

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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May 14, 2026

Start: 1:47 p.m.

Recess: 3:00 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Julie Menin,
Speaker

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
Shirley Aldebol
Joann Ariola
Alexa Avilés
Chris Banks
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
Tiffany L. Cabán
David M. Carr
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Eric Dinowitz
Elsie Encarnación
Harvey D. Epstein
Amanda C. Farias
Simcha Felder
Oswald J. Feliz
James F. Gennaro
Jennifer Gutiérrez

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

Shahana K. Hanif
Ty Hankerson
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Rita C. Joseph
Shekar Krishnan
Linda Lee
Farah N. Louis
Virginia Maloney
Christopher Marte
Darlene Mealy
Frank Morano
Mercedes Narcisse
Sandy Nurse
Chi A. Ossé
Vickie Paladino
Lincoln Restler
Kevin C. Riley
Yusef Salaam
Pierina A. Sanchez
Justin E. Sanchez
Kayla Santosuosso
Lynn C. Schulman
Althea V. Stevens
Shanel Thomas-Henry
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Nantasha M. Williams
Carl Wilson
Julie Won
Phil Wong
Susan Zhuang

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

Reverend Doctor Gawin de Leeuw
Vicar and Priest in Charge

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mic check, mic check, mic check. It's a mic check for the stated meeting on May 14th, 2026, recorded by Walter Lewis in the chambers.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Ladies and gentlemen, can I have your attention please? Can I please have your attention? At this time, please place all electronic devices— all electronic devices to vibrate. Mr. Majority Leader, it's all yours.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: [GAVEL] Good afternoon and welcome to the Stated Meeting of May 14th, 2026. I am Majority Leader Shaun Abreu, and I'd 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 today. During the Stated Meetings, only members of the Council may speak. Members of the public shall remain silent.

If you wish to express your 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. 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.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Roll call.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola? S- Avilés.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Sono qui.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member, can you
please mute yourself? Council Member Ariola, thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Avilés? Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers? Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Encarnación?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACIÓN: Presente.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Epstein?

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COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Farias?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Here, here, here, here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hey. Thank you. Feliz?

Gennaro? Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson? Joseph? Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, sir.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse? Ossé? Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Justin Sanchez.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I've entered the chat.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Here.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikoff? Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Oh, present. I'm here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: I, I- Thank you. Wilson?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Here.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Present.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Menin?

SPEAKER MENIN: Present.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. We will now
have today's invocation, which will be delivered by

Reverend Dr. Gawin De Leeuw, Vicar and Priest in Charge at Holy Trinity Church Inwood, which is located at 20 Cumming Street in Manhattan.

AUDIENCE: Amen.

REVEREND DR. GAWIN DE LEEUW: Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious God, you are the same God who led your people through the wilderness, out of slavery, and into a land of promise. Even in the midst of flood and fire, you have appeared to us in power through silence and our neighbors.

Today we give thanks for this political body that is balanced to the city budget and works with our state officials to serve all New Yorkers. We remember this city that harnesses people from all the nations, from countless traditions, creating the effervescent vibrancy of our unique home. We raise up this culture of resilience and the enduring spirit of neighborly care across languages and differences. You reveal the power of love that endures in the midst of struggle and hardship.

Under your care, this city belongs to both the deeply rooted and recent arrivals, those with names on buildings and those whose labor built them. We remember especially this day the families and

1
2 neighbors affected by the fire at 207 Dyckman Street
3 in Inwood. Protect those families who lost their
4 homes. Guide them with your spirit and give them the
5 gift of perseverance and hope. Bring those who died
6 into your loving arms. Comfort those who mourn that
7 they may be surrounded by your divine affection. We
8 give thanks for the many neighbors in Inwood,
9 Washington Heights, the Bronx, and the city who rose
10 to embrace the residents. May we continue to help
11 them find relief, that they may know this city sees
12 and stands with them.

13 We ask your blessing upon our elected officials,
14 especially this Council, who have been entrusted with
15 the responsibilities of public service, and
16 especially Councilwoman Carmen De la Rosa, for her
17 deep and empathetic leadership. Continue to give her
18 courage and strength. And grant all members here
19 wisdom to govern with integrity, courage to pursue
20 justice, and compassion towards the vulnerable. May
21 in this debate they say what they mean, respect those
who disagree, be open to changing their minds, and
endure a necessary conflict for the sake of the city.
And strengthen all who labor to bring relief and hope
to those who suffer: firefighters, first responders,

police officers, relief organizations, houses of worship, community leaders throughout the five boroughs.

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live. Watch over those both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends on each other's toil. Protect this body. Protect our mayor from the deception and slander of the enemy. Bless the city of New York with peace, safety, healing, and hope. Save our republic. Amen.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. I would now ask Councilmember Carmen De La Rosa to spread the invocation on the record.

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader. Father Gawin Frederic Delieu— Father Federico, as we lovingly call him— is a priest who serves at Holy Trinity and Episcopal Church in Inwood. He came to the city in September 2021 after serving 22 years in White Plains, New York. He has served in multilingual congregations in Korea, Chicago, and New York.

Father Federico has written on the intersection of economics and church administration, taught literature and philosophy, and serves as the dean of the Upper Manhattan Episcopal Clericus. He has served on the boards of national financial institutions, national reproductive rights organizations like Planned Parenthood, and as a trustee in the Episcopal Diocese of New York, the Advisory Committee for the New York State Community Economic Agenda, and as a leader in, in all of Manhattan.

As a Benedictine religious in the Order of the Ascension, he seeks to build collaborative communities that are reflective and engaged. Recently, a fire took the lives of 3 of our neighbors and left another 5 in critical condition, and dozens of others displayed placed overnight on Dyckman Street. The leadership of Father Federico and the clergy leaders of Holy Trinity quickly mobilized not only to collect donations, but to serve as a home base for our recovery efforts and a second home for those living a life of uncertainty in the face of this tragedy.

1
2 Their generosity and dedication to helping our
3 community has served as a humbling inspiration for
4 those who desperately are in need of hope in a moment
5 of darkness. Thank you, Majority Leader. And I
6 would like to thank Father Dr. Federico Gawin de
7 Leeuw for being here today. And I make a motion for
8 unanimous consent to spread the invocation in full
9 upon the record. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
11 Member. We will now ask Council Member Kevin Riley
12 for the adoption of minutes.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Majority
14 Leader. I make a motion that the minutes of the
15 Stated Meeting of April 30th, 2026 be adopted as
16 printed.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Messages and papers from
18 the Mayor.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: M63, city debt and reserves.

20 SPEAKER MENIN: Received, ordered, printed, and
21 filed.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Communication from city,
county, and borough offices.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M64, election of Carl Wilson,
Council Member, 3rd District.

SPEAKER MENIN: Received, ordered, printed, and
filed.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M65, discount rate.

SPEAKER MENIN: Finance.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Petitions and
communications.

COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Land use call-ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: M's 66 through 68.

SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. I would now ask that
the clerk take a roll call vote today on today's land
use call-ups.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ariola? We'll come back.
Avilés? Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers? Cabán?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Mm-hmm, aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Encarnación?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARMACIÓN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Farias?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Felder? Council
Member Felder, Land Use call ups, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [INAUDIBLE].

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member
Felder. Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro?
Gutiérrez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Hanif? Hankerson?
Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph? Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maloney?

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy? Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ossé?

