

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

1

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Start: 2:25 p.m.

Recess: 3:30 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Adrienne E. Adams, Speaker
Amanda Farías, Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Adrienne E. Adams
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Diana I. Ayala
Chris Banks
Joseph C. Borelli
Erik D. Bottcher
Justin L. Brannan
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Amanda Farías
Oswald Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
COUNCIL MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Shahana K. Hanif
Kamillah Hanks
Robert F. Holden
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Kristy Marmorato
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Julie Menin
Francisco P. Moya
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Keith Powers
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Carlina Rivera
Yusef Salaam
Rafael Salamanca, Jr
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger
Susan Zhuang

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

A P P E A R A N C E S

INVOCATION:

Bishop Hugh Nelson, Ebenezer Urban Ministry
Church of God located at 660 Powell Street,
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11212

SERGEANT PAYTUVI: This is a microphone check for the Stated Meeting, located in Chambers, recorded on February 8, 2024 by Nazly Paytuvi.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentleman, at this time, please place all electronic devices, all electronic devices, to vibrate or silent mode.

Madam Majority Leader?

MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of February 8, 2024. I am Majority Leader Amanda Fariás, and I would like to thank you for joining us. If you would like to follow along, the agenda for today's meeting is posted on our website.

On behalf of the body, I welcome the members of the public who have joined us here today. During Stated Meetings, only members of the council may speak. Members of the public shall remain silent. If you wish to express support of any remarks, you may make the silent approval gesture.

I want to remind my colleagues that decorum is to be respected at all times. Insulting each other is not appropriate; all remarks are to be addressed to the Chair, and members shall not speak unless

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 5

2 recognized by the Chair. It is essential that even if

3 we disagree, we treat each other with respect.

4 CITY CLERK: Please join us for the Pledge of

5 Allegiance.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

7 ALL: [PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE]

8 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Roll call?

9 CITY CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: [NO RESPONSE]

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Presenté

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Here

17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Banks?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Here

19 CITY CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEr: Here

21 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Here

23 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here

25 CITY CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present
3 CITY CLERK: Council Member Cabán?
4 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present
5 CITY CLERK: Council Member Carr?
6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: [NO RESPONSE]
7 CITY CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?
8 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here
9 CITY CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?
10 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Present
11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Feliz?
12 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Here
13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?
14 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [NO RESPONSE]
15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?
16 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Presenté
17 CITY CLERK: Council Member Hanif?
18 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here
19 CITY CLERK: Council Member Hanks?
20 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present
21 CITY CLERK: Council Member Holden?
22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Here
23 CITY CLERK: Council Member Hudson?
24 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present
25 CITY CLERK: Council Member Joseph?

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	7
2	COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Here	
3	CITY CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?	
4	COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here	
5	CITY CLERK: Council Member Lee?	
6	COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here	
7	CITY CLERK: Council Member Louis?	
8	COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present	
9	CITY CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?	
10	COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Present	
11	CITY CLERK: Council Member Ariola?	
12	COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here	
13	CITY CLERK: Council Member Carr?	
14	COUNCIL MEMBER CARR:[NO MIC] Here	
15	CITY CLERK: Council Member Marte?	
16	COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present	
17	CITY CLERK: Council Member Mealy?	
18	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present	
19	CITY CLERK: Council Member Menin?	
20	COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Here	
21	CITY CLERK: Council Member Moya?	
22	COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Here	
23	CITY CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?	
24	COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present	
25	CITY CLERK: Council Member Nurse?	

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	8
2	COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: [NO RESPONSE]	
3	CITY CLERK: Council Member Ossé?	
4	COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Present	
5	CITY CLERK: Council Member Paladino?	
6	COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here	
7	CITY CLERK: Council Member Powers?	
8	COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Here	
9	CITY CLERK: Council Member Restler?	
10	COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here	
11	CITY CLERK: Council Member Riley?	
12	COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present	
13	CITY CLERK: Council Member Rivera?	
14	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Present	
15	CITY CLERK: Council Member Salaam	
16	COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present	
17	CITY CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?	
18	COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Present	
19	CITY CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?	
20	COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present	
21	CITY CLERK: Council Member Schulman?	
22	COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here	
23	CITY CLERK: Council Member Stevens?	
24	COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here	
25	CITY CLERK: Council Member Ung?	

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 9

2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present

3 CITY CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: [NO RESPONSE]

5 CITY CLERK: Council Member Williams?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I'm here

7 CITY CLERK: Council Member Won?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present

9 CITY CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Here

11 CITY CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here

13 CITY CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: [NO RESPONSE]

15 CITY CLERK: Council Member Farías?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Present

17 CITY CLERK: Speaker Adams?

18 SPEAKER ADAMS: Present

19 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, we will now

20 have today's invocation, which will be delivered by

21 Bishop Hugh Nelson of Ebenezer Urban Ministry Church

22 of God, which is located at 660 Powell Street in

23 Brooklyn.

24 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise!

25

BISHOP NELSON: We humble our hearts, O Lord, acknowledging you as Lord and Savior. We're grateful for the privilege you have granted to us to be in a country which recognizes the power of prayer. We thank you, Lord, and as we gather in these chambers, as you have chosen each of us, not so much representing ourselves as representing our constituents, Father, will you grant wisdom, knowledge, and understanding? Your words are clear, unless you build a house, the builders build in vain; unless you watch over the city, the watchmen watch in vain. And, so we humbly bow our hearts, and I ask that you grant grace and wisdom, with all of the floor deliberations, Lord, we seek for one thing, that you might be pleased, and that our community, our city, will be enhanced. Grant your blessings upon this time we pray in thy name, which is above our name, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. I would now like to ask Council Member Chris Banks to spread the Invocation in full upon the Record.

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, Majority Leader. I would like to thank Bishop Hugh Nelson for being here today. Bishop Dr. Nelson is a man of God

committed to ministry of restoration that reaches beyond the sanctuary to uplift those most in need. He was born in the beautiful island of Jamaica, and Bishop Nelson and his family relocated to Brooklyn, New York in 2003, where he presently serves as a senior pastor for the church of God of East Flatbush in my district - presently known as Ebenezer Urban Ministry Center.

Bishop Nelson is a visionary whose guidance and focus on leadership development enabled the church of God of East Flatbush to evolve from a single cell church model into a vibrant urban ministry center that is home to more than 1,700 members and ministers to over 2,500 on a weekly basis.

