

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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September 16, 2020
Start: 1:47 p.m.
Recess: 3:13 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing

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
Costa Constantinides
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Chaim M. Deutsch
Ruben Diaz, Sr.
Daniel Dromm
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mathieu Eugene
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Barry Grodenchik
Robert Holden

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

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

2 SERGEANT D'ALBA: OK, at this time I ask
3 that everyone please turn all electronic devices to
4 vibrate. Madam Majority Leader? [phone ringing]

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Hello?

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Good afternoon and
7 welcome to the Stated Meeting of September 16, 2020.
8 I am Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo and it is my
9 pleasure to welcome you to this virtual meeting of
10 the New York City Council. If you would like to
11 follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is
12 posted on our website.

13 JEFF BAKER: Can we pause for a moment?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Yes.

15 JEFF BAKER: Ah, this is Jeff Baker. We
16 temporarily lost our parliamentarian. If you'll just
17 hold on for one second I will temporarily take over
18 until he is able to get back on.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: OK. Ah, if you could
20 resume, Laurie.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Would you like
22 for me to begin again, or would you like to continue
23 with roll call?

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: You can start again.
25

1 STATED MEETING

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2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [gavel] good
3 afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of
4 September 16, 2020. I am Majority Leader Laurie
5 Cumbo and it is my pleasure to welcome you to this
6 virtual meeting of the New York City Council. If you
7 would like to follow along, the agenda for today's
8 meeting is posted on our website.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Would you please join us
10 for the Pledge of Allegiance? I pledge allegiance to
11 the flag of the United States of America, and to the
12 republic for which it stands, one nation under God,
13 indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Roll call.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala. Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Blessed,
21 unbought, and present.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Present, thank
24 you.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: I'm here.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Cabrera.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Present.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Present.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Logged on.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aqui.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: I'm here.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Presente.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Present.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Present.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon
21 everyone, I am here.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Present.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Present.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Virtual.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: King. Koo.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Present.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Present.
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Present.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Present.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel. Menchaca.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presente.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller. Maisel.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Present.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.
3 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Present.
4 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.
5 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Present.
6 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Present.
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards. Rivera.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez. Rose.
11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Present.
12 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.
13 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.
14 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.
15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.
16 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres.
17 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.
18 COUNCIL CLERK: Treyger.
19 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Here.
20 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I am present.
22 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
23 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.
24 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
25 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.

5 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Here.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Present.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I'm here.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Madam Majority Leader, we
11 have a quorum.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. I'm
13 having a moment of technical difficulty. I will be
14 with you in one moment.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Yeah, I think
16 that was on Maisel and they missed me.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: We will now have
18 our invocation, which will be done today by our
19 esteemed rabbi, Rabbi Potasnik.

20 RABBI POTASNIK: Thank you. Firstly, I
21 want to say that, ah, Cardinal O'Connor years ago
22 told me that the difference between Jews and
23 Catholics is the following. Catholics leave and
24 don't say goodbye. Jews say goodbye and don't leave.
25 And I think all of recognize that we are both Jewish

2 and Catholic, Christian, we're not going to say
3 goodbye to this city and we're certainly not gonna
4 leave this city. The prayer begins God of all faiths
5 let us remember a city council chamber in the midwest
6 that has no electricity. If you want illumination
7 you have to bring a lantern to brighten the area in
8 which you stand. We live today at a time where we
9 see too many darkened places in our city because of
10 COVID, crime, and conflict. This is a time for all
11 of us to bring our lanterns of leadership into the
12 public arena. Doctors speak of PTSD, which impairs
13 the ability to perform properly, but we have also
14 seen examples of PTSG, post-traumatic stress growth,
15 where courageous people confront the challenges of
16 the day. Some step back and do little, while others
17 step forward and do so much to better our world. May
18 we remember a religious law which teaches us that if
19 you lose a possession and you give up hope of finding
20 it, it belongs to the finder. But if you do not lose
21 hope it still belongs to you. We will not lose hope
22 in a city that belongs to all of us. No one can
23 locate the exact location of Mount Sinai, but
24 everybody knows where Mount Moriah is situated in
25 Jerusalem because the holy, that is the holy site

2 where the temple was built. God, what we remember is
3 what we build together, with the light of our
4 lanterns and our loving loyalty to our city and to
5 one another. Amen.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amen.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
8 much, Rabbi Joseph Potasnik. We appreciate your
9 words and your presence here today. Rabbi Potasnik
10 is the executive vice president of the New York, of
11 the New York Board of Rabbis, which is located at 45-
12 57 Bowne Street in Flushing, Queens. We will now
13 have Speaker Corey Johnson to spread the invocation
14 on the record.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
16 Majority Leader. Ah, Rabbi Potasnik is a friend, a
17 personal friend, and he is a great New Yorker. He is
18 a wonderful, wonderful, ah, leader in the city who is
19 like Zelig sometimes. I show up somewhere and Rabbi
20 Potasnik is over my shoulder, and I'm always happy to
21 see him, because he always has healing words, he
22 always has words that make people smile and laugh,
23 even in painful and difficult times, and he is
24 someone who brings communities together. So I am
25 really grateful that he is here to spread the, he is

2 here to give the invocation. I saw him almost a week
3 ago at Ground Zero for the September 11, ah,
4 ceremony, ah, and he was making Vice President Biden
5 laugh, ah, in his conversation with him. So I'm
6 really grateful to, ah, to Joe, to Rabbi Potasnik,
7 for everything he has done for decades in the city.
8 He is a force for good and we are grateful to have
9 someone like him helping lead the way, especially in
10 these dark times. So with that, Madam Majority
11 Leader, I ask that the invocation be spread full and
12 upon the record.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
14 much, Speaker Corey Johnson, and I know this was a
15 big honor for you today. I now move that the, at
16 this time we will now have the adoption of the
17 minutes.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: I move that the minutes of
19 the Stated Meetings of August 27, 2020, be adopted as
20 printed.

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
22 Messages and papers from the mayor.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Commission from
25 city, county, and borough offices.

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2 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

3 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Petitions and
4 communications.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: None.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Land use call-
7 ups.

8 COUNCIL CLERK: M251.

9 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you. At this
10 time I'm asking for, ah, the clerk to take a roll
11 call vote on today's land use call-up. This is just
12 a vote on the one item on the land use call-up
13 calendar.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron. Council Member
21 Barron, ah, excuse me.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can you hear me?

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes, thank you.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye. Thank you.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.
7 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.
8 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
9 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.
10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.
11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides. Cornegy.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Deutsch.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.
22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.
24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Holden.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: King.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye, and I

21 also just want to acknowledge, um, Rabbi Potasnik,

22 um, for, ah, the great work that he does throughout

23 New York City and to thank him for all that, ah, he

24 has done personally for me and just, ah, acknowledge

25 that he brings the most, um, important, ah, or

2 elicits the most important, ah, human emotion, which
3 is joy and laughter, and, ah, and I want to thank him
4 for all that he does. And I vote aye on all land use
5 call-ups.

6 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Well, I second
8 the comments of Council Member Levin and I vote aye.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Menchaca.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Moya.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

19 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Reynoso.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Richards. Rivera.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.
3 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.
4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.
5 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.
6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.
7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Did you hear me?
8 COUNCIL CLERK: Yes. Salamanca.
9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.
10 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres. Council Member
11 Torres. Treyger.
12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.
13 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.
14 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye.
15 COUNCIL CLERK: Vallone.
16 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.
17 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.
18 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.
19 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.
20 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.
21 COUNCIL CLERK: Matteo.
22 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: Aye.
23 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.
24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye.
25 COUNCIL CLERK: Torres. Speaker Johnson.

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Today's land use call-ups
4 have 46 in the affirmative and zero in the negative.

