
4 build our comprehensive health-centered approaches to  
5 help conditions like autism, instead of relying on  
6 law enforcement to carry out tasks outside of their  
7 areas of expertise. In the meantime, we need to  
8 reduce unnecessary police use of force in more direct  
9 ways including revising operating procedures in the  
10 NYPD patrol guide and in instituting actual  
11 accountability for officers who create harm, thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

13 Council Member Hanks?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Holden?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all except that I  
21 abstain in Resolution 487. Thank you

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

23 Council Member Kagan?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: I would like to state for  
25 the record that my daughter is a student at CUNY

1  
2 College, and our Transparency Resolution funding CUNY  
3 colleges.

4 I am voting yes on all, with the exception of  
5 Intro 854-A, which I vote no, thank you.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Krishnan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I just want to  
21 acknowledge... Oh, permission to explain my vote,  
22 please?

23 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I want to acknowledge my  
25 [INAUDIBLE] in the balcony that is dealing with

1  
2 children, young men, young women with autism... who  
3 are on the spectrum... disorders. Autism Spectrum  
4 Disorder. But, it is so sad for me, as a nurse, I  
5 live my life where every part that every new disease  
6 we have to be trained over, we have to educate.  
7 Every new equipment we have to educate. We are here  
8 in the City Council, when we just arrived here, we  
9 didn't know our left hand from our right hand. And  
10 we had to be educated. The police force happen to be  
11 part of our daily lives. Yes, we don't want them to  
12 be responding to any mental disorder emergency, but  
13 the reality of life, this is a fact, the first person  
14 that opens that... that responds to us in our city,  
15 happens to be police officers. I don't want police  
16 officers to be there for mental health at all -- and  
17 that is coming from a nurse. So, life, what I have  
18 learned, is to be practical. Yes, you may like  
19 police to do this, but, guess what? The police are  
20 here, and they need to be educated on all subjects. If  
21 we have to do it over and over, until we can totally  
22 transition, we have to find a way, because one life,  
23 we lose one life, it is too many. And the parents in  
24 the balcony who are here with me today, say that they  
25 want that. And we have people working with us here,

1  
2 that came to me, that say, thank you, they want me to  
3 push more. And that is what we are here for. We are  
4 not here to be looking good. We are here to be  
5 practical for the people of New York and to make sure  
6 the city of New York is working for all of us. And  
7 police officers are a part of our lives. A part of  
8 our community. I am not representing The Police  
9 Department, I don't want them to represent, I don't  
10 want NYPD to respond when there are mental health  
11 emergencies, because I know for a fact that they are  
12 not trained... even nurses, we have to keep on  
13 training to say that when you reach there, the person  
14 has a heart attack, things change, and you have to be  
15 trained about it. So, for me, I feeling kind of like  
16 uneasy to find my colleagues, because you don't like  
17 special groups and you are not seeing anything, you  
18 have tunnel vision on the subject, and now I am the  
19 nurse, I have been there 30 years, running and  
20 telling you I have to review single thing to make  
21 sure it is practical...

22 [APPLAUSE]

23 Every bill that I put in here, before I sign on  
24 it, I have to read it. [TIMER CHIMES] So, today, I  
25 am very disappointed, me coming from my experience of

1  
2 daily activity, and I have Council Member Lee that  
3 can specify... (CROSS-TALK)

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
5 Member... (CROSS-TALK)

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: And Council Member  
7 Rivera, my deputy, that we have to deal and we have  
8 to be practical on our daily activities... (CROSS-  
9 TALK)

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
11 Member... (CROSS-TALK)

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: So, thank you, thank  
13 you, thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
15 Member... thank you, Council Member... (CROSS-TALK)

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Majority  
17 Leader, Thank you. I love you, thank you.

18 And I vote aye on all... (CROSS-TALK)

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: How do you vote?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: On all... on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

22 Council Member Nurse?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you, I stand firm on  
24 voting, no, on Intro 273-B, I am also voting no on  
25 Resolution 487, and aye on all of the rest.

1

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

2

3

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: (NO RESPONSE)

4

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

5

6

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Imagine that. I vote on all, except for 854-A, thank you.

7

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8

Council Member Restler?

9

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on all

10

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson

11

Jordan?

12

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Aye on all.

13

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Riley?

14

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I vote aye.

15

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I just want to thank

17

everyone for the well wishes and the care packages.

18

I remain really grateful to my colleagues for their

19

continued collaboration during my leave. And

20

congratulations to everyone who are passing bills

21

today. I am looking forward to seeing you all in

22

person very soon.

23

And, with that, I vote aye on all.

24

[APPLAUSE]

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

Council Member Salamanca?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to explain my  
vote?

