

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

12:42 P.M.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The House will come to order. Good afternoon, colleagues.

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 Hunter led members and visitors in the Pledge of Allegiance.)

A quorum being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of Monday, February 24th.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam

Speaker. I move to dispense with the further -- further reading of the Journal of Monday, February 24th and that the same stand approved.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Without objection, so ordered.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you again, Madam Speaker. I want to say to the guests that are in our Chambers as well as all of our members that there was a quote for you today coming from Brian Tracy. He's a Canadian-American motivational public speaker and a self-development author. His words for us today: *There are no limits as to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking.* Again, these words by a Canadian-American, Brian Tracy.

Colleagues do have on their desks a main Calendar. Before your introductions and housekeeping we will be calling for the following committees to meet off the floor: Ways and Means followed by Rules. These committees are gonna produce an A-Calendar. We will begin our floor work today taking up resolutions on page 3. We will then consent 11 new bills to the Calendar, beginning with Calendar No. 11, that's on page 8. We will also be taking up the following bills on debate: Rules Report No. 105 by Ms. Romeroi. Majority members should be aware that there will be a need for a conference once we've concluded our floor work today, and as always, Madam Speaker, we will check with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to determine what their needs may be.

If there is a need for further floor activity I will make

-- bring that to your attention at that time; however, this is a general outline of where we're going today. If we can begin by calling the Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Majority Leader. Ways and Means Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately. If you're on Ways and Means, Speaker's Conference Room immediately.

We'll start with housekeeping.

On a motion by Ms. -- on a motion by Ms. Barrett, page 8, Calendar No. 5, Bill No. 1012, the amendments are received and adopted.

We're going to go into introductions.

Mr. Wieder for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. WIEDER: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Honorable members of the Assembly, I rise today with great honor to introduce Mirim Ben Ami, the mother of Yosef Ohana, who is here with us today to raise awareness about the unimaginable suffering of her son and the many others still held hostage. Miri's courageous presence is a powerful, powerful reminder not only of a mother's unyielding love, but also of the broader tragedy that continue to this very day to unfold. Her son's only crime -- what was Yosef Ohana's crime? His identity. His misfortune was simply being Jewish. No one, no one should ever have to endure this kind of pain. Yosef's captivity is not just a personal family tragedy, it is a human rights crisis that demands our collective action. As Miri continues to fight

for her son and for all those still held, let us do our part to amplify her voice and the voices of the other hostages. As we stand united in this cause, let us pray for the salvation of Yosef and all the hostages. May God grant them strength, protection and, most importantly, freedom. And may He bring them safely back to their families, ending their suffering and restoring peace in their lives.

Assemblymembers, this is my personal request to all of you here today: Tonight as you lay your heads down to sleep and the silence of your Torah surrounds -- surrounds you, I ask you to count 'til 508, the number of days Yosef Ohana has been held captive in an underground dungeon. Imagine the darkness and cold isolation he faces, the fear and uncertainty of each every single minute, tormented by his captors, the Hamas animals who have stripped him of his dignity. Picture him starving, enduring physical and emotional abuse, knowing only pain and suffering in that unrelenting place. And consider Miri, his mother, lying awake each and every night, tormented by the knowledge of her son's unimaginable suffering.

Madam Speaker, please extend to our honored and courageous guest the warmest welcome and the courtesies of the People's House. Bring the hostages home now.

(Applause)

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

On behalf of Mr. Wieder, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, ma'am, to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. We do hope you enjoy the proceedings today.

Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Mr. McDonald for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. MCDONALD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to introduce a group from the National Organization for [sic] Rare Disorders. This group is visiting the Assembly in recognition of Rare Disease Day, which is this year February 28th. It is usually notated as February 29th, but it's not a leap year. And I will say that not only are they appearing here in New York State and the Assembly, but throughout the country. There are over 10,000, nearly 10,000 diseases and conditions considered rare, and one in ten New Yorkers are impacted by a family member with rare disease. The resolution we passed recently, Resolution 108, serves as a powerful reminder of the work that still lies ahead. This resolution is a crucial step in raising awareness and promoting the continued progress towards early diagnosis, treatment and, ultimately, a cure. Today we celebrate not only advancements already made, but also the continued hope that one day no patient will have to wait years for a diagnosis, no family will be left without options, and no rare disease will be left behind. We in the State of New York will continue to work together to improve the lives of the millions who are affected by rare diseases.

