

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

STATED MEETING

----- X

MAY 20TH, 2026

Start: 1:43 p.m.

End: 3:17 PM

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Julie Menin, Speaker  
Shaun Abreu, Majority Leader

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shirley Aldebol  
Joann Ariola  
Alexa Avilés  
Chris Banks  
Gale Brewer  
Selvena Brooks-Powers  
Tiffany Cabán  
Carmen De La Rosa  
Eric Dinowitz  
Elsie Encarnacion  
Harvey Epstein  
Amanda Farias  
Simcha Felder  
Oswald Feliz  
James Gennaro  
Shahana Hanif  
Ty Hankerson  
Kamillah Hanks  
Crystal Hudson  
Rita Joseph

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

Shekar Krishnan  
Linda Lee  
Farah Louis  
Virginia Maloney  
Christopher Marte  
Darlene Mealy  
Frank Morano  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Sandy Nurse  
Chi Ossé  
Vickie Paladino  
Lincoln Restler  
Kevin Riley  
Yusef Salaam  
Justin Sanchez  
Pierina Sanchez  
Kayla Santasuosso  
Lynn Schulman  
Althea Stevens  
Sandra Ung  
Inna Vernikov  
Nantasha Williams  
Carl Wilson  
Julie Won  
Phil Wong  
Susan Zhuang  
Davis Carr  
Shaun Abreu  
Julie Menin  
Thomas Henry  
Chris Banks



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2 CLERK: Sound check for the Stated  
3 Meetings. Today's day is May 20th, 2026, being  
4 recorded by Danny Huang and Council Chambers.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: -your attention,  
6 please? Can I have your attention, please? At this  
7 time, please place all electronic devices, all  
8 electronic devices to vibrate. Mr. Majority Leader,  
9 it's all yours. (Gavel)

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Good afternoon.  
11 And welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 20th, 2026.  
12 I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu. And I'd like to  
13 thank you for joining us. If you'd like to follow  
14 along the agenda for today's meeting, it's posted on  
15 our website. On behalf of the body, I welcome the  
16 members of the public who have joined us today.  
17 During Stated Meetings, only members of the public  
18 may speak. Members of the public shall remain  
19 silent. If you wish to express your support of any  
20 remarks, you may make the silent approval gesture. I  
21 want to remind my colleagues that the quorum is to be  
respected at all times. It is essential that even if  
we disagree, we treat each other with respect.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Please join us for the  
Pledge of Allegiance. All rise.

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2 ALL ATTENDANTS: I pledge allegiance to  
3 the flag of the United States of America and to the  
4 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Roll call.  
6 Aldebol?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Here.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Ariola?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Here.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aviles?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Present.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Banks?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Here.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Brooks-Powers?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Present.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Cabán?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: Present.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Del La Rosa?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Encarnacion?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: Presente.

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Epstein?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Present.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Farias?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Here

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Felder?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Feliz?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Presente.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Gennaro?

12 Gutierrez?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Here.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Hanif?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Hankerson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Hanks?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Hudson?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Present.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Joseph?

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Krishnan? Lee?

Lewis?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS: Present.

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Maloney?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Marte?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Present.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Mealy?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Present.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Morano?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Narcisse?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Nurse?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Here.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Ossé? Palladino?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER PALLADINO: Here.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Restler?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Riley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER J SANCHEZ: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Pierina Sanchez?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER P SANCHEZ: Here.

3 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Santosuosso?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I'm here.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Schulman?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Stevens? Thomas  
Henry?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY: Present.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Ung?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Vernikoff?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Here.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Williams?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

15 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Wilson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Present.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Won?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WAN: Here.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Wong?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Here.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Carr? Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Here.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Speaker Menin?

3 SPEAKER MENIN: Here.

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We  
5 will now have today's invocation, which will be  
6 delivered by Reverend Larry Camp, the senior pastor  
7 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, which is located at 1962  
8 Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: All rise.

10 REVEREND CAMP: Let us pray. Eternal  
11 God, we invoke your presence. We invoke your  
12 presence in our minds. We invoke your presence in  
13 our decisions. We invoke your presence in our  
14 serving. We invoke your presence in our various ways  
15 of life. We pray, Lord, that as we come to business,  
16 that we would do everything with a clear conscience  
17 and a clear mind. We are thankful for life. And we  
18 are thankful for the life that you have given us. We  
19 pray, oh Master, that you would also give us the  
20 strength to never fear and to never doubt. Amen.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I will now ask  
Councilmember Chris Banks to spread the invocation.  
On the record, if you can please keep it down in the  
chambers, that would be greatly appreciated.

2  
3 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you,  
4 Majority Leader. Pastor Larry Camp, the senior  
5 pastor of the Bethlehem Baptist Church in very— in my  
6 very own home, East New York, is a man I've known for  
7 some time, and can confidently say he's a man of  
8 enormous integrity, faith, and compassion. Uh, since  
9 being elected, uh, as the senior pastor in 1989, uh,  
10 Pastor Camp, alongside First Lady Camp, has gone  
11 above and beyond in service to our community, not  
12 only through worship and fellowship, but through a  
13 meaningful outreach efforts, such as their monthly  
14 food pantry, youth programming, and countless  
15 community-centered, uh, initiatives that have touched  
16 so many lives throughout the 42nd Council District.  
17 Pastor Camp has been more than, uh, more than just a  
18 spiritual leader to his community. He has been a  
19 source of guidance, stability, and encouragement  
20 generations of families. And we are truly in debt to  
21 him, uh, for his years of service. And I would also  
would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to  
acknowledge and congratulate both Pastor Camp and  
First Lady Camp on celebrating their 37th pastoral  
anniversary this past Sunday, 37 years of faithful

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2 service, 37 years of leadership, sacrifice, prayer,  
3 and unwavering commitment to God's people and to this  
4 community. That kinda' of devotion is rare. And it  
5 deserves to be recognized and celebrated. So on  
6 behalf of the entire 42nd Council District, I want to  
7 thank Pastor and First Lady Camp for their continued  
8 love, leadership, and service, to our community. I  
9 now make a motion to spread today's invocation upon  
10 the record. Thank you, Majority Leader.

11 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you,  
12 Councilmember. Adoption of minutes.

13 UNIDENTIFIED: None.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Messages and  
15 papers from the mayor.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: M69 through M74, budget  
17 documents.

18 UNIDENTIFIED: Referred to finance.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Communication from  
20 city, county, and bar offices.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: M75 and M76, budget  
modifications.

UNIDENTIFIED: Referred to finance.

UNIDENTIFIED: M77, statement of debt  
affordability.

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2 UNIDENTIFIED: Received, ordered, printed,  
3 and filed.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: Petitions and  
5 communications.

6 UNIDENTIFIED: None.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Land use  
8 call-ups.

9 UNIDENTIFIED: None.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We  
11 will now have communication from Speaker Julie Menin.

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Good afternoon, everyone.  
13 Before I begin, I want to offer my deepest  
14 condolences to former Assemblymember Keith Wright and  
15 the Manhattan County Chair on the passing of his  
16 beloved wife Susan. Our hearts are with their family  
17 as they grieve this awful loss. And may her memory  
18 be a blessing. Moving on to legislative matters.  
19 For the past few weeks, the Council has been  
20 internally considering a path for forward for  
21 Introduction 175B, Councilmember Eric Dinowitz's  
legislation to provide safe access for students to  
their educational institutions. The legislation  
accompanied a bill that I introduced and that the  
council passed with overwhelming support, 44 to 5.

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2 That bill requires the NYPD to publish its plans for  
3 policing protests outside houses of worship whenever  
4 there's a risk of obstruction, intimidation, or  
5 physical injury. These bills are part of the  
6 Council's five-point plan to combat rising  
7 antisemitism, a plan that responded to the deplorable  
8 surge of this hatred. 2025, hate crimes against the  
9 Jewish community made up almost 60 percent of all  
10 reported hate crimes, despite the fact that the  
11 Jewish community represents less than 12 percent of  
12 New Yorkers. This January, we saw an average of one  
13 antisemitic incident reported each and every day, an  
14 increase of 182 percent compared to last year, which  
15 is shocking. Uh, the legislation regarding  
16 educational institutions, um, had more than a  
17 majority of the members' support, and in fact had  
18 enough votes to have done an override of the mayor's  
19 veto. However, what our weeks of conversation also  
20 revealed was that there are a considerable number of  
21 members who wholly support the intent of the  
legislation but who have concerns about which  
educational facilities are included. I want to  
sincerely thank my colleagues for these  
conversations. We not only listened to those

