

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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February 13, 2019

Start: 1:31 p.m.

Recess: 3:52 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: LAURIE CUMBO  
Acting President Pro Tempore

COREY D. JOHNSON  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin L. Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene

Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry S. Grodencnik  
Robert F. Holden  
Ben Kallos  
Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Francisco P. Moya  
Bill Perkins  
Keith Powers  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Carlina Rivera  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Rafael Salamanca, Jr.  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Kalman Yeger

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

INVOCATION - Delivered by: Pastor Reginald Belton  
First Baptist Church of Brownsville  
357 Chester Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212

2 [sound check] [pause]

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good afternoon

4 everyone. Will members please join us for this very  
5 auspicious occasion. I am Majority Leader Laurie.

6 So proud to welcome you all to City Hall today. We

7 are going to begin with an incredible proclamation to

8 begin this Black History month celebration, and to

9 kick off Women's History Month as well because you

10 are all things to us today, and I want to recognize

11 we are here with Council Member Debi Rose who has

12 brought this tremendous black angel forward. Yes.

13 [cheers/applause] As we all know, February is Black

14 History Month, and in celebration of this month the

15 New York City Council is proud to honor the Black

16 Angels. The Black Angels with the nickname given to

17 hundreds of African-American nurses who came from the

18 1930s to the 1960s with their lives to work at

19 Seaview Hospital on Staten Island, which was once

20 known as America's largest tuberculosis sanitarium.

21 When other nurses protested the working conditions

22 and refused to work there, many African-American

23 nurses from across the nation came to serve despite

24 the risks and life threatening conditions. Their

25 compassion and their willingness to help our patients

2 was paramount, which is why they were soon refereed  
3 to as the Black Angels. Throughout the years they  
4 remained committed to the fight against TB and helped  
5 patients regain their health to the point where the  
6 city eventually didn't have the need to have such a  
7 large hospital, and so, I would like to call up  
8 Virginia Allen. I will call her Queen Virginia  
9 Allen, one of the few living Black Angels in the New  
10 York area to come and accept this proclamation on  
11 behalf of all of the black angels who risked their  
12 lives for so many. Virginia, Queen Virginia Allen on  
13 behalf of myself and my colleagues here at the City  
14 Council we honor you and the Black Angels of Seaview  
15 Hospital for their extraordinary courage and  
16 achievement in medicine. You are truly an angel to  
17 our community. I am so blessed that Council Member  
18 Debi Rose has brought this history or as I should say  
19 herstory to light so that we can all know of the  
20 tremendous sacrifice that you made for New Yorkers  
21 everywhere. Thank you so much for your service and  
22 we are now going to turn it over to the Clerk who is  
23 going to read this powerful proclamation. Thank you  
24 so much for your service.

2 CLERK: Council City of New York  
3 Proclamation. In celebration of Black History Month  
4 the New York City Council is proud to pay tribute to  
5 the Black Angels of Seaview Hospital for their  
6 extraordinary service, commitment and courage; and

7 Whereas, when Seaview Hospital opened on  
8 Staten Island in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it was New  
9 York City's most advanced and most expensive  
10 healthcare facility and mainly served as a  
11 Tuberculosis, a TB sanitarium. With 2,000 beds, it  
12 was once also the largest TB sani-sanitorium in the  
13 nation often referred to as consumption for the  
14 weight loss that appeared to consume patients. TB  
15 on-excuse me-TB usually affects the lungs, but  
16 symptoms often include fever, chills, night sweats,  
17 loss of appetite and fatigue. Although the bacterial  
18 cause has been discovered, the few prescribed  
19 treatments available were fresh air, rest and  
20 nutrition, which Seaview Hospital offered in  
21 abundance; and

22 Whereas, in the 1930s white nurses at  
23 Seaview began protesting their working conditions,  
24 and most of them refused to work there. Fearing the  
25 looming public health crisis, city officials

2 responded with a radical proposal, a nationwide call  
3 for African-American nurses. In addition to  
4 schooling, money, housing and other incentive this  
5 proposal was presented as a rare opportunity to work  
6 in a hospital without segregated wards or quotas like  
7 those in Manhattan and across the country; and

8           Whereas, despite the overt racial, social  
9 and economic injustices of that era, African-American  
10 nurses remained committed to their education and  
11 nursing duties. Working at Seaview, however,  
12 entailed an additional threat: Voluntary daily  
13 exposure to the deadly airborne TB bacteria.  
14 Ultimately, Seaview recruited 300 African-American  
15 nurses who were soon referred to as the Black Angels  
16 because of their wiliness to provide care for TB  
17 patients when few others would; and

18           Whereas, in 1947, Virginia Allen followed  
19 in the footsteps of two aunts employed at Seaview and  
20 joined the Black Angels as a nursing student. Even  
21 today she recalled her earliest TB patients coughing  
22 up blood and that fear of the disease was even more  
23 contagious. She was just 16 years old. Over the  
24 course of her next 10 years at Seaview, incredible  
25 progress was made. In the early 1950s when doctors

2 at Seaview discovered a son-[laughs]-isson -isonizi-  
3 Isoniazid.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Isoniazide.

5 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Rose, a  
6 cocktail of drugs that effectively cured TB. The  
7 Black Angel remained on the front lines until their  
8 war against the disease had been won. Their  
9 unwavering dedication enabled TB patients to regain  
10 their health to such a degree that the city  
11 eventually had no need to maintain such a large  
12 hospital; and

13 Whereas, in addition to their  
14 contributions so Seaview, the Black Angels put down  
15 roots in the Staten Island community establishing and  
16 supporting area churches and organizations sensitive  
17 to the needs and interests to the black community,  
18 the NAACP among them. Many were founding members of  
19 the Lincoln Hospital Alumni Association, the Women's  
20 Civic and Political Union and the Urban League Guild.  
21 Although few of the Black Angels remain with us  
22 today, their contributions endure and are worthy of  
23 our deepest respect and utmost gratitude.

24 Now, therefore, be it known that the New  
25 York City Council is proud to pay tribute to the

2 Black Angels of Seaview Hospital for their  
3 extraordinary courage and achievements in medicine.  
4 Corey Johnson, Speaker for the Entire Council, Laurie  
5 Cumbo, Majority Leader, Deborah Rose, Council Member  
6 49<sup>th</sup> District Staten Island. [cheers/applause]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Wow. Now this is  
8 herstory, and it's so poignant because when we talk  
9 about gentrification, and we talk about how African-  
10 Americans have sacrificed, have built our communities  
11 and have a right to stay in our communities, it's  
12 these stories that really highlight the sacrifice  
13 that people of color have made to make our  
14 communities and our city what it is today, and this  
15 history needs to be known as we continue to fight  
16 gentrification all throughout the city recognizing  
17 the critical contributions that we have made to make  
18 this the city that it is. So, I'm not going to turn  
19 it over to our Council Member, our shero, Debi Rose  
20 who has exposed us to some real herstory this Black  
21 History Month.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you so much,  
23 Majority Leader Cumbo who is, in fact, herself a  
24 history maker. It gives me great pleasure to expose  
25 this story about the Black Angels because it's one

2 that hasn't been told, but had such far reaching  
3 ramifications in terms of the eradication of a  
4 disease that was an epidemic and a scourge, and no  
5 one wanted to expose themselves to this disease, and  
6 it took these very brave, courageous women to come  
7 and take care of these patients and nurture them and  
8 care for them until they were well, and there's a-  
9 there's a huge book in the Stiversa Bethel Healthcare  
10 Museum at Seaview Hospital that has the names of most  
11 of the patients there, and you will see it has their  
12 name, but it also has where they're from. There were  
13 people from Puerto Rico, from Germany, from all over  
14 the world that came to Seaview in-in hopes of finding  
15 a cure of beating Tuberculosis. The cure was found  
16 there on Staten Island at-by Dr. Robitzek, and it was  
17 because of the care that these beautiful black women  
18 gave that preserved their lives. So, Ms. Virginia  
19 Allen and I go back a long time. She's a friend of  
20 my mother, and she came to that institution at the  
21 age of 16, and she is now our only surviving Black  
22 Angel. About a month ago-- [applause] Thank you.  
23 About a month ago, Ms. Clemmy died exactly the-the  
24 night after the documentary. There's a documentary  
25 that's been made about the Black Angels, and we hope

2 that you'll see it soon, and she lived long enough to  
3 have that story told, and that's what she wanted for  
4 their story to be told. We are proud to have here an  
5 author Maria who is writing the book about the Black  
6 Angels and [applause] she gave us the breaking news  
7 that she'll finish writing this weekend, and it will  
8 go into publication. Oprah Winfrey is publishing this  
9 book about the Black Angels, and so we're joined  
10 today by descendants from other Black Angels, and I-I  
11 have nicknames for all of them. So, I'm going to  
12 read their official real names. So, today we are  
13 joined by Forest Ballard who was a Boy Scout in my  
14 dad's Boy Scout troop. [applause] Elizabeth Claire;  
15 Bernice Alene and Maria Samalios who is the author,  
16 and so it just gives me great pride to tell this  
17 story because it was buried in the archives of  
18 medical history on Staten Island. [applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: And now we will  
20 hear from our Queen herself. Queen Allen, please  
21 bring us greetings. Thank you. [cheers/applause]

22 VIRGINIA ALLEN: Good afternoon. Good  
23 afternoon City Council especially my Councilwoman  
24 Debi Rose. Thank you so much for this opportunity to  
25 shine a light on these nurses who gave so much of

2 themselves and who were never thanked. This is a  
3 thank you to them, and I accept this award in their  
4 names to perpetuate their history forever. Thank  
5 you. [cheers/applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: We can now gather  
7 to take a phot with Proclamation so we can see black  
8 queen magic in action. Yes. [background  
9 comments/laughter]

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen,  
11 we ask for everyone to please find seat. Non-Council  
12 staff please make your way up to the balcony. Once  
13 again, we ask everyone to please find seats. Non-  
14 Council staff please make your way to the balcony.  
15 Please set all electronic devices to silent at this  
16 time. Thank you. [background comments] Once again,  
17 ladies and gentlemen please find seats. If you are  
18 not a Council Member staff, we need you to please  
19 make you way up to the balcony. Non-Council Member  
20 staff please make your way up to the balcony.  
21 [background comments] Could we have quiet on the  
22 floor please? Quiet no the floor please. Once again,  
23 please find seats. Non-Council staff make your way  
24 to the balcony at this time. [background comments]  
25 [pause] Ladies and gentlemen, your attention please.

2 Quiet on the floor please. Once again non-Council  
3 staff please make your way up to the balcony. Non-  
4 Council staff make your way up to the balcony. If  
5 you have a cell phone or electronic device please set  
6 it to silent at this time. All private conversations  
7 please take outside into the Rotunda. Once again,  
8 non-Council staff please make your way up to the  
9 balcony. [pause] Ladies and gentlemen, can I have  
10 your attention please. Can I please have your  
11 attention? At this time please place all electronic  
12 devices, all electronic devices to vibrate.  
13 [background comments/pause] [gavel]

14 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Everyone quite down,  
15 please.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Good  
17 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of  
18 February 13, 2019. I am Majority Leader Laurie  
19 Cumbo. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

21 [Pledge of Allegiance]

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Roll  
23 call.

24 CLERK: Adams.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

2 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY SAMUEL: Present.