Joining us today, I want to recognize Donna and Ashley Appel; Donna the mom, Ashley a rare disease patient, and also Daniel Lafavio, who is the dad of a rare disease child. And many others with the National Organization for [sic] Rare Disorders.

Madam Speaker, please extend the cordialities of the House to this well-deserving organization.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On behalf of Mr. McDonald, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, our guests from the National Organization of Rare Diseases, to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. We do hope you enjoy the proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Ms. Rozic for the purposes of an introduction.

MS. ROZIC: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It's not every day you get to introduce a former colleague and, more importantly, a friend. Today in our Chamber we're joined by former Assemblymember and former Council Member Rafael Espinal. Rafael was elected in 2011, took office shortly thereafter. And then I joined him and he was one of the first members to welcome me into this amazing family that we have here. He then quickly left us for the City Council and greener pastures three years later, and now does an incredible job as president of the Freelancers Union, working with workers across the State and bettering their lives.

So, Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself, Assemblymember Dilan and all of the members, please extend the cordialities of the floor to our great former Assemblymember Rafael Espinal.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes, of course. On behalf of Ms. Rozic, Assemblymember Dilan, the Speaker and all the

members, welcome back, Assemblymember. We welcome you back to the Chamber and extend the privileges, but you've had them and you will continue to have them. And I hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for coming back to visit us.

(Applause)

Mr. Burroughs for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. BURROUGHS: Yes. Good afternoon, Madam Speaker. I am thoroughly and summarily proud to announce that we are -- would love to extend the floor for purposes of someone who has exemplified giving back and changing their life over for one thing that could be looked as a negative to a positive. And I'm so honored to present someone who was an athlete, former athlete as myself, and that individual was Jayson Williams, who was a former NBA player, All-Star who has helped honor the resilience, dedication to helping others. He was born and raised in Manhattan, New York City. Jayson excelled in basketball at St. John's, where he was able to take his team to an NIT Championship. Jayson later went on to have a successful NBA career with the New Jersey Jets -- Nets and became the league's most dominant league rebounder. However, his -- his career was cut short by injury and faced by significant personal challenges, including addiction. Following struggles, Jayson turned his life around and founded Rebound, a recovery program that integrates ad -- adversity, adventure therapy to offer a unique holistic approach to rehabilitation. Jayson's personal experience with addiction and recovery inspired him

to create a program that goes beyond traditional methods, incorporating outdoor activities like skydiving, paddling, scuba diving and build trust and recovery throughout teamwork. In addition, Rebound -- in addition to Rebound, Jayson is launching Nassau County and New York City to help those suffering from addiction to gain stability. The program assists individuals in obtaining their commercial driver's license and securing well-paying truck driving jobs. These jobs will be looked at as careers. Jayson and the program will undergo -- undergo drug testing and meet over -- he's met over 400 carriers with the promise of job successful -- job success upon completion. The starting salary for those who finish the program is \$65,000 annually, providing an opportunity for a fresh start. This initiative aims to keep individuals on the right path by offering them a sense of purpose, self-esteem and the opportunity to rebound their lives.

At Rebound, Jayson works alongside his team, who is considered family, to support individuals for their recovery journeys. His program has become an official recovery fac -- facility of NBA players where Jayson dedicates his time to being hands-on, working with clients to help them stay healthy and sober. Through this leadership, the personal commitments Jayson has transformed his own struggles into a mission to help others. Jayson's story is one of triumph over adversity, and his work with Rebound continues to inspire counties -- countless individuals and dedicating his -- by helping others. Combined with this, he has a deep love for his alma

mater, St. John's University, and his faith guides him daily.