In 2011, Bishop Nelson lead his congregation in purchasing two city blocks to develop the Ebenezer Plaza, which will provide a 40,000 square footage urban ministry center and 530 affordable housing units. I make a motion for unanimous consent to spread the Invocation in full upon record.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: We will now have the Adoption of Minutes by Council Member David Carr.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 12

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I move that the minutes of

3 the Stated Meeting of January 18, 2024 be adopted as

4 printed.

5 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS:

6 Messages and Papers from the Mayor?

7 CLERK: M 14 through M 19 various budget

8 documents.

9 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance.

10 CLERK: M 20, Preliminary Mayor's Management

11 Report?

12 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and

13 Filed.

14 CLERK: M 21, City Debt and Reserves?

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and

16 Filed.

17 CLERK: M 22 and M 23, Conflict of Interest Board

18 Appointments?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Rules, Privileges and Elections.

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Communications from City,

21 County and Borough Offices?

22 CLERK: M 24, Office of Management and Budget

23 Withdrawal?

24 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and

25 Filed.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 13

2 CLERK: M 25 and M 26, Budget Appropriations?

3 SPEAKER ADAMS: Finance

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Petitions and

5 Communications?

6 CLERK: M 27, Rule 2.75b Report?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Received, Ordered, Printed and

8 Filed.

9 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Land Use Call-Ups?

10 CLERK: M 28, Timbale Terrace?

11 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on Call-Up Vote.

12 I now ask that the clerk take a rollcall vote on

13 today's Land Use Call-Ups.

14 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye

20 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye

22 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

24 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHEER: Aye

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	14
2	CLERK: Council Member Brannan?	
3	COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye	
4	CLERK: Council Member Brewer?	
5	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes	
6	CLERK: Council Member Brooks-Powers?	
7	COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye	
8	CLERK: Council Member Cabán?	
9	COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye	
10	CLERK: Thank you	
11	Council Member Carr?	
12	COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye	
13	CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?	
14	COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye	
15	CLERK: Council Member Dinowitz?	
16	COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye	
17	CLERK: Council Member Feliz?	
18	COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye	
19	CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?	
20	COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: [NO RESPONSE]	
21	CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?	
22	COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye	
23	CLERK: Council Member Hanif?	
24	COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye	
25	CLERK: Council Member Hanks?	

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	15
2	COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye	
3	CLERK: Council Member Holden?	
4	COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye	
5	CLERK: Council Member Hudson?	
6	COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye	
7	CLERK: Council Member Joseph?	
8	COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye	
9	CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?	
10	COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye	
11	CLERK: Council Member Lee?	
12	COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye	
13	CLERK: Council Member Louis?	
14	COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye	
15	CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?	
16	COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye	
17	CLERK: Council Member Marte?	
18	COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye	
19	CLERK: Council Member Mealy?	
20	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye	
21	CLERK: Thank you	
22	Council Member Menin?	
23	COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye	
24	CLERK: Thank you	
25	Council Member Moya?	

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	16
2	COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye	
3	CLERK: Council Member Narcisse?	
4	COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye	
5	CLERK: Council Member Nurse?	
6	COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye	
7	CLERK: Thank you	
8	Council Member Ossé?	
9	COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Aye	
10	CLERK: Council Member Paladino?	
11	COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye	
12	CLERK: Council Member Powers?	
13	COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye	
14	CLERK: Council Member Restler?	
15	COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye	
16	CLERK: Council Member Riley?	
17	COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: [NO RESPONSE]	
18	CLERK: Council Member Rivera?	
19	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.	
20	CLERK: Council Member Salaam	
21	COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Aye	
22	CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?	
23	COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye	
24	CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?	
25	COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye	

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 17

2 CLERK: Council Member Schulman?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

4 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

8 CLERK: Council Member Vernikov?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Council Member Won?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye

18 CITY CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye

20 CLERK: Thank you

21 CITY CLERK: Council Member Riley?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: [NO RESPONSE]

23 Council Member Borelli?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 18

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Aye

5 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Today's Land Use Call-ups
6 are adopted by a vote 50 in the affirmative and 0 in
7 the negative.

8 We will now have Communication from Speaker
9 Adrienne E. Adams.

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader,
11 and good afternoon, everyone.

12 I want to begin by acknowledging the loss of
13 Cecilia Gentili, a trailblazing, passionate and
14 powerful advocate whose work over decades has made
15 our city more equitable. Cecilia's relentless pursuit
16 of dignity and justice for our LGBTQIA+ community,
17 especially trans New Yorkers, immigrants, women, and
18 so many others will have a lasting impact on our city
19 for generations. Thank you for your fearlessness and
20 courage, Cecilia. My heart is with your loved ones
21 and community.

22 Our city is also mourning the deaths of two New
23 Yorkers who were tragically taken from us due to
24 dangerous fires, including a 67-year-old man at the
25 Gowanus Houses in Council Member Hanif's district,

and an 86-year-old woman from Regal Park in Council Member Holden's district. Our thoughts are with their family and friends during this very difficult time.

Now I'd like to talk about the public conversation - that has occurred over the past several days - that's been lacking in basic facts. It's been reminiscent of the 1990's when fear mongering crowded our facts and has sought to conflate issues that have no connection. I want to lay out some basic facts and provide some important clarity and context that have been missing from the conversation.

The alleged assault on NYPD officers in Time Square that we saw on video, was deeply troubling, in fact, it was deplorable, as violence against police officers, city workers, or any New Yorker is wrong and unacceptable. Those involved in any assault should be held accountable for their actions. These should be shared truths that unite every New Yorker regardless of who may or may not have been responsible. While it is fair to scrutinize the criminal legal process and any issues related to it, the unfounded leap to draw a connection to City laws that make New Yorkers safer and cast blame on asylum

1 seekers, broadly lacks any foundation in truth. This
2 past week, some have pointed to this deplorable
3 incident as a reason to revisit policies advanced by
4 democratic and republican mayors, from Ed Koch, to
5 David Dinkins, to Rudy Giuliani, to Michael
6 Bloomberg, and beyond, who recognized that keeping
7 city agencies and workers from being used for federal
8 immigration enforcement is in the best interest of
9 public safety and the well-being of our city.
10

11 In reality, these bipartisan city policies have
12 no connection to this incident. This was an issue of
13 our local law enforcement solving and prosecuting an
14 alleged crime as governed by the state criminal law
15 and the United States Constitution. City law does not
16 interfere in the criminal legal process, nor any
17 federal immigration law. So-called sanctuary policies
18 have no bearing on how crime is prosecuted. They
19 don't conceal or shelter people from detection, nor
20 do they shield people from deportation or prosecution
21 for criminal activities. They simply reflect best
22 practices to safeguard public safety and well-being
23 for cities with immigrant communities, which have
24 been a priority of democratic and republican mayors
25 alike for decades.