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2 concerns, but we heard them. And we're choosing to  
3 address them rather than dismiss them. We're taking  
4 steps that will result in greater consensus among  
5 council members as well as the public at large that  
6 will focus the legislation more clearly on the sites  
7 that serve the most vulnerable students. These  
8 students were always at the core of the legislation.  
9 In the coming weeks, we'll introduce and hold a  
10 hearing on amended legislation that more closely  
11 defines educational facilities as early childhood  
12 education sites and most K-12 schools. Institutions  
13 like libraries or teaching hospitals, which were  
14 never intended to be covered by the legislation are  
15 going to be explicitly excluded, as will colleges and  
16 universities. As before, the legislation will  
17 require the NYPD to, for the first time, publish its  
18 plan for policing protests outside these schools when  
19 there's a risk of intimidation, obstruction, or  
20 physical injury. Having a plan that's transparent  
21 and that can be reviewed by the mayor, the city  
Council, as well as the public at large, will help us  
hold the NYPD accountable for ensuring students can  
access their schools and that peaceful protesters can  
have their voices heard, and brings an added degree

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2 of transparency and accountability that didn't exist  
3 before. Switching gears, to the special days that we  
4 celebrate as a city, Monday, May 18th marked Haitian  
5 Flag Day. It com- yeah. Okay. Let's give it up.  
6 Yeah. It commemorates the historic moment in 1803  
7 when revolutionary leaders united their forces,  
8 ripped the white band from the French tricolor, and a  
9 woman named Catherine Flan sewed the red and blue  
10 cloths together to forge her own symbol of freedom.  
11 Later tonight, we will honor Africa Day here in the  
12 Council Chambers. And I invite everyone to join us.  
13 This week is National EMS Week, honoring our  
14 frontline emergency response workers and the  
15 incredibly important life saving work that they do  
16 each and every day to keep us healthy and safe. I  
17 want to personally thank all of our tremendous EMS  
18 workers for their dedication to our communities.  
19 From tomorrow through Saturday, members of our Jewish  
20 community across the five boroughs will gather among  
21 their family and friends for Shavuot, whether it's  
with blintzes, cheesecake, or all-night Torah study.  
I want to wish all New Yorkers who are celebrating a  
Hak Sameach. This Monday, we will also observe  
Memorial Day to honor and commemorate service members

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2 who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of our  
3 country. Yeah, thank you. On a personal note, I  
4 wanna honor my late father, who was an Army doctor at  
5 Walter Reed Hospital. And I know many of you and New  
6 Yorkers across all five boroughs have loved ones who  
7 served our country too. I'm incredibly thankful for  
8 their service. And I hope everyone has a meaningful  
9 Memorial Day. Next week, on May 26th, we'll  
10 celebrate Guyana's Independence Day. And today,  
11 Council Member Stevens' office is hosting Foster  
12 Youth Shadow Day, in partnership with Children's Aid.  
13 It offers our younger New Yorkers opportunity to see  
14 city government in action, build relationships with  
15 elected officials, and better understand how policy  
16 decisions impact their lives and communities. So to  
17 all the participants who are here in our chambers,  
18 thank you so much for being here. We really salute  
19 you. Your voices matter. Your experiences are  
20 valued. And we could not be happier to see that you  
21 are learning, asking questions, and participating in  
civic life. I also want to extend my sincere  
gratitude to every councilmember and their staff who  
volunteered to open up your offices and take the time  
to mentor these future leaders. It really makes a

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2 difference. I want to congratulate all the winning  
3 proposals for participatory budgeting cycle. It's so  
4 exciting to see the projects that New Yorkers created  
5 to improve their local parks, their schools, their  
6 libraries, or countless other public spaces. And  
7 thank you to all of the council staff who worked so  
8 hard on participatory budgeting, and every single New  
9 Yorker who engaged in the process. Um, lastly, I  
10 want to give a shout-out to a few groups attending  
11 today's stated meeting. We have students from Hunter  
12 College High School, which is in my council district.  
13 We have officials from three unions, the Detectives  
14 Endowment Association, the Lieutenants Benevolent  
15 Association, and the Uniformed Sanitationmen's  
16 Association Teamsters Local 831. Thank you so much  
17 for joining us. And we also have participants and  
18 staff of the Expand U mentoring and training program  
19 for MWBE vendors. Okay, that got the loudest  
20 applause. Wow, great. Okay, thank you all so much  
21 for coming. Now we're gonna' move on to our stated  
agenda. First, we're gonna' vote on the following  
land use items: 147-14, Northern Boulevard rezoning,  
a private application to facilitate the development  
of two new 11-story buildings, with a total of 389

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2 units up to 160, of which will be permanently  
3 affordable under MIH, as well as retail and community  
4 facility space, and 280 new parking spaces in Deputy  
5 Leader Sandra Ung's district. 351 Powers Avenue, an  
6 application by HPD for disposition approval of a  
7 city-owned development site, to facilitate a new  
8 eight-story mixed-use building with 83 affordable  
9 rental units, community facility space, and parking,  
10 for the Department of Education, in Deputy Whip Elsie  
11 Encarnacion's district. Approval of two applications  
12 for revocable consent to operate a sidewalk cafe. De  
13 Nino's, which is in Councilmember Harvey Epstein's  
14 district, Che Long and Councilmember Carl Wilson's  
15 district. Next, we'll vote on the following finance  
16 items. A transparency resolution sponsored by  
17 Councilmember Linda Lee approving new designations  
18 and changes of certain organizations receiving  
19 funding in the Budget. Preconsidered resolution  
20 sponsored by Councilmember Linda Lee would establish  
21 a discount percentage for early payment of real  
estate taxes to be set at 0.5 percent per year, for  
fiscal year 2027. Preconsidered resolution sponsored  
by Councilmember Linda Lee would establish a partial  
40-year Article 5 tax exemption for two buildings in

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2 Councilmember Yusuf Salaam's district. Preconsidered  
3 resolution, also sponsored by Councilmember Linda  
4 Lee, would establish a new 40-year Article 11 tax  
5 exemption for a six-story building in Councilmember  
6 Harvey Epstein's district. Preconsidered resolution,  
7 sponsored by Councilmember Linda Lee, would establish  
8 a partial 40-year Article 11 tax exemption for a  
9 6-story building in Councilmember Rita Joseph's  
10 district. Today, we will vote on the following  
11 pieces of legislation. SLR 1 through 21, which are  
12 home rule resolutions pertaining to street cleaning  
13 parking rules, accidental benefits for children of  
14 deceased first responders, retirement benefits for  
15 certain municipal workers, replacing body armor worn  
16 by emergency services personnel, and more.

17 Resolution 392, sponsored by Council Member Amanda  
18 Farias, would call on the New York State Legislature  
19 to pass and the governor to sign S9274A10381, also  
20 known as the Diderot Islam Police Recruitment Act.  
21 Thank you to Josh Kingsley, Jeremy Whiteman, and Chad  
Benjamen for their work on this. Introduction nah-  
93-A, sponsored by Councilmember Gail Brewer, would  
require the Department of Transportation to install  
at least 5,000, bicycle parking stations over a

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2 period of five years at the rate of 1,000 per year.  
3 Of those, at least 2,000 stations must be installed  
4 on commercial blocks at a rate of at least 400 per  
5 year. Additionally, DOT must post a map of all of  
6 its bicycle parking stations online. Finally, by  
7 January 1st, 2032, DOT must submit to the mayor and  
8 the council and post that online. Um, thank you to  
9 the staff, Sierra Townsend. Finally, Introduction  
10 837-A, sponsored by Councilmember Yusuf Salaam, would  
11 direct the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer  
12 and Worker Protection to establish and implement an  
13 ongoing outreach and education program for New York  
14 City residents about scams related to Hajj and Umrah.  
15 The outreach and education would address fraudulent  
16 offers of travel, accommodation, and catering  
17 services, as well as visas. It would also recommend  
18 practices for identifying fraud and booking-related  
19 services. Informational materials would be required  
20 to be distributed to the public as well as posted  
21 online. Thank you to Sarah Swaine and Natalie  
Meltzer. Thank you for your attention. And now, I'm  
going to turn it back over to our Major-

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Speaker  
Menin. Before we move into discussion of general

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2 orders, I want to remind folks that when voting on  
3 general orders, there is a transparency resolution on  
4 the agenda. So when called to vote, please make your  
5 disclosures first. I'll begin first with  
6 Councilmember Ung, followed by Councilmember Salaam.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Good afternoon.