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.
6 Today's land use call-up is adopted. We will now
7 have communication from Speaker Corey Johnson.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, good afternoon
9 everyone and happy Wednesday. I hope and your
10 families are safe and well. Today marks a big
11 milestone for our city as classes resume for our 1.1
12 million public school students. I want to wish all
13 the families and students, as well as teachers,
14 principals, and school staff a safe and healthy
15 school year. I know that this year will be, of
16 course, different than any we've ever seen and there
17 is a lot of nervousness. The council is committed to
18 helping our educators and families through this
19 difficult time. I really want to thank our education
20 chair, Mark Treyger, for his tremendous and
21 thoughtful leadership in putting forward a plan that
22 I think was actually a better plan, ah, than we saw
23 from the city, and, ah, all of his tenacity and
24 leadership in advocating for teachers and students
25 and families. So thank you, Mark. Last Friday, as I

2 mentioned, I joined New Yorkers to commemorate the
3 anniversary of September 11. And that day is still
4 an incredibly painful day, not just for our city, but
5 our nation. But this anniversary reminded me of how
6 resilient, ah, New Yorkers truly are. As we continue
7 to battle COVID-19 and look to keep reopening our
8 city safely, it's important to remember that we as a
9 city are at our best when we look out for one another
10 and come together. We saw it after 9/11 and we saw
11 it, we've seen it over the last six months during
12 this pandemic. Sadly, as of yesterday, 23,758 New
13 Yorkers have died from COVID-19. On behalf of the
14 council I want to send our deep condolences to their
15 families and their loved ones. I also want to take a
16 moment to acknowledge a few 9/11-related deaths since
17 we last met. Firefighters Christopher Cage and
18 Timothy Burke both recently passed away. And NYPD
19 Detective Peter Giorancesco and John Mulla, a Con
20 Edison worker, also both unfortunately lost their
21 lives with 9/11-related illnesses. I also want to
22 acknowledge the death of Marcos Rodriguez, one of our
23 city's construction workers. He was 25 years old and
24 he died on September 3 while working at the Brooklyn
25 Navy Yard construction site. We are sending our

2 condolences to his family and loved ones. The
3 Brooklyn district attorney's office also lost a
4 senior district attorney, Sarah Pitts, last week.
5 She was killed riding her bike, another tragic
6 reminder of why we need to make our streets safer. I
7 want us to take a moment of silence for all the New
8 Yorkers that we've lost to COVID-19, Firefighters
9 Cage and Burke, Detective Giofrancesco, John Mulla,
10 Marcos Rodriguez, and Sarah Pitts. [moment of
11 silence] Thank you. Today I'd like to acknowledge
12 Hispanic Heritage Month, which began on September 15.
13 This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the
14 contributions of Hispanic leaders in our city who
15 have played such an important role in making New York
16 what it is today. I also want to take a moment to
17 acknowledge the upcoming three-year anniversary of
18 Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico. As we
19 continue to battle the impacts of COVID-19 here in
20 New York City, many Puerto Ricans are still
21 recovering from the destruction that occurred during
22 Hurricane Maria and also the impacts of COVID-19 on
23 the island. I want to say today that this City
24 Council remains united with the people of Puerto Rico
25 today and always. We also have Rosh Hashanah coming

2 up beginning on Friday evening and on behalf of the
3 council I want to say [inaudible] to those who are
4 observing the holiday. I especially again want to
5 thank Rabbi Joseph Potasnik who gave the invocation
6 earlier for his dedication and work across New York
7 City. And last, but not least, I want to acknowledge
8 the departure of, ah, someone who, ah, you know,
9 spent a lot of time, ah, at the council, who began as
10 an intern for me. I want to give a special thank you
11 to Henry Robbins for all of his work, everything he's
12 done at the council. I'm personally grateful for the
13 countless hours that you've put in during this time
14 and I'm wishing you the very best on your next
15 journey. Thank you, Henry. And now onto our agenda.
16 We'll be voting to approve the following land use
17 item: 2274 Adam Clayton Powell, which is an urban
18 development action area project and Article 11 tax
19 exemption in Council Member Bill Perkins's district.
20 These actions will facilitate the preservation of
21 four buildings with 60 units of affordable housing.
22 So I want to just mention that. We also have a
23 resolution to support schools as they reopen.
24 Resolution number 1410-A, sponsored by our
25 educational chair, Mark Treyger, calls on the

2 Department of Education to only open school buildings
3 that have met the health and safety standards
4 prescribed on a 50-item checklist. Additionally, the
5 resolution calls on the DOE to implement a mandatory
6 randomized COVID-19 testing program for adults and
7 students in all school buildings. Today we're also
8 voting on two governmental operation bills. Proposed
9 Introduction number 1878-A, sponsored by Council
10 Member Keith Powers, ah, will establish a default
11 rule that allows an administering agency to start the
12 rule-making process and adopt any necessary rules on
13 a local law prior to the law's effective date. The
14 goal is for the rules and the local law to take
15 effect simultaneously. Next is Proposed Introduction
16 1874-A, sponsored by Council Member Margaret Chin,
17 which will codify and improve the city's, the city
18 record online email notification system. Currently
19 the system allows individuals to sign up to receive
20 email notifications whenever a specific agency
21 publishes a notice in the city record regarding an
22 upcoming agency action, such as public meeting or the
23 adoption of a new rule. Under this bill individuals
24 who sign up to receive these notifications would be,
25 have the option to limit their notifications to items

2 affecting their selected community board district.

3 This will help ensure that individuals only receive

4 items, only receive notifications on items that are

5 relevant to them. And I want to thank the staff that

6 worked on these, CJ Murray, Emily Forgione, and

7 Elizabeth Cronk. We also have a Housing and

8 Buildings bill up for a vote. We have, of course,

9 beautiful architecture in our city, but our buildings

10 are aging. The buildings department relies on façade

11 inspections to make sure these buildings are safe.

12 These inspections can be costly since scaffolding is

13 erected in many cases. This bill would require the

14 agency to study the feasibility of drones to conduct

15 these inspections. Proposed Introduction number

16 1853-A, sponsored by our Housing and Buildings

17 committee chair, Robert Cornegy, would require the

18 Department of Buildings to conduct a study of safety

19 and feasibility of allowing drones to conduct, ah,

20 building façade inspections. And I want to Austin

21 Branford for his work on that bill. Ah, next, as

22 many people know, the pandemic has hit our restaurant

23 industry very, very hard. Many beloved eateries and

24 restaurants have closed. Others are barely

25 surviving. Outdoor dining and limited capacity

2 indoor dining are helpful, but not nearly enough.

3 That is why the council is voting on a bill today

4 that allows these restaurants to charge a fee during

5 the pandemic. The goal of the fee is to help these

6 businesses have enough income to cover their costs.