This started with an executive order by Mayor Ed Koch, re-issued by Mayors Dinkins and Giuliani, defended in federal court by Mayor Giuliani, and restored by Mayor Bloomberg when many of these policies begin to be codified into Local Law.

In a city where one-third of all people are immigrants from over 200 countries, these diverse mayors shared an understanding that immigrant New Yorkers are not to be deterred from seeking help from or reporting crimes to city agencies due to fear of deportation. That would make us less safe. These policies foster trust and cooperation between immigrant communities and local authorities, which is critical to public safety. In fact, the evidence shows that counties with these policies across the country are safer and have less crime than those without them.

We can hold two truths, we can be united in denouncing the attacks, and we can uphold the proven public safety policies that have served our city and our immigrant communities for decades.

Our city is better than the public conversation of the past several days, and we all have a role to

play in advancing public safety - *not* politics - on behalf of *all* New Yorkers.

I also want to take a moment to share my profound disappointment and anger on behalf of the City's hundreds of thousands of public housing residents regarding yesterday's announced legal actions taken against current and former NYCHA employees in one of the largest corruption cases in the history of the United States Department of Justice. The impact on nearly 100 NYCHA developments across this city, including at Baisley Park Houses in my own district, is far reaching. Violating the public trust of New Yorkers is already being ill served by unacceptable living conditions. Our public housing residents deserve so much better. Residents should be able to trust and rely on NYCHA management to make timely repairs that address quality of life issues, and these allegations represent an immense betrayal. It's unacceptable, and NYCHA must do better by public housing residents across our city.

Happy Black History Month, everyone. As we celebrate this year, let us do so with great pride and joy, and take time to share the known and lesser known stories about the brilliant Black Americans

whose contributions have positively shaped our city and country. This month, and every month, it is important that we honor our ancestors and those whose shoulders we stand on today by continuing our struggles for justice, dignity, and liberation.

February is American Heart Month, it's a time when we raise awareness about the impact of heart disease, which has been the leading cause of death in the United States since 1950. And today we're wearing red ribbons, some of us are wearing red garments, in honor of National Wear Red Day, which is observed on the first Friday in February, to bring attention to women's heart health. It's critical that we work together to promote greater heart health and work towards preventing cardiovascular diseases.

We also recognized World Hijab Day on February 1st, in honor of all New Yorkers and millions of people around the world who wear the hijab with pride.

Yesterday was national Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. This day reminds us of the persistent disparities that continue to impact Black communities, and of the importance of staying committed to promoting HIV prevention, testing, and

treatment. It will take all of us to confront the stigma and inequities in our communities.

February 7th was also National Girls and Women In Sports Day in commemoration of the implementation of Title IX more than five decades ago. Our women majority council remains committed to the goal of equitable funding and access for women and girls across our city.

February 7th is also Grenada's Independence Day. This year marks the 50th anniversary of Grenada's Independence, so I want to wish all Grenadian New Yorkers a Happy Golden Jubilee celebration.

This Saturday February 10th marks the start of Lunar New Year, also celebrated as Seollal in our Korean communities or Tết in our Vietnamese communities.

Yesterday the Council hosted our Annual Lunar New Year's celebration marking the Year of the Dragon. We had the opportunity to celebrate together and honor the great community leaders whose work has uplifted our diverse AAPI communities across the city. I know it was a great celebration, and I want to thank everyone who attended and helped to make it a

success. I wish all New Yorkers who were celebrating a happy, healthy and prosperous Lunar New Year.

On February 12th, we will be observing NAACP Day in celebration of the day that the NAACP was formed in 1909. We would not be here today without the work and advocacy of the oldest civil rights organization in the country.

February 14th is National Donor Day, a time to spread awareness and education about organ, eye, and tissue donations. These selfless donations make it possible for another to have a second chance at life, and we thank all donors for their generosity.

February 14th is also Ash Wednesday, it's the first day of Lent. I wish all those participating a meaningful and reflective season of prayer and fasting.

February 15th is National Black Girl Magic Day. Black women are essential to the success and strength of our communities in our city, and it's important that we uplift our contributions. The Council is proud to host a Black Girl Magic Day celebration right here in the Council Chambers next Thursday at 6:00 P. M. I want to thank all of my colleagues who are cosponsoring this celebration.

On February 17th, we will observe Kosovo Independence Day. The Council will be hosting a Kosovo Independence Day celebration next Tuesday, so I encourage everyone to join us in the People's House right here beginning at 6:00 P. M.

February 16th is Gambian Independence Day. New York City is home to a diverse Gambian community, and we thank them for their critical work and contributions to our city.

February 21st is International Mother Language Day, formally recognized by New York City last year, to honor the importance of the Bengali Bangla language to Bangladeshis everywhere. Thank you, Majority Leader Farias and Council Member Hanif for your work to promote the acceptance of linguistic and cultural diversity in our communities.

On February 23rd, our Guyanese communities will be celebrating their Republic Day. I'm proud to represent a vibrant Guyanese community in my district, which I call The Great 28. So, I want to wish everyone a Happy Guyanese Republic Day.

Next, I want to encourage all New Yorkers to apply for your local community board. As the former Chair of Queens Community Board 12, I understand the

importance of civic engagement in local government when we work together to meet the needs of our communities. If you're interested in helping to make your neighborhood a better place to live, work, and thrive, I hope you will submit your application to serve your community.

Finally, February 5th was Council Member Hanif's birthday! I hope you had a very happy birthday!

[APPLAUSE]

Now let's move on to our Stated Agenda.

First, we will vote on the following Finance items, a transparency resolution approving designations and changes of certain organizations receiving funding in the Expense Budget.

Next, we will vote on the following Land Use items, 2226 Third Avenue would amend the Special East Harlem Corridors District to allow the development a new 10-story life sciences building in Deputy Speaker Ayala's district.

Whitestone Lanes Rezoning will facilitate a new 9-story residential building with 415 housing units, including approximately 113 permanently affordable units, accessible public space, and 200 parking spaces in Council Member Ung's district. The Council

is modifying the application to include the deep affordability option in addition to MIH options one and two.

166-11 91st Avenue Special Permit will provide relief for height restrictions that uniquely impacts the development site within the Special Downtown Jamaica District in Council Member Williams' district. This special permit will facilitate a new 13-story mixed-use residential and community facility building. The project will include 28 housing units, of which nine will be affordable, along with outdoor recreational areas and several terraces for residents.

