

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

STATED MEETING

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August 27, 2020  
Start: 1:44 p.m.  
Recess: 3:47 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote

B E F O R E: Corey Johnson  
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne E. Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Joseph C. Borelli  
Justin Brannan  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andy Cohen  
Costa Constantinides  
Richard Cornegy  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Ruben Diaz, Sr.  
Daniel Dromm  
Mathieu Eugene  
Vanessa L. Gibson

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

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

Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Ravi Vaidyanaat Sivachariar



UNIDENTIFIED: Take a minute or two.

UNIDENTIFIED: We're live.

COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, at this time I ask that you place all electronic devices, all electronic devices to vibrate. Please turn on your videos. Mr. Public Advocate?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: You're muted Jumaane.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: I was testing the system. It's working. I was muting [sic]. [gavel] A little bang. Good afternoon, and welcome to the Stated Meeting of August 27, 2020. I'm Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this virtual meeting of the New York City Council. If you'd like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

COUNCIL CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Roll call.

COUNCIL CLERK: Adams?

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: [inaudible]  
3 but I'm here.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ayala?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Barron?

7 Borelli?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Here.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy? Deutsch?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Present.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm present just  
23 for the record.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Diaz?

25 Dromm?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson? Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Yes.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos? King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?

CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: Present.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin? Levine

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Somebody tell  
Borelli we can see he has no pants on.

COUNCIL CLERK: LOUIS?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Maisel?

4 Menchaca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller? Barron?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh, I'm blessed  
8 and present.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council  
10 Member. Miller? Moya?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins? Powers?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso? Richards?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera? Rodriguez?

17 Rose?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres? Treyger?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: here.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am here,  
3 present.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Vallone?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer?

7 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Here.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Present.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Mr. Public Advocate, we  
17 have a quorum.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Council Member  
19 Kallos here.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council  
21 Member.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Council Member  
23 Torres.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Rodriguez.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Council Member  
3 Gibson's here.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Ydanis is here  
6 too.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: And Reynoso.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, I have you all.  
9 Thank you.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Alright, thank  
11 you so much, and I'm hearing prayers-- I know we all  
12 have our prayers, too, with our Majority Leader  
13 Cumbo, so I just wanted to offer that. We will now  
14 have today's invocation which will be delivered by  
15 Ravi Vaidyanaat Sivachariar, spiritual leader at the  
16 Hindu Temple Society of North America which is  
17 located at 45-57 Bowne Street in Flushing, Queens.

18 RAVI VAIDYANAAT SIVACHARIAR: Namaste and  
19 good afternoon to all. It's my privilege and honor  
20 to lead today's invocation. Dear leaders and members  
21 of tis Council, I offer my sincere prayers for  
22 [inaudible] for the smooth function of the Council  
23 and for the benefit of the people. I wish to chant a  
24 verse from the Holy Book [inaudible]. It is in  
25 Sanskrit language. I will also read the meaning in

1 English for the benefit of all. This month is  
2 dedicated to Lord Ganesh and we celebrate it in our  
3 temple for nine days. Due to the present pandemic  
4 situation and the restriction in congregation and  
5 gathering in the temple, we live-streamed all the  
6 rituals and the people prayed safety staying at home.  
7 The prayer is from [inaudible]. [speaking Sanskrit]  
8 Oh, God, may we hear a spacious voice [sic] in the  
9 ears. While engaging in fire worship [sic] may we  
10 see spacious things in the eyes. While praising the  
11 Gods with strong limbs, may we enjoy a life that is  
12 beautiful and beneficial? Dear Lord of Gods of  
13 ancient [inaudible] auspicious to us. May the  
14 supremely all-knowing God of the earth be propitious  
15 [sp?] to us. This trial of evil be well-disposed  
16 towards us. My perceptive of the guard [sic] and  
17 show us our welfare. May peace thrive everywhere,  
18 peace, peace, and peace. I would instruct the  
19 leaders in [inaudible][speaking Sanskrit] Leaders who  
20 leads with qualities such as enthusiasm, adventure,  
21 courage, intelligence, strength, bravery, and  
22 aggression will always have the support of the Lord  
23 and the people. [inaudible] the moral code of  
24  
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1  
2 conduct. [inaudible] may all beings be happy. God  
3 bless you, Namaste, and thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
5 much. I'd now like to ask Council Member Koo to  
6 spread the invocation on the record.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Public Advocate. It is my great honor to welcome the  
9 Director and Spiritual Leader at the Hindu Temple  
10 Society of North America, Mr. Ravi Vaidyanaat  
11 Sivachariar. The Hindu Temple Society of North  
12 America is a tremendous member of my district. The  
13 temple as known throughout the world and a large part  
14 of what makes my district in Flushing, Queens, a  
15 hallmark as the birthplace of religious freedom and  
16 diversity in America. Mr. Sivachariar has devoted  
17 his life to serving all living beings and his  
18 teachings pulled from knowledge, faith, spirituality,  
19 and science. His heraldry is one of Hindu priests'  
20 lineage from the southern India, and he has devoted  
21 himself as an author, a philosopher, a priest, and a  
22 healer and our community is really proud that he has  
23 joined us today to host our City Council invocation.  
24 Thank you for your blessings and for your service to  
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our city. I motion to spread the invocation in full upon the record.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you very much. We'll now have the adoption of minutes.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I make a motion that the minutes of the Stated Meeting of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 be adopted as written.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Messages and papers from the Mayor?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Communication for City, County, and Borough Offices?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Petitions and communications?

COUNCIL CLERK: None.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Land Use call-ups?

COUNCIL CLERK: M249 and M250.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call-up vote, and at this time I'd ask the clerk to take a roll call vote on both of today's Land Use call-ups. Again, this is just a vote on the Land Use call-ups

1 on today's calendar, not on the bills we're voting  
2 on.  
3

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Ayala?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron? Council Member  
11 Barron?

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Barron,  
13 are you there?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, I have a--  
15 [inaudible] stable connection, I'm sorry. I'm  
16 [inaudible] blessed, present, and I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I hope you heard  
19 me.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm going to try  
22 to establish another connection. Thank you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye.  
25 Thank you.

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COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides?

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With permission, I'd like to vote on all Land Use call-ups and on General Orders on today's calendar?

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to explain?

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: While as a body under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson and my friend, we've made tremendous strides in working towards equity in minority communities in New York

1  
2 City. I'll not be voting on any matters before the  
3 New York City Council today. As a member of the New  
4 York City Council who is a black man, I've taken my  
5 responsibility to my community and to this city  
6 seriously. As a member of New York City Council I've  
7 legislated, marched, walked out, sat down, laid down  
8 on behalf of racial injustice and inequity. The one  
9 thing I have not done is leverage my vote its  
10 incredible value to highlight the racial division  
11 that exists and continues to conspire to minimize the  
12 black experience in this country. I woke up to more  
13 news of police misconduct and acts of violence  
14 perpetrated against black people in this country. I  
15 without my vote on behalf of Robert E. Cornegy, the  
16 third, who resides in Florida, the "Stand Your Ground  
17 State." I withhold my vote for Nicholas Cornegy who  
18 lives in one of the most violent sections of  
19 Brooklyn. I withhold my vote for Mia [sic] Cornegy  
20 who attends an HBCU in North Carolina, for Nyla  
21 Cornegy, who attends a self-proclaimed Trump School  
22 in Arlington, Virginia, for Noah and Cosey [sp?]  
23 Cornegy who attends school in Georgia, one of the  
24 characteristically most racist states in the country.  
25 I hold my vote for Amadibialo [sp?], Patrick Dawson

[sp?], and Tasheen Borne [sp?], Andrea Fields [sp?], Alberta Sprool [sp?], Gusman Zango [sp?], Timothy Stansbury [sp?], Stefan Teran Crawford [sp?], Shawn Bell [sp?], John Collato [sp?], Antoine White [sp?], Dewayne Brown, Shantell Davis [sp?], Herminie Gray [sp?], Miriam Kerry [sp?], Ronald Singleton, Akai Gurly [sp?], Jeffery Raglan [sp?], Eric Garner, Miguel Espinal [sp?], Felix Coomey [sp?], David Felix, Ramond Peralta, Garland Tyree [sp?], Dalton Branch, Michael Hamford [sp?], Shaeed Basell [sp?], Katherine Jonson, Ostil Grant [sp?], Ayanna Stanley James, Kim Chamberlin [sp?], Rakea Boyd [sp?], Treyvon Martin, Kendrick McDade [sp?], Timothy Russell, and Melissa Williams, Kendrick James, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice [sp?], Samuel Deboise [sp?], Latasha McKinney [sp?], Megan Hockaday [sp?], Christian Taylor, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Philandro Castille [sp?], Corey Gaines [sp?], Atiyana Jefferson [sp?], Pamela Turner, Breanna Taylor [sp?], George Floyd, and most recently, not dead but paralyzed from the waist down, Jacob Blake. Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.



PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
Councilman.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm?

COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson?

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: With permission  
to vote on all Land Use items and on all General  
Orders, and in addition, due to technical  
difficulties at this morning's Finance Committee  
vote, my Conflicts of Interest Disclosure may not  
have been heard and entered into the record. For the  
record, my wife is a school nurse with the Department  
of Education and my sister is an Administrator at the  
Department of Education, and my sons May and Roe  
[sp?] are students at CUNY.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission--  
permission is now granted.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: How do you vote,  
Council Member?

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I vote aye on  
all.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik?

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Holden?

COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: King?

COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Levin?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: With appreciation  
3 and respect for Council Member Cornegy, I vote aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel? Menchaca?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
10 explain my vote on the industry city application  
11 being called up today?

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
13 granted.

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: I represent  
16 Sunset Park, a community that spent hundreds of hours  
17 analyzing and debating the industry city rezoning  
18 proposal being called up today. It is because of  
19 their work that I do not support it. Yet, it is  
20 being called up today, and the implications are  
21 large, not just for my district, but for the entire  
22 Council. Yesterday, Speaker Johnson said he welcomed  
23 debate on the rezoning proposal through the lens of  
24 accountability, that we should explore whether  
25 legally binding conditions can be found to reap the

1  
2 benefits of a rezoning while mitigating its negative  
3 effects. Sunset Park agrees which is why last year  
4 after launching a working group after 10 public town  
5 halls, numerous letters and petitions, I outlined  
6 three specific conditions that would have achieved  
7 what the Speaker and I seek. Those conditions either  
8 failed or cannot be met in the time left on the ULURP  
9 clock. Industry city would use this pandemic and the  
10 economic recession as an opportunity to go back to  
11 the drawing board and include the community's  
12 recommendations in a new application. Instead, they  
13 are abandoning the community concerns and ramming  
14 through their proposal unchanged. So why should the  
15 people's representatives defer to entitled  
16 developers? Why should this body ignore what the  
17 Sunset Park community achieved after 10 public  
18 hearings in multiple languages? Yes, the Council  
19 will debate the rezoning, but our process only  
20 includes one public hearing, and before that public  
21 hearing a handful of colleagues through their support  
22 behind this industry city developer's plan without  
23 turning to the Sunset Park community to understand  
24 the issue, and their message was clear, Sunset park  
25 your voice does not matter. The voice of your

1  
2 representatives in the federal, state, and in the  
3 City Council who oppose this project this project do  
4 not matter. Only Industry City's lofty promises  
5 matter, promises with no accountability. This  
6 massive and historical rezoning is a turning point  
7 for us here at the Council and this city.