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I vote aye on all, uh,  
but I do join in my colleague's remarks regarding  
Intro 273-B. Because, for me, especially today, we  
had the family of Kawaski Trawick here in the  
Council. And, as my colleague has stated, just three  
days before he was murdered -- in his home while  
cooking in a supportive housing complex -- three days  
before that, one of the officers involved in his  
wrongful death, had been trained by the NYPD. (CELL  
PHONE RINGING) uh, mental health issues. And, that's  
not it. That is one situation in my district. And  
just three weeks ago, Raul de la Cruz, in my  
district, was shot two times after his father called,  
not 9-1-1, but 3-1-1 -- 3-1-1 -- because his son was  
in mental health distress, and within 28 seconds,  
trained, trained, *trained* officers arriving at the  
scene, and he had two bullets in his body. And, so,

1  
2 training, perhaps won't hurt the situation, and I  
3 respect and laud all efforts to keep New Yorkers  
4 safer. But, we have to do better, ya'll. We have to  
5 do better. And we have to make sure that beyond the  
6 training, we are continuing to fight for the things  
7 that we agree on, which is to bring mental health  
8 responders into these situations, thank you.

9 [APPLAUSE]

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

11 Council Member Sanchez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

14 Council Member Schulman?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

18 Oh, and I would like to disclose for the record  
19 that my daughter is a CUNY student.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

21 Council Member Ung?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all, with the  
25 exception of 854-A, thank you.

1  
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

3 Council Member Williams?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Uhm, I vote aye on all,  
5 and I want to disclose for the record, that I am a  
6 CUNY student.

7 And, now, may I have permissive to explain my  
8 vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you.

11 The United Nations defines good governance as  
12 having eight major characteristics. It is  
13 participatory, consensus oriented, accountable,  
14 transparent, responsive, effective and efficient,  
15 equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law  
16 Today we made progress on two important  
17 characteristics that define good governance:  
18 efficiency and effectiveness.

19 Good governance means that processes in  
20 institutions produce results that meet the needs of  
21 society while making the best use of resources at  
22 their disposal. To have an effective and efficient  
23 government means to ensure that our current governing  
24 laws are accurate and up to date. Well, today, we  
25 did just that. Presently, there are over twenty

1  
2 various provisions in which are repetitive, outdated,  
3 duplicative, and are simply out right unnecessary.

4 As our City continues to undergo changes to best  
5 fit our community, so should the provisions we set in  
6 place. Into 1004-A, will ensure that certain  
7 reporting requirements that are outdated and  
8 erroneous, will be repealed and/or amended to reflect  
9 our current needs. Today is really a good day for  
10 good governance.

11 I want to thank Speaker Adams for always  
12 prioritizing what is necessary to make our government  
13 function better, and the amazing staff who spent  
14 countless hours to get this done Malcolm, Michelle,  
15 Jessie, and Chris.

16 Lastly, certainly, but not least, I want to give  
17 a huge shoutout to my sorors of Delta Sigma Zeta  
18 Sorority Incorporated for joining us today again at  
19 City Hall for an Advocacy Day, Delta Day, at City  
20 Hall. As many of you remember, last month we passed  
21 a resolution designated March 3rd as Delta Day in New  
22 York City. And today we commemorate this recognition  
23 again by having my sorors here for Delta Day at City  
24 Hall, and we have certainly painted City Hall red!  
25 Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

1 [APPLAUSE]

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

3 Council Member Won?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: (NO RESPONSE)

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Yeger?

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

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

11 First I just want to congratulate the sponsors of  
12 Intros 984 and 986 and 1004. Any time we can remove  
13 the unconstitutional provisions for the laws of the  
14 City is a good day. I have had my fair share of  
15 voting against unconstitutional provisions of laws  
16 that we do pass, uh, sometimes backed up by the  
17 court. So, it is good when we clean up the Charter  
18 and the Administrative Code a little bit.

19 I just want to speak very briefly about Intro  
20 854, and to differentiate it from what we are also  
21 passing today, Intro, uh, 679. I will be voting for  
22 one and not the other.

23 You know, the Council, as you know, we prepare,  
24 uh, before we vote on something -- a Fiscal Impact  
25 Statement -- you see this on your desk, they get put

1  
2 around, and on Intro 679 and Intro 854, not  
3 withstanding that are directing The Department of  
4 Transportation to make these installations, the  
5 impact on expenditure, and I quote, "it is  
6 anticipated it would be no impact on expenditures  
7 resulting from the enactment of this legislation as  
8 DOT will utilize existing recourses." So, the  
9 question, of course, that I ask myself is, what won't  
10 they do in my district when this law is passed? What  
11 speedbump won't I get? What traffic signal won't I  
12 get? What broken sidewalk won't they fix? What  
13 thing that is broken in any one of our neighborhoods  
14 won't they do, because they are now going to do  
15 something that we have asked them to do?