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Permission to vote on all items on today's agenda.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Per- can- permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you, Council Member Ossé. Paladino?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Justin Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Stevens?

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Permission to vote on
all items on agenda today?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vernikov? Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wilson?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Avilés.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ariola?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Abreu?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Menin.

SPEAKER MENIN: Aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Today's land use call-ups are adopted by a vote of 46 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative. We will now have communication from Speaker Julie Menin.

SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. So first of all, today is a very exciting day because we get to

welcome our amazing new colleague, Council Member Carl Wilson, to the chambers.

I've had the honor and privilege of knowing you, Carl, for many years. I, and the work that you've done in your district is incredible, which is why your constituents elected you. I am so excited to have you in the chambers. I know you're gonna hit the ground running on day one, and we're thrilled to officially welcome you today.

Um, so throughout the month of May, we are celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Haitian Heritage Month— yeah, okay— Jewish American Heritage Month, Lupus Awareness Month, and Maternal Mental Health Month. A lot going on in May.

May 10th, of course, was also Mother's Day. For me, one of my favorite holidays. Um, and so certainly for a woman-majority council made up of so many mothers, this was a very great day. And I know this holiday is especially meaningful to each and every one of us.

To the New Yorkers who are the heart and soul of our families and communities, wishing everyone a happy Mother's Day. May 19th is Malcolm X Day and

would have been his 100th birthday. We continue to honor his legacy of Black empowerment and contributions to advancing civil rights and a fight for justice and equity.

We also today honored— and we just want to make sure all the members know we have brought proclamations back to the chamber. So if you want to do a proclamation, please work with our team, uh, so that we can make it happen. It's a really wonderful way that we can truly honor, um, so many New Yorkers. And today we were honored, um, to honor the late Sergeant Ellis, a proud New Yorker raised in Staten Island for his service to our country, and we presented a proclamation to his wonderful family, Robert and Linda Ollis. Could you please stand up so we can—

We truly honor the legacy of your son, Sergeant Ollis, who was tragically killed in Afghanistan while he was assisting a wounded fellow soldier. For his bravery, Sergeant Ollis was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star Medal. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We are eternally grateful for his courage

and commitment. As we head into Memorial Day, we really, I wanted to honor his life of service. Thank you so much for being here today. And thank you to Minority Leader Carr.

Um, finally, I wanna shout out the students who are in our Council Chambers today. While working at the Wildlife Conservation Society, you are serving as such proud ambassadors of our, our STEM Career Ladders program. And we wanna thank you so much for all you're doing to bridge environmental stewardship with civic impact. So thank you so much for being here.

Now we're going to move on to our stated agenda. First, we'll vote on the following land use items. 9201 Fourth Avenue rezoning will facilitate the development of an 11-story mixed-use building with 96 residential units, 24 of which will be permanently affordable under MIH Option Number 1, as well as commercial space and 56 parking spaces in Council Member Kayla Santosuosso's district.

46 Nelson Street rezoning will facilitate the development of a 7-story mixed-use building with 108 residential units, up to 27 of which will be permanently affordable under MIH Option 1 or 3, as

well as ground floor commercial space and 42 parking spaces in Council Member Alexa Avilés's district. We will also today be voting on the Mayor's appointment of Lisa Kersavage, um, to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Today we will vote on the following pieces of legislation. Resolution 26, sponsored by Council Member Alexa Avilés, would call on the New York City Department of Education to establish May annually as Labor History Month in New York City public schools. Thank you to Rie Ogasawara and Nina Rosenberg.

Introduction 13A, sponsored by Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, would require the Department of Transportation to install illuminated solar panel traffic control devices at a minimum of 200 crosswalks by December 31st, 2031, with 40 installations required by December 31st, 2027. The bill would also require DOT to study the efficacy of the devices and the potential for further installations. Thank you to staff Sierra Townsend, Theodore Miller, Kevin Kotowski, John Basile, and Audrey Son.

Introduction 741A, sponsored by Council Members Linda Lee and Tiffany Cabán, would require a task

1
2 force to review and make recommendations to approve
3 New York City's 988 mental health crisis system. The
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene would also be
5 required to report annually on 988 activity and
6 conduct a citywide education campaign in multiple
7 languages so that all New Yorkers know how to access
8 help. Thank you to Sarah Sucher.

9 Introduction 139-A sponsored by Council Member
10 Tiffany Cabán would require the Department of Social
11 Services to provide a confirmation notice
12 electronically via Access HRA to applicants of public
13 assistance regarding their benefits interview.
14 Thank you to Aminta Kilawan.

15 Uh, finally, we will vote on a package of
16 legislation in advance of the 2026 FIFA World Cup to
17 ensure New Yorkers and small businesses are prepared
18 to benefit from the meaningful opportunities provided
19 by this global tournament. Resolution 428-A,
20 sponsored by Council Member Shanel Thomas-Henry,
21 would celebrate the arrival of the 2026 World Cup in
the City of New York. Thank you to Regina Paul.

Introduction 847-A, sponsored by Deputy Leader
Sandra Ung, would require the Department of Consumer
and Worker Protection to establish and implement an

1 outreach and education program to create awareness
2 around common scams targeting and impacting tourists.
3 Educational materials would be required to be posted
4 on the DCWP website in multiple languages and
5 updated annually. Thank you to Sarah Swaine and
6 Natalie Meltzer.

7 Introduction 822, sponsored by Council Members
8 Virginia Maloney and Shanel Thomas-Henry, would
9 temporarily co-name two thoroughfares and public
10 spaces as Terry Henry Way in Manhattan and Pelé Way
11 in Queens during the 2026 World Cup. The street
12 co-namings would be repealed on November 1st, 2026.
13 Thank you to Kris Sartori, Patrick Mulvihill, and
14 Michael Sherman.

15 Introduction 849A, sponsored by Deputy Speaker
16 Dr. Nantasha Williams, would require New York City
17 Tourism and Conventions, or an agency designated by
18 the Mayor, to develop and implement a cultural
19 passport program to promote tourism in at least 5
20 participating sites in each borough for a minimum of
21 1 year. Thank you to Leah Skrzypiec, Alex
Paulenoff, William Hongach.

Introduction 808A, sponsored by Majority Leader
Shaun Abreu, would require New York City Tourism and

Conventions, or an agency designated by the Mayor, to develop and publish an events calendar and digital map of small businesses hosting World Cup events or offering World Cup promotions no later than 1 week before the start of the tournament.

And Introduction 807A, also sponsored by Majority Leader Abreu, would require the Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination and Management and the Department of Parks and Recreation to require that the organizer of any special event with a permit for 500 or more expected attendees on city-owned land during the 2026 World Cup ensure the provision of temporary public bathroom access for attendees. Thank you to Alex Paulenoff and William Hongach.

Uh, thank you for your attention. I'm going to now turn it back over to our Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Speaker Menin. We will now move into discussion of general orders, beginning with Council Member Santosuosso followed by Maloney.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSO: Thank you, Majority Leader, and I'm going to try to do this with a baby in my arms. Um, uh, I am, ah, very excited today that we will be voting on 9201 4th Avenue, uh, which

1 is personal to me because it is a rezoning
2 application that takes place on my old block where I
3 used to, ah, live and own a business.