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Sunset Park had  
10 the power through their representatives to control a  
11 public land rezoning procedure, or have we lost all  
12 our power and control to developers. Colleagues, I'm  
13 calling on your hearts and minds to listen to our  
14 voices and stand with people. I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller? Moya?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins? Council Member  
18 Perkins?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I vote aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Powers?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to  
24 explain my vote?

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I'm at an event  
5 with some young people, so I'm going to ask to vote  
6 on all Land Use call-ups and General Orders, but  
7 before I do that I just want to say that what's  
8 happening with Industry City and what's happening  
9 with Intro 1942 speaks to how this Council, in this  
10 Council, having a few good lobbyists does a lot more  
11 than advocacy out on the streets when it comes to  
12 effecting change. I'm going to vote against 1942  
13 because I think it does damage to our environment,  
14 and I've been fighting for environmental justice. I  
15 coted in Transportation Committee against the bill  
16 put forth by Ydanis Rodriguez, because I think we  
17 should be doing something more comprehensive not  
18 necessarily something that just moves the needle, but  
19 I think we can do both. So, I'm going to vote yes on  
20 all other items except 1942, which I think it just  
21 moving forward because of lobbyists, not necessarily  
22 something that's being called for by the  
23 Environmental Justice community. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards?  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: This is just  
3 Land Use call-up items, right?

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alright, I vote  
6 aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez? Rose?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: With appreciation  
11 for Council Member Cornegy's position, I vote aye.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: With gratitude  
14 to Council Member Cornegy, I vote aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres? Council Member  
18 Torres, your microphone?

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I think we lost him.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay. Council Member  
21 Treyger?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
5 briefly explain my vote?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you. I  
9 just want to say that I stand with Council Member  
10 Menchaca, and I know how hard he has worked with his  
11 community that he knows best because he's lived there  
12 and represented that community for the last nearly  
13 seven years in the New York City Council, and I will  
14 stand with him today. I will stand with him when we  
15 ultimately vote on this. With that being said, I  
16 vote yes.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Matteo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
24 Member Torres? Speaker Johnson?



2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ritchie, your mic's not  
3 on. Okay, I vote aye.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Today's Land Use call-ups  
5 have a vote of 45 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
6 negative, and no abstention.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
8 Today's Land Use call-ups are adopted. We will now  
9 have communications from Speaker Johnson.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon,  
11 everyone. Happy Thursday. I hope you and your  
12 families are safe and well. This continues through,  
13 of course, a difficult time for all New Yorkers as we  
14 continue to fight the devastating health and economic  
15 impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. I speak to New  
16 Yorkers all the time who are fighting through losing  
17 a loved one or their job as a result of this terrible  
18 disease. We are suffering from so much pain right  
19 now in our city. But I have also been inspired by  
20 the ingenuity of my fellow New Yorkers. As we go  
21 around the City, we see more and more creative  
22 examples of outdoor dining, having those kind of  
23 outlets to eat and safely catch up with friends and  
24 family has brought some renewed energy and excitement  
25 to our streets. Likewise, parents of our 1.1 million

1 public school children have been wondering how their  
2 children can safely return to school if it is unsafe  
3 for adults to be indoors in the same condition. Our  
4 selfless educators are wondering whether returning to  
5 school is safe for them, particularly those in at-  
6 risk categories. To all of those students, parents  
7 and educators, we hear you, and that is why the Chair  
8 of our Education Committee, Council Member Mark  
9 Treyger and I called upon the Mayor this week to  
10 allow for classes to be conducted outdoors, and  
11 Council Member Treyger put forward a great plan about  
12 a month ago saying how we could get back to school.  
13 The Mayor has put forth a preliminary plan for some  
14 outdoor education. The details of that plan are far  
15 from perfect and will take an enormous amount of  
16 effort to refine, but I think it's important that we  
17 try to keep moving forward in a way that provides  
18 safety for our children and educators and people that  
19 work in our schools. By working together, New York  
20 City will rebound. New York has always been the  
21 greatest city in the world, and it is my pleasure to  
22 serve as Speaker of this New York City Council. As  
23 we continue our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-  
24 19, I want to take a moment to remember the lives  
25

1 that have been lost. As of yesterday, we lost 22,669  
2 New Yorkers to this terrible virus. That number  
3 includes probable deaths. This number includes many  
4 of our civil servants who are committed to serving  
5 the people of New York. Those who are currently  
6 battling the virus and those who have lost loved ones  
7 to this terrible virus continue to be in all of our  
8 prayers collectively. I also want to take time to  
9 mention those our city has lost to 9/11-related  
10 illnesses since we last met. The NYPD lost a veteran  
11 detective, Edward Brasinsky [sp?], who succumbed to  
12 his illness yesterday. He was 49 years old. The  
13 NYPD also lost a retired sergeant David Yoo [sp?] and  
14 Officers Robert J. Radian [sp?], and Dennis J.  
15 Howard. The FDNY lost fire fighter John P. Folgherty  
16 [sp?] who passed away on August 25<sup>th</sup> to his illness.  
17 I also want to acknowledge the passing of a former  
18 Queens Borough President, the indomitable Claire  
19 Schulman. I had the privilege of getting to know  
20 Claire, and I will miss her dearly. Her invaluable  
21 leadership and her love for New York's largest  
22 borough is irreplaceable. My heart is with her loved  
23 ones, especially her children during this time of  
24 mourning. I also want to send my deepest condolences  
25

1  
2 to Council Member Fernando Cabrera who lost his  
3 mother Iris Kitana [sp?], and I also want to send our  
4 condolences to former Speaker of the City Council  
5 Christine Quinn who lost her father recently,  
6 Lawrence Quinn. I know that Council Member Cumbo  
7 lost a loved one as well recently. I want us to take  
8 a moment of silence for all of those New Yorkers  
9 we've lost to COVID-19, Claire Schulman, Iris Kitana,  
10 Lawrence Quinn, as well as fire fighters Folgherty,  
11 Detective Garinsky [sp?], Sergeant Yoo [sp?], and  
12 officers Maradian [sp?] and Howard. If we may now  
13 observe a moment of silence. And I believe we also  
14 have lost former Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn, and  
15 I want to make sure that we include her in this  
16 moment of silence as well. Thank you. On Sunday,  
17 another unarmed black man was shot by a police  
18 officers in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Jacob Blake was shot  
19 seven times in the back as he entered his car where  
20 his three young sons waited for him. The pain that  
21 Jacob and his family are coping with is unimaginable.  
22 To quote Jacob's father, "Seven times, like he didn't  
23 matter, but my son matters. He's a human being, and  
24 he matters." The American legacy, horrible legacy,  
25 of systemic racism must end because the life of Jacob

1  
2 Blake and all of those that Council Member Cornegy  
3 mentioned earlier matters, because the lives of his  
4 sons matter. Those boys deserve to grow up in a  
5 country where they don't have to fear being shot in  
6 the back by the people who took an oath to protect  
7 them. Sadly, we have been here before, over, and  
8 over, and over again. We cannot allow the frequency  
9 of these terrible acts to numb us. Instead, each of  
10 these acts must strengthen our resolve for change.  
11 We must never forget the black women and men who  
12 we've lost to police violence, and their families who  
13 have been left with a lifetime of grief and fear. We  
14 can do better. We must do better. We will work to  
15 do better. I want to thank Council Member Cornegy  
16 for his incredibly moving words earlier. Yesterday  
17 marked an important anniversary in our country. We  
18 commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the 19<sup>th</sup>  
19 Amendment was adopted in the United States. I and  
20 every New Yorker remain grateful to the trailblazers  
21 of the women's suffrage movement for their tireless  
22 effort and commitment to justice, but it is a stark  
23 reminder that while women were granted the right to  
24 vote through this adoption, not all were. Black and  
25 Latina women continued to face suppression in

1 exercising this essential right that remains the  
2 cornerstone of our democracy. I also want to  
3 acknowledge two incredible staff members who are  
4 leaving the Council, Alanna Syvin [sp?] and Alex  
5 Washington. Alanna has been an instrumental member  
6 of our criminal justice team, specifically during our  
7 effort to close Rikers Island. Alex has been a vital  
8 member of our Transportation Committee, recently  
9 working to legalize e-bikes and e-scooters throughout  
10 the City. New Yorkers are better for the work that  
11 Alanna and Alex have done, and the Council is  
12 immensely grateful to you for your work. We all wish  
13 you the both-- we all wish you both the best on your  
14 next journey. Last but not least we are keeping the  
15 people of Texas and Louisiana in our prayers as  
16 Hurricane Laura has made landfall in their states  
17 overnight with devastating consequences. Now, moving  
18 onto our agenda. We'll be voting to approve the  
19 following Land Use items with modifications: Grant  
20 Avenue and Pacific Street rezoning in Majority Leader  
21 Laurie Cumbo's district. It will facilitate the  
22 development of a nine-story mixed-use building with  
23 64 units, including 16 affordable units, and the 52<sup>nd</sup>  
24 Street rezoning in Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's  
25

1 district which will facilitate the development of an  
2 eight-story mixed use building with 61 units,  
3 including 15 affordable units. On today's Stated  
4 agenda, the Council will be voting on one technology  
5 related bill, proposed introduction number 1297A  
6 sponsored by Council Member Ritchie Torres which will  
7 codify the Office of Cyber Command into the City  
8 Charter. The office was initially created in 2017 by  
9 Mayor de Blasio's Executive Order number 28.  
10 Codifying the office will ensure the existence of the  
11 office, which among other things establishes and  
12 regularly updates cyber security policies and  
13 standards for city agencies, trained city employees  
14 in cyber security policies and standards, and direct  
15 cyber security defense in response. And I want to  
16 thank from the staff Irene Bahoffsky [sp?] for her  
17 work on that bill. The next bill is a Housing and  
18 Buildings bill. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it  
19 difficult for many construction workers to complete  
20 the site safety training courses required to obtain a  
21 full site safety training card by the current  
22 compliance deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. This  
23 bill sponsored by Public Advocate Jumaane Williams  
24 and Council Member Carlos Menchaca, Introduction  
25