Today Jayson Williams is not only celebrated for his basketball legacy, but also for his unwavering commitment and him giving back to help others. And so for that I say God bless, and also please extend the courtesy of the floor, Madam.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Mr. Burroughs. On behalf of Mr. Burroughs, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, Mr. Williams, player, coach, advocate on and off the court to the Chamber of the Assembly. We extend the privileges of the floor. Hope you enjoy our proceedings today. Thank you so very much for joining us.

(Applause)

Resolutions on page 3, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 127, Ms. Rosenthal.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 24-March 2, 2025 as Eating Disorders Awareness Week in the State of New York.

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

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 128, Mr. K. Brown.

Legislative Resolution memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim February 17, 2025 as Random Acts of

Kindness Day in the State of New York.

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

On consent, page 8, Calendar No. 11, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00056, Calendar No. 11, Epstein, Burdick, Gallagher, Kelles, Glick, Reyes, Cunningham, Raga, Cruz, Seawright, Davila, Levenberg. An act to amend the Real Property Law and the General Obligations Law, in relation to prohibiting residential landlords from charging tenants a fee for a dishonored rent check in excess of the actual costs or fees incurred by such landlord as a result thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A00779, Calendar No. 12, Pheffer Amato, Santabarbara, Kay. An act to amend the Civil Service Law, in relation to the rights of public employees related to suspension or demotion upon the abolition or reduction of positions.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you please call the Rules Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room immediately?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Rules Committee to the Speaker's Conference Room. Folks who are on the Rules Committee, please make your way to the Speaker's Conference Room.

On consent, page 9, Calendar No. 13, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01118, Calendar No. 13, Paulin, Woerner, Dinowitz, Bronson, González-Rojas, Steck, Anderson, Simon, Jacobson, Cook, Colton, Forrest, Santabarbara, Walker, Taylor, R. Carroll, Cruz, Epstein, Lunsford, Clark, Bichotte Hermelyn, Peoples-Stokes, Rosenthal, Reyes, Fall, Kelles, De Los Santos, Raga. An act to amend the Public Health Law, in relation to increasing monetary penalties for Public Health Law violations and providing support for the Nursing Home Quality Improvement Demonstration program.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01219, Calendar No.

14, Dinowitz, Seawright, Stirpe, Bronson. An act to amend the Civil Practice and [sic] Rules, in relation to grounds for vacating an arbitration award on the basis of partiality of the arbitrator.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01550, Calendar No. 15, Solages. An act to amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules, in relation to certification of class actions in cases involving governmental operations.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01656, Calendar No. 16, Rosenthal, Seawright, Raga, Forrest, Shrestha, Mamdani. An act to amend the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, in relation to prohibiting naming dependent children under the age of 18 in petitions to recover possession of real property and eviction warrants and sealing any records pertaining to such children.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A01867, Calendar No. 17, Rosenthal, Epstein, Bichotte Hermelyn, Burdick, Seawright. An act to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, in relation to requirements for a building owner to refuse to renew a lease when the building is to be demolished.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The bill is laid

aside.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A02123-A, Calendar No. 18, amended on third reading.

Assembly No. A02398, Calendar No. 19, Gallagher, Rosenthal, Simon, Stirpe, K. Brown. An act to amend the Judiciary Law, the Mental Hygiene Law, the Public Health Law, the County Law and the General City Law, in relation to replacing the words "addict" and "addicts" with the words "person with substance use disorder" or variation thereof.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Ms. Gallagher to explain her vote.

MS. GALLAGHER: I'm thrilled that the Assembly is moving this bill forward. I'd like to thank the Speaker and the Drug and Alcohol Committee [sic], which will now be the Substance Use Disorder Committee. Language is incredibly important. It creates stigma, and stigma creates fear. Fear not only from the outside but from the inside. Many people are unable to grapple with the negative connotations that were built around the term "addict", and by changing the nomenclature in our laws, we're going to be able to help people heal, find recovery and also find the support that they need

from their community, because addiction is a disease and substance use disorder is the correct terminology.

So, thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Gallagher in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me interrupt our proceedings for the purposes of introducing some guests that in our Chambers. On behalf of our colleague Phil Ramos, there are 45 scholars here with their teachers from the Long Island Latino Teachers Association. As you can see, Madam Chair -- Madam Speaker, rather -- these fine students have traveled to Albany and they're adding value to the learning that they do in their classrooms on Long Island. And they're with the fine instructors that work with them on a regular basis, and they are from the Brentwood and the Central Islip school districts.

So if you could please welcome these scholars and their teachers to our Chambers and offer them the cordialities of the floor and the ability to be on our floor. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes, of course. On behalf of the Majority Leader, Mr. Ramos, the Speaker and all the

members, we welcome you young scholars to the Chamber. We do hope you enjoy our proceedings today, extend the privileges of the floor. Thank you so very much for joining us. I know it was a long trek for you to come here today. Thank you so very much. Good luck to you all.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, members have on their desks an A-Calendar. I would like to please advance that Calendar.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On a motion by Mrs. Peoples-Stokes, the A-Calendar is advanced.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you so much. If we can now direct our attention right to Rules Report 105.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Page 3, Rules Report No. 105, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly No. A05686, Rules Report No. 105, Romero. An act to amend the Real Property Law and the Tax Law, in relation to short-term rental units; amends a chapter of the Laws of 2024 amending the Real Property Law and the Tax Law relating to short-term residential rental of private dwellings in certain municipalities, as proposed in legislative bills numbers S.885-C and A.4130-C, in relation to the effectiveness thereof; and repeals certain provisions of the Tax Law and such chapter relating to the authority of local governments to prohibit certain short-term rental units.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: We're going on debate. An explanation has been requested. If we could have quiet in the Chamber, please.

Ms. Romero.

One moment, Ms. Romero, please.

(Pause)

On a motion by Ms. Romero, the Senate bill is before the House. The Senate bill is advanced.

Ms. Romero, an explanation, please.

MS. ROMERO: Thank you. This legislation aims to regulate the short-term rental system. Procedurally, this chapter amendment differs from the bill previously passed in that these changes have the legislation work through an opt-out program county by county instead of a Statewide registry through the Department of State. Counties that do not opt out will be able to regulate and register their short-term rental units. This legislation also provides for the collection of sales tax on short-term rental units Statewide.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for some questions?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. ROMERO: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MS. WALSH: Thank you very much, and welcome. I think this is our -- our first debate together. I -- I did want to kind of

drill down a little bit more into your initial explanation about what the changes in the chapter amendment provide. So, you mentioned first and I think -- I think probably to me, most important in the chapter is that it removes the requirement that short-term rentals must register with the Department of State, and it returns the ability to develop a short-term rental registry to the counties. Can you -- or do you have any insight as to why that change was made?

MS. ROMERO: So, originally, as you mentioned, this was a registry Statewide from the Department of State and now it is a requirement that it is an opt-out system. And this change from an opt-in to an opt-out system came out of negotiations with the Executive and their conversations with the mun -- municipal associations. The intent of the change is to encourage participation from the counties while also retaining their ability to choose not to create a registration system for short-term rental units.

MS. WALSH: Right. So the Department of State originally was gonna kind of be kind of like the traffic cop of the whole program, and now they're just completely out of it and now it's -- it's an opt-out system, as you say. So let's talk about what that opt-in and opt-out kind of means in different situations, okay? So, if you have a town that has an existing registry within a county that does not and which opts out, what is the implication? May the town continue to collect, for example, tax money?

MS. ROMERO: Can you repeat the question? Sorry. If a -- the opt-out, opt-in is a little --

MS. WALSH: No, I understand. So, what if you have a town that has an existing registry --

MS. ROMERO: Right.