4 CLERK: Ayala.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

6 CLERK: Barron.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Here.

8 CLERK: Borelli.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I'm here.

10 CLERK: Brannan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

12 CLERK: Cabrera.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

14 CLERK: Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

16 CLERK: Cohen.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

18 CLERK: Constantinides.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

20 CLERK: Cornegy.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aqui.

22 CLERK: Deutsch.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

24 CLERK: Diaz. Dromm.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

2 CLERK: Espinal.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Here.

4 CLERK: Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

6 CLERK: Gibson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I'm here.

8 CLERK: Gjonaj.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.

10 CLERK: Grodenchik.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I'm here.

12 CLERK: Holden.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

14 CLERK: Kallos.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Here.

16 CLERK: King.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

18 CLERK: Koo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

20 CLERK: Koslowitz.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I'm here.

22 CLERK: Lancman.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

24 CLERK: Lander. Levin.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Here.

2 CLERK: Levine.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Here.

4 CLERK: Maisel.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

6 CLERK: Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Here, presente.

8 CLERK: Miller. Moya.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

10 CLERK: Perkins. Powers.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

12 CLERK: Reynoso.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Here.

14 CLERK: Richards.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

16 CLERK: Rivera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

18 CLERK: Rodriguez.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Presente.

20 CLERK: Rose.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

22 CLERK: Rosenthal.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

24 CLERK: Salamanca.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

2 CLERK: Torres. Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.

4 CLERK: Ulrich. Vallone.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

6 CLERK: Van Bramer.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

8 CLERK: Brannan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

10 CLERK: Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Here.

12 CLERK: Yeger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

14 CLERK: Matteo. Cumbo.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Present.

16 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: We have a  
19 quorum. For this Black History Month, we are honored  
20 to have here Virginia Allen of the Black Angels from  
21 Staten Island and we are so proud to welcome you here  
22 to City Hall. [applause] Mrs. Allen is one of the  
23 last of the Black Angels of Staten Island who treated  
24 thousands of patients with Tuberculosis when none  
25 others would come to their aid. So, we thank you so

2 much Debi Rose for bringing this herstory to our  
3 attention today, and highlighting this incredible and  
4 dynamic woman. We have today also in our midst  
5 today's invocation, which will be delivered today by  
6 Pastor Reginald Belton of First Baptist Church at 357  
7 Chester Street, in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Will all  
8 rise.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All rise.

10 PASTOR BELTON: Let us pray. Dear God we  
11 thank you for the beauty our eyes behold each day in  
12 your creation. Lord, thank you for entrusting us as  
13 stewards of that which you've created. As this  
14 government body assembles, please guide the hearts of  
15 each Council Person as they make decisions concerning  
16 the people of this great city. We pray they seek you  
17 in all—first in all they do. Lord, we pray your  
18 blessings would rest upon this body. Give them  
19 vision and enthusiasm for their work. Please bless  
20 the efforts of their hand and influence of their work  
21 in this location and beyond. Lord as they plan and  
22 share together continue to make them mindful of their  
23 service. Allow each of them to examine their own  
24 hearts and be open minded to change and the ideas of  
25 others. Open their minds so they may receive your

2 eternal wisdom. Open their spirit that they may know  
3 your leading and guiding principles. It is in your  
4 name we pray. Amen.

5 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [in unison] Amen.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank you  
7 for that very beautiful prayer. As they say, prayer  
8 has the power to change things, and we will now call  
9 on Council Member Ampy-Samuel to spread the  
10 invocation on record.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you,  
12 Majority leader Cumbo. I am honored to spread the  
13 invocation in full today. Pastor Reginald Belton,  
14 the Senior Past of First Baptist Church of  
15 Brownsville is a strategic leader and committed  
16 member of our community. Pastor Belton is not just a  
17 pastor, but a visionary. He leads his church and our  
18 community towards issues of justice and does not  
19 separate spirituality from community advocacy. Since  
20 his arrival to First Baptist, it has grown immensely  
21 and that—and its awesome growth has taken place in  
22 just two years of his leadership. Church operations  
23 and ministries have developed and continue to evolve  
24 to meet the immediate future needs of a growing  
25 congregation and Brownsville community. He is

2 actively involved in teaching, training and  
3 transforming the culture and mindset of First Baptist  
4 of Brownsville and the Brownsville community, and he  
5 previously served as Dean of Congress of the  
6 Christian education for the Gethsemane Baptist  
7 Association of Columbia, South Carolina, my husband's  
8 home time. Pastor Belton and First Baptist are  
9 active members of the East Brooklyn Congregations,  
10 EBC an organization that's committed to ensuring the  
11 residents of public housing have a voice. In  
12 partnership with EBC and through his leadership at  
13 First Baptist, Pastor Belton is able to work towards  
14 ensuring the city builds affordable housing and  
15 senior housing in our community, and is currently  
16 involved in the development of Marcus Garvey Village.  
17 He is also involved in training and transforming the  
18 economic mindset of our community through financial  
19 literacy courses as well as being involved in civic  
20 engagement. Pastor Belton is married to his lovely  
21 wife and dynamic Christian preacher in her own right,  
22 Mrs. Thelma Belton, and they have two wonderful  
23 children Adrienne and Darius who are serving our  
24 country in the United States Army. Again, thank you,  
25 and it's an honor and pleasure to spread the

2 invocation today, and thank you for your prayer,  
3 Pastor Belton.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank you  
5 so much Council Member Ampry-Samuel and thank you so  
6 much for the work that you do, which shows that your  
7 spirituality knows no boundaries. Thank you for the  
8 work that you're doing throughout our communities.  
9 We will now have the adoption of minutes by Council  
10 Member Richards.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Motion that the  
12 minutes of the States Meeting of December 20, 2018  
13 and Charter meeting of January 9, 2019 be adopted as  
14 printed.

15 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
16 you, Council Member Richards. We will now have  
17 Messages and Papers from the Mayor.

18 CLERK: [coughs] Excuse me. M 130  
19 through M 0136 Various Budget documents. [pause]

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Finance.

21 CLERK: M 0137 City Debt and Reserves.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered  
23 printed and filed. Wait. I don't see where we are.  
24 Excuse me. I apologize, Mr. Clerk. Where—where—what  
25 number?

2 CLERK: Excuse me, M 0137, Mr. Speaker.

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
4 printed and filed.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
6 Communication from city, county and borough offices.

7 CLERK: Excuse me M 0138.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
9 printed and filed.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Petitions  
11 and communications.

12 CLERK: M 0139 submitting an annual  
13 report pursuant to Rules 2.75b.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
15 printed and filed.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Land Use  
17 Call-Ups.

18 CLERK: None.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: We will  
20 now communication from the Speaker.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon thank  
22 you all for being here with us on this Wednesday. We  
23 have a busy agenda ahead of us. It is a very sad  
24 day.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: [shushing  
3 for quiet]

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Quiet in  
6 the Chamber.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: It is a very sad day  
8 for the NYPD and the entire city. I want to send my  
9 sympathies and the love and support of this entire  
10 council to the family of NYPD Detective Brian  
11 Simonsen. Detective Simonsen was shot and killed  
12 last night during an attempted robbery in Queens. He  
13 served in the NYPD for 19 years. His death is a  
14 major and tragic loss for our city. Council Member  
15 Richards, Council Member Adams and myself were at  
16 Jamaica Hospital last night, and it was  
17 extraordinarily tragic and painful. I also ask  
18 everyone to keep Sergeant Matthew Gorman who was shot  
19 in the same robbery in their thoughts and prayers.  
20 We are told that Sergeant Gorman is expected to  
21 recover, thank God, and I know I speak for this  
22 entire body when I say we pray for his full recovery.  
23 I also ask that we remember NYPD Detective Joseph-  
24 Joseph Roman. Detective Roman made front page news  
25 in 1986 after he and his partner defended a young

2 woman from attack in Hells Kitchen. Detective Roman  
3 display his bravery more than once. He answered the  
4 call on 9/11 and after his time at Ground Zero  
5 Detective Roman developed cancer that took his life  
6 last year, and we're remembering him today. I also  
7 want to note that New York lost an amazing and  
8 important labor leader recently, Stanley Hill.  
9 Stanley made history when he became the first  
10 African-American Executive Director of District  
11 Council 37. He was truly a visionary leader and our  
12 city is a better place for his work. We extend—we  
13 extend our deepest sympathies to his family. I would  
14 ask everyone here to please rise and take a moment of  
15 silence in honor of the Detective Simonson, Detective  
16 Roman, Stanley Hill, and we ask everyone to keep  
17 Sergeant Matthew Gorman in their thoughts. [Moment  
18 of Silence observed by the full Council] Thank you.  
19 I want to welcome the host of Inside City Hall, Errol  
20 Louis and his CUNY Students who are I believe here  
21 today. I don't know if they're up here in the  
22 Chamber or in the balcony, but they were here  
23 downstairs, and they're here today. I believe there  
24 are 30 students from the CUNY School of graduate—CUNY  
25 School of Journalism who are taking Errol's class,

2 and I just did a second press conference with them,  
3 and they had lots of questions about what we are  
4 looking at, and what we're doing at the Council. So,  
5 if you see the students here today, please stop and  
6 answer their questions about what you're working on  
7 in your districts, and we're all working on as a  
8 body. This is our first Stated Meeting in February.  
9 Black History Month is this month, and in recognition  
10 of that I want to acknowledge two Americans, though  
11 we could acknowledge hundreds, thousands, millions of  
12 Americans whose place in our history should always be  
13 remembered. Jackie Robinson would have turned 100  
14 years old two weeks ago, and although he is no long  
15 with us, his legacy survives to this day. Jackie  
16 Robinson's story is one that inspires and uplifts all  
17 of our hearts. He overcome—he overcame bigotry,  
18 broke down the race barrier in baseball, and showed  
19 everyone what is possible when you ignore those  
20 shouting hate, and stay true to yourself. Another  
21 icon I would like for us to remember here today is  
22 Rosa Parks, who would have turned 106 years old last  
23 week. When she refused to give up her seat on that  
24 bus Rosa Parks helped spark a movement whose echoes  
25 are felt to this very day. We as Americans owe her a

2 huge debt of data-gratitude, and as you mover further  
3 into Black History Month, we should keep both of  
4 their legacies in mind and continue to remember all  
5 of those who make this month so important for our  
6 country. I also want to mark a painful anniversary  
7 that passed last week. Twenty years ago Amadou  
8 Diallo was on his way home when he was shot at 41  
9 times by police officers. Diallo had not committed a  
10 crime. He was raising—I chose saying he was raising  
11 his wallet in the air to show that he was unarmed  
12 when he was shot on his doorstep. His death should  
13 never be forgotten, and it's a reminder of why we  
14 must keep saying black lives matter. We also have  
15 few causes of celebration I want to bring up. Since  
16 February 5<sup>th</sup>, Asian families all over the world and  
17 in our great city have been celebrating Lunar New  
18 Year, and they'll continue celebrating until the 19<sup>th</sup>  
19 of February. I hope you all enjoyed the great food  
20 that Council Member Koo and Council Member Koo and  
21 Council Member Chin provided [applause/cheers]  
22 downstairs. They are the best. We celebrated here  
23 at the Council on Monday. I'm sorry I couldn't be  
24 there. I was driving back from Albany from the  
25 budget testimony, but I know that people, of course