1 number 2059A, will provide additional time for  
2 compliance by extending this deadline to March 1<sup>st</sup>,  
3 2021, and I want to thank Austin Branford [sp?] for  
4 him and his staff for his work on this. the next  
5 bill is proposed introduction 1865A sponsored by  
6 Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez which will create a  
7 taskforce to study the challenges in viability of the  
8 livery and black car industries and make  
9 recommendations for legislation to address these  
10 challenges. Among other issues, the taskforce would  
11 study the impacts of advertising on for-hire vehicles  
12 and its potential as an additional revenue source for  
13 for-hire vehicle drivers. I want to thank from the  
14 staff, Elliot Lim [sp?]. Next, the Council will be  
15 voting on a series of bills related to environmental  
16 protection. These bills are all co-sponsored by  
17 Council Member Costa Constantinides. The proposed  
18 introduction number 1982A will require that for the  
19 purposes of greenhouse gas emission limits,  
20 accounting pursuant to Local Law 97 of 2019, fuel  
21 cells that are operational before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
22 will be credited compared to the electricity grid  
23 marginal emissions factor published by the New York  
24 State Energy Research and Development Authority.  
25



1 Fuel cells that are operational after July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
2 will be credited compared to an electricity grid  
3 marginal emissions factor decide by a rule by the  
4 Department of Buildings, and I want to thank Nicole  
5 Abben [sp?] for her work on that bill. Proposed  
6 introduction number 1851 would amend the  
7 Administrative Code, the Plumbing Code and the  
8 Building Code as it pertains to construction permits,  
9 construction projects intended to reduce the flow of  
10 storm water and water-born pollutants in the sewers  
11 that empty directly into the waters of the state or  
12 overflow into such waters due to rain or snow melt  
13 events that exceed the capacity of the wastewater  
14 treatment plants. As it applies to the municipal  
15 separate storm water sewer system, or MS4 projects,  
16 this Local Law will ensure that the rules for such  
17 projects are not less stringent than the New York  
18 City MS4 permit in the NYSDEC Construction General  
19 Permit. This legislation would help improve water  
20 quality throughout our region and move us towards the  
21 goal of fishable and swimmable waters. The Local Law  
22 would take effect 180 days after it becomes law, and  
23 I want to thank from the staff Samara Swanston [sp?],  
24 Nadia Johnson, and Ricky Challa [sp?] for their work.  
25

1  
2 Next, proposed introduction number 1946A require the  
3 Department of Buildings to annually distribute  
4 information to buildings of all sizes, including  
5 those connected to gas lines regarding making energy  
6 efficiency improvements and complying with existing  
7 energy regulations. From the staff I want to thank  
8 Jessica Alben [sp?] and Austin Bradford [sp?]. And  
9 finally, the last slate of bills is related to our  
10 small businesses and restaurants. Our small  
11 businesses and restaurants are the heart and soul of  
12 our city, and this pandemic has further exacerbated  
13 the issues that they have been facing for a long  
14 time. The shut-down has been devastating for them on  
15 so many levels. We cannot afford to lose the  
16 businesses and the restaurants that make; New York  
17 City, New York City. The bills that we are voting on  
18 today will be lifelines for so many of these  
19 businesses and restaurants. More is needed to help  
20 these vital businesses during this uncertain time,  
21 but I'm grateful for the tireless effort that went  
22 into making these bills a reality, and for the  
23 leadership of the Council Members who sponsor each  
24 one of them. the first introduction number 1958A  
25 sponsored by Council Member Donovan Richards will

1  
2 require the Department of Small Business Services to  
3 report on each business that received a grant or a  
4 loan from the New York City Employer Retention  
5 Program or New York City Small Business Continuity  
6 Loan Fund. Both were created in response to the  
7 devastating impact of COVID-19 on small businesses in  
8 the City. Reporting would include information on  
9 each businesses council district, zip code, industry  
10 type, including whether the recipient is a mobile  
11 business, and the amount of grant or loan received by  
12 the business. SBS would submit the report to the  
13 Mayor and Speaker of the Council and make the  
14 information publicly available on its website. Next,  
15 Introduction number 1470B sponsored by Council Member  
16 Mark Levine will codify the commercial lease  
17 assistance program which is operated by the  
18 Department of Small Business Services. This program  
19 offers legal help to small business tenants relating  
20 to their lease. SBS would be required to offer pre-  
21 litigation, legal assistance on lease-related  
22 matters, including the drafting and negotiation of  
23 lease terms and lease termination issues. In  
24 addition, this bill would empower SBS to extend their  
25 program to provide legal representation in court so

1 attorneys could assist with tenancy issues such as  
2 filing and notice of appearance in court for small  
3 businesses facing a potential eviction. This bill  
4 would also require SBS to help small businesses  
5 understand and apply for COVID-19-related funding  
6 programs. Small business tenants are defined as  
7 those with incomes no higher than 500 percent of  
8 federal poverty guidelines who meet size requirements  
9 established by the Small Business Administration and  
10 who are not chain businesses. The last two bills  
11 further the assistance the Council has provided to  
12 our city's restaurants. Right now, dining is  
13 restricted to outdoors or take-out or delivery  
14 options. Until restaurants can operate fully  
15 indoors, the Council will be voting on legislation to  
16 lighten the burden they face from high fees charged  
17 by third party delivery platforms like Uber Eats,  
18 Seamless, and Door Dash. These restrictions were  
19 originally passed in May of this year, and these  
20 bills would extend them to continue to provide  
21 assistance until indoor dining has fully returned.  
22 Introduction Number 2043A sponsored by Council Member  
23 Mark Gjonaj will prohibit third party delivery  
24 platforms from charging restaurants for telephone  
25

1 orders that did not result in an actual transaction  
2 during the call. It would extend Local Law 51 of  
3 2020 so that the prohibition would be in effect as  
4 long as restaurants are restricted from operating at  
5 maximum indoor capacity, plus 90 days thereafter.  
6 Finally, Introduction Number 2054A sponsored by  
7 Council Member Francisco Moya and Council Member Mark  
8 Gjonaj would extend the delivery cap fee, Local Law  
9 52 of 2020, for third party delivery platforms until  
10 restaurants can operate at maximum indoor capacity,  
11 plus an additional 90 days thereafter. The bill also  
12 adjusts the fee caps that third party delivery  
13 platforms may charge restaurants for fees they incur  
14 from third parties for processing the customer's  
15 transaction. The bill makes clear that a delivery  
16 platform may charge a restaurant no more than the  
17 actual cost incurred by the platform for processing  
18 the transaction, and I want to thank Stephanie Jones  
19 for her work on all of these Small Business bills.  
20 With that, I turn it back to you, Mr. Public  
21 Advocate.

22  
23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
24 much. Just checking in with the Sergeant at Arms to  
25

1 see if we have any Council Members who are signed up.  
2 Or the parliamentary, I'm sorry?

3  
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, the Majority Leader,  
5 Majority Leader Cumbo is signed up to speak.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
7 Majority Leader Cumbo? Majority Leader Cumbo is on  
8 mute.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Thank you, you're  
10 doing an excellent job.

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Trying to--  
12 trying to make the seat look good when you're not--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Good afternoon.  
14 Today, the Council will be voting on the Grand and  
15 Pacific rezoning in my district. This rezoning will  
16 help transform an area of vacant lots and open  
17 storage into a vibrant mixed-income, mixed-use area  
18 in Crown Heights. This important action would not  
19 have been possible without the tireless advocacy of  
20 Brooklyn Community Board Eight over the last five  
21 years to develop and push for a comprehensive  
22 community plan. I submitted a letter on August 24<sup>th</sup>,  
23 2020 which is now a part of the record for this  
24 rezoning describing the many important aspects of  
25 this rezoning. I want to highlight the key points

1 from that letter today. Today's rezoning closely  
2 follows the recommendations of Community Board Eight  
3 and the Borough President as part of the M Crown  
4 Comprehensive Community Plan. First, this  
5 modification will reduce the density on the southern  
6 side of Pacific Street from R7D to R7A which will  
7 more closely reflect the built character of the  
8 building in the immediate area around it. Second,  
9 the rezoning on the north side of Pacific Street to  
10 R7D will help to facilitate transitional density. In  
11 keeping with the M Crown Plan, R7D on the north side  
12 of Pacific Street is down from the future density on  
13 Atlantic Avenue. The R7D designation will also allow  
14 for important community benefits, such as light  
15 industrial art or community facility uses. The  
16 Community Board has been pushing so hard for this  
17 rezoning because it will be such a benefit for our  
18 Crown Heights neighborhood. I want to thank  
19 Community Board Eight for all of their hard work.  
20 It's exciting to see Community Boards leading the  
21 rezoning process, which is reflective of the visions,  
22 goals, and ideals of the people that live directly in  
23 the community, and I thank them for their support as  
24 well as their participation in this five-year  
25

1  
2 process. For those reasons I encourage my colleagues  
3 to join me in voting aye in favor of this rezoning.  
4 Thank you so much, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
6 Majority Leader Cumbo. Parliamentarian, do we have  
7 any others?

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: No, Mr. Public  
9 Advocate. If there are any other Council Members who  
10 wish to speak on discussion of General Orders, please  
11 use the raise hand function in Zoom and we can  
12 recognize you.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: I'll take a  
14 moment of privilege to just speak very briefly. We  
15 have a bill coming on that the Speaker spoke about  
16 dealing with construction site safety. I just want  
17 to thank Councilman Menchaca for all the work we've  
18 been doing on this for the past several years. The  
19 pandemic have affected everything. We want to make  
20 sure the laws were reflective of that. I also wanted  
21 to thank Council Member Cornegy for his words today.  
22 It is a rough time. As I've been saying, I am not  
23 okay. This country is actually not okay. I think  
24 most people of good conscience are not okay, and I'm  
25 pretty sure that most black folks on a perpetual



1 state of being close to tears, but they have to  
2 continue going to work. They have to continue going,  
3 doing whatever they have to do for their lives, and  
4 if they show any kind of emotion depending where they  
5 are, there's very negative consequences to that. And  
6 it is a very hurtful thing when you see people dying  
7 who look like you, and people's mothers and fathers  
8 crying who look like your mothers and fathers. And  
9 people who don't understand that these communities  
10 are squeezed and sandwiched between street violence  
11 and don't recognize that both of these things are  
12 symptomatic of a system that many people are trying  
13 to destroy. They are not separate. They are very  
14 much linked. Sadly, some people are fighting to keep  
15 that system, either consciously or subconsciously  
16 without understanding that that is a system that  
17 continue while people are dying. And I've had to  
18 watch in the past three days, a convention where  
19 people are championing this. People are using words  
20 like law and order and protecting the American way of  
21 life. I guess they've magically woken up and found  
22 new policies and new ideas when these are the same  
23 words and same idea that have been used since the  
24 beginning of this country to do horrible things to  
25

1  
2 people. I just want to take a moment to say we're  
3 not okay. We know there's going to be another  
4 hashtag, and we are out of time. We can either  
5 really being to atone for this or just continue the  
6 way we're going, but those people who believe that  
7 somehow we want this violence, we want to continue.  
8 Somehow we believe that police are not a part of the  
9 solution and confuse that when we say we just want  
10 accountable policing like any other community. I ask  
11 you just think about the pain that we're all in and  
12 why. Thank you. Mr. Parliamentarian, do we have  
13 anyone else signed up?