16 I am also a little concerned with giving them a  
17 blank check. Uhm, I have suggested in the past that  
18 what might make sense is that we do a bill saying,  
19 "Here is a list of locations where we need to have  
20 something done; you have sixty days to do it, go do  
21 it." Because we know if we ask for a speedbump, we  
22 could wait ten years for it and still not get it.

23 So, uhm, I am going to vote in favor all, aye on  
24 all, with the exception of Intro 854.

25

1  
2 Just for the last couple of seconds, I just want  
3 to also say I typically vote no [TIMER CHIMES] in bid  
4 expansions, as I read Intro 958, I just want to state  
5 for the record, it will not be expanding the  
6 expenditures, the tax that essentially, uh,  
7 businesses are paying, so I will vote in favor of  
8 that in respect to the sponsor of the bill and the  
9 council member from that neighborhood.

10 Thank you very much, Mr. President.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Majority Leader Powers?

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye on all.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All items on today's  
16 General Order Calendar are adopted by vote of 47 in  
17 the affirmative, zero negative, and zero abstentions,  
18 with the exemption of Introduction 854-A, adopted by  
19 a vote of 40 in the affirmative, seven negative, and  
20 zero abstentions. And Introduction 273-B, adopted by  
21 a vote of 42 in the affirmative, five in the  
22 negative, and zero abstentions. And Land Use item  
23 181 and Resolution 603 adopted by a vote of 46 in the  
24 affirmative, one in the negative, and one abstention,  
25

1  
2 excuse me, 46 in the affirmative, one in the  
3 negative, and zero abstentions.

4 We will now move to the Introduction and Reading  
5 of Bills.

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

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will now move into the Discussion of  
10 Resolutions.

11 We have two people signed up right now. We will  
12 first call on Council Member Vernikov.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you, Majority  
14 Leader.

15 As a Jewish refugee whose family was impacted by  
16 the atrocities of the Holocaust, the last thing I  
17 could have ever imagined was to see these headlines  
18 in American Media, "New York Leads the Nation in  
19 Antisemitic Incidents." New York is at the epicenter  
20 of the worst American antisemitism outbreak in over  
21 forty years. Antisemitic incidents in the US are at  
22 the highest level reported since the 1970's.  
23 Unfortunately, these are not just headlines. These  
24 statements represent reality on the ground for so  
25 many Jewish New Yorkers. A disturbing nationwide

1  
2 trend of antisemitic hate crimes has engulfed our  
3 city. In 2022, there were 580 antisemitic hate  
4 crimes in New York, representing a 39 percent  
5 increase from 2021, and 3,697 antisemitic incidents  
6 in the United States, the highest since the Anti-  
7 Defamation League Began keeping track in 1979.

8 Things have gotten so bad that the Jewish  
9 Americans have begun to question whether their safety  
10 and future in our city [TIMER CHIMES] is secure. And  
11 with identifiable Jews being beaten for their faith,  
12 identity, and religion in broad daylight, who can  
13 blame them?

14 Today, I am proudly wearing my Star of David, the  
15 same star the Nazis made our grandparents wear before  
16 they sent them to concentration camps and gas  
17 chambers. I am wearing it in hopes that my fellow  
18 Jewish New Yorkers will too continue wearing and  
19 proudly displaying their symbols of Jewish identity,  
20 and I plead with them not to remove their kippah.

21 I propose to proclaim April 29th as a Day to End  
22 Jew Hatred like they did in five other cities,  
23 localities, and states, to send a message to all  
24 Jewish New Yorkers that this city, elected officials  
25 and leaders of all faiths, stripes, and colors have

1  
2 your back, that this city will not tolerate you being  
3 harassed, vilified, or beaten in broad daylight, that  
4 we commit to take an action when your civil rights  
5 are being violated, that today, we set aside  
6 political differences and commit to working together  
7 to end Jew hatred. Because we all agree that  
8 antisemitism is unacceptable in any society.

9 I thank Speaker Adams, Chair Ossé, and all my  
10 colleagues for the bipartisan support this resolution  
11 has received. But, it is also astounding to see the  
12 council members who clearly do not want to end Jewish  
13 hatred. Your antisemitism is showing. Thank you.

14 UNKNOWN: No she didn't!

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Hold on guys.

16 We will now go to Council Member Paladino. And it  
17 is one minute for Resolutions just as a reminder.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I agree with, uh,  
19 Council Member Vernikov. The troubling rise of  
20 antisemitism now in our city is totally and  
21 absolutely unacceptable. As an Italian American the  
22 Jewish community and the Jewish New Yorkers who are  
23 being discriminated against and targeted for physical  
24 attacks in disproportionate numbers.

1  
2       This resolution is an important step in the right  
3 direction to combat the hate that this group has  
4 endured. I thank Council Member Vernikov for  
5 proposing this legislation, and I too astonished by  
6 those who disagree with this resolution. Thank you  
7 very much.