2 are still celebrating. So, I want to wish everyone a  
3 happy Year of the Pig, and may this year bring you  
4 prosperity and joy. One of the great things about  
5 living in New York is so many celebrations from so  
6 many wonderful diverse communities in our city. I  
7 also have a few staff notices to make today. One of  
8 our amazing sergeant-at-arms McKenzie Joseph has left  
9 us to join the Dallas Police Department. So, I want  
10 to thank McKenzie for his service and dedication on  
11 behalf of all of us at the City Council. We wish you  
12 the best of luck in Texas. You'll eventually be  
13 back. Today, also marks the first stated meeting  
14 since the return of two staff members. I want  
15 everyone to give a hearty welcome back to someone who  
16 I love tremendously, Jenny Low the Director of  
17 Community Engagement [cheers/applause]. Jenny, I  
18 can't--

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Yay,  
20 Jenny. [cheers/applause]

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I can't—I can't begin  
22 to—to tell you how happy I am to have you back, how  
23 happy all of us are to have you back and, of course,  
24 we know how difficult these past few months have been  
25 for you and your family, and we are just so grateful

2 to have you and that you're back. So, welcome back.  
3 We also rejoined by an amazing member of my staff  
4 Ebony Meeks who is back from maternity leave on  
5 behalf of [cheers/applause] the entire City Council  
6 we want to say congratulations to you and your  
7 wonderful husband Jason on your wonderful gorgeous,  
8 gorgeous like a model new daughter, London. I met  
9 her a couple of weeks ago. She is ridiculously  
10 adorable. [laughter] So, we are so happy to have you  
11 back, and for those of you that do not know that my  
12 amazing Chief of Staff who you all get to work with  
13 every single day Jason Goldman and his wife had a  
14 gorgeous, gorgeous baby girl on Friday, Lilly  
15 [cheers/applause] who is five or six days old, five  
16 days old. He's beaming right there. So,  
17 congratulations to Jason and to Camille. We are  
18 thrilled. We are thrilled, we are thrilled for all  
19 this amazing joy. So, happy for Ebony and Jason and  
20 Jason and Camille. I also want to just finally--  
21 today is—we have a birthday today and, of course,  
22 shockingly—I'm joking—he's not here. I want to wish  
23 happy birthday to Public Advocate—I mean Council  
24 Member Eric Ulrich [laughter] from the 32<sup>nd</sup> District,  
25 and with that, I said it, but they weren't in the

2 room yet, I want to welcome the—the wonderful class  
3 of CUNY journalism students who were with Errol Louis  
4 from Inside City Hall. I told the Council Members  
5 when you were on your way up that that they should  
6 answer your questions and you should stick around and  
7 aske them questions while you're here. We're really  
8 grateful to have you here today with Errol and—and  
9 I'm—I look forward to—to seeing the work that you all  
10 do, and I appreciate the time we got to spend  
11 together. So, welcome to City Hall. [applause] So,  
12 now we're going to dive in—dive into the agenda  
13 today. The Council will vote on the following Land  
14 use items. We are going to be voting on facilitating  
15 an 11-story development in Council Member and Land  
16 Use Chair Rafael Salamanca's district. The Council  
17 will vote on a rezoning to facilitate a 9-story  
18 building in Council Member Andy Cohen's district.  
19 We'll vote to rezone and facilitate the development  
20 of a 7-story building in Council Member Steve Levin's  
21 district, and the Council will vote on a rezoning in  
22 Council Member Eric Ulrich's district. We'll also  
23 vote on a Special Permit in Council Member Chin's  
24 district, and will be voting on a special permit in  
25 my district on Greenwich Avenue. We'll be voting on

2 the site selection of a new 676-seat primary school  
3 in Council Member Menchaca's district, and we're  
4 going to vote on the following pieces of legislation:  
5 Resolution 100-A, sponsored by Council Member Ydanis  
6 Rodriguez calls on the New York State Legislature to  
7 pass and the Governor to sign the accompanying Senate  
8 and Assembly bills, which would remove the  
9 requirement of a Social Security Number from the  
10 Department of Motor Vehicles license applications.  
11 This legislation would grant access to driver's  
12 licenses to undocumented New Yorkers. I am a big  
13 supporter of driver's licenses for undocumented New  
14 Yorkers, and I urge Albany to move quickly on this  
15 issue. We live in a time when immigrants are under  
16 attack. We must do everything we can to support  
17 immigrant communities. I want to thank the staff who  
18 worked on this resolution Harbani Ahuja, and  
19 Elizabeth Cronk. We're going to be voting on  
20 Introduction 1235 sponsored by Council Member I.  
21 Daneek Miller, which would require the Department of  
22 Citywide Administrative Services to submit to the  
23 State Civil Service Commission for its approval  
24 comprehensive revision to its Provisional Employee  
25 Reduction Plan. DCAS would also be required to

2 submit this plan to the Council and I want to thank  
3 Malcolm Butehorn from the staff who worked on this.  
4 We're going to vote on Introduction 206 sponsored by  
5 Minority Leader Steve Matteo, which would require the  
6 Department of Transportation to install pedestrian  
7 countdown displays at any intersection where there is  
8 a photo enforced traffic violation system, and I want  
9 to thank James DiGiovanni from the Transportation  
10 Committee for his work on that, and Introduction 928  
11 sponsored by Council Member Adrienne Adams, which  
12 would require at least two corners of a street  
13 Intersection to have appropriate street name signage  
14 installed, and Introduction 867 sponsored by Council  
15 Member Adrienne Adams, which would require the  
16 Department of Transportation to establish and  
17 maintain guidelines on its website for the criteria  
18 and considerations used to assess proposed changes of  
19 one-way streets two-way streets and vice versa, and  
20 the process by which traffic flow changes can be  
21 requested. Additionally, the Department of  
22 Transportation would be required—would be required to  
23 post on its website annually the request for traffic  
24 flow changes received, and the status of those  
25 requests, and on these I want to thank James

2 DiGiovanni and Chris Sartori. Next, we're going to  
3 vote on Introduction 780 sponsored by Council Member  
4 Carlina Rivera, which would change Local Law 55 of  
5 2018, which is a bill by former Council Member Rosie  
6 Mendez. Council Member Rivera was Council Member'  
7 men-men-Council Member Mendez's Legislative Director  
8 when this bill passed, and it would include a  
9 requirement that landlords take measures to eradicate  
10 pests and remediate the existence of indoor allergen  
11 hazards and allow the Housing, Preservation and  
12 Development to determine whether to perform the work  
13 to eradicate indoor allergen hazards. I want to  
14 thank the staff who worked on this Jen and Zilka.  
15 Introduction 1004, sponsored by Council Member Brad  
16 Lander would establish a pilot program in East New  
17 York to facilitate the creation and alteration of  
18 habitable apartments in basements and cellars of  
19 certain one and two-family dwellings. And then  
20 lastly, Resolution 739, sponsored by Council Member  
21 Karen Koslowitz, would amend Rule 7.0 of the Rules of  
22 the Council in relation to dissolving the Committee  
23 on For-Hire Vehicles, and transferring the  
24 jurisdiction of For-Hire Vehicles expressly the Taxi  
25 and Limousine Commission to the standing committee on

2 Transportation. This resolution is a response to the  
3 actions of Council Member Diaz, Sr. who repeatedly  
4 has made homophobic comments about this Council and  
5 its leadership and has refused to apologize or show  
6 any remorse. His comments have caused pain for his  
7 colleagues with LGBT colleagues and non-LGBT  
8 colleagues, and that is something that he has refused  
9 to acknowledge, but they have also have—but they have  
10 also caused pain for many staffers here at the  
11 Council. LGBT staffers and non-LGBT staffers, and  
12 many of these staffers work directly with Council  
13 Member Diaz. It is to them that I especially would  
14 like to apologize. I will never ever forget the  
15 feeling of being a suicidal teen-ager terrified that  
16 world would hate me for begin gay, and this entire  
17 experience takes me right back in some ways to that  
18 feeling. I am so sorry to you and to every LGBTQ  
19 person who feels the same because of what has  
20 transpired over the last five days. But I get to  
21 stand up today and here as Speaker of the New York  
22 City Council, and I can tell any LGBTQ young person  
23 out there that you will get the love you need for  
24 whoever you want to love, and you can and should be  
25 whoever you want to be, and no one gets to tell you

2 differently. No one. When I became Speaker, I made  
3 it a priority for every member of this body to feel  
4 respected and included. I hoped that respect would  
5 be acknowledged and reciprocated. Unfortunately,  
6 this was not the case, and I regret appointing  
7 Council Member Diaz to his chairmanship. I believe  
8 the only way forward at this moment is to dissolve  
9 this committee. The For-Hire Vehicle Committee has  
10 done important work including passing 16 pieces of  
11 legislation at a time when the for-hire vehicle  
12 industry has been in turmoil, and I am proud of the  
13 bills this Council has passed related to this  
14 industry. But, we need to have confidence in the  
15 Council's ability to oversee this industry without  
16 distraction, and without division. Our robust  
17 oversight will continue under the Transportation  
18 Committee. It is my hope that today will begin a  
19 healing process for this Council. I thank all of my  
20 colleagues and the staff for their friendship and  
21 support during what has been a difficult time for me  
22 and for the entire body. Again, I want to apologize.  
23 I want to take responsibility for a mistake that I  
24 made and not shy away from that. I tried to give  
25 everyone a fresh start, but it was inevitable I guess

2 that something like this could happen given past  
3 history, but I am trying to responsibly move this  
4 body forward in the aftermath of what happened last  
5 Friday and to attempt to heal the wounds and get us  
6 back focused on the important work that we're  
7 supposed to do everyday as representatives of over 8  
8 million New Yorkers. So, I want to thank you all for  
9 your support. I want to thank you all for taking  
10 this issue seriously, and I look forward to putting  
11 this matter to bed and moving forward. Thank you  
12 very much, Madam Majority Leader.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
14 you, Speaker Corey Johnson. Thank you for your  
15 leadership during a very challenging time, and we  
16 will now move into the discussion of general orders.  
17 We will begin with Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you very  
19 much. First, let me thank the Speaker for his  
20 amazing leadership and honesty. At about the age of  
21 13 I started cutting school, and spend entire days on  
22 the roof of our apartment building in Astoria. Deeply  
23 depressed and closeted I would stand at the edge of  
24 that roof and think about whether or not it was  
25 better to die than to be a gay man. For two years I

2 prayed every night asking God to not make me gay,  
3 sometimes crying myself to sleep. I was alone. I  
4 was powerless. The sad thing is my story isn't  
5 unique. With slight variations, it's also the story  
6 of Corey, Danny, Carlos and Ritchie. I walked away  
7 from the edge of that roof, and somehow survived all  
8 the homophobic things I saw and heard in society  
9 including a leader on TV say that all gay men would  
10 die of AIDS before they were 30. At the age of 19, I  
11 came out and started to claim my power, my rightful  
12 seat at the table, and I wanted to run for office one  
13 day in part so that our community could claim its  
14 power, its place at the table. I never want LGBTQ  
15 people to be powerless. We have fought and struggled  
16 and many died so that we could have a few seats at  
17 the table only to be attacked for having too much  
18 power in this body, and in this state. Hate speech  
19 leads to hate crimes. Demonizing people causes real  
20 and permanent pain. When elected officials speak  
21 with such hate, young people internalize that hatred.  
22 That is as form of violence in and of itself. Today,  
23 somewhere in New York City a young queer kid is  
24 wondering if it's better to die or be themselves. I  
25 don't want them to internalize what Reverend Diaz

2 said. Instead, let's send them a message that hate  
3 has no place here. We value their lives and queer  
4 power is a very good thing. Thank you.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank you  
6 so much Council Member Van Bramer. Seeing none  
7 others, we will now go onto the Report of Special  
8 Committees.

