

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024

2:56 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The House will come to order.

In the absence of clergy, let us pause for a moment of silence.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Visitors are invited to join the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, Acting Speaker Aubry led visitors and members in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Friday, February 2nd.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, I move to dispense with the further reading of the Journal of Friday, February

the 2nd, and ask that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, sir.

Colleagues and guests that are in our Chambers, I would like to share today's quote. This one is coming from Franklin D. Roosevelt, formerly known -- commonly known, rather, by some as FDR. He was an American politician who served as the 32nd President of the United States from 1913 until his death in 1945. His words for us today. *The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have so [sic] much, it is whether we provide enough for those who had [sic] too little.* Again, these words coming from Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Members have on their desk a main Calendar, it has seven new bills. And after we have taken up any introductions or housekeeping we're going to be begin with Calendar Resolutions, they're on Page 3, including one by Speaker Heastie on Black History Month. We will then consent the new bills beginning with Calendar No. 290 on Page 4, then going to Calendar No. 296 is on Page 5. Thereafter there will be a debate. It will be from Calendar No. 256 by Mr. Bronson. There could possibly be some need for additional floor work; however, I will advise at the appropriate time. Majority colleagues, though, should just remember, as soon as we leave the Chambers today we'll be going directly into conference, directly into

conference. And always, Mr. Speaker, I will definitely check with our colleagues on the other side to determine what their needs are, but that's the general outline of where we're going, sir. Do you have any introductions or housekeeping?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: We have both housekeeping and introductions and we will start with the housekeeping.

On a motion by Mr. Jacobson, Page 10, Calendar No. 30, Bill No. A00888-B, the amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Carroll, Page 22, Calendar No. 117, Bill No. A04243, amendments are received and adopted.

On a motion by Mr. Epstein, Page 17, Calendar No. 92, Bill No. A03412-B, the amendments are received and adopted.

We have a introduction by Ms. Fahy.

MS. FAHY: Good afternoon, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And if you would, on behalf of myself, Member Buttenschon, Member McDonald and I'm sure a few others, I'd appreciate help in welcoming the representatives from New York State's 12 Displaced Homemaker Program Centers here in the Capital Region. It's referred to as the Capital Region's Women's Employment & Resource Center or WERC, and that's under the leadership of Elizabeth Miller Guthier, as well as a number of others with Albany and Troy - Elise Martin, as well as Marguerite [sic] -- I think it's Marguerite [sic] Adams. And on behalf of Ms. Buttenschon we have Stephanie Eghigian, Aryanna Russell and Fiona Quintana. For four

decades this displaced - various names - displaced homemaker program has been a lifeline for women to forge their paths to success, especially when they're facing challenges of divorce, widowhood, domestic violence, single parenthood or more. Since 1978 they have helped a whopping one million women achieve self-sufficiency.

These 12 centers -- just in the last ten years the 12 centers here in New York have helped 11,000 women all the way from New York to Buffalo. And, Mr. Speaker, if you would, there's a number of representatives that we have today. They're wearing their terrific purple, and if you would please extend the cordialities of the House again to the displaced homemaker program centers here today.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Fahy, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly. We extend to you the privileges of the floor. Congratulations on the great work that you do helping the women of this State and the kind of work that makes a difference in the lives of this State. Thank you again so much for that. Continue that great work. You are always welcome here.

(Applause)

Ms. Seawright for the purposes of a introduction.

MS. SEAWRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to welcome to the Chamber today a constituent, Elana Koenig who I'm very honored and pleased to have here along with her mother. She's a sophomore at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on the Upper East Side. Her mother is accompanying her. Elana is a cancer

survivor, singer and founder of Koenig Childhood Cancer Foundation. She provides lifesaving financial and emotional support to kids battling cancer through her foundation and to families. She started KCCF in 2020 with just \$900 after being diagnosed with cancer at seven years old, and experiencing firsthand 15 grueling months in the hospital enduring nine cycles of chemotherapy and undergoing 15 surgeries. Fortunately she was not alone. Her mother Rena, her father Scott and her sister founded KCCF. With every step of the way they were right by her side. Now Elana fights to give families the support and care that was so important to her during these grueling 15 months. She continues to fight for children and families experiencing the same struggles.

Since the inception of the foundation, Elana and her family have supported 35,000 children battling cancer. Today we commend Elana for her dedication and awe-inspiring work that she is doing, and yesterday was World Cancer Day in the State of New York. So it's very appropriate that they are here today and we honor her and the work that she's doing. I ask that you please extend the cordialities of the House.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Ms. Seawright, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you and your mother the privileges of the floor. Our congratulations on the work that you do to help others. It is a mark of greatness when you can reach back and help those who need that help when you've gone through so much

yourself. We appreciate you. We hope you will continue doing that great work. Thank you so very much for being here.

(Applause)

Mr. Blumencranz

MR. BLUMENCRANZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On behalf of myself and Assemblywoman Darling, I would like to introduce African American Historian Carol A. Gordon. Ms. Gordon is the Founder, President and Curator of Unspoken History and Treasures [sic], which is a private collection she has generated over the past 35 years. Carol has also received the Woman of Distinction Award from Assemblymember Durso and is a valued member of the Town of Oyster Bay. Carol has shown her collection to countless students and has continued to educate and enrich members of the community on Long Island for many years.