8       MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9       We will now hear from Council Member Yeger.

10       COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr. President.

11       Resolve that the Council of the City of New York  
12 recognizes April 29th annually as End Jew Hatred Day  
13 in the city of New York. It is a simple couple of  
14 words. I really don't understand how that is  
15 controversial. I just don't understand it. And I am  
16 not going to do what the rules of this council don't  
17 allow us to do, but I just don't comprehend, I cannot  
18 understand, I cannot understand how that is such a  
19 difficult topic to just say, yes. Now, for those who  
20 say, no, I appreciate that you are doing that instead  
21 of abstaining. But, in this city, how could anyone  
22 deny that antisemitism has become a real problem?  
23 How is that possible that people are elected to this  
24 body from neighborhoods all across the city of New  
25 York, and don't have a grasp of what is happening in

1  
2 this city that hatred is real and it's there? And I  
3 just don't comprehend it. I am very, very grateful  
4 [TIMER CHIMES] to Council Member Vernikov for  
5 proposing this resolution, and to Madam Speaker for  
6 brining it to the floor today, and to all of my  
7 colleagues who stood with us today, thank you very  
8 much.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Do we have anyone else  
10 signed up to speak on resolutions?

11 Council Member Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: You know, I wasn't going  
13 to say anything. But the reason why people have some  
14 concerns is because of the inconsistency of members  
15 of the Jewish community, particularly its leadership  
16 in speaking out against hatred. Like hatred of the  
17 Palestinian people, like the State of Israel  
18 murdering Palestinians women and children and  
19 stealing the land of people in Palestine. So, when  
20 people hear this, they see an inconsistency in your  
21 concern of human rights. I am going to abstain, but  
22 because they came up with these strong statements,  
23 like, I can't even imagine somebody not voting like  
24 this, it is not that people are promoting hatred of  
25 Jews or wanting to be antisemitic, it is the

1  
2 inconsistencies of leaders in the Jewish community --  
3 matter of fact, leaders in the Jewish community even  
4 supported apartheid in racist South Africa, and said  
5 nothing about African people dying. So, it is  
6 difficult for us to get up here... And, I'm not  
7 afraid to say it [TIMER CHIMES], because of what  
8 people might think, but if we read history, and if we  
9 read all of the dynamics of what is going on around  
10 race in this city, you will see people are resenting  
11 that... (CROSS-TALK)

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
13 Member.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: not because... One  
15 second, because you let others go over, you'll see  
16 that when people are not pro-antisemitic, they are  
17 just anti the inconsistency of the Jewish community.  
18 Many members of the Jewish community, and talking  
19 about human rights... (CROSS-TALK)

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
21 Member.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: for everybody, not just  
23 the Jewish community.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Do we have anyone else  
25 signed up?

1  
2 Council Member Dinowitz?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: I think Council Member  
4 Yeger articulated it well. And it is just incorrect  
5 to say that the Jewish community does not stand with  
6 our brothers and sisters in other communities. And  
7 if you don't see that, it is because you don't want  
8 to see that. That's of course the collective you,  
9 not any individual in this body, because that would  
10 be against the rules. But, of course, when you  
11 attribute actions of another country to Jewish New  
12 Yorkers who are facing a rise in antisemitism, I am  
13 not sure what else to call it. There is no other  
14 people or other people in New York City who are  
15 facing this steep rise. You can talk after me, it's  
16 fine. But, I am [TIMER CHIMES] upset to hear that my  
17 colleagues cannot stand with the Jewish community as  
18 we do stand with other communities. And every time  
19 we have a press conference about attacks on other  
20 communities, we stand together. And to ignore that  
21 and to say that this the reason that you are not  
22 voting for a resolution, which is simply saying we  
23 should end Jew hatred is to willfully ignore the  
24 partnerships and the friendships that we have in this  
25 body and that we are trying to make. And we are

1  
2 working very hard to build those bridges, because we  
3 all understand what hate does to us, and does to our  
4 community. And that is why it is so vital that we  
5 stand together in the face of hate.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council  
7 Member.

8 We will not go to Council Member Hanif.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

10 I was not going to explain my vote here, but now  
11 I feel compelled to after hearing the speeches of my  
12 colleagues.

13 I think it is extremely disrespectful to be  
14 called antisemitic on the floor based off of just  
15 this one action when I continue to show up for our  
16 Jewish colleagues and communities. I represent a  
17 huge Jewish community.

18 Why I refuse I vote yes or even abstain from the  
19 resolution is because when you look a little deeper  
20 in who catalyzed which organizations, these are far  
21 right-wing organizations and right-wing Islamophobic  
22 individuals who I *refuse* to collaborate with. They  
23 have not stood up for Muslims. They have not stood up  
24 for trans New Yorkers or *anybody*. And I have not  
25

1  
2 seen my colleagues step up, those who introduce this  
3 legislation, uh, to support our trans siblings.