7 Proposed Introduction number 823-B, sponsored by

8 Council Member Joe Borelli, ah, would temporary allow

9 restaurants and other food service establishments to

10 add a COVID recovery charge of up to 10% of a

11 customer's total bill. The menu and bill would need

12 to clearly disclose this charge and the surcharge

13 would be permitted until 90 days after the

14 restaurants may operate at full capacity. From the

15 staff I want to thank Balkies Merig for her work on

16 that bill. I also want to mention that we know, of

17 course, as I mentioned, restaurants are hurting in

18 the city and I also think it's important that we

19 focus on helping out low-wage workers in these

20 restaurants. All of my colleagues, I believe, ah,

21 share that vision and goal and I'm committed to

22 working on legislation, ah, to go to Albany and doing

23 whatever we need to do to make sure that undocumented

24 workers that work in restaurants, back-house

25 employees that work at restaurants, who for far too

2 long have been overlooked, that we make sure that
3 we're looking out for them as well. I have directed
4 the staff at the council to see whatever we can do
5 immediately to introduce a resolution or bill to help
6 ensure that as we are recovering from this and
7 focused on the restaurant hospitality industry, we
8 are not leaving behind low-wage workers, undocumented
9 workers, and workers that are really living under the
10 uncertainty and instability of the restaurant
11 industry, so we are committed to figuring out ways to
12 support those workers, and I want to thank, ah,
13 again, all the colleagues that have really raised
14 that issue during this time to make sure we do not
15 leave anyone behind. Our final bill is long overdue
16 and is a leap forward in efforts to make affordable
17 housing a more equitable system for New Yorkers.
18 People who need affordable housing should not be
19 punished for have a poor credit score or some debt.
20 This bill forces landlords who get city funding to
21 look beyond credit scores and debt when deciding on
22 tenants. Proposed Introduction number 1603-A,
23 sponsored by Council Member Mark Levine, would
24 prohibit a developer from using or considering a
25 tenant or prospective tenant's credit score, consumer

2 debt judgment, collection account, medical debt, or
3 student loan debt, other than delinquent debt that
4 exceeds \$12,000 in a rental or lease of an affordable
5 housing unit that receives city funding. Credit
6 scores remain one of the key factors that landlords
7 review during the application process for leasing.

8 An applicant's poor credit score can drastically
9 hinder their ability to attain much-needed affordable
10 housing and often its disproportionately negative
11 impacts on communities of color. This bill would
12 also prohibit a developer from using the credit
13 history of anyone other than the designated
14 representative of a household. Developers must also
15 disclose the process and criteria by which the
16 consumer credit history of the designated
17 representative will be evaluated. This bill would
18 apply only to projects for which the city financial
19 assistance is expected to have a total value of a
20 million dollars or more. And I want to thank Audrey
21 Sahn for her work on that bill. That is our agenda
22 for today. With that, I turn it back to you,
23 Majority Leader Cumbo.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
25 much, Speaker Corey Johnson. We will now move into

2 discussion of general orders. We will recognize
3 council members who wish to speak by using the raise
4 hand function in Zoom. Please wait before you begin
5 your remarks for our Sergeant at Arms to announce he
6 has begun the countdown clock. The Sergeant at Arms
7 will alert you when your time has expired. Mr.
8 Parliamentarian, are there any council members
9 registered to speak?

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
11 Leader. Council Member Borelli.

12 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All right. We
13 will begin with Council Member Borelli.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Ah, thank you
15 all.

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you very
18 much. Ah, I just want to commend my colleagues and
19 the staff who helped push this bill to hopefully, ah,
20 help save some of the restaurants that make New York
21 City, ah, the place we've chosen to live, ah, and en
22 joy, ah, and, ah, the place that tourists seek to
23 come back, ah, time and time again to. Ah, I opened
24 up, ah, today's website for Eater New York, which is
25 probably the only magazine I could ever grace the

2 cover of, ah, but I'm saddened to see that 31 more
3 restaurants, ah, that were popular have already
4 closed. This is an industry that employs 684,000
5 people statewide and in this bill we're temporarily
6 allowing our restaurants to do, ah, what just about
7 everyone other restaurant in every other city around
8 the United States can do, ah, and that's add a
9 surcharge to supplement some of their costs. So, ah,
10 I want to thank all the staff, including my own staff
11 member, Frank Maccio, who helped, ah, work on this
12 legislation for several years and, ah, I would urge
13 all of my colleagues to support. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. Are
15 there any additional, ah, colleagues who would like
16 to speak?

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
18 Leader. Council Member Cornegy.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
20 Cornegy, please wait for the clock to begin and you
21 may begin your remarks.

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So I wanted to
24 speak about, thank you, ah, Madam Majority Leader. I
25 want to speak about Introduction 853, which takes a

2 step forward in a longer process of, of updating our
3 laws to reflect technology we have available today.
4 Drones could play a positive role in building
5 management from façade and roof inspection to energy
6 efficiency analysis. Drones could offer cost-
7 effective opportunities to detect problems early and
8 prevent tragic injuries and deaths. The current 22-
9 year-old and 72-year-old local laws that govern drone
10 use are due for a fresh look by all of us as policy
11 makers. As we pursue the first step studying drone
12 laws and regulations and offering recommendations for
13 changes, Intro 1853-A recognizes the need to improve
14 safety and privacy protections in our analysis. We
15 want to pursue any changes with an awareness of
16 perspectives from multiple stakeholders and take
17 their insights and expertise on board. I want to
18 thank my colleagues and I especially want to thank
19 all the experts and advocates who have already begun
20 to share their expertise with us. This legislation
21 and the report of it requires the Department of
22 Buildings to produce, will help us bring façade
23 inspection and our broader drone policies up to date.
24 Ultimately, that means more confidence in the safety
25 of our buildings and more safety for everyday New

2 Yorkers. All New Yorkers and the legacies of Grace
3 Gold, Erica Tishman, Zang Gi, and all of those killed
4 or injured due to building façade deserve no less. I
5 want to thank Speaker Corey Johnson. I want to thank
6 the, um, the support staff who helped craft and draft
7 this bill, um, and, and I want, I hope that my
8 colleagues will, will vote yes today. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
10 Council Member Cornegy. Are there any other members
11 that wish to speak at this time, Parliamentarian?

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
13 there are no other members who have raised their
14 hands. I know some others had indicated they might
15 want to speak. Are there any other council members
16 who would like to speak now on discussion of general
17 orders?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Ah, I'm sorry,
19 Parliamentarian and, ah, Madam Majority Leader, I
20 just realized that I did that whole presentation
21 without the benefit of my beautiful face. Sorry,
22 everybody, who suffers from not being able to see me
23 as I gave that soliloquy.

24

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Ah, Council
3 Member Mathieu Eugene, I was supposed to be on the
4 list to speak on, about introduction of legislation.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Right, that will be
6 during general, general discussion. Thank you very
7 much, Council Member Eugene.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Ah, thank you so
9 much.

10 PARLIAMENTARIAN: I see Council Member
11 Reynoso has now raised his hand, Madam Majority
12 Leader.

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
14 Reynoso.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Hello, ah...

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Oh, sorry.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Go ahead, Antonio.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: So I'm, I'm good
20 to go?

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Yeah, go ahead.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you. Ah,
23 I just want to, ah, thank the Speaker for his
24 comments that he made in his, ah, opening statements
25 and I honestly do believe that, ah, there is interest

2 in this council to support, ah, tipped workers and
3 workers in restaurants. Um, and I have a statement
4 that I was going to make and an amendment that I was
5 going to introduce, and I, in an effort, ah, to
6 build, ah, a partnership with my colleagues and the
7 Speaker and believing that there truly is a
8 commitment to help the wage workers in our city, I'm
9 going to be pulling that amendment. Um, I will be
10 making a statement, ah, at the vote, but wanted to
11 thank Speaker Johnson for, for what I, what I believe
12 was a, a verbal commitment to, to doing more for wage
13 workers. So, thank you.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thanks, Antonio.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Thank you.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Madam Majority Leader,
17 there are no other council members who wish to speak
18 at this time.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Ah, thank you so
20 much. And I just also want to remind, ah, many of
21 our colleagues that during [inaudible] conference
22 it's also an ideal [inaudible].

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laurie, we just lost
24 you. You just went on mute. There you go.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: [inaudible] to
3 speak and again reminding members to please bring
4 amendments, um, before the Democratic Conference so
5 that we can all review them collectively in its
6 entirety, um, would make the Stated Meetings more
7 streamlined. I'd now like to go to report of special
8 committees.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: None. There are none.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Reports of
11 standing, reports of standing committees.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
13 on Civil and Human Rights, Intro 1603-A, credit
14 information and affordable housing.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
16 general orders.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
18 on Consumer Affairs and Business Licensing, Intro
19 823-B, COVID-19 recovery charges.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
21 general orders.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
23 on Governmental Operations, Intros 1874-A and 1878-A,
24 a city record and administrative procedure act.
25

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
3 general orders.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Report of the Committee
5 on Housing and Buildings, Intro 1853-A, exterior wall
6 examinations.

