

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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March 7, 2018  
Start: 1:27 p.m.  
Recess: 2:29 p.m.

HELD AT: New York City Council Chambers

B E F O R E: COREY JOHNSON  
Speaker for the Council

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne Adams  
Alicka Ampry-Samuel  
Diana Ayala  
Inez D. Barron  
Justin Brannan  
Joe Borelli  
Fernando Cabrera  
Margaret S. Chin  
Andrew Cohen  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Chaim M. Deutsch  
Daniel Dromm  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mathieu Eugene  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Mark Gjonaj  
Barry Grodenchik  
Robert Holden

Andy L. King  
Peter A. Koo  
Karen Koslowitz  
Rory I. Lancman  
Brad S. Lander  
Stephen T. Levin  
Mark Levine  
Alan N. Maisel  
Steven Matteo  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Bill Perkins  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Deborah L. Rose  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Ritchie J. Torres  
Rafael Salamanca  
Mark Treyger  
Eric A. Ulrich  
Paul A. Vallone  
James G. Van Bramer  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Letitia James, Public Advocate

Amit Paley  
CEO and Executive Director of Trevor Project

Bishop Dr. Annette Lazarus Rose  
Bethesda Healing Center

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 4

2 Test, test. This is a recording of the  
3 Stated Meeting of March 7, 2018 and this is being  
4 recorded by Muhammed Arshod[sp] in the New York City  
5 Council Chambers.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Could come up as well.  
7 If you have a project, you want to come up front.  
8 Jonathan, if I may have that for a moment. Thank  
9 you. I'm not gonna shake your hand because I'm sick,  
10 okay. I'm gonna stay away from everyone. Come on  
11 up, come on up everyone. Thank you all for being  
12 here. Come on this side too. Sorry, it's a little  
13 slow here today because of the snow but Amit, it's  
14 great to have you so the New York City Council is  
15 really, really proud, here you go, you may have this,  
16 really, really proud to honor the Trevor Project, 20  
17 years of serving LGBTQ youth across the country. It  
18 started, of course, in California but with offices in  
19 New York and in Los Angeles and as an openly gay man  
20 with two other openly gay men who are council members  
21 both of whom were very much involved in the LGBT  
22 rights movement back when it wasn't so popular and  
23 being someone who was suicidal LGBT teenager myself  
24 at the age of 16 years old, I am deeply grateful for  
25 the work that the Trevor Project does so we are

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2 really honored to have you here today. We are  
3 grateful for the work that you all do day in and day  
4 out and before I ask you to make some remarks, I want  
5 to ask the Clerk to please read the proclamation.

6 CLERK: Council, City of New York  
7 Proclamation. The New York City Council is proud to  
8 honor the Trevor Project for 20 years of  
9 extraordinary service and dedication to LGBTQ teen  
10 and young adults and

11 Whereas, in 1994 producers Peggy Rajski  
12 and Randy Stone saw writer, performer James Lecesne's  
13 award winning one man show *Word of Mouth* in which he  
14 brought an unforgettable character named Trevor to  
15 life convinced Trevor's story would make a wonderful  
16 short film. Mr. Stone and Ms. Rajski invited  
17 Mr. Lecesne to adapt it into a screen play. Set in  
18 1981, the film follows what happens to 13 year old  
19 Trevor when he realizes that he's gay. When everyone  
20 else finds out as well, he is ostracized and in his  
21 despair. Trevor starts contemplating suicide.  
22 Trevor directed Ms. Rajski went on to win many  
23 prestigious awards including the Oscar for Best Live  
24 Action Short Film and

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2           Whereas, in addition to winning an  
3 Academy Award, the film eventually launched a  
4 national movement. When Mr. Stone secured an airing  
5 on HBO with Ellen DeGeneres hosting, director  
6 producer Ms. Raski discovered there was no real place  
7 for young people like Trevor to turn when facing  
8 challenges similar to his. She quickly recruited  
9 mental health experts and figured out how to build  
10 the infrastructure necessary for nationwide 24 hour  
11 crisis line and writer, James Lecesne secured the  
12 funds to start it. In 1998, the night their funny  
13 and moving coming of age story premiered on HBO,  
14 these visionary film makers launched the  
15 TrevorLifeline, the first national crisis  
16 intervention and suicide prevention lifeline for  
17 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning  
18 youth and

19           Whereas, over the course of the last two  
20 decades hundreds of thousands of young people in  
21 crisis have reached out to the Trevor Project's  
22 multiple in person and on-line lifesaving, life  
23 affirming resources, TrevorLifeline, TrevorChat,  
24 TrevorSpace, TrevorText and Trevor Education  
25 Workshops and,

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2           Whereas, the need for the Trevor Project  
3 is just as great today as it ever has been. Of all  
4 youth suicides, 33% identify as LGBTQ. One-third of  
5 all LGBTQ kids report having attempted suicide and 9  
6 out of 10 report overt harassment at school. The  
7 Trevor Project has a tremendously positive and  
8 lifesaving impact. It has proven that when young  
9 people feel loved and supported, they gain the  
10 strength to live, and