4 The current building was formerly an entirely
5 commercial office building which became, like, vacant
6 and blighted when COVID hit, and its vacancy has been
7 a dead zone for the area, one felt by businesses and
8 residents alike. The proposal in front of us will
9 reinvigorate the block by allowing an 11-story
10 mixed-use development delivering 96 new homes,
11 including 24 permanently affordable units throughout
12 the, uh, through the mandatory inclusionary housing
13 program, and features majority 2 and 3-bedroom units,
14 uh, designed for families.

15 So at a time when Bay Ridge needs more housing
16 that its residents can actually afford, this project
17 meaningfully contributes to meeting that need.
18 Importantly, the modification of this application is
19 to map MIH Option 1 only, which ensures deeper
20 affordability. It will also feature an active ground
21 floor commercial space, and while a grocery store was
initially proposed for the space, in response to
public concerns about traffic and oversaturation, the
developer has assured me that he has reworked the

1
2 proposal and now intends to fill the space with
3 several small commercial retailers instead. So I'd
4 like to thank the developer for listening
5 meaningfully to public feedback on all aspects of
6 this project and responding accordingly.

7 While I'm proud to support this application
8 today. It is critical that moving forward, we work
9 in concert with the city to engage in a comprehensive
10 community-led planning effort to ensure that new
11 development is paired with proper infrastructure,
12 smart design, and city investments to make
13 development something that enhances the neighborhood
14 while maintaining the small-town feel that many of us
15 cherish.

16 Finally, developers eyeing the neighborhood
17 should take note of the efforts made here— meaningful
18 commitments to affordability, the construction of
19 quality family-sized housing. Building design that
20 fits with the character of the neighborhood, and a
21 real engagement with the public. The neighborhood
deserves no less. Thank you, and I urge my
colleagues to support this proposal.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member. Council Member Maloney, followed by Deputy Speaker Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Thank you, Majority Leader Abreu. As Chair of the Economic Development Committee, I've spent the past several months focused on how our city can maximize the benefits of the 2026 FIFA World coming to New York City this summer. Today's legislative package is a meaningful part of that effort.

Intro 0822 would temporarily co-name two thoroughfares adjacent to major World Cup Fan Fest locations. The first, Thierry Henry Way at Rockefeller Center in my district, and the second, Pelé Way at Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens in Shanel Thomas-Henry's district. These fan festivals are where many New Yorkers are going to experience the Cup, supporting local businesses and participating in the energy for a once-in-a-generation event.

So it's fitting that these spaces will bear the names of two figures whose legacy helped shape, shape the global game. Thierry Henry is one of the game's most celebrated players and hosts— has a, um,

1 meaningful connection with our region. He played
2 with the New York Red Bulls, where he helped grow the
3 game in New York. And Pelé is the most universally
4 recognized figure in soccer.

5 As New York prepares to welcome the world, these
6 two co-namings say something about who we are. A
7 city that honors greatness and embraces the world's
8 most popular sport. Thank you.

9 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Council-
10 Deputy Speaker Williams, followed by Council Member
11 Cabán.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you. Today the
13 Council is passing a strong package of legislation
14 connected to the 2026 World Cup and how New York City
15 prepares to welcome one of the largest global events
16 in the world. I want to acknowledge my colleagues
17 who helped advance this package and the
18 thoughtfulness behind the legislation that looks at
19 tourism, cultural engagement, public amenities, and
20 consumer protections together. I'm proud to see the
21 passage of my bill Intro 849, which establishes a
cultural passport program designed to encourage
residents and visitors alike to engage more

intentionally with cultural destinations and institutions across all 5 boroughs.

The World Cup will bring global attention and increased tourism to New York City, and this legislation is really about how we make sure that attention reaches communities throughout the city. Too often, visitors experience only a narrow portion of New York, despite the fact that every borough contains cultural institutions, historic sites, commercial corridors, and neighborhood spaces that reflect the depth and diversity of who we are.

This program creates an opportunity for people to explore the broader cultural life of the city while also supporting the surrounding small businesses and local economies connected to those spaces. It encourages movement across the boroughs, engagement with communities, and longer-term visibility.

I also want to acknowledge the Wildlife Conservation Society and the young people joining us today for Youth Advocacy Day. Institutions like yours help to create meaningful points of connection between people, culture, education, and public engagement.

1
2 Lastly, I want to thank Speaker Menin, my
3 colleagues, committee staff, and everyone involved in
4 advancing today's legislation. Thank you.

5 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you. Council Member
6 Cabán followed by Brooks-Powers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Today I have a
8 piece of legislation that's being voted on, and it
9 comes out of another related bill I passed last year,
10 the Receipts Act. Um, that law required DSS and HRA
11 to provide a detailed confirmation notice or receipt
12 when people apply or recertify benefits like cash
13 assistance and SNAP, or when they submit documents in
14 support of their application, because unfortunately
15 the agency be losing confusing stuff, um, and we want
16 to make sure folks can get their much-needed benefits
17 quickly.

18 When we were working on that bill, advocates and
19 constituents kept asking if we could also do
20 something about another part of the process, the
21 eligibility interview. This has always been a
confusing part of the process, and failure to
complete that interview is by far the biggest reason
applications for cash assistance are being rejected.
So we worked with advocates again to make these

1 changes. They're impactful. They're going to help
2 millions of New Yorkers who rely on cash assistance
3 and food stamps. It will require DSS to provide
4 benefits interview confirmation notices. Um, they'll
5 have to provide those within 72 hours after
6 conducting an eligibility or recertification
7 interview for cash assistance or SNAP and that notice
8 will be provided in writing. It applies to a range
9 of assistance types, including emergency grants. And
10 that notice will include a confirmation number for
11 the interview, as well as details like the date, the
12 type benefit, um, and the applicant's number if it
13 was a phone interview.

14 I wanna take a moment to thank Melissa Correa.
15 She's my former constituent services director. She's
16 with the Mayor's Office now for bringing to our
17 attention this obstacle that our constituents are
18 facing in accessing assistance, and thank you to my
19 ledge director, Jonah Burch, for his work to bring
20 this very important piece of legislation to the
21 finish line. And I wanna thank the committee staff
for their work bringing this legislation to life and
I hope my colleagues are gonna join me in voting for
the bill. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member Brooks-Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you. And today we are voting on Intro 13, legislation I sponsored to improve pedestrian and traffic safety through the installation of illuminated solar-powered traffic control devices at crosswalks across New York City. Every day, New Yorkers rely on our streets to get to work, school, transit, and local businesses safely. But too many intersections across our city remain dangerous due to poor visibility, speeding, and inadequate traffic controls.

Communities across the 5 boroughs have repeatedly called for additional safety measures to prevent crashes and protect pedestrians. This legislation requires the Department of Transportation to install the safety devices at no fewer than 200 crosswalks citywide by 2031, while also studying their effectiveness and reporting annually on implementation progress.

These types of improvements may seem small, but we know targeted infrastructure investments saves lives. As we continue working towards safer streets for all New Yorkers, we must remain committed to

1 practical, data-driven solutions that improve
2 visibility, calm traffic, and prevent avoid-
3 avoidable tragedies. I want to thank Speaker Menin
4 and all of my colleagues who supported this
5 legislation. I respectfully ask my colleagues to
6 vote aye on Intro 13. Thank you.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
8 Member. Anyone else sign up for general orders that
9 I may have missed? Council Member Lee.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Sorry, thank you. Um, good
11 afternoon, Madam Speaker, Majority Leader, and
12 colleagues. Today it is an honor to pass Intro 741
13 along with my colleague Council Member Cabán, which
14 will establish a task force to study and strengthen
15 the current 988 mental health hotline system while
16 also improving public awareness of mental health
17 resources and the services 988 provides.