So I want to thank her for embracing and shedding light on this unspoken history, this Black History Month. Mr. Speaker, can you please bestow her with all the privileges and cordialities of the floor?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of (mic cut out) we extend to you the privileges of the floor, congratulate you on the great work that you're doing, hope that you will continue that and please know that you are always welcome here. Thank you so very much.

(Applause)

Page 3, Resolutions, Assembly No. 822, the Clerk

will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 822, Mr. Heastie.
Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor
Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 2024, as Black History Month in
the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution,
Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Mr.
Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this resolution. I'm, as you
can tell, clearly honored and grateful to be an African American Black
woman living in America. I will have to say though, honestly, I would
really want to think that it should be more than a month that Black
history gets celebrated because, quite honestly, Black history is
American history, and it should be celebrated all year long. But we'll
take these 28 days that we have this time, and make sure that everyone
who we have the opportunity to speak with understand the value of
Black people in this country and what we have contributed to it. So I
want to really appreciate the Speaker for putting together this
resolution, and encourage my colleagues to in spite of what we may
hear across the nation about whether or not it's important to know and
understand Black history, despite of that, let's not go like that in New
York State. Let's act like we know better. Let's act like we
understand how the State got built, how New York City got built, how
Wall Street got built. Let's act like we understand what happened in
Seneca Village. Let's not brush that aside. It's important not just to

the future of my generations, but it's important to the future of your generations as well, because what they don't know when they find out as adults that you were not willing to tell them as a child, looks like you've deceived them. No one likes to feel deceived. People like to be informed. Let's make sure that we keep people informed about the value of Black people and their contributions to this great state and to this great nation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Brook-Krasny.

MR. BROOK-KRASNY: Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind, sir, I'm going to speak about my 'hood.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Please, sir.

MR. BROOK-KRASNY: When people mentioning Coney Island area in Brooklyn, first they think about the amusement park, the amphitheater, the baseball stadium, beautiful beaches, swimming, and we have those places and we're very proud of it, it's very desirable neighborhood to live in. But we have a big, I would say huge residential community of Coney Island, and we have people speaking more than 50 languages. We have people speaking English with so many different accents. If you go to our community board, you will find people of every color, every accent of the English language. It's just a beautiful neighborhood where everybody knows everybody. We have many organizations working with the kids and we have dancing schools, art school, we have football team, we have

soccer team, and kids on those teams, they all -- African Americans, Latina, Asian, those kids not Russian-speaking anymore, but they from Russian-speaking families. It's a beautiful neighborhood where everybody knows everybody. And everybody respect each other. If you go to the Russian store on Norman Avenue, obviously you'll see the waiting line, you know it's a Russian store so there is always a waiting line. But in that waiting line you'll see Russian people, African Americans, Latina buying Russian shish kebab, red caviar talking to each other because they live in the same neighborhood. They neighbors. They live in the same houses, in the same buildings. They visiting each other. I truly believe that Dr. Martin Luther King is looking from Heaven on Coney Island sometimes and smiling, because this is a beautiful neighborhood and our kids -- our kids are guided by the people who understand that Jackie Robinson was not accepted to the baseball team by the lottery. He was not accepted to the baseball team -- Major League Baseball team because he was Black. No. Mr. Speaker, he was accepted because he was the best in the game. And that's what we teaching our kids on Coney Island. This is -- this is extremely important for all of us and the beginning of let's say Russian-speaking community coming to Coney Island was a harsh beginning because people didn't know about each other. African American people on Coney Island would know that those Russian Jewish people who live in Coney Island area now, they experience their own part of sitting on the back of the bus in the Soviet Union so-to-speak. So it's all about the education. And the

Black History Month is about the education. And the more people know about each other, Mr. Speaker, the more they respect each other. They becoming a beautiful, wonderful neighbors.

So, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, come to Coney Island, visit the Russian store. You'll have a great time. And I'm very grateful that Speaker Heastie, did I say that, yeah, (laughter) for introducing this resolution. It's about -- it's about people learning about each other, gaining this knowledge and respect each other more and more and more, and that what Black History Month is about. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Manktelow.

MR. MANKTELOW: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night when I got down to Albany, I had the opportunity to finally turn on the television and take a break. And I flipped through to the History Channel and I happened to watch what was on for that -- for that hour. It was about a World War I Infantry Unit called the 369th Infantry, a completely volunteer Infantry Unit, but the better part of that whole unit was they were all Black soldiers. They were known as the Harlem Hellfighters, and they were given that name because most of them were from Harlem. The second part, the Hellfighters actually came from either the French or the Germans, and that's what they nicknamed them because they were so good at what they did. In World War I they were the most decorated US Regiment in the entire war. Many of those individuals of that regiment received the US

Army's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. But the -- the main individual, Henry Johnson back in 2015 received the American's [sic] Medal of Honor given to him. As I watched the whole show for the hour seeing what they were up against, seeing what they did for this country, how can we not remember what they did and what they did for America? So as an Army veteran, as a soldier, my heart goes out to them, their families and their loved ones today for what they did to help make us America. So thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to say a few things.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Maher.