11           Whereas, today the Trevor Project is the  
12 premier organization providing crisis intervention  
13 and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ teens and  
14 young adults in New York and across the nation,

15           Now Therefore Be It Known that the New  
16 York City Council is proud to honor the Trevor  
17 Project in celebration of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for  
18 extraordinary service to LGBTQ young people and their  
19 loved ones and we wish it continued success in the  
20 years ahead. Corey Johnson, Speaker for the entire  
21 Council, Daniel Dromm, Chair LGBT Caucus, Council  
22 Member 25<sup>th</sup> District Queens, Ritchie Torres, Council  
23 Member 15<sup>th</sup> District the Bronx, Jimmy Van Bramer,  
24 Council Member 26<sup>th</sup> District Queens, Carlos Menchaca,  
25 Council Member 38<sup>th</sup> District Brooklyn.

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2 [Applause]

3 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank the Clerk as  
4 always for reading that. I want to let the folks in  
5 the Trevor Project know before I turn it over to  
6 Amit, that we are joined by our Public Advocate,  
7 Letitia James, Council Member Bill Perkins, as said,  
8 Council Member Danny Dromm, Council Member Rafael  
9 Salamanca from the Bronx, Council Woman Karen  
10 Koslowitz from Queens, Councilman Barry Grodenchik  
11 from Queens, Councilman Bob Holden from Queens,  
12 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer from Queens and we  
13 are really, sorry, and Council Member Margaret Chin,  
14 my neighbor, who represents this district from  
15 Manhattan. I'm really grateful that you are here and  
16 congratulations on 20 years so I want to turn it over  
17 to Trevor's executive director or CEO?

18 AMIT PALEY: Both titles.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Both titles, Amit  
20 Paley.

21 AMIT PALEY: Thank you so much. I just  
22 wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you here in  
23 particular. The Speaker who is battling the flu, for  
24 being here, to the entire LGBTQ caucus, to the  
25 council members and other elected officials who are



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2 here. Thank you so much for this honor and for  
3 recognizing the work that all my colleagues here and  
4 across the country do every day on behalf of LGBTQ  
5 youth. We are the world's largest suicide prevention  
6 organization for LGBTQ young people but we do a lot  
7 in New York City. I am based in New York as are all  
8 my colleagues who are here right now and New York  
9 City has really been a model for standing up for  
10 LGBTQ young people for decades. We know that suicide  
11 is a public health crisis for LGBTQ youth and yet we  
12 also know that it is preventable and that there is a  
13 lot that we can do to help LGBTQ young people and  
14 that's how we're so excited to partner with the City  
15 hopefully this year to really expand our presence in  
16 New York City even further and to really make New  
17 York City a model, first in the nation example of  
18 comprehensive suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth so  
19 thank you for having us here and thank you for all  
20 that you do for LGBTQ people.

21 [Applause]

22 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.  
23 Thank you and a big round of applause to all the  
24 staff of the Trevor Project for all their hard work  
25 as well and let's get a photo together.

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2 [pause]

3 CLERK: Ladies and Gentlemen, can I have  
4 your attention please. Can I please have your  
5 attention. At this time, at this time, please place  
6 all electronic devices to vibrate, all electronic  
7 devices to vibrate. Will all non-council employees,  
8 non-council employees please leave the main floor of  
9 the Chambers. Thank you. Madam Public Advocate.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please take your  
11 seats. Please close the back doors. Quiet in the  
12 Chambers please. Everyone please take your seat.  
13 All rise for the pledge of allegiance.

14 ALL: I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
15 the United States of America and to the Republic for  
16 which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible,  
17 with liberty and justice for all.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.  
19 Roll call. Quiet in the Chambers.

20 CLERK: Adams?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Present.

22 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Present.

24 CLERK: Ayala?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Present.

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2 CLERK: Barron? Borelli? Brannan?

3 Cabrera? Chin?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Here.

5 CLERK: Cohen?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Here.

7 CLERK: Constantinides?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Here

9 CLERK: Cornegy?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Here

11 CLERK: Deutsch? Diaz?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Here.

13 CLERK: Dromm?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Here.

15 CLERK: Espinal? Eugene? Gibson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Here.

17 CLERK: Gjonaj? Grodenchik?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Yes.

19 CLERK: Holden?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here.

21 CLERK: Kallos? King? Koo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Present.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Here.

25 CLERK: Lancman?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Here.

3 CLERK: Lander? Levin? Levine? Maisel?  
4 Menchaca? Brannan?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here.

6 CLERK: Cornegy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: The Brooklyn  
8 delegation is still meeting but on behalf of them,  
9 they're all on their way.

10 CLERK: Thank you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: So you're  
12 calling out attendance for my entire delegation who's  
13 on its way.

14 CLERK: Thank you.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: So Brooklyn's not  
16 in the house?

17 [Laughter]

18 CLERK: Miller?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Present.

20 CLERK: Thank you, three away.

21 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: [Laughter]

22 CLERK: Moya?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here.

24 CLERK: Perkins?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Yes.

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2 CLERK: Powers?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here.