7 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on
8 general orders.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: On the general orders
10 calendar, LU 663 and Reso 1423, 2274 Adam Clayton
11 Powell UDAAP.

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general
13 orders. And at this time I would ask that the clerk
14 take a roll call vote on all the items that were just
15 mentioned that are coupled on today's general orders
16 calendar.

17 COUNCIL CLERK: Salamanca.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye on
19 all, thank you.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Adams.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Permission to
22 explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
24 granted.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you so
3 much...

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam
6 Majority Leader. You know, I struggled with Intro
7 823-B quite a bit. Um, it's a well-intentioned piece
8 of legislation, but being a champion of just cause
9 legislation I'm very concerned that this bill will
10 harm minimum wage earners and deincestivize tipping
11 that's already at a minimum in a lot of cases. Some
12 of our most vulnerable workers may be irreparably
13 damaged even if the surcharge is temporary, and for
14 that reason I vote aye on all except 823-B. Thank
15 you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
17 Council Member.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Ampry-Samuel.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Good
20 afternoon. I just want to give a shout-out to
21 Council Member Levin with Intro 1603. I really
22 appreciate that bill, um, and with that I vote aye on
23 all.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Ayala.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Barron.

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

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
7 granted.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, thank you. I
11 want to explain why I'll be voting no on land use 663
12 and the accompanying resolution 1423. Ah, it's a
13 project which is well intended and will in fact, ah,
14 offer the opportunity for people who live at 2274
15 Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard the property, the
16 possibility to become apartment owners, co-op or
17 condominium. However, there were no, and the price,
18 the selling price was quite reasonable as all, as,
19 ah, was stated. But the problem that I have with the
20 bill is that there is no guarantee that those current
21 residents who remain in the building and who do not
22 want to purchase their apartment will have any kind
23 of protection from exorbitant rent increases going
24 forward. If they had all said that they would buy
25 their apartments then that would be fine. But there

2 has not been that guarantee that they would have
3 protection from rent increases. So based on that I'm
4 voting aye on all, with the exception of LU 663 and
5 Reso 1423. And also I just want to read, I just
6 wanted to add to the record comments about a friend
7 of mine who is in fact the step mom to our Majority
8 Leader, Fikisha Cumbo. I first met Fikisha in 1968
9 at Brooklyn College, and as you can well imagine in
10 the Sixties, the late Sixties, that was a hub of
11 activity, for culture, for legislation, for music,
12 and for so many other assertions of what it was that
13 we were doing as black people. And Fikisha Cumbo was
14 an artist, she was a photographer, she was an author,
15 and she had a program, a community program that she
16 conducted on air for probably 30 or 20 years at
17 least. So I just wanted to put into the record she
18 was pleasant, she was professional, and she was a
19 pioneer, and also she was from...

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...[inaudible]

22 had, had heritage from Texas, and always looked
23 forward to the Juneteenth event. So I just wanted to
24 have that on the record. Thank you very much.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you for
3 your recognition.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Borelli.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Thank you, ah, I
7 vote aye on all, except Intro 1603-A and Reso 1410-A.
8 Thank you.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Brannan.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Cabrera.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on all.

13 COUNCIL CLERK: Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on all.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Cohen.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

17 UNIDENTIFIED: Bill, ya got me?

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Cornegy.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye on
20 all.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: All right?

22 UNIDENTIFIED: You, you got me? I'm
23 sorry, Billy.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeah, I, I was checking,
25 yes, thank you, I got you. Council Member Cornegy.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

3 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Deutsch.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Diaz.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye on all.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: Dromm.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye on all.

9 COUNCIL CLERK: Eugene.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: I vote aye.

11 COUNCIL CLERK: Gibson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to
13 explain?

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
15 granted.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you, thank
17 you, Madam Majority Leader.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good afternoon,
20 good afternoon everyone, good afternoon, Speaker, and
21 all my colleagues. Um, I'm grateful for, ah, today's
22 agenda, a lot of great and important bills that are
23 really going to make a difference. Um, certainly in
24 this post-COVID world where we've lost so many New
25 Yorkers it is a reminder of the challenges that many

2 New Yorkers are faced with. Um, I am going to vote
3 aye on all with the exception of Intro 823. I am
4 still a little uncertain, while I appreciate Council
5 Member Borelli and all of the intentions of this
6 bill, ah, I agree with the intentions of this bill.
7 I am a little troubled, ah, because I recognize that
8 this bill is an important reaction to government's
9 failure. We have not done right in this city by our
10 small businesses. Particularly businesses of color,
11 women-owned businesses, and businesses in the outer
12 boroughs. I have been very concerned with the level
13 of support that our businesses have received in the
14 Bronx. Less than 5% of a lot of the grants and loans
15 that were awarded to New York City businesses did not
16 go to the Bronx. So I am very concerned that now
17 this proposed fee is going to be put on customers,
18 customers in the Bronx who are already facing a
19 number of challenges, and while it is not a mandate,
20 it is optional, I am very concerned at unintended
21 consequences that this bill will have on some of our
22 smaller businesses that are don't have a lot of
23 opportunity. The businesses are doing the very best
24 they can. They have spent a lot of money on outdoor
25 dining and retrofitting their businesses. They have

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2 also spent a lot of money on PPE. That is our job.

3 We should be helping them with PPE, as many of us

4 have done so. I just feel like we have to do a lot

5 more. I do appreciate the intentions of this bill,

6 but I do worry that the smaller businesses, um, are

7 going to have some unintended consequences where

8 customers may not, ah, dine in at these locations.

9 So with that I'm going to abstain on this bill, ah,

10 just with the idea and understanding that I will work

11 this council and without our businesses, particularly

12 those in my district in the Bronx...

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: ...to further help

15 them and support a lot of the needs that they have.

16 So I vote aye on all with the exception of Intro 823.

17 Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,

19 Council Member Gibson.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Gjonaj.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Majority Leader,

22 permission to explain my vote?

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission

24 granted.

25

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

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: While I agree
6 with many of the comments that were just made by, ah,
7 Council Member Gibson, I do want to stress some of
8 the important facts that have not been brought up and
9 continue to be overlooked. Ah, since April small
10 business experienced a loss of over 60% in revenue.
11 2800 small businesses have permanently closed between
12 March 1 and July 10. Partnership for New York
13 predicts 30% of all existing small businesses will
14 not reopen. This is going to change the commercial
15 corridors. This is going to change the shape and the
16 future of New York City. I want to remind everyone
17 that a business that goes out of business has no
18 employees, does not contribute to the city's tax base
19 that provides services and programs that are much
20 needed New Yorkers. It is incumbent upon each and
21 every one of us to do everything that we can to allow
22 these small businesses to reopen and survive. We're
23 not even thinking of thriving. We're talking about
24 basic survival and although this bill is not perfect,
25 it is a solution to a much bigger problem, and that

2 is the lack of leadership in this administration.
3 Our restaurants are at 25% indoor capacity. They
4 cannot survive. This percent, this 10% surcharge,
5 which is optional for each restaurant to make a
6 decision, whether or not they want to apply it or
7 what, up to what percent they are willing to add as a
8 surcharge, will be part of their business model that
9 I am sure will be adjusted as time moves forward. I
10 implore all of my colleagues to engage themselves
11 more on the dire straits of...