Lastly, 962 Pacific Street Rezoning, the Council will be voting on a resolution to disapprove this application. In 2022, I released a Planning and Land Use toolkit with guidelines that underscored the need to prioritize thoughtful, comprehensive planning. And this is consistent with today's actions. This vote is about prioritizing the comprehensive plan for a neighborhood rezoning that Council Member Hudson is co-leading with her local community and the Department of City Planning - all stakeholders working together to deliver more housing. The

Atlantic Avenue mix use plan, which is expected to enter public review this year, is expected to create over 4, 200 units including 1,200 affordable homes, and the private application that is the subject of today's vote exists within that neighborhood rezoning, and should be part of that broader plan. The proposed neighborhood rezoning process is well underway. Preemptively acting on this single, private application that may not be consistent with the larger final neighborhood rezoning in the middle of the process, risks undermining the comprehensive planning that builds the sustainable trust necessary to successfully solve the City's housing crisis.

Today we will vote on the following resolutions:

Resolution 4-A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker Diana Ayala, Authorizing the Speaker to commence legal action on behalf of the Council of the City of New York to compel the Mayor and his Administration to implement CityFHEPS reform laws, Local Law 99 of 2023, Local Law 100 of 2023, Local Law 101 of 2023, and Local Law 102 of 2023. We want to thank our staff members.

We also will vote on the following pieces of legislation introduction:

Introduction 93-A, sponsored by Health Committee Chair Lynn Schulman, would require the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to develop a five year population Health Agenda with the goal of improving public health outcomes, addressing health, disparities, and improving access to quality healthcare for New Yorkers to increase life expectancy. The bill would also require DOHMH to submit the agenda to the Mayor and the Council and to post the Agenda on the Department's website. Thank you to our staff members, Chris Pepe, Sarah Sucher Mahnoor Butt, Florentine Kabore, and Danielle Glants.

Introduction 39-A, sponsored by Council Member Shahana Hanif, would require The Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence to establish a trauma informed program that connects eligible survivors of domestic or gender-based violence to support services, including, but not limited to, door and window repair services for the dwellings of eligible survivors, as well as a personal emergency response device. No later than one year after establishing the program, the agency would be required to submit a report on the program to the Mayor and the Council and post the report on the

office's website. The agency would also be required to develop and conduct outreach to inform the public about the program. We thank our staff member Sahar Moazami.

And Introduction 25-A, sponsored by Council Eric Member Dinowitz, would require the Department of Housing Preservation and Development - or HPD - to provide an application form for the Senior Citizen Increase Exemption or SCRIE Program to eligible residents in Mitchell-Lama Developments with all applicable data electronically populated in the application. After residents submit their annual income affidavits to HPD, the agency would be required to digitize the data and use it to populate SCRIE applications forms for residents who are eligible. The populated form would then be provided to potentially eligible residents along with the letter explaining the features of the SCRIE Program and information on how to review the application form and apply for the program. We thank our staff members, Christopher Pepe, Chloe Rivera, Emre Edev, Daniel Kroop, Julia Haramis, Jack Story, and Saiyemul Hamid.

Thank you all for your attention. And now I turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Speaker Adams. We will now move into Discussion of General Orders. And I will call on Council Member Hanif.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority Leader Farias.

Over a decade ago, as a youth activist, I became involved with the gender justice movement in our city to ensure that all survivors of gender-based and domestic violence were received with care and compassion. Today, I'm proud to move legislation that prioritizes their safety. Too often domestic violence survivors are unable to make essential security repairs to their homes due to high costs.

Introduction 39-A will address this issue by ensuring survivors have access to free lock changes, personal safety alarms, and door and window repairs. These services are critical to keeping survivors safe in their homes. The bill also ensures referrals to services that set survivors up for long-term success including counseling, safety planning, housing, and legal services. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill. I'm grateful to Speaker Adams

and Women and Gender Equity Chair, Lewis; coprime sponsors, Chair Lewis, and Council Member Cabán, Council Member Narciss, Council Member Farías and Council Member Riley; ENDGBV, Women and Gender Equity Committee Counsel, Sahar Moazami; my team, including Alex Liao, Musarrat Lamia, Michael Whitesides, and Nora Brickner; and a special shoutout goes to advocates and providers like Acacia Women's Center, Sakhi for South Asian Women; Jahajee Sisters; Women In Need; New Destiny Housing, Safe Horizon; and Womankind whose insights were integral to this bill and are doing an incredible job supporting survivors every day. I'm proud to have some of them joining today's meeting as my guests, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: I will call on Council Member Hudson, followed by Council Member Dinowitz, and then Council Member Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you, Majority Leader.

Good afternoon, today this council is voting on a resolution of disapproval of a Land Use project in my district located at 962 Pacific Street. I'll be voting aye on this resolution of disapproval, and I'd like to briefly explain why.

This is an unusual project, because the applicant seeks to rezone property located within an area that is part of a community-lead neighborhood planning process. City Planning announced the Atlantic Avenue Mixed Use Plan, known as Aim Up, in April 2022. And the public engagement process, which included a dozen public meetings and workshops, started in January 2023. This is not a new initiative, but an effort that is well underway, and about which the private applicant is well aware of and was a participant in. Aim Up will enter ULURP later this spring and will come before the Council by the end of this year. In total, it will result in approximately 4,200 apartments, including at least 1,200 affordable homes. Fundamentally, I do not believe that a private application should be allowed to bypass an ongoing comprehensive process that is in the process of being finalized. Neighborhood plans provide the framework and resources to ensure local residents can afford new housing, to protect long-standing residents from displacement, and to secure necessary public realm improvements and upgrades to accommodate greater residential density. This area has already had eight individual development rezonings since 2018 that have

created more than 2,000 units without any corresponding planning or neighborhood wide upgrade. Without a comprehensive plan in place, this area's infrastructure will become strained and congested and unlivable for all residents. To be clear, a vote to pass this resolution of disapproval is not a vote against building housing. As mentioned, this community-led rezoning will result in thousands of new apartments in this area. Yet by waiting a few months until the ongoing neighborhood planning process is finished, we will have the community support as well as the City's commitment to provide supporting resources from streetscape improvements to small business support in this area.

I look forward to rezoning this site in a few short months as part of the ongoing comprehensive plan, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Council Member.

I would now like to call on Council Member Dinowitz, followed by Council Member Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader.