9 CLERK: None.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Pause for  
11 one moment. [pause] I apologize. I did not see you  
12 Council Member Menchaca.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I want to join—  
14 I want to join in the words that my colleague Jimmy  
15 Van Bramer just made and just tell my story as well.  
16 I think it's important that we take note for a few  
17 things. One is the leadership of our Speaker. I want  
18 to say thank you Speaker Johnson for being quick,  
19 listening to all of us. The LGBT Caucus came  
20 together, the Women's Caucus came together, the  
21 Progressive Caucus came together, and this is not an  
22 easy moment for any one of us not just because of the  
23 words that were spoken very recently but because of  
24 this long history, a history that I didn't even know  
25 and over time I got to know. It's when I think about

2 those words that Danny talked about at the press  
3 conference, the letters that he wrote over time.  
4 This is a historic representation of a man that I  
5 know because I know his kind, and the Pastors that  
6 kind of speak to this kind of hate growing up in  
7 Texas. I grew up in a Baptist Church, a church that  
8 if you know the customs asks you to accept Jesus  
9 Chris into your heart. I refused to because I knew  
10 that I was gay and that if I did I would die. These  
11 are the same questions that I had to ask myself  
12 whether or not I was okay to live and continue to  
13 live within the framework of religion. Those are the  
14 kinds of things that I still carried in high school  
15 when—when people made fun of me because of my  
16 sexuality, and said that because I'm going to San  
17 Francisco for College that I would come back with HIV  
18 and die of AIDS because that's what I deserved.  
19 Those are the things that we hear even today. Those  
20 are the kinds of things that are important to address  
21 in this body because we have to do the people's work.  
22 The people's work are people of diverse backgrounds  
23 and we have to listen to every one. Those are the  
24 kinds of things that we have to respect in this body,  
25 and the Speaker did that, and the committee did that,

2 and if anyone stands up and makes us feel like we are  
3 not here to be our full selves and represent all our  
4 people, then you do not deserve to be in this body,  
5 and so I'm very proud of everyone as they consider  
6 and vote on this resolution or this bill to not just  
7 dissolve this committee, but to send a message. Thank  
8 you. [pause]

9                   ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
10 you, and thank you for everyone that has had an  
11 opportunity to speak at the hearing as well as the  
12 press conference and today before this body. Thank  
13 you for your courage and thank you for your bravery.  
14 I'll return back to the agenda. Report of Special  
15 Committees.

16                   CLERK: None.

17                   ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Report of  
18 Standing Committees.

19                   CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
20 Privileges and Elections, Preconsidered Reso 739  
21 amending the Council rules.

22                   SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Clerk  
23 and Madam Majority Leader. At this time, I'm going  
24 to ask for a separate roll call vote on Preconsidered  
25 Resolution 739. This is the Preconsidered Resolution

2 that I just discussed as well as Council Member—  
3 Council Member Van Bramer and Menchaca, and it is  
4 sponsored by Chair Koslowitz. This is specifically  
5 we're voting on a roll call vote specifically on this  
6 Preconsidered Resolution. This is nothing else in  
7 the General Order Calendar. So, Mr. Clerk, at this  
8 time I would as for a roll call vote on Preconsidered  
9 Resolution 739.

10 CLERK: Adams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

12 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY SAMUEL: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Ayala.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

16 CLERK: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
18 explain my vote.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
20 Permission granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you. Thank  
22 you. I labored over my decisions as to what I should  
23 do in this situation. I understand, and I'm very  
24 moved by the testimony that-the sharing that my  
25 colleagues just gave, and it has moved me to think

2 deeply about what you've said, and the impact. I  
3 know that words have power, and the Bible says that  
4 the power of life and death is in the tongue. So, we  
5 need to be very careful about the words that we  
6 choose. I labored with this because previous City  
7 Councils have been dominated and intimidated by a  
8 Speaker and the inequity of power that the Speaker  
9 wielded, and it wasn't until the Fresh Democracy  
10 Council came in in 2000 that they even questioned the  
11 inequity that existed and the power that the Speaker  
12 wielded, and it wasn't until this body came and said  
13 no. We need to address the funding and the  
14 distribution so that there is equity and that there's  
15 even consideration for those communities that have a  
16 greater need. So, I thought about all of that, and I  
17 thought about the fact that it also says in the Bible  
18 a Pharaoh King who knew not Joseph so Joseph's  
19 condition changed based on the person that was in  
20 power. So, there may come a person behind the  
21 Speaker that we have now or those of us who sit here  
22 who are unduly influenced by the position of that  
23 power. So I thought that we might be considering  
24 legislation that would lead us down a slippery slope.  
25 So someone comes and they don't like whatever, not

2 past words but whatever, and they seek them to remove  
3 their power. But I've been moved by the words of my  
4 colleagues and I vote aye.

5 CLERK: Borelli.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye.

7 CLERK: Brannan.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

9 CLERK: Cabrera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Permission to  
11 explain my vote.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

13 Permission Granted

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
15 much. You know I had the opportunity to go back, Mr.  
16 Speaker and to my colleagues to the original video  
17 where our colleague Reverend Diaz, Sr. made—  
18 unfortunately the comment that he made, and I have to  
19 say that the comment that he made in regards to the  
20 LGBT Caucus is somehow is blocking his bills, and he  
21 was talking in reference. He was speaking Spanish so  
22 for those who didn't have the opportunity to  
23 understand what he was saying in Spanish. It was in  
24 the context of the taxi bills, and I have to tell you  
25 that that is untrue. The fact is the Speaker our

2 Speaker and I have been in some of those  
3 conversations alongside with this body, you have  
4 stood for all of our taxi drivers. We're talking  
5 about 16 bills where they were already mentioned.  
6 We're talking about 10% of all the bills that we  
7 passed last year were directly related to when it  
8 comes to our--our constituents and the taxi and the  
9 livery business. But I have to abstain today, and let  
10 me tell you why. I represent a large population of  
11 taxi drivers. We-we have seen eight of them pass  
12 away, taking their own lives, unfortunate, sad. My  
13 heart breaks because I know last year our--our Speaker  
14 took the leadership to have that committee because  
15 there was the need for it, and I have to say this:  
16 Shame on anybody who puts the blame on him for  
17 establishing this committee because it was really at  
18 the need of our people. [bell] Can I have 30 more  
19 seconds? I have never asked for it--

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] yes

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: --ever in the  
22 last nine years.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: I'll  
24 grant an additional 30 seconds.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Thank you so  
3 much, and I have to say that what we need is special  
4 attention for this committee. I—I sit on the  
5 Transportation Committee and I have to say that we  
6 have a tremendous amount of work that takes place  
7 regarding the whole Transportation field. So, for  
8 that reason—for that reason I have to say, but I have  
9 to say, and I know I'm the other pastor. I know  
10 you're all looking at me because of my background and  
11 affiliation and religion and so forth. I have to say  
12 what he said was totally inaccurate. I have seen the  
13 total opposite. We have seen this body bend over  
14 backwards and rightly so to fight for the rights of  
15 our—of our taxi drivers who are struggling every  
16 single day. Thank you so much.

17 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank you  
18 Council Member Cabrera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I said I'll vote—  
20 I'll abstain but I'll say it again. Abstain.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

22 CLERK: Chin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Cohen.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

2 CLERK: Constantinides.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

4 CLERK: Cornegy.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye. .

6 CLERK: Deutsch.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Permission to  
8 explain my vote.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
10 Permission granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you. So,  
12 I just want to say that not too long ago there was a  
13 Swastika drawn in a public facility, and when I  
14 inquired about the individual who scrolled that  
15 Swastika I was told that that person really had some  
16 type of hatred, and this was a young adult against  
17 Jews. And my reaction to that was that we shouldn't  
18 lock him up. He's a young kid, but rather I would  
19 love to meet with the person and educate that person,  
20 even have that person volunteer and be in my office  
21 amongst people. Now, although a person has a  
22 religion or a belief in a certain way, when someone  
23 expresses words that maybe words of stupidity or  
24 hatred or-or, you know, you have to realize that  
25 words are very strong, and you have to put sometimes

2 thing aside—things aside. I believe that in this  
3 case with Ruben Diaz the words that he said I would  
4 like to bring him closer than further, and let him  
5 know that words are very strong. So, at this time,  
6 I'm going to vote no.

7 CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Permission to  
9 explain my vote.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
11 Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Thank you very  
13 much. I wasn't really going to speak because I'll  
14 get emotional, but I have been fighting this person  
15 for the last 25 years, and in 1994, I wrote a letter  
16 in which I condemned Council Member Diaz's words at  
17 the time where he compared LGBT people to thieves,  
18 slanderers, murderers, idolaters, drug addicts,  
19 misers, swindlers, et cetera so forth and so on. And  
20 again in 2011 when I was elected to this body when we  
21 were going through battle for marriage equality in  
22 New York State, I asked that Senator Diaz at the time  
23 not continue to send emails to me, which I found to  
24 be offensive because they were attacking the gay  
25 community on marriage equality, and I actually had to

2 go to the Secretary of State to get him to stop  
3 sending me those emails. And so this behavior is not  
4 new. I don't think any amount of education at this  
5 point is really going to help him, and the fact that  
6 he has continually tried not to—has continually not  
7 apologized for his actions, leads me to believe very  
8 sadly, very, very sadly that this action must take  
9 place, and so therefore, I vote yes on this  
10 resolution. Thank you.

11 CLERK: Espinal.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Eugene.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Gibson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
17 explain to quickly explain my vote.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

19 Permission granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, Madam  
21 Majority Leader, and to our Speaker and to Chair  
22 Koslowitz and really to all of my colleagues. I  
23 certainly apologize on behalf of our colleague. I  
24 apologize on behalf of the Bronx. Certainly, my  
25 constituents and my staff. The words expressed by

2 our colleague are no reflection of this body of this  
3 city of our principles, and our values. We as a city  
4 Council will continue to promote and spread the  
5 message of love and not hate and divisiveness. We  
6 represent all people from all backgrounds and all  
7 walks of life, and as this council moves forward, we  
8 will continue to fight for our taxi drivers just as  
9 much as we fight for seniors and women and children  
10 and the LGBT community, and it's unfortunate that we  
11 are put in this position and certainly as a Bronx  
12 member put in a particularly uncomfortable position,  
13 and so it is with that that I join with all of my  
14 colleagues and our Speaker and I will be voting yes,  
15 and I hope that this Council will continue to move  
16 forward in the spirit of love and tolerance and  
17 acceptance and partnership. Thank you.

18 CLERK: Gjonaj.

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

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
22 Permission granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I've been  
24 debating this over the last 24 hours, and the impact  
25 that it has. I raised questions procedurally how we

2 dissolve a committee that did so much and is  
3 addressing some very challenging issues that are  
4 impacting the for-hire industry. I certainly  
5 understanding that there's actions that are needed to  
6 be take. My concern is if its actions that are  
7 needed against a Chair, what repercussions would  
8 there be if we dissolve a committee so important as  
9 this committee? All things considering procedurally  
10 that we didn't have much time to debate, have a  
11 conference and unfortunately learn by the way of  
12 media most of the issues and the—the impacts that it  
13 will have by the statements of one of our colleagues  
14 that led to this. It was a big concern and will  
15 continue to be concerning for me in the future, but  
16 with all things considering that a wrongs certainly  
17 outlay any of the good. I vote yes for this  
18 resolution, but understand that in the future we  
19 should be looking for ways to address these issues  
20 that may come up in a more transparent bodily way  
21 that will serve justice and be transparent for all of  
22 our members to be heard on this issue before we make  
23 a decision. Thank you.