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: ...of small
14 business. So although this bill may have some
15 consequences, the greater picture today and the
16 responsibility is that we have to help them survive.
17 So I'll be voting aye on all. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
19 Council Member Gjonaj. And thank you for your
20 service to the small business community.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Grodenchik.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Ah, thank
23 you. Just some brief permission to explain my vote?
24 Or permission to briefly explain my vote?

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Um, I just
7 want to really, ah, thank, ah, Chair Treyger, ah, and
8 [inaudible] for education in the city. Um, the city
9 has a responsibility to over a million young people
10 and their families, and, um, I do not believe going
11 forward from this day and, and from the previous
12 months that we've had to prepare, ah, for reopening
13 of the schools, um, that we are indeed prepared and
14 as a [inaudible] I think that, ah, they could have
15 learned a lot from Chair Treyger, and so, um, I want
16 to thank him especially, um, for the students of the
17 35 schools, um, that are in my district. And with
18 that I vote aye on all.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Constantinides.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Hi, with
22 permission, I'd like to vote on land use call-ups and
23 all items on the general orders calendar.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
25 granted.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote
3 aye.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

5 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you, Council
6 Member. Holden.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: I vote aye on
8 all, with the exception of Intro 1603-A, of which I
9 vote no.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Kallos.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to
12 explain my vote?

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
14 granted. Please wait for the time clock.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to
17 Speaker Corey Johnson for your commitment and, ah, I
18 would like to join Council Member Reynoso as we
19 strive to do more for our essential workers,
20 including protecting their right to request safety
21 equipment, and a safe work environment. And that
22 being said, I, I vote aye on Intro 1823. I also want
23 to thank Council Member Cornegy for your leadership
24 and partnership in taking on the scaffolding that
25 continues to plague our city, and I hope that with

2 the passage of Introduction 1853 that we can pave the
3 way to fully legalize drone inspections and get the
4 scaffolding down. So much great legislation today.
5 And I'm proud to vote aye on all.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

7 COUNCIL CLERK: King.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Congratulations to
9 everyone who's passing smart legislation. I think
10 we're gonna make an impact in helping the city move
11 itself forward, and I vote aye on all. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Koo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Koslowitz.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Lancman.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Lander.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request
20 permission to explain my vote?

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted. Please wait for the time clock.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thanks very much.
25 I will be voting aye on all, except on Intro 1823-B,

2 on which I will vote note. Like everyone here, I
3 care so much about our small businesses and our
4 restaurants, and I'm pleased to be working with
5 Council Member Powers on a bill for rent relief, ah,
6 so that the city can help provide rent relief and
7 support. But, like Council Members Adams and
8 Reynoso, I'm really concerned about the workers in
9 those restaurants who are the ones who if they can't
10 pay rent are getting evicted from their homes or
11 standing themselves in bread lines. Let's remember
12 that in the restaurant industry it's the one place
13 where workers don't even get the minimum wage as a
14 base. They get a sub-minimum wage with tips on top.
15 And I think in some cases they're gonna take home
16 less in tips, as Council Member Adams said, when
17 people see the surcharge on their bill. Ah, that
18 could have been adjusted. This could be available
19 for those businesses that commit either to pay their
20 workers the minimum wage as a base with tips on top,
21 or the surcharge could be required to be shared with
22 workers, in which case I would be open to supporting
23 it. If those are amendments which are made and this
24 is adjusted and made permanent but with a real
25 commitment that workers get the minimum wage plus

2 tips, and the tips and service charges are shared,
3 I'd be glade to vote for future legislation that did
4 that and I hope we'll do it in the near future. And
5 I'll just add those same workers could be protected
6 from unfair firing by the just cause legislation that
7 Council Members Adams and Kallos and I have
8 sponsored. This has been before this council for
9 quite some time. And meanwhile the food delivery
10 workers that are gig workers who are delivering food
11 from those restaurants to our homes, we could be
12 extending paid sick leave to them. We could have
13 done that in the spring. We could have done that in
14 the summer. We could be doing it today. I really
15 sincerely hope we will be doing it in the future.
16 Um, but since we aren't today I will be voting no on
17 823-B and aye on the rest. And I want to join in
18 giving props to Chair Treyger on the way that he has
19 fought for our schools and our teachers and our kids
20 in these recent weeks, and thank him on behalf of the
21 over one million school kids and all the teachers and
22 school staff who are in those schools starting, ah,
23 now. Thanks very much.

24 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
25 Council Member Lander.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Levin.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

4 COUNCIL CLERK: Levine.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you.

6 Permission to briefly explain my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you, Madam
10 Majority...

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Thank you. I
13 would like to briefly speak on Intro 1603, which I am
14 pleased we're voting on today. The mission of
15 affordable housing is to help people who have
16 struggled put a roof over their head, and rules which
17 preclude people who have credit problems from
18 accessing that housing directly undermine that
19 mission. The truth is that people can have credit
20 problems for many different reasons, including
21 medical crisis and other hardships and in many cases
22 they can be making an effort to dig out of that hole.
23 They are still being precluded from accessing rental
24 housing, affordable housing, to have city subsidy.
25 And that's simply not fair. Ah, our bill would fix

2 that by requiring developers who get city subsidy,
3 would preclude them from preventing people with
4 credit problems from accessing that housing. That
5 includes all forms of medical debit and student loan
6 debt, and any judgments up to \$12,000. So this is an
7 important measure to open up affordable housing stock
8 to those who are in need and I'll be pleased to be
9 voting in favor of this and aye on all. Thank you.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
12 Council Member Levine for that transformative piece
13 of legislation.

14 COUNCIL CLERK: Louis.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Maisel.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Menchaca.

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

21 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
22 granted. Please wait for the time clock to begin.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Ah, thank you
25 all, and I, I want to say thank you to all the

2 council members that are, ah, passing legislation
3 today, Council Member Levine, Treyger, ah, and
4 Borelli. Even your, your piece of legislation, I
5 think, really speaks to the heart of what we're
6 trying to do to save our business districts in our
7 districts. Um, but I just want to lift up the voice
8 of the many who are behind Council Member Reynoso's
9 cry for more justice for our workers. Ah, and so I
10 look forward to working with him and his office and
11 anyone else in the council, ah, including the
12 Speaker, who spoke on that today, ah, to bring them
13 justice. I vote aye on all. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
15 Council Member Menchaca.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Miller.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Moya.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Perkins.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Powers.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye on all.

24 Thank you.

25 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Reynoso.

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
5 granted.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Wait for the time
8 clock. OK.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Ah, for more,
10 since the early year New York City has suffered
11 through one of, ah, a once-in-a-generation pandemic.
12 As elected officials we've been tasked with being
13 creative and swift in addressing the impacts of the
14 coronavirus. For six months we have been delivering
15 food to needy families. Organizations and electeds
16 alike have been handing out masks and sanitizer and
17 information to residents. Ah, we're looking to
18 reinvent education and have had tough conversations
19 about health, hospitals, and homelessness. We have
20 reinvented our streets to allow for open air
21 gatherings and now, ah, even remove the untouchable
22 parking space to help struggling businesses get any
23 advantage they can during this time. Throughout all
24 the work that we have done, we have covered many
25 bases. But there's one glaring absence - workers,

2 specifically tipped workers. Folks who are
3 vulnerable, paid below the minimum wage, and have
4 struggled with unemployment because of the
5 complexities on how they get paid. Today we look to
6 pass another bill with the intent to help businesses.
7 I support this bill because it's all hands on deck
8 when we, ah, on deck, and we must be the problem
9 solvers our constituents want us to be. The
10 amendment that I was going to push would have asked
11 for an hourly wage of \$15.00 for tipped workers. If
12 you're going to opt in you should be paying your
13 workers at least \$15.00 an hour, and it's something
14 that we can do that is tangible. Looking forward to
15 working with this council to see if we can achieve
16 that hereafter. We have to be equitable in the work
17 that we are doing for all of our constituencies and
18 that must include workers. The council has not
19 passed any legislation directly protecting or
20 assisting workers since the pandemic started. We
21 have those languishing in committees that can address
22 issues important to tipped workers, but we fast track
23 bills that don't speak to the times and undermine our
24 environment, like the fuel cell bill that passed the
25 last Stated. I hope that moving forward we can

2 remember that we must help all New Yorkers and that
3 does include our tipped workers. And I want to thank
4 you and thank, ah, Speaker Corey Johnson. And I'm
5 looking forward to the next Stated to see some
6 changes, I guess, or some advancement in a lot of
7 these issues. Thank you.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
9 Council Member Reynoso.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on
11 all. Sorry, Majority Leader.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Richards.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Ah, permission
14 to vote yes on all land use call-up items, and I vote
15 aye on all. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Rivera.