Housing stability is critical to the well-being of New Yorkers, and one of the great programs we have for affordable housing in our city is the Mitchell-Lama Program. It's a program that helped uplift me and my family years ago. This program helps tens of thousands of New Yorkers build and maintain roots in a community and allows those residents to live comfortably in our communities. But, even the affordability of our Mitchell-Lama Units is under attack. All over the city, Mitchell-Lama's are seeing skyrocketing monthly costs. In my district, Tracy Towers is seeing a rent increase of 22%; Kennon Heights is seeing their maintenance increased by 44%. And while these increases are unconscionable, our seniors are under particular threat, often on a fixed income, and facing rising cost in every other facet of their life, there is one program that can help protect them - that's The Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption Program. Residents of the Mitchell-Lama Program right now, provide HPD with much of the required information on the SCRIE Application through their income affidavit, which they fill out every year. My bill, Introduction 25-A, simply requires HPD to take that information and use

it to fill out SCRIE applications for our older adults. This makes life easier for our older adults, and allows more of them to access our rent freeze program. As the percentage of older adults, both seeking shelter, and facing financial insecurity increases, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to keep them in their homes, so they can age in place with dignity. Keeping seniors in their home is the right thing to do, and requiring our government to work efficiently is the smart thing to do. I wish to thank Chair Hudson for hearing the bill, Speaker Adams for bringing it to vote, uh, Jenna Klaus and Adam Staropoli from my staff, and Christopher Pepe from the Legislation Division, Teri Colon, uh, and all 45 of my colleagues who signed on to this bill, for your unbroken commitment to making our city a more equitable place for our older adults, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Council Member Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you Majority Leader.

Good afternoon, today the Council will be voting on Introduction 93-A codifying the City's Healthy NYC Initiative to increase New Yorkers' life expectancy

to age 83 by 2030. This legislation mandates the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to craft a population health agenda every five years involving input from stakeholders throughout the City. It aims to enhance well-being, tackle health disparities, and elevate quality of life, with the first agenda already accessible in the Healthy NYC website. Notably, this codification ensures health goals transcend government and elected administrations underscoring long-term commitment to equitable healthcare access. As chair of the Health Committee, I'm proud to collaborate with Speaker Adams, Mayor Adams, and DOHMH Commissioner Vasan on this transformative plan to establish New York as the nation's healthiest city. This is a game changer to build a healthier New York, and I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Speaker Adams and my colleagues for your steadfast support in achieving the milestone reflecting our collective dedication to the health and well-being of all New Yorkers. I want to thank the Health Committee staff; I want to thank my Chief of Staff, Jonathan Boucher; my Legislative Director, Kevin McAleer, and everyone here for your devotion to healthcare, thank you.

2 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Seeing no one else in
3 line to speak, we will move along with the Agenda.
4 Report of Special Committees?

5 CLERK: None

6 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Reports of Standing
7 Committees?

8 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Aging,
9 Preconsidered Introduction 25-A, SCRIE Program
10 Applications?

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

13 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Finance,
14 Preconsidered Resolution 6, Transparency Resolution?

15 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

16 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Health,
17 Proposed Introduction 93-A, Citywide Population
18 Health Agenda?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
20 Orders.

21 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Land Use, LUs 1
22 and 2, Whitestone Lanes Rezoning?

23 SPEAKER ADAMS: Approved with Modifications and
24 referred to the City Planning Commission pursuant to
25 Section 197-(d) of the New York City Charter.

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 40

2 CLERK: LU 3 and Resolution 28 through LU 5 and
3 Resolution 30, 2226 Third Avenue?

4 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

5 CLERK: LU 6 and Resolution 31 through LU 8 and
6 Resolution 33, 962 Pacific Street Rezoning?

7 SPEAKER ADAMS: Motion to disapprove.

8 CLERK: LU 9 and Resolution 34 and LU 10 and
9 Resolution 35, 166-11 91st Avenue Special Permit?

10 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

11 CLERK: Report of the Committee on Women and
12 Gender Equity, Preconsidered Introduction 39-A,
13 Trauma Informed Support Program?

14 SPEAKER ADAMS: Amended and Coupled on General
15 Orders.

16 CLERK: General Orders Calendar, LU 1 and
17 Resolution 36 and LU 2 and Resolution 37, Whitestone
18 Lanes Rezoning?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: Coupled on General Orders.

20 I now ask the that the clerk take a roll call
21 vote on items coupled on today's General Order
22 Calendar.

23 CLERK: Council Member Abreu?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Ariola?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 41

2 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Council Member Avilés?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye

5 CLERK: Council Member Ayala?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye

7 CLERK: Council Member Banks?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye

9 CLERK: Council Member Bottcher

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHE: [NO RESPONSE]

11 UNKNOWN: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Brannan?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes

16 CLERK: Excuse me, Council Member Bottcher? I'm

17 sorry, can I get your vote Council Member Bottcher?

18 My apologies.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHE: Aye

20 CLERK: Thank you, I'm sorry. Thank you

21 Council Member Brooks-Powers?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Cabán?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Carr?

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	42
2	COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye	
3	CLERK: Council Member De La Rosa?	
4	COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye	
5	CLERK: Thank you	
6	Council Member Dinowitz?	
7	COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye	
8	CLERK: Council Member Feliz?	
9	COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye	
10	CLERK: Council Member Gennaro?	
11	COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye	
12	CLERK: Council Member Gutiérrez?	
13	COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye	
14	CLERK: Council Member Hanif?	
15	COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye	
16	CLERK: Council Member Hanks?	
17	COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye	
18	CLERK: Council Member Holden?	
19	COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye	
20	CLERK: Council Member Hudson?	
21	COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye	
22	CLERK: Council Member Joseph?	
23	COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye	
24	CLERK: Council Member Krishnan?	
25	COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye	

1	NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING	43
2	CLERK: Council Member Lee?	
3	COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye	
4	CLERK: Council Member Louis?	
5	COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye	
6	CLERK: Council Member Marmorato?	
7	COUNCIL MEMBER MARMORATO: Aye	
8	CLERK: Council Member Marte?	
9	COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye	
10	CLERK: Council Member Mealy?	
11	COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye	
12	CLERK: Council Member Menin?	
13	COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye	
14	CLERK: Council Member Moya?	
15	COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye	
16	CLERK: Thank you	
17	Council Member Narcisse?	
18	COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye	
19	CLERK: Council Member Nurse?	
20	COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.	
21	CLERK: Council Member Ossé?	
22	COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.	
23	CLERK: Council Member Paladino?	
24	COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye	
25	CLERK: Council Member Powers?	

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 44

2 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye

3 CLERK: Council Member Restler?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye

5 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Majority Leader, I seek
7 permission to vote on today's Land Use Call-ups and
8 General Orders?