18 For far too long, 988 and other critical mental
19 health resources have remained underutilized,
20 sometimes because of stigma and other times because
21 these services are inaccessible or people simply do
not know how to seek support.

As the former chair of the Mental Health-
Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities, and

1
2 Addiction, I was proud to help create the Mental
3 Health Roadmap, the Council's evolving plan to
4 address decades of government neglect and the
5 revolving door of hospitalizations, discharges, and
6 arrests that have trapped some of our most vulnerable
7 New Yorkers.

8 This bill will recommend updates to counselor
9 training to ensure culturally competent and
10 trauma-informed responses, strengthen language access
11 services, and develop strategies to address the
12 underutilization of 988 among historically
13 underserved communities. While there is still work
14 to do, I am appreciative of the advocates as well as
15 Speaker Menin and Chair Cabán for their leadership on
16 this important issue. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
18 Member. Seeing no one else signed up for General
19 Orders, Report of Special Committees.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: None.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Reports of Standing
Committees.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on
Consumer and Worker Protection, Intro 847A, tourist
education.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Economic Development, Intros 807A, 808A, and 849A, World Cup-related bills.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on General Welfare, Intro 139A, confirmation notices.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use Intro 741A, the New York City 988 system.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Parks and Recreation, Intro 822, naming of thoroughfares and public places.

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Rules, Privileges, Elections, Standards and Ethics, M61 and Reso 472, approving the appointment of Lisa Krasavage, Landmarks Preservation Commission.

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on general orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Preconsidered Resos 473 and 474, Council Committees.

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Report of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Intro 13A, Traffic Devices.

SPEAKER MENIN: Amended and coupled on General Orders.

COMMITTEE CLERK: On the General Orders Calendar, LU 52 and Reso 475 through LU 55 and Reso 478, various rezonings.

SPEAKER MENIN: Coupled on General Orders. I would now ask that the Clerk take a roll call vote on all of the items coupled on today's General Orders Calendar.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Aldebol?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Thank you, Majority Leader. Um, I would like to congratulate Council Member Avilés on her work championing, uh, Reso 26, which calls upon New York City Department of Education to establish May annually as Labor History Month. I've been involved with organized labor for decades, and I've seen time and again how labor

movements powered by the collective will of workers can challenge systems of oppression and improve lives.

When workers are being exploited, abused, and taken for granted, it is organized labor that is most successful in securing those protections that are often taken for granted. The struggles and collective actions of workers built the middle class, and it is vital to understand the value of collective bargaining.

However, despite the many workplace protections that have been secured, there is a significant gap in knowledge about labor, especially among our young-younger generations. It's important to also understand that attack on unions and the erosion of labor rights correlates—

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Sorry, Council Member, this is, this is, uh, you're discussing a Resolution. We're at the General Orders calendar.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Oh, I'm sorry.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: My apologies for that.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: I vote aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you Ariola.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Avilés?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Banks?

COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I wanna say particular congratulations to, to Lisa Kersavage. I hope she pays attention to West Park Presbyterian Church and landmarks it. And then on the economic development, I'm voting yes, but we could write a letter to the agencies about the bathrooms and the maps and so on. I don't know if we actually need to pass a bill. I know we are, but I'm just saying, it seems to me that letters would suffice. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brooks-Powers?

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Permission to explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: First, I vote aye, but I'd like to request unanimous consent to vote on all items on the land use call-ups.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Any objections? You may, you may vote.

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

40

COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye. Thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Cabán.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: De La Rosa?

COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dinowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER DINOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Encarnación?

COUNCIL MEMBER ENCARNACIÓN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Epstein?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Farias?

COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Feliz?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELIZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gennaro?

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye, and I
request unanimous consent to vote on land use
call-ups.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Any objections? Seeing
no objections. You may vote.

CITY COUNCIL STATED MEETING

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Gutiérrez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIÉRREZ: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Hanif?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hankerson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hanks?

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Joseph? Krishnan?

COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lee?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Maloney.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALONEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Marte?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARTE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy? Morano?

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Aye on all. Welcome
aboard, Council Member Wilson.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Narcisse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Nurse?

COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Paladino? Restler?

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye, and
congratulations, Council Member Wilson.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Riley?

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Salaam?

COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye. Justin
Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I vote aye, and
congratulations to the fifth Infinity Stone, Carl
Wilson. Pierina Sanchez?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Santosuosso?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Schulman?

COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye, and I wanna
welcome my colleague Carl Wilson to the body. Thank
you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thomas-Henry?

COUNCIL MEMBER THOMAS-HENRY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Ung?

COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye. Vernikov? Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wilson?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: It's great to be here,
and I vote aye.

AUDIENCE: Yay!

COMMITTEE CLERK: Won?

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wong?

COUNCIL MEMBER WONG: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Zhuang?

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: I, I also want to shout
out to my, uh, high school intern Victoria to follow
me for today, and also some— a lot of youth come from
Wildlife Conservation Society, some from my District.
Welcome to the City Council.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. One moment. Carr?

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to briefly
explain my vote?

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Permission granted.

COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Majority Leader.
Um, I just want to say congratulations to all the
colleagues who are passing legislation today. Truly

1 a great achievement, and it's a rare aye on all day
2 from our colleagues here in the Republican
3 delegation, uh, always happy to surprise every now
4 and then. Um, and unfortunately, uh, not as
5 interesting a day for our debate team students
6 watching up in the gallery. Um, but I wanna say
7 briefly, just congratulations to our newest member,
8 Council Member Carl Wilson, for joining us today on
9 his victory earlier this month. I look forward to
10 working with him in the days and weeks and years
ahead. Congratulations.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Paladino?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye on all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Abreu?

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Menin?

18 SPEAKER MENIN: Aye on all. Congratulations to
19 all the colleagues who are passing legislation today.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All items on today's
21 General Order calendar are adopted by a vote of 48 in
the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and 0
abstentions.

And the revised land use call ups vote is 48 in the affirmative and 0 in the negative. Introduction and reading of bills.

SPEAKER MENIN: All bills have been referred to the Committee as indicated on today's agenda. Thank you. We will now move into discussion of Resolutions. Council Member Aldebol, would you like to speak on Resolutions?

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: You know, I was so- I'm so excited about this Resolution that I jumped ahead. I apologize.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: No, no, you're good.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Majority leader, this is a- this is very exciting, and it's been a long time coming but I just want to say that, you know, I want to thank again Council Member Avilés for her work on this, uh, important, uh, Resolution. You know, young people in New York City will have the opportunity to learn about labor history and be empowered by the lessons of collective activism that secured our hard-won rights and protections. Thank you all again.

Thank you, Council Member Aldebol, Council Member Avilés.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: For the record, I am
2 absolutely loving, uh, Chair Aldebol's, um,
3 excitement about this Resolution. Uh, it was worth
4 hearing it twice, for sure. Um, thank you, Madam
5 Speaker. Thank you, Chair Aldebol. Thank you to my
6 colleagues. Uh, definitely proud to be voting on
7 this Resolution 26 today. Um, as you've heard, the
8 Resolution calls on the New York City Department of
9 Education to establish May as Labor History Month in
10 New York City Public Schools. We all know that New
11 York City is the wealthiest city in the country, but
12 New York is also a working-class city where workers
13 from all backgrounds have done the work that produces
14 that wealth.