MS. WALSH: -- which some of them do throughout the State, and that town lies within a county that does not have a registry and in fact opts out of the whole program. May that town continue to collect tax?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: In the hypothetical that you just posed, they would have to come to the State to request the ability to have occupancy tax imposed in their own registry.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: Because this bill requires that all registries have the occupancy tax itself run through a registry that is -- run through a registry.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So -- so, my understanding was that Airbnb, for example, already had arrangements with some municipalities to collect for them. So how does this legislation and this chapter impact those kind of -- I'll call them side agreements -- but impact those side agreements?

MS. ROMERO: Nothing in this bill supercedes that. They can continue with those agreements already.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So what -- so let's say you have a town that already had a side agreement with Airbnb. Are you saying that with the chapter now they have to -- the town would need

to, through -- you know, create legislation, home rule, bring it in here, have it passed Assembly, Senate, signed by the Governor?

MS. ROMERO: I misspoke before. It's actually -- and thank you for that clarification. I misspoke before. The previous agreements are existing with the Airbnb, as you said, existing with the Airbnb and the municipalities. Those agreements will be honored.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: And thank you for allowing me to clarify.

MS. WALSH: No, no, that's fine. That's why we're doing this. So -- but we know that there are other booking services like -- and I won't -- you know, like, VRBO or other different services. Maybe they had not entered into that kind of an agreement with a particular town -- continuing with our hypothetical. So will there be a need to come in and establish that relationship or if that -- you know, let's say they had that agreement with Airbnb but not with anybody else. Like, how does that work with this?

MS. ROMERO: And that was what I was talking about in -- in the example that I -- I said before. They would have to create that relationship.

MS. WALSH: Through legislation?

MS. ROMERO: They would have to come to the State for authorization. That was what I meant by my previous statement.

MS. WALSH: And when you talk about

authorization, are you referring to the method that we have certainly seen in this Chamber many times with a request for an occupancy tax or a request for a tax to be extended or established in that process or would there be some other authorization procedure?

MS. ROMERO: Yes, it's what you're exactly talking about, it's the procedure that you're familiar with.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right, very good.

Now I'm gonna -- I'm gonna throw a different hypothetical at you now.

MS. ROMERO: Okay.

MS. WALSH: All right. What about a town -- I think it might be a little bit easier, but we're gonna see. What about a town that has an existing registry within a county that does not opt out so they are also going to be now creating a registry. Is there anything that -- that indicates that that town that already has a registry needs to collapse it or merge it, or can they just continue to operate separate and apart from what the county is gonna be doing?

MS. ROMERO: They can continue to operate separate and apart from the county.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So is there a possibility, then, of there being a stacking of taxes? So, the county could have a tax that they're gonna impose, the town's gonna have a -- a tax that they are already imposing. Is that possible or not?

MS. ROMERO: If they're in a county that has a registration system, there can be multiple taxes that are imposed. But

I'm curious as to your question about the taxes. If you have further -- if you'd like further clarification I'm happy to answer.

MS. WALSH: Well, no, I want -- I want to deal with the fact that there might be a town that already is -- got -- has got a registry already, is already collecting some kind of tax. I mean, some of them are, no? Or some of them are currently accepting -- or collecting taxes now, no?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: Nothing in this -- nothing in this bill, as I said before, supercedes the agreement that already exists between the locality and the VRBO, Airbnb, as -- as I mentioned before. But I think your question is more about the taxes and the layering of taxes?

MS. WALSH: Yes.

MS. ROMERO: And so there can be a layering of taxes depending on what already exists within the municipality.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Okay.

MS. ROMERO: Every locality will be different depending on what exists with an occupancy tax in that municipality and what the county chooses to do, county by county.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Is there anything in the chapter amendment or the original legislation that requires any kind of sharing of information between a town that already has an established registry in a county that -- that encompasses that town that now is going to create one?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: There's nothing in this legislation that requires the existing municipality that already has the registration system to share their information with the new registration system in the county, the countywide registration system. However --

(Pause)

-- there's nothing that prohibits the town with the existing booking service from sharing their information with the countywide booking service themselves.