9 MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Permission granted.

10 CLERK: Council Member Riley?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Council Member Rivera?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Council Member Salaam

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Council Member Salamanca?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: Aye

18 CLERK: Council Member Sanchez?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye

20 CLERK: Thank you
21 Council Member Schulman?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye

23 CLERK: Council Member Stevens?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye

25 CLERK: Council Member Ung?

1 NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING 45

2 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye

3 CLERK: Thank you

4 Council Member Vernikov?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye

6 CLERK: Council Member Williams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

8 CLERK: Council Member Won?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye

10 CLERK: Council Member Yeger?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye

12 CLERK: Council Member Zhuang?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye

14 CLERK: Council Member Borelli?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye

16 CLERK: Council Member Farías?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye on all.

18 CLERK: Speaker Adams?

19 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: All items on today's

21 General Order Calendar are adopted by a vote of 51

22 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0 abstentions.

23 And the revised Land Use Call-ups vote is 51 in

24 the affirmative, and 0 in the negative.

25 Introduction and Reading of Bills?

2 SPEAKER ADAMS: All bills have been referred to
3 committees as indicated on today's Agenda.

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. We will now
5 move into the Discussion of Resolutions. And I would
6 like to call Council Member Sanchez up, one minute on
7 the clock.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you so much. I
9 would like to speak in support of the resolution that
10 we are voting on today that would provide the
11 Administration... would allow the City Council to sue
12 the Administration for not... sorry I wasn't looking
13 at my talking points when you called on me... uh,
14 would allow us to sue the Administration, so that
15 they would implement FHEPS... City package. Access to
16 housing vouchers can help longtime New Yorkers avoid
17 evictions that push them into the shelter system,
18 and those already residing in the system transition
19 into permanent housing. Last summer, this council
20 overruled the Mayor's veto of our CityFHEPS Housing
21 Voucher bills to remove these barriers, and because
22 we recognize the need to confront the intersecting
23 crisis of rising evictions, record homelessness, and
24 housing affordability. And in spite of these
25 realities, the Administration signaled its intentions

to violate City enacted laws by this New York City Council, and thereby blocked newly eligible New Yorkers experiencing homelessness, or being at risk of becoming homeless, from accessing those vouchers.

So, I just want to [TIMER CHIMES] thank the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Council Member Cabán, and colleagues in the Council for your support of these efforts to house the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Council Member Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Thank you Majority Leader.

Last May, when this council first passed legislation to keep more of our families housed, and eliminate the bureaucratic practices that immiserate and humiliate New Yorkers for the crime of being poor, I spoke about my own experience. I talked about what it feels like to be evicted from your home as a child. I spoke about the people I represented in my career as a Tenant Rights attorney. And I promised New Yorkers that we were going to do something revolutionary; we were going to start helping people before their lives fall apart.

Nearly a year later that promise has not been realized. So, today I am casting a vote to make clear

that my word means something, that this council's word means something. In this chamber we follow through on our promises, and for that reason, I encourage my colleagues to vote aye. Thank you, Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Council Member Abreu.

Would anyone else like to speak? Seeing no one, we will now have a voice vote on today's resolution. If you wish to vote against or abstain from today's resolution, please notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching the dais.

I will now read today's resolution into the record.

Preconsidered Resolution 4, authorizes the Speaker to commence legal action on behalf of the Council of the City of New York to compel the Mayor and his Administration to implement Local Law 99 of 2023, Local Law 100 of 2023, Local Law 101 of 2023, and Local Law 102 of 2023, the CityFHEPS Expansion Laws.

Will all those in favor say aye?

ALL: Aye.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: All opposed say nay.

2 ALL: [SILENT]

3 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Any abstentions?

4 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: The ayes have it.

5 We will now move in to General Discussion.

6 I would first like to call up Council Member
7 Hanif.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you.

9 Today is the fourth Annual Muslim Day [BACKGROUND
10 NOISE] at City Hall. Thank you to Emgage for leading
11 a coalition of 25 Muslim-led organizations. We are so
12 proud to welcome you to the Peoples Chambers. I was
13 proud to join my brother, Council Member Salaam, in
14 sponsoring Muslim Day alongside Majority Leader
15 Farías, Council Member Ossé, Council Member Krishnan,
16 Council Member Joseph, Council Member Restler,
17 Council Member Stevens, and Council Member Avilés.

18 I want to lift up the demand that our community
19 organizations brought forward today for a permanent
20 ceasefire in Gaza. I also want to emphasize the need
21 to increase funding for these groups, so that they
22 can further strengthen their capacity serving asylum
23 seekers and combating the rise in Islamophobia.

24 I also want to use this moment to thank two
25 incredible outgoing members of my team: Chief of

Staff, Nora Brickner, and Communications Director, Michael Whitesides.

Nora, you've been with me since day one. You set up our office and kept it firing on all cylinders, hired and managed our amazing staff, and have been an invaluable political operator and advisor to me.

Michael, you have been critical to our office's success, you ensured our work was reaching our constituents, kept me on track and on message, and established our office as a loud and proud advocate for vulnerable New Yorkers, especially asylum seekers. I couldn't be more grateful for both of you. The Office, the District, and the City are better off because of your work. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: I would now like to call Council Member Ariola, followed by Council Member Joseph, and Council Member Ossé.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Thank you.

I'm extremely proud to introduce Resolution 5 today. Resolution 5 calls upon the city of New York to rehire all municipal workers who were unjustly removed from their posts due to COVID-19 vaccine noncompliance without requiring them to first sign a

waiver forfeiting their civil rights or their rights for backpay.

For two long years hundreds of New Yorkers have been denied the ability to work due to their strong personal convictions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. Some had religious motivations, others health related ones, but all had deep personal reasons for declining to take that vaccine. [BACKGROUND NOISE] It is now time that these men and women return to the jobs they love, and we as a city move forward finally ending this long, painful chapter in our history once and for all.

These men and women who were stripped of their positions, many of whom are here with us today, are all dedicated civil servants with long careers in serving the people of New York City. They would like nothing more than return to their careers and continue their work in the city that they serve - and to collect the backpay that they are rightfully entitled to.

This is why I am introducing this resolution, so that all of these real life heroes can get back to work, continue to do the jobs they love, and keep on serving the people of this city to the best of their

abilities. I'd like to thank Teachers for Choice,
[INAUDIBLE] for Choice, Cops for Freedom, and any
other group that has been disenfranchise from getting
back to work. You inspire us every single day to
fight for you.

And I'd also like to thank my staff, especially
my Chief of Staff, who I call our force of nature,
Phyllis Inserillo, for her dedication to helping them
get back to work every single day. Thank you for the
time.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Council
Member.