8 Today, I want to express my support of the rezoning  
9 application for 147 14 Northern Boulevard, a project  
10 that demonstrates we can move forward with growth  
11 while keeping community needs at the center of that  
12 conversation. I'm particularly excited that this  
13 development will include a dedicated community  
14 facility space for the Korean American Family Service  
15 Center, an organization that has long provided  
16 culturally competent services to the Korean American  
17 immigrant families across Queens. It will also  
18 create a permanent home for their services, which  
19 supports some of our city's most vulnerable  
20 residents, at a time when New York City continues to  
21 face severe housing crisis. This development will  
also deliver 389 new homes, including up to 116  
permanently affordable units, while creating  
good-paying jobs and bringing new investment into the  
neighborhood. I want to thank the applicant, the

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2 community stakeholders, and everyone, involved in  
3 working collaboratively on the proposal that expands  
4 housing opportunities, invests in families, and  
5 supports nonprofit services. I especially ask all my  
6 colleagues to join me in be voting in favor of this  
application. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you,  
8 Councilmember. Councilmember Salam, followed by  
9 Brooks Powers.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you,  
11 Majority Leader. And thank you to my colleagues who  
12 have joined as co-sponsors of Bill Intro 8378. Hajj  
13 and Umrah are sacred pillars of Islam. For nearly  
14 1.5 million Muslims who call New York City home,  
15 these pilgrimages are journeys families have saved  
16 for over years, sometimes over decades. Every year,  
17 that devotion is exploited by fraudulent trav, for-  
18 fraudulent travel agents and predatory operators. By  
19 the time a family realizes that that has happened,  
20 their savings are often gone and their pilgrimage is  
21 out of reach. This bill confronts that directly. It  
directs the Department of Consumer and Worker  
Protections to develop multilingual informational  
materials on Hajj- and Umrah-related scams, in

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2 English and the designated citywide languages. DCWP  
3 and the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of  
4 Immigrant Affairs, and the Department of Aging, will  
5 distribute materials to the public and post them to  
6 each of their agencies' websites, continuing the  
7 great outreach that they have been doing so far. The  
8 free exercise of religion is enshrined in our  
9 Constitution. And this council has the opportunity  
10 today to ensure that New Yorkers can fulfill their  
11 sacred obligations without predatory- predators  
12 rather, standing between them and their faith. I  
13 urge my colleagues to vote aye. And thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
15 Member. Council Member Brooks-Powers, followed by  
16 Brewer.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.  
18 Today, I rise in support of several important home  
19 rule messages that recognize and support the  
20 hardworking men and women who keep our city running,  
21 especially our correction officers and sanitation  
workers. The council is advancing three key  
legislative resolutions today. T2026-1987, which  
would restore 20-year service retirement for certain  
New York City correction officers and sanitation

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2 workers, T2026-1996, related to service retirement  
3 benefits for uniformed correction members of the New  
4 New York City Employees Retirement System, and  
5 T2026-1982, which would permit certain correction and  
6 sanitation members to borrow from their accumulated  
7 pension contributions. These measures acknowledge  
8 the physically demanding and high-stress nature of  
9 this work and help ensure that the benefits available  
10 to these public servants reflect the sacrifices they  
11 make every day for our city. I also want to  
12 specifically highlight Resolution 439, which I was  
13 proud to introduce in support of the state bill,  
14 Senate Bill 9130, the same legislation advanced  
15 through a home rule today, to restore 20-year service  
16 retirement for certain correction officers and  
17 sanitation workers. Correction officers work under  
18 extraordinarily difficult conditions, often facing  
19 dangerous environments, mandatory overtime, staffing  
20 shortages, and significant mental and physical  
21 strain. Sanitation workers, likewise, perform  
essential work in all conditions to keep our city  
safe, healthy, and functioning. These workers  
deserve retirement policies that recognize the  
realities of their service. I thank my colleagues

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2 and our partners in labor for continuing to push  
3 these efforts forward. I urge the state legislature  
4 and the governor to act swiftly on these bills.  
5 Thank you.

6 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
7 Member. Council Member Brewer-

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you-

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: -followed by  
10 Farias.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
12 much. Just picking up on the state legislative  
13 resolutions. I want to talk a little bit about the  
14 ones that focus on NYPD. Just to say that one of the  
15 reasons these exist, I believe- I don't- I know  
16 everybody does not agree- is that we need to maintain  
17 and retain the police officers. In one case, there  
18 is an SLR that talks about increasing the age so that  
19 people will stay in the police department and do- um,  
20 in another case, it increases the pension so that  
21 they will stay. It's a retention issue. And if you  
pay any attention to the numbers at NYPD, you'll find  
that people are retiring, the baby boomers are  
retiring. They need to keep that expertise. So  
that's why I think these bills make sense. In some

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2 cases, we're just asking for parity. In some cases,  
3 NYPD does— does not have parity with the fire  
4 department, for instance. And in the past, we have  
5 supported FDNY's similar resolutions. So, um, if  
6 people have questions, I— I know the answers. 93A,  
7 as the speaker indicated, would talk about bicycles,  
8 5,000 more sites, 1,000 per year. We have, in the  
9 city of New York right now, bike trips increasing  
10 from 55,000— 550,000 in '22 to 620,000 in '26, and so  
11 we're between 65,000 and 85,000 delivery workers  
12 every single day. So we need safe, practical  
13 parking. I want to say one of the aspects of this is  
14 that it, uh, talks about all local stakeholders,  
15 community boards, elected officials, having input as  
16 to where these, uh, sites will go for parking so that  
17 ends up in roadway, or sidewalk, or whatever you  
18 want. They could also go where there's daylighting  
19 which is an increasing aspect of corner site. And as  
20 public mack— mandated and a detailed report after  
21 five years to talk about progress, the costs,  
improvements. I want to thank Transportation  
Alternatives, League of Conservation Voters, Bike New  
York, Streetopia, for all their support, and of  
course—

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
3 Member.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: -Sarah (sic), and  
5 the wonderful staff at the City Council, and my  
6 staff Shula Puder (sic). Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you.  
8 Council member Farias, followed by Zhuang.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you.  
10 Today, this Council takes another important step  
11 towards justice for the family of Detective Miosotis  
12 Familia and for the children of fallen first  
13 responders across the city. For years, Genesis  
14 Villela has carried the unimaginable burden of losing  
15 her mother to an act of violence while serving and  
16 protecting New Yorkers, while also fighting through a  
17 bureaucratic loophole that denied her family the  
18 benefits they deserved. That should have never  
19 happened. This legislation is about correcting a  
20 system that failed a family already carrying profound  
21 grief. It is about making sure that the children of  
those who give their lives in service to the city are  
not forced to spend years fighting for dignity,  
stability, and support. I want to thank Speaker  
Menin and my colleagues for their partnership and

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2 steadfast support in advancing this effort after  
3 seeing our fight last year. I also want to recognize  
4 our partners in Albany, including Assembly Speaker  
5 Carl Heastie and members of the state legislature,  
6 for helping move this long overdue correction  
7 forward. This has truly been a collaborative effort.  
8 And I want to acknowledge the New York City Office of  
9 the Actuary, the PBA, the DEA, and the NYPD, for  
10 working alongside us and advocating to find a path  
11 towards justice for this family. Most importantly, I  
12 want to thank and acknowledge Genesis Falela.  
13 Genesis turned pain into advocacy. She refused to  
14 allow her mother's legacy to be forgotten. And  
15 because of her courage and persistence, other  
16 families will now be protected from experiencing the  
17 same hardship. This moment reminds us that  
18 legislation is not just policy on paper, it is about  
19 people, families, and the promises we make to those  
20 who serve the city every day. Today, we honor  
21 Detective Familia's memory, not only with words but  
with actions. Thank you all.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no one else  
signed up for general orders; is that right? Council  
Member Gennaro.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Uh, sorry, I, I,  
3 I, I thought I signaled before. Uh, I just want to  
4 speak in favor of, uh, SLR14 that would, uh, uh,  
5 create a 25-year pension for the, uh, DEP police.  
6 Uh, since the creation of DEP police, there's been  
7 nothing, uh, but a, um, uh, kinda' like a breeding  
8 ground for cops who want to get trained at the best  
9 possible academy, which is the New York City Police  
10 Academy. Uh, and then they, uh, go and get jobs at,  
11 um, upstate police departments who don't have to go  
12 through the expense of training them. The average  
13 time that, uh, cops on the DEP force stay on the  
14 force is about two years, uh, because under their  
15 current situation, they have to, uh, stay in the job  
16 until age 62 in order to retire. It's almost like an  
17 administrative, uh, kind of a union that they're, uh,  
18 that they're in. And this has been long sought out.  
19 Um, and no one's going to spend, you know, 40 years  
20 in the police department, uh, upstate to, um, get a  
21 meager pension. So this would, um, correct that.  
This is a bigger deal than you think it is. Uh, and  
this is- in this age of terrorism, we'll have a  
watershed that's, um, uh, truly protected by  
dedicated professionals who want to be on the job and

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2 are not looking over their shoulder at other jobs.

3 Thanks very much.

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. See no  
5 one else signed up for general orders. Report of  
6 special committees.

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS: None.

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reports of  
9 standing committees.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Report of the Committee  
11 on Consumer and Worker Protection, Intro 837A,  
12 education program regarding scams.

