

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

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Thursday, May 25, 2023

Start: 3:05 P. M.

Recess: 4:39 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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL 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

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

Reverend Evan Dean Gray, Sr., MTh, Pastor,
Macedonia Baptist Church
located at 330 Beach 67th Street, Arverne, NY
11692.

2 SERGEANT RODRIGUEZ: Microphone test in the
3 chambers. Today's date is May 25, 2023 recorded by
4 Sergeant Gonzales Rodriguez (sp?).

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: ... Devices... SHHH... Keep
6 it down, please.

7 Sergeants, please start all recordings.

8 NYC Media, are you guys ready? Thank you.

9 Sir, we are ready to go.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS:

11 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

12 Good afternoon, and welcome to The Stated Meeting
13 of May 25, 2023. I am Majority Leader Keith Powers,
14 I would like to thank everyone for joining us here
15 today. If you would like to follow along, the Agenda
16 for today's meeting is posted on our website.

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

19 [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Roll call.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Present

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presente

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Here

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brannon?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Still here

11 [LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Carr?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: (NO RESPONSE HEARD)

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Fariás?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Here

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presente

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanif?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Holden?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Hudson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Present

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: (NO RESPONSE HEARD)

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Lee?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Louis?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Marte?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE HEARD)

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Menin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Moya?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: (EXCUSED)

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ossé?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Restler?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Richardson Jordan?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Riley?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ung?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Velázquez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: (ABSENT)

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Williams?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Won?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Here

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Here

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers?

25 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Here

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Speaker Adams?

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

5 We will now have today's Invocation, which will
6 be delivered by Reverend Evan Dean Gray, Sr., Mth,
7 Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church located at 330 Beach
8 67th Street in Queens, welcome.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All quiet!

10 REVEREND EVAN DEAN GRAY, SENIOR: Shall we pray?

11 Thank you, Heavenly Father, for allowing us to
12 see a brand new day, a day that we have never seen
13 before, and when it is gone, we will never see it
14 again. As we stand in the midst of these hallowed
15 chambers, Father, I pray that you will look upon
16 every council member and their family and staff, that
17 you would keep them safe from all hurt, harm, and
18 danger. We pray, Oh, God, that you would be in the
19 midst of every decision making moment, and that their
20 thoughts will be guided by you, and their hearts will
21 beat in tune with you. God, I pray that you would be
22 in the midst those who are less fortunate than we
23 are. Let us be mindful that somebody is less
24 fortunate than we are. And I pray, God, that we will
25 operate with hearts of compassion and a mind of

2 understanding. Bless the heads of our government.
3 Bless our mayor, bless our speaker, and all of those
4 who sit and work within these chambers. Keep their
5 families safe from all hurt, harm, and danger. Give
6 us the fortitude to stand against things that are
7 harmful to our wonderful citizens of the city of New
8 York. As we stand, God, give us the courage to stand
9 and look bigotry in the eye and banish it from our
10 very presence. Father, we thank you for what you
11 have done, and we thank you for your glory in your
12 son's name, we pray, Amen.

13 CITY COUNCIL: Amen.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, I am going to
15 call on Council Member Brooks-Powers to spread the
16 Invocation in full upon the record.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you, and I am
18 proud share with everyone, uh, Reverend Evan Gray,
19 Senior Pastor at the Macedonia Baptist Church of
20 Arverne. Reverend Gray is a native of the Rockaways
21 and has been the pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church
22 for the past thirty years. I am proud to have known
23 Pastor Gray for well over a decade. He has a
24 community leader, a spiritual guide for not only
25 myself, but for many of the residents of my district.

2 And he is committed to helping create a more
3 equitable New York. He believes in the idea that
4 every single New Yorker is worthy of the City's
5 compassion and investment. I am so glad to see him
6 here today. And on behalf of my constituents in the
7 31st Council District, I thank him for his years of
8 service to the Far Rockaway community. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we are now
10 going to have the Adoption of Minutes also by Council
11 Member Brooks-Powers.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I make a motion
13 that the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of April 27,
14 2023...

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Be adopted as printed.

16 We will now have Messages & Papers from the
17 Mayor.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered M's 155 and 156,
19 Mayoral Home Rules.

20 SPEAKER ADAMS: State and Federal Legislation.

21 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Communications from City,
22 County & Borough Offices.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: M 157, Discount Rate.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance
25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Petitions and
3 Communications?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Land Use Call-Ups?

6 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we are now
8 going to... Before we hear from Speaker Adrienne
9 Adams, I just wanted to do a quick welcome to,
10 everybody knows it is our Annual Foster Youth Shadow
11 Day event, one of the great days here at the City
12 Council. We having lost of young people to come and
13 ask questions and experience a day in the life of the
14 New York City council member. I think 27 of more
15 members are hosting a foster youth today. I want to
16 welcome them all here today. Let's give them a big
17 welcome.

18 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, and thank you
20 to everyone who is hosting a youth here today as
21 well.

22 And, with that, we will hear Communication from
23 Speaker Adrienne Adams.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader.

25

2 Good afternoon, everyone. I want to begin by
3 honoring our former council colleague and State
4 Senator Bill Perkins, who passed away last week on
5 May 16th. A native son Harlem, Bill served his
6 community for decades as a dedicated and hard working
7 public servant. He fought tirelessly to improve the
8 health of our communities. He took up the fight
9 against lead poisoning, advocated for more equitable
10 education funding for our scholars, fair wages for
11 workers, and equal rights for all New Yorkers. In
12 1989, he was one of the first leaders to question the
13 efforts to accuse, charge, and later convict those
14 who would come to be known as the Central Park Five,
15 and now the Exonerated Five. I had the honor of
16 serving with Bill when we arrived in the...

17 [APPLAUSE]

18 Yes! I had the honor of serving with Bill when
19 we arrived in the Council together last term. As his
20 life and legacy are celebrated at his funeral today,
21 my thoughts are with his family, loved ones, and the
22 entire Harlem community that he loved so deeply. May
23 he rest in peace.

24 Our entire city is heartbroken by the tragic loss
25 of 1-year-old Jason Eli from the deadly fire that

2 occurred in my district two weeks ago. His family
3 also attends my church, the Greater Allen A.M.E.
4 Cathedral.

5 We also mourn the loss of 67-year-old Janice Ross
6 who perished in a fire in Council Member Mealy's
7 district.

8 My thoughts are with Janice's and Jason's
9 families. They were both taken from too soon.

10 Week after week, we see dangerous and fatal fires
11 that devastate our communities. Our city must
12 continue to prioritize expanding fire safety measures
13 that can prevent fires and keep people safe.

14 Earlier this month, our city lost 31-year-old
15 Kevin Rawlings a Software Engineer in Council Member
16 Bottcher's district. Our thoughts are with is family
17 during this difficult time.

18 Yesterday, marked the...

19 Oh, I want to go without saying this, it was
20 announced yesterday that we will we lost the Queen of
21 Rock and Roll, the legendary Tina Turner at the age
22 of 83. I did not want to miss lifting her up for all
23 of her talent. She went from end of the spectrum in
24 poverty in Tennessee to an amazing, amazing legendary
25

2 icon. We life her up. Her music and her memory will
3 never be forgotten. Simply the best.

4 Yesterday marked the end of our Executive Budget
5 Hearings. I want to thank council members and staff
6 for their hard work throughout this budget process
7 thus far. And a special thanks to our Finance Chair,
8 Justin Brannan who, yes, is still here...

9 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

10 for his leadership. And, of course, we want to
11 thank our Finance Division for their commitment
12 throughout these weeks of hearings. We thank you so
13 much, Finance staff.

14 [APPLAUSE]

15 To members of the public, we thank you who offer
16 testimony. We thank you for your engagement.

17 This week, the Council unveiled our Fiscal Year
18 2024 Executive Budget economic and tax forecast.
19 With the City's economy proving more resilient and
20 driving stronger than expected tax collections, the
21 Council now forecasts \$1.8 billion in revenues for
22 Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, and greater revenues in
23 the out years than it projected by OMB in the
24 Executive Budget.

2 These economic forecasts show the Council, uh,
3 the City is well positioned to invest in essential
4 services while preparing for future risks even as the
5 Executive Budget falls short of funding the critical
6 services relied on by New Yorkers.

7 While the Administration continues to justify
8 budget cuts as a result of the costs associated with
9 supporting asylum seekers, the reality is that many
10 investments missing from the budget would be
11 solutions to the current challenges facing our city.

12 The Administration has said everything is on the
13 table, yet it has disregarded solutions that could
14 help New Yorkers avoid entering or transitioning out
15 of the shelter system. Its response has relied on
16 solely expanding emergency shelters, which are
17 inherently expensive, without focusing enough on
18 alleviating pressure on our shelter system.

19 Yet we know there are many other solutions to our
20 challenges that are achievable through the City
21 Budget. For example, the Executive Budget maintained
22 a budget cut of over \$30 million to NYCHA's Vacant
23 Unit Readiness Program, which has seen the amount of
24 time it takes to repair vacant units reach
25 approximately nine months. NYCHA's data shows that

2 due to these delays, the number of vacant apartments
3 grew from 490 to 6,583 vacant units over the last 16
4 months.

5 Now is not the time to institute these cuts.
6 Instead, we should empower the program to
7 rehabilitate vacant apartments under the City's
8 control.