24 CLERK: Grodenchik.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Permission to  
3 very briefly explain my vote.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
5 Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you  
7 Madam Majority Leader. At the bottom of everything  
8 we do for each other has to be respect, respect for  
9 ourselves, certainly for our colleagues and for every  
10 single one of us in this great city of ours, all 8.65  
11 million New Yorkers. That respect has been  
12 diminished in this body unfortunately. I need to be  
13 able to look every single person I represent in the  
14 eye to let them know that I've done the right thing  
15 by them and by my conscience. My colleague Vanessa  
16 Gibson put it well a few seconds ago: Love will  
17 conquer hate at the end. I truly believe that, and  
18 with that, I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Holden.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Kallos.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

23 CLERK: King.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Abstain.

25 CLERK: Koo.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

3 CLERK: Koslowitz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I explain  
5 my vote? [coughs]

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
7 Permission granted. Yes.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I was very  
9 pleased to sponsor this bill. What Rube Diaz said is  
10 very unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to  
11 all of us. This is my fourth speaker that I'm  
12 working under. If I were Speaker I would have tried  
13 to do worse. [laughter] Because this behavior is  
14 absolutely unacceptable to me, to parts of my family  
15 that are gay. Love has no boundary, and I have to  
16 say shame on you Ruben Diaz, Jr.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER: He's Senior.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Senior.  
19 Sorry--[background comments/laughter]--and I want to  
20 just say to the Speaker, thank you. I vote aye.

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
22 you.

23 CLERK: Lancman.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: May I explain my  
25 vote.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

3 Permission granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: So, to

5 paraphrase the Book of Job: The Council giveth and  
6 the Council taketh away. The people decide who will  
7 represent them in the Council, and we as Council  
8 Members will decide who represents us in the  
9 committees that we elect people to chair, and our  
10 Speaker and the leadership positions, and I think  
11 it's reasonable to expect that the people who we  
12 select to leadership positions in the Council  
13 represent the values and interests of this body and  
14 that means representing all New Yorkers regardless of  
15 their sex, sexual orientation, race, religion, et  
16 cetera. With that in mind, I vote yes.

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request

19 permission to explain?

20 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

21 Permission granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I was  
23 not going to speak. The members of the LGBTQ Caucus  
24 have spoken very eloquently, and many colleagues have  
25 said what needed to be said. I think especially

2 Council Member Lancman's point that this is about  
3 what kind of leadership we want, not what kind of  
4 rights people have are clear, but because the chair  
5 of the Jewish Caucus voted not on this resolution, I  
6 think it's very important to bring a Jewish voice  
7 strongly in favor of this resolution. We are at a  
8 moment when Jews in this country are working hard to  
9 make sure tot ask people to be mindful to not use  
10 anti-semitic language or tropes, and boy, if we are  
11 going to ask for that sensitivity, then we better be  
12 on the front lines of making sure that we call out  
13 homophobic hatred and other forms of speech that lead  
14 to the same. So, I am very proud to vote strongly in  
15 favor of this resolution. I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Levin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Levine.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

22 CLERK: Menchaca.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: May I add a few  
24 words.

25 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I  
3 just want to say thank you for the words that have  
4 already been spoken. I think that I'm encouraged,  
5 I'm moved by the moral courage that we are expressing  
6 today by this body. In fact, I feel more unified  
7 today in this body, and that is just something that I  
8 want to lift up in this moment. Thank you. I vote  
9 aye.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
11 you.

12 CLERK: Moya.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Perkins.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I vote aye even  
16 as I shared a long positive friendship with my  
17 colleague, but nevertheless, it's unacceptable.  
18 Thank you.

19 CLERK: Powers.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Reynoso.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

23 CLERK: Richards.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rivera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

3 CLERK: Rodriguez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Permission to  
5 explain my vote.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
7 Permission granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: First of all,  
9 no doubt that Speaker Johnson is the one that is the  
10 leader of the Council, and someone that have proven  
11 that he cares for all of us. So, when it comes to  
12 this particular issues, I got to say the following  
13 thing: As a council member in my tenure, I've always  
14 been here for the—anything that is important in  
15 legislation and initiatives to support our LGBTQ  
16 community. I don't agree with Reverend Diaz's  
17 position on the LGBTQ community, but I have to give  
18 credit to his fight for the constituency that he  
19 represents in his district who are the first ones in  
20 the congressional—who live in the poorest  
21 congressional district in the whole nation. I also  
22 have to give credit to his fight even though we have  
23 not agreed, and has been conducting sometimes himself  
24 on the taxi issue, but I feel that has also voiced in  
25 the last couple of months. I believe that it is our

2 responsibility as changes have been made to be sure  
3 that we continue fighting for our taxis to addressing  
4 the number of them that committed suicide, and to be  
5 sure that we level the playing field in the industry.  
6 So, again, I don't agree on his position. I do give  
7 credit to his fight in his district, and with that, I  
8 will abstain

9 CLERK: Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Hate speech is hate  
11 speech regardless of the vessel that carries it, and  
12 it should not be tolerated and I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Rosenthal.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.  
15 Permission to explain my vote briefly.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
17 Permission granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

19 Given the man we have in the White House who is  
20 spreading hate, divisiveness, forcing communities  
21 underground, I am so proud of this Speaker who  
22 immediately-immediately took action, called this out  
23 for what it is. It has nothing to do with taxis, and  
24 it has nothing to do with the Committee on  
25 Transportation. You found a way to properly address

2 homophobia. That's all you did. Council Member  
3 Lancman is right probably. I don't know the law so  
4 maybe we can't dispel a member. If it were my  
5 choice, I absolutely would. We're at a time when we  
6 all have to be super vigilant. Hate is what it is.  
7 It's hate. Don't hide under anything else. That was  
8 a hateful thing to say, and I am very proud to  
9 support you Speaker, support you Council Member  
10 Koslowitz. Thank you for this resolution. Thank you  
11 for moving quickly. Hate has no place in the city of  
12 New York. I proudly vote aye.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
14 you.

15 CLERK: Salamanca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

17 CLERK: Torres.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I made extensive  
19 comments earlier, but I do want to add a few more  
20 thoughts. You know, like the Speaker, when  
21 approaching my relationship with the Reverend, I  
22 proceeded in a spirit of magnanimity, charity for all  
23 and malice toward now in hindsight, it was naïve to  
24 respect redemption from a man who has become a symbol  
25 of irredeemable homophobia. And I thought to myself

2 imagine if a member had said that the City Council  
3 was controlled by a black kabal or a Jewish kabal.  
4 The council would take action, and we have to  
5 confront homophobia with the same vigilance and the  
6 same urgency that we would confront anti-Semitism or  
7 racism or sexism for every form of discrimination  
8 because to do nothing is to legitimize homophobia.  
9 And Council Member Van Bramer and the Speaker spoke  
10 about their experiences with suicide. I remember not  
11 only did I have suicidal ideation as a child, but I  
12 ran when I was 24 years old in a borough that never  
13 had an openly LGBT elected official, and I was  
14 terrified because of the climate that people like  
15 Reverend Diaz created. And I'm thankful that I was  
16 able to meet with people like Jimmy Van Bramer and  
17 Danny Dromm and Corey Johnson who gave me a model of  
18 what it was like to be secure in your own skin while  
19 running for elected office and serving in an elected  
20 office, and I ran the same year as my brother Carlos  
21 Menchaca. So, it's true that words and ideas have  
22 consequences especially when those words and ideas  
23 are amplified by the power of elected office, and I  
24 want to underscore the reverend might have a  
25 following in the Bronx, but he does not represent my

2 borough. But Council Member Salamanca and Council  
3 Member Gibson and I represent the poorest district.  
4 We represent majority, minority districts, and we all  
5 manage to be great elected officials without  
6 promoting and stoking fear and hatred. But he does  
7 not represent the deepest value and the highest  
8 aspirations [bell] of the Bronx and by rejecting his  
9 hate, we are standing with the higher angels of the  
10 Bronx. So thank you, Mr. Speaker.

11 CLERK: Treyger.

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

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

15 Permission granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I am reminded  
17 that this week also happens to be Respect for All  
18 Week across our 1,800 schools. We're asking our  
19 students to celebrate kindness, be an ally against  
20 bullying, respect diversity, respect racial  
21 diversity, respect gender identity, respect a  
22 person's sexual orientation, LGBTQ Pride. Tomorrow  
23 is National No One Eats Alone Day for our children  
24 and we as leaders in office I believe we have to  
25 model inclusive leadership everyday with words, with

2 actions with our policies and so I want to be very  
3 clear, I think the Speaker has made this message very  
4 crystal clear: What doesn't have power here is hate,  
5 bigotry, and intolerance. So, Mr. Speaker I proudly  
6 support you and thank you for your decisive action  
7 and I vote—I vote aye.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
9 you.

10 CLERK: Ulrich.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Vallone.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

14 CLERK: Van Bramer.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Very briefly,  
16 I just want to say thank you to all of our colleagues  
17 who have in solidarity voiced their support. This is  
18 a time for all of us to take a stand, and not sit  
19 idly back while this kind of hatred is waring in our  
20 country, in our city and with this latest comment,  
21 threatening our body. So, in that spirit of  
22 solidarity, I want to pledge my vote to the young  
23 Danny Dromm, and the young Ritchie Torres, and the  
24 young Carlos Menchaca, the young Corey Johnson, and  
25 the 11-year-old Jimmy Van Bramer. I vote aye.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
3 you.

4 CLERK: Williams.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be  
6 excused to explain my vote.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
8 Permission granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you very  
10 much. I wanted to speak because I—I—as I said at the  
11 press conference, we rarely ask for resignations. I  
12 rarely quickly participate in things like this and I  
13 wanted to make sure I got articulate—articulate and  
14 be consistent because even when my colleague in  
15 Brooklyn and some them are dressed in black face for  
16 the holiday or even as a commissioner stops more  
17 young black men who live in the city of New York, I  
18 didn't call for a resignation. I didn't call for  
19 them leaving. So, I wanted to make sure I could  
20 articulate why I would be supporting this, and it was  
21 actually pretty quick. This was—this was not a one-  
22 off statement. This as not something that could be  
23 misconstrued for something else, and then after  
24 speaking with the Reverend, understanding that it  
25 wasn't even something he wanted to change. It wasn't

2 even something that he thought was a mistake. I  
3 rarely call for it because I like everyone else being  
4 human I always try to leave room for growth and for  
5 healing, but in order for that to happen we have to  
6 acknowledge that that is a need. So, there was no  
7 acknowledgement of a wound. There was no  
8 acknowledgement that a wound was caused or there was  
9 a reason for healing. That just doesn't make any  
10 sense to me, and I want to speak as a person of faith  
11 who wants to be an elected official that gives  
12 permission for people to retain their faith, retain  
13 their culture while understanding that does not give  
14 you the right to hate. It does not give you the  
15 right to curtail others' civil rights. Period. That  
16 is consistently. That is consistently what I've  
17 tried to do, I'm—I'm proud to be a part of this body  
18 today who is standing up for all constituents of New  
19 York City, my constituents, my staff. I was so moved  
20 by—I was so moved by the statements that everybody  
21 made here. For anyone who is watching that wants to  
22 understand what we're going, I hope they listen to  
23 the tape again or listen to the testimonies of what  
24 words truly mean. [bell] One of my best friends is a  
25 computer programmer, and he describes how you have to

2 set the climate before whatever you're program takes  
3 hold, and the words that were used by the reverend  
4 and have been used repeatedly are the type of things  
5 that program the climate for people to die, people to  
6 the hurt. You cannot hate neatly. You cannot say  
7 these things without expecting the consequences to  
8 come that have always come when these types of words  
9 have been used. Thank you, Speaker for your  
10 leadership. I thank this body, and I vote aye.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
12 you.