MR. MAHER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to speak about some work being done locally in my district. We have a site on New York State's historic registry. This is a cemetery that has over 150 former Black and indigenous enslaved individuals buried there, and unfortunately we lost that history. There is no record of who these individuals were. We know that there are cemeteries like this throughout the State of New York, some that are in horrible situations like my colleagues in Staten Island that we visited with several other members on the other side of the aisle. And I just wanted to highlight the work that our community is doing. They renamed the cemetery the SPOMA Cemetery, the Sacred Place Of My Ancestors. And we got a group of individuals together, members of the Black community, members that are in leadership and in business. And we tried to use this as an opportunity to educate

ourselves and to create a space for the community to have positive conversations; one that acknowledges the terrible history that we know existed, but grows from it not in a way that divides us, but brings us together. So I just wanted to give them a shout-out. Dionne Boissard who is the head of that committee and the work that's being done, and hope that we have so many more opportunities to bring ourselves together with this history, especially during this month but also for the months thereafter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Cunningham on the resolution.

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on this important resolution. As many of my colleagues know I often don't speak on resolutions or speak on this floor very often, but thought it was significant given the significance of Black History Month and the timing of this resolution. Many may say, why are we still acknowledging Black History Month? I think there's no way that we cannot not acknowledge both the past struggles, the promise, the opportunities and all the things that Black people have done to build this country. As we continue to go through many challenges with the whitewashing of history, with banning of literacy, I think it's more important now than it's ever been to make sure we speak truth to power and to make sure that this Body and this State continues to be a leader in making sure we recognize the contributions and the present day struggles and work to eradicate them in this year. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak on the

resolution.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Darling on the resolution.

MS. DARLING: Happy Black History Month everyone. I'm eternally grateful for the contributions of my ancestors here in New York State and across the universe. It is their strength, courage and wisdom that drive me to work everyday to convince this country that the inequities experienced by our people must be properly acknowledged and resolved.

I would also like to thank Long Island's own historian Carol Gordon for sharing her incredible collection of artifacts telling the story of enslaved people here in America. And last, I would like to wish the man that taught me that Black history is America's history and taught me to love myself despite it all. My father, Happy Birthday Raulston Bertley. We miss you every day and again Black history is American history. Thank you very much.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you very much.

Ms. Chandler-Waterman.

MS. CHANDLER-WATERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I represent a district in Brooklyn from East Flatbush, Canarsie, Crown Heights and Brownsville. And I proudly wear today garments made by African -- an African queen, a survivor of domestic violence in Uganda, East Africa. So I want to thank her for everything she put into this and her hardship of what she had to go through. So

this is how she provides for her family.

Black History Month is a well-deserved celebration of our beauty, resilience and brilliance. We celebrate Black excellence despite 400 years of slavery because we are fighters. This year's theme for Black History Month is demand for justice, which is our reminder that we have the power to come together and fight for the change, because if we don't, change will not come. Because of our ancestors and the strength we've been given, we continue to unite and fight against systems that were built against us. Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to be elected in Congress is one of the many African American noble figures who paved the way so that we can rise up, especially for women like myself. She grew up in Brooklyn where I represent. Her upbringing is Caribbean and her family is from Barbados as well, is similar to me and my constituents. And I'm proud to be representing and advocating for a district that has so much potential and promise. We are our ancestors' wildest dreams, but we have more work to do. We must change the system in a country that doesn't protect our sincere value, Black bodies, mind and soul.

In Assembly District 58 we demand justice by breaking the cycle of generation [sic] trauma through civic engagement (inaudible) communities by building the civic muscle and having monthly meetings for a vital voice. We have established this task forces and (inaudible) pillars of prevention -- intervention, restoration legislation. Through these task force we'll continue to

fight for more resources to reduce gun violence by providing background services, especially making sure we look out for our survivors, include some mental health support, affordable housing, expand small business grants and capacity support. Ensure there's equity education and we know we need community schools in every school. Removing the red tape of procuring funds for local grassroots and non-profits to provide needed direct services. Ensure (inaudible) are receiving necessary financial support when it comes to safety and providing for our community. Demanding justice is how we have forced this country to recognize and regard us. It begins with community collaborations and resist us against the status quo, inequity, inequality and racism. It is imperative that we persist and demand injustice [sic] so that future generations can thrive in a more equitable community. These task forces and the work done in the community are only examples of how powerful we are when we come together. We have to continue demanding justice and resist -- and continue making sure people know it's not an "I" team, it's a "we" team. Black history is every day, not just for a month. Thank you. Stand proud.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Zinerman.

MS. ZINERMAN: Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

As I listened to the remarks earlier, it never became more clear to me that it is very important that we celebrate and teach Black history everyday. I know that people were a little disturbed about some of the

comments that they heard, but it's simply a lack of knowledge that allows certain remarks to be made on a day such as this. And so I want to remind people that there is a bill that passed before and now a new bill, the Amistad Act, that would actually help all New Yorkers from pre-K to adult understand the contributions of African Americans. And so this year, we celebrate the theme, Blacks in the Arts. And each and every year the association for scholarly pursuits comes up with a theme to celebrate the profound and evolving impact of Black artistry on our culture, our national identity, and social movements that expand the world over.