15 Working-class New Yorkers have often suffered
16 greatly on the job, but they also have come together
17 through labor movements to fight for justice, from
18 dock workers transforming their dangerous and
19 low-paid industry, to garment workers fighting for
20 workplace dignity, to food delivery workers
21 organizing for dignified and decent pay. This is a
proud history, and yet the story of organized
working-class power is rarely mentioned in our

history books, and hopefully today that changes.

Thank you so much.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Epstein.

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Uh, thank you, thank you, Majority Leader. Um, I, I wanna also thank, uh, Council Member Avilés for May's, uh, trying to make sure that we understand our history and our labor history. It's really important for our young people to understand that. Uh, I— too, I have a bill that we are introducing about reducing single-use, uh, plasticware throughout New York City. I think we've seen so much disposable things that are non-compostable. I look forward to that bill moving forward.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member, is this regarding your bill or—

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: No.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Resol— is it on Resolutions?

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Yeah, Resolutions.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: My apologies for interrupting. Keep going.

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: No worry, we're good. I want to um just -

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Sorry, we're not voting on that right now.

COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: No, we're not.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: So then it has to be in general discussion. Alright, um, seeing no one else signed up for Resolutions, we will now have a voice vote on today's Resolutions.

If you wish to vote against or abstain from either of today's Resolutions, please notify the Legislative Documents Unit by email or by approaching the dais. I'll now read today's Resolution into the record. Resolution 26 calls on the New York City Department of Education to establish May annually as Labor History Month in New York City Public Schools. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it.

Resolution 428A celebrates the arrival of the 2026 World Cup in the city of New York. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: All opposed say nay. Any abstentions? The ayes have it. We will now move

1
2 into general discussion, beginning with Council
3 Member Wilson.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER WILSON: Thank you, everybody, and
5 thank you so much for such a warm welcome back to the
6 Council. Um, over the past decade, I've gotten to
7 call two places home. One of those is here in the
8 City Council, where I worked in the offices of former
9 Council Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Member Eric
10 Botcher, to deeply impactful leaders in my life. I
11 hope very much to build on the great work they did
12 here, of which I was proud to play a part. Uh,
13 through that time in Corey and Eric's offices, I've
14 been lucky enough to get to know many of you and the
15 staff that keeps this place humming, and I can't wait
16 to cultivate those relationships further as we strive
17 for a city that works for everyone.

18 My other home has been, of course, Council
19 District 3, and representing it here is an honor of
20 my life. I don't think there's a more iconic place
21 to represent, uh, from the neon-soaked Hell's Kitchen
to the West Village with its bohemian and radical
history, to Chelsea with its bright colorful farmers
markets and dusky whiskey-stained carpets of its
historic hotel, to Hudson Square with one foot in the

city one gesturing towards its storied history, and another gesturing towards its sleek modern future.

In this chamber, I represent Stonewall, the cradle of the modern-day LGBTQ rights movement, the Whitney, which houses works by Hopper, Johns, Warhol, and O'Keeffe, Studio 54, where you can— if you listen closely, you can still hear echoes of Liza's laughter coming from the ladies' room, and Film Forum, where you can taste— take in a Hitchcock while crunching the best theater popcorn.

As I step into this new and exciting role, I'm acutely aware of the major challenges ahead. New York City is in desperate need of more affordable housing. We need more investments in our parks, schools, public transit, and community spaces. We must protect our LGBTQIA+ community and immigrant neighbors from threats from Washington.

I'm so grateful for the trust that's been placed in me and for the team I now have behind me to help put these ideas into motion, and I'm so grateful to join you as a colleague. Thank you all very much.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Congratulations, Council Member. Council Member Hanif, followed by Lee.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Majority
2 Leader. In celebration of Older Americans Month, I
3 am proud to introduce legislation to improve the
4 lives of older and disabled New Yorkers across our
5 city. Older adults are the backbone of our
6 communities, and we have a responsibility to ensure
7 New York City works for them as they age. That's why
8 I'm introducing legislation to help ensure seniors
9 and people with disabilities living in apartment
10 buildings have important safety devices in their
11 homes, while also helping property owners cover the
12 cost of these upgrades through a tax break.

13 I'm also introducing a Resolution calling on the
14 New York State to allow local governments to cap rent
15 for SCRIE and DRIE enrollees at 1/3 of household
16 income. As housing costs continue to rise, we must
17 strengthen protections that allow older New Yorkers
18 to age in place with dignity and stability. We must
19 celebrate older New Yorkers not just with words, but
20 with policies that protect their dignity, safety, and
21 right to remain in the communities they helped build.
Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Lee,
followed by Aldebol.

1 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Good afternoon, Chair,
2 Majority Leader, and colleagues. Uh, today I'm
3 honored to introduce Resolution 464, recognizing an
4 issue highlighted by Beatrice Kim, um, a high school
5 junior who's here with us today, and her mother
6 Clara, whose advocacy and contact with my office led
7 to the creation of this legislation to support
8 maternal mental health.

9 Postpartum psychosis is a rare but severe
10 psychiatric emergency that typically emerges within 2
11 weeks after childbirth and can cause delusions,
12 paranoia, and rapid changes in mood and behavior.
13 Each year, approximately 4,000 women in the United
14 States experience postpartum psychosis.

15 Studies show that when left untreated, the
16 condition can increase the risk of maternal suicide
17 and infanticide to as high as 5%. This underscores
18 the devastating consequences of untreated maternal
19 psychiatric illness.

20 Currently, our state has no laws that explicitly
21 recognize postpartum mental illness as a mitigating
factor during sentencing or as grounds for
post-sentencing review.

As a result, mothers experiencing severe postpartum crises are often treated under the same legal framework as defendants without these conditions, without meaningful consideration of their acute mental health circumstances.

This Resolution calls on the state to pass legislation, recognizing postpartum mental illness as a factor in criminal sentencing. As our city continues to expand access to mental health care, we must do everything in our power to ensure that those suffering are met with support and a pathway toward rehabilitation. I hope you will join me in supporting this important effort and I just want to recognize Beatrice Kim, who's with us today. If you could stand up and thank you so much for your advocacy in this. And then, of course, Clara, her mother here.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Aldebol, followed by Zhuang.

COUNCIL MEMBER ALDEBOL: Thank you, Majority Leader. I am proud to introduce Resolution 458, calling on New York State Legislature— legislature to pass and the governor to sign S-6487C-A7033D to

empower the New York State Council on the Arts to designate Little Yemen as a cultural district.

The area known as Little Yemen represents the vibrant and growing Yemeni community and business district situated in the East Bronx neighborhoods of Morris Park and Van Nest in Council District 13. I am proud to represent this community and bring Resolution 458 to the floor today in support of the legislation introduced by Assembly member John Zaccaro and Senator Natalia Fernandez.

Little Yemen reflects the Yemeni community's, Yemeni community's heritage and traditions, and is filled with Yemeni-owned businesses, restaurants, food stores, clothing shops, as well as mosques and cultural centers that promote community activity. Designating Little Yemen as a cultural district would recognize the community's unique cultural identity, foster pride in its contribution amongst its residents, and honor the diversity it brings to the Bronx and to New York City as a whole.