Council Member Joseph, followed by Council Member
Ossé, and then Council Member Riley.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Madame Speaker,
Majority Leader, and colleagues. I'm honored today to
propose two pieces of legislation, one being a Local
Law Amending the New York City Charter and
Administrative Code to require the New York City
Department of Education to report actual class sizes
and expand reports on the number of students in
special programs in New York City Public schools.

This is a re-introduction from our last
legislative session. Your support on this bill is

greatly appreciated. The other one is Resolution 13, which Council Member Lee is a coprime sponsor, will designate the second Friday in March annually as Social Emotional Learning Day in New York City, recognizing the importance of ensuring that pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade public school students, acquire the social emotional competency needed to succeed in life.

Both pieces of legislation are crucial for the well-being of our New York City school students. As a forever educator, and the Chair of Committee On Education, I know firsthand the importance of non-crowded classrooms and [INAUDIBLE] students learn. Additionally, it is imperative that we prioritize social emotional learning to equip our students with the necessary skills to succeed within the community and beyond. Thank you for your support and passing both legislations soon. Special thanks to the legislative team and my staff for their work in this process, thank you, Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Council Member Ossé, followed by Council Member Riley, and then Council Member Schulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you, Madame President.

I am proud to be a sponsor of Muslim Day at City Hall, hosted by Emgage and Council Members Salaam and Hanif.

Numbering more than 1 million, Muslims represent a large and growing part of our beautiful city. I recognize the obligation to elevate and include them in our great democracy. My district includes Brooklyn's largest mosque and New York boasts America's largest Muslim community. They have our attention and respect. One primary demand of the American Muslim community, as well as people across the ideological spectrum, is for a cease-fire in Gaza. This is indisputably necessary to prevent more civilian deaths, as well as to free all hostages and bring them home safely. The violence must end; America must exercise our influence to end it. Thank you very much.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Council Member Riley, followed by Council Member Schulman, and Council Member Brooks-Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority Leader. Highlighting the significance of staying connected and culturally attuned to effectively addressing the

needs of the most marginalized communities is crucial. Often music, art, and culture serve as a direct echo of voices and experiences on our streets, providing innovative approaches to tackle present issues within our communities. From the great J. Cole, "Everybody mentions suicide prevention; Man, they even made a hotline; To call up when there's tension; But I got a question; What about a... homicide? Need a number for my [people] to call; Whenever there's a urge to get triggers involved..."

With inspiration from hip-hop I am proud to introduce my bill Introduction 82 From Lyrics to Legislation, an Initiative that I'm trying out now, an approach aiming to strengthen our city's preventative plan against gun violence in our communities.

This bill calls on the creation of a three-digit gun violence intervention hotline operated by trained mental health professionals, to connect callers to the New York City Crisis Management System.

I'm proud to be introducing this piece of legislation today with the #TheHoodCaucus's member, Council Member Williams and Stevens, that focuses on protecting our most vulnerable communities and the

deescalating potential gun violence incidents before tragedy strikes. A caller will receive information on the nearest community based organization if they inquired about conflict de-escalation techniques for themselves, their families or their neighbors. With a comprehensive plan for 24/7 operation, a public awareness campaign, and yearly report reporting the Gun Violence Intervention Hotline through The Office of Neighborhood Safety and Prevention of Gun Violence, expands pathways to improve our current CMS system to mitigate the effects of trauma and violence. With gun violence disproportionately affecting our Black and brown communities, this legislation strengthens the Council's investments into public safety with wraparound services. Thank you to the essential workers and leadership of the CMS groups and all anti-violence gun violence advocates. I urge [TIMER CHIMES] my colleague to support this bill today. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Council Member Schulman, followed by Council Member Brooks-Powers, and Council Member Won.

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you.

Today I am introducing Resolution 27 that is coprime sponsored by Council Member Ariola, and also sponsored by Council Members Powers, Lee, and Gennaro.

This resolution supports the New York State's SMOKEOUT Act, sponsored by Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar, and State Senator Leroy Comrie. The state legislation is critical to combating the unchecked growth of illegal marijuana dispensaries in our city. The SMOKEOUT Act ensures the effective regulation of the cannabis industry, and most importantly, would expand enforcement authority to local governments by giving municipal officials direct power to order the immediate closure of any business found to be illegally selling unlicensed cannabis. This will protect consumers from unsafe products and our communities from illicit activities. By supporting this bill, we will be promoting responsible business practices and advancing social equity. I urge my colleagues to sign onto this resolution in support the SMOKEOUT Act, sending a clear message of commitment to the public safety and healthy well-being of all New Yorkers, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. I will now call on Council Member Brooks-Powers, followed by Council Member Won and Council Member Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Today I'm proud to introduce Introduction 23, which would require that the Comptroller conduct annual audits focused solely on MWBE procurement.

This issue is of crucial importance to communities throughout the city. Businesses across the City owned by New Yorkers of color deserve the opportunity to obtain major contracts with the City, ensuring that diverse businesses have equitable access to contracting strengthens communities and extends economic opportunity across our neighborhoods.

Alongside Council Member Won, I will be hosting an oversight hearing next week examining our city's infrastructure projects through the lens of equity.

I look forward to working alongside all of my colleagues this term to increase MWBE utilization throughout the city, and I encourage others to sign on. Thank you

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: I will now call on Council Member Won, followed by Council Member Brewer and Council Member Zhuang.

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Losar Tashi Delek! It is such an honor for me. Today, I am introducing Introduction 100, which would suspend alternate side parking on the Losar holiday. This is a crucial Tibetan and Himalayan holiday for New Yorkers who are able to stay home with their families during the important religious and cultural holiday, without being disrupted or worried about getting a ticket or being towed. So suspending alternative side parking on Losar is a practical and symbolic way that we can honor our neighbors and religious practices with the time with their families.

For those who are not familiar, Losar or Tibetan Lunar New Year begins this Saturday. It's celebrated by an estimate of 61,000 Buddhist and Himalayan New Yorkers from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Tibet, other countries, and these New Yorkers are in some of the fastest growing communities in my district.

Every year, I have the honor of celebrating Losar at the Tibetan Community Center in Woodside, where

2 families share traditional food, pray, dance, and
3 enjoy other celebrations.

4 While this year Losar coincides with Lunar New
5 Year, it can take place one or two months before or
6 after Lunar New Year is celebrated by other Asian
7 countries.