In my district, which we call the Vibrant 56, our motto is Culture Is Our Weapon. It has fueled our progress from the first beating of the drums that stayed in our memory through those slave ships, through the Civil Rights Movement that was undergirded by Mahalia's voice. And of course, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and to the era of Motown and hip hop. We have continued to lift up African American, African Caribbean life experiences. And we've done so in the visual arts and the performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture and cultural expressions of all forms. The African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory, especially when it was and still is being erased. We have together as artistic people spawned artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro Black Arts and Black Renaissance, and of course hip hop and Afrofuturism. These have been led by people of

African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world. So in 2024, we exam the very history of life of African American Arts and Artisans and I encourage each of you who may not know all that you would like to know about my culture to read, to talk to us, to engage in spaces where Black artists thrive so that we can all be more culturally edified in America. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Jackson.

MS. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My ancestors made me press this button to speak on Black History Month. Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud. Mr. Speaker, you -- it's important that we speak on our history, because if we allow other people to tell it, they will tell it with a new version, with a new narrative and we just cannot let that happen. This resolution commemorating February as Black History Month is a month that we, as Black people, celebrate, American people celebrate and especially people in my district would love for us to celebrate. And it's not just one month, it's every single day, but we go extra hard in being Black on this month, amen. We are here to talk about our history-makers like our Speaker, Carl Heastie; like our Majority Leader, Crystal Peoples-Stokes; like our Majority Leader on the Senate side; Andrea Stewart-Cousins; like our Lieutenant Governor, Antonio Delgado; like our Attorney General, Letitia James, all Black history. The comforts that you all enjoy today is because of what Black people have done for this country. That iron [sic] board you use, that dryer that you use for

your clothes, this lighting in this place, the air conditioner that is on too long and too high in this place all are here because of contribution [sic] that Black people have given to us. That peanut butter that you guys enjoy inside the breakroom would not be here if it was not for Black people. So it is extremely important that we continuously teach people about our history so that they don't come into this Body and make statements and be opposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Septimo.

MS. SEPTIMO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oftentimes I speak about the Dominican community in this Chamber, but I also am a Black woman. My father has roots in Niagara Falls, which if people don't know was the last stop on the Underground Railroad. And I only say that to say, because like my colleague Assemblymember Jackson just said, we owe so much to the Black community across the world but especially here in New York. In this Chamber we repeatedly take the time to stop, acknowledge the accomplishments, the contributions of distinct communities, and we pause and we focus and we reflect and we celebrate. The Black community deserves that same distinction. Today, yes, we will always preach for -- we will always preach and we will always support understanding other communities. We will stop, we will acknowledge, we will appreciate. But today, it is about the more than three million New Yorkers who identify as Black. It is about taking the time to recognize the history of the Black community so that we

can build a future for the Black community that it deserves. And so thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to celebrate this today. And to all of my colleagues who take the time to educate themselves on the importance of building our community every day and making sure that we uplift this history and prioritize it in the present so that we can build a future that's better for all of us. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Walsh.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to take a moment. You know it's interesting hearing, you know, my colleagues, different people kind of saying different things and coming at it from the place that they understand. I -- I wanted to talk for a minute about a gentleman who passed away last Tuesday. I did not know him personally, but I was really gripped by this story that I read about him and I want his name to be heard in this Chamber and I want you to hear about him. His name was Ambrose "Cowboy" Anderson. Cowboy was the name that everyone gave him. He passed away last Tuesday at 98 years old. He was a survivor of Iwo Jima. He served as a Corporal in the Marines. He was a Congressional Gold Medal Recipient as a result of the service that he gave to our country during World War II. He grew up in Gloversville, which I believe is Assemblyman Smullen's district and also a proud Marine. And he -- it was said that he really did not so much experience racism until he left Gloversville and went into -- went into the Marines. When he was running around as a kid, I guess he was so fast that somebody said

hey, slow down cowboy and the nickname just kind of stuck. So after serving and surviving Iwo Jima, he -- he came back home. He was unfortunately excluded from the GI Bill as were people of color at that time and he took a job with Ryder and was in trucking, raised his family, kids. And he was known by everybody as a very proud Marine and a very humbled person. He excelled despite the adversity that he faced. And on behalf of myself and Assemblymember Smullen, I just want us to think about that service with all the obstacles that were in front of him that he really proudly and very ably served our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Walsh.

Mr. Novakhov.

MR. NOVAKHOV: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I have -- in my district I have South Brooklyn Health, the former Coney Island Hospital where so many African Americans, nurses and doctors are saving lives, and they asked me to acknowledge the Black History Month. And as we know, it's the theme of this year, Black History Month is the arts. And what better place to highlight this than New York City, one of the epicenters of African American art and culture from the music of the Notorious B.I.G. to the now expressionist art of Jean-Michel Basquiat, New York City for sure leads the way. African Americans have contributed so much to our City and the world so it is the least I can do to honor the history of African Americans in the arts. I know they

will continue to do great things. And just to remind you, there is a great African American history museum in New York City, which I encourage you to visit. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, sir.