4 So, I find this moment, this engagement right now  
5 on the floor extremely rude and disrespectful [TIMER  
6 CHIMES], and I hope that we can continue to talk  
7 about this issue on a broader aspect as opposed to a  
8 simple gesture, thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 We will now go to Council Member Kagan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

12 First of all, I would like to remind my  
13 colleagues that just at the recent State Council  
14 Meeting, there was a vote to have one day a year in  
15 public school as a Jewish Heritage Day, and my  
16 colleague, Council Member Charles Barron, abstained  
17 from this vote. [INAUDIBLE]... (CROSS-TALK)

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Please, we don't refer to  
19 council members by name, please. Please just speak on  
20 the general issue.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Okay, so, I would like to  
22 have a whole day, not one day a year, but whole year  
23 to be educated in New York City, 365 days a year, not  
24 one day, thank you.

1  
2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, do we have any  
3 other members signed up to speak?

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I just want to add my  
5 support of this resolution and for the Jewish  
6 community in New York City who is under attack. And  
7 whether it is in my district or other districts is  
8 experiencing a rise in antisemitic attacks, and I  
9 think that the fact that we have to name one day to  
10 address this is important, but it is getting... It  
11 is sort of a sad state affairs [INAUDIBLE] on the  
12 City, but I do thank my colleagues for bringing this  
13 forward. And I think that as a city, we should not  
14 be dividing ourselves between one group or the other  
15 group when we talk about hate. We are seeing the  
16 AAPI community and others under attack as well, and I  
17 think together we should be standing together against  
18 anyone who wants to divide us.

19 With that, I am going to ask that we take a voice  
20 on today's resolutions.

21 If you wish to vote against or abstain from any  
22 of today's resolutions, please notify the Legislative  
23 Documents Units by email or by approaching the dais  
24 before a vote.

25 I will now read the Resolutions in to the record.

1  
2 Resolution 460 calling on the New York State  
3 Legislature and Governor to fully fund the  
4 Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in the  
5 State's upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 Budget in an effort  
6 to ensure that: public transit riders have effective,  
7 affordable public transportation; the MTA maintains  
8 fiscal stability in the face of a looming fiscal  
9 cliff; and the MTA operate more frequent bus and  
10 train service statewide.

11 Will all of those in favor, please say aye?

12 [AYE]

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed, please say  
14 nay?

15 Any abstentions?

16 The ayes have it.

17 Resolution 487 recognizing April 29 as End Jew  
18 Hatred Day annually in the City of New York.

19 Will all those in favor, please say aye?

20 [AYE]

21 All opposed, please say nay?

22 Any abstentions?

23 The ayes.... (CROSS-TALK)

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: This is for the...  
25

1 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Have it.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Which one is that? This  
3 is for the...

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: This is on Resolution 487  
5 recognizing April 29 as End Jew Hatred Day annually  
6 in the City of New York.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Abstain.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Okay.

9 The ayes have it.

10 Resolution 566 approving the Report and Advisory  
11 Board Review Commission's determination recommending  
12 waiver of eight reporting requirements that was  
13 communicated to the City Council on January 24, 2023.

14 Will all those in favor, please say aye?

15 [AYE]

16 Will all opposed, please say nay?

17 Any abstentions?

18 The ayes have it.

19 We will now move into General Discussion.

20 We will start with Council Member Barron.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very much. My  
22 colleagues, I rise to bring to your attention the  
23 transition, the death of a good friend of mine, Alton  
24 Maddox, who was an attorney at war. Alton Maddox  
25

1  
2 presented so many of us, represented so many of us on  
3 civil rights cases, and brought to the slave  
4 [INAUDIBLE] in Brooklyn, scholars from all the world.  
5 He was a real champion, an honest person, he never  
6 put himself first over his people, he was able to do  
7 pro bono cases whether it was the Tawana Brawley  
8 case, where he stood with her to the end. Alton  
9 Maddox, we will miss you dearly.

10       Secondly, I want to say to our colleagues, the  
11 Mayor really disrespected us. How do you have us  
12 respond to your Executive Budget, and you don't give  
13 us the book before you even meet with us? And, then,  
14 when I tried to respond to him after he disrespected  
15 us and didn't give us a book, didn't meet with us in  
16 person, like other mayors do. They met in person, we  
17 had the book, we all 51 sat there for hours and asked  
18 questions. This mayor meets with us virtually, picks  
19 and chooses the people he wants to asks the  
20 questions, because they are going to ask him softball  
21 questions, says he has to leave. And when I went  
22 there to put my hand up first to ask him a question,  
23 because he didn't want to deal with the fire and the  
24 truth, he put me on mute and never allowed me to  
25 speak.