14 COUNCIL CLERK: We do, Mr. Public  
15 Advocate. We have Council Members Gibson, Rodriguez,  
16 and Menchaca.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member  
18 Gibson followed by Rodriguez and Menchaca.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you so  
20 much, Mr. Public Advocate. Thank you, Mr. Public  
21 Advocate and good afternoon Speaker and all of my  
22 colleagues. I just quickly wanted to thank an  
23 opportunity to tank all of you for all of the work  
24 we're doing in our districts. It's been very trying  
25 time for all of us. I wanted to vote aye on all of

1 today's agenda items and General order calendar  
2 items. I want to thank our Chair, Costa  
3 Constantinides for leading a lot of the efforts  
4 around environmental work and environmental justice  
5 in the Council and in the City, and certainly I want  
6 to extend my love and my condolences to all of our  
7 colleagues, Majority Leader Cumbo, Council Member  
8 Cabrera and others who have suffered losses of loved  
9 ones, step-mother and mother in their own family. We  
10 don't always realize, you know, we are hit by not  
11 just COVID-19, but just death in our families as  
12 well, and we're feeling it as well, yet we still find  
13 strength to carry on and do our work. So I want to  
14 vote aye on all of today's agenda items and thank my  
15 colleges for all of the bills that were introduced  
16 today, and I look forward to our continued work.  
17 Thank you so much, Mr. Public Advocate. Thank you.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
19 Council Member--

20 COUNCIL CLERK: [interposing] Council  
21 Member Gibson, as a point of parliamentary order,  
22 please just hang on the line just a little bit  
23 longer. The vote has not opened yet, and we will  
24 call on you first to vote as soon as the vote on the  
25

1  
2 General Orders Calendar opens, but we can't have you  
3 vote quiet yet during discussion of General orders.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I would like-

5 -

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: [interposing]

7 Thank you--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. So first  
9 of all thank you Public Advocate and Speaker. Today,  
10 I want to talk about the bill that I'm-- that I have  
11 been the prime together with other colleagues, which  
12 is the one that will create and livery and black car  
13 taskforce. This taskforce is needed because everyone  
14 know a few years ago we had 50,000 livery drivers.  
15 Today, there's only 10,000 of them, and many of them  
16 they left those bases, the livery bases, because they  
17 were offered a lot of opportunity to make a lot of  
18 money by Uber and Lyft. However, that promise has  
19 not been fulfilled. So the bill that are voting  
20 today will create the taskforce similar to the yellow  
21 taxi medallion taskforce. Hopefully we get this  
22 taskforce to work immediately. And first of all, for  
23 the Mayor to sign immediately and for the taskforce  
24 to work so that we can identify different ways on how  
25 we can rescue and save the livery and the black care,

1  
2 and traditional black cars a company in the City of  
3 New York. [speaking Spanish] Black Car Taskforce.  
4 Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member  
6 Menchaca? Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
8 Public Advocate. I want to talk on the bill to  
9 extend the deadline for construction safety training.  
10 This is a bill that a Public Advocate and once upon a  
11 time Council Member Williams the last session pushed.  
12 What I want to remind everyone is that the incredibly  
13 solidarity that came within the workers of the city,  
14 both union and non-union and day laborers that came  
15 together to put this construction safety requirement--  
16 - we did it in phases. Right now we need to extend  
17 it, and one of the reasons that I want to just point  
18 to, the day laborers are telling us the extension and  
19 the ambiguity on the extension which will be clear  
20 today after your vote will allow training to happen  
21 and for construction companies to follow. They are  
22 on the line to really fund a lot of these  
23 construction safety protocols, and so those are the  
24 kind of things that are--  
25

1  
2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: [interposing]  
3 Ask those who are not speaking to--

4 UNIDENTIFIED: I see you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: For those who  
6 are not speaking, please put on mute. Thank you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: There's a lot  
8 of excitement at home. This is going to allow for  
9 justice for all workers who are very vulnerable right  
10 now, and I just want to say thank you to all the  
11 workers, the union workers, the non-union workers  
12 that came together back years ago. We are-- while  
13 we're extending the deadline, we're committing our  
14 efforts to ensure that you're safe. The last thing  
15 I want to say is the Department of Buildings has  
16 really recommitted their efforts to ensure all the  
17 information that needs to get out in multiple  
18 languages is going to get done, and I believe that.  
19 And I also want to speak on the Industry City thing  
20 really quick. We have a 10:00 a.m. briefing tomorrow  
21 that I'll send everyone an email, and everyone's  
22 invited to learn more about that process. Thank you,  
23 Public Advocate.

24

25

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
3 Council Member. Parliamentarian, anyone else signed  
4 up?

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, Mr. Public Advocate.  
6 First, Council Member Reynoso, though let's clarify  
7 whether he'd like to speak on discussion of general  
8 orders or if it's to vote.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member  
10 Reynoso is this to speak on orders or to vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: It's to vote.  
12 It's to vote.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: We'll call on you at the  
14 very beginning of the vote, but this is still  
15 discussion of General Orders.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: No problem. And then Mr.  
18 Public Advocate, Council Member Ulrich would wish to  
19 speak?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Anyone else  
21 after him?

22 COUNCIL CLERK: No, no one else.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
24 Council Member Ulrich?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Actually, I would  
3 just like to vote first because my battery is running  
4 low, and I can't get to a charger right now. So, the  
5 sooner I can vote, the better.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, we will call on you  
7 at the beginning of the vote.

8 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Okay, so I  
9 believe that is the last Council Member, unless the  
10 Parliamentarian tells me something different. Now,  
11 we have a report of special committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Reports of  
14 standing committees.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee  
16 on Environmental Protection, Intro. 1851 storm water  
17 management.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hold on one second.  
19 Coupled on General orders.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Intro's 1946A and 1982A,  
21 energy efficiency improvements and marginal  
22 emissions.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
24 General Orders.



COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance, pre-considered Reso. 1394, transparency resolution.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Housing and Buildings, pre-considered Intro. 2059A, site safety training.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the committee on Small Business Intro's 1470B and 1958A legal services and financial assistance reporting for small businesses.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Pre-considered Intro. 2043A and 2054A, third-party food delivery services and food service establishments.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee on Technology, Intro 1297A, Office of Cyber Command.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
3 General Orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee  
5 on Transportation, Intro. 1865A Livery Taskforce.

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

8 COUNCIL CLERK: On the General Order  
9 calendar, LU 628 and Reso. 1411 and LU 629 and Reso  
10 1412, Grand Avenue rezoning.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
12 Orders.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: LU 641 and Reso 1413 and  
14 LU 642 and Reso 1414 52<sup>nd</sup> Street rezoning.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on General  
16 Orders, and at this time I'm asking the Clerk to a  
17 roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's  
18 General Order calendar.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich--

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: [interposing] Excuse me.  
21 Yeah, start with the members that have requested to  
22 vote at the beginning.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Ulrich?

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Ulrich  
25 are you there?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Yes, can you  
3 hear me?

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yes.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Time to vote.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Okay, I vote aye  
8 on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Ulrich,  
11 do you have any disclosures to make?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I wish to just  
13 disclose on the record today that we're voting on a  
14 number of budget items as part of the initiative  
15 funding, and one of the groups that is receiving  
16 funding, the Howard Beach Kiwanis Club, I've been a  
17 member of for about 15 years.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Thank you, Council  
19 Member.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Reynoso?

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Council Member Reynoso,  
23 are you there? Council Member Reynoso?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Can you hear me?  
25 Can you hear me now?

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Now we can, go ahead.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Sorry. I'd like  
4 to vote-- okay, I'd like to vote aye on all with the  
5 exception of Intro 1982, and that's it, which I vote  
6 no on.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, got it.  
8 Council Member Gibson?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye on all  
10 the item agenda. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
12 Member Cumbo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye on all,  
14 and I thank all of my colleagues for your notes,  
15 letters, prayers, and upliftment [sic] during this  
16 time of the passing of my step-mother Fakisha Cumbo  
17 [sp?]. I must excuse myself to attend services today  
18 with my family, but I thank you again for all of your  
19 support and well wishes and prayers. Thank you so  
20 much, and I proudly vote aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye on all.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Disclosing  
25 on the record of the Council proceedings that the

2 Department of Education is funded, and my brother is  
3 employed as a school teacher with DOE, and I vote aye  
4 on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron? Council Member  
8 Barron?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can you please  
10 come back to me. I need some information.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Sure.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote aye on  
15 all except Intros 2043 and 2054. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: If you can, I'm  
18 ready.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, sure. Council  
20 Member Barron?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm ready this is  
22 Council--

23 COUNCIL CLERK: [interposing] Yes, Council  
24 Member Barron, whenever you're ready to vote.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Permission to  
3 explain my vote?

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.  
7 First, I want to extend my condolences to everyone  
8 who has suffered a loss and also to the family of  
9 Nettie Mayersohn who sat next to me when I was in the  
10 Assembly. I want to extend my condolences. Secondly,  
11 accommodations on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the right  
12 for white women to vote, acknowledge that, and in  
13 terms of the reopening of schools, I have lots of  
14 reservations about that, but I commend Chancellor  
15 Caranza [sp?] for the work that he has done. In  
16 terms of the vote, I vote aye on all with the  
17 exception of Land Use LU6289 which includes market-  
18 rate housing, and everybody knows my position on  
19 that, and also bill 1942 which is the project that  
20 was spoken about earlier. Thank you very much, and  
21 please put me down for General Discussion. Thank  
22 you.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron, do  
24 you have a disclosure to make on the record?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank you.

3 I want to disclose for the record that my son is a  
4 member at CUNY, and CUNY is in the resolutions as  
5 well as another son who is an employee at BRICK  
6 [sic], and they are also in the resolution. Thanks.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote aye on  
11 all, and I want to take a moment to thank everyone  
12 for your love and for your support. Just burying my  
13 mom just literally last Saturday. This last two  
14 weeks have been the toughest two weeks of my life,  
15 coupled with my mother-in-law who has stage four  
16 cancer, very late stage four cancer. So thank you,  
17 thank you for your prayers. Thank you for uplifting  
18 hope and with that again, I vote aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you. Before  
23 I vote I would like to disclose on the record of  
24 these proceedings that Montefiore Medical Center is  
25 in a Resolution today, and that my wife is a

1  
2 voluntary attending at that institution, and with  
3 that, I would like to vote aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to  
6 explain?

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: My statement  
10 from earlier holds. I hold my vote for the  
11 proceedings of this particular meeting of the New  
12 York City Council. I will not be voting.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I would like to  
17 disclose for the record to all my children, Ruben  
18 Diaz, Jr., is Borough President and [inaudible] Diaz  
19 works [inaudible] in NYCHA. Other than that, I'm  
20 voting yes on everything. Thank you very much.  
21 Have a good day.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, sir. Dromm?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.