17 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member
18 Richards.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Yes?

20 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Did you vote earlier on
21 land use call-up items?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: No, no I did
23 not.

24 PARLIAMENTARIAN: OK. Um, Madam Majority
25 Leader, can we please request unanimous consent for

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2 Council Members Constantinides and Richards to vote
3 on land use call-up items?

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: At this time can
5 we, ah, provide unanimous consent from the entire
6 City Council to allow opportunities for Council
7 Member, ah, Richards and Council Member...

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Constantinides.

9 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: And Council
10 Member Constantinides to vote on all legislation and
11 land use call-ups?

12 [Multiple members saying yes]

13 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any abstentions?

14 UNIDENTIFIED: No.

15 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Any nos? All
16 right. They have it and we can continue with the
17 vote.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member Rivera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Rodriguez.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

22 COUNCIL CLERK: Rose.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

24 COUNCIL CLERK: Rosenthal.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Treyger.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to
4 explain my vote?

5 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Permission
6 granted.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Colleagues,
9 within the New York City school system 79 DOE
10 employees have died from COVID-19-related illnesses
11 as of June 22, 2020, including 31 teachers, 28
12 paraprofessionals, five food service staffers, four
13 central office employees, three school counselors,
14 two administrators, two school aides, two facility
15 staffers, one parent coordinator, and one school
16 computer technology specialist. This number does not
17 include other members of the school community who are
18 not DOE employees, including bus drivers, school
19 safety agents, crossing guards, and others who lost
20 their lives to the coronavirus. And, of course,
21 these numbers do not reflect the untold number of
22 students who have lost family members and other loved
23 ones. I mentioned at the previous Stated that as a
24 former teacher myself before I would ask my students
25 to open a notebook in class I would have to first

2 establish trust and a safe and supportive learning
3 environment in my classroom. And we're hearing today
4 from teachers, education stakeholders, parents,
5 students from across the city, that that trust has
6 been shattered. And I appreciate the fact that the
7 majority of my council colleagues in solidarity with
8 our school communities, ah, to prioritize their
9 safety and their wellness, because we need a lot
10 more, there's a lot more to do to keep them safe, and
11 this council's passing a resolution that stands in
12 solidarity with them and says buildings should not
13 open until the city is able to meet every single
14 safety guidance to keep every child, to keep every
15 educator, ah, safe and to give families and, and
16 parents peace of mind as well. And I thank you all
17 for your support, your leadership, and, ah, with that
18 I vote aye on all.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL CLERK: Ulrich.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye on all
22 with the exception of Intro 1603-A.

23 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: I vote aye on
25 all.

2 COUNCIL CLERK: Van Bramer.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I want to,
4 ah, share the concerns that have been echoed by, ah,
5 Council Members Lander, Menchaca, and Reynoso about
6 the workers at our restaurants and, ah, I vote yes on
7 all because I want to help our small businesses. Um,
8 but, boy, do we have to come back and do something,
9 ah, for the workers and the staff at those
10 restaurants. Ah, so I'm aye on all. Thank you.

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL CLERK: Yeger.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I vote aye on all,
14 with the exception of Intro 1878.

15 COUNCIL CLERK: Thank you. Matteo.

16 MINORITY LEADER MATTEO: I'm voting no on
17 1603-A and aye on the rest. Thank you.

18 COUNCIL CLERK: Cumbo.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I vote aye on
20 all.

21 COUNCIL CLERK: Speaker Johnson.

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye on all.

23 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member Barron,
24 we see your hand is raised before we close the vote.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, I wanted to
3 make general discussion comments. Is that now? I
4 had stepped away.

5 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Ah, it will be later.
6 We'll add you to the list.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you.

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Thanks, Council Member
9 Barron.

10 COUNCIL CLERK: [clears throat] Excuse
11 me. The vote on today's general orders calendar is
12 all items have a vote of 49 in the affirmative, zero
13 in the negative, and no abstentions, with the
14 exception of the following. Introduction 823-B has
15 46 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, and 1
16 abstention. Land use item 663 and Resolution 1423
17 has 48 in the affirmative, with 1 in the negative,
18 and no abstentions. Introduction 1603-A has 45 in the
19 affirmative, 4 in the negative, and zero abstentions.
20 Introduction 1878-A has 49 in the affirmative, excuse
21 me, 48 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, no
22 abstentions. And revised land use call-ups are now
23 at 49 in the affirmative.

24

25

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. The
3 items on today's general orders calendar are now
4 adopted. Introduction and reading of bills.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills are referred
6 to committees as indicated on today's agenda.

7 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
8 will now move into the discussion of resolutions. As
9 a reminder, please wait until the Sergeant at Arms
10 begins the countdown clock before you begin your
11 remarks. Thank you, we will now...go ahead,
12 Parliamentarian.

13 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Council Member
14 Menchaca, do you wish to speak about the resolution?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: No.

16 PARLIAMENTARIAN: We will add you to
17 general discussion.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. We
20 will now have a voice vote on today's resolution. If
21 you wish to vote against or abstain from today's
22 resolution please notify the legislative documents
23 unit by email. Let me read today's resolution into
24 the record. Resolution 1410-A calls on the
25 Department of Education to only open school buildings

2 that have met the health and safety standards
3 prescribes in the UFT 50-item checklist and implement
4 a medically recommended mandatory randomized COVID-19
5 testing program for adults and students in all school
6 buildings as agreed upon by the administration and
7 the labor organizations representing school
8 personnel, including UFT, CSA, and DC37. Will all
9 those in favor say aye?

10 [Multiple members saying aye]

11 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All opposed say
12 nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will
13 now move into general discussion. As a reminder,
14 please wait until the Sergeant at Arms begins the
15 countdown clock before you make your remarks. I will
16 wait for the Parliamentarian at this time to inform
17 me who is on the list to speak.

18 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
19 Leader. Council Members Rivera, Moya, and Eugene.