9 We also must invest adequate resources into the
10 Affordable Housing Capital Budget, our CityFHEPS
11 housing vouchers, and supportive housing. We cannot
12 underfund and under staff the very agencies that
13 connect New Yorkers with the essential services they
14 need. The health, safety, and well-being of our city,
15 communities, and economy are all bound to how well
16 the budget invests in essential services.

17 I would like to extend my congratulations to the
18 union resident physicians at Elmhurst Hospital, where
19 I was born, who came to a tentative agreement with
20 Mount Sinai for pay parity. These frontline health
21 care workers put their lives on the line to steer us
22 through the most difficult days of the pandemic. And
23 I am so pleased to hear that they will finally
24 receive fair pay for their work.

2 Today, as was mentioned by our Majority Leader,
3 it is Foster Youth Shadow Day! The goal of Shadow Day
4 is to give our foster youth the opportunity to learn
5 about The City Council, become more civically
6 engaged, and be introduced to new career pathways. I
7 want to thank Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala and our
8 council staff for your work to set up this important
9 day. We welcome you again, Youth, to the People's
10 House! This is your house!

11 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

12 Tomorrow, the Council will be announcing the
13 official results and winning proposals of this year's
14 participatory budgeting cycle. Participatory
15 budgeting fosters civic engagement and empowers our
16 city's residents to have a stronger voice in their
17 neighborhood priorities. More than 60,000 people
18 voted during this cycle, which is the Council's first
19 since the start of the pandemic.

20 I want to take a moment to thank every council
21 office that took part in PB this year; our staff, who
22 worked hard to make it happen; and every New Yorker
23 who took the time to learn about and vote on their
24 favorite projects. Congratulations on a successful

2 participatory budgeting cycle! Here's to the next
3 one!

4 [APPLAUSE]

5 Today marks the start of a Jewish holiday,
6 Shavuot or "Feast of Weeks". As our Jewish
7 communities gather with families and friends and at
8 synagogues to enjoy shared meals and light holiday
9 candles, I wish everyone who is observing a safe and
10 happy holiday. Chag Sameach, Eric Dinowitz! He tells
11 me my accent is good.

12 May 28th, is Pentecost, a day when Christians
13 commemorate the dissent of the holy spirit upon the
14 apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ. I wish
15 all who celebrate a holy and reflective holiday.

16 Tomorrow is Guyana's Independence Day. I am
17 proud that my district, the Great 28, is home to a
18 vibrant Guyanese community. And if ya'll have not
19 been to Little Guyana in my district, I encourage you
20 to visit, try some of our local cuisine, and
21 celebrate Guyana's Independence Day.

22 This week is National EMS week where we celebrate
23 our frontline emergency response workers and the
24 important work that they do to keep us safe and
25 healthy. My daughter, Aliya, proudly serves our city

2 as an FDNY paramedic, and I want to personally thank
3 all of our EMS workers for their dedication to our
4 communities. Emergency Medical Service professionals
5 *still*, still lack the fair and equitable pay they
6 deserve. As a council, we are committed to
7 advocating for pay parity for these critical first
8 responders and all municipal and human service
9 workers.

10 May 28th is Menstrual Hygiene Day during which we
11 raise public awareness about the challenges to
12 accessing menstrual products and period friendly
13 facilities to end the stigma around menstruation. I
14 am proud of the progress that our city has made to
15 make menstrual hygiene products more accessible to
16 New Yorkers, but there is more work to be done on all
17 levels of government.

18 On Monday, we will observe Memorial Day to honor
19 and commemorate service members who paid the ultimate
20 sacrifice in service to our country. Our city is so
21 grateful for their commitment, dedication, and
22 sacrifice. My own father and husband both service in
23 the Air Force, so Memorial Day is very important to
24 me and my own family. I hope everyone has a
25 reflective and meaningful Memorial Day.

2 As we approach the month of June, there are
3 several other holidays I want to recognize.

4 June is Black Music Appreciation Month where we
5 honor the deep and widespread contributions of Black
6 musicians whether it's gospel music, jazz, soul,
7 house, or hip-hop, Black musicians have created
8 entire cultures an industry celebrated throughout the
9 world. Happy Black Music Appreciation Month.

10 June is also Caribbean American Heritage Month
11 when we celebrate our Caribbean American communities
12 for their cultural, social, and political
13 contributions to our city and country. We have so
14 many groundbreaking Caribbean American leaders here
15 in New York City, thank you for all that you do.

16 This month we are observing Gun Awareness Month
17 to acknowledge the crisis of gun violence in our city
18 and across the country. As a council, we are
19 committed to making our city safe and brining an end
20 to gun violence.

21 And as we know, June is LGBTQIA+ Pride Month. We
22 celebrate Pride to ensure that LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers
23 are seen, heard, and supported, which is especially
24 critical now when trans rights are under attack
25 across the country. As a council, we are committed

2 to uplifting our LGBTQIA+ New Yorkers, and I wish
3 everyone a Happy Pride.

4 I want to acknowledge the middle school
5 basketball team from MS 127 in Council Member Fariás'
6 district who have joined us in the chambers today!
7 Please join me in congratulating them on winning the
8 Bronxwide Championship! Woohoo!

9 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

10 Oh, I said this already, but I am going to say it
11 again, finally, and again, I am going to take a
12 moment to honor the life and legacy of Tina Turner.
13 The Queen of Rock and Roll broke so many barriers in
14 her trailblazing career. She told the story of
15 resiliency in ways that no one else could, and used
16 the struggles of her life to create music that
17 reverberated in your soul. Her work has inspired me
18 and countless others around the world to fight for a
19 better future. Tina will live on as an American icon,
20 may she rest in peace.

21 And now we are going to move onto our Stated
22 Agenda.

23 First we will vote on the following appointments
24 to the Taxi and Limousine Commission or TLC: Kenneth

2 Y. K. Chan, Paul Bader, Thomas Sorrentino, and Sarah
3 Kaufman.

4 Next, we will vote on the following Finance
5 items:

6 A revenue budget modification which recognizes
7 \$2.25 billion of new revenues in Fiscal Year 2023,
8 and a \$4 million reduction in prior year payable
9 liabilities.

10 Next we will vote on the following Land Use
11 items:

12 141-05 109th Avenue Rezoning will facilitate a
13 new four story mixed-use building with approximately
14 56 housing units, 14 of which will be permanently
15 affordable in my district. The Council is modifying
16 the application to strike MIH option 2 and add the
17 deep affordability option.

18 6-50 Brooklyn Queens Expressway West Rezoning,
19 will facilitate the expansion of BQE Fitness to
20 increase its square footage and approximately 111
21 accessory off street parking spaces in Council Member
22 Cabán's district.

23 61-10 Queens Boulevard Rezoning will facilitate
24 the expansion of Planet Fitness to increase its
25

2 square footage within the existing building in
3 Council Member Won's district.

4 Zoning, Paperific Rezoning will facilitate the
5 development of a five story commercial building, 63
6 parking spaces, and 35 bicycle parking spaces. The
7 Council is modifying the application to strike the
8 MIH option 2, and add the deep affordability option
9 in Council Member Hanif's district.

10 And 784 Courtlandt Avenue Project Revision an
11 amendment to Council Resolution 1014 from 2019,
12 related to the Melrose Commons Urban Renewal Plan,
13 which will facilitate a 7 story mixed-use building
14 with approximately 23 affordable housing units and
15 community facility space in Council Member Rafael
16 Salamanca's district.

17 Lastly, we will be voting on 15 Preconsidered
18 state legislative resolutions including "Sammy's Law"
19 a bill to authorize New York City to establish speed
20 limits. Too many New Yorkers have been lost to
21 speeding and traffic violence, and it is important
22 that we take action to have save lives. I want to
23 thank Council Member Jennifer Gutiérrez for her
24 leadership and our Transportation and Infrastructure

2 Chair, Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers for her
3 strong support of Sammy's Law.

4 Resolution 550, sponsored by Council Member
5 Shahana Hanif, would recognize May as Lupus Awareness
6 Month in the city of New York. Thank you to our staff
7 Brenda McKinney, Regina Paul, and Cristy Dwyer.

8 Introduction 566-A, sponsored by Council Member
9 Oswald Feliz, which would amend the administrative
10 code of the city of New York, in relation to
11 requiring all children with disabilities to be
12 transported in buses with air-conditioning. Thank
13 you to our staff member Nadia Jean-François.

14 Introduction 590-A, sponsored by Council Members
15 Carlina Rivera and Chi Ossé. This bill would make
16 permanent the Open Culture Program that was
17 established temporarily by local law during the
18 COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to which eligible
19 arts and culture institutions obtain permits to use
20 roadways for events. The City would be required to
21 establish the permanent program by August 1, 2023.
22 The City would also be required to submit a report
23 regarding the Open Culture program by November 1,
24 2023, and annually thereafter. Thank you to our staff
25 members Brenda McKinney and Regina Paul.

2 Introduction 686-A, sponsored by Council Member
3 Althea Stevens. This bill would require the
4 Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
5 to operate a summer youth employment program (SYEP).
6 DYCD would coordinate with other agencies to develop
7 summer youth employment opportunities. DYCD would
8 also coordinate with The Department of Small Business
9 Services, or SBS, to promote SYEP to businesses that
10 work with SBS. This bill would help diversify
11 options for SYEP participants by increasing
12 collaboration with government agencies, community
13 based organizations, and local private businesses.
14 Thank you to our staff members David Sitzler, Jayasri
15 Ganapathy, Nicole Catá, and Rebecca Barilla.