MS. WALSH: Okay. So, it's -- it's --

MS. ROMERO: Hypothetically, the Airbnb or any other booking service with a small municipality with a countywide same booking service themselves.

MS. WALSH: Okay. All right.

MS. ROMERO: And -- and one would expect them, hopefully, to share that information as well.

MS. WALSH: Right. So it -- but this legislation is kind of silent on that issue. It kind of leaves it up to the stakeholders to figure that out?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: It's not sharing -- it's not silent on the county sharing it to municipality, but it is silent on the municipality to the county.

MS. WALSH: Okay, understood. Okay. So, for all the data that is collected and reported by the booking services to the

State, okay, who will have access to that information? And this was -- this was something I brought up on debate on the original legislation as well. For example, if there is a county that has opted out, can they get information about how many short-term rental units there might be in their county? Because this might be important information that would be helpful to determining if the county may later decide to opt in.

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: So, the booking services will collect the data related to the short-term rental guests stays. And I'm sure you know that that booking service data will report that data to the county and the county will share that data with the city, town or village governments and they'll make that available to the enforcement agencies upon request. But that's not publicly available. But your question, I think more directly, was will the county be able to receive that information from the booking agency?

MS. WALSH: If a county has opted out at least for now, like, maybe later they might opt in, but right now they've opted out --

MS. ROMERO: Yup.

MR. WALSH: Can they get data from the State showing how many rental units are -- are -- short-term rental units are in their county as information to determine whether they might want to opt in?

MS. ROMERO: The booking service isn't required

to have that information from counties that have opted out. That's not how this legislation works.

MS. WALSH: So they only have to -- the booking agen -- the booking entities only need to report data for counties that have opted in that have a registry.

MS. ROMERO: Exactly.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Very good.

So, in the memorandum of support of the legislation I noticed that there was an emphasis that was being placed on the impacts that short-term rental units may have on the availability of housing stock, and it described and discussed about the housing crisis in the State. How at all will data collected be utilized by the State to develop housing legislation, if you know? Who will have access to that data and do you know of any plans to study this information?

MS. ROMERO: Well, the local municipalities will be able to have access to that data. The town -- towns and villages will be able to have access to this data per the reporting requirements. And so if your local municipalities will be able to have access to this data, they'll assumedly be able to see the vacancy rates, they'll be able to see the changes in housing stock. And we leave that up to the local governments to decide what is happening within their municipalities and what changes need to be made there.

MS. WALSH: Who at the State will have access to that information?

MS. ROMERO: The -- the Department of State will

have aggregate info, but not necessarily that specific information as provided to the municipalities.

MS. WALSH: And only the -- the Department of State?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: It's -- nothing precludes the Department of State from making it public. But I think your question was is it only submitted to the Department of State?

MS. WALSH: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

MS. ROMERO: Nothing precludes the Department of State from making this information public. But is your question is the information only submitted to the Department of State?

MS. WALSH: Yeah, I -- yeah, that is my question.

MS. ROMERO: It's submitted to the Department of State, but nothing precludes the Department of State from making it public.

MS. WALSH: Okay. Very good. All right.

Does the chapter amendment make any changes regarding counties banding together to join or create a joint registry?

MS. ROMERO: Could you repeat that? Sorry.

MS. WALSH: Yeah, does the chapter amendment make any changes regarding counties banding together to create a joint registry?

MS. ROMERO: Yeah, it's actually encouraged in this legislation. Counties are -- are encouraged to come together if

they don't have the means to create their own registry. Counties can create multi-county registries that would operate just as a single county registry would.

MS. WALSH: Okay. And isn't there also a provision somewhere in there that says that once a registry has been developed, it needs to be put up on the official website for the municipality that's creating it? Is -- is that in there somewhere or did I misread that?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: Yes, on page 8 of the legislation it does have a public requirement on the website, as you -- as you mentioned, yes.

MS. WALSH: Do you have any idea of what the cost will be to counties to develop a registry?

MS. ROMERO: No, it will vary -- it'll vary per municipality and that's undetermined at this time.