2 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Permission to  
4 explain my vote and to talk a bit about the late  
5 great Claire Schulman and Nettie Mayersohn?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,  
9 Mr. Public Advocate, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.  
10 Speaker Johnson mentioned the loss of Claire Schulman  
11 and Nettie Mayersohn who had I the privilege not only  
12 to work for both of those great ladies, but also to  
13 be mentored by and to become dear friends with.  
14 Claire, as many of you know was the first female  
15 woman to be Borough President of Queens. She took  
16 over at a very dark moment in the state of our great  
17 borough of Queens and quickly righted the ship by  
18 demanding excellence in bringing good government back  
19 to our borough. She changed the face of Queens  
20 forever. Her work over almost 16 years as Borough  
21 President created the modern metropolis that we know  
22 as Queens. I think before she was Borough President  
23 in many ways. It was seen as a bedroom community,  
24 but now it is a thriving center of commerce, and it  
25 is known throughout the world as a great place to

1  
2 come and eat food from all over the world. The face  
3 of Queens was changed forever by Claire. You can't  
4 go to a neighborhood where she not have an effect,  
5 whether it was tens of thousands of school seats, the  
6 dozens of culture facilities that she helped to  
7 build. Her work with former Mayor David Dinkins to  
8 bring the new USTA National Tennis Center to Flushing  
9 Meadows, Corona Park, the air train, Queens Hospital  
10 Center would have closed and would have been shut  
11 down, but nobody had the courage to tell Claire  
12 Schulman that it was going to be closed, and we have  
13 a new hospital and it continues to improve. SAGE,  
14 the first gay senior center was funded by Claire  
15 Schulman, the first one in the borough of Queens.  
16 And Townsend Harris High School which stands proudly  
17 on the campus of Queens College, also because of  
18 Claire's resolute activities. I could go on about  
19 her forever, but I know our time is limited. She and  
20 Nettie left us within 72 hours of each other, which  
21 is just unbelievable. Both of these great ladies  
22 were mentors to not only me, but to the late  
23 Assemblyman Mike Semanowitz [sp?], my brother from  
24 another mother, soon to be Judge Lee Chang, Justice  
25 Bill Viskovich [sp?] of the Supreme Court. Grace

1  
2 Ming [sp?] described Claire as a mentor and on and on  
3 and on. And I want to mention Nettie because of her  
4 work on the Baby Aids bill in Albany, and Inez, she  
5 did love you. She did love you. There's no doubt  
6 about that. Because of her work on the baby aids  
7 bill, thousands of people are walking this earth who  
8 would never had made it past infancy without her  
9 legislation. She also passed the Partner Notification  
10 Act, victim sentencing which allows victims of their  
11 survivors have a say at sentencing in court, and for  
12 all of you who have dragged your mother, or your  
13 grandmother, your grandfather, your father down to  
14 the DMV to get a photo ID, that was the work of  
15 Nettie Mayersohn a generation ago. Both of them  
16 served their respective communities in countless way.  
17 They came up through the PTA. I was a little boy in  
18 the neighborhood, and Nettie was the head of my PTA.  
19 She was always doing something. I didn't get to know  
20 Claire until I went to work for Nettie, and so there  
21 was a symbiosis there for me certainly. Both of these  
22 great ladies, as much time as they spent in the  
23 community, they were utterly devoted to their  
24 families. And I know that other of our colleagues  
25 here today, Karen Koslowitz and Rory Lancman and Paul

1  
2 Vallone shared wonderful relationships without both  
3 of them as well. I want to give my condolences to  
4 their children again, to Larry--

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time  
6 expired.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Just a few  
8 more seconds, Mr. Public Advocate. And to Doctor  
9 Larry Schulman and to Ellen Baker and to Jeffrey  
10 Mayersohn and Judge Lee Mayersohn. And I want to  
11 just impart one last thing to anybody who might be  
12 watching this. It's a lesson really for all of us.  
13 There was never a night that Claire and Nettie left  
14 the office before me where they didn't say thank you  
15 to me and the rest of the staff, and there's a lesson  
16 there. And they both understood that the most  
17 important things were what their constituents needed  
18 and wanted. With that, Mr. Public Advocate, I vote  
19 aye on all, and I also get to disclose that Queens  
20 College CUNY is funded in this budget, and my son  
21 actually just graduated, so I don't know if I have to  
22 do that anymore, but I will just to be careful. And  
23 also to disclose that my son, my wife and myself are  
24 volunteers with TSQ Incorporated. So, thank you all,

1  
2 and thank you for the extended time to talk about my  
3 two heroes.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Barron?

5 UNIDENTIFIED: It seems like we've--  
6 she's back.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, I was calling her  
8 for a clarification. Council Member Barron?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. I on now?

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, thank you.  
12 I want to correct for the record, the bill that I'm  
13 voting against is about the fuel cells, bill 1982.  
14 So, please make that correction for me. Thank you so  
15 much.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you very much.  
17 Holden?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Before I vote I'd  
19 like to disclose that my son is an adjunct lecturer  
20 at CUNY, and I just want to echo Barry's eloquent--  
21 just his words of just-- we're all sorry to see  
22 certainly Claire Schulman leave us. She appointed me  
23 to the Community Board in 1988, and the rest is  
24 history, a great run. She was a great, great leader  
25 and we all are going to miss her. She's-- she was

1  
2 tremendous, and I just want to echo Barry's words. I  
3 vote aye on all. Thank you.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye on all  
6 with the exception of Introduction 1982.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: I'm sorry, Council  
8 Member? One last time, sorry. Missed the last part.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: I vote aye on all  
10 with the exception of Introduction 1982.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. King?  
12 Council Member King?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Sorry about that.  
14 I'm unmuted now. I said, 1199 child care fund is  
15 being funded in the resolution for the record, my  
16 wife Neva Shillingford-King works for 1199 SEIU, and  
17 I vote aye on all.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
19 Member Koo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye on all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: May I be  
23 excused to explain my vote?

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Yes.  
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Barry laid out  
3 what Claire has done for Queens. Whenever you ride  
4 around Queens you see Claire's imprint. I was  
5 fortunate enough to serve with Claire in 1991 through  
6 2001. Claire was elected in 1986 when we still had a  
7 Board of Estimates, and at that time was picked by  
8 the Queens delegation of the City Council. What a  
9 great pick that was. Claire will be missed. She  
10 worked until a month before she died. She was always  
11 there for everybody who needed her. She loved Queens  
12 like no other. I was also very fortunate to be  
13 Claire's friend, and I am going to miss our dinners,  
14 our lunches that we had with the Borough Hall staff.  
15 I'm going to miss her terribly. It's a very, very  
16 sad time in Queens at the loss of Claire Schulman.  
17 Also, I want to recognize Nettie Mayersohn who was  
18 also a friend and who we had dinners with many, many  
19 times. Nettie was a fighter. She fought for the  
20 baby aids bill. She took nothing for granted. She  
21 fought whoever didn't want it. She was a wonderful  
22 great woman and a legislator. So, I will miss them  
23 very, very much. Thank you, and I vote aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
25 Member Lancman?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request  
5 permission to explain?

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. I'll  
9 be voting no on Intro. 1982. Last year when this  
10 Council passed Local Law 97, our greener buildings  
11 law, a green new deal for New York City, we took a  
12 great step forward, and I think it's unfortunate that  
13 we are undermining it today. Our advocates in that  
14 process are asking us not to do this, and I think we  
15 should heed them. I hope we will take up Intro. 1947  
16 which can actually help us in many, many other ways,  
17 extend Local Law 97, and really strengthen our city's  
18 bold commitment to cleaner buildings to cleaner  
19 energy, to a city that'll be here for our kids and  
20 grandkids. I do want to underline that I'm  
21 enthusiastically voting yes on Intro. 1851 which I  
22 think is a really big deal, so I want to appreciate  
23 the sponsor, Council Member Constantinides and all  
24 the staff who worked to get there. This bill will  
25 empower DEP to issue the 2021 Unified Storm Water



1 Rule, which is a really ambitious rule for cleaning  
2 up our harbors and our waterways, of course in my  
3 district, including the Gwanis Canal and making it so  
4 that new development actually can result in cleaner  
5 water, and it's a real significant step forward.

6 I'll be voting aye on all of the other bills, and I  
7 just want to add my voice in appreciation of the  
8 words of Council Member Cornegy. You know, we just  
9 have too many times in these meetings to say to our  
10 black colleagues we see you and to only begin to  
11 imagine the pain it feels to come to these meetings  
12 in the way of yet another killing, too long, too  
13 long, too long. I vote aye on all except for Intro  
14 1982 in which I vote no. Thank you.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Levin?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on all,  
17 and I want to offer my condolences to my friends and  
18 colleagues, Council Member Cumbo, Council Member  
19 Cabrera, Council Member Grodenchik. I just want--  
20 sorry, my son is playing with my iPad here. I do-- I  
21 need to disclose on the record that my wife is a  
22 student at CUNY and CUNY is funded in this budget,  
23 and I'd like to sign up for General Discussion as  
24 well at this time, and just one thing I just wanted  
25

1  
2 to say that Council Member Grodnechik and Council  
3 Member Koslowitz. I never met Claire Schulman, but  
4 for some reason, I don't know why, she was in my  
5 dream last night. I don't know why that was, maybe  
6 that means she's [inaudible] in some way. So, with  
7 that I vote aye on all. Thank you all.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I'd  
10 like to disclose in the record that CUNY and the  
11 Department of Education are in this Reso, and my sons  
12 are students at both, and I'll be voting aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Voting aye on all,  
15 and wanted to extend my heartfelt condolences to all  
16 my colleagues who lost loved ones.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel? Menchaca?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Permission to  
19 explain my vote?

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.  
23 I'm going to be voting aye on all except intro 1982.  
24 I stand with my colleagues who are connecting us to  
25 that moment when we passed Local Law 97 with the

1 advocates' support, and the exemptions that are being  
2 asked for right now are not needed. There's no need  
3 for there to be a separate factor for fuel cells, and  
4 there's no need to give special exemptions for  
5 developers or corporations selling this technology.

6 Intro 1982 undermines our city's efforts to  
7 transition to renewable energy and mitigate the  
8 potentially devastating effects of climate change  
9 locally. By creating a separate emissions factor for  
10 natural gas fuel cells, Intro. 1982 circumvents  
11 experts of the advisory board process and decision-  
12 making for Local Law 97. This process is integral to  
13 the fair and equitable implementation of that Local  
14 Law that we passed. Natural gas is a dirty and  
15 harmful energy source that our city should be moving  
16 away from whenever and wherever possible, not  
17 facilitating its use and distribution. Experts have  
18 shown that the level of emissions produced by fuel  
19 cells would be tantamount to burning an equal amount  
20 of natural gas in the combustion process. In gas  
21 production, including the process of fracking,  
22 creates massive amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas  
23 that is 82 times more potent than carbon and stays in  
24 the atmosphere for 12 years, just the amount of time  
25

1  
2 in which we must transition to renewable energy in  
3 able to mitigate climate catastrophe that we all talk  
4 about. For those reasons I vote no on Intro 1982 and  
5 aye on the rest. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Miller?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Good afternoon.