16 Next we will vote on the following bill sponsored
17 by our Technology Committee Chair, Council Member
18 Jennifer Gutiérrez, originally proposed in my 2022
19 State of the City, I am proud to see these bills move
20 forward, especially during Older Americans Month.
21 Introduction 664-A would require The Department Of
22 Citywide Administrative Services to create a process
23 for the city to donate extra computers and related
24 tech equipment to educational and nonprofit
25 organizations who teach, train, or help New Yorkers.

2 Eligible organizations would include schools,
3 libraries, other public or private educational
4 institutions and organizations serving people with
5 disabilities, seniors, and low income New Yorkers.
6 Additionally, this bill would require an annual
7 report on the equipment donations.

8 Introduction 665-A, This bill would require the
9 Department for the Aging (DFTA) in collaboration with
10 the Department of Information Technology and
11 Telecommunications (DOITT) and relevant stakeholders,
12 to establish and implement an online digital literacy
13 program to serve older adults. The program would
14 teach older adults how to navigate online learning
15 platforms and social media, how to access telehealth
16 services, how to apply for benefits online, and how
17 to identify online fraud or scams. Additionally, the
18 bill would require a report to the Council when any
19 changes or updates to the program are made. Thank you
20 to our staff members Irene Byhovsky, Connor Mealey,
21 Charles Kim, Florentine Kabore, Mark Chen,
22 Christopher Pepe, Brad Reid, and Audrey Son.

23 Finally, we will vote on a critical package of
24 bills that help New Yorkers avoid or move out of the
25

2 City shelter system by reforming our Rental
3 Assistance Voucher Programs -- CityFHEPS.

4 Our city is facing a unprecedented number of
5 people experiencing homelessness including over
6 80,000 people in our shelter system, of which over
7 50,000 are longtime New Yorkers.

8 According to The Mayor's Management Report,
9 single adults and families with children stay in
10 shelter for over a year, and adult families over two
11 years. With the rise in asylum seekers, shelter
12 space has become scare resulting in the City placing
13 people in emergency shelters that are far more
14 expensive and in places that often do not meet basic
15 living standards. Thought the impact of caring for
16 people seeking asylum has been considerable, we
17 cannot blame them for our city's issues. There was a
18 homeless crisis in New York City before the arrival
19 of people seeking asylum. The Administration has not
20 focused enough on solutions to move New Yorkers out
21 of shelters and into permanent housing.

22 CityFHEPS vouchers can be powerful tools to help
23 us, but the City's arcane policies in administering
24 them are counterproductive. Why deny access to a
25 housing voucher that could help secure permanent

2 housing? This is a solution to help reduce
3 homelessness, stabilize communities, free up space
4 for asylum seekers and others, all while saving money
5 on costly emergency shelters that skew far more
6 expensive than traditional shelter models while
7 offering few services.

8 An analysis by WIN housing a family in an
9 emergency hotel shelter for one year costs over
10 \$139,000. This one-year cost is more expensive than
11 a housing a family for five years in a two bedroom
12 apartment with a CityFHEPS voucher. The choice is
13 clear from the perspective of what helps New Yorkers
14 and our communities and what is cost effective.
15 These are the types of solutions our city must
16 pursue.

17 Today's legislation will not only help New
18 Yorkers move out of shelters, but also prevent the
19 evictions of New Yorkers most at risk of homelessness
20 and of entering our shelter system. The costs of
21 shelter go beyond the price of beds and buildings; we
22 must also account for the cost of health, mental
23 health, education, and other services for our
24 effected neighbors.

2 These bills are critical to the success of our
3 city. To maximize the impact of these polices we
4 must also address the source of income discrimination
5 that blocks New Yorkers accessing to housing.

6 [APPLAUSE]

7 This requires the unit at The Commission of Human
8 Rights be fully staffed and to ensure that landlords
9 are held accountable for refusing vouchers.

10 Finally, we must increase housing supply
11 throughout the city, because housing is the key to
12 stability and the solution to homelessness.

13 The following package of bills is essential to
14 address homelessness among New Yorkers and the
15 pressures facing our city's shelter system.

16 And before I call up the bill sponsors, I want to
17 say how incredibly proud I am of the work of the
18 council members who have led the efforts on this
19 legislation and our incredible staff that worked on
20 them.

21 Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala is this body's leading
22 voice on issues related to homelessness and General
23 Welfare as the Committee Chair. She knows this
24 city's shelter system from her own personal
25 experiences and carries such clarity of the

2 challenges and issues facing New Yorkers with these
3 experiences. Her selfless leadership for unhoused
4 New Yorkers and our obligation as a city to help to
5 them is unrivalled, and Diana is always someone that
6 I lean on. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

7 UNKNOWN: We love you!

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: We do.

9 I am also so very proud of the leadership of our
10 Housing and Buildings Chair, Pierina Sanchez. She has
11 shown her leadership on these bills and more broadly
12 on the issues of affordable housing. Her laser focus
13 on issues of affordability in our housing efforts
14 keeps attention where it needs to be -- on New
15 Yorkers facing the greatest challenges.

16 And Council Member Tiffany Cabán's incisive
17 legislation led to a bill targeting an issue that
18 leads vouchers to be devalued and more difficult to
19 use. These bills represent what a legislature can do
20 to solve pressing issues and all too common problems
21 with government policies that tend to undermine
22 services for low income people in our city and in our
23 country.

24 I also want to thank all of the organizations who
25 have been fighting for these solutions and

2 specifically for these bills and coalition, Care for
3 the Homeless, Citizens Committee for Children,
4 Community Services Society, Homeless Services United,
5 The Homeless Can't Wait Campaign, Legal Aid Society,
6 Make the Road New York, Neighbors Together, New
7 Destiny Housing, Open Hearts Initiative, Urban
8 Justice Center, Urban Pathways, Vocal New Work, and
9 WIN, along with its leader and one of my
10 predecessors, former Speaker Christine Quinn, who has
11 joined us in the Chambers today. We hear the
12 applause.

13 [APPLAUSE]

14 These advocates and homelessness service
15 providers, as well as their clients, and members have
16 brought the voices of New Yorkers directly affected
17 by homelessness and housing instability into the
18 legislative process. They have been vital partners
19 to this council and this city. And their commitment
20 to uplifting our neighbors who need government to act
21 on their behalf has been invaluable.

22 And now onto the bills:

23 Introduction 893-A, sponsored by Council Member
24 Pierina Sanchez, would help ensure residents that are
25 housed but face eviction, who do not currently

2 qualify for eligibility for CityFHEPS Rental
3 Assistance Vouchers. Specifically, the bill would
4 disallow DSS from using the perseverance of a rent
5 controlled apartment, receipt of Adult Protective
6 Services, or a community guardianship, and lack of
7 previous shelter residence as criteria to deny
8 eligibility for CityFHEPS. The bill would also
9 provide households with the opportunity to
10 demonstrate risk of eviction with a rent demand
11 letter as a means to meet the eligibility
12 requirements for CityFHEPS. This bill would take
13 effect 180 days after it becomes law.

14 Introduction 894-A also sponsored by Council
15 Member Pierina Sanchez, would remove the current
16 requirement that an individual or family demonstrate
17 that they are employed to become eligible for a
18 CityFHEPS Rental Assistance Voucher. This bill would
19 change the maximum total gross income for CityFHEPS
20 vouchers from 200 percent of the federal poverty
21 level to 50 percent of the area median income to
22 better align with economic needs in the City. The
23 bill take effect 180 days after it becomes law.

24 Next, Introduction 229-A, sponsored by, Council
25 Member Tiffany Cabán, would prohibit DSS from

2 deducting a utility allowance from the maximum amount
3 of a CityFHEPS voucher. This bill would also provide
4 that if a tenant's public assistance shelter
5 allowance is reduced by renting an apartment that is
6 less than the maximum rent, DSS will issue a check to
7 the tenant in the amount of the reduction.

8 Finally, Introduction 878-A, Deputy Speaker Diana
9 Ayala, would prohibit DSS from requiring an
10 individual or family to reside in a shelter 90 days
11 before becoming eligible for a CityFHEPS Rental
12 Assistance Voucher. Removing a shelter stay as a
13 precondition to voucher assistance streamline access
14 to vouchers for those in the shelter system who would
15 otherwise be eligible, and works to prevent
16 individuals from entering the shelter system in the
17 first place. This would reduce the number of people
18 in the shelter system, and lengths of stay and costs
19 of being in the shelter while improving child and
20 family well-being.

21 I thank our staff members Aminta Kilawan, David
22 Romero, Sara Liss, Nicholas Connel, and Smita
23 Deshmukh.

24 Now, I thank you so much for your attention, I'd
25 like to turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, we have to
3 give you a breather after that.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We will now move into
6 Reports of Special Committees... Oh, no, sorry,
7 sorry, I'm sorry, we are going to move into
8 Discussion of General Orders.