13 UNIDENTIFIED: Sorry, amended and coupled  
14 on general orders. And let me also just say we  
15 mentioned a number of unions that are here. COBA is  
16 also here, I understand, as well. Okay.

17 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Report of the Committee  
18 on Finance, preconsidered Reso 479, transparency  
19 resolution.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled on general orders.

21 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Preconsidered reso 480,  
discount rate.

UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled.

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2 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Preconsidered LU78 and  
3 reso 483, through preconsidered LU80 and Reso 485,  
4 tax exemptions.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled.

6 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Report of the Committee  
7 on Government Operations, State and Federal  
8 Legislation, preconsidered SLRs 1 through 21, various  
9 home rule messages.

10 UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled on general orders.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Report of the Committee  
12 on Land Use, LU56 and Reso 486, through LU, LU-65 and  
13 RESO-490, various applications.

14 UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled on general orders.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: LU66 and Reso 491, Che  
16 Long.

17 UNIDENTIFIED: Approved with modification.

18 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Report of the Committee  
19 on Transportation and inf, infrastructure, Intro 93A,  
20 bicycle parking program.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: Coupled on general orders.

I'd now ask that the clerk take a roll call vote on  
all of the items coupled on today's general orders  
calendar.

CLERK: Carr?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Uh, Majority Leader,  
3 I move for unanimous consent to vote on today's  
4 resolutions as well as general order calendar items.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you. Uh, I'll  
8 be voting aye on all with the exception of  
9 Introduction 93A and preconsidered SLR1, on which I  
10 vote no.

11 CLERK: Thank you. Hanks:

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Thank you, Council member. Aviles?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: I'd like to  
15 disclose for the record that I have a child in New  
16 York City Public Schools. Um, aye on all except  
17 SLR8, SLR11, SLR17, and SLR18.

18 CLERK: Thank you, Council woman. Louis?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I'd like to disclose for the  
20 record that my brother works for the MTA. Um, and  
21 also just wanna ask for unanimous consent to vote on  
all general orders and resolutions. Thank you.

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2 CLERK: Far, have you- Council member  
3 Louis, I don't think you've, you've registered  
4 your vote.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye on

6 all. CLERK: Thank you. Caban?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABAN: I vote aye on all,  
8 except for SLR6, 8, 11, 17, 18, and the accompanying  
9 resolutions. Thank you.

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Yes. Thank you,  
11 Council member. Aldebol?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I'd like to  
13 disclose for the record that my brother-in-law works  
14 for the Department of Aging. And I vote aye on all.

15 CLERK: Thank you. Ariola?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye on all,  
17 with the exception of Intro 93 and SLR1, for which I  
18 vote no.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Excuse me. Banks?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: I would like to  
21 disclose for the record that my brother- one of my  
brothers works for New York City Parks Department  
and, uh, the Department of Youth and Juvenile  
Justice. And with that, I vote aye on all.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Thank you. Brewer?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I teach at CUNY.  
And I vote aye on all.

3 CLERK: Thank you. Brooks-Powers?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye  
5 on all.

6 CLERK: Thank you. De La Rosa?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: aye on all.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Dinowitz? Sorry,  
Council Member Dinowitz?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: (Indiscernible)

10 CLERK: Thank you, Sir. Encarnación?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACION: I vote aye.

12 CLERK: Epstein:

13 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Aye on all.

14 CLERK: Farias?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

16 CLERK: One moment. Council Member  
Felder?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye on all, except  
intro (sic) 93A SLR1. I vote no on those two.

18 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Feliz?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: I'd like to  
disclose on the record that I teach at CUNY, uh,  
20  
21

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2 Hostos Community College in the Bronx. And I vote  
aye on all.

3 CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Aye.

5 CLERK: Gutierrez?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Aye on all,  
7 with the exceptions of SLR6 and SLR8, for which I  
abstain.

8 CLERK: Thank you. Excuse me. Hanif?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Hankerson?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: I vote aye on  
all, with the exception of Intro 93A, to which I  
12 abstain. And also- uh, you know what, that's all.  
13 Thank you.

14 CLERK: Thank you. Hudson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Pass.

16 CLERK: Joseph?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: I'd like to  
disclose on record that my child is a student in New  
18 York City Public School. And I vote aye on all.

19 CLERK: Thank you. Krishnan?

20

21

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: (Indiscernible)  
3 permission to vote on all items on today's dated  
4 agenda?

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Hold. Permission  
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Thank you. Uh,  
8 with the disclosure that my children are New York  
9 City public school students, and we are voting, uh,  
10 on matters funding the public schools, uh, I vote aye  
11 on all.

12 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Lee?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Uh, Majority Leader,  
14 permission to vote on all agenda items on today  
15 dated?

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: You may.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.  
19 Maloney?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Thank you. Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye on all.

CLERK: Councilmember Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Like to change my  
vote, 93A, to an abstention.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. Thank you. Mealy?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all  
4 and no on Intro 93A and SLR 1, I vote no.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Morano?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: I'd vote, uh, aye  
6 on all, with the exception of, uh, Intro 93 and SLR1,  
7 on which I vote no.

8 CLERK: Thank you, Council member. One  
9 moment. Thank you. Narcisse?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Permission to  
11 explain my vote?

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
13 granted.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Um, I vote aye  
15 on all, with the exception- I abstain for intro 93A.  
16 And I would like to say for today that for the young  
17 men they cannot find on the Rockaway (sic) so that  
18 tell (sic) us that we have to do more making sure our  
19 children have training and know how to swim. So on  
20 that note, I'm hoping that we can work to the point  
21 where we can have pools in each area that we have.  
And recognize the young man that was with me,  
Abdullah, for today, remarkable young man. And I  
wish you the best. And thank you for coming and

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2 sharing with us. And I enjoyed the time with you.

3 Thank you.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Nurse?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Permission to

6 explain my vote?

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission

8 granted.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Um, I'm gonna'

10 abstain on SLR 8. I vote no on 11, 17, and 21. And

11 I just wanted to recognize my intern here for our

12 office, Fuhad Khan (sic), sitting in the back. He's

13 been amazing. He's a two-time intern in office. He

14 came back. Um, we've really loved having him, smart,

15 wonderful young man. And thank you for working with

16 us. Done (sic).

17 CLERK: All right. Thank you. One moment,

18 please. Osse? Council Member Nurse?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Yes, what's the

20 question?

21 CLERK: Uh, my apologies. Council Member

Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I want to

disclose for the record that my partner work (sic) at

NYU.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. Paladino?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: I vote aye on  
4 all, except for Intro 93 and SLR1, in which I vote  
5 no.

6 CLERK: Thank you. Restler?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Permission to  
8 explain my vote?

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
10 granted.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you,  
12 Majority Leader. Uh, I will vote aye on all, with  
13 the exception of SLR8, for which I will vote no. But  
14 I, I just want to say a little bit more broadly that,  
15 you know, these pension sweeteners are, I think,  
16 individually policies that we're all- that many of us  
17 are sympathetic toward, you know, that working people  
18 deserve good benefits, decent wages, good pensions.  
19 But generally, I think it's much better policy when  
20 these, when these- when this is determined through  
21 collective bargaining. Uh, when it- when we make  
these decisions as one-off legislative actions, uh,  
there's no trade-offs. The city leadership or the  
state leadership is unable to say, well, how do we  
get additional productivity, how do we get more

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2 flexible work rules that deliver better services in  
3 exchange for better compensation, we're just giving  
4 the better compensation away. And so this is  
5 billions of dollars that we're spending today. Um,  
6 it's a very significant financial commitment that  
7 we're making as a council if the legislature agrees  
8 with us up in Albany. Um, and I think that we should  
9 be more, uh, selective moving forward about which of  
10 these, uh, home rule messages we, we choose to take  
11 up. Uh, but I will support these messages today and  
12 hope that we can take a, a, a narrower approach  
13 moving forward.

14 CLERK: Thank you. Riley?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I just want to  
16 state for the record that all three of my children  
17 are, uh, scholars at public schools. And I am voting  
18 aye on all, with the exception of SLR1, which I'm a  
19 no.

20 CLERK: Salaam?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Vote aye on all.

CLERK: Thank you. Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Permission to  
explain my vote?

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
3 granted.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Weeks ago, I had  
5 the proud honor of, uh, standing with Local 831 and  
6 our sanitation education workers alongside many of my  
7 colleagues, uh, where they physically shut down City  
8 Hall, um, fighting for just the dignity of work and  
9 respect. And today, I am proud that the City Council  
10 has picked up that call and passed that home rule,  
11 um, allowing for the workers to get their dignity,  
12 uh, that they deserve for being New York's strongest  
13 and always being there for us. Uh, so I'm really  
14 excited and proud to cast this vote. Um, and I hope  
15 Albany brings this on home. Thank you. Uh, and with  
16 that, I vote aye on all.