8 I'd first like to disclose on the record that our  
9 [inaudible] senior center is in today's resolution,  
10 and my mother attends [inaudible] senior center. I'd  
11 like to also send my condolences to my colleagues,  
12 Council Members Cabrera and Majority Leader Cumbo on  
13 the loss of their moms, as well as two phenomenal  
14 women who happen to be legislators from the borough  
15 of Queens, Nettie Mayersohn and Borough President  
16 Claire Schulman who was inspiration and just took  
17 care of everyone in the borough, and their work will  
18 last a lifetime. I want to join my colleague Robert  
19 Cornegy, and I will be foregoing my vote this  
20 afternoon procedures. The work that we do here is  
21 critically important, but today it pales in  
22 comparison with what happens across America, and I  
23 think that we have to do something to collectively  
24 lift our voices to get beyond where we thought we  
25

were and really make a difference. So with that,  
I'll be foregoing my vote.

COUNCIL CLERK: Moya?

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins? Council Member  
Perkins?

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Oh, I have to--

PARLIAMENTARIAN: You're unmuted Council  
Member Perkins.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Alright, so  
you've head my vote?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, not yet.

COUNCIL CLERK: No, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: I'm voting aye  
on all. Thank you. Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'm voting aye on  
all except for 1982, and I just want to briefly say a  
very big thank you to my outgoing Committee Counsel,  
Alanna Syvin [sp?], who has been outstanding in the  
few years she's been here with us, has done great  
work whether it's the Rikers plan, but really a more  
transformative vision for the criminal justice system  
here in New York City. So you'll be deeply missed,

1 but best of luck, and I want to say thank you for all  
2 of her work, and I'll leave it at that. Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards?

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

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Alright, thank  
9 you. First want to start off by, of course,  
10 remembering Claire Schulman who really became a  
11 really good friend of mine. Barry and I had the  
12 blessing of attending her funeral last week, and I'm  
13 going to forever miss her and appreciate here, all of  
14 her guidance and support and all she did for Queens.  
15 Love you forever, Claire Schulman. I also just want  
16 to briefly discuss Intro. 1958 which is my bill to  
17 require the Department of Small Business Services to  
18 disclose how their grants and loans are distributed  
19 by zip codes. The report will identify businesses  
20 based on industry, the types of goods and services  
21 offered, and whether the business occupies a  
22 storefront or is a mobile business. It will also  
23 identify the type of award each business received,  
24 whether it was a grant or a loan, and the amount each  
25

1 business received. Based on the information we  
2 already have, it's obvious that businesses in  
3 Manhattan were prioritized while the outer borough  
4 small businesses were neglected through this loans  
5 and grants program. This story continues to repeat  
6 itself and only transparency and accountability will  
7 end this cycle. Queens is the second-largest  
8 contributor to our City's economy. The majority of  
9 small business owners in borough were built by  
10 immigrants who put everything into the promise of the  
11 American dream and invested in our city. We cannot  
12 turn our backs on them now. With that being said, I  
13 urge all my colleagues to vote aye on that bill, and  
14 to vote no-- I will vote no on 1982, aye on the rest.  
15 Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Rivera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Permission to  
18 explain my vote?

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
20 granted.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. When  
22 the Climate Mobilization Act passed, our goal was to  
23 reduce New York City's greenhouse gas emissions in  
24 the most aggressive way possible to meet what is  
25

1 essentially a global emergency, and while natural gas  
2 fuel cells emit fewer greenhouse gases than  
3 traditional fossil fuels, they are emissions none the  
4 less. This amendment just doesn't seem worth the  
5 risk of slowing any progress towards achieving the  
6 aggressive and necessary goals of our landmark  
7 climate laws. Therefore I vote no on Intro 1982 and  
8 aye on all others. And I just want to say to my  
9 colleagues, I want to express my sincere condolences.  
10 Just yesterday I heard some great stories about  
11 Claire and Nettie, and it's always heartbreaking who  
12 lose people certainly inspired. Thank you.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez?  
15 We'll come back. Council Member Rose?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I'd like to  
17 disclose for the record that my son is employed by  
18 the Department of Sanitation which is being funded in  
19 this reso. And my sincere condolences and prayers to  
20 my colleagues who have suffered such great losses, and  
21 I vote aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Vote aye on  
24 all.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca?



2 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Yes, thank  
3 you. I'm disclosing on the record that the New York  
4 City Parks and Recreation have funded this resolution  
5 and my wife is affiliated with this entity, and I  
6 vote aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yes, I would like  
9 to disclose that my brother is affiliated with the  
10 Department of Finance, and I vote aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger?

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

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.  
17 Thank you, Public Advocate. I want to first disclose  
18 on the record that the New York City Education  
19 Department is funded in this budget, and my father is  
20 affiliated with this entity. I also want to extend  
21 my condolences and sympathies to all my colleague who  
22 experienced tragic losses in their families and  
23 truly, truly sorry for your loss. I also just want  
24 to speak very briefly about the issues of school  
25 reopening and take off my Council Member hat off and

1  
2 put my teacher hat on for a moment and share with my  
3 colleagues, and I think Council Member Dromm and  
4 others who have taught, Council Member Rodriguez,  
5 Levine, others, that before you can ask a student to  
6 open a notebook in a class, you have to first  
7 establish trust, and you have to first establish a  
8 safe and supportive learning environment for our  
9 kids, and if you can't promise them that and you  
10 can't establish that trust, then you can't look them  
11 in the eye and tell them it's okay. And as Public  
12 Advocate, you know, tells us we have to speak truth  
13 to that type of power, and it's not okay for our kids  
14 right now and for our staff, especially after what we  
15 saw yesterday. I think our kids and staff deserve  
16 better and more than just toilet paper waving in the  
17 air in class. It's as if the Mayor's plan, or  
18 inadequate plan, was written on a piece of toilet  
19 paper and he's just winging it. I know the Public  
20 Advocate, and I appreciate his leadership as well,  
21 shared a similar proposal to mine about delaying the  
22 reopening to get money to operationalize safety plans  
23 and have a phased-in approach, and I ask my  
24 colleagues to center the needs of our kids and staff

1 in this very important conversations. And with that,  
2 I will vote aye on all. Thank you.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I'd like to vote  
5 aye on all, but I also need to disclose on the record  
6 that Citizen School is in the Reso. My father and  
7 brother are associated with this entity. And my  
8 condolences to all that have experienced a loss. God  
9 bless everyone and good luck with this Labor Day  
10 [sic] coming up [sic]. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rodriguez?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Van Bramer?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
15 explain my vote?

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
17 granted.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you  
19 very much. First, condolences to our of our  
20 colleagues who've lost family members, particularly  
21 moms. As many folks know, as we work and spend a lot  
22 of time with my mother in these days the difficulty I  
23 certainly feel for them deeply. I am voting no on  
24 Intro. 1982. As several of my colleagues have said,  
25

1  
2 Local Law 97 was a huge step forward. I do not know  
3 why we would start rolling it back, particularly so  
4 soon when the global climate crisis is only  
5 increasing and not decreasing. So, especially with  
6 the advocates who fought so hard with and for Local  
7 Law 97, why we would do this when they are not for  
8 it. It makes no sense. So, I am voting no on Local  
9 Law 1982, because the crisis is real and this is not  
10 helpful, and I vote yes on all the rest. Thank you.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Excuse me. Council  
12 Member Yeger?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you. Mr.  
14 President, may I be excused to explain my vote?

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Permission  
16 granted.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you very  
18 much. Thank you. I appreciate all the work that has  
19 been put into making it easier for our restaurants to  
20 do business in the city. I'll speak a little bit  
21 more about that during the next period. Our  
22 restaurants are suffering tremendously, and the  
23 piece-meal approach of trying to give them the  
24 ability to open up on the streets, it works  
25 sometimes, it doesn't work other times. It certainly

1 doesn't work when it rains, and as we approach  
2 September and quickly into October, that's not going  
3 to be a permanently workable solution. I think that  
4 there ought to be a time that we seriously begin  
5 talking about allowing restaurants to have some  
6 capacity indoors, perhaps not 100, but we're seeing  
7 restaurants in the Bronx where patrons can simply  
8 jump over the border into Westchester and go into a  
9 restaurant, and it's the same in Queens when they can  
10 jump over the border into Nassau and eat in a  
11 restaurant, and here in New York City it just can't  
12 be done. If a restaurant can seat 100 people, can 10  
13 percent not safely sit inside? It's a serious  
14 conversation. It shouldn't be done in two minutes by  
15 me, but it's something that we ought to be talking  
16 about over the next few weeks. With that, though, I  
17 typically as my colleagues here know, I have a great  
18 reluctance to voting for bills that I believe hinder  
19 performance of contracts. I think it violates the  
20 constitution. I think this is a close call, but on  
21 this close call, seeing as it will pass anyway, I  
22 will stick with my guy. I will vote aye on all with  
23 the exception of Introductions 2043 and 2054, which I  
24  
25

1  
2 vote no, and I abstain on Resolution 1394. Thank you  
3 very much, Mr. President.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm disclosing on  
6 the record that PS30 is in this resolution. My sons  
7 attends PS30, and I'm voting no on pre-considered  
8 2043 and 2054, and aye on the reset. Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Okay, the vote on all  
12 items for today's General Order calendar is 47 in the  
13 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions  
14 with the exceptions of the following: Introduction  
15 1982A with 38 in the affirmative, 9 in the negative,  
16 no abstentions. Introduction 2043 with 44 in the  
17 affirmative, 3 in the negative, no abstentions.  
18 Introduction 2054 with 44 in the affirmative, 3 in  
19 the negative, no abstentions. Land Use items 628 and  
20 629 with their accompanying resolutions are 46 in the  
21 affirmative, 1 in the negative, no abstentions.  
22 Resolution 1394 with 46 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
23 negative, 1 abstention. And finally, revised Land  
24 Use call-up is now 47 in the affirmative and 0 in the  
25 negative. Thank you.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 The items on today's General Orders are counted--  
4 General Orders calendar are adopted. I want to thank  
5 my [inaudible] on my bill. I forgot to thank the  
6 Speaker when I spoke for him and Jason Goldman and  
7 the entire team for moving quickly on the  
8 construction site bill based on the deadline we were  
9 up against. I just wanted to make sure I said thank  
10 you. Introduction and reading of bills.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
12 referred to committees as indicated on today's  
13 agenda.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
15 Speaker Johnson. There are no resolutions on today's  
16 calendar. So we'll now move to General Order  
17 discussion. As a reminder, please wait until the  
18 Sergeant at Arms begins the countdown clock before  
19 you begin your remarks. So remember, when you get  
20 called on the Sergeant at Arms will begin the  
21 countdown clock. Wait for that so you don't lose any  
22 seconds, and you can begin remarks. Mr.  
23 Parliamentarian, are there any Council Members who  
24 are signed up to speak?