9 And we will first hear from Council Member Cabán.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you.

11 A comfortable, reliable home is the essential
12 pillar of a dignified life and a key foundation of
13 true public safety, not to mention public health; and
14 New Yorkers without one are almost by definition not
15 safe, not healthy, and not being shown the respect
16 they are entitled to as human beings whose lives
17 inherently matter. And I wish I could say that our
18 shelter system was good enough, but for too many
19 reasons to go into right now, it categorically is
20 not. It should be a high priority of ours to move
21 New Yorkers out of the shelter system and into
22 permanent housing as rapidly and efficiently as
23 possible. And one obstacle to that goal is the fact
24 that with rent on its current skyrocketing
25 trajectory, vouchers often don't enable our neighbors

2 to afford an apartment and there is a piece of red
3 tape we currently have on the books that compounds
4 this problem. A rule that allows landlords to deduct
5 utility costs from the value of the voucher rather
6 than letting the entire voucher goes towards rent. I
7 am very proud to be the lead sponsor for Intro 229,
8 which will remove this piece of red tape eliminating
9 that obstacle and preventing our neighbors from
10 experiencing homelessness and from moving into
11 permanent housing they need and deserve. And I am
12 also proud that it is part of package alongside
13 Council Member Sanchez and Deputy Speaker Ayala's
14 bills. These measures will help families avoid
15 entering the shelter the system and move out of it
16 quickly making our city safer and healthier for all.
17 These four bills taken together constitute an
18 importance step toward a city where the purpose of
19 the housing system is guaranteeing all New Yorkers
20 housing, not maximizing profits for corporate
21 landlords and billionaire developers. In the
22 interest of safety, health, and dignity I just want
23 to urge my colleagues to vote aye on all, thank you.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
3 hear from Council Member Rivera, followed by Council
4 Member Stevens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you so much. I
6 also want to congratulate all of my colleagues for
7 their work on the housing bill. It is truly
8 inspiring to see us use our legislative action to do
9 the right thing by New Yorkers who have been here
10 long term and who are new to the City find good and
11 just housing.

12 With that, I just want to speak briefly on my
13 bill, Introduction 590, to revive and permanent the
14 Open Culture Program that was critical to the
15 survival of so many arts and culture organizations
16 across the city. It also allowed neighbors,
17 families, and friends to come together in a safe way
18 and made our communities more enjoyable and lively
19 during a very harrowing time.

20 The Open Culture Program will provide an
21 affordable way for eligible arts and culture
22 institutions to obtain permits to use roadways for
23 events. This permit will have a \$25 application fee,
24 and will otherwise be free helping to expand equity
25 and access to the arts and providing a low barrier

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way to bring performances and creations outside of buildings and into communities. The arts and entertainment sectors were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and they are arguably our City's economic driver. People come to New York for the arts. They come to our neighborhoods, our restaurants, our small businesses for the arts. Open Streets and Open Culture enables some of our beloved arts venues and organizations to welcome New Yorkers and visitors to seek solace and enjoyment in performances and make this city and our neighborhoods so much more wonderful.

I want to thank the entire committee staff for their work. I look forward to passing this. I want to thank Council Member Ossé for his co-sponsorship and my colleagues for their support.

I know I remember my first concert, it was outdoors, it was a Salsa concert, and it really changed the way that I looked at art and culture and my entire perspective on the world. And I think that is so important to our collective healing and, of course, our identity as New York City.

2 And, again, congratulations to all of my
3 colleagues for some incredible legislation today,
4 thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

6 We will now hear from Council Member Stevens,
7 followed by Council Member Sanchez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Good afternoon. It is my
9 pleasure to be passing Introduction 686 today. New
10 York City is currently faced with a workforce crisis.
11 It is our job to develop solutions that will foster a
12 thriving city workforce while exposing our young
13 people to amazing experiences.

14 SYEP (Summer Youth Employment) provides
15 experiences for young people to gain and develop
16 important real life skills such as communication,
17 time management, problem solving, and so much more.
18 The skills that they acquire are vital for the future
19 success of our workforce and overall well-being.
20 Addressing this as a citywide partnership is a
21 crucial steppingstone towards reimagining our City
22 workforce.

23 Our collective efforts to maximize the resources
24 at our disposal, and give SYEP participants access to
25 a large range of employment opportunities, ensures

2 that the program caters to the different needs and
3 passions of young people while promoting workforce
4 development in the entire city.

5 Additionally, by offering more positions around
6 the City, will help our city agencies access a
7 crucial pipeline to address the employment challenges
8 experienced by our city agencies.

9 I would like to thank my co-prime sponsor,
10 Council Member Julie Menin, who worked tirelessly
11 with me on this legislation, Speaker Adams for
12 supporting us, and I encourage all of my colleagues
13 today to vote yes on Intro 686.

14 And, thank you to all of my colleagues for their
15 courage and leadership on their housing bills,
16 because, as we know, housing is a human right.

17 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

18 We will now hear from Council Member Sanchez,
19 followed by Council Member Feliz.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority
21 Leader Powers, and thank you to all of my colleagues.

22 In my district, we know the heartbreaking
23 consequences of the housing and homelessness crisis
24 firsthand.

2 In Bronx Community District 5, one in ten
3 households faced eviction last year. This means
4 children are force to commute sometimes 90 minutes -
5 two hours from a shelter in Queens to their school on
6 Tremont Avenue in the Bronx, severing vital social
7 bonds and support networks for them and for their
8 families. The resulting stress at the household and
9 community level permeates not just through mine but
10 through all communities, manifesting in food
11 insecurity, poor health outcomes, and even violence.

12 As if these preexisting realities were not
13 enough, as we welcome more New Yorkers, there is even
14 more pressure to improve the efficiency of our
15 existing systems to provide relief. This is why I am
16 urging my colleagues today to support the CityFHEPS
17 Voucher expansion bills, because let's be clear,
18 increasing access to permanent housing is not only
19 the morally correct thing to do -- stabilizing
20 families -- but it is also the fiscally prudent
21 course of action in confronting the housing and
22 homelessness crisis.

23 Per The Mayor's own housing blueprint, it cost
24 almost \$9,000 per month to house a family of two in
25 the shelter system last year. A CityFHEPS voucher for

2 the same family would cost a maximum of \$2,300 and
3 potentially much less. Permanent housing costs less
4 than shelter.

5 Together this package will reduce the number of
6 households entering the system and will move folks
7 faster when they do.

8 Thank you to The Speaker and The Deputy Speaker
9 for your incredible, amazing, feminine, women
10 leadership, and to all of the advocates, Vocal New
11 York. Legal Aid Society, Homeless Services United,
12 Make the Road, WIN, the CSS, and so many others.
13 Thank you. Housing is a human right.

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

15 We will now hear from Council Member Feliz,
16 followed by Council Member Gutiérrez.

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

19 Students with IEPs (Individualized Education
20 Programs) face many challenges due to reasons beyond
21 their control. Some of these challenges include heat
22 sensitivities. One thing we cannot allow is for
23 their heat sensitivities to be worsened even before
24 their school day starts because their school buses do
25 not have air-conditioning.

2 My bill, Introduction 556, will help resolve this
3 problem, a problem that has existed for a very long
4 time, by requiring that all school buses that serve
5 students with IEPs have something as simple as air-
6 conditioning.

7 I encourage all to vote yes on Intro 556. And I
8 want to thank all of my colleagues that worked
9 together on this bill including our Education Chair,
10 Council Member Rita Joseph, thank you so much for all
11 of the work on this bill.

12 I also want to congratulate all of my colleagues
13 working on the very important CityFHEPS package,
14 including Deputy Speaker Ayala, Council Member
15 Sanchez, and Council Member Cabán. We need to
16 resolve this housing crisis. We need to get people
17 into stable housing. We need this package. This
18 package will help get that done, thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

20 And, finally, we will hear from Council Member
21 Gutiérrez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you. I will be
23 brief.

24

25

2 I am really excited to move two pieces of
3 legislation forward in partnership with Speaker Adams
4 today.

5 Introduction 665, mandates that DFTA and OTI
6 provide digital literacy classes in every community
7 board, in our libraries, and our senior centers.

8 Introduction 664, redirects unused digital
9 equipment from becoming e-waste to instead having a
10 second life with nonprofits.

11 With these bills, we are sending a clear message
12 that access should not be a privilege but a right for
13 all. And every New Yorker should be able to thrive
14 in the digital age regardless of their background or
15 circumstances.

16 These two bills may appear modest in scope, but
17 their potential to transform lives and bridge the
18 digital divide is significant.

19 Additionally, I am really proud to have played a
20 supporting role in helping bring the Home Rule
21 message related to Sammy's Law to a vote today.

22 Sammy's Law is the first step towards ensuring
23 that New York City has the ability to make decisions
24 for the streets that we fund, maintain, and support.
25 The fact that only currently only Albany is empowered

2 to make decisions about the speeds on our streets
3 benefits no one. Our city's infrastructure is
4 unique; our communities are diverse, and we have the
5 necessary insight into our community safety needs.

6 I want to thank all of the sponsors that signed
7 onto to my resolution, specifically, Council Member
8 Restler and Council Member Hanif, who were integral
9 in getting the sponsors on, and, of course, the
10 leadership of our Transportation Chair, Council
11 Member Selvena Brooks-Powers.

12 And I quicky just want to shoutout Sammy's mom,
13 Amy, and grandmother, Joan, who are here with us
14 today. Thank you for your advocacy. Thank you.

15 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

16 Not seeing anyone else signed up at this time for
17 General Orders, we will now move to the Reports of
18 Special Committees.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Reports of Standing
21 Communities?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
23 Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International
24 Intergroup Relations, Introduction 590-A, Open
25 Culture Program.

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

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
5 Education, Introduction 566-A, air-conditioned buses
6 for disabled children.