MS. WALSH: What about the enforcement piece? If -- and -- and I would just talk about enforcement being either as relating to the hosts, who maybe didn't register their unit or aren't properly collecting the taxes that they're supposed to collect if they're not using a booking service. What -- how does -- how does the bill envision handling any enforcement mechanisms regarding the hosts?

MS. ROMERO: Well, there -- in the chapter amendment itself there were modifications to the enforcement from -- I'm sure you saw -- from "shall" to "may" as it relates to enforcement of the municipality on the registration requirements and the penalties

between the municipality and the booking service itself. But as it relates to hosts and the code enforcement type stuff, that's, frankly, left up to the municipality and the local code enforcement officers within those municipalities for the different types of code enforcement-related issues themselves.

MS. WALSH: And is that a change from the original legislation which had more the Department of State as the -- the administerer of the program?

MS. ROMERO: The code enforcement-related concept was not a change. The -- the previously -- the aforementioned concept of "shall" to "may" was a change in the chapter amendment from the previous one. But that, as I said before, wasn't the code enforcement-related concept, that was the booking service enforcement.

MS. WALSH: Well, when -- okay, when you say "code enforcement", that makes me think of, okay, you didn't have the smoke detectors, you didn't have the fire extinguisher. I'm talking about if they -- if they just don't register. Like, let's say it's more of a monetary problem. That's not something that code enforcement would be handling. Is that something you would envision, like, a county attorney handling?

MS. ROMERO: When you say mone -- can you -- can you, like, clarify that more? Because I think we are both talking about the same thing. Code enforcement is the local stuff, and I think what you're talking about is what I'm talking about, which is the

"may" versus "shall" language, which (inaudible) --

MS. WALSH: For failing to register or for failing to collect an appropriate tax.

MS. ROMERO: Yeah, and that is what I was talking about.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Colleagues, we're on debate. Could we keep the chatter down, please? Thank you.

MS. ROMERO: Thank you. That is a modification from the prior legislation to this chapter amendment, which is a "shall" versus a "may" modification. And what I mean by that is that in the prior legislation it said that the -- it had "shall" language, meaning that the municipality *shall*, meaning *must*, punish the -- punish -- what's is the word I'm looking for -- the booking service if there are problems. And now it's a "may" language, meaning that they *may* punish the booking service if there are issues. And I can find exactly what --

MS. WALSH: No, you don't need to. I -- I -- I know, and I welcome that change giving more discretion to the locals to figure out what they want to, you know, assess as a fine and what their fine or fee schedule is gonna look like. I think that's -- that's a very beneficial change in my -- in my opinion. But what I'm asking is, if we -- if we get to the point where there is a fine to -- or a penalty to be assessed, who will be responsible under our current -- you know, under the chapter for making sure that that gets paid? Is that something that is gonna be handled at, like, the county attorney level

or a district attorney level or how is that gonna get enforced?

MS. ROMERO: It would likely be the county attorney or the municipal attorney. But just so you know, that's on page 7 in the legislation about the penalties about the *may* revoke registration.

MS. WALSH: Right, right.

MS. ROMERO: And it -- and it's -- to your point, it's a -- it's a -- it's -- it requires language about violating any provision of this article at least three times in two consecutive calendar years. So it's a very wide -- wide leeway there.

MS. WALSH: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: But as I said, municipality or county attorney per your question.

MS. WALSH: Yeah, and I think that that's important. I -- I like the idea of there being some flexibility with the locals to be able to do that, as I said. But I do think that for -- for some individuals that, say, have a seasonal residence or you're -- you're a local member, as I am, of a track season rental, something like that, I think if you're not using Airbnb and you're not using VRBO or any of those booking services and you're just through word-of-mouth or however, Facebook Marketplace, I don't know, however you would get the word out that you've got a unit that you're willing to offer up for a portion of the season, say, and you -- and you don't register -- and you don't register and you don't -- you're not collecting anything and you're just kind of trying operate under the

radar, is it fair to say that once a county or a municipality establishes a registry, anything to do with enforcing the rules as far as registering, paying the fee, collecting the taxes appropriately, all of that stuff is gonna also be the responsibility of the county or municipality that's setting it up; is that right?