An official cultural district would also promote tourism and business development, which would have a positive effect on the local economy in Little Yemen, District 13, and the East Bronx generally. It will

also help preserve its distinctive character and cultural traditions, which might otherwise be lost to gentrification and urban development.

I encourage my New York City Council colleagues and all New Yorkers to come visit Little Yemen. Come share a delicious meal of traditional Yemeni stew, grab a cup of special, uh, Yemeni coffee, get a taste of unique Yemeni honey, or go see a performance at the Bronx Muslim Center. Whatever you do in Little Yemen, you will see firsthand how special the neighborhood is and understand why it deserves recognition.

As I officially introduce my first Resolution, I am grateful to New York City Council staff and my colleagues for their support and look forward to moving this Resolution towards adoption.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Zhuang, followed by Morano.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, Majority Leader. Today I'm proud to join several of my colleagues, Council Member Stevens, Council Member Encarnación, and, uh, Santosuosso, in introducing Intro 910 to protect our small business owners.

1
2 If we do nothing on July 1st, many will be hit
3 with fine for not replacing expensive security gates
4 with 70% transparent gates, which can cost more than
5 \$10,000. If we pass this bill, we can repeal this
6 requirement which passed in 17 years ago. Businesses
7 only need to use a specific type of gate when they
8 change the new one.

9 With the tariff and the cost of living increase,
10 it's very hard for small businesses to survive in
11 current economics. Lots of small businesses' revenue
12 decreased 40%. I see it's running around in our
13 immigrant neighborhoods. People are afraid to come
14 out to shop. Some immigrant businesses cannot
15 survive and have been closed in my neighborhood. As
16 an immigrant and a daughter of a small business
17 owner, I cannot place impossible— we cannot place
18 impossible financial mandates on hardworking small
19 business owners without giving them time, support,
20 and resources.

21 We must protect them and repeal Local Law 75.
I'm also introducing a pair of Resolutions designed
to improve our state's tree and street— sh— shared
program with, um, Reso 470 and Reso 471. Uh, 470,
parents, guardians, and other relatives of people

with disability could be able to qualify for DRIE, even if they are not the disabled person, not the head of the household.

With Reso 471, income verification for SCRIE, uh, could lift the, the state instead of local—

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member, please wrap up.

COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Uh, instead of local government. Please support. Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Morano. I don't know why I said it like that. Council Member Morano, followed by Santosuosso also.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you, Majority Leader. Uh, today I'm proud to introduce a Resolution urging the state legislature to pass the Tollpayer Advocacy and Relief Act sponsored in Albany by Senator Andrew Lanza and Assemblyman Mike Reilly, both of whom represent my district in Staten Island. This is one of those issues that really does cut across party lines, ideology, and geography because almost everybody knows someone who's been hit with outrageous toll violations, excessive fees, or a bureaucratic nightmare involving E-ZPass. People don't object to paying tolls they actually owe. What

frustrates them is a system that too often feels confusing, punitive, and impossible to navigate or figure out.

Someone misses a notice, a bill goes to the wrong address, there's a transponder issue, and suddenly a working person is staring at hundreds or even thousands of dollars in penalties. It's crazy.

At a certain point, it stops being about collecting tolls and starts feeling like a shakedown. And this issue especially affects outer borough residents, commuters, working people, small business owners, and families who rely on their cars every single day.

On Staten Island, where crossing a bridge is just part of daily life, people feel this constantly. Uh, this legislation's about fairness, transparency, accountability, and restoring some common sense to the process. Government should collect tolls, not ruin people's lives over paperwork, glitches or delayed notices, and I'm hoping a lot of you will sign on to it.

On a personal note, uh, today also marks 1 year since I was sworn into the City Council. In some ways it feels like I started last week. Thank you.

1 Uh, in other ways it feels like I've been here since
2 the invention of the MetroCard. Uh, but it's been a
3 really an honor, uh, serving with all of you and
4 serving the people of Staten Island, especially the
5 Staten Island delegation and the Republican
6 Conference. And, uh, I have to give a special
7 shout-out to, uh, my colleague Minority Leader Carr,
8 who's been an incredible mentor and friend. And, uh,
9 I hate to ruin her reputation with some of our
10 colleagues, but to Speaker Menin, who's been, uh, an
11 incredible mentor and recognizes that just because my
12 constituents elected a Republican—

13 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Please wrap up.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Doesn't mean they deserve
15 to be treated any less. So thank you, Speaker. And
16 lastly, I'll send my— best wishes to former Mayor
17 Giuliani—

18 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Time is up,
19 Councilmember.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: —and his recovery.

21 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Time is up.

COUNCIL MEMBER MORANO: Thank you.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Restler,
followed by Santosuosso.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: I think we cut Council
3 Member Morano off just in time. Um, uh, but congrats
4 on a year. It's been a pleasure serving with you. I
5 just wanted to, to celebrate not one, but two amazing
6 schools from District 33 that are here with us today.
7 IS 318 is known across the state for having the best
8 chess program in the, in the state. Uh, they also
9 have an amazing debate team, and thanks to Council-
10 our Minority Leader David Carr, uh, that chess team-
11 that debate team is with us today. Um, yeah, and so
12 I really wanna thank them for being here.

13 Uh, IS 318 is one of the largest middle schools
14 in Brooklyn, almost 1,000 kids. It's an amazing
15 school that serves families across Williamsburg and
16 Greenpoint. And we're also joined by Packer and
17 their A.T. government class, which I recently joined
18 for a conversation. The kids are brilliant. Uh, I'm
19 a Packer alum. Um, but I really wanna thank Becca
20 Zimmerman, who does an amazing job, uh, leading that
21 AT government class and, and serving the kids at
Packer. Thank you both for being here. We really
appreciate it.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
Santosuosso followed by Hankerson.

COUNCIL MEMBER SANTOSUOSSO: Thank you, Majority Leader. Today I introduce my bill requiring the Department of Health to establish and utilize digital verification of food protection certificates, legislation that comes out of my former life as a bar and restaurant owner. So I want my colleagues to play a game with me. Imagine you're walking into 250 Broadway and realize that you forgot your Council ID. And imagine further that even though the building staff knows who you are and you're a duly elected Council Member, and though your name and photo is up on the Council website, no one will let you in the building because you didn't have your physical card on you. Sounds absurd.

This is an actual issue that restaurant managers and chefs deal with during health inspections. Per existing law, restaurants must have at least one food protection certified employee on premises at all times. But currently, certified employees can only prove their certification status by showing their physical card during an inspection.

So if the day of the inspection comes and you left your card at home, tough luck. Department of Health treats it as if there was no certified

1
2 employee on site. That's 10 points against a
3 restaurant during the inspection when anything more
4 than 13 points constitutes a B grade or lower, and
it's also at least a \$400 fine.

5 And again, this is the case even though the
6 certified employee is present and making sure food is
7 prepared and handled safely for the public. So my
8 bill is simple. The DOH already has the names of the
9 certified workers. They should— they also have
10 devices like iPads with them during inspections.
11 During the inspection, they should be required to
12 check that the digital database, uh, that the digital
13 database before they issue violations for missing
14 certificates. Let's keep inspectors focused on the
15 safety issues that matter rather than bureaucratic
16 trivia, and restaurant employees can focus on food
17 safety, not on which pocket they left their card in.
18 So thank you all, and I look forward to passing this
19 common sense legislation soon. Thank you.