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

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on
10 Finance, M 154 and Resolution 648, budget
11 modification.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on General
14 Welfare, Introductions 229-A, 878-A, 893-A, and 894-
15 A, rental assistance vouchers.

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

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land
19 Use, L U 207 and Resolution 649 and L U 208 and
20 Resolution 650, various rezonings.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: L Us 209 and 210, 141-05 109th
23 Avenue Rezoning.

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2 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with modifications and
3 referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
4 section 197-d of the New York City Charter.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Preconsidered L U 211 and
6 Resolution 651, 784 Courtlandt Avenue project
7 revision.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,
10 Privileges, and Elections, M 149 and Resolution 652,
11 approving the appointment of KENNETH Y.K. Chan, TLC.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: M 150 and Resolution 653,
14 approving the appointment of Paul Bader, TLC.

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: M 151 and RESOLUTION 654,
17 approving the appointment of Thomas Sorrentino, TLC.

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: M 152 and Resolution 655,
20 approving the appointment of Sarah Kaufman, TLC.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Small
23 Business, Introduction 686-A, Summer Youth
24 Employment.

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

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on State
5 and Federal Legislation, Preconsidered M 155 through
6 Preconsidered SLR 14 on page 12, various Home Rule
7 Messages.

8 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of The Committee on
10 Technology, Introduction 664-A, surplus City owned
11 computers.

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
13 Orders.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro 665-A, Digital Literacy
15 Program.

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

18 COUNCIL CLERK: General Orders Calendar, L U 189
19 and Resolution 656 through L U 191 and Resolution
20 658, Paperific Rezoning.

21 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: L U 209 and Resolution 659 and L U
23 210 and Resolution 660, 141-05 109th Avenue Rezoning.

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Resolution appointing various
3 persons Commissioner of Deeds.

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

5 I now ask that the Clerk take a roll call vote on
6 all of the items on today's General Order Calendar.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Marte?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the
13 exception of Intros 590, 878, 893, 894, 229, and M
14 155, thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I am glad to see
20 the Council pass a Home Rule message in support of
21 Sammy's Law today, which will give the City more
22 authority over the speed limits of our own streets.
23 A record number of children were killed in traffic
24 last year -- many in long neglected outer boroughs in
25 communities of color. Lowering speed limits paired

2 with traffic common measures and infrastructure
3 improvements can help improve safety. I note that
4 reductions to speed limits alone are not enough to
5 keep all of our roads safe. And if the State passes
6 this law, I look forward to leading a robust
7 discussion in the Council's Committee on
8 Transportation infrastructure, one that prioritizes
9 infrastructure investments as we evaluate where
10 speeds can and should be lowered. With that, I vote
11 aye on all.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Council Member Ossé?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: I vote aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Permission to explain my
17 vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you, Majority Leader.

20 Today is a historic day for this council.
21 CityFHEPS has long been one of the City's greatest
22 tools for keeping New Yorkers housed. And, today, it
23 is going to get even greater. I know what it is like
24 to get evicted from your home. That is what I lived
25 through as a child, and it took a huge toll on me and

2 my family. Unless you have lived through it, it is
3 hard to understand what it feels like to have your
4 life completely destabilized -- not knowing where you
5 are going to sleep, where you are going to school,
6 whether you can still make the commute to your
7 [BACKGROUND NOISE] job. I became a Tenant Attorney
8 to protect people's rights, but what we are doing
9 today is even better. We are actually expanding
10 those rights that I have dedicated my life to
11 fighting for. We are no longer going to wait until a
12 family is utterly destitute to offer an ounce of
13 mercy. We are going to do something revolutionary --
14 help people before their lives fall apart. The
15 package of housing bills we are voting on today
16 reflect remarkable leadership from Deputy Speaker
17 Ayala, Council Member Sanchez, Council Member Cabán,
18 and Speaker Adams. This is a once in a generation
19 change in how we think about housing. And the payoff
20 will be a future not only with better housing
21 protections, but with less crime, fewer struggles
22 with mental health, greater educational attainment,
23 and other social advances that only come once we have
24 met the basic need for housing.

25 Thank you; I vote aye on all.

2 [APPLAUSE]

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye on all with the
5 exception of Introductions 229-A, 878-A, 893-A, 894-A
6 and Home Rule M 0155, for which I am a no.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Permission to explain my
9 vortex

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye on all with the
12 exception of M 151, uh, with accompanying Resolution
13 654, for which I vote no. And, because this is a
14 candidate that came from the Brooklyn Delegation, I
15 just want to reaffirm to my colleagues that we should
16 and must assure that the City's commissions and
17 advisory boards must include people with direct
18 experience in the issue or area of focus and directly
19 impacted people. We must stop enabling the use of
20 these bodies for political favor, but activate them
21 to truly work for New Yorkers, that they include
22 directly impacted people and *people* with real
23 experience in the sectors.

24

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2 I want to thank my colleagues for supporting
3 Sammy's Law and send my love and appreciation to
4 Sammy's family and Families for Safe Streets.

5 And a congratulations to my colleagues on their
6 housing package.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Permission to explain my
9 vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I won't belabor this,
12 because I have been speaking about this -- I think I
13 believe that everybody is pretty clear on my thoughts
14 on the issue.

15 But, I just really wanted to shoutout the
16 advocates who are on the balcony and those who are
17 watching from home who have worked tirelessly to get
18 us to this point today, and I want thank my
19 colleagues who believe that this package is ,you
20 know, one of the tools that we can use to better the
21 lives of so many New Yorkers who really rely on us to
22 do our job to get them out of circumstances that they
23 are not able to get themselves out of.

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

25 [APPLAUSE]

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: We are going to have a
3 lot of speeches, you guys can hold your applause; you
4 can put your hands up or something if you wanted to
5 relay your support, thanks.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I am not used to them
8 wanting me to speak, so that when you said my name I
9 didn't realize you were talking about me.

10 But, may I be excused to explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: You may be excused to
12 explain your vote... (CROSS-TALK)

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I want to vote... I want
14 to abstain from 149, 150, and 152. And I vote no on
15 151.

16 On the speed limits, I really... This was a
17 tough one for me, uh, I don't want this to be abused,
18 and in our communities... Then we have a bunch of
19 tickets, because the speed limit is so slow that they
20 pile up with tickets. But, since this bill is
21 basically giving us the authority and not yet setting
22 a time for the speed limit to be dealt with, I want
23 to encourage us not to allow this bill to have such a
24 slow speed limit that we have an increase of tickets
25 in our communities. Because, we are already abused

2 with those kinds of fines and summons. So, I am
3 voting yes on that with the stipulation that we do
4 not abuse it when it comes to the speed limit.

5 And, then, I am voting, uh, no on L U 209, 210,
6 Resolution 259, 659, 660, I think the affordability
7 needs to be a little deeper. And I want to be
8 consistent.

9 And, then, finally, shame on you, Mayor! I am
10 glad this council is sticking up to the mayor by not
11 allowing him to warehouse the homeless and keep them
12 in homeless shelters with no permanent plan for
13 housing, with no workforce development for jobs, with
14 no mental health services, just warehousing. Well,
15 today, the Council said, no! We have to take care of
16 our homeless. And when we pass more projects, let's
17 increase affordability and "set asides" for the
18 homeless. Congratulations to my colleagues who
19 worked hard on this.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Bottcher?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Aye on all.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I am an aye on all,
3 particularly on the getting rid of the 90-day rule,
4 and I also I thank Joan Dean and her family, thank
5 you.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye on all, with the
8 exception of M 151, on which I vote no.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Carr?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'll be voting no on
11 Introductions 229-A, 878-A, 893-A, 894-A, and M 155.
12 And aye on the rest, thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: I want to vote aye on
15 all, and congratulate the Speaker and our colleagues
16 for their courageous leadership.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Farías?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all. And I
19 am excited and proud, too. Congratulations to all of
20 my colleagues.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Feliz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and I, too,
3 also welcome former Speaker Quinn back to the
4 Council. I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Permission to explain
7 my vote so briefly?

8 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Very briefly, it's
9 allowed... (CROSS-TALK)

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Thank you.

11 I vote aye on all, with the exception of M 151,
12 with the accompanying Resolution 645.

13 I just want to thank The Speaker and my awesome
14 colleagues who are pushing back and creating real
15 housing opportunities. And I just want to give a
16 shoutout to all of the advocates, Families for Safe
17 Streets, and Transportation Alternatives, uh, who got
18 us here. So, thank you all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanif

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Permission to explain my
21 vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: I want to thank Deputy
24 Speaker Ayala, Council Member Sanchez, and Council

2 Member Cabán for their work on this critical
3 CityFHEPS legislative package.

4 I also want to extend gratitude to Speaker Adams
5 for her unwavering commitment to transitioning people
6 out of shelter into permanent housing. This is the
7 dignified and solution oriented path forward to
8 addressing the shortage of shelter beds. I am proud
9 to be part of a council that is demonstrating real
10 leadership, especially in response to our newest
11 neighbors.

12 I vote aye on all with the exception of M 151 and
13 corresponding Resolution 654, on which I vote no.

14 On M 151, I am voting no in order to remain
15 consistent with how I've participated in the Brooklyn
16 Delegation on this Taxi and Limousine Commission
17 appointment. I will continue to work with my
18 colleagues towards ensuring that there is current
19 driver representation on the TLC soon. We need
20 impacted working people for policies that look out
21 for working families, thank you.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Hanks?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye on all with the
24 exception of M 155, 155, for which I vote no.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

2 Council Member Holden?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all, except
4 Introductions 229-A, 878-A, 893-A, and 894-A, and M
5 155, of which I vote no.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Hudson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I am an aye on all with
9 the exception of M 149, for which I abstain.