4 CLERK: Reynoso? Richards?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Present.

6 CLERK: Lander?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Here.

8 CLERK: Rivera?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present.

10 CLERK: Menchaca?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Presenta.

12 CLERK: Rodriguez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Here.

14 CLERK: Rose?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Here.

16 CLERK: Rosenthal?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Here.

18 CLERK: Salamanca?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present.

20 CLERK: Torres?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Present.

22 CLERK: Deutsch?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Here.

24 CLERK: Treyger? Ulrich?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Here.

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2 CLERK: Maisel?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Here.

4 CLERK: Vallone?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Here.

6 CLERK: Van Bramer?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Here.

8 CLERK: Williams? Yeger? Matteo?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Here.

10 CLERK: Cumbo?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Here.

12 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Here.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. I  
15 apologize but to maintain quorum today, I cannot  
16 grant any early excusals and so I apologize in  
17 advance. Please rise for the invocation. The  
18 invocation will be delivered by Bishop Dr. Annette  
19 Lazarus Rose from Bethesda Healing Center at 167 E.  
20 98<sup>th</sup> Street from the Borough of Brooklyn.

21 BISHOP DR. ANNETTE ROSE: Good afternoon,  
22 everyone. Our Father in heaven we come before you  
23 this afternoon with full understanding that you are  
24 Lord and we are mere humans. Baring this in mind, we  
25 are committing our ways to you, asking for direction

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2 as we begin this journey of transacting business on  
3 behalf of the constituents of District 41 in this  
4 great City of New York. I thank you for all 51  
5 Council Members, the Speaker Mr. Corey Johnson and  
6 our Public Advocate Letitia James, Clergy and all  
7 other New York City officiants present. Your word  
8 declares in Proverbs 29, verse 2, that when the  
9 righteous are in authority, the people rejoice but  
10 when the wicked man rules, the people groan.  
11 Heavenly Father, I thank you for Council Woman Alicka  
12 Ampry-Samuel because of her love for the people, the  
13 people will rejoice. I pray that you will continue  
14 to direct her and her team as they go forth like the  
15 daughters of the Loufa[phonetic], may she have the  
16 strength and the courage to fight for the rights and  
17 the wellbeing of the people of New York, specifically  
18 those of Bedford Stuyvesan, Ocean Hill, Brownsville,  
19 East Flat Bush, and Crown Heights because of the  
20 disparities and injustices meted out for so long.  
21 May she always be an agent of change addressing the  
22 mental, social and economic injustices that our  
23 communities face daily. May she and her team  
24 strategist to build homes in our communities, create  
25 programs to further our education and productivity,

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2 improve our health and finances ultimately making New  
3 York City one of the greatest in this nation to live  
4 and Dear God, I ask that those of us who are called  
5 to the clergy will do our part to support her vision  
6 and participate readily in the upliftment of New York  
7 City. Help her Lord in her effort to practice law in  
8 the service of human needs. This we ask in Christ's  
9 name, Amen.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Amen, please be  
11 seated. Quiet in the chambers. A motion to spread  
12 the invocation. Council Member Ampry-Samuel.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Thank you  
14 so much. That was very emotional for me. It is an  
15 honor for me

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me, quiet  
17 in the Chambers. Thank you. We apologize Council  
18 Member.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: It is an  
20 honor for me and all the members within the 41<sup>st</sup>  
21 Council District and all the members here in the New  
22 York City Council, and in particular the Brownsville  
23 community to sit here and witness such an amazing  
24 prayer given by Bishop Dr. Annette Lazarus Rose who  
25 has her congregation that is just around the corner



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2 from where my mom lives on E. 98<sup>th</sup> Street and Blake  
3 Avenue and I just want to say when we watched that  
4 church be built, it turned into a sanctuary for so  
5 many families in the Brownsville community, so many  
6 families from after school programs to summer  
7 programs. You have done so much for our community  
8 and not just as the Bishop and a clergy member but a  
9 strong woman, a strong wife, a mother and a  
10 grandmother dedicated to our people so I thank you so  
11 much for that prayer. It is again an honor for you  
12 to be here and I move that we spread the invocation  
13 today. Thank you.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. Bless  
15 you Pastor. Adoption of minutes, Council Member Van  
16 Bramer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Motion that  
18 the minutes of the stated meeting of January 16, 2018  
19 and January 31, 2018 be adopted as printed.

20 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Messages and  
21 papers from the Mayor.

22 CLERK: M19, preliminary Mayor's  
23 management report.

24 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
25 printed and filed.

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Communication  
3 from City, County and Borough offices.

4 CLERK: M20 and M21, Comptroller reports.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Received, ordered,  
6 printed and filed.

7 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Petitions and  
8 communications.

9 CLERK: None.

10 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Land Use call  
11 ups.

12 CLERK: M22 through M26, various  
13 applications.

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on a call up  
15 vote. I'd like to ask for a roll call vote on  
16 today's Land Use callus.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And again please  
18 be reminded that no early excusals will be granted.  
19 I apologize.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We need to get the hell  
21 out of here.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Right, to  
23 maintain quorum, another way, to maintain quorum.

24

25

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Grodenchik, did you  
3 hear me? We need to get the hell out of here. No  
4 comment.