2 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes. Council Members  
3 Adams, Powers, and Yeger are the first three.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: So we'll have  
5 Council Member Adams, Council Member Powers, and  
6 Council Member Yeger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you very  
8 much, Mr. Public Advocate.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you so much.  
11 First to acknowledge our loss of the original Queen  
12 of Queens, Claire Schulman, who always had a word of  
13 inspiration and a big hug for me. We're going to miss  
14 her dearly. Mr. Public Advocate, I'd like to thank  
15 you for your heartfelt words as well as the heartfelt  
16 words of my colleagues, Council Member Cornegy and  
17 Council Member Miller, on the plight of black people  
18 in America, which I think is an interesting backdrop  
19 to the resolution that I'm introduction today. I'm  
20 introducing Resolution 1387 in support of the New  
21 York State Senate Bill S89212 post-pones the New York  
22 City 2020 tax lien sale until one year after the  
23 COVID-19 state of emergency has been lifted. While  
24 the Mayor delayed the 2020 lien sale, it doesn't go  
25 far enough. COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of New



1  
2 Yorkers and has put financial pressure on residents  
3 across this city. Many have lost their jobs or their  
4 businesses and are struggling to make ends meet. The  
5 only way to equitable recovery for New Yorkers is to  
6 cancel the 2020 lien sale. The Mayor claimed this  
7 week that property owners facing tax lien sales were  
8 in trouble with their bills before the pandemic.  
9 Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, appropriate outreach  
10 on outstanding debts was impossible. Also, how can  
11 vulnerable New Yorkers possibly enter a payment plan  
12 at time if they're unemployed or have been devastated  
13 financially because of the pandemic. I'm deeply  
14 disturbed by the cruelty that the lien sale will  
15 serve to hardworking one to three-family homeowners  
16 still struggling to recover from the mortgage  
17 foreclosure crisis, and realize the American dream.  
18 Housing instability was a major problem in New York  
19 City before the pandemic, and moving forward with the  
20 2020 lien sale will only exacerbate that fact. If  
21 passed, the Senate bill would help many who are  
22 struggling, particularly--

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Expired.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: communities of  
25 colors. I asked my colleagues to share your support

1  
2 by signing onto Resolution 1387. Thank you, Mr.  
3 Public Advocate.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
5 Council Member Powers followed by Council Member  
6 Yeger.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, and  
8 I'll just mention that that dovetails well with the  
9 Resolution that myself and the Public Advocate have  
10 which is to call off any rent increases for rent-  
11 regulated units during the pandemic in the coming  
12 year. Thank you Public Advocate for your  
13 sponsorship. I'll let Council Member Levin talk  
14 about the bill preview, but I'll just briefly mention  
15 that we have a bill that's going in today which is  
16 around folks essentially banning the box for housing  
17 so that landlords can no longer ask or imply about a  
18 person's conviction history when we're talking about  
19 finding housing, something that would be an  
20 incredible benefit to ending the prison to shelter  
21 pipeline and helping folks get housing that is much  
22 needed, but I'll let Council Member Levin talk more  
23 about that. I have a few bills and resolutions I  
24 just want to mention. One that is-- it went into  
25 today that is related to the Heck Callandra [sp?] Act

1 which calls on the State to reveal the Heck Callandra  
2 Act which is related to specialized high schools,  
3 give us authority in New York City to have control  
4 over our own specialized and public high schools. A  
5 second one is to ask that Department of Education to  
6 call off lateness and absences as a metric when  
7 they're doing screen-- [inaudible] screen schools.  
8 What we find in COVID is a great example of this, is  
9 that parents sometimes are required to send their kid  
10 to school to make sure that they're not penalized in  
11 the admissions process. That means when we have a  
12 flu epidemic or in the COVID in particular, parents  
13 have to weigh out whether it is worth sending their  
14 child to school just to get attendance and not to be  
15 penalized in admissions for middle school and high  
16 school. So those are two resolutions going in and  
17 two bills going in. One is to require to Department  
18 of Corrections to publish all directives and  
19 guidelines and rules on their website so the public  
20 has access to that information. No different than  
21 the way the NYPD's rules and guides are also required  
22 to be published online. And second is a new law that  
23 would actually require whistle-blower-- city  
24 contracts, large city contracts be incorporated into  
25

1 the city whistle-blower law. Right now it's in their  
2 city contracts, but it's not actual law where you  
3 are-- have a large contract with the City of New  
4 York, that if you are-- that it would now be subject  
5 to the City's whistleblower law as in their contract-  
6 -  
7

8 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time  
9 expired.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: But I ask all  
11 folks to consider signing onto those and I appreciate  
12 everybody's support. Thank you.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Council  
14 Member Yeger?

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Thank you, Mr.  
17 President. Before I begin, I just want to add my  
18 voice to Council Member Adams' resolution. It's just  
19 another time when it becomes very evident to us that  
20 sometimes we need the folks in the state legislature  
21 to save us from ourselves, and this is just another  
22 time where we're simply calling on them to help us  
23 out here in the City. This is a way that they can do  
24 very easily. I am speaking today on something  
25 similar to what my two colleagues just spoke about.

1  
2 Many members of this body have spoken passionately  
3 over the last few weeks, months, about ways that we  
4 as the people's representatives can guide our city  
5 towards helping instead of hurting our fellow New  
6 Yorkers, and we've had energetic discussion about our  
7 children's education, assistance to small business,  
8 rent payers, tax payers, the burdensome regulations  
9 that are keeping our businesses from being able to  
10 recover, to be open, our neighbor's inability to pay  
11 rent, the punishing pain of poverty and food  
12 insecurity, healthcare, our municipal employees, the  
13 size and roll of government, and how we can do better  
14 for the people who sent us here. Today, I hope to  
15 continue that with the Introduction of 2069. My bill  
16 would suspend the issuance of certain sanitation,  
17 parking and building summonses, and the imposition of  
18 penalties retroactive to the beginning of the State  
19 of Emergency in March. From the very beginning of  
20 the State of Emergency, when people were being urged  
21 to remain at home, indoors, don't go out. If you  
22 must go out, make it brief; never leave. Only wear a  
23 mask. Never leave. Stay inside. Unsuspecting New  
24 Yorkers parked their cars at parking spots on the  
25 assumption that if you park in front of a public

1 school that's closed, you won't receive a summons  
2 because the public school is closed. And then they  
3 parked up at that car two, three, four, five weeks  
4 later only to find their car covered with summonses.  
5 Similarly, when we were telling people to stay  
6 indoors, they were-- the Sanitation Department was  
7 sending enforcement agents out-- Mr. President, my  
8 time's going to expire. I ask for a couple more  
9 seconds. The Department of Sanitation was sending  
10 enforcement agents out to write summonses on  
11 homeowners who didn't go out to sweep the front of  
12 their homes even though the Department itself--

14 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: was not sending out  
16 street cleaners. This bill would finally address  
17 that punishing pain. The punishing pain of summonses  
18 is punishing during normal times, and these are not  
19 normal times. Fairness and reason require a holiday  
20 for this punishment. I would urge you all to please  
21 join me. Sign on to Introduction 2069. Let this be  
22 part of the relief that we're offering our neighbors  
23 to recover from this pandemic. Thank you, Mr.  
24 President. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the  
25 additional time.

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 Mr. Parliamentarian?

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN: As a part of  
5 parliamentary order, I'd like to read the revised  
6 results of the Land Use call-up calendar which are 48  
7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0  
8 abstentions, and with that, Mr. Public Advocate, I'll  
9 let you know all of the Council Members who wish to  
10 speak at this point who are Council Members Rose,  
11 Lander, King, Barron, and Levin.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Just so I got  
13 it right: Rose, Lander, King, Barron, and Levin. Is  
14 that correct?

15 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, and please add  
16 Council Member Menchaca at the end.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member  
18 Menchaca.

19 PARLIAMENTARIAN: He just signed up.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: I might-- I  
21 believe we may have some after, but for now we'll  
22 have Council Member Rose, followed by Council Member  
23 Lander, king, Baron, Levin and Menchaca.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.  
25

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

[inaudible] to two bills that I'm introducing which will help the city better serve the survivors of those who died in the COVID pandemic. Intro 2063 would require that the City's Department of Mental Hygiene release [inaudible] number aggregated by borough of how many have lost parents, legal guardians, or caretakers to COVID-19. Children who have lost parents to this disease are likely going to need support services, and it is important that we meet those needs, but the first step in doing so is to collect accurate data. We will use this data to coordinate with city agencies and identify what supportive service programs need additional funding. These children are suffering losses and we need to equip our agencies with the right [inaudible]. Intro 2062 would require DOHMH to fulfill death benefit requests from the boroughs Public Administrator's Office on an expedited basis. Under the current policy, Public Administrator's offices have had to reach death certificates in person or wait as long as nine months while [inaudible] that administrators are responsible for administering the states and making burial [inaudible] for those who have died



[inaudible] relatives present to make arrangements.

In order to make these arrangements and [inaudible]

of the states, a death certificate is necessary. The

lack of an expedited process for securing death

certificates can result in waste of an estate and

reduction of assets distributed at the final

accounting. So, just to give you an idea, the

Richmond County Public Administrator's office

arranged 41 burials in all of 2019, and as of today

they've already arranged 53 burials. So, I'm

asking--

SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time

expired.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: on that. And I

just want to-- just another second to say that I join

my colleague Mark Treyger on the Introduction-- Reso

that calls for the Department of Education to delay

the reopening of public schools until the safety

standards for our children and staff have been met.

Thank you.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Council Member Lander followed by Council Member

King, Barron, Levin, and Menchaca.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you. Thank  
3 you, Mr. Public Advocate. I want to invite my  
4 colleagues to join Council Members Rivera, Torres,  
5 Barron, Powers, Reynoso, and me in signing onto  
6 Resolution 1397 calling on the New York City  
7 Department of Education to prohibit the use of  
8 screens for admission to our community district  
9 middle schools for the 2021-22 school year. Boy,  
10 there's always something wrong with sorting our  
11 eight, nine, and 10 year olds based on test scores  
12 and attendance and grades and sorting their life  
13 chances in a way that we know produces segregation,  
14 and really you can't argue that we should have a  
15 meritocracy of eight and nine and 10 year olds. But  
16 I got to say for this year, especially, even if  
17 that's not what you usually think, I'd like to just  
18 ask you to think about what it means to try to take  
19 test scores and grades and attendance records from  
20 last spring, from the pandemic spring semester which  
21 was totally disrupted. There is no meaningful data  
22 there that can't in good conscience sort our middle  
23 school kids based on that meaningless semester.  
24 We've got this great model in District 15 that is  
25 working to offer kids middle school admissions based

1 on a weighted lottery where families get to rank  
2 their schools, and where-- and then you hold a  
3 lottery based on what those kids want in a way that  
4 reflects a balance of kids throughout the community  
5 school district. It's working for this one year, for  
6 this pandemic year. If you say that you're seeing  
7 the racial inequities and segregation that are  
8 coursing through our city, let's try it. We've got to  
9 make a decision right now. There's no way just to go  
10 with the status quo. So I hope you'll sign onto  
11 Resolution 1397, and I look forward to signing onto  
12 Council Member Adams' resolution about the tax lien  
13 sale and proud to join Council Members Powers and  
14 Levin and many of the resolutions that they're  
15 introducing today. Thank you.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.