10 And permission to explain my vote?

11 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. I just want to
13 congratulate my colleagues and the Speaker for
14 pushing forward and standing strong in the face of
15 opposition and pressure to pass the CityFHEPS
16 package. This is not only an important package in
17 and of itself, but especially at this time during a
18 housing crisis, a migrant crisis, and everything that
19 this city is facing. It has taken a lot of courage
20 to pass that package, and, so, I just wanted to
21 congratulate my colleagues.

22 And I am proud to also vote in favor of that
23 package as well as Sammy's Law, thank you.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

25 Council Member Joseph?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH? Aye on all.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Kagan?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Permission to explain my
5 vote?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you.

8 So, bills regarding housing vouchers for
9 potentially homeless individuals are so over broad
10 that they will end up hurting people who really need
11 housing assistance. And you create a huge waitlist
12 for people who really need this housing assistance.

13 And in terms of lowering the speed limit in New
14 York City to 20 miles per hour, and even to 10 miles
15 per hour, it will not decrease the number of car
16 incidents or prevent reckless driving, but instead,
17 you will create more road congestion, and you will
18 squeeze more money from responsible drivers. After
19 all, reckless drivers, don't care about any speed
20 limits. We need to increase the number of traffic
21 agents and support enforcement of existing rules.

22 So, I am voting no on Introductions 229-A, 878-A,
23 893-A, and 894-A, and also, no, on Home Rule M 0155.
24 And aye on everything else.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye on all.

3 I just want to say thank you to the Speaker and

4 all of our colleagues fighting on this issue.

5 Housing is a human right, and I am proud that we are

6 sending that message today as a council.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Lee?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Permission to explain my

9 vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I will be voting aye on all

12 with the exception of M 155, which I will be

13 abstaining on.

14 And in terms of the CityFHEPS, we know that it is

15 much more expensive to put families in shelters than

16 to provide these vouchers. There are benefits that

17 every day New Yorkers will directly feel -- For

18 example, privacy and stability for some of our most

19 vulnerable families, and more income for our city's

20 smaller landlords.

21 In order for these services to succeed and

22 operate as efficiently as possible, we look forward

23 to partnering with the Administration on a number of

24 issues -- The long and complex application process,

25 the staff shortage at DSS, lack of timely payments to

2 shelter operators, and lack of communication between
3 shelters that force families to hit "reset" -- quote-
4 unquote -- on their applications far too often. Our
5 city is dealing with twin crises, homelessness and
6 the influx of asylum seekers. Now, more than ever,
7 we need to be freeing up City resources and breaking
8 down silos to answer that dire need.

9 Thank you, and congrats to all of my colleagues.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Louis?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on all. And
12 congratulations to all bill sponsors and advocates.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Mealy?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE HEARD)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Menin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Moya?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: (EXCUSED)

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to explain m
21 vote?

22 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: As a mother of four,
24 Amy, thank you for calling me. Amy Cohen, uhm, speaks
25 about her young son, Sammy, and it is truly heart

2 wrenching when you hear the story. I am in awe of
3 your finding the strength and fortitude to help
4 create positive change in our city, and I thank you,
5 and I applaud you.

6 As city legislators, our number one priority is
7 the safety of all New Yorkers. And I want to say
8 thank you to all of my colleagues who are fighting
9 for better equity in our city in all aspects.

10 I want to continue to say that the traffic...
11 When we talk about the traffic, the point is to
12 eliminate traffics death. I implore my colleagues to
13 continue our effort to improve the street
14 infrastructure. In low income communities and
15 communities of color, streets in many pockets of our
16 city have for generations gone unexamined and
17 untouched leading to unfair outcomes and fatalities
18 for residents in these areas.

19 So, once again, thank you for the leadership of
20 my Speaker, Adrienne Adams, for standing strong.
21 Thank you to all of my colleagues who continue
22 fighting to make sure that New York City is a place
23 where we can live, work, and enjoy. Thank you...
24 And, I vote aye, sorry.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.

2 Council Member Mealy?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: (NO RESPONSE)

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: We will come back to Council
5 Member Mealy.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Nurse?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye on all except
8 for M 151 and Resolution 654.

9 And I just want to echo the congratulations to
10 everyone. I am really proud to be a part of this
11 body today, thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Paladino?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on all
14 except... (CROSS-TALK)

15 UNKNOWN: (MICROPHONE FEEDBACK) [INAUDIBLE]...
16 (CROSS-TALK)

17 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Did you say Paladino?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: (MICROPHONE FEEDBACK)
19 Paladino.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: (MICROPHONE FEEDBACK)
21 What did he say? You ready? Okay, I vote aye on all,
22 except for Introductions 229-A, 878-A, 893-A, 894-A,
23 Home Rule M 0155.

24 And I would also like to take a moment to
25 recognize this weekend as the Memorial Day weekend.

2 This is known as Memorial Day, so that we could honor
3 those who gave all in order for us to have our
4 freedoms. Thank you very much.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

6 Council Member Mealy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Mealy.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Restler?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to explain my
13 vote?

14 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you, Majority
16 Leader.

17 Firstly, on M 156, while I have been severely
18 disappointed by the delays in implementation of the
19 weigh in motion sensors to impose fines on overweight
20 trucks on the deteriorating BQE triple cantilever, I
21 am pleased that this legislative fix is moving
22 forward in Albany and that we were able to pass a
23 Home Rule Message today to facilitate it.

24 And I want to just, uh, commend my friend and
25 colleague, Council Member Gutiérrez, for her

2 leadership on M 155 to facilitate the passage of
3 Sammy's Law up in Albany. This has been a long
4 fight. This will save lives. This will reduce
5 traffic violence in our communities. And it is an
6 enormous victory. So, thank you, Jen, for everything
7 you have been doing.

8 And, then, I just... I am deeply proud to be a
9 member of The City Council today. So, I want to
10 thank the Speaker for her leadership on the housing
11 package. I want to thank Council Member Cabán for
12 her tenacious advocacy on Intro 229 to limit utility
13 costs for people in... for people exiting shelter
14 into housing. And Council Member Pierina Sanchez for
15 her astute and sharp legislating. And, especially
16 Council Member Diana Ayala for her moral leadership
17 in making sure that this passage happened. We are
18 going to have less people in shelter as a result of
19 the work that we are doing today. I am deeply
20 disappointed by the Mayor's fear mongering here. We
21 need to remember that eligibility to shelter for
22 families, does not change today with this package.
23 And it is very, very hard for families to enter in
24 our shelter system. Only 24 percent of families go
25 to Path to apply for shelter and are accepted on

2 their first try. Thirty percent of families go four
3 or more times before they are ever accepted into
4 shelter. When people finally make it in to our
5 shelter system, we should be working as hard as we
6 can to get them out into housing. And that is what
7 we are doing today. This package is going to make a
8 difference. Thank you to each and every person, and
9 each and every advocate, especially former Speaker
10 Christine Quinn, and the folks at Vocal for helping
11 to make this happen. Thank you.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Richardson
13 Jordan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDSON JORDAN: I vote aye on
15 all, with the exception of M 151, uh, and
16 accompanying Resolution 645, on which I vote no.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.
18 Council Member Riley?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I'll be abstaining on M 155
20 and aye on the rest, thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.
22 Council Member Rivera?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I just want to thank all
24 of the advocates, Transit Housing, Human Services,

2 all of you, thank you for guiding us. And I proudly
3 vote aye on all.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

7 Council Member Sanchez?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye on all.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all, and I want
11 to acknowledge my foster shadow youth partner here
12 today, Amal Kharafi (sp?). Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Permission to explain my
15 vote?

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: My district is one of the
18 districts that is oversaturated with shelters. So, I
19 first... I first see the devastation and impact that
20 the shelter system has on families and communities.
21 I am excited about the bold steps this council is
22 taking to ensure that housing is for all New Yorkers.
23 I am committed to using my skills to work on
24 solutions to ensure that this major undertaking is
25 *implemented* and successful for all New Yorkers.

2 Thank you to all of my colleagues who already
3 voted yes on Introduction 686. This will continue to
4 expand the experience of SYEP participants.

5 And aye on all, and I abstain on M 155.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

7 Council Member Ung?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye on all, with the
9 exception of M 155, on which I abstain.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

11 Council Member Velázquez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VELÁZQUEZ: (ABSENT)

13 Council Member Vernikov?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: (ABSENT)

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Permission to explain my
17 vote?

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Go ahead.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: While I am a strong
20 advocate for traffic safety, I do not believe that
21 giving the DOT the ability to reduce the speed is the
22 only way to ensure the safety of our communities.
23 Other solutions include investing in traffic
24 infrastructure measures such as speed bumps, speed
25 cushions, all way stop-stop signs, roundabouts,

2 pavement markings, and optical markings to name a
3 few. As many know, it takes DOT forever to put those
4 in our communities and often they deny those.

5 In reference to the package of bills that impact
6 the CityFHEPS Program, while I whole heartedly
7 support the [INAUDIBLE] of all of the bills that seek
8 to improve how we care for our unhoused families and
9 those at risk of becoming unhoused, I am concerned
10 about the inability of this administration to
11 effectively implement this sweeping change by the
12 effective date considering current vacancies and
13 existing backlogs.