5 [Laughter]

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: That's another  
7 way to say it.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Roll call vote.

9 CLERK: Adams?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

11 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Ayala?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

15 CLERK: Barron?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote Aye.

17 CLERK: Brannan?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

19 CLERK: Cabrera? Chin?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 CLERK: Cohen?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Constantinides?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

25

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2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Did we call  
3 Ampry-Samuel?

4 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye.

6 CLERK: Cornegy?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

8 CLERK: Deutsch?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

10 CLERK: Diaz?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Aye.

12 CLERK: Dromm?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

14 CLERK: Espinal? Eugene? Gibson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

16 CLERK: Gjonaj? Grodenchik?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

18 CLERK: Holden?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

20 CLERK: King? Koo?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

22 CLERK: Koslowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

24 CLERK: Lancman?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

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2 CLERK: Lander?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

4 CLERK: Levine? Maisel?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

6 CLERK: Menchaca?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

8 CLERK: Miller?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

10 CLERK: Moya?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

12 CLERK: Perkins?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye.

14 CLERK: Powers?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

16 CLERK: Reynoso?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on

18 all.

19 CLERK: Richards?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

21 CLERK: Rivera?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Rodriguez?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

25 CLERK: Rose?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

3 CLERK: Rosenthal?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

5 CLERK: Salamanca?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye.

7 CLERK: Torres?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

9 CLERK: Treyger?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

11 CLERK: Ulrich?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

13 CLERK: Vallone?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Van Bramer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Williams?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

19 CLERK: Yeger? Matteo?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

21 CLERK: Cumbo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

23 CLERK: Eugene?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: [Inaudible]

25 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Is that aye?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Yes, aye.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

4 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

6 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Today's land use  
7 call ups are adopted by a vote of 43 in the  
8 affirmative, 0 in the negative. All quiet in the  
9 Chambers as we now hear from the Speaker Corey  
10 Johnson.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Good afternoon. I am  
12 sick so we're gonna get out of here fast so I can go  
13 home and get into bed but I'd first like to welcome  
14 the Trevor Project to City Hall today. I am proud to  
15 honor the Trevor Project for 20 years of  
16 extraordinary service and dedication to LGBTQ teens  
17 and young adults. As a gay teenager two decades ago,  
18 the Trevor Project helped really shape who I am  
19 today. They are the largest suicide prevention  
20 organization for LGBT young people in the country and  
21 I'm thankful for the work that their staff does. If  
22 we could please give them a round of a hand. They're  
23 up in the balcony and I want to thank...

24 [Applause]

25

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2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I also wanted to  
3 acknowledge Dillon Casey from the Land Use Division.  
4 Dillon's last day is Friday as he'll be moving to  
5 California to advocate for fair housing and work on  
6 related policy issues. Dillon's work on behalf of  
7 the Council these last three years has been of  
8 superior quality and we thank him for his hard work  
9 and we wish him all the best in sunny California so I  
10 want to thank Dillon. Is he here?

11 [Applause]

12 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Dillon's in the back.  
13 I want to thank him.

14 [Applause]

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: He has been great to  
16 work with so I'm really, really grateful and good  
17 luck so if folks could be quiet for a moment. Now on  
18 a heartbreaking note, on Monday. If folks could turn  
19 their phones off. On Monday tragedy struck in Park  
20 Slope in Brooklyn and my heart aches for the Park  
21 Slope community and I express my deepest condolences  
22 to the families of two young children who were  
23 killed, four year old Abigail Blumenstein and one  
24 year old Joshua Lew. This is a devastating tragedy  
25 and we must do everything in our power to further



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2 reduce traffic fatalities in our City. I want to  
3 invite Council Member Brad Lander to say a few words.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you  
5 Mr. Speaker. Our community is shattered this week.  
6 Abby was a beautiful four year old girl that was  
7 described as smart and cheerfully curious about  
8 everything by those who loved her. Her mom is  
9 pregnant and she was excited to be a big sister.  
10 Josh was a eighteen month old with a six month old  
11 little brother who was a darling little boy. Abby's  
12 mom, Ruthie Ann, is a Tony winning actor. She's  
13 pregnant and still in the hospital so I ask that you  
14 hold her in your prayers and when she won her Tony a  
15 few years ago, she thanked her friend Lauren, Josh's  
16 mom, in her remarks. Every detail is just  
17 shattering. They were killed by a driver whose car  
18 had run four red lights in the last two years and  
19 been caught speeding in four school zones by cameras.  
20 She should not have had a license to be driving  
21 around. She stopped at a red light, watched a car go  
22 by and with the light still red and the opposite  
23 crosswalk full of people, accelerated into them  
24 killing these two kids and hitting a few others. The  
25 investigation is underway, of course, but we, we've

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2 done a lot in this Chamber to try to make our streets  
3 safer and we have but boy it doesn't feel like it's  
4 worth anything on a week when you lose these two  
5 babies so I just ask that we all recommit to working  
6 together to keep reckless drivers off our streets.  
7 We've got a lot more to do there and to make our  
8 streets safer too and for now, just to hold these two  
9 families in your hearts. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So if folks could rise,  
11 we're gonna take a moment of silence.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All rise.