17 CLERK: Thank you. Pierina Sanchez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER P. SANCHEZ: Permission to explain my  
19 vote?

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
21 granted.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER P. SANCHEZ: Thank you,  
23 Majority Leader. I just want to start by thanking  
24 Council Member Farias, and especially in her role as  
25 Majority Leader last term, for truly honoring

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2 Detective Miosotis Familia, an NYPD officer, mother  
3 of three, who was killed in the line of duty, uh, in  
4 the 46th Precinct, in my district. For nine years,  
5 nine years, her daughter, uh, Genesis Villella,  
6 fought for her siblings and her— for her family to be  
7 treated as all other families are treated and receive  
8 survivor benefits. And finally today, we are able to  
9 make that right. Uh, so thank you so much,  
10 Councilmember Farias, for your leadership, um, and  
11 everyone who is supporting this home rule today. Um,  
12 I also want to associate myself with the comments of  
13 Councilmember Lincoln-Restler regarding, uh, many of  
14 the home rules that we are (sic) voted on today, and,  
15 you know, just making the statement that, uh, many of  
16 these topics should really be discussed at the  
17 collective bargaining table. Um, and with that, I  
18 need to disclose on the record that my sibling is  
19 associated with CUNY BMCC. Uh, I vote aye on all,  
20 with the exception of SLR1, uh, because of concerned  
21 about the impacts on low-income residents in my  
district. Thank you.

CLERK: Thank you, Council Member  
Santosuosso?

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

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
5 granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: I would like  
7 to associate myself with, uh, the remarks of  
8 Councilmember Restler. Uh, and with that I vote aye  
9 on all.

10 CLERK: Schulman?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Thank you. Stevens?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Um, aye on all,  
14 except SLR1, SRR6, SRL8, and I abstain from 93, uh,  
15 93A. And I would like to disclose for the record  
16 that my daughter works for New York City Presbyterian  
17 Hospital.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Thank you. Thomas  
19 Henry?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY: I vote aye on all,  
21 with the exception of 93A, for which I vote no.

CLERK: Thank you. Um-

COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY: Aye on all (sic).

CLERK: Thank you. Vernikov?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all,  
3 except no on Intro 93 and SLR1. Thank you.

4 CLERK: Thank you. Williams?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye on  
6 all, uh, except for SLR1 where I vote no. Thanks.

7 CLERK: Thank you. Council Member Salaam?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Yes, I want to  
9 change my vote. Permission to change my vote?

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission  
11 granted.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Thank you. I am an  
13 aye on all, with the exception of SLR1, which I'm a  
14 no.

15 CLERK: Thank you. One moment. Thank  
16 you. Wilson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Aye on all.

18 CLERK: Thank you. Okay. Excuse me.  
19 Councilmember Won?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: I vote aye on all,  
21 except for SLR8, which I abstain.

CLERK: Thank you. Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: I vote, uh, aye on  
all, except for Intro 93 and SLR1, for which I vote  
no.

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2 CLERK: Thank you. Zhuang?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Um, I vote aye on  
4 all, except Intro 93. And also, want to say (sic)  
5 in the record, my kids go to public school. And  
6 also, I want to remind everyone, um, we have the-  
7 this month is Older American Month. We, uh, have  
8 older adults', uh, artwork outside the chambers. If  
9 you haven't see (sic) it, please stop by. And the  
10 senior (sic) actually make up 20 percent of New York  
11 City population. But 100 percent of them bring  
12 talent, wisdom, and experience, to our city. But in  
13 city funding, we have less than-

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council member-

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: -.5 percent.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: We- we got to-  
17 what you're talking about should be discussed during  
18 general discussion, not-

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Okay.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: - right now.

21 (Cross-talk)

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you. Please  
support our seniors. Thank you.

CLERK: Thank you, Council Member.  
Council Member Hudson?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. I am  
3 an aye on all with the exception of SLR8, for which  
4 I'm a no. And I'd like to be associated with remarks  
of Councilmember Restler.

5 CLERK: Thank you, Council Member. Thank  
6 you. Abreu?

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Excuse me. Council Member  
Hankerson?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Um, I'm sorry,  
10 I'd like to change my vote on SR1 to, a no.

11 CLERK: Thank you. One moment. Speaker  
Menin?

12 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye on all.

13 CLERK: Thank you. One moment.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Just wait a few  
15 minutes. There are 21 resolutions, 51 council  
16 members. It's about a thousand votes. Just give us  
17 some time. Well, please keep quiet in the chambers.  
18 Thank you. All right, all right. Please keep it  
19 down in the chambers. Thank you. All items on  
20 today's general order calendar are adopted by a vote  
21 of 50 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0  
abstentions, with the exception of Intro 93A, which

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2 was adopted by a vote of 36 in the affirmative, 11 in  
3 the negative, and 3 abstentions, and SLR1, which  
4 wa—was adopted by a vote of 36 in the affirmative, 14  
5 in the negative and zero abstentions. And SLR6,  
6 which was adopted by a vote of 47 in the affirmative,  
7 two in the negative and one abstention, and SLR8,  
8 which was adopted by a vote of 42 in the affirmative,  
9 five in the negative, and three abstentions, and SLR  
10 11, which was adopted by a vote of 48 in the  
11 affirmative, two in the negative, and zero  
12 abstentions, and SLR17, which was adopted by a vote  
13 of 47 in the affirmative, two in the negative, and  
14 one abstention, and SLR18, which was adopted by a  
15 vote of 48 in the affirmative, two in the negative,  
16 zero abstentions, and SLR21, which was adopted by a  
17 vote of 49 affirmative, 0 in the negative, and one  
18 abstention. Introduction and reading of bills.

16 UNIDENTIFIED: All bills have been  
17 referred to committee, as indicated on today's  
18 agenda.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We  
19 will now move into discussion of resolutions.  
20 Council Member Farias?

21

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Thank you. In the  
3 same vein as my previous comments, I'd like to thank  
4 Speaker Menin, and Chair Feliz, and my colleagues,  
5 for passing Resolution 392 today honoring the life  
6 and legacy of Police Officer Diterrell Islam. This  
7 resolution is showcasing our support to the  
8 legislature to successfully include the Diterrell  
9 Police Recruitment Act in the budget in the coming  
10 days for its passage. I just want to urge all my  
11 colleagues to vote yes and continue supporting.  
12 Thank you.

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Seeing no one else  
14 signed up for resolutions- we will now have a voice  
15 vote on today's resolution. If you wish to vote  
16 against or abstain from today's resolution, please  
17 notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by  
18 approaching the dais. I will now read today's  
19 resolution into the record. Resolution 392 calls on  
20 the New York State Legislature to pass and the  
21 governor to sign Senate Bill 9274 and Assembly Bill  
10381, also known as the Didarul Islam Police  
Recruitment Act. All those in favor say aye. All  
opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have

2 it. We will now move into general discussion,  
3 beginning with Councilmember Salaam.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I want to thank  
5 our speaker and our majority leader for allowing me  
6 to share a few words on the passing of Susan Wright,  
7 the beloved wife of former State Assembly member and  
8 county leader Keith Wright and the mother of  
9 Assemblyman Jordan Wright. She peacefully departed  
10 this mortal world in her sleep this past Sunday.  
11 Susan Wright was a tenacious community leader, an  
12 advocate, and a proud daughter of Harlem, whose life  
13 was defined by service to others. While many knew  
14 her through her work alongside legendary Harlem  
15 leaders such as Charlie Rangel, David Patterson, and  
16 David Dinkins, Susan was equally committed to all  
17 families throughout the community. She served as a  
18 board member for the Figure Skating in Harlem. And  
19 she also worked alongs— uh, worked with the Studio  
20 Museum of Harlem, contributing to the preservation  
21 and celebration of Harlem's rich cultural legacy.  
Coming from a family of jazz musicians, she carried  
within her spirit the spirit of resilience that have  
long defined Harlem itself. And while she stood  
proudly alongside her husband throughout his years of

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2 public service, one of the greatest joys was seeing  
3 her son Jordan Wright elected by his, his community  
4 to serve as the current state assembly member, a  
5 continuation of family— of a family legacy grounded  
6 in service and commitment to the people of Harlem.  
7 Susan Wright leaves behind a legacy of compassion,  
8 advocacy, and love for Harlem. May she rest in  
9 eternally peace— may she rest in eternal peace. And  
10 may her family find comfort in knowing how deeply she  
11 was respected and admired. I want to finish by  
12 requesting a moment of silence in her honor. Thank  
13 you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you,  
15 Councilmember Salaam. My thoughts are with you and  
16 the Wright family. Council Member Stevens, followed  
17 by Banks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Thank you.  
19 Today, I truly want to, um, to say it was a special  
20 day. Thank you to our incredible foster care young  
21 people for your courage, your openness, and willing-  
oh, is— that says it's over (sic)? Oh.