20 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Hankerson,
21 followed by Shulman.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKERSON: Thank you, Majority
Leader. Illegal dumping is a quality of life issue
across New York City. Construction debris left near

homes, parks, green spaces, neighborhood corridors, waterways, and beaches, creates eyesores, and brings down the value of the surrounding area, and harms the environment. Construction waste should not leave a job site without a clear plan for where it will go and who will handle it.

Before a permit is granted, contractors should be able to show that debris will be taken to an appropriate disposal location by a licensed or properly authorized hauler, disposer, or disposal company. When disposal records are not required, contractors can cut corners, use unauthorized or unreliable disposers, avoid proper disposal costs, and leave communities to deal with the mess. A permit should not be approved on trust alone, especially when construction debris can end up on or in communities.

This legislation requires applicants for certain DOB permits to submit a construction waste disposal plan before the permit is granted. It also requires proof that the waste was taken to a lawful disposal site before the permit can be closed. That proof may include receipts, transfer station records, disposal facility records, hauling records, or other documents

1 showing where the material went and who handled it.
2 Requiring disposal planning before permit approval
3 and verification before permit closeout will help
4 prevent illegal dumping, protect public spaces, and
5 hold contractors accountable.

6 For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to
7 support this legislation. I also want to say, uh,
8 congratulations, uh, to Carl. Welcome to the other
9 side.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Schulman,
11 followed by Narcisse.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Thank you, Majority
13 Leader. Today I'm introducing Resolution 467,
14 calling on New York State to authorize New York City
15 to establish a camera enforcement program for
16 violations of the Don't Block the Box law. I'm proud
17 to have Council Member Restler as a co-prime sponsor.
18 New Yorkers know how frustrating and dangerous
19 blocked intersections can be. When drivers enter
20 intersections they cannot clear, it creates gridlock
21 that slows buses, delays emergency vehicles, blocks
crosswalks, and puts pedestrians and bikes-
bicyclists at risk.

1 Although blocking the box is already illegal
2 under state law, enforcement can be difficult in
3 practice. These violations often happen quickly and
4 repeatedly, especially at heavily congested
5 intersections. We have already seen how automated
6 enforcement programs can success— successfully change
7 driver behavior and improve street safety. Speed
8 cameras, red light cameras, and bus lane cameras have
9 all helped reduce dangerous driving and keep New
Yorkers moving safely and efficiently.

10 A Don't Block the Box camera enforcement program
11 would build on that success by improving compliance,
12 reducing congestion, and making our streets safer for
13 everyone, whether they're walking, biking, taking
14 transit, or driving. This is a smart, common-sense
15 approach to improving traffic flow and protecting
16 public safety in New York City. And I wanna— I wanna
thank my Chief of Staff, Jonathan Boucher, who came
up with this suggestion. Thank you.

17 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
18 Member. If everybody online can just mute
19 themselves, that would be greatly appreciated.
20 Council Member Narcisse, followed by Won.
21

COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Thank you, Chair.

Thank you, um, for giving me the opportunity to talk about something that's very important. Before I do, I'm gonna say you are all invited. It's gonna be at Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Avenue. Madam Speaker, it's extended to you.

Um, Haiti. What we talk about Haiti? I know some folks don't wanna talk, they, they kind of like wanna forget that history, but history reminds us who we are, what we have done. Haiti, my birthplace, was the first Black republic in the world, and its revolution expired— inspired freedom movements across the globe. That legacy deserves to be honored and celebrated.

I am inviting all my colleagues who have some little time to come and enjoy and understand the food, the culture, the music. We're gonna be there. We're not gonna get discouraged despite everything that's going on. Because Haiti put it— put its mark on the globe with everyone against slavery. How many folks in that time when we were traveling from Africa to different parts to be landed in that little Caribbean and said enough is enough and we had to fight to get out of it? And so is the, the rest of

the world, inviting everyone across the globe to say if you wanna be free, free, come to that little island and celebrate your freedom.

So today I'm inviting you, keep on celebrating, keep on rising. We're gonna raise the flag because I'm not gonna get enough of it because I'm from there and I know my history. So for all of you, let's celebrate together. So I want to say thank you to all the young people that came here. That's made the future is brighter and better. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Won, followed by Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Thank you, Majority Leader. In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, today I'm introducing Resolution 469, which will declare June 12th as Philippine Independence Day in New York City, joining the New York State Assembly and formally recognizing this community's history and contributions in New York City.

I'm honored to introduce this Resolution today ahead of the 36th Annual New York City Philippine

1
2 Independence Day Parade, which will be held on June
3 7th this year.

4 Over 128 years ago, General Emilio Aguinaldo
5 declared Philippine independence from more than 300
6 years of colonial rule. The Filipino American
7 community is the second largest in the United States,
8 with 3.9 million people residing throughout our
9 country. Nearly 94,000 Filipino New Yorkers live in
10 our city, with over half living in Queens. I'm
11 honored to represent Woodside, the home to Little
12 Manila, where beautiful Filipino culture is prominent
13 and has become the home of many Filipino immigrants
14 and people living in the diaspora.

15 So thank you to my colleagues, Council Member
16 Ossé, Ung and Farias, for co-priming this Resolution.
17 I hope you all will join me by signing on. Thank
18 you.

19 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Brewer,
20 followed by Cabán.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Just for the record, I
was around when the MetroCard started, just for the
record. And second, second, I was at Studio 54 with
Cher and Jack Nicholson. Just wanna be— Oh my God.
Um, I am here supporting, uh, Intro 894, which would

1 allow restaurants to install high-quality winter
2 vestibules enclosing their licensed sidewalk cafe
3 areas. Many of the restaurants have asked for this.
4 These restaurants already pay the city for a
5 year-round permit, and yet increasingly frigid and
6 wet weather this past winter prevented their
7 practical use. There are businesses and community
8 members who are unclear on what is allowed and
9 prohibited. So this legislation would add clear
10 guidance. I wanna thank Sarah Swain and also from my
11 office, Shula Puder, for this legislation.

12 I also wanna invite people today here in the
13 Chamber between 4:30 and 5:15, we will have Teens
14 Take the City. It's a program that I have sponsored
15 for years. It is in its 20th year. I know the
16 Speaker is also sponsoring it this year. And this
17 YMCA program talks about civic engagement, young
18 people sit in our seats, and they talk about proposed
19 policies that they've worked on all year.

20 I wanna thank the, uh, services here from all of
21 the staff and Speaker Menin for hosting this program.
Like I said, I was at Studio 54. Thank you very
much.

1
2 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council
3 Member, Council Member Nurse, followed by Cabán, then
4 Brooks-Powers.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you, Majority
6 Leader. Today I'm reintroducing my bill, the
7 Community Opportunity to Purchase Act. The amended
8 bill I am introducing today is stronger and more
9 targeted than the one we passed in December with 31
10 votes. We've cut down the maximum timeline,
11 increased the level of distress for determining COPA
12 eligibility, and carved out some buildings with
13 expiring affordability. These changes reflect your
14 feedback and many meetings with the Administration
15 and coalition partners. Thank you to Speaker Menin
16 for the opportunity to bring this to the Council
17 again.