20 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: All right. I'd
21 like to first begin by, ah, wishing Council Member
22 Carlos Menchaca a happy birthday. And we will begin
23 effectively with Council Member Rivera.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you. Um,
3 thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly on my
4 bill, Intro 2083, which will extend the suspension
5 period for the enforcement of personal liability
6 provisions in commercial leases affected by COVID-19
7 until March 2020. My original bill suspending
8 personal liability provisions is set to expire on
9 September 30, and it is critical that we pass an
10 extension as quickly as possible. It's clear that we
11 all underestimated how long this crisis would last
12 and its impact on small business owners, but I hope
13 you will recognize the continued urgency of this
14 moment. Extending this law is one of the few
15 tangible actions this body can take to save small
16 businesses from permanently shuttering and their
17 owners from financial ruin. It is simply unethical
18 to let this expire and allow landlords to go after
19 people who have already lost their income and
20 livelihoods in the midst of an ongoing economic and
21 public health crisis. I'm kept up at night thinking
22 about the countless small business owners who have
23 reached out to my office, terrified that they'll now
24 lose any semblance of financial independence after
25 they've already lost their income and livelihoods due

2 to COVID. Earlier this week at the hearing for this
3 preconsidered bill we heard from Louise Fabier, the
4 owner of two Brooklyn bars, the Pencil Factory and
5 [inaudible] and Sons. She currently owes her
6 landlords \$100,000 in back rent from the start of the
7 pandemic and without these protections her only
8 option will be to operate her bars at a loss and be
9 saddled with debts for the next 30 years to pay back
10 her rent. That means she will be paying until she is
11 86 years old. Even with outdoor dining and limited
12 indoor dining on the horizon, the reality is that
13 very few of them will be able to break even for the
14 foreseeable future. When my bill previously passed
15 with an overwhelming majority, I challenged any of my
16 colleagues who expressed their hesitancy about my
17 original bill to listen to the small business owners,
18 like Louise, who are asking specifically for this
19 help. Because if we want our city to truly
20 recover...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: ...to ensure that
23 this is a city where small businesses can not only
24 survive but eventually thrive. Thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
3 Council Member Rivera for that very smart, ah,
4 introduction. Next we will have Council Member Moya,
5 followed by Council Member Eugene. Council Member
6 Moya, please wait for the time clock to begin.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Thank you, Madam
9 Majority Leader. Thank you, Speaker, and my
10 colleagues. I'm here to speak about my, ah, bill,
11 Intro, ah, 2081. Ah, right now the city is facing an
12 economic crisis that is affecting every aspect of our
13 lives, from the macro to the micro. Ah, the macro
14 problems, unemployment in double digits, restaurants
15 unsure if they will, ah, ever fully open up again,
16 and the list goes on. Ah, this deeply impacts the
17 micro. Ah, can a family put food on the table and
18 keep a roof over their heads, ah, for another money?
19 That is why today I'm introducing legislation to
20 reform the application process for the one-shot deal
21 program that provides critical relief and support,
22 ah, to families facing evictions. This legislation
23 would create an, ah, additional opportunities to
24 apply for rental assistance via the one-shot deal
25 during the COVID-19 pandemic, increase public

2 awareness of the program, and improve the program's
3 transparency. The one-shot deal program is run by
4 HRA and is an emergency assistance program that helps
5 people facing unexpected hardship, ah, to cover an
6 expense. Currently, ah, those seeking a grant to
7 address rent must travel to Housing Court and a
8 result Housing Court being closed to the public for
9 much of the last six months, the program numbers have
10 plummeted. This legislation would apply specifically
11 to rental arrears, ensuring that New Yorkers who are
12 struggling to pay the rent have an additional option
13 to cover the cost and stay in their homes. The
14 legislation also calls for enhanced opportunities to
15 be offered to seniors, individuals with disabilities,
16 and those that lack access to technology. Ah, our
17 housing crisis has become exceptionally worse since
18 the beginning of the pandemic and the red tape has
19 prevented those in dire circumstances from accessing
20 resources that they need, including the one-shot deal
21 program. I'm proud to introduce this legislation,
22 ah, to make this program more transparent and
23 accessible, especially during the current crisis.
24 And I encourage my colleagues to sign on as
25 cosponsors, and I look forward to working, ah, to

2 pass, ah, this bill as soon as possible. And I'd
3 also like to thank, ah, Nicole Bramstead, Emain
4 Patteo, um, for their work, ah, on this, ah,
5 legislation. Thank you so much.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so much
7 for your focus, Council Member Moya. We will now
8 have Council Member Eugene. Council Member Eugene,
9 please wait for the time clock to begin.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Thank you, Mr.
12 Speaker. Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. My
13 colleagues, we all know the devastation impact, the
14 devastating impact that COVID-19 has had on our city,
15 our state, our country, and also in the global
16 community. Today I'm introducing several pieces of
17 legislation that will implement more effective
18 protection for the members of the immigration
19 community who are in danger of losing their lawful
20 status and being deported as a result of COVID-19
21 pandemic. I'm also introducing legislation that will
22 improve the remote, the remote learning experience
23 for all New York City's children and better
24 facilitate the conversion of a building code into
25 hospital in the event of a pandemic. Resolution 1416

2 call on the United States Department of Homeland
3 Security to hold all deportation proceeding for a
4 length of the COVID-19 pandemic as a mean of
5 restricting the global spread of this, ah, deadly
6 disease. Resolution 1417 call on the Department of
7 Homeland Security to place a moratorium on all
8 removal proceeding for employment-based status orders
9 that suffer a loss of employment due to the COVID-19
10 pandemic. And Resolution 1418 calls on the Congress
11 to pass and President to sign legislation that will
12 permit employment-based status orders to retain a
13 lawful status if the loss of employment or is related
14 to COVID-19. In addition, Intro 2075 will provide a
15 mobile hot spot for all New York City students
16 regardless of socioeconomic status to ensure quality
17 in education and that no student are left behind
18 during the remote learning experience. And finally
19 Introduction 2076 would require the Commissioner of
20 Building...

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: ...[inaudible]

23 evict due to constructional code to better facilitate
24 the conversion into a temporary hospital in the event
25 of a pandemic of health emergency, ah, crisis. And

2 I'm asking all my colleagues to support those very
3 important legislation. Thank you so very much.

4 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
5 much, Council Member Eugene. Are there any other
6 members that wish to speak at this time,
7 Parliamentarian?

8 PARLIAMENTARIAN: Yes, Madam Majority
9 Leader. Council Members Barron and Menchaca.

10 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
11 Barron, please wait for the time clock to begin
12 before you begin your remarks.

13 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Ah, thank you,
15 Madam Majority Leader. Just briefly two points. I
16 want to call my colleagues' attention to the *New York*
17 *Times* article that appeared, the editorial, that
18 appeared on September the 14th entitled *New York City*
19 *Council Don't Roll Back Police Reforms*. And the
20 article talks about the fact that after six years we
21 were finally able to get a chokehold ban built into
22 law, passed into law, and that we now have this
23 serving as a model across the country. And it lists
24 several reasons why we would not adopt the amendment
25 that has been proposed. So I do have, ah, an email

2 that I'm sending out to all my colleagues to
3 facilitate your being able to see that editorial if
4 you missed it on Monday. And secondly, I just want
5 to say that, ah, there are several of us in our
6 community who are opposing the mayor's actions, ah,
7 that led, first of all, to the homeless men being
8 moved out of the Lucerne Hotel based on the, ah,
9 opposition and complaints of the white wealthy Upper
10 West Side for having that population there and now
11 creating an avalanche of other disruptions throughout
12 the shelter system. In my district there is the
13 Flatland Family Residence, which houses about 90
14 families, women with children, women and husband, and
15 their husbands with children, two, three children.
16 I've seen them myself. We are opposed to the mayor's
17 proposition that this family shelter be closed as a,
18 as a ripple effect from what he did in closing the
19 men's shelter at the Lucerne. This is a finally a
20 place where people who are in limbo, people who are
21 waiting for their permanent housing, to be able to
22 know that at least there's some place...