(Laughter)

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Let, let's  
restart the clock for our council member, please.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: (Chuckles). All  
3 right. So today was a truly special day. Thank you  
4 to our incredible foster foster care young people for  
5 joining us for Shadow Day. Give it up for them.  
6 Your courage, your openness, and your willingness to  
7 share your experience with us, um, we truly want to  
8 thank you. A heartfelt thank you to all the council  
9 members for taking time to- participating, and your  
10 continued commitment to our young people in our  
11 community. Your presence means so much to me and all  
12 of these young people you impacted today. Thank you  
13 to Children's Aid for, um, for your work and my staff  
14 for putting this together. I just want to say again,  
15 thank you, all of my colleagues, who continue to show  
16 up and open your doors and your experience and make  
17 this day amazing for the young people that show up  
18 here. So thank you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
20 Member Stevens. Council Member Banks, followed by  
21 Brooks Powers.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, Majority  
23 Leader. I want to take a moment to speak about the  
24 Census Act, uh, at the Bethel Memorial Mosque and  
25 Community Center on the border between, uh,

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2 districts- well, my district, forty, the 42nd Council  
3 District and the 37th Council District. Uh, let me  
4 be clear that this was a act of hate, intimidation,  
5 and violence. And it is completely unacceptable. No  
6 one, I mean, no one, uh, should ever feel unsafe  
7 while worshipping. Houses of worship are meant to be  
8 places of peace, not places where people are  
9 harassed, humiliated, or targeted, because of their  
10 their fate. The individuals at this mosque were  
11 simply gathering to pray, and instead were met with  
12 hateful aggression, including eggs being thrown at  
13 them. That behavior has no place in our city and  
14 will not be tolerated. I want to thank the community  
15 leaders, advocates, neighbors, speaker, um, who  
16 immediate, immediately stood in solidarity with the  
17 victims and the Muslim community during this  
18 difficult time. I'm also calling on the NYPD to  
19 fully investigate this incident and ensure houses of  
20 worship receive their proper protection and support  
21 they need so they can feel safe. Sadly, this is part  
of a larger pattern we are seeing across the country.  
Just two days ago in San Diego, three innocent people  
were killed in the Islamic Center of San Diego in a  
horrific act of violence fueled by hate. From

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2 Brooklyn to San Diego, the message must remain the  
3 same, hate is hate, and we must confront it wherever  
4 it appears. Today, and as always, we stand united to  
5 make clear that the- that fear and division will  
6 never define who we are. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you,  
8 Councilmember. Councilmember Brooks-Powers, followed  
9 by Jen Gutierrez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.  
11 First, I wanna acknowledge my colleague, Council  
12 Member Althea Stevens, for her labor of love for such  
13 a successful day with our guests, um, who are foster  
14 care individuals. I had an amazing time with Milo,  
15 who hails from the peninsula of the Rockaways. Um,  
16 he got to sit in his very first interview today. And  
17 it was a wonderful experience. I also want to  
18 acknowledge my colleague, Deputy Speaker Natasha  
19 Williams, for assembling our MWBEs, many of which,  
20 um, were in the balcony earlier, and the, the  
21 intentionality that's behind giving support to these  
organizations. And finally, on a more somber note, I  
asked my colleagues to stand in solidarity with  
prayer, lifting up the impacted family of the  
18-year-old young man that was swept away in the

2 Atlantic Ocean on Rockaway Beach yesterday. As many  
3 of us know, sometimes people get it mistaken that  
4 because we're elected officials that we don't have  
5 feelings. But as a mother, going to the site where a  
6 young man was days away from graduating high school  
7 was deeply hur- it hurt me deeply. And it just  
8 renewed the need for us as a body to look at how we  
9 prioritize our investments in communities. Along  
10 the, the Rockaway Beach, we are an open front of  
11 water to the ocean out of all of our beaches in New  
12 York City. We need to invest in investments that  
13 would send alarms and have cameras to help to alert  
14 the public when we have moments like this. But also,  
15 we need to stand in solidarity, which I'm so thankful  
16 to my colleagues who have thus far, around the need  
17 for a trauma hospital on the Rockaway Peninsula.  
18 The- this is just yet another example of how critical  
19 this is for us. I send my thoughts and prayers to  
20 the, the family and to the young friends that were  
21 there and had to witness that. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
19 member. Council Member Jen Gutierrez, followed by  
20 Justin Sanchez.  
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Thank you. Um,  
3 I just want to take this time to thank my senior  
4 advisor, who is my former chief of staff. Today is  
5 her last day. And many of you have worked with her,  
6 Anya Laird. She's been a tremendous, tremendous—  
7 that's right, you can, aw— she's been a tremendous,  
8 tremendous staff member, um, a friend, and confidant.  
9 And she will be sorely— surely sorely missed. Um,  
10 and I can say this publicly, because she had her  
11 coming out. She's also expecting. So I think there  
12 is no better person to welcome their first baby than  
13 someone that helped craft, uh, Universal Childcare  
14 Bill, someone that's been helping advise on, uh, the  
15 Subcommittee for early childcare education. And I'm  
16 excited for all her future endeavors. So if you  
17 catch her, please say congratulations. Um, thank you  
18 so much.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Congratulations.  
20 Council Member Justin Sanchez, followed by Hanif.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Uh, thank you,  
Majority Leader. It seems like every day we have  
beautiful weather. We are here in Council Chambers.  
Uh, so today is, of course, a great day to introduce  
new laws to improve the quality of life for New

2 Yorkers. But it is also a perfect day to sit down  
3 and enjoy a frozen margarita at one of our city's  
4 many sidewalk cafes. So why not do both? I'm proud  
5 to announce the introduction of a new bill that will  
6 create an Office of Sidewalk and Roadway Cafe  
7 Sanitation within the Department of Sanitation. This  
8 new office will have oversight over the cleanliness  
9 of outdoor dining structures and have the authority  
10 to coordinate oversight and enforcement between  
11 agencies and departments citywide. As it stands  
12 right now, sidewalk cafe cleanliness is juggled  
13 between DOHMH, DOT, and Department of Sanitation,  
14 resulting in confusion and complications. Overflowing  
15 trash, blocked walkways, and rats, will be out, as  
16 this new office comes in. As these sidewalk cafes go  
17 up, we need to break down silos and and make our city  
18 work more efficiently. Outdoor dining is arguably  
19 the best thing to come to our city this decade. I'm  
20 looking forward to working with my colleagues as we  
21 continue to expand it and do so in a clean and  
responsible manner. Furthermore, I also want to give  
a huge shout-out to my legislative director, River  
Alexander. Today he is graduating, uh, from Columbia  
University, uh, as the Arthur Ross, uh, Political

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2 Scholar of Excellence. Uh, so a huge  
3 congratulations. Thank you for all of the work that  
4 you do day in and day out. We are so proud of you.  
5 Uh, and we can't wait to see you on the other side.  
6 Thank you, everyone.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Councilwoman  
8 Hanif, followed by Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. I want  
10 to give a big thanks to Suri Infante, who was our  
11 foster youth and shadowed Anisha, our tremendously  
12 wonderful fellow. Today, I want to acknowledge and  
13 thank Hannah Henderson-Charnow, who has been on my  
14 team since day one. Over the years she has worn many  
15 hats, and time and time again, won over even this-  
16 the toughest community skeptics through her warmth,  
17 thoughtfulness, and ability-

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Keep going. Keep-

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Okay.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: -keep going.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Over the years, she  
has worn many hats. And time and again-

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Quiet in the  
chambers, please. Let-

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2 UNIDENTIFIED: Please, keep it down.

3 Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member,  
5 please proceed.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you. Over  
7 the years, she has worn many hats, and time and  
8 again, won over even the toughest community skeptics  
9 through her warmth, thoughtfulness, and ability, to  
10 genuinely connect with people. Hannah led our  
11 community engagement and events portfolio with  
12 incredible care and creativity. She also led  
13 participatory budgeting. And no shade to any other  
14 PB staffers; but Hannah was was truly in it. She set  
15 ambitious turnout goals and believes deeply in  
16 participatory democracy, as a practice not just a  
17 program. Under her leadership in Cycle 15, more than  
18 10,000 neighbors participated, including hundreds of  
19 Bangla-speaking constituents who voted using a Bangla  
20 ballot. Even during difficult moments, Hannah never  
21 stopped pushing us to think bigger and try new  
things. Her work helped build so much of what now  
defines our office and district infrastructure, the  
District 39 Clean Team, the Youth Leadership Council,  
our High School Fellowship Program for students who

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2 live in or attend school in the district, our Tree  
3 Stewardship Program, and much more. Hannah has  
4 always been a true team player, emotionally  
5 intelligent, deeply principled, and someone who  
6 consistently offered thoughtful feedback and  
7 grounded leadership. She's really one of my  
8 favorites. I've been especially grateful for her  
9 leadership as a young Jewish woman, as we work to  
10 build meaningful intereh, relationships and  
11 solidarity across our communities. Hannah, thank you  
12 for your service to District 39 and for helping shape  
13 our office into what it is today. We are all better  
14 because of your work. I'm proud of you. And I can't  
15 wait for others to experience your leadership,  
16 creativity, and unwavering commitment, to our  
17 communities. Thank you.