14 As the Chair of The Committee on Civil and Human
15 Rights, we have heard numerous reports about voucher
16 discrimination. That said, I am also deeply
17 concerned that the source of income unit at CCHR,
18 which has come under much scrutiny from this council
19 and advocates, will not have the capacity to properly
20 address this longstanding, discriminatory practices.

21 I look forward to keeping a watchful eye through
22 our oversight abilities to safeguard the *proper*
23 implementation of these new laws.

24

25

2 Congratulations to all of the bill sponsors and
3 staff for their tireless work. It is an honor to be
4 a part of such an audacious body of members.

5 Lastly, congratulations to our first Queens
6 Delegation nominee, who received unanimous support,
7 by the way, Paul Bader, on your appointment to the
8 Taxi and Limousine Commission.

9 And, with that, I vote aye on all except for M
10 155, on which I vote no.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 Council Member Won?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much to all of
14 the advocates. Congratulations to my colleagues.
15 And I vote aye on all.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Uh, thank you. A quick
18 acknowledgement of some of our staff, Finance staff,
19 our central staff, and our Sergeant At Arms who were
20 all here very late last night at the last Budget
21 hearing and all of those hearings that came before
22 it.

23 With that, I would like to vote no on
24 Introductions 229, 878, 893, 894, and Home Rule M
25

2 01055, to which I agree with, uh, Council Member
3 Williams. And the rest I vote aye on, thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

5 Powers?

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: I just want to echo the
7 Minority Leader on the sentiment about the staff and
8 thank them as well.

9 With that, I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Adams?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thanking, once again, all of our
12 advocates that made the passage of this critical
13 legislation possible today; and once again wanting to
14 uplift former Speaker Christine Quinn for her
15 unwavering leadership and support of the work around
16 this important legislation. And I just want to thank
17 her, and all of our advocates for helping us to do
18 what is right by the least of these.

19 To that, I do proudly vote aye on all.

20 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We are going
21 to give our staff a few minutes to tally all of the
22 votes.

23 Today's vote, all items on today's General Order
24 Calendar are adopted by a vote of 48 in favor, zero
25 against, zero abstentions, with the exception of

2 Introduction 229-A, 41 in favor, seven against, zero
3 abstentions; Introduction 590-A, 47 in favor, one
4 against, zero abstentions; Introduction 878-A, 41 in
5 favor, seven against, zero abstentions; Introduction
6 893-A, 41 in favor, seven against, zero abstentions;
7 Introduction 894-A, adopted by a vote of 41 in favor,
8 seven against, and zero abstentions; M 155 adopted by
9 a vote of 35 in favor, nine against, four
10 abstentions; M 151 and Resolution 654, adopted by a
11 vote of 40 in favor, seven against, one abstention; M
12 149 and Resolution 652, adopted by a vote of 46 in
13 favor, two against, zero abstentions; M 150 and
14 Resolution 653, adopted by a vote of 47 in favor,
15 zero against, one abstention; M 152 and Resolution
16 655, adopted by a vote of 47 in favor, zero against,
17 one abstention. And Land Use items 209, 210, and
18 accompanying resolutions are adopted by a vote of 47
19 in the affirmative, one against, and zero
20 abstentions.

21 We will move to the Introduction and Reading of
22 Bills.

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to
24 committees...

25 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: as in indicated on today's Agenda.

3 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

4 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Guys, can you hold
5 your...

6 [APPLAUSE and CHEERING]

7 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, guys.

8 Congratulations, but please... All right,
9 congratulations, folks.

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

12 Do we have anyone signed up today for any
13 resolutions?

14 Seeing none, we will now have a voice vote on
15 today's Resolution. If you wish to vote against or
16 abstain from today's Resolution, please notify the
17 Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching
18 the dais.

19 I will now read today's Resolution into the
20 record.

21 Resolution 550 recognizing May as Lupus Awareness
22 Month in the city of New York.

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

24 [AYE]

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: All opposed, please say
3 nay.

4 Any abstentions?

5 The ayes have it. Congratulations.

6 We will now move into General Discussions. SHHH,
7 please.

8 We will start with Council Member Restler.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you so much,
10 Majority Leader.

11 Today, I am proud to introduce Introduction 1061
12 with the Majority Leader, with Council Member Ung,
13 and with Council Member De La Rosa.

14 We have nearly 25,000 vacant positions in city
15 government. We do not have the staff to process food
16 stamps; we do not have the staff to prevent
17 evictions; we do not have the staff to build
18 affordable housing. At every single one of our
19 Oversight Budget Hearings, we hear the same thing.
20 Agencies are behind on doing their job, because they
21 don't have the people. It is time that we get the
22 data in real time, from every single mayoral agency
23 on a two-week basis. Staff hiring is not keeping up
24 with the people who are walking out of the building.
25 The retention data is just as bad -- it's terrible.

2 We need to have more clear data to bring real
3 accountability, transparency, to mayoral hiring, and
4 to make sure that we have the staff that we need to
5 get things done.

6 I believe that government can help solve
7 problems. I am not sure that the Administration
8 does, but let's help them hire up, so that we can get
9 this done. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you, Council Member
11 Restler.

12 We will now hear from Council Member Kagan,
13 followed by Council Member Hanif.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Thank you. This week, I am
15 met with the Delegation of Organization of New York
16 City Public Service Retirees. That included people
17 who have worked for decades as firefighters, police
18 officers, teachers, and other municipal retirees who
19 served our city and deserve our support and respect.

20 They are still hoping that the New York City
21 Council will help them to keep their affordable and
22 accessible health care and that we will save their
23 traditional Medicare instead of forcing them to
24 Medicare Advantage programs through Aetna.

2 Retirees showed me letters from their doctors who
3 will refuse to join the Aetna network, and talked
4 about the delays in pre-authorization for their vital
5 medical procedures.

6 I urge all my colleagues from the New York City
7 Council to support 250,000 municipal retirees in
8 their fight, thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

10 We will now hear from Council Member Hanif,
11 followed by Council Member Barron.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

13 First, uh, I have been a Lupus warrior for 15
14 years now, and so designating May as Lupus Awareness
15 Month means that people in our city will keep their
16 eye out for this complicated disease, and know that
17 this city is rooted in care for all Lupus survivors,
18 and that it won't leave us behind. And this is
19 particularly important for women of color and Black
20 women who are disproportionately affected.

21 The Mayor's court application to weaken the Right
22 to Shelter Mandate is an unconscionable attack on our
23 city's most vulnerable residents. This mandate has
24 stood for over forty years, and it is a cornerstone
25 of our city's social safety net. It must be upheld

2 in its entirety. The language proposed by the Mayor
3 would allow the DHS shelter system to reject people,
4 which could severely exacerbate street homelessness.
5 While our city faces an unprecedented challenge
6 brought on by a ballooning shelter system and a
7 dramatic increase in arrivals, we must continue to
8 lead with compassion. Denying anyone, whether born
9 in Caracas or Brooklyn, the right to dignified
10 housing is not how our city should respond.

11 I want to applaud Speaker Adams and Deputy
12 Speaker Ayala for their powerful response, and I urge
13 my colleagues to follow their lead and stand as a
14 united Council in defense of the Right to Shelter
15 Mandate. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

17 We will now hear from Council Member Barron,
18 followed by Council Member Riley... (CROSS-TALK)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh, thank you, my
20 colleagues.

21 I want to introduce you to a sister who passed,
22 Carol Taylor. Carol Taylor was an awesome activist.
23 She was powerful. She was the first, so-called
24 stewardess back then, airline attendant... The first
25 Black airline attendant. But, in the movement, every

2 rally we had, she was there with her little black
3 book. And her little black book gave instructions
4 for young people on what they should and should not
5 do when they are approached by police.

6 So, she made her transition. I went to her
7 funeral today. I went to Bill Perkins' funeral, my
8 comrade in struggle. When I first came into the City
9 Council, Speaker Miller assigned Bill Perkins to keep
10 an eye on me. So, they put my office on the 18th
11 floor right next to his on the Leadership Floor.
12 But, what the Speaker didn't know is that, we were
13 both radicals, so we would keep an eye on each other,
14 and we we're given them heck. So, Bill, job well
15 done. He did a great job on lead paint for our
16 children. And he was one of the first to bring up
17 the issues of rats. And he took the lead on rats in
18 our communities. And we also had private
19 conversations on some human rats. And I will let you
20 know who they were if you come to my office, I have a
21 list. But, Bill, job well done.

22 I also want to congratulate my staff, Joy Simmons
23 and Caron (sp?) Allen, for the work they did around
24 the Participatory Budget. We were number two in
25

2 Brooklyn in the voter turnout and number four in the
3 city. So, congratulations to my staff.

4 Finally, April... May 25th is African Liberation
5 Day. On that day, African states in the 60's were
6 fighting, arms struggles. They liberated themselves
7 from imperialism and colonialism, and they fought for
8 the revival of Africa. Africa is the bases of our
9 liberation, all of us [TIMER CHIMES] of African
10 descent who are in the diaspora. It is the
11 liberation of Africa that will determine our
12 liberation wherever we were dispersed.

13 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

14 We will now hear from Council Member Riley,
15 followed Council Member Farías.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader.
17 I just want to highlight my foster student that is
18 here, Edwin, who I had the opportunity to meet today.