Ms. Jean-Pierre.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to remind Black history is American history. Black Americans have made many contributions to the fabric of this country. As Chair of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I'd like to acknowledge the many contributions from our Black veterans who have fought and gone unnoticed for the very freedom we all celebrate today. As we navigate through the budget process in this Session, let us remember all the inequities that currently exist; in education, healthcare, climate justice, the criminal justice system, access to fair and equitable housing among just a few legislative fixes that we can do in a bipartisan fashion to address equity for all.

I also would like to take a moment to acknowledge some of the trailblazers in my community who have allowed me and fought to allow me to be where I am today who are no longer with us. Alice Cohen (phonetic), Eugene Burnett (phonetic), Donato Stewart (phonetic), Juanita Simpson (phonetic). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Walker.

MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to acknowledge one of our pioneers of Black Africana Studies.

His name was Dr. John Henrik Clarke. And as we're talking a lot about Black studies, African American history, one of the things I believe it's important to note is that Dr. Clarke teaches us that our history does not begin where they dropped us off at. Our history begins where we were picked up from. It is not a history that is defined by our struggles, by our obstacles. But it is a history that is deeply engulfed in legacy, in riches, in kings, in queens, in diamonds and gold. And when we recognize just how important that history is, we can understand the starting point from when most of us feel like saying I'm Black and I'm proud comes from, which is why it's extremely important for us to make the requisite investments here within our communities in order to acknowledge why it's important that everyone knows and understands our history.

One of his quotes that I'll end with is to control a people, you must first control what they think about themselves and how they regard their history and their culture. And when your conqueror makes you ashamed of your culture and your history, he needs no prison walls and no chains to hold you. So, again, my people, start your history where you were picked up from and not where we were dropped off at. Happy Black History Month, year, decade, century.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Ms. Giglio.

MS. GIGLIO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank also Speaker Heastie for putting this resolution up today.

Bell Town in the Town of Riverhead is -- was built by Black and Native American families 90 years ago. On February 21st the area officially got named Bell Town Heritage Area. Marilyn Banks-Winter, a member of the Landmark Preservation, led the ceremonies whose grandfather Mansfield Bell and his brothers Condry, Ezekiel and Melkiah, one, are celebrated on the sign. Rich and deep history of migration paving the way of love and building a legacy, the legacy of the bells in Bell Town.

Grandsons of slaves during the Great Migration, the men moved from Virginia and eventually acquired 16 acres and created 32 lots for friends and family, including Native Americans. The African American Black Native American Culture Center and Museum fundraising is underway by Marilyn Banks-Winter who is a great-granddaughter of Mansfield who came from Virginia. Reverend Mary Cooper, an ordained minister and longtime partner of the House of Praise Christian Revival in the center of Riverhead was born in 1938 by Mansfield Bell. And that heritage area is just a start of the great heritage of the African Americans and their contributions to the Town of Riverhead and for their struggles in migrating from the Jim Crow era.

So I want to thank the Speaker for again bringing this resolution up today. It's important that we be educated, that we live, love and work together as one society and one America, and that we do things together to complement each other. So thank you again, Speaker, for bringing this up and I look forward to working with all

my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure that we create one community of love and strength. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER CUNNINGHAM: Mr. De Los Santos.

MR. DE LOS SANTOS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I think about Black history I think about my history. I think about us and our collective work to work together, to come together as one. I think about a unity as a State and the ability to stick together and to do what's right for the people of the State of New York, but I also think about the struggle. I think about the lack of justice. I think about the inequality. And I also reflect on the work of Shirley Chisholm, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King who well said, it is always right. The time is always right to do the right thing. That's right, to do the right thing. When we think about those words, it personally inspired me to do the right thing, but also to inspire other people to do exactly that, the right thing. I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important resolution, and I want to encourage my colleague and others to in the words of Martin Luther King to let's come together as brothers and sisters to do what's right, and that is to do the right thing. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Aubry.

MR. AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of you know, this is probably the last time -- it is the last time that I will be able to stand on this occasion to talk about Black history, something that I've had the pleasure of doing over the time that I've

served here. So things came to my mind as I listened to my colleagues. Let me applaud all of you for your thoughts and statements today and to the Speaker for bringing the resolution.

So what came to my mind were these words first. We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created equal. And endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. Before I would go on to that, as someone who was born in the South, raised in New York City, I wanted to pay tribute to someone who has been here longer than I, and that's the lovely Miss Vivian Cook who has served for the longest time.

(Applause)

My sister. So what should we think, Americans, about the effort to talk about Black history? America, all of us should take pride in Black History Month, because it shows and demonstrated with struggle how we moved from that day to this day. How we arrived at a place in time where voices that were unheard of, where history was untaught, where people were not considered full human beings or human beings at all, to a time now where we have watched individuals who are from that race, rise to the highest level in this country. That is a remarkable, amazing journey. It does not come easy. It does not come without detractors -- without detractors, but it is the journey that we have taken. That is a journey that is not finished, because we are still moving in that way. And in the words of that first quote that men were equal - one, if you were Black you weren't a man, and women weren't considered. We have moved past those

limitations. We have opened up the doors of opportunity for folks, not only just African Americans but people from all over the world of all colors, stripes and creeds. That is a remarkable journey, probably not duplicated anywhere else in the world to the way it was here in America. So we should be proud. And so when someone who might question why Black history? Because Black history affirms the American Dream. You should stand and be proud that we are here together, that we represent each other, that our districts are attached and sometimes we don't represent just a Black district, or you may not just represent a White district, that is a mixed district that has many people, many stripes that we bring together in this experiment of democracy.