18 I just want to lift up a few buildings that
19 exemplify why COPA is needed. 331 East 14th Street
20 in Council Member Epstein's district, a 20-unit
21 building with 358 B and C violations, was owned by a
notorious slumlord until it was sold to a private
equity firm. It continues to rack up violations.
2076 Creston Avenue in Council Member Pierina
Sanchez's district, a 41-unit building that accrued

over 2,000 violations across many bad landlords. And 63 Tiffany Place in Council Member Hanif's district, whose expiring tax credits put the building's affordability housing at risk of being lost forever.

These are just some examples of buildings whose affordability could be preserved by COPA. There are many more which suffer through never-ending cycles of eviction, flipping, and gentrification. I just want to thank the 22 co-prime sponsors who are backing this. I'm looking forward to partnering with all of you to get this across the finish line, and I encourage and ask for your support. Thank you. Thank you, Majority Leader.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member. Council Member Cabán, followed by Brooks-Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABÁN: Thank you. Uh, I, I just wanna, you know, the, also stand 10 toes down with COPA. So for too long, profit-seeking corporations have been speculatively buying up buildings in our communities with the goal of flipping them and displacing primarily Black and brown New Yorkers from their homes. And this cycle of displacement has forced too many families to leave their homes and has

1 prevented people from maintaining stability in their
2 homes. And COPA is going to give community-based
3 organizations the opportunity to turn multifamily
4 buildings into permanently affordable,
5 community-controlled homes. And so I am grateful for
6 Council Member Nurse's leadership on this, and I feel
7 confident that we can once again pass COPA, this time
8 without the obstacle of a veto, and encourage my
9 colleagues to support it as well. Thank you.

10 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member
11 Brooks-Powers, followed by Epstein.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I'm gonna try
13 standing up like everyone else today. So today I'm
14 proud to introduce Intro 895 to ensure that New York
15 City students and families have clear, accessible
16 information about their rights when it comes to
17 transferring schools. Far too often, families are
18 navigating high-stakes educational decisions without
19 knowing the protections they are entitled to under
20 the law.

21 In some cases, students, particularly students
with disabilities and those in temporary housing, are
present— are pressured out of schools without
understanding their rights or the proper process that

1 must be followed. This bill would require the
2 Department of Education to maintain a centralized
3 multilingual resource explaining students'
4 substantive and procedural transfer rights
5 protections against coercion and retaliation, and how
6 families can seek support or file complaints when
7 necessary. It would also connect families with legal
8 and community-based resources so they are not
9 navigating these situations alone.

10 Every child deserves stability, dignity, and a
11 fair opportunity to succeed in school regardless of
12 their background or circumstance. I am also proud to
13 introduce two Resolutions focused on fairness and
14 equal access within our justice and democratic
15 systems.

16 The first, Resolution 459, calls on the state
17 legislature to pass legislation ensuring that
18 eligible incarcerated individuals are able to
19 meaningfully exercise their right to vote. In New
20 York City, the overwhelming majority of individuals
21 in our local jails are awaiting trial, and legally
retain the right to vote, yet far too many face
barriers that effectively disenfranchise them.

1 The second, Resolution 460, calls on the state
2 legislature to advance a constitutional amendment
3 that would allow New York to increase the number of
4 Supreme Court justices based on caseload need rather
5 than outdated population formulas. Our courts are
6 overwhelmed, particularly here in New York City, and
7 delays-

8 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Please wrap up.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: In the justice
10 system undermine public confidence and deny timely
11 access to justice.

12 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you Council Member.
13 Appreciate it.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I encourage my
15 colleagues to support this legislation. Thank you.

16 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Council Member Epstein,
17 followed by Gennaro.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER EPSTEIN: Thank you, Majority
19 Leader. I'll try to do it better this time. Uh, you
20 know, it takes time to learn this stuff. I'm stuck
21 in Albany head. Uh, So I'm introducing a bill
around, uh, reducing single-use waste use in
government facilities. Uh, you know, about 20,000
tons of plastic foodware is discarded in New York

1 City every year. This really impacts our landfill
2 system, and hopefully we can get it past us to
3 eliminate that. Uh, I wanna also, uh, rise up. I
4 know the Speaker and the Majority Leader have
5 introduced two bills around surveillance and dynamic
6 pricing. Excited to see that Times article bill
7 today, and I look forward to having an expedited
8 hearing. We're seeing these problems across the
9 country. We know the Attorney General's focusing on
10 it, and it's critical that we get in front of these
11 issues before it hurts the affordability crisis we
12 have in New York.

13 I wanna thank Council Member Nurse for her
14 leadership in reintroducing COPA. It's a really
15 critical bill. You know, I thank you for flagging a
16 building in my district that, you know, we've seen
17 this problem, whether it's still people like Stephen
18 Croman who engaged in harassment and discrimination
19 and tried to evict people just because they were
20 undocumented. COPA can go a long way to do that.
21 May is Lower East Side History Month. We have a lot
of, uh, events this weekend, Lower East Side History
Month, and we'd love to have you join us.

Also, we have our AAPI celebration next week. It's AAPI History Month next week, the 21st. The Speaker's co-sponsoring the event on Thursday the 21st at Civic Hall. It's a great, uh, facility that you all, or our body, voted on to allow that to exist. And finally, I wanna welcome Carl to, to be my, uh, neighbor to, to the west of me, and I look forward to our collaboration and working together.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Thank you, Council Member. Council Member Gennaro.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Thank you. I, I, I just wanted to, uh, uh, hmm, mhm, at first mention to Gale that when I started city service, a token was 75 cents.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Me too.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: A token, an actual token.

MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: Oh, please keep it down in the Chamber. Let the Council Member finish.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Uh, yeah, I, I, I wanna bring a bill to the attention of, of, of the members. It's one that I'm re-, uh, introing, uh, uh, Intro 870. Uh, it has to do with, uh, the replacement of lead water service lines. We're under a federal

1 regulation to do this. Uh, we took a whack at this
2 last session. It didn't go all that well. Uh, of
3 course, the issue is who's gonna pay for all this?
4 Billions and millions of dollars to replace lead
5 service lines. Uh, it pertains to cities that, you
6 know, when they do a survey of properties and they
7 test the water, um, and, and we came in under the
8 benchmark, so we uh, have to do this. The federal
9 government paid for the entire city of Newark to have
10 this done. Uh, there is gonna be no federal money
11 forthcoming, uh, for us to do this. Um, other pots
12 of money that might be available would be like the
13 Environmental Bond Act. We can't count on Albany
14 giving us anything out of that. They never give us
15 anything, um, out of the Bond Act.

14 Um, so this, this is gonna be a complicated, uh,
15 bill, um and I'm not sure if I were you I would rush
16 to jump on this bill. This is going to be, um, you
17 know, you're gonna get a lot of calls, um, from both
18 sides, people who want the city to pay and the city
19 that wants, like, private property owners to pay,
20 which has its own problems because there's legal
21 problems with the city paying for infrastructure in
private buildings.

1 So this is going to be a very complicated
2 enterprise and so I would just tell you that it's on
3 the docket. We're gonna, um, you know, make another
4 go at it, and we'll be successful this time but it's
5 not going to be, uh, not going to be easy. That's
6 Intro 870. Thank you very much.

7 MAJORITY LEADER ABREU: I'll now call on Speaker
8 Julie Menin to close today's stated meeting.

9 SPEAKER MENIN: Thank you. The stated meeting of
10 May 14th, 2026 is hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date September 9, 2026