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
19 Brewer, followed by Murano.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I want  
21 to mention that yesterday, Barney Frank died. He was  
a member of Congress from the state of Massachusetts  
from 1981 to 2013, Harvard undergrad, Harvard  
attorney. And he was the first member of Congress to  
voluntarily announce a member of the LGBTQ community,

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2 first gay man to get married in Congress. And the  
3 good news was this week in the New York Times, there  
4 was a wonderful interview with him, him telling all  
5 of us what the left should or should not be doing.  
6 And he was brilliant. And I had the occasion to meet  
7 him quite a few times. He'll be missed. Um, in  
8 terms of interns, I wanna thank James Liu, who's an  
9 Alvan Fellow in here today, Brianna McDonald, who is  
10 a Hunter Silverman School of Social Work. And she's  
11 graduating in a couple of days. Um, Fiona Zhang, who  
12 was a Columbia University, uh, student. She was a  
13 student representative on CEC3 and on the student  
14 council in her high school. Uh, Theodore Friedman,  
15 who's a Swarthmore College. And he's a Lang Center  
16 for Civic and Social Responsibility. And it's his  
17 second day. And they're fabulous, every single one  
18 of them. And I do want to thank, uh, Council Member  
19 Stevens. Hawa Bamba was with us today. She is  
20 fabulous. And I think the program takes a lot of  
21 work. And you did a wonderful job. And meeting  
these young people is an honor. Thank you very much.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU I'd like to clarify  
a vote. SLR 11, the revised vote is actually adopted  
by a vote of 47 in the affirmative, two in the

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2 negative, and one abstention. Council Member  
3 Morano, followed by our Deputy Speaker Williams.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you. Uh,  
5 today, as we approach Memorial Day and what will be  
6 our final stated meeting before the holiday, I'm  
7 proud to introduce a package of legislation focused  
8 on supporting the men and women who've served our  
9 country. I have the distinction and the honor of,  
10 uh, being the chair of the Veterans Committee. And  
11 honestly, these are bills that I think the council  
12 should have passed back in December. I'm hopeful  
13 that now, with Memorial Day approaching, we can  
14 finally get serious about moving them forward. One  
15 bill would study innovative PTSD treatment options  
16 for veterans suffering from trauma. Another would  
17 strengthen support for veteran-owned businesses and  
18 veteran vendors. And another calls for exempting  
19 veterans from congestion pricing tolls. These are  
20 not radical ideas. They're practical ways of showing  
21 respect to people who wore the uniform of the United  
States and sacrificed for all of us. I, I've spoken  
with veterans across Staten Island and throughout the  
city. And too many feel like government remembers  
them on holidays but forgets them the rest of the

2 year. Uh, well, this is our opportunity to prove  
3 otherwise. And frankly, there's no better way for  
4 this council to commemorate Memorial Day than by  
5 sponsoring and advancing legislation that actually  
6 improves the lives of veterans and military families.  
7 Because Memorial Day isn't just the unofficial start  
8 of summer, it's a solemn reminder that generations of  
9 Americans gave up birthdays, anniversaries, family  
10 time, peace of mind, limbs, blood, and in far too  
11 many cases, their lives, so the rest of us could live  
12 freely. Uh, Government should do more than just  
13 issue proclamations and hold ceremonies, as important  
14 as that is. It should act. And the men and women  
15 who served, uh, this country kept their promise to  
16 America. We should keep our promise to them. And  
17 I'm hopeful that my colleagues will join me in  
18 sponsoring this legislation we're putting forward  
19 today. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
17 member. Deputy Speaker Williams, followed by Council  
18 Member Zhuang.

19 DEPUTY SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Thank you so  
20 much, Majority Leader. Today, I want to recognize  
21 who many have already recognized, the MWE leaders,

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2 entrepreneurs, advocates, and stakeholders, joining  
3 us at City Hall for important conversations around  
4 expanding opportunities for MWBEs across New York  
5 City. I also want to thank New York City Public  
6 Schools Office of Business Development, Dr. Pate, Dr.  
7 O'Connor, and Celeste Morris, and everyone who helped  
8 organize today's convening and engagement with  
9 council members. MWEs are critical to New York  
10 City's economy. They create jobs, strengthen  
11 communities, build generational wealth, and help  
12 ensure that economic opportunity reaches every corner  
13 of our city. At a moment when conversations around  
14 diversity, equity, and inclusion, are being  
15 challenged nationally, New York City must continue  
16 leading by ensuring that access to contracts,  
17 capital, and opportunity, is not limited to the same  
18 businesses and institutions over and over again. So  
19 thank you so much again, everyone, for joining us  
20 today, and my colleagues who also came and  
21 contributed to the conversation. We look forward to  
continued advocacy and partnership. Um, and I just  
wanted to also thank Chair Stevens for organizing the  
Foster Care Youth Day, and Jada, who shadowed me  
today. Um, and then last but not least, just wanted

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2 to share my deepest my condolences to the Wright  
3 family on the passing of Mrs. Wright. Thank you.

4 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
5 Zhuang, followed by Won.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you. Um,  
7 first, today, I'm introducing two pieces of  
8 legislation. First, Intro nigh, 922. As our older  
9 adult population grows, we must ensure that we have  
10 the things they need to thrive, including  
11 comprehensive healthcare access. Older adults need,  
12 need the local community-based providers that take  
13 all available insurance. They need specialists of  
14 all kind, all kinds, so they don't have to travel  
15 across the city to get need meds (sic). This bill  
16 orders a study mapping where older adults are lole,  
17 located to available healthcare, so they- we can see  
18 where there are gaps and making recommendations to  
19 close those gaps. Next, reso 0482, New York City is  
20 the home for Hudson Canyon, which is the largest  
21 submarine canyon along Atlantic coast of United  
States, and one of the largest in the world. It's an  
extremely de- diverse habitat, with many endangered  
and protected animals. Yet we do not fully  
understand how climate change and human behavior are

2 affecting it. This resolution calls on federal  
3 government to des- designate the Hudson Canyon a  
4 National Marine Sanctuary, which could increase  
5 access to federal, state, local, and private  
6 investment, helping in conversaysh- conservation, and  
7 the sustainability, and protect the animal population  
8 that calls New York, New York water home. I'm asking  
9 my colleagues to, uh, cosponsor both those protecting  
10 some of our most vulnerable residents, human, and an,  
11 animal alike. Thank you.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you.

13 Council Member Won, followed by Hudson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you so much,  
15 Majority Leader. Today, I'm introducing a  
16 legislation that will be one of the most important  
17 consumer protections in recent history for the AI  
18 revolution. Algorithmic tools already influence  
19 decisions about employment, housing, credit,  
20 healthcare, along with access to city services.  
21 These decisions can cause real harm to real people  
without formal action or recourse. Today, a tenant  
in Sunnyside could be screened for an apartment by an  
automated system. The landlord may never look at his  
file. And a machine that has made that decision in

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2 seconds- and that tenant will have no formal entity  
3 to report this to. A small business owner in  
4 Woodside can get denied lines of credit because a  
5 risk scoring model she cannot see, cannot challenge,  
6 and cannot appeal has made that decision.