18 Council Member King followed by Council Member  
19 Barron, Levin, and Menchaca.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Council Member  
22 King? Council Member King--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [interposing] Can  
24 you hear me? Can you hear me now?

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Yep.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Mr.  
3 Public Advocate. I appreciate the time. First I  
4 want to lend my voice also to Council Member Treyger.  
5 I believe that as Chancellor once said, you know,  
6 we're building the plane while we're flying the  
7 plane, but that can be-- you can crash land at the  
8 time. So if our schools are not ready to reopen, and  
9 I think in a matter of two weeks, then we should have  
10 them closed until they can figure the whole thing out  
11 correctly for our children. Secondly, I want to say  
12 to Council Member Adams, I support the resolution, as  
13 my district is number 10 with tax liens on the  
14 market. We need to make sure that we keep homeowners  
15 safe, but more importantly, keep our neighborhood  
16 stable, and this is no way in the time of a pandemic  
17 to try to figure out how to, you know, stick people  
18 up for money. Let's wait until we get through this  
19 and then start it all over, the process. And  
20 finally, I'd like to ask everyone to join Council  
21 Member Margaret Chin and I to sign onto Intro 2045  
22 which creates a recertification [sic] bill which came  
23 out of a 103-year-old resident getting their-- losing  
24 all of their benefits because they didn't meet a  
25 recertification. They didn't go to an appointment.

1  
2 Absurd. So this bill is designed as a unit and the  
3 Department of Aging and making sure that that unit is  
4 responsible for any recertification, any services,  
5 state, city-level, that an 80-year-old is receiving  
6 in the City of New York, they no longer have to go  
7 through a recertification process. You know, seniors  
8 are vital to our community. They're our mothers.  
9 They're our grandparents, and no way in this time  
10 during a pandemic-- I know they're having challenges.  
11 They're telling me their challenges they're having to  
12 try to maintain services. That's why it's so  
13 important that we establish this unit, that they come  
14 out and visit, the wellness checks, and make sure all  
15 documents that's necessary that no senior over 80  
16 years of age needs the recertification process. I  
17 ask you, Speaker Johnson, 120 days after this bill is  
18 passed that it goes into effect. I ask this if we  
19 can fast-track, speed it up, because our seniors  
20 cannot wait, and this time and age of what we're  
21 dealing with, COVID and all other issues of  
22 communication, that we need to do it right and do it  
23 quick, as fast as possible. I thank you. I look  
24 forward to everyone signing on to make sure we  
25 protect our mothers, our grandmothers, our

1  
2 grandparents and the matriarchs of our community.  
3 Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Sorry.  
5 Council Member Barron followed by Council Member  
6 Levin and Menchaca.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you, Mr.  
9 Public Advocate. I want to thank my colleagues for  
10 all of their comments and all of their thoughtful  
11 reflection. I want to encourage you to join Council  
12 Member Powers and I as we present the resolution to  
13 have the Assembly repeal the Hecht-Calandra Act and  
14 allow the City to establish how we will have our  
15 students selected before going into our high schools.  
16 Secondly, I want to support the comments of Council  
17 Member Adams talking about the lien sale and the  
18 hardship that it causes. And to get to the heart of  
19 what I want to talk about today, after slavery was  
20 so-called ended and we came through a period of  
21 reconstruction, shortly thereafter, because of the  
22 pushback, the United States pulled the protections  
23 and the troops and the programs out from the south,  
24 and they in fact returned to what had been in large  
25 measure. When the Hebrew Israelites came out of the

1  
2 oppression and were scouting out the land that God  
3 had promised to them, they became afraid and they  
4 pulled back. They said, "We're grasshoppers. We  
5 don't think we can do it." So what was there  
6 entitlement, they didn't get for at least another 40  
7 years. I think it's a reflection that sometimes  
8 people doubt their own self-worth. So here we have  
9 just passed a bill that says to police officers, no,  
10 you cannot kill us, you cannot restrict our breathing  
11 either by stepping on our necks, stepping on our  
12 backs, or stepping on our diaphragms. And there is  
13 push back. I don't care who says what. This is  
14 coming not from advocates, but from people in the  
15 police quarters who want to be able to do their job  
16 with impunity because they don't have consequences.  
17 So I'm opposed to this. You know, Lonnie Glenere  
18 [sp?] talked about authentic leadership.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

21 Almost finished. Doctor Martin Luther King talked  
22 about manufactured leaders. So we're looking to see  
23 which of our leaders are going to act authentically  
24 on behalf of our people or be persuaded by other  
25 entities to pull back and give back what we have

1  
2 already accomplished without any justification for  
3 considering that. Thank you very much.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you,  
5 Council Member. Council Member Levin followed by  
6 Menchaca.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very  
8 much, Mr. Public Advocate. So I just want to follow  
9 up on what Council Member Powers mentioned earlier.  
10 Today, I'm very proud to be introducing the Fair  
11 Chance [sic] Housing Act for New York City. This  
12 bill would ban background checks and make it illegal  
13 to deny a person housing because of their  
14 convictions. The City is grappling with a global  
15 pandemic with historic economic impacts. Already New  
16 Yorkers are facing a housing crisis. With record job  
17 loss and instability, we need even greater access to  
18 deeply affordable housing, and we need to remove the  
19 barriers that have kept New Yorkers from having a  
20 safe and stable home for far too long. Tens of  
21 thousands of New Yorkers living in city shelters are  
22 unable to find permanent housing. Many have  
23 convictions that make the already daunting search for  
24 affordable housing in New York City almost  
25 impossible. Formerly incarcerated individuals are



1  
2 nearly 10 times more likely to be homeless than the  
3 general public, often because of discriminatory  
4 practices by real estate agents, landlords, and  
5 others. In 2017, over half of the people paroled  
6 from New York state prisons went to homeless  
7 shelters. That is an increase of 23 percent from  
8 three years earlier. We need to stop the prison to  
9 shelter pipeline and to end the use of discriminatory  
10 background checks in housing. Housing is a  
11 fundamental human right. Having a safe, stable home  
12 is a critical foundation for success after arrest or  
13 incarceration. It increases an individuals' ability  
14 to gain employment and foster supportive  
15 relationships, both of which contribute to greater  
16 public safety and lower tax-payer costs. Other  
17 cities have passed similar legislation, including San  
18 Francisco, Richmond and Seattle, and have proven that  
19 banning criminal background checks does not pose a  
20 risk to public safety. I'm very proud to sponsor  
21 this common sense legislation along with my council  
22 colleagues, Council Members Powers, Lander, Cornegy,  
23 Rivera, Council Member Gibson, Public Advocate  
24 Williams--

2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time's  
3 expired.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: And I look forward  
5 to moving this urgently-needed bill forward, and I  
6 urge all of my colleagues to sign on, and I also  
7 wanted to thank the advocates that have helped draft-  
8 - or helped work on this legislation, and that's  
9 Fortune Society, John Jay College Institute of  
10 Justice and Opportunity, Osborne Association, Exodus,  
11 Center for Community Alternatives, and many others.  
12 Thank you to [inaudible] Murig [sp?], the Committee  
13 Counsel for drafting legislation. I want to thank  
14 all of you. I appreciate the time. Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
16 Council Member Menchaca?

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time begins.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,  
19 Public Advocate, and thank you to all my colleagues  
20 for introducing some really great bills, and I'm  
21 talking about-- I want to talk about two bills that  
22 I'm introducing today, really from the many ideas  
23 that have come from the community, specifically our  
24 immigrant community. Intro 2053 is a really  
25 important bill. At this time, our City has seen a

1 sharp increase in Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
2 arrests and deportations in New York City. In Sunset  
3 Park, specifically, we are and have been targeted.  
4

5 Just last week we had ICE presence in the  
6 neighborhood. Many of these arrests are done under  
7 the cover of darkness and secrecy. This is Trump's  
8 effort to intimidate our immigrant neighbors and  
9 undermine our status as a Sanctuary City. it's also  
10 having an impact on our census response rate, COVID  
11 testing, and they are also, as immigrant families,  
12 leaving programs, for example food programs that are  
13 leaving our families hungry. That is why I'm  
14 introducing this bill to empower people to hold  
15 accountable the Federal Government and to keep an eye  
16 on ICE violation of constitutional rights. Under  
17 this bill, any New Yorker can report ICE activity.  
18 This will allow Council Members, each of you in your  
19 district, to keep track and respond effectively to  
20 keep constituents apprised of any issues in  
21 connecting people to legal services that are paid for  
22 by the City of New York. I'm also introducing Reso.  
23 1399. Under federal law, states are prohibited from  
24 providing certain benefits to undocumented  
25 immigrants, including financial assistance that

1  
2 people critically need to deal with during a crisis  
3 like the one that we're experiencing now. Federal  
4 law, however, does provide an exemption, namely that  
5 states can pass legislation like New York to allow  
6 our cities and the state itself to grant benefits.  
7 The Council, I'm hoping, can support this resolution  
8 to push the state to really unlock opportunities for  
9 undocumented immigrants that don't have--

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: [interposing] Time  
11 expired.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: access to those  
13 benefits that we've seen thus far. Thank you so  
14 much, and look forward to working with you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
16 Mr. Parliamentarian, do we have anyone else that  
17 signed up?

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, we do not.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Thank you.  
20 Just very briefly, I want to just say thank you to  
21 Council Members Powers and Levin for bringing up the  
22 Fair Housing legislation. I'm happy to join them on  
23 that. I want to thank Council Member Treyger and his  
24 leadership when it comes to reopening, and we've both  
25 submitted similar plans in a phased reopening. I

1 want to thank him for a bill that we're introducing  
2 today, asking folks to please join us in supporting  
3 the bill, so getting a report on a regular basis  
4 about the attendance of students remotely. We should  
5 be treating that just the same as we're treating in-  
6 person, and we don't want to use that data  
7 punitively. We want to use that data so we can find  
8 out where the problems are and get the resources that  
9 are needed to make sure that folks are getting the  
10 education they need. There's also another bill that  
11 would require a food policy and plan for any schools  
12 that have to close for any reason to make sure that  
13 people who are depending on it to get food will get  
14 it. So I'm asking my colleagues to please join me on  
15 those bills that are being introduced today. So,  
16 with that, I want to say-- also, just my prayers of  
17 peace and comfort two colleagues, Council Members  
18 Cabrera, and of course, the Majority Leader for their  
19 loss and all the friends and families we spoke about,  
20 Claire Schulman and Nettie Mayersohn. With that,  
21 thank you so much, and I'll now turn it over to the  
22 Speaker, Corey Johnson, who will close today's Stated  
23 Meeting. You're on mute, Speaker.

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SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Public Advocate, and thank you to everyone for today's Stated Meeting. Congratulations to all my colleagues who passed thee bills, and I again want to send my condolences to folks who lost loved ones. And with that, the Stated Meeting of August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is now adjourned.

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 2, 2020