1  
2 Well, Mayor, I am having my word today. That  
3 budget, you should not cut money from the agencies.  
4 There is a \$4.4 billion profit that... revenue that  
5 we didn't see. There is enough money to turn this  
6 into a people's budget, and not a budget for those  
7 who support you on Wall Street.

8 So, The Mayor has been disrespectful, and we  
9 shouldn't allow him not to allow [TIMER CHIMES] for  
10 members of the Council to even ask a question,  
11 because he can't handle the truth.

12 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

13 We will now hear from Council Member Kagan,  
14 followed by Council Member Lee.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

16 Street legislation and governor are considering  
17 once again to punish New York City residents by  
18 increasing MTA mobility tax on New York City  
19 residents to cut \$500 million [INAUDIBLE] for  
20 critical access to ride program, and eventually MTA  
21 will increase, this year, tolls and fares on all  
22 riders. And also legislator is planning other  
23 drastic measures that will eventually negatively  
24 affect millions of New Yorkers. I ride the subway  
25 and buses daily, and I understand the importance of

1  
2 our affordable public transportation for everyone. I  
3 am glad that today we passed a resolution asking  
4 legislator and government to fully fund MTA. Albany  
5 must stop punishing ordinary New York City residents  
6 who pay the most of taxes, fees, fares, and tolls  
7 that actually fund the MTA. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

9 We will now hear from Council Member Lee,  
10 followed by Council Member Dinowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Good afternoon, Madam  
12 Speaker, Majority Leader, and colleagues. Earlier  
13 this week as the speaker mentioned, we introduced the  
14 Mental Health Roadmaps, City Council's blueprint to  
15 combating our city's ongoing mental health crisis.

16 In the blueprint are many recommendations that  
17 come from listening to community leaders, providers,  
18 and advocates as well as my own experiences working  
19 in the field. The roadmap attempts to address the  
20 many years of government neglect and prevent clients  
21 from going through a constant revolving door, which  
22 has only gotten worse since the pandemic. This  
23 roadmap is a continuously evolving long-term  
24 strategy. It calls for adequate investments in to  
25 more effective, preventive and responsive community

1  
2 based models to create better mental health outcomes  
3 for New Yorkers. The roadmap lays the foundation for  
4 many legislative recommendations and budgetary  
5 efforts in four key areas: prevention and supportive  
6 services, addressing the mental health workforce  
7 shortage, looking at the intersection with the  
8 criminal justice system, and increasing public  
9 awareness in interagency communication.

10 Today, I will be introducing the following bills:

11 Introduction 1018 would require the Department of  
12 Health and Mental Hygiene, in conjunction with the  
13 New York City Police Department and other agencies,  
14 to provide the Council with an annual report to the  
15 Council with information regarding The Mayor's  
16 Involuntary Removal Program.

17 Introduction 1019 requiring the Department of  
18 Health and Mental Hygiene in consultation with Health  
19 + Hospitals, and OTI to develop and maintain a  
20 searchable electronic database and interactive map of  
21 outpatient mental health service providers in New  
22 York City.

23 And also Resolution 584, calling on the New York  
24 State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign,  
25 legislation to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure

1  
2 Compact, the Nurse Licensure Compact, and the  
3 Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact, to enhance  
4 the portability of medical and mental health  
5 providers to become licensed in multiple  
6 participating states. Sorry, that was a mouthful.

7 Thank you, Speaker Adams, and her office for  
8 their leadership and investment in this vision. And  
9 thank you to the folks from the Legislative Division  
10 and all of the advocates and providers who continue  
11 to work and give feedback on this. I hope you will  
12 all join me in the work ahead, thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

14 We will hear from Council Member Dinowitz,  
15 followed by Council Member Riley.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Majority  
17 Leader.

18 Good afternoon, everybody, we live in a city  
19 where hundreds of languages are spoken, 15 percent of  
20 our DOE students are English language learners, 40  
21 percent of our CUNY undergraduates speak a language  
22 other than English in a city where we strive to  
23 support all of our neighbors regardless of language.

24 Today, I am introducing two resolutions,  
25 importantly, first drafted by two incredible CUNY

1  
2 students, Ariana [INAUDIBLE] Sanchez and Isabelle  
3 Guyon, that will allow our students to be as  
4 successful as possible by tangibly recognizing the  
5 rich diversity of languages spoken in our city.

6 The two resolutions, which I hope you all sign on  
7 to, call on the DOE to implement a Seal of Biliteracy  
8 Program in public high schools, and on CUNY to award  
9 college credit for students who have earned this Seal  
10 of Biliteracy.