13 CLERK: Yeger.

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

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
17 Permission granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. I  
19 wasn't sure what I was going to say, and I'm not  
20 often without words. I've been a proponent here in  
21 the Council in my last 13 months and throughout my  
22 life for smaller government. The Council has 38  
23 committees, four subcommittees. For my count it's  
24 42. After this vote today it will be 37. There are  
25 some committees that are traditional that have been

2 around for a long time. There are some committees  
3 that are created by you Speaker as your—she comes in  
4 and makes those decisions. In my view, a better  
5 result for whether—if this Council believes that  
6 somebody ought to be punished and for—for what  
7 occurred, and where we are today would be to remove  
8 the Chair from the Committee and to allow the  
9 Committee to exist if we believe as a body that the  
10 Committee does important work, which I think a number  
11 of people have said. My colleague Councilman Gjonaj  
12 said this committee does important work. He's  
13 smarter than I on this topic. My Council—my  
14 colleague Councilman Lancman made a very important  
15 point that the Council giveth and the Council taketh  
16 away. I believe fundamentally that when we choose a  
17 Speaker, we choose the makeup of the officers of the  
18 Council, the Council staff. It's not a secret I  
19 voted against the Council budget last year because I  
20 thought it was too big. I didn't hold a rally about  
21 it, it and make a big stink. I think government  
22 should be smaller, but I also think fundamentally  
23 that this Speaker decides how the Council is governed  
24 by the structures of our committees, by who serves on  
25 them, and submits them to us for ratification that

2 shouldn't be debated. And for that reason, I support  
3 the Speaker's decision to restructure the committees  
4 of this Council. I do still believe --[bell]--just  
5 10, 12 more seconds. I do still believe that the  
6 notion of removing a particular committee versus  
7 removing the individual of whom this dispute is  
8 about, may have been the better way to go, but on any  
9 day that the Speaker comes before this Council and  
10 asks us to restructure committees of this Council, I  
11 will support him perhaps with a 2-minute speech, but  
12 he has my support on this. Thank you Madam  
13 President.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
15 you.

16 CLERK: Matteo.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] Aye.

18 CLERK: Cumbo.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: I just  
20 want to conclude by saying I know that for each and  
21 everyone of us one of the hardest things that we have  
22 ever had to do is speak out against the words or the  
23 actions of another colleague. However, I feel that  
24 every single person that works here in whatever  
25 capacity they work here should feel respected and

2 should not have to fear any one of us because of  
3 their sexual orientation, their race, their religion  
4 or any other factor, and I fee that, and I feel that  
5 the thousands of people that come here seeking  
6 justice, seeking support, seeking help and seeking  
7 equality should be able to look at any one of us for  
8 that level of support, and if they do not feel that,  
9 if they do not feel safe, if they do not know if the  
10 words are going to be followed up by harmful action  
11 then we have a duty to protect this body, and this  
12 has certainly been a difficult situation for all of  
13 us, but I stand with our Speaker. I stand with this  
14 body because have to continue to uphold values and we  
15 have to continue to uphold our morals and what we  
16 believe in, and making this a safe space for all  
17 people to come to for justice, and I proudly vote  
18 aye.

19 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I did not plan on  
21 [coughs] speaking again today on this, but I feel  
22 extraordinarily emotional listening to the members of  
23 this body discuss what has transpired over the last  
24 five days, and the preceding history on this, and I—  
25 I've tried to not be emotional over the last five

2 days to get through this process in a responsible  
3 manner for the entire body, and I've tried to  
4 compartmentalize the emotional feelings that were  
5 under the surface for me, but hearing from my—the  
6 LGBT members of this body and our friends and allies,  
7 it's extraordinarily moving to me, and I don't want  
8 to speak for too long, but I—I just want to say that,  
9 you know, I am extraordinarily grateful to Danny  
10 Dromm and to Jimmy Van Bramer for their long track  
11 record in history and fighting on behalf of LGBT  
12 people long before I had the wherewithal or self  
13 awareness to become a leader on these issues, and I  
14 was born in 1982. Council Member Dromm Tweeted a  
15 letter yesterday from 1984 when he spoke out against  
16 Reverend Diaz's comments about the gay games, that  
17 the gay games then known as the Gay Olympics should  
18 not come to the city of New York at the height of the  
19 AIDS epidemic because people would get AIDS. That  
20 was—I was two years old. When I came out in 1999 at  
21 17 years old I was suicidal, and I promised myself  
22 that I would never—I never wanted to become HIV-  
23 Positive and I don't like even like talking about  
24 this. But I converted in 2004 when I was 22 years  
25 old, and a generation of gay men were lost in the

2 1980s and 1990s, and plenty of people did not speak  
3 out in those moments, but plenty of people did.  
4 Danny Dromm did. Jimmy Van Bramer did, and I am only  
5 here today in this body. I was only able to run for  
6 City Council because of the people that came before  
7 me, Danny and Jimmy and Tom Duane, and Christine  
8 Quinn and Margarita Lopez, and Rosie Mendez. All the  
9 people who laid the ground work for me to be elected  
10 to this body and eventually to run for Speaker. I try  
11 not to think about it too much, but it is important  
12 for someone who has this title and—and is in this  
13 position to speak out against this, and in 1986, 16  
14 years after the Gay Rights Bill was proposed, people  
15 hung from these rafters screaming that we should not  
16 protect LGBT people. One of my predecessors, Speaker  
17 Vallone allowed for a vote on that bill, and that  
18 bill passed, and we have made significant progress  
19 since then in this body with five openly gay members  
20 now, seven openly gay members in the previous  
21 session. Tom Duane was elected to the Council in  
22 1991 as an openly gay, open HIV positive man at the  
23 height of the AIDS epidemic. It is incumbent upon  
24 each one of us and me as Speaker of this body to talk  
25 about this in a candid emotional honest way because

2 of what has happened in this country and in this  
3 city. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
4 Stonewall. In four months we'll be celebrating a  
5 moment in Greenwich Village that changed the world.  
6 I will not stand here in 2019, and just talk about  
7 the process associated with how we got here today. I  
8 will apologize again deeply for making a mistake and  
9 having a blind spot to begin with and trying to give  
10 everyone a fresh start and as Ritchie said, trying to  
11 act in a charitable way towards a man who had a  
12 history of saying these things. I made a mistake.  
13 I'm sorry. I'm sorry to all the people who came  
14 before me and allowed me to be here today. I'm sorry  
15 to gay and Lesbian New Yorkers who deserve so much  
16 better. I vote aye. [pause.]

17 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

18 Resolution 739 has been approved by the Council 45 in  
19 the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 3 abstentions,  
20 and while we pass so much legislation and so many  
21 bills and vote on so many things, sometimes some  
22 conversations have to be said, and this conversation  
23 was needed. It was necessary and it had to be had.  
24 Thank you. [pause]

2 CLERK: Continuing with the General Order  
3 Calendar Report of the Committee on Civil Service and  
4 Labor, Intro 1235-A Employee Reduction Plan.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
8 down, please.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
10 Housing and Buildings, Intro 780-A indoor asthma  
11 hazards.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: Intro 1004-A, Demonstration  
15 Program.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
17 General Orders.

18 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
19 Use, LUC 314 and Reso 751 through LUC 316 and Reso  
20 753, Belmont Cove Rezoning.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
22 Orders.

23 CLERK: LU 317 and Reso 754 and LU 318-

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Quiet,  
25 please.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 71  
2 CLERK: --and Reso 755, East 241<sup>st</sup> Street  
3 Rezoning.  
4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
5 Orders.  
6 CLERK: LU 391 and Reso 756 and LU 320  
7 and Reso 757, 895 Bedford Avenue Rezoning.  
8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
9 Orders.  
10 CLERK: [coughs] LU 321 and Reso 758,  
11 Transit Authority Rockaway Beach Division.  
12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
13 Orders.  
14 CLERK: LU 322 and Reso 759, White  
15 Street.  
16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
17 Orders.  
18 CLERK: LU 323 and Reso 760, 59  
19 Greenwich.  
20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
21 Orders.  
22 CLERK: Preconsidered LU 341 and Reso 761  
23 Primary School.  
24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
25 Orders.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
3 Transportation, Intro 206-A Pedestrian Countdown  
4 Displays.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
6 General Orders.

7 CLERK: Intro 867-A Traffic Flow  
8 Designations.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
10 General Orders.

11 CLERK: Intro 928-A Street Name Signs.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
13 General Orders.

14 CLERK: On the General Order Calendar  
15 Intro 720 Site Safety Training.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

17 CLERK: Resolution appointing various  
18 person commissioners of deeds.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
20 Orders, and at this time I would ask for a roll call  
21 vote on all of the remaining items on today's General  
22 Order Calendar.

23 CLERK: Constantinides.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on  
25 all.

2 CLERK: Williams.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I would like  
4 the unanimous consent to vote aye on all with the  
5 exception of 319 and 320, which I vote no, and as  
6 we're lifting our people who cam before, I did want  
7 to mention Council Member Phil Reed.

8 CLERK: Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye on  
10 all.

11 CLERK: Adams.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Permission to  
13 explain my vote.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
15 Permission granted.

16 CLERK: Last night, we tragically lost  
17 NYPD Detective Brian Simonson after a shooting in my  
18 district in Richmond Hill, and it is with deepest  
19 sympathy we remember this 19-year veteran. We're  
20 sending healing prayers to the Simonson Family and to  
21 the Goreman Family today. We're also sending prayers  
22 to the officers in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct in my district  
23 and all officers across the city. That said,  
24 colleagues, I ask your support to pass Intros 867 and  
25 928, which will tremendously help drivers across our

2 city. Intro 867 relates to guidelines for traffic  
3 flow designations. The defining feature of several  
4 2-way streets in our city that are very, very narrow,  
5 narrow enough that it is uncomfortable for two cars  
6 to drive simultaneously especially when parked cars  
7 are present on both sides. This condition is further  
8 exacerbated and causes serious safety concerns in the  
9 event of inclement weather. This bill would require  
10 the Department of Transportation to establish and  
11 maintain guidelines on its website for the criteria  
12 and considerations used to access proposed changes of  
13 one-way streets to two-way streets and vice versa.  
14 Additionally, the department would be required to  
15 post on its website annually the request for traffic  
16 flow changes received and the status of those  
17 requests. Intro 928 related to the placement of  
18 street name signs at intersections. This will would  
19 require that at least two corners of a street  
20 intersection have the appropriate street name signage  
21 installed. Far too often when driving it is  
22 difficult to tell what street you are driving on  
23 because the signs are completely faded or not even  
24 there at all. The Department of Transportation  
25 should make it a priority to replace all sun bleached

2 signs, and missing signage, and this legislation,  
3 this common sense legislation will ensure just that.  
4 I ask your support on both of these important pieces  
5 of legislation. Thank you.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
7 you and my Spellman sister is always one step ahead  
8 of me, and we're going to move forward focused on the  
9 bills that were just previously introduced and spoken  
10 about, and then we will call on those who want to  
11 speak on upcoming bills in general order discussions.