It has been the honor of my life, as an African American, to come and serve with you. I would have never in my life, as a young man, thought that I would've been able to take this journey, but it turned out that I could. We should glory in that journey together as people, as human beings who work and respect each other. This is who we are. This is why we fight. Thank you.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER CUNNINGHAM: Mr. Sayegh.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, nay. The resolution is adopted.

(Applause)

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 823, Mrs. Gunther.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim Friday, February 2, 2024, as Wear Red for Women Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mrs. Gunther on the resolution.

MRS. GUNTHER: Heart disease is the number one killer of women killing more women than men with about 1 in 5 deaths each year. And among females 20 years and older, nearly 45 percent are living with some form of cardiovascular disease and less than 50 percent of women entering pregnancy in the United States have good heart health. And overall, ten percent to 20 percent of women will have a health issue during pregnancy and high blood pressure, preeclampsia, and gestational diabetes during the pregnancy greatly increase a woman's risk for developing cardiovascular disease later in life. Over half of the high blood pressure deaths, otherwise known as hypertension or the "silent killer" are in women. And out of all women, 57.6 of Black females have hypertension, more than any other race or ethnicity, and February is designated as American Heart Month. And Friday, February 2nd, 2024, is the National Wear Red Day in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against heart disease and stroke. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 824, Ms. Seawright.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 4, 2024, as Cancer Day in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Cancer Day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Ms. Seawright on the resolution.

MS. SEAWRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in support of February 4, 2024, yesterday, as World Cancer Day in the great State of New York in accordance with World Cancer Day which was created on February 4, 2000 at the World Summit Against Cancer, the New Millennium in Paris. Since then, World Cancer Day has grown into a positive movement for everyone everywhere to unite under one voice to face one of our oldest and greatest challenges. The theme for this years World Cancer Day, Close The Care Gap, is all about ensuring our leaders know that we demand a commitment to prioritizing cancer, to creating innovative strategies designed to confront inequity, and to investing our resources to achieve a just and cancer-free world. The 76th Legislative District is home to some of the best cancer centers in the world like Memorial Sloan Kettering, which cares for more than 20,000 cancer patients a year. At MSK, these patients receive the best care possible from everyone from the chief of medicine to the orderly are all an integral part of the support and care network that is so vital to the success. While we live in a time of awe-inspiring advancements in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, cancer care goes beyond doctors

and cutting-edge medical science. The true inspirations are the patients themselves who persevere in the face of overwhelming odds to become beacons of hope and inspiration for all of us. One such cancer survivor is my very own constituent here today with us, Elana Koenig, who we honored previously and welcomed into the Chamber. She survived cancer as a young child and has dedicated her life to supporting other children and families enduring this unimaginable hardship. She is a source of inspiration for those around her and my inspiration for introducing this resolution today. I commend her for her strength, her leadership and know she will serve as a beacon in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Ms. Seawright.

On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. 825, Mr. McDonald.
Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 29, 2024, as Rare Disease Day in the State of New York.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the resolution, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolution is adopted.

For the purposes of a introduction, Mr. Sayegh.

MR. SAYEGH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.
My introduction of guests today really comes as a great follow-up to

the discussions on the Black History Month resolution and especially your wonderful remarks. And it really symbolizes as a nation, as a state, all recognition of all people. Recognition of equality, of ethnic gender, racial equality. Today we had the pleasure of having a press conference in support of recognizing Eid, a Muslim American and global Muslim holiday for New York State. And this is really a follow-up of our celebration and recognition of Lunar recently as a holiday and Diwali as a holiday, and today this is really most fitting in light of the role African Americans and Black history has taken to really lead the lead or lead us in racial and ethnic recognition.

Today, I have special guests who are really very instrumental in gathering nearly 400 people of our fellow delegates, students, parents and advocates celebrating and lobbying for Eid holiday. And I really compliment them for their hard work and their ability to gather and advocate the way they did. I'd like, Mr. Speaker, if you could welcome the following two individuals: Dr. Uzma Syed who is the President of the Eid Holiday Coalition, and Dr. Debbie Almontaser, Senior Advisor of Emgage which is an advocacy group for Muslim Americans and the Vice President of the Yemeni American Merchants Association and the Muslim Community Network. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Certainly. On behalf of Mr. Sayegh, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you here to the New York State Assembly, extend to you the privileges of the floor. Also welcome that large group of individuals behind you,

welcome them to the floor. Hope that you have enjoyed your trip. Hope that your efforts will be successful, and please know that you are always welcome here. Salamun alaykum.