11 So, the Seal of Biliteracy is an endorsement on a  
12 high school diploma which verifies that a student has  
13 fluency in English and any other world language. So,  
14 this is in contrast to a typical high stakes  
15 examination like the AP Exam. To earn the seal  
16 students must demonstrate their proficiency in  
17 English and another language through a variety of  
18 assessments including interactive project based  
19 assessment unlike the AP, which is only offered in  
20 eight languages. The Seal of Biliteracy will  
21 significantly benefit students from immigrant  
22 communities and those who speak Indigenous or  
23 underrepresented languages as it is not awarded based  
24 on that singular written test in only those eight  
25 languages. It allows our immigrant students to

1  
2 utilize their native language skills and provide them  
3 with tangible benefits for those skills and for that  
4 work. And with a 174 different languages spoken  
5 across CUNY campuses, it is about time we more  
6 formally and meaningfully recognize the cultural  
7 diversity of city's college students.

8 I urge my colleagues to sign on to these  
9 important resolutions that can move our city [TIMER  
10 CHIMES] away from high stakes exams and really  
11 recognize the rich diversity in our city and provide  
12 tangible benefits for students who speak any language  
13 other than English.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 We will now hear from Council Member Riley,  
16 followed by Council Member Fariás.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader,  
18 and good afternoon to my colleagues on a very festive  
19 Stated day.

20 Today I am here to introduce Intro 1022, co-  
21 sponsored by myself, Council Member Lee, Council  
22 Member Powers, and Council Member Rivera. This would  
23 establish a pilot program establishing community  
24 centers for individuals with severe mental illness in  
25 high-need areas.

1  
2 As you all may know, I am a heavy advocate for  
3 advocating for safe spaces, and when you talk about  
4 mental health within New York City right now it is a  
5 huge issue. And when we talk about the services we  
6 provide in New York City, I believe we do provide a  
7 lot of amazing services, but when we talk about safe  
8 space for these individuals to go, thrive, and  
9 education themselves, and receive the resources, I  
10 think it is very vital for them to get a safe space  
11 within our community. So, I just ask my colleagues  
12 if you could sign on to Intro 1022, so we can get  
13 this done. Thank you so much.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 We will now hear from Council Member Farías,  
16 followed Council Member Brooks-Powers.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Majority  
18 Leader.

19 I am excited to be introducing Intro 1012 with  
20 Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez to develop  
21 Industrial development action plans throughout the  
22 City. This legislation will require several of our  
23 city agencies to collaborate on a citywide Industrial  
24 development action so that our workforce has a  
25 successful transition to the green economy, our local

1  
2 economies are supported, and our supply chains system  
3 is efficient and resilient. This legislation ensures  
4 that we are comprehensively looking at our industrial  
5 business zones to develop a plan that enhances and  
6 protects our industrial workforce. When we protect  
7 industrial business zones and industrial jobs, we are  
8 protecting Black, Latino, and AAPI communities and  
9 the working class. The industrial workforce runs  
10 this city and that is why I am proud to finally be  
11 giving this issue the attention it deserves. Thank  
12 you to the Council's legislative team, my staff, and  
13 Council Member Gutiérrez. I hope you all will sign  
14 on to this critical legislation.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now  
16 here from Council Member Brooks-Powers, followed by  
17 Council Member Hanif.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I am excited to  
19 introduce, alongside Council Member Fariás,  
20 Introduction 1011, which would help to make available  
21 critical Fair Fares information to those in need of  
22 assistance. Every New Yorker deserves access to  
23 public transit that they can afford. Fair Fares has  
24 been a lifeline to hundreds of thousands of New  
25 Yorkers. This legislation will require NYPD officers

1  
2 patrolling in subway stations to carry flyers with  
3 information about eligibility for the program, the  
4 discounts offered, and the method for applying the  
5 program. These officers would be required to give  
6 those flyers to any individual who receives a summons  
7 or is arrested for fare evasion in the subway. At a  
8 time when too many are criminalized just because they  
9 cannot pay the fare, the Administration should at  
10 least be required to take proactive steps to spread  
11 more information about fare fairs.

12 I also want to take this opportunity to  
13 reemphasize the Council's commitment to expanding the  
14 Fair Fares program, which should be eligible to  
15 millions more New Yorkers in need. I hope you all  
16 will join in signing on to this important piece of  
17 legislation, and I looking forward to working with  
18 the Administration to ensure we spread information  
19 about the Fair Fares program as widely as possible.  
20 And I thank Speaker Adams for her leadership on this  
21 issue as well.