7 Unfortunately, these are not hypothetical, but this  
8 is truly what is happening. And it's getting more  
9 common, not less. We need our government to meet the  
10 moment and address these concerns. And my bill,  
11 Intro 91-nuh- 919 does just that. It establishes an  
12 Office of Artificial Intelligence Oversight, for a  
13 dedicated consumer protection agency within DCWP, uh,  
14 first of its kind in our nation. It'll allow New  
15 Yorkers to have a complaint protocol and empower the  
16 Department of Consumer Worker Protections to  
17 investigate recommendations and enforceable action on  
18 consumer AI products. My constituents are workers,  
19 immigrants, renters, small business owners, and more.  
20 And they, like- um, they are more likely to be harmed  
21 and un- by unchecked AI, and the least likely to have  
lawyers, lobbyists, or corporate resources to fight  
back when they have to through a class action  
lawsuit. And New York, New Yorkers don't get hustled  
easily. And we're not about to get hustled by a

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2 computer or an AI system. So I urge my colleagues to  
3 cosponsor and support this consumer protection  
4 legislation. And I thank the advocates, the  
5 community members, and the workers, who have shared  
6 their stories and pushed for our accountability.  
Thank you so much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
Hudson, followed by Joseph.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. Uh, I'd  
9 first like to offer my deep condolences to the Wright  
10 family in the Harlem community on the loss of their  
11 beloved Susan Wright. And I'd also like to take a  
12 moment to shout out Christian Rosado, who I had the  
13 pleasure of meeting through Fostering Youth Success  
14 Alliance's Shadow Day, organized by Councilmember  
15 Althea Stevens' office and Children's Aid. We had an  
16 incredible conversation about youth violence  
17 prevention and discussed his perspectives on the  
18 necessary resources. Our young people need to break  
19 cycles of violence. I always look forward to Foster  
20 Youth Shadow Day and encourage all of my colleagues  
21 who maybe have not considered doing so to participate  
next year. Thank you.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
3 Joseph, followed by Thomas Henry.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you,  
5 Majority Leader. Last Friday, there were reports  
6 regarding a deeply troubling circumstance of a  
7 Brooklyn woman giving birth inside a courtroom. This  
8 has raised serious concerns and demand (sic)  
9 accountability and a full review of what occurred.  
10 No person, regardless of their circumstances,  
11 background, or involvement with the justice system,  
12 should ever be placed in a position where dignity,  
13 humanity, and basic care are all called into  
14 question, during one of the most vulnerable moments  
15 of her life. Public reporting indicates a concern  
16 that has been raised regarding access to medical  
17 care, privacy, and treatment, while in custody. As  
18 the co-chair of the Women's Caucus, I believe we have  
19 an (sic) responsibility to ensure that every woman is  
20 treated with compassion, respect, and dignity. How  
21 we treat women, especially mothers, expectant  
mothers, reflect our values as a city. We can uphold  
public safety while protecting human rights and basic  
standard of care. This moment requires transparency,  
accountability, and a commitment to examining whether

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2 our systems are serving people with humanity. Every  
3 mother deserves care. Every child deserves to enter  
4 this world with dignity. New Yorkers deserve  
5 confidence that our institution will meet the- that  
6 standard. Thank you. And I'd also like to shout out  
7 Chair Stevens for bringing our foster youth to City  
8 Council today. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
10 Thomas Henry, followed by Epstein.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HENRY: Thank you, Majority  
12 Leader. During COVID, New Yorkers watched our  
13 streets transform almost overnight. Restaurants  
14 turned sidewalks into gathering spaces. Parking  
15 spots became outdoor dining. Corridors that once  
16 felt empty suddenly became places of connection,  
17 culture, and community again. And for many small  
18 business owners, it was proof of what's possible when  
19 government reduces barriers instead of creating them.  
20 But as our city moved forward, too many entrepreneurs  
21 were once again met with overwhelming costs and  
financial hurdles that make it harder to sustain and  
grow the very spaces that bring life to our  
neighborhoods. And if you are seery- if we are  
serious about affordability in New York City, then

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2 that conversation must include the small business  
3 owners who keep our neighborhoods alive. Today, I am  
4 introducing Intro 918, legislation that creates  
5 flexibility and stability for small business owners  
6 by allowing quarterly or annual payments to the city  
7 for outdoor dining expansion and roadway cafes  
8 instead of forcing overwhelming upfront costs all at  
9 once. It is a common sense and innovative solution  
10 that recognizes the real financial pressures our  
11 businesses are navigating. Because when we reduce  
12 barriers for small businesses, we are not just  
13 helping storefronts survive, we are shaping what our  
14 neighborhoods can look and feel like. If we want a  
15 more affordable New York, then we must build policies  
16 that give back to the business owners who give so  
17 much to this city every single day. This bill is  
18 about creating a city where entrepreneurs are not  
19 punished but encouraged to invest in the communities  
20 they serve. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
18 Epstein, and lastly, Felder.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Uh, thank you,  
20 Majority Leader. Good afternoon, everyone. Today,  
21 I'm proud to introduce legislation that would ban the

2 sale of birds in pet stores. Birds that are sold in  
3 pet stores come from out-of-state bird mills.

4 They're massive commercial facilities where thousands  
5 of birds are confined to small lotree- locations and  
6 treated like inventory instead of being like living  
7 beings. These birds are really to be found to be  
8 deeply intelligent and emotional and shipped around  
9 the country, intune- including to places like New  
10 York City. It's time to stop this pipeline, like  
11 we've done in other issues and really to ensure that  
12 those birds that are- need to be adopted, we see at  
13 our ACC and our local adoptions that these birds need  
14 to be adopted. We should focus on adoption and not  
15 these, these bird mill puppy mills. So I want to  
16 thank the speaker on participatory budgeting. I was  
17 proud to, to do, uh, participatory budgeting for my  
18 first time this year. We had a lot of interest and  
19 excitement in the district. And it was great.

20 Another thing we're doing, uh, our AAPI celebration  
21 tomorrow at Civic Hall. I want everyone to be  
invited. The speaker's a cosponsor. We're gonna'  
have a great time. I know people have been to Civic  
Hall; it's right at Union Square. We'd love to have  
you all eat great food and hang out with people from

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2 our district. Uh, I want to, uh, thank, uh, Chair  
3 Stevens about having bringing young people today. It  
4 was really important to hear, as someone who was a  
5 foster care worker, to hear directly from foster care  
6 student children, to hear what their struggles are.  
7 Um, to Bob, happy birthday to Bob, which I think is,  
8 uh- and to, to, to the Wright family, uh, you know,  
9 both, uh, Jordan and Keith, you know, it's so hard  
10 to, to lose a family member. And our thoughts and  
11 prayers go out with you every single day.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: My apologies,  
13 there are a few more council members. Council Member  
14 Felder, followed by Gennaro. Council Member Gennaro,  
15 followed by Wong.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you. I  
17 wish to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Albert  
18 Itzkowitz. Uh, he was a pillar of the Orthodox  
19 community in Kew Gardens Hills, Queens. He, uh, ran  
20 the best kosher bakery for many, many years. Um, he  
21 was very active in Hatzolah for decades. Uh, his  
life, you know, embodied the, best traditions of  
Yiddishkeit. Um, he was a robust 75 years old. Uh,  
he just buried his wife three weeks ago. Uh, and he  
was taking a walk this Monday in, um, Cassina Park,

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2 where he was shot dead. Um, he was shot four times  
3 in the neck and in the back. Um, so my community is  
4 in, um, uh, uh, ih-ih- very distraught about this. I  
5 want to, uh, thank the Office of the Medical Examiner  
6 for redih- for releasing his body relatively quickly.  
7 They had to do an autopsy, which in the Orthodox  
8 community is itself a really big deal. Um, and he  
9 will be, um, he will be sorely missed. Uh, his  
10 funeral was this morning. And it was a whole, um,  
11 outpouring. Um, on the, uh, on the- I also, uh- did  
12 I say I wanted to be, uh- that I want to be  
13 associated with the remarks of, uh, Council Member  
14 Joseph, or did I leave that out? Did I say that?  
15 Oh, I didn't. I'm saying it now. Okay? Uh, and on,  
16 a, on a, uh, lighter note, a member of my staff, uh,  
17 Peter Paolo, uh, will, will be, uh, leaving our staff  
18 soon. He's joining the seminary to become a Catholic  
19 priest. Um, and, um, he has a very ethereal vibe  
20 about him. And is not the person you want to say  
21 foul language around. So, uh, he's really a great  
guy and I wish him well.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Congratulations.

Council Member Wong, and followed by Mealy.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Okay. Thank you.

3 Um, today I introduce, uh, two bills that will make  
4 it so our constituents can live and enjoy this is-  
5 this city with greater confidence in their safety.

6 The first bill will make it illegal to charge and  
7 store a battery-powered mobility device in apartment  
8 buildings. So the second bill will reform rules  
9 regarding nightlife establishments. So the city can  
10 enjoy- enforce laws and shut down establishments when  
11 places of assembly are violated. Please join me in  
12 supporting Intro 920 and 921, so we can prevent fires  
13 and reduce crime. Thank you.

14 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member  
15 Mealy?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes. I would just  
17 like to say my condolences to the Wright family. I  
18 have known him over 40 years. We worked together at  
19 New York City Transit. And now to lose his beautiful  
20 wife. And I- my condolences to his son Jordan,  
21 Assembly Member Jordan. They will be missed. He  
will- she will be missed. And Harlem will be very  
sad. So I just pray for Harlem and the whole family  
at large. And thank you, um, Council Member Salaam.

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2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council  
3 member. I'll now call on Speaker Julie Menin, to  
4 close today's stated meeting.

5 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. The stated  
6 meeting of May 20th, 2026 is hereby adjourned.

(Gavel)

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19 C E R T I F I C A T E  
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2 World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing  
3 transcript is a true and accurate record of the  
4 proceedings. We further certify that there is no  
5 relation to any of the parties to this action by blood  
6 or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome  
7 of this matter.



13 Date 12 September 2026

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