13 SPEAKER JOHNSON: For the two babies that  
14 we lost and to all the victims and folks that are  
15 mourning.

16 [pause]

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Please be seated.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So we're gonna jump  
20 into our docket for the day. The Council will vote  
21 to landmark properties in Manhattan and Brooklyn  
22 which are the Interborough Rapid Transit IRT Company  
23 Powerhouse located in Council Member Helen  
24 Rosenthal's district. Many of you probably know it.  
25 If you drive up the West side highway, you see that

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 27  
2 old beautiful building with those stacks in the west  
3 50's. It's a gorgeous old building and I'm so glad  
4 that we're land marking it today. We're gonna  
5 landmark the Empire State Dairy Company buildings  
6 located in Council Member Rafael Espinal's district  
7 and 827-831 Broadway buildings which is located in  
8 Council Member Carlina Rivera's district. Next, the  
9 Council's gonna vote on a package of legislation to  
10 better serve the needs of runaway and homeless youth.  
11 This is an important issue and one that hits close  
12 home for me because in many cases young people from  
13 my community, the LGBTQ community, are thrown out on  
14 the street because of their sexual orientation. We  
15 must do everything we can to help our young people  
16 and with that in mind I sponsored Introduction 410-A  
17 which would require the Department of Youth and  
18 Community Development to develop a plan to provide  
19 shelter to all runaway and homeless youth who request  
20 shelter. This bill would also require DYCD to report  
21 annually on runaway and homeless youth. The next  
22 bill in this package is Introduction 490A sponsored  
23 by Council Member Vanessa Gibson which would require  
24 that runaway and homeless youth be permitted to  
25 remain in runaway and homeless youth shelters for

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 28  
2 extended time limits, doubling the permitted time in  
3 a crisis shelter from 30 days to 60 days which is a  
4 big deal if you are a young person who's in a crisis  
5 shelter to double the length of stay and extending  
6 the time in transitional independent living  
7 facilities from 18 months granting an additional six  
8 months to 24 months, another big, big deal and the  
9 last piece which I actually think is probably the  
10 most important part of this package of bills is  
11 Introduction 556A sponsored by Council Member Ritchie  
12 Torres. It would require the Department of Youth and  
13 Community Development to include shelter services for  
14 homeless young adults ages 21 to 24 as part of the  
15 continuum of care for runaway and homeless youth  
16 services. The reason why this is so important and  
17 I'm sure Council Member Torres will talk about this.  
18 State law which the City lobbied for, granted us the  
19 ability to increase the age, raising the age allowed  
20 for young people to get these services. If you are  
21 20 years old and you turn 21, you are kicked out of  
22 an RHY shelter and put into a DHS shelter. This  
23 grants us the authority to let these young people  
24 stay in RHY shelters which help them and get them  
25 back on their feet up to the age of 24. It is going

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 29  
2 to help so many young people who are homeless in New  
3 York City. I want to thank the staff involved, Paul  
4 Cinegol[phonetic], Kevin Cotowski[phonetic], Andrea  
5 Vasquez, Lewis Cholton Brown, Jessica Ackerman and  
6 Iesha Wright. We are also gonna vote on Resolution  
7 177, sponsored by Council Member Mark Treyger which  
8 calls on New York State on the New York State  
9 legislature to amend the penal code Section 130-05  
10 related to the lack of consent for sexual acts to add  
11 persons in police custody to the list of persons  
12 deemed incapable of consenting to a sexual act when  
13 with a police officer. This is an important  
14 resolution and I am really happy that Council Member  
15 Treyger has shown leadership on this. The fact that  
16 this isn't on the books already is deeply disturbing  
17 and something that must be fixed immediately. I also  
18 want to, where is Council Member Treyger? I also  
19 want to really recognize the fact that when this  
20 incident happened in Graves End in Council Member  
21 Treyger's district a few months ago, he was the first  
22 leader to call and figure out the loophole that  
23 existed. The Governor put this in the 30 day  
24 amendments but Council Member Treyger was on this  
25 issue before anyone else. Because of the rape,

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 30

2 alleged rape that occurred with two police detectives  
3 and a young woman who was in their custody and he was  
4 at the forefront of this. He was pushing this. He  
5 was calling on the City to do this and the State to  
6 do this and he did this long before the legislature  
7 or the Governor decided to take action on this so I'm  
8 hopeful because it was put the 30 day amendments,  
9 that it will be included but the person who showed  
10 the real leadership on this, out of the gate  
11 immediately was Council Member Treyger so when the  
12 State legislature fixes this and gets it right, the  
13 person who deserves the leadership chops on this is  
14 our friend and colleague, Council Member Mark  
15 Treyger.

16 [Applause]

17 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I want to thank the  
18 staff on this, Beth Gollum[phonetic] and Casey  
19 Addison and that completes our docket for today. I  
20 want to thank you all. Let's vote quickly and get  
21 back to our districts in this difficult weather.  
22 Thank you Madam Public Advocate.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
24 Discussion of general orders? Seeing none. Report  
25 of special committees?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 31

2 CLERK: None.

3 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Report of  
4 standing committees?