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...they can go
25 where their children can get afterschool services and

2 they can get support services. So we did have a
3 demonstration yesterday and we are opposed to any
4 impact of other shelters based on what the mayor did
5 on the Upper West Side, West 79th Street. Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
7 Council Member Barron. Ah, we will now have Council
8 Member Carlos Menchaca. Please wait for the time
9 clock to begin.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Thank you,
12 Majority Leader, for the birthday wishes, and I can't
13 wait to share a hug with you very soon. Um,
14 yesterday was a historic day for the City Council.
15 The Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises held a
16 critical 11-1/2-hour hearing on Industry City's
17 rezoning application. Yesterday was a testament to
18 language access. Constituents were given, ah, the
19 ability to hear the hearing in Spanish, Mandarin,
20 Cantonese, and Arabic, first time ever. More than
21 200 people signed up to testify on the Industry City
22 rezoning. Many more listened and many more sent
23 their testimony in their own language. And I want to
24 say gracias, gracias to the incredible leadership of
25 Speaker Johnson, his entire team, ah, Jason, Raju,

2 Genevieve, all of you, ah, and Chair Moya, and Chair
3 Salamanca, who really committed to this and made it
4 something incredibly special. We felt it on the
5 ground. Here's some key points that I found very
6 telling in this hearing. One, there is no
7 accountability. Congress Member Nidia Velasquez said
8 it best. Show me a time when a developer has made
9 and kept their promise. It has never happened. The
10 community knows this and all the elected officials in
11 the districts representing the district know it, too.
12 Second, the mayor has been absent this entire time
13 and will not play a critical role in ensuring that we
14 mitigate the impacts to this massive application.
15 Three, this is not Amazon. This is a real estate
16 developer that gives leases, not jobs. Amazon can
17 promise jobs. Industry City can't. In fact, they
18 talked about the 20,000 jobs as not really being that
19 and being more of a gimmick, at best. The developer
20 admitted that they only really are, ah, talking about
21 7000 new jobs when they've already created 8000 out
22 of the 20, and then there's another 5000 that will be
23 off site and part of the economic ripple of impact.
24 But no guarantees about when those jobs would come.

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2 So, colleagues, let's keep talking. Ah, I know that
3 this...

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: ...engagement is
6 hard, but the lines are open. Thank you so much for
7 this time.

8 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you so
9 much, Council Member Carlos Menchaca. Are there any
10 additional members who wish to speak at this time,
11 Parliamentarian?

12 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
13 Leader.

14 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I will now call
15 on Speaker Corey Johnson to close today's...

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Ah, Council
17 Member Levin I see is waving his hand.

18 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: OK. Council
19 Member Levin, would you like to make, ah, remarks at
20 this time?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Yes, Madam
22 Majority Leader, thank you. Um, I just wanted to
23 follow up on...

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: ...thank you so
3 much, ah, Parliamentarian. Ah, I want to follow up
4 on the remarks of Council Member Barron. Um,
5 yesterday we heard, um, in the General Welfare
6 Committee, um, Intro 146, which, ah, ah, has a super-
7 majority of sponsors, um, and, ah, got that super-
8 majority prior to COVID, and so now we're, we're
9 taking up this legislation, um, in earnest. And this
10 is a bill that would raise the, ah, value of a
11 CITYFEPS voucher, which is the city's, um, version of
12 a rental assistance voucher, to the fair market rent.
13 As it right now, um, there is no neighborhood in New
14 York City that, ah, that the voucher, the voucher
15 amount, ah, can actually meet a fair market rent.
16 And so, um, as a result, ah, ah, DHS clients will
17 have a CITYFEPS voucher, ah, for one, two, or three
18 years and will be unable to find an apartment. And
19 so in order to really move families and individuals
20 out of shelter and into permanent housing we need to
21 give them a fighting chance, and having a voucher
22 that is actually worth something, um, is integral to
23 that effort. Um, as our former speaker, Chris Quinn,
24 actually said yesterday in her testimony, what we're
25 doing is actually worse than not giving families

2 anything, and she's now the, the CEO of, of WIN, ah,
3 formerly Women in Need, a shelter provider, um,
4 mostly in Brooklyn, that when we provide a
5 undervalued voucher it's actually worse than not
6 giving clients anything, because it's giving them
7 false home. Ah, giving them a voucher that, ah, that
8 is, that is basically useless and, and frankly the
9 Department of Homeless Services yesterday was not
10 able to give us any data on its effectiveness, um,
11 ah, up to point.

12 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: So I encourage my
14 colleagues to, if you haven't signed on already,
15 Intro 146, we hope to get as much support as
16 possible. Thank you very much.

17 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you,
18 Council Member Levin. I'll now call on Speaker Corey
19 Johnson to close today's Stated Meeting.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I believe we that we
21 have one final speaker.

22 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: My apologies.

23 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So we can turn it over
24 to, ah, you could recognize Council Member Mark
25 Gjonaj.

2 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
3 Gjonaj.

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,
6 Speaker, and thank you, ah, Majority Leader. I just
7 want to echo, ah, Council Member Levin and Council
8 Member Barron. Council Member Barron currently has a
9 bill in, it's called a TRIE bill, which protects
10 households earning under \$50,000, similar to the
11 SCRIE program and the DRIE program, that those
12 tenants and those families would not be subject to
13 any future rent increases, giving them the
14 opportunity and the ability to stay afloat and keep a
15 guaranteed roof over their heads as they don't see
16 their expenses increase. Um, I'm encouraged by
17 Councilwoman Barron's bill. I introduced that bill
18 when I was in the State Assembly and I would love to
19 see more attention focused on that. That would
20 bring, ah, relief to many of our struggling tenants
21 and a permanent solution to the future, ah, struggles
22 that our residents will have. Thank you.

23 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Council Member
24 Gjonaj, thank you so much for your remarks. Are

2 there any other council members that wish to speak
3 before we close out today's meeting?

4 PARLIAMENTARIAN: No, Madam Majority
5 Leader.

6 MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: Thank you. And I
7 just want to remind all members. Ah, we've
8 restructured the Democratic Conference in many ways
9 to encourage more debate and discussion on critical
10 pieces of legislation. I encourage all members to
11 participate with their delegations so that, ah, the
12 nuances and the challenges and the pros of the
13 different bills are discussed in greater length. And
14 I'll now turn it over to Speaker Corey Johnson to
15 close today's Stated Meeting.

16 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Ah, thank you, Madam
17 Majority Leader. I want to echo, um, the comments
18 that, ah, Council Member Menchaca made in thanking
19 the staff that worked really hard yesterday on the
20 hearing. Raju Mann and his team, as well as Jason
21 Goldman and Genevieve Michaels, everyone worked
22 really hard on the language access issue to make sure
23 that whether it was Arabic or Mandarin or Spanish or
24 Cantonese, whatever the language was people were able
25 to testify and get translation, ah, for the language

2 and I think it's the first time the council has ever
3 done that. So, ah, I know that Council Member
4 Menchaca was, ah, pushing for that, ah, to make sure
5 that his constituents and other constituents would
6 have the opportunity to participate in a full and
7 meaningful way and, ah, you know, I'm really proud
8 that we were able to do something along those lines
9 to have the council be more participatory for, ah,
10 all residents, people who where English is not their
11 first language, where they may not speak English at
12 all. Ah, but they're a New Yorker and they want to
13 be able to participate in government. So I want to
14 thank the staff that really made that possible. I
15 really want to thank, ah, Chair Moya, who chaired, I
16 believe, an almost 12-hour hearing yesterday, ah, and
17 did it with, ah, good humor and respect for everyone
18 that was testifying. Of course, some people have
19 really, um, passionate feelings around this and he
20 allowed there to be space for people to share those
21 feelings freely and openly and stayed until the very
22 last person was able to, ah, give their testimony,
23 which I think was very late into the night last
24 night, ah, past, I think it was almost close to
25 midnight, I think, when, ah, when things wrapped up.

2 So I want to just, ah, thank him for that, thank the
3 staff. Ah, thank you, Francisco, you did a great job
4 yesterday. We're grateful to your leadership, and he
5 spent a lot of time preparing for yesterday's
6 hearing. It wasn't just that he showed up and did
7 it. He spent weeks, actually, working with Council
8 Member Menchaca and the land use staff to make sure
9 that the hearing would go off in a thoughtful and
10 appropriate way, and I really appreciate his
11 leadership, the leadership that he showed yesterday.
12 Ah, with the that, the Stated Meeting of September
13 16, 2020, is hereby adjourned. [gavel]

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STATED MEETING

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 29, 2020