22 And I echo the sentiments of the soror, Council  
23 Member Williams, with respect to recognizing Delta  
24 Day in City Hall today, and I extend special thanks  
25

1  
2 to all of our colleagues who took in today's event.  
3 Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we will now  
5 hear from Council Member Hanif, followed by Council  
6 Member Brewer, followed by Council Member Holden.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

8 Today I am proud to be introducing two bills, the  
9 first Introduction 1013, which is co-prime sponsored  
10 by Consumer and Worker Protection Chair, Council  
11 Member Velázquez, and Council Member Narcisse,  
12 Council Member Ung, Council Member Marte, Council  
13 Member Avilés, Council Member Krishnan, and Council  
14 Member Lee. This bill would require The Department  
15 of Consumer and Worker Protection to conduct robust  
16 outreach and education about fraudulent schemes  
17 committed by providers of immigration legal services.

18 These schemes have long plagued many of our  
19 communities and have become even more prevalent over  
20 the last year as asylum seekers have arrived in our  
21 city.

22 The second is Introduction 1014, which is co-  
23 prime sponsored by Technology Chair Council Member  
24 Gutiérrez, and Council Member River, Council Member  
25 Williams, and Council Member Sanchez, and also

1 sponsored by Council Member Louis, and Council Member  
2 Marte. This bill will prohibit businesses from using  
3 biometric technology such as facial recognition scans  
4 to identify or verify a customer. The recent event  
5 at Madison Square Garden are a high profile example  
6 of the inevitable civil liberty violations that occur  
7 when our government allows private business to use  
8 these tools. But, my reasons for introducing this  
9 bill are broader in scope. I have concerns about a  
10 retail store refusing entry to a shopper due to a  
11 false facial recognition match, which we know occurs  
12 more frequently to darker skinned women, trans  
13 people, and young people. I am also disturbed by  
14 companies potentially collecting and selling  
15 biometric data to advertisers and other third party  
16 entities, which constitutes a serious privacy  
17 violation. As a Muslim New Yorker who grew up in the  
18 post 9/11 era, I am all too familiar with the impacts  
19 of excessive surveillance. This is an anti-  
20 discrimination and civil liberties issue that our  
21 body has a responsibility to take on. I encourage  
22 you to sign on to both bills as a sponsor. Thank  
23 you.  
24

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

1  
2 We will now hear from Council Member Brewer,  
3 followed by Council Member Holden.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much.

5 Intro 1010 would change the code to add a 3-1-1  
6 complaint category for unlicensed cannabis retailers.  
7 I think you may know that there is no formal process  
8 for 3-1-1 complaints about unlicensed cannabis  
9 retailers -- and people are calling. What happens  
10 when you call 3-1-1 is that the operators do not know  
11 how to triage a complaint. I have called to report  
12 illegal cannabis, and most often I am referred to a  
13 state Office of Cannabis Management email address.  
14 You know people are not going to use it consistently.  
15 Once I was told to call back and make a complaint  
16 about illegal cigarettes instead.

17 I think we are all trying to find a way to  
18 enforce illegal cannabis shops, but in the meantime,  
19 we at least need to have reporting efficient --  
20 keeping multiple lists of illegal stores, silos, from  
21 the different agencies that need to be working  
22 together does not make sense. And, also, there is no  
23 way for the public to know if they are complaints  
24 have been received or heard or followed up on --  
25

1  
2 there is no transparency. And you already know that  
3 people are upset about the shops.

4 Number two, Introduction 1009, would amend the  
5 administrative code of the city of New York, in  
6 relation to requiring double decker sight-seeing  
7 buses to have at least one employee present on the  
8 upper level at all times when passengers are present.  
9 Obviously this is good for safety, it is good for  
10 information for the passengers, and over the years, I  
11 know that the tour buses operators do like to have a  
12 pre-recorded audio rather than a live person. I feel  
13 very strongly that the guides job is to ensure  
14 passenger safety and to give good information to our  
15 wonderful tourists. Also, it helps with language  
16 barriers. Thank you very much.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We will now hear from Council Member Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you, Majority  
20 Leader.

21 Today I am introducing Introduction 1015, and I  
22 urge my colleagues to support this bill, which  
23 would permit the Commissioner of Buildings to  
24 commence proceedings to seal, secure and close a  
25 property where \$25,000 or more in unpaid fines is

1  
2 owed to the city with respect to the property and the  
3 property appears to be vacant.

4 All too often absentee landlords and nameless  
5 developers abandon property to the detriment of our  
6 neighborhoods. These zombie properties become an  
7 eyesore and are often infested with rats and other  
8 vermin. As the Council, we should always stay  
9 focused on quality of life issues that benefit of  
10 constituents and all New Yorkers. This has been a  
11 problem for some years where the property is  
12 abandoned -- sometimes for decades. And, so, this  
13 bill, again it is Intro 1015 will go a long way to  
14 try solve that. Thank you, Majority Leader, and I  
15 urge my colleagues to support 1015. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

17 Do we have anyone else signed up to speak?

18 Seeing none, I will now call on Speaker Adams to  
19 close today's Stated Meeting.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

21 The Stated Meeting of April 27, 2023 is hereby  
22 adjourned.

23 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date May 4, 2023