5 CLERK: Report of the Committee on  
6 Housing and Buildings, preconsidered Intro 720, site  
7 safety training providers.

8 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Laid over.

9 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land  
10 Use LU15 to LU19, various applications.

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
12 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
13 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70B of the Rules of  
14 the Council and Section 197D of the New York City  
15 Charter.

16 CLERK: LU20 and Reso. 231 through LU27  
17 and Reso. 233 Landmark Designations.

18 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
19 orders.

20 CLERK: LU28 and 29, zoning amendments.

21 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Approved with  
22 modifications and referred to the City Planning  
23 Commission pursuant to Rule 11.70B of the Rules of  
24 the Council and Section 197D of the New York City  
25 Charter.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 32

2 CLERK: Preconsidered LU30 and Reso. 234,  
3 Campaign Finance Board Office.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled to be filed  
5 pursuant to a letter of withdrawal.

6 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules,  
7 Privileges and Elections, M14 and Reso. 235,  
8 approving the reappointment of Fernando A. Borquez,  
9 Jr., conflict of interest board.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
11 orders.

12 CLERK: M15 and Reso. 236, approving the  
13 reappointment of Anthony W. Crowell, conflict of  
14 interest board.

15 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
16 orders.

17 CLERK: M16 and Reso. 237 approving the  
18 appointment of Salvatore Scapetta[phonetic], board of  
19 standards and appeals.

20 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
21 orders and before we keep moving on, I want to thank  
22 Chair Koslowitz for chairing the hearing on Rules on  
23 these nominations. She did a great job and I really  
24 appreciate her leadership on this.

25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 33

2 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Youth  
3 Services, Intros 410A, 490A and 556A, Homeless Youth  
4 Services.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Amended and coupled on  
6 general orders.

7 CLERK: On the general order calendar,  
8 Resolution appointing various persons, Commissioner  
9 of Deeds.

10 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Coupled on general  
11 orders and I would like a roll call vote on all of  
12 the items on today's general order calendar.

13 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
14 Chambers and let's begin our roll call with Council  
15 Member Lancman.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

17 CLERK: Adams?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye on all.

19 CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Ayala?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Barron?

24

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

34

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

3 That's with the understanding that we're not  
4 considering LU28 and 29. Is that correct?

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Yes.

6 CLERK: That's correct.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Brannan?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Cabrera?

11 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Cabrera?

12 CLERK: Chin?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Cohen?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Constantinides?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye on

18 all.

19 CLERK: Cornegy?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Deutsch?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye on all.

23 CLERK: Diaz?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Si en tota.

25 CLERK: Dromm?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 35

2 COUNCIL MEMBER DROMM: Aye.

3 CLERK: Espinal?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye on all.

5 CLERK: Eugene?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER EUGENE: Aye on all.

7 CLERK: Gibson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye on

9 all.

10 CLERK: Gjonaj?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye.

12 CLERK: Grodenchik?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

14 CLERK: Holden?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

16 CLERK: Koo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

18 CLERK: Koslowitz?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

20 CLERK: Lander?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

22 CLERK: Levin?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Levine?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 36

2 CLERK: Maisel?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Yes.

4 CLERK: Menchaca?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

6 CLERK: Miller?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

8 CLERK: Moya?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

10 CLERK: Perkins?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER PERKINS: Aye on all.

12 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Shhhhh, quiet in  
13 the Chambers please.

14 CLERK: Cabrera?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

16 CLERK: Powers?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

18 CLERK: Reynoso?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

20 CLERK: Richards?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

22 CLERK: Rivera?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye on all.

24 CLERK: Rodriguez?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 37

2 CLERK: Rose?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye on all.

4 CLERK: Rosenthal?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Salamanca?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Torres?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye on all except  
10 M14 Reso. 235. I'm going to abstain.

11 CLERK: Treyger?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: With quick  
13 thanks to Speaker Johnson, Public Advocate, Chair  
14 Richards, my colleagues, Anna Scaff[phonetic],  
15 Vanessa, Ramone, Depa Ombicar[phonetic], Josh  
16 Kingsley and our colleagues in the State Assembly and  
17 Senate for supporting the Resolution. Speaker  
18 Johnson you were one of the first leaders to reach  
19 out to offer support to me and my district. I want  
20 to publicly thank you right back. I vote aye on all.  
21 Thank you.

22 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

23 CLERK: Ulrich?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: Aye.

25 CLERK: Vallone?

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 38

2 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on all.

3 CLERK: Van Bramer?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

5 CLERK: Williams?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

7 CLERK: Yeger?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

9 CLERK: Matteo?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

11 CLERK: Cumbo?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Speaker Johnson?

14 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I vote aye. That was a  
15 record.