(Applause)

Page 4, Calendar No. 290, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05030, Calendar No. 290, L. Rosenthal. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to requiring social services districts to automatically re-enroll eligible persons or households for the low-income home energy assistance program.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08488, Calendar No. 291, Solages. An act to amend the Social Services Law, in relation to automated identification of OTDA assistance program participants.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08492, Calendar No. 292, Carroll. An act to amend the chapter of the Laws of 2023 relating to establishing a dyslexia and dysgraphia task force, as

proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2599 and A. 133, in relation to establishing a dyslexia and dysgraphia task force and in relation to the effectiveness thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Carroll, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08526, Calendar No. 293, Hunter, Burdick. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law and a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Environmental Conservation Law relating to an urban deer management pilot program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 2630 and A. 783, in relation to an urban deer management pilot program.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Hunter, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08559, Calendar No. 294, Thiele, Burdick. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law and a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the Environmental Conservation Law relating to a Long Island deer management pilot program, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 4804-A and A. 5542-A, in relation to an urban deer management pilot program.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect January 1st.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08565, Calendar No. 295, Glick, Levenberg, Burdick. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law and a chapter of the Laws of 2023 amending the

Environmental Conservation Law relating to exempting certain geothermal boreholes at depths beyond five hundred feet from certain requirements, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S. 6604 and A. 6949, in relation to regulation of certain closed-loop boreholes installed for the purpose of facilitating a geothermal heating or cooling system.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Glick, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced and the bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08625, Calendar No. 296, Buttenschon. An act to amend the Environmental Conservation Law, in relation to the use of the waste tire management and recycling fee funds.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Ms. Buttenschon, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 90th day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Page 37, Calendar 256, Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A08548, Calendar No. 256, Bronson. An act to amend the Executive Law, in relation to requiring the collection of certain demographic information by certain state agencies, boards and commissions.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On a motion by Mr. Bronson, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

And a explanation is requested, sir.

MR. BRONSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a Chapter Amendment on a bill that we passed last year, and through discussions with the Governor and the Senate, we have agreed to Chapter Amendments that make a number of changes in connection with the requirement to collect demographic information regarding sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. The changes are that we are authorizing the agencies, boards and commissions to report, but if they're unable to comply, then they issue a report indicating how they haven't been able to comply, the reasons, and then they have to update that every six months.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. Would the sponsor yield?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Bronson, will you yield?

MR. BRONSON: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The sponsor yields, sir.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Mr. Bronson. I always appreciate your comments. The bill-in-chief that we're amending today, as you noted in your opening comments, required agencies, State agencies to report gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation; is that correct? That was the bill-in-chief?

MR. BRONSON: Yes. Gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation.

MR. GOODELL: And does either the bill -- the original bill or the amendment give any guidance on how that is to be reported? In other words, do you envision that the report would say identify as male, female, nonbinary, neither, both? How -- or would you expect them to use more, I guess, technical terms; cisgender, transgender, gender queer, A gender or gender expansive? Is there any guidance on how it's to be reported?

MR. BRONSON: There's -- there's not statutory guidance; however, it would be expected that they would follow the same procedures and mechanisms that are already currently used by many of the agencies that are collecting this data based on an agreement with then-Governor Cuomo, I think it was in 2014, and that would be just a couple of examples, the Office of Mental Health and the Office of Aging [sic].

MR. GOODELL: And since I haven't looked at that data, how did they report it? Did they report it male, female,

nonbinary, or do they use cisgender, transgender, gender queer, A gender or gender expansive. I mean, how do they currently do it?

MR. BRONSON: I -- I don't have the specific answer to that, I can certainly look it up and get it for you; however, the approach was through an agreement by a task force that was set up with the Governor's office, and that task force came up with the approach with then-Governor Cuomo. Similar, the current Governor has an LGBTQ team and I would expect that there would be conversations with those individuals to use a similar mechanism that's already being used.

MR. GOODELL: Now this applies to every agency that collects any demographic information; is that correct?

MR. BRONSON: Under this -- under this section of law, yeah.

MR. GOODELL: So would this also then apply to say police reports?

MR. BRONSON: No.

MR. GOODELL: You mean --

MR. BRONSON: Police reports?

MR. GOODELL: I mean, don't we get data from Office of Criminal Justice Services [sic] that are broken down by race and age and gender?

MR. BRONSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I misunderstood, I misunderstood the phrase *police report*. If you're talking about reporting on law enforcement from the agency, yes, that would be

included. I misunderstood. I thought you meant report that an officer takes after an incident.

MR. GOODELL: Right. So you envision an officer or an arresting officer then to ask the individual are you --

MR. BRONSON: This is not --

MR. GOODELL: -- male, female, non-bender -- I mean non-binary?

MR. BRONSON: No. This statute -- this statute would not cover a law enforcement investigation or response in the field. That's not what this report is about.

MR. GOODELL: But all the law enforcement reports that go into Office of Criminal Justice Services [sic] have that demographic data. So are they then exempt?

MR. BRONSON: So to the extent that the agency is currently collecting demographic information, then that would include in the area of law enforcement. The actual logistics of that, I'm not aware of how that happens, and so I can't speak to how the Office of Criminal Justice gets that information.

MR. GOODELL: Now right now our Department of Motor Vehicles reports all that information, right? And on your license you can specify, I think, male, female or non-binary. Is that the three options?

MR. BRONSON: Male, female or use X.

MR. GOODELL: Or what?

MR. BRONSON: X, gender X.

MR. GOODELL: Gender X. And so is it your intent that gender X would cover all the other variations?

MR. BRONSON: Again, you're getting into the specifics that this statute doesn't actually address as we oftentimes do. We set in requirements and we leave it to the agencies to develop it. In this case, the Governor and her team, informed by the LGBTQ team, would determine those kinds of specifics that you're referring to.