8 So, the City already suspends alternate side
9 parking for Lunar New Year celebrated in my home
10 country, likes (SPEAKING FOREIGN LANGUAGE) for Korea
11 or Vietnam or China, but along with Council Member
12 Krishnan, Council Member Joseph, Council Member
13 Cabán, Council Member Holden, Council Member Hanif,
14 Council Member Nurse, and Council Member Avilés, who
15 have substantial number of Himalayan constituents who
16 celebrate Losar, I am so happy to be able to
17 introduce this today. And I ask all of my colleagues
18 to join us as a cosponsor of Introduction 100. Happy
19 and Losar Tashi Delek to all those who celebrate!

20 MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Council Member Brewer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

22 I just want to mention two topics, one, smoke
23 shops, and one NYCHA.

24 [BACKGROUND NOISE] Just in terms of smoke shops,
25 I've been trying to close one in my area which is

right next to a school. And I just want to give you a sense of the challenges; although, you may already know about them.

There are two state agencies working on this, there are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine city agencies working on this topic. P. D., Health, Corporation Counsel, Consumer and Worker Protection, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, [INAUDIBLE], and I would say also the Department of Education, because that's where the students are unfortunately taken advantage of it.

I want to say that the Administration should put everybody in one room in order to get these smoke shops closed.

Number two, on NYCHA, I want to thank the DOI Investigation and the US Attorney. I will say that, as we speak, whistleblowers are calling my office to ask what they should do, because they know of other corruption. And I hope that our Whistleblower Law is held up, and the individuals who come forth are not ostracized or penalized by anybody, because it's very challenging to be a whistleblower. [BACKGROUND NOISE]

But, I want to thank those two agencies for bringing this to our attention. Thank you very much.

MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you. We will now hear from Council Member Zhuang, followed by Council Member Narcisse, and Council Member Restler.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thanks, Majority Leader, and I also thank Speaker Adams.

Tomorrow is Lunar New Year's Eve. It's the Year of the Dragon. The dragon is the symbol of strength, of people, good fortune, and power. As the Chinese tradition, we pray and make a lot of food on New Year's Eve here. Here I want to pray to our ancestors to bless our friends in the City Council, constituency in my district, and the people in New York City. Have a happy, healthy, and prosperous year. And I wish everyone all the best of year of Dragon, and the gods bless us. God bless New York City, and God bless America. Thank you [APPLAUSE]

MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Thank you, Council Member Narcisse... Oop, yay... [APPLAUSE], followed by Council Member Restler.

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Madam Majority Leader. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on Introduction 53, a crucial bill aimed at addressing the pressing issue of pediatric obesity in our city.

Many times we said how our children are... our youth are so big, but it is a [INAUDIBLE] issue and health concern that requires proactive measure to combat and its detrimental, of course, effects on our youth. When I talk about preventive care, that's one of the places that we can do that.

This bill proposes a comprehensive approach through public educational outreach efforts lead by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Introduction 53 mandates the Department of Health to conduct public educational outreach programs. These programs are vital in increasing awareness among our communities about the serious health risks associated with our children.

Obesity is something that you actually... some folks say that it cannot be prevented. Of course it can be prevented by educating the parents, caregivers, and children themselves about the importance of healthy lifestyle choices they have to make. We cannot tell the folks, especially in underserved communities, to eat properly yet they don't have access. We can empower folks, we can make things easier by making... creating access and educational material available to let folks knows the

choices that they can make. It is to make an informed decision that promote well-being of our children. Introduction 53 [INAUDIBLE] proactive, and we can do it, we can tackle obesity in our city by prioritizing public education, targeting outreach and access to resources. We can work towards ensuring a healthier future for our babies. I urge my fellow council members to support this bill. And I have to say thank you to the prime cosponsors [TIMER CHIMES] Council Member Schulman and Council Member Riley, thank you, Madam Chair... Madam Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER FARIÁS: Council Member Restler?

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

I am re-introducing a whole bunch of great bills today that I am really excited about, and I hope my colleagues will consider signing onto them again.

But, I'm not going to bother you about any of those.

I've got a new bill that I do want to share. You know, we... I will tell you, I go out at night in my district on commercial corridors, and I walk down the sidewalk, and it is dark. And it makes it makes for a serious public safety risk. We track care... and we reach out to the Department of Transportation, and we

say we need more lighting, and maybe we will get a survey of the lighting, and may be in three years' time they'll add some lights. But, most often they don't, and the streets remain dark. It's bad for our local economy. It's bad for public safety. We track, with really thoughtful metrics, the number of bike lanes that are getting installed, the number of bus lanes getting installed and we should. We should also be tracking how many blocks the Department of Transportation is lighting up sufficiently for pedestrians.

So, we have a new bill that would require DOT to install sidewalk lighting to illuminate pedestrian areas on 50 commercial corridors every year, approximately 500 blocks. Over time, we can make sure that every commercial corridor, across the five boroughs, is properly lit for our safety to support our small businesses, and really strengthen our communities. This is an area that is not working well in city government today. We need to actually bring more oversight, and we need to bring real metrics to force the Department of Transportation to do better. And I hope that folks will cosponsor whatever bill number... Intro number it is, I don't know,

[LAUGHTER] maybe 80? No... I got that wrong. It's something, but I appreciate y'all considering it, it a good bill - pedestrian sidewalk lighting. Thank you

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you, Council Member Restler.

Council Member Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Thank you, Majority Leader.

Today I'm asking my colleague to support three bills that I'm introducing to improve fire safety in the city of New York. After two years in my district of seemingly weekly fires, and, of course, as we commemorate the tragic two your anniversary of the Twin Parks Northwest fire, Council Member Feliz's district, that took 17 Bronxites.

Introduction 88 relates to the qualifications and requirements for individuals who are responsible for inspecting, testing, and maintaining smoke control systems and fire and smoke dampers - which y'all might be like, what's that? Dampers facilitate the escape from the building, they suck the smoke out of a building and can ease access for firefighters during emergencies - that's Intro 88.

Second, the volume of fires in my in my district and throughout, many in the Bronx, and in low income areas, from deadly one and two alarm fires, to the big ones - five alarm fires - has made it resoundingly clear that on the ground knowledge is key to supporting fire victims in real time.

Introduction 89 would require the FDNY to broaden its fire notifications to local officials and others.

Lastly, Introduction 90 would expand fire hazard trading to inspectors, from HPD and DOB, who together with fire department inspectors are frequently in New York City buildings, and who, of course, are responsible for keeping us all safe.

The tragic impact of fires and tragic events like Twin Parks Northwest, weighs heavily on all of us, and, you know, it's a responsibility to act, thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER FARÍAS: Thank you. Seeing no one else up to speak, I will now call on Speaker Adrienne Adams to close today's Stated Meeting.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Majority Leader. The Stated Meeting of February 8, 2024 is hereby adjourned.

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 February 14, 2024