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you. All  
17 items on today's general order calendar were adopted  
18 by a vote of 48 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
19 negative, 0 abstentions with the exception of M14 and  
20 Resolution 235 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in  
21 the affirmative, 0 negative, 1 abstention and the  
22 revise Land Use call ups are adopted by a vote of 48  
23 in the affirmative, 0 negative. Introduction of  
24 reading of bills.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 39

2 SPEAKER JOHNSON: All bills have been  
3 referred to committee as indicated on the agenda.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: And now for any  
5 discussion of the following resolution, Resolution  
6 177 a resolution urging the New York State  
7 legislation to amend the penal law, Section 130-05 to  
8 include individuals in police custody as being  
9 categorically incapable of consenting to sexual  
10 conduct with a police officer. Any speakers on this  
11 resolution? Council Member?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: I'd like to echo  
13 the Speaker's remarks. I too was shocked that this  
14 was not something that was already unlawful under New  
15 York State Penal Law. As we know, it's

16 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Excuse me Council  
17 Member, Shhhh. We apologize Council Member Yeger.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: As we know, it's  
19 unlawful for a corrections officer to have any kind  
20 of interaction of that nature with somebody in their  
21 custody as a matter of the person not being able to  
22 legally consent, even if there is consent by a yes so  
23 the notion that it's some kind of a defense that  
24 there was consent because, you know, a police officer  
25 had these relationships, it's important for us to

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 40  
2 make our voice heard and ask the State to step in and  
3 to pass a law that makes it illegal but what I do  
4 want to indicate as well is that when we talk about  
5 these cases with the police every once in a while and  
6 you hear this, it's always important for us to note  
7 for ourselves and for the rest of the City that the  
8 vast majority 99.9999%, the police officers do their  
9 jobs well, do their jobs hard. They serve our  
10 community with pride and with dignity and with honor  
11 and we should pass this and I'm grateful to Council  
12 Member Treyger for putting this on the agenda and  
13 passing this but we should also keep that in mind as  
14 we do that.

15 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you Council  
16 Member Yeger. Seeing none other, all of those in  
17 favor of Resolution 177 say aye.

18 ALL: Aye.

19 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: All of those  
20 opposed? Any abstentions? Any abstentions? The  
21 ayes have it. And general discussion beginning with  
22 Council Member Koo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I will be very short  
24 now. This week we are celebrating the 6<sup>th</sup>  
25 anniversary of the Open Data Week.



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 41

2 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Shhhhh.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Until March 10,  
4 there will be different special events among the City  
5 for New Yorkers to discover, explore and use the  
6 City's vast wealth of Open Data. Since 2012, every  
7 City agency has contributed data to our Open Data  
8 Portal and the data sites grow every day. Open Data  
9 demonstrates our commitment to a transferring,  
10 accountable and less cynical government that takes  
11 pride in giving people access to information. Today,  
12 accessible data is used by everyone from students to  
13 professionals in an effort to influence policy and  
14 change in their local communities so I invite you to  
15 all encourage your constituents to take advantage of  
16 our City's ground breaking efforts to empower them  
17 with information and have a safe trip home.

18 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

19 Council Member Williams.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. I  
21 just wanted to point out two bills very briefly. One  
22 is a Bed and Breakfast bill that I'm working on with  
23 Council Member Cornegy and borough president Adams.  
24 There are many of our one and two family homes that  
25 are unduly targeted even as we are trying to crack

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 42  
2 down on the very egregious air B and B and the second  
3 is right to a core that I am reintroducing. It just  
4 gives a local right of action for our people's  
5 ability to record law enforcement. Many folks may  
6 have seen the Buzz feed article that was very  
7 disturbing about from 2011 to 2015, at least 319 NYPD  
8 employees who committed offenses certainly enough to  
9 merit firing were allowed to keep their jobs and for  
10 clarity that did come before Commissioner O'Neill but  
11 it does lead to many of the things that myself and  
12 others have been saying. We've moved in a very good  
13 direction and I want to continue to applaud that.  
14 There are two areas we are abysmal on. One is  
15 transparency and the other is accountability. We  
16 have to keep moving forward with that. Although we  
17 have unfortunately seen that having footage does not  
18 necessarily help with accountability, at least  
19 everyone is looking at the same thing. It does not  
20 create any new rights. It just gives a private right  
21 because if you had to push forward on your right with  
22 the constitution, it is much more onerous so I would  
23 like my colleagues to please sign on to those two  
24 bills and again congratulations to Council Member  
25 Treyger for his resolution. I'm happy that the

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 43

2 Governor followed the leadership of Council Member  
3 Treyger and this Council on something that was  
4 ridiculous to begin with. Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
6 Council Member Torres.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Thank you. I  
8 want to just briefly explain why I abstained from the  
9 vote approving the reappointment of Fernando Borquez.  
10 I have no doubts about his qualifications for the  
11 conflict of interest boards. I have no doubt about  
12 his personal and professional integrity but separate  
13 and apart from the merits of his individual  
14 appointment, I have on a principle objection to  
15 fundraising on the part of conflict of interest board  
16 appointees. As far I'm concerned, the conflict of  
17 interest board is and should be any political  
18 institution. It should have the appearance and the  
19 substance of political neutrality and it's my opinion  
20 that fundraising among COIB appointees undercuts the  
21 appearance of political neutrality so it's not an  
22 objection to the individual appointee. It's simply a  
23 general principle for me.

24 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
25 Council Member Chin.