12 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Ayala.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Barron.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
18 explain my vote.

19 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
20 Permission granted on the bills that were just read.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, I believe  
22 that we just read Intro 1004.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, okay.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Housing  
3 and buildings.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. I just want  
5 to speak briefly on that. It's a bill that will do  
6 what has been talked about for so long. It talks  
7 about legalizing basements. It's a pilot project,  
8 and it says that the city will offer low and low cost  
9 loans to homeowners. It will help them navigate the  
10 bureaucracy of getting the paperwork done, and it  
11 will provide continuing affordability to those 40  
12 apartments, and what we hope to do in this bill is to  
13 be successful with this pilot so that we can  
14 replicate it in other areas. For so long we know  
15 that people have been homeless, rent burdened and  
16 engaging in couch surfing and living doubled out-  
17 doubled up. And we know that we have a need for a  
18 safe, pleasant housing, and what this bill does is  
19 that it allows an opportunity for those basement  
20 apartments to meet those criteria of health, fire and  
21 other safety codes. I want to thank Brad Lander and  
22 Council Member Rafael Espinal as well for championing  
23 this bill, and we look forward to all our members  
24 supporting, and I vote aye on all there other bills  
25 with the exception of LU 319 and 320.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
3 you.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

5 CLERK: Borelli.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all  
7 except Intro 1004-A, which my colleague just so  
8 eloquently explained.

9 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Of  
10 course. [laughs]

11 CLERK: Brannan.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: [off mic] I vote  
13 aye on all.

14 CLERK: Cabrera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

16 CLERK: Chin.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Cohen.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Can I have  
20 permission to explain my vote?

21 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
22 Permission granted.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I realize this has  
24 been a challenging meeting that we've dealt with a  
25 lot of weighty things, but I just wanted to say

2 briefly thank you to Chair Salamanca and Chair Moya  
3 and the Land Use staff for helping me shepherd  
4 through LU 317 and 318. I really think this  
5 development is going to anchor a renaissance on the  
6 north end of White Plains Road. In addition to the  
7 creation of affordable housing, the retail component  
8 I'm very excited and I really want to encourage the  
9 rest of my colleagues to vote aye, and again say  
10 think you. Thank you Speaker Johnson, too. Thank  
11 you.

12 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
13 you.

14 CLERK: Matteo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: No on 1004, aye  
16 on the rest.

17 CLERK: Cornegy.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Deutsch.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Dromm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

23 CLERK: Espinal.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Permission to  
25 explain my vote on Intro 1004.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

3 Permission granted.

4 CLERK: I'm just excited that we're  
5 finally passing this bill to legalize basements, and  
6 pilot from East New York that actually came out of  
7 the hard work through the East New York Neighborhood  
8 Plan a few years ago, and that plan actually allowed  
9 for my community and myself to negotiate with the  
10 Administration that it's finally time that we take a  
11 look at this conversation. There are many homeowners  
12 who are renting out their basements currently, and we  
13 all know that those basements are unsafe because of  
14 the fact that the city fails to recognize them. You  
15 know, legalizing basements will provide an  
16 opportunity for homeowners to make a little extra  
17 income to be able to pay their mortgage. It would  
18 also secure those tenants who love in those base-  
19 basements making sure that they have a habitable home  
20 to live in, and, you know, it's just an overall  
21 common sense piece of legislation that I think will  
22 hopefully drive the conversation of the city moving  
23 forward. So, I'm very proud to be working on this  
24 bill alongside Inez and Brad, and all of the  
25 community groups, and with that I vote aye.

2 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
3 you and thank you for your leadership.

4 CLERK: Eugene.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

6 CLERK: Gibson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye on  
8 all.

9 CLERK: Gjonaj.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

11 CLERK: Grodenchik.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye on all  
13 with the exception of 1004-A. I vote no on that.

14 CLERK: Holden.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye on all except  
16 1004-A.

17 CLERK: Kallos.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: King.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic] Aye on  
21 all. (sic)

22 CLERK: Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

24 CLERK: Koslowitz.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off mic] I  
3 vote aye.

4 CLERK: Lancman.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Briefly explain  
6 my vote?

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
8 Permission granted.

9 CLERK: Thanks. I'm going to vote aye on  
10 all including Intro 1004-A on the basis that the  
11 local Council member where this pilot project is  
12 going to be conducted supports it. I would not be  
13 supportive right now if this were going to be  
14 citywide policy or if were going to be in my  
15 community, but let's see how it goes, and go from  
16 there. Aye on all.

17 CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
19 permission to explain.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
21 Permission granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you very  
23 much. Converting basement units into safe and legal  
24 housing is an important way to address New York  
25 City's affordability crises--

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
3 down please, keep it down.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: This pilot  
5 program will create affordable housing for tenants,  
6 financial stability for homeowners and investment in  
7 East New York and it will also enable use to learn  
8 useful lessons that I hope will make it possible to  
9 smartly expand this program to neighborhoods around  
10 the city in the future after we learn the lessons of  
11 this program. Really proud to co-sponsor this  
12 legislation along with Council Members Espinal and  
13 Barron who you just heard from. Grateful to the de  
14 Blasio Administration for the working group to  
15 develop the program with FDNY, with Department of  
16 Buildings, with HPD to really make sure it is indeed  
17 safe and habitable, and want to just give final props  
18 especially to the Base Campaign, Basement Apartments  
19 Safe for Everyone, which is CHIA (sic) CDC, the SILS  
20 (sic) CDC, the Proc Center and other groups that have  
21 been working for a decade to bring these underground  
22 units into the light. I vote aye on all.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Than  
24 you.

25 CLERK: Levin.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all.

3 CLERK: Levine.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Maisel.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

7 CLERK: Menchaca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
9 explain my vote.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

11 Permission granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you. I  
13 want to—I'm voting aye on all. There is a land use  
14 item that is bringing yet another school to my  
15 district, LU 341 and Reso 671. I am just again  
16 continue to be proud of our community. We are  
17 building a true participatory democratic process with  
18 the School Construction Authority that allows our  
19 community to work hand-in-hand with the School  
20 Construction Authority team to create a sites list  
21 and ensure that our voices are at the table from the  
22 very beginning. This new school in District 20 was  
23 the most—District 20 is the most over-burdened  
24 district K through 8, and schools were operating or  
25 are currently operating over 120% capacity. We all

2 know overcrowded schools mean that we are investing  
3 in our kids at low-in-in low and unacceptable ways,  
4 and the School Construction Authority has been doing  
5 an incredible job of finding these sites with our  
6 community. This will bring 700 new school seats to  
7 serve the youngest residents of Sunset Park, Dyker  
8 Heights Borough Park, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach and Bay  
9 Ridge. Again, I want to thank SCA Team. They're  
10 working really hard with my community. Let's  
11 continue to do this, and I can't wait to come back  
12 with another school. Thank you so much. I vote aye  
13 on all.

14 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
15 you.

16 CLERK: MOYA.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Perkins.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

20 CLERK: Powers.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

22 CLERK: Reynoso.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Richards.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to  
3 explain my vote.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
5 Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just wanted  
7 to touch on Intro 1004-A as well and certainly I'm  
8 going to support this pilot. I do want to caution  
9 the city, and before they roll this out and ensuring  
10 that they especially for Queens communities are—are  
11 really having a robust community engagement plan and  
12 conversation with local stakeholders and elected  
13 officials, and I want to end by saying you should  
14 never forget your roots. You know, basements—  
15 basement apartments for teenage parents largely got  
16 us stable, temporary housing opportunities throughout  
17 our lives with three other children as well my  
18 parents having. So, I don't want to forget my roots  
19 today. Secondly, People are already renting out  
20 basements whether they're legal, illegal. It's  
21 happening. So, we do need to figure out a way of  
22 ensuring the city really creates a regulation policy  
23 for these apartments, but they really do serve a real  
24 purpose in this affordable housing crisis that we're  
25 in especially for low density neighborhoods like

2 Laurelton and Rosehill, Queens where you don't have  
3 buildings for density. So with that being said, I  
4 congratulate Espinal, but want to also caution the  
5 Administration and rolling this out further without a  
6 real robust conversation with communities. With  
7 that, I vote aye. Thank you.

8 CLERK: Rivera.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Rose.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye

14 CLERK: Salamanca.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

16 CLERK: Torres.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off mic] Aye on

18 all.

19 CLERK: Treyger.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to

21 briefly explain my vote.

22 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

23 Permission granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you. I

25 will be voting aye on all, but I just want to note,

2 and I applaud my colleagues for their legislation,  
3 but with regards to Intro 1004, I just want to point  
4 out that there are Sandy survivors that were denied  
5 Build-it-Back aid and assistance because they  
6 mentioned to them that their basements were not in  
7 compliance or up to code, and they were denied  
8 critical support and aid just because of their  
9 basements.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

11 [interposing] Quiet in the Chambers.

12 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: And the  
14 Administration—and the Administration did not do much  
15 to support those folks who were working class folks  
16 from Southern Brooklyn or the Rockaways or on Staten  
17 Island or other parts of the city that were hard hit  
18 by Super Storm Sandy. So, we need to have a more  
19 equitable even approach when we deal with this issue,  
20 and I would still address those issues that were  
21 denied—those folks that were denied that aid. Moving  
22 forward heaven forbid we need—have another credit or  
23 recovery issue or recovery program. We need to take  
24 this into account. Working people were denied  
25 critical support because of basements alone, but I do

2 support my colleagues and their districts and their  
3 efforts to address pressing housing issues, and with  
4 that I will vote aye on all.

5 CLERK: King.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Ulrich.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye and  
9 thank you for the birthday wishes. Sorry I was late.

10 CLERK: Vallone.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: [off mic] No on  
12 1004 and aye on all the rest.

13 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: I just  
14 want to remind members that we need a quorum for the  
15 upcoming resolutions. So, please do not leave at  
16 this time. Council Member Ulrich. [laughs]

17 CLERK: Van Bramer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye on  
19 all.

20 CLERK: Yeger.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: May I be excused  
22 to explain my vote? [background comment] Thank you.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
24 Permission granted.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. As my  
3 colleague Council member Lancman said, it's twice in  
4 one day, which is not regular for me. I will vote  
5 aye on all. I am a co-sponsor of Intro 1004-A. For  
6 the reasons that he indicated, Council member  
7 Lancman, I--I believe the Council Member comes here  
8 with--with the mission of being able to control the  
9 destiny of his or her district, and that he or she  
10 was vested with that authority by the people that the  
11 council member represents. I don't know that it  
12 works well the--this program throughout the rest of  
13 the city, and I do know a number of neighborhoods  
14 that it--I am fairly confident it would not work well,  
15 but I'm willing to give it a try because it's her  
16 neighborhood, and she thinks it's a good idea, and I  
17 trust her for own neighborhood to give this a try.  
18 And for that reason, Council Member and my  
19 colleagues, Madam President, I support this bill and  
20 I would like to know the results as you begin to  
21 build this, and I wish you great luck on that. And  
22 again, I don't know if I said this. I vote aye on  
23 all.

24 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
25 you.

2 CLERK: Cumbo.

3 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: I vote  
4 aye.