MR. GOODELL: Now, of course, if you're applying for a Civil Service job with the State of New York or public benefits, there is an expectation on the part of the applicant that they have an obligation to fill in all the questions. Do you envision that these applications for public assistance will say you don't have to answer this question if you feel uncomfortable answering it, or would it be under the expectation that they would fill out the application as they would any other question?

MR. BRONSON: We -- through this statute we're not changing what Civil Service -- you know, how they set up their application process. That being said, in typical situation when demographic information is being asked for, it's being asked for on a voluntary basis.

MR. GOODELL: I see. And that would apply as well on public assistance presumably.

MR. BRONSON: Presumably.

MR. GOODELL: Of course, we should all be clear that any discrimination based on gender identity or expression is

already illegal in New York, right, ever since we passed the GENDA Law?

MR. BRONSON: That's correct.

MR. GOODELL: I see. Thank you very much. I appreciate your comments.

MR. BRONSON: Thank you.

MR. GOODELL: Sir, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: On the bill, Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: When we passed GENDA, which is a gender nondiscrimination bill, we, as a State, I thought, made it very clear and explicit, public policy statement that your sexual orientation, gender identity or -- or gender expression should not be relevant. Shouldn't be relevant, should not be relevant when you're applying for public assistance. Shouldn't be relevant when you're applying for a driver's license. Shouldn't be relevant if you're taking a Civil Service exam. And we made a statement when we passed that law that said we, as the State of New York, want to hire the best employees possible for every job. We want to treat every person regardless of their gender identity or expression with dignity and respect. And if it's true, if we really believed what we said in that law, and if it's true that your gender identity and gender expression is your business and not our business, we shouldn't be asking you what is your gender identity, what is your sexual orientation, what is your gender expression, because when you apply for a Civil Service job you may

not want to say I'm straight, I'm gay, I'm queer, I'm trans, I'm anything else. You want to be treated as an individual, not based on your gender identity or expression or your sexual orientation. You deserve the right to be treated as an individual. And when we ask that question we're telling them there's something else we're considering, and we shouldn't be.

When a police officer stops you, we shouldn't expect the police officer in making an arrest to report to the State whether you're straight or gay, whether you perceive yourself as male, female, non-binary, cisgender, transgender or anything else. Did you commit the crime or not. I think as a matter of public policy we need to stand up and act like we believe what we're saying, and that is in matters of law enforcement, in matters of Civil Service, in matters of public assistance, in matters of every aspect where we collect demographic data, we don't care what your gender identity or expression or your sexual orientation is, we don't discriminate on that basis and we don't care and we shouldn't be asking.

For that reason, last year the Republican Conference was opposed to this legislation, and I anticipate several members will continue to be opposed because the Chapter Amendment does not address that fundamental issue that we ought to treat everybody as individuals and not as some group that requires reporting that's irrelevant to the issue at hand. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect on the 120th

day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: A party vote has been requested.

Mr. Goodell.

MR. GOODELL: Thank you, sir. The Republican Conference is generally opposed. Of course, we welcome diversity and those who wish to support it are certainly welcome to vote yes on the floor. Thank you, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

Ms. Walker, I'm sorry.

MS. WALKER: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. This is a party vote. Any member wishing to do otherwise should come down to the floor, and the Majority is in the affirmative.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: And that is an affirmative on that side.

MS. WALKER: Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Yes, ma'am.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Bronson.

MR. BRONSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the LGBTQ community, I appreciate the comments about not discriminating against those within my community. Certainly we don't want discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity

or gender expression; however, this bill is not about authorizing discrimination. And this bill certainly isn't about making my community be closeted even more. By suggesting that somehow a voluntary disclosure of your orientation or of your identity is what we should be achieving. This bill is about being counted. It's about making sure that those who are members of my community are counted so that we can have corresponding funding for programs to help them to make sure that they can be full citizens. If folks are really concerned or were really concerned about preventing discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression and sexual orientation, then they should've cast their vote for SONDA in 2002, and they should've casted their vote for GENDA, yet they did not. So to stand here today and say you're not going to vote for this bill because you don't want discrimination against my community, ignores that this bill has nothing to do with that, and instead has everything to do about seeing my community. And seeing us for our authentic selves, and seeing us as full citizens that should be counted, counted by agencies so that they can have corresponding funding and programs for my community. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Bronson in the affirmative.

(Applause)

Are there any other votes? Announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Mr. Speaker, do you have any further housekeeping or resolutions?

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: No housekeeping, but a few fine resolutions, we'll take them up with one vote.

On the resolutions, all those in favor signify by saying aye; opposed, no. The resolutions are adopted.

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 826-831 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: If you can call on Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of an announcement, sir.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Mr. Jacobson for the purposes of an announcement, sir.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the Majority Conference, please don't run out of here too fast unless you're going into conference, which is going to be in Hearing Room C, so we'll see you there immediately after Session.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned and that we reconvene at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February the 6th, tomorrow being a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER AUBRY: The Assembly stands

adjourned.

(Whereupon at 4:33 p.m., the Assembly stood adjourned until Tuesday, February 6th at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday being a Session day.)