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 44

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. I just  
3 wanted to bring my colleagues attention to Intro 620  
4 and 621, two pieces of legislation that will help the  
5 City ramp up its efforts to control the New York  
6 City's rat infestation problem. In large mixed use  
7 commercial and residential area such as lower  
8 Manhattan, residents and tourists alike frequently  
9 see families of rats enjoying a buffet on the  
10 sidewalk so last year I joined Mayor de Blasio to  
11 announce a pilot program to place high capacity big  
12 bellies trash cans in area with a large numbers of  
13 rats. As part of this effort, I'm introducing Intro  
14 621. This bill would require buildings within a rat  
15 mitigation zone that has nine units or more which are  
16 required to have supers to only take out garbage  
17 between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. I'm also  
18 introducing Intro 620 to require businesses in the  
19 spring and summer season to clean the grease and  
20 other garbage juice off the sidewalk before they  
21 open. These simple solutions can deprive rats of  
22 further opportunity from freeloading off our garbage  
23 and to achieve lasting result, we all must be a part  
24 of the solution. I wanted to thank Chair Reynoso for  
25 hearing these bills, preconsider on the Sanitation

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 45

2 Committee yesterday and I also thank Nicole  
3 Abene[phonetic] the committee counsel for her work on  
4 drafting this bill and I urge my colleagues to sign  
5 on. We had to cancel our lunar New Year celebration  
6 tonight because of the weather. Hopefully, we will  
7 reschedule as soon as possible so that we can  
8 celebrate. Thank you.

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
10 Council Member Brannan.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Thank you. I'll  
12 be very, very quick. Today I want to, I'm  
13 introducing Intro 619 which is designed to increase  
14 penalties on large corporate chains and businesses  
15 for failing to properly remove snow and ice following  
16 a snow storm. Most home owners and small businesses  
17 take their snow shoveling responsibility very  
18 seriously. I have to go home and do that now but  
19 some of these big business chains laugh at the  
20 thought of being slapped with \$100 fine. Failing to  
21 shovel their sidewalks creates a dangerous situation  
22 as we all know. After a snow storm there's no excuse  
23 for there still to be snow and ice outside some of  
24 these very large corporate chains and the bill makes

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 46

2 sure not to go after small businesses so Intro 619.

3 Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.

5 Council Member Treyger.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you public

7 advocate. Very briefly as chair of the education

8 committee, I'm proud to introduce a package

9 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Shhhh Excuse me

10 Council Member, we're still in session. Quiet in the

11 Chambers please. We apologize.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Sure and again

13 thank you to all my colleagues for their support and

14 public advocate, thank you for your public as well on

15 that resolution which we appreciate leadership. As

16 chair of the education committee, I'm proud to

17 introduce a package of bills today that would make

18 the Civil Service Exam process more accessible to

19 graduating high school seniors and first time exam

20 takers. One of my two new bills, Intro 672 and Intro

21 671, would require graduating high school students to

22 be informed about the City's Civil Service process so

23 students have a deeper understanding of every option

24 available to them and what they are working towards

25 as they graduate high school. Increasing awareness

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 47  
2 about the Civil Service exam process and the careers  
3 associated with those exams can motivate our students  
4 to continue their academic careers knowing that there  
5 are more opportunities that will be available to them  
6 should they pursue additional degrees. The other  
7 bill would create a task force to examine ways the  
8 City would waive Civil Service exam fees for  
9 individuals taking the test for the first time. We  
10 are cultivating many bright and talented young minds  
11 in our City and we want to encourage that talent to  
12 remain here and help us move forward. By raising  
13 awareness and creating opportunities for Civil  
14 Service exams and employment, this package of  
15 legislation can help us accomplish our goal and I  
16 thank my colleagues for their time.

17 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Quiet in the  
18 Chambers please.

19 SPEAKER JOHNSON: So we have three more  
20 folks. We need to get the hell out of here cause the  
21 storm is moving in fast so folks when you speak, do  
22 it very quickly.

23 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Council Member  
24 Constantinides.

25

1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 48

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: On the  
3 strong urging of our Speaker, I will forego my time.

4 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you.

5 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
6 Council Member Rose.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just want to  
8 briefly say Council Member Van Bramer and I are  
9 introing 713 and it's to bring an Ombudsman to DYCD  
10 to provide oversight over the runaway youth  
11 population and to oversee emergency shelter  
12 transitional and independent living drop in and other  
13 services for runaway youth.

14 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: Thank you.  
15 Council Member Levin.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you Madam  
17 Public Advocate. Just very briefly I want to offer  
18 my sympathy and condolences to the families of Joshua  
19 Lew and Abigail Blumstein and to the broader  
20 community for the tragic and senseless killing of  
21 these two little children and my sympathies go to the  
22 families and I urge all of my colleagues in  
23 government to do more to prevent these types of  
24 tragedies from ever happening again and sparing other  
25



1 CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 49

2 families from this terrible, terrible suffering and  
3 grief and tragedy. Thank you.

4 PUBLIC ADVOCATE JAMES: May Abigail and  
5 Joshua rest in peace. Mr. Speaker to close.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: We're getting the hell  
7 out of here. That's all she wrote. Get home safe.

8 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date March 20, 2018