5 CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

6 Speaker Johnson: I vote aye on all.

7 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
8 you. All items on today's General Order Calendar are  
9 adopted by a vote of 49 in the affirmative, 0  
10 negative, 0 abstentions with the exception of LUs 319  
11 and 320 with accompanying resos, which was adopted by  
12 a vote of 47 the affirmative, 2 negative and 0  
13 abstentions, and Intro 1004-A, which was adopted by a  
14 vote of 44 in the affirmative, 5 negative, and 0  
15 abstentions. [background comments/pause]

16 Introduction and Reading of Bills.

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
18 referred to committees as indicated on today's  
19 agenda.

20 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Okay.  
21 We will now move into the discussion of resolutions  
22 excluding Resolution 739, which has already been  
23 introduced and voted on. Are there any members who  
24 wish to speak on any of today's resolutions? Council  
25 Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I do because I  
3 believe it is important to highlight-

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
5 [interposing] Quiet in the Chambers.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: --how we are  
7 voting today on a resolution that will-will make our  
8 position also for providing undocumented New Yorkers  
9 the opportunity to get their driver's license.  
10 Today, as we will pass the resolution, we'll be  
11 speaking on behalf of 8.5 million New Yorkers who  
12 will be asking the State of New York to please wait  
13 on the legislation for the Governor to sign a bill  
14 that will allow all undocumented New Yorkers from  
15 Buffalo to Staten Island to have the opportunity to  
16 get a driver's license. Unfortunately, we live in  
17 sate where we are so behind. More than 10 states  
18 already have passed similar bills allow undocumented  
19 drivers to get their driver's license, and here in  
20 the State of New York, we are still-are working the  
21 farms using minors, and then so many of those hard  
22 working individual that they will need a driver's  
23 license to move around from some area and the suburbs  
24 [bell] and here have transportation deserts in New  
25 York City where we also need some of those

2 individuals to have the opportunity to get their-  
3 their driver's license. So, with that, I would like  
4 to encourage—I would like to encourage my colleagues  
5 to vote aye on this resolution.

6 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
7 you so much. Council Member Menchaca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you and I  
9 rise to speak on a resolution supporting the Driver's  
10 Licenses for All in the state. We represent 8.5  
11 million people. Many of our districts have rich  
12 communities who are immigrant communities,  
13 undocumented communities. We do so much at the city  
14 level to make impact. We bring resources like  
15 education, legal resources if they find themselves in  
16 deportation. This is one thing we cannot fix here in  
17 the City Council, and this is why it is so important  
18 that we send that message to the Governor, and to the  
19 State Legislative body, a state legislative body that  
20 is now in different hands in the Democrats' hands. W  
21 have the opportunity to see a state move. This did  
22 not show up in the Governor's budget, which means  
23 that he needs to hear from us right now, and this why  
24 it's important that this bill move forward out of the  
25 committee, which got an affirmative—it passed our of

2 committee and we heard from our community members,  
3 members of our communities that represent people who-  
4 who right now do not have access to a driver's  
5 licenses-license who remember when they once upon a  
6 time had a driver's license, and because of 9/11, the  
7 state [bell] removed that power. It is time to  
8 restore that power, and we are not speaking with a  
9 voice. I urge you to say yes to the Resolution.  
10 Thank you.

11 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
12 you. Resolution 100-A, a resolution calling on the  
13 New York State Legislature to pass legislation that  
14 would allow undocumented immigrants to obtain a  
15 driver's license regardless of their immigration  
16 status. All in favor say aye.

17 COUNCIL MEMBERS: [off mic] Aye.

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Aye.

19 All opposed? Any abstentions? They ayes have it. We  
20 will not move into General Discussion.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I would-I would just  
22 ask Madam Majority Leader, of course, the people need  
23 to speak. We want them to speak, but there's a lot  
24 of people signed up to speak here, and I think  
25 there's a lot of members who wanted to leave today.

2 It's been a long meeting. So, if you want to speak,  
3 perfectly fine, but if you don't have to speak today,  
4 that would be a generous thing. Thank you.

5 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Alright  
6 we will begin with our less generous list. Some  
7 people have conceded their time. We will start with  
8 Council Member Barron.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you very  
10 much. As we know, this is Black History Month, which  
11 originally started as Negro History Week, and we've  
12 now evolved to talk about it in terms of a month.  
13 The noted historian John-John Henrik Clarke said that  
14 history is a clock that people use to tell their  
15 political--

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:  
17 [interposing] Quiet in the Chambers.

18 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.  
20 History is a clock that people use to tell their  
21 political and cultural time of day, and the first  
22 light of human consciousness and the world's first  
23 civilizations were in Africa. And as we talk about  
24 things that have moved, and how we've made progress,  
25 yes, we've made progress, but Dr. Clarke also said:

2 If you start in slavery, everything looks like  
3 progress. So, he always talks about going back to  
4 the African origins of our people. And just to  
5 briefly talk about one of the great people that we  
6 recently lost, it was Kermit Eady, who happens to be  
7 the Uncle of Council Member Adams. I knew him for  
8 many, many years. He was very, very active in the  
9 community. He was the founder of the Black United  
10 Fund of New York. Some of us who were older may  
11 remember that. He recently passed and what he sought  
12 to do with his organization was to bring social and  
13 economic resources so that we can improve the Black  
14 community in a self-determining way. He also  
15 created—created affordable housing, and he reached  
16 and unprecedented level of payroll deductions for  
17 corporation—for corporate employees, which was unheard  
18 at any place else. So, the Black United Fund of New  
19 York was a charitable organization that supported  
20 thousands of individuals and numerous organizations.  
21 I just wanted to give that tribute Kermit Eady.  
22 Thank you.

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
24 you. Council Member Eugene followed by Council  
25 Member King, and then we will conclude the meeting.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you very  
3 much. Thank you very much. This afternoon I want to  
4 speak about Intro 1409, legislation I am sponsoring  
5 that through this would establish a task force to  
6 address all of the issues in consequences that were  
7 led to sexual abuse of students in school. We are  
8 all familiar with the news report about children who  
9 have been the victim of sexual abuse by school  
10 teachers. While such incidents are rare and the  
11 overwhelming majority of all educators are  
12 outstanding public servants who do everything they  
13 can to provide the safest learning environment--  
14 environment for our youth, there are sadly as we all  
15 know teachers who are involved in sexual preying on  
16 innocent children. The emotional and physical trauma  
17 that sexual abuse from--and could have on a young  
18 person is often very tragic, and can leave deep scars  
19 that last a lifetime. In many instances impacting  
20 every facet of their life including their education,  
21 future employment and relationships with loved ones  
22 and friends. It is indeed an extreme--extreme--

23 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO:

24 [interposing] Quiet in the Chambers.

25

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [interposing] Keep it  
3 down please. Keep it down.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: --and that is why  
5 I'm calling for the formation of a task force that  
6 would address all the instances and reach out to our  
7 young people who are sexually violated within all  
8 city schools. The task force is essential their  
9 staffs are not properly dealing these instances of  
10 sexual assault is just too great. I am confident  
11 that Intro 14 04 would bring about very positive  
12 changes in our city as opposed to having a situation  
13 where a student becomes a victim of sexual abuse, and  
14 I call upon all my colleagues to sign onto this very  
15 important legislation. Thank you very much.

16 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
17 you Council Member King.

18 Council Member King: Thank you, Majority  
19 Leader. I just want to say I'm wishing everyone the  
20 best this month of February whether you're  
21 celebrating happiness with your love on this  
22 Valentine's Day or just recognizing the history of us  
23 in America and being black. And I just want to give  
24 a reminder to everyone, two years ago we passed a  
25 resolution establishing March 5<sup>th</sup> as Three-Fifth

2 Clause Awareness Day, the effects of the Towers  
3 having an impact on the nation today—this year's  
4 meeting and conversation an event will happen at the  
5 National Action Network March 5<sup>th</sup> that Tuesday  
6 evening at 6:00 p.m. Looking forward to all coming  
7 to hear the conversation what it is during this month  
8 of Black History, what it is to be Black in America.  
9 Thank you, Madam.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
11 you so much and we'll close out with Council Member  
12 Treyger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you very  
14 much. Good afternoon. I'm very proud to introduce  
15 some very important bills today. First Intro 1442 is  
16 a Local Law in relation to requiring the DOT to study  
17 the feasibility of applying material to street  
18 surfaces with the effect of lowering street surface  
19 temperatures. It's time to make New York City the  
20 coolest city on earth even cooler. We need creative  
21 and practical solutions to combat climate change. My  
22 new bill will study how we can reduce New York City's  
23 temperatures by altering our streets to lower heat  
24 absorption. Urban areas are much warmer than  
25 surrounding rural area and New York City has more

2 than 6,000 thousand miles of road. Dark asphalt  
3 absorbs 80 to 95% of the sun's rays and contributes  
4 to what's called the urban heat island effect. L.A.  
5 has already lowered street temperatures 10 to 15  
6 degrees by using a similar technique that my bill  
7 seeks to study. Lowering street temperatures also can  
8 lower energy consumption reduce, leading to reduced  
9 ACUs and decreased emissions. It also savings on  
10 energy costs, core streets also mean few heat related  
11 fatalities and better public health outcomes. This  
12 is especially important since studies show low-income  
13 communities and people of color are most vulnerable  
14 to extreme heat. We need to start implementing  
15 common sense practices. We have an obligation to our  
16 generation and to the next to-to reduce the impact of  
17 climate change right now. In addition—in addition  
18 I'm also introducing Intro 1441, which would require  
19 ferry service at a reduced cost to all students in  
20 high school as well as to those who are enrolled in  
21 our school system. The price of a Metro Card should  
22 not stand between a student and their right an  
23 education. I just want to point out the ferry  
24 service applies discounts and people with  
25 disabilities, but they left our young people. There

2 are met—there are discounts for Metro cards, but  
3 there are no discounts for the ferries, for the ferry  
4 rides. Young people need to conduct research, need  
5 to do work, need to go to school, and we should not  
6 be placing financial burdens on them, and I'm very  
7 proud to introduce these bills. Thank you very much.

8 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
9 you, and will now hear from Council Member Adams.

10 Council Member Adams: Thank you, Madam  
11 Majority Leader. Very quickly I just wanted to  
12 acknowledge and thank my colleague Council Member  
13 Barron for recognizing my uncle the late great Kermit  
14 Eady, President and Founder of the Black United Fund  
15 of New York. It would have been very difficult for  
16 me to get out everything that she did to commemorate  
17 his existence and everything that he contributed to  
18 the City of New York. In addition, I want to thank  
19 Council Member Barron and Assembly Member Barron for  
20 attending his memorial service last evening. It  
21 meant the world to our family to have you both there  
22 as close as you were to him. I'd like also in behalf  
23 of Council Member Miller who just texted me, he's  
24 asking me to please acknowledge his interns from  
25 Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow. This is their

2 last week interning with Council Member Miller.  
3 Thank you very much.

4 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Thank  
5 you. [applause] and that concludes this Stated  
6 Meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you at the-  
7 [background comments/laughter] We have another  
8 speaker?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: No.

10 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: Oh, and  
11 I just want to say I'll see you all at the Black  
12 Puerto Rican Hispanic and Asian Caucus, and we will  
13 close with Speaker Corey Johnson.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: The meeting of February  
15 13, 2019 is hereby adjourned. Happy Valentine's Day  
16 to everyone who's single. Good--bye. [background  
17 comments/laughter]

18 ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEM CUMBO: This  
19 meeting is closed.

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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 March 19, 2019