19 Starting eight years ago, my name and my life
20 changed. I was no longer just Keven Riley, my new
21 name became "Dad", the highest honor and privilege
22 that I will ever receive. While the first Father's
23 Day was celebrated in 1910, it wasn't recognized as a
24 national holiday until 1972 by President Nixon --
25 marking the third Sunday of June officially Father's

2 Day. That 62 years in waiting is significantly
3 symbolic to how far too often fathers go unrecognized
4 or not equally held to the same degree as pillars in
5 parthood. This is especially true when we speak
6 about the idea of Black fatherhood and the falsity
7 that Black dads are absent fathers -- when in reality
8 Black Fathers are leading the charge in advanced
9 fatherhood empowerment and engagement. This is why
10 today, I am proud as a Black dad and a representative
11 of the Black dads across New York City and the nation
12 to introduce Resolution 645 designating June as
13 Fatherhood Recognition Month annually in the city of
14 New York. This is vital to honoring the roles of
15 fathers and recognizing the positive and profound
16 impact that involved fathers have in the lives of
17 their children.

18 Like mothers, fathers are invaluable to our
19 society, and our city must continue to strengthen its
20 support and recourses to paternal programming and
21 initiatives.

22 I would like to take a moment to celebrate the
23 advocates and the leaders who are laying the
24 groundwork to provide a support system to fathers and
25 families in the underserved communities. Thank you

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to DYCD's Father Initiative, Bronx Fathers Take Action, Real Dads Network, my organization -- the Dad Gang, and all other organizations who continually answer the call to parent across New York City and beyond with services and enrichment to those in need. We have a responsibility to ensure that our future leaders get all of the resources that they need to grow and thrive in this evolving world. Fathers are an underrated part of this development [TIMER CHIMES], and it is time that we bring them into the conversation. I urge my council colleagues to join with me by singing onto Resolution 645. Thank you to Regina Paul, my legislative team, Simone Jones, Jason Fox, Cynthia Prisco, and the Legislative Policy Analysts, for the work in this resolution, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

Before we move forward, I just want to correct a vote tally earlier.

M 151 and Resolution 654 were adopted by a vote of 41 in the affirmative, seven against, and zero abstentions. Apologies for that.

We will now go to Council Member Farías, followed by Council Member Brewer.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Majority
3 Leader.

4 First and foremost, I am excited to announce the
5 best of the Bronx, the JV basketball team from MS
6 127. The Castle Hill Knights not only won the Bronx
7 wide Championship, but also they were runner up in
8 the citywide championship. I am so proud of our
9 Castle Hill Knights, who were here at City Hall
10 today, where I presented them a proclamation. And I
11 know our whole community is proud as well. As a
12 former student athlete and an avid basketball fan, I
13 know it is no easy feat to accomplish all that they
14 have. I cannot wait to see all that they continue to
15 achieve. And I cannot wait to wear my very own
16 Castle Hill Knights jersey with pride.

17 Additionally, we have some exciting legislation
18 being introduced today in our Menstrual Equity bill
19 package, in anticipation of International Day of
20 Menstruation on May 28th. Thank you to my fellow
21 prime and co-prime sponsors on these -- our Speaker
22 Adrienne Adams, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and
23 Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, Council Member
24 Tiffany Cabán, and Council Member Carmen De La Rosa.

25 In New York City and in this body, we have an

2 opportunity to lead the way in breaking down barriers
3 and promoting equality when it comes to menstruation.
4 Menstruation is natural and normal part of life for
5 millions of people, yet for far too many, it is
6 accompanied by challenges, inequalities, and feelings
7 of shame and embarrassment. Access to pads, tampons,
8 and now menstrual cups is not a luxury, it is a
9 necessity. This legislative package is building off
10 of the amazing work our previous New York City
11 Councilwomen members in 2016 accomplished. And it is
12 creating a more inclusive approach to our city.

13 With the five bills included in this package --
14 and more to come -- we are ensuring that
15 comprehensive Menstrual Health Education is
16 integrated into our school curricula, that young
17 people are empowered with knowledge and confidence;
18 that the Department of Education and The Department
19 of Correction report on their distribution of
20 menstrual products to ensure accountability; and that
21 sustainable period products, like menstrual cups, are
22 included and promoted by our city in all areas, which
23 includes our shelters.

24 As legislators in Florida, Idaho, and more across
25 the nation [TIMER CHIMES] continue to legislate

2 against menstrual equity, I urge all of my
3 colleagues, regardless of whether you menstruate or
4 not, to sign on to these five critically important
5 bills. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

7 We will now hear from Council Member Brewer,
8 followed by Council Member Avilés, followed by
9 Council Member Joseph.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

11 A couple of things -- first of all, I too went to
12 Council Member Bill Perkins' funeral. We served
13 together in the Council, and it was a beautiful
14 ceremony representing his life. He will be missed.

15 Number two, Introduction 1052 for today, and it
16 has to do with school yards to be open to the public.
17 We know that under the Bloomberg Administration there
18 was an effort to open up school yards that were not
19 within ten minutes of a park. Unfortunately, many of
20 them never did open. So, the thousand that were
21 expected -- something like two or three-hundred only
22 are open to the public on weekends and times when
23 school is not in session. So, you will walk by
24 literally hundreds of playground that are closed to
25 the public and could be open to all of us that needs

2 to be exercising and participating with family on
3 activities. So, I would like to have a good study of
4 this issue. I hope that in the end between the
5 custodians and Department of Education, The
6 Department of Parks, and maybe Trust for Public Land,
7 many more could be open on a regular basis. I hope
8 that this effort will expand the opportunity for
9 people to have something local that is in the sense
10 green, uh, in their neighborhood.

11 Number three, I just want to add that Memorial
12 Day on the Upper West Side is at Soldiers' and
13 Sailor' Monument at ten o'clock. It is an annual
14 event that brings people together. And we look
15 forward to having anybody who wants to join us at the
16 Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument. Thank you very
17 much.

18 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you. We will now
19 hear from Council Member Avilés, followed by Council
20 Member Joseph.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Avilés, right? Okay, here
22 we go.

23 As you have heard me say many times before in
24 this council, my district, District 38, specifically
25 Red Hook continues to suffer from a lack of

2 regulation of the Last Mile distribution industry.

3 We are swimming in these facilities with well over a
4 million square feet dedicated to the use.

5 Today, Introduction 1054, being introduced by
6 Council Member Cabán and myself, addresses one
7 important aspect of this issue. But, I must
8 underscore that we need -- we demand -- a multi-
9 pronged approach to the environment health and
10 quality of life harms that my community continues to
11 face on a daily basis. All of these tools are on the
12 table. The stakes continue to rise, and we
13 desperately need solutions and mitigation now.

14 As we speak, another facility is being slated to
15 come online, threatening to bring another 1,000
16 trucks to an already overburdened neighborhood of Red
17 Hook. I urge our City agencies to look at this issue
18 holistically especially as our city may in fact be in
19 violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by
20 allowing for as-of-right developments of these
21 facilities.

22 I am also introducing another piece of
23 legislation, Introduction 1050, which seeks to
24 address yet another way Red Hook has been dumped on
25 by this administration.

2 Back in December, The Mayor announced that a
3 cruise liner would be departing from Red Hook
4 Terminal. This decision was made without community
5 input; without elected official review; with no
6 benefit to the local community. The cruise ship
7 alone is estimated to bring another 1,200 tons of
8 toxic fumes to Brooklyn per year, with no
9 consideration given to the existing conditions of
10 Last Mile or the thousands of vehicles the cruise
11 liner and ferries have brought into the community.
12 Aside from pollution, what we have in Red Hook is
13 untenable traffic and congestion causing harm to our
14 small businesses, wearing down already dilapidated
15 infrastructure while threatening pedestrian safety
16 and community health.

17 Introduction [TIMER CHIMES] 1050 will require
18 cruise terminal operators to plug into shore power,
19 which already exists on site, but has been neglected
20 by the EDC, and submit traffic mitigation plans in
21 effort to protect our environmental justice
22 community. I urge my colleagues to sign on, thank
23 you.

24 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

2 And, finally we will hear from Council Member
3 Joseph.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Majority
5 Leader.

6 In honor of Foster Youth Shadow Day in the
7 Council, as a mom of two foster youths, I know how
8 important it is to provide access and opportunities
9 to our foster youth. If we say that young people are
10 the future, we cannot exclude certain youth from
11 that. All youth are the future including our foster
12 youth.

13 In just over a little years since being elected
14 to the Council, I am proud to have worked towards
15 systematic changes that have shed off inequities in
16 our foster youth. For the first time in the history
17 of our school system in New York City, there is an
18 office dedicated to foster youth within DOE.

19 But, our work is not done, we are still in the
20 midst of a recent tragedy that has ripped the hearts
21 of the most compassionate New Yorkers, the horrific
22 murder of Jordan Neely. Jordan Neely was a foster
23 youth, and the system failed him. We must remain
24 committed to changing the lives of our fellow New
25 Yorkers, and this council has the ability to do that.

2 To the foster youth here today, I want you to
3 know that you matter, and this council, including
4 myself, will fight for you, thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER POWERS: Thank you.

6 Do we have anyone else signed up?

7 Okay, I am going to call on Speaker Adrienne
8 Adams to close out today's Stated Meeting.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader. Thank
10 you so much, the Stated Meeting of May 25, 2023 is
11 hereby adjourned.

12 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date June 6, 2023