MS. ROMERO: Yeah. I'd like to say the legalities are left to localities in this bill, and so pretty much everything is gonna be under the county.

MS. WALSH: Very good. Thank you very much for answering my questions.

Madam Speaker, on the bill.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On the bill.

MS. WALSH: So, I think that this is a fairly substantial chapter amendment that does make many changes in the way that this program will operate. And as I was reading through the chapter I thought that most of those changes were obviously the result of a good three-way negotiation with stakeholders really voicing a lot of the concerns that I had heard back, you know, last year before we took the bill up. And, you know, I'm gratified to see that many of these changes were made. I -- I think removing the Department of State and leaving the program as a option for counties and municipalities restores local control, and in that way it might be more palatable to some members who opposed the original legislation which did pass by 101 to 40. On the other hand, some may now see the chapter amendment as an unfunded mandate on counties, and

some might not want to impose any additional burdens on private homeowners who rent their homes for brief periods of time each year as a way to earn extra income. So I can certainly appreciate that point of view. However, for my part, I am in favor of this legislation, as I was the original legislation. As I shared with my colleagues last year, I own a seasonal camp at the foothill of the Adirondacks, and over the years I've seen a great change in the use of short-term rentals on the lake. Homes being purchased to be used as short-term rentals exclusively rather than occasionally. I think that short-term rentals have become much more than a small cottage industry -- I know that's a pun -- they -- they have become big business in many instances. And so I think that with this legislation we recognize that homeowners can still make some money on the side, but that counties that are also hosting these visitors have to provide roads, infrastructure and services to these visitors and that doesn't come without a cost.

So I'm satisfied that this legislation strikes the appropriate balance among the various stakeholders, and as such I will be supporting it. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Gandolfo.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Would the sponsor yield for a few more questions, please?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MS. ROMERO: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you very much. So, I have a couple of questions, and if some of them sound a little redundant at first, I apologize. So just first, I want to focus on a legal or impermitted [sic] short-term rentals in a specific municipality. Now, first, if -- if a county remains opt -- remains opted in and creates its own registry, is there anything in this legislation that would prevent a short-term rental in a township that might not be up to code? Say their code doesn't permit any short-term rentals. Is there anything in this legislation that would prevent it from appearing on a county registry?

MS. ROMERO: If -- nothing in this legislation prevents a local municipality from banning short-term rentals, if that's your question.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So they can ban the short-term rentals, but if -- if the county has a registry and other neighboring townships allow them, is there anything that would prevent an illegal short-term rental from that township to appear on the county registry, or would it be up to the county to put in place mechanisms to weed those out and not allow them?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: I don't really understand the question, but I'm sorry. Is --

MR. GANDOLFO: I could rephrase it. I think --

MS. ROMERO: Sorry.

MR. GANDOLFO: -- I asked it a little clunky.

MS. ROMERO: Let me ask --

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: -- let me ask and maybe we can figure it out. An illegal -- illegal short-term rental is one that is not on the registry in a county that has chosen to not opt out. Is that your question?

MR. GANDOLFO: So, let's say in my township, per the town code there are no permitted short-term rentals. People cannot operate short-term rentals. But let's say that the county that the town is within creates a registry and that short-term rental attempts to register on the county registry and therefore can now appear on a booking service. Is there anything in the legislation that can prevent that from happening or is that up to the local county to police?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: Yes, I understand your question. So the county -- and let me just repeat it back to you --

MR. GANDOLFO: Sure.

MS. ROMERO: -- to make sure I got it. So, the county has not opted out, the municipality has banned, and the unit is illegal because it's in the municipality --

MR. GANDOLFO: Yes.

MS. ROMERO: -- that has banned. Okay. And so what's in this legislation is that units need to be registered, and so what would make your -- what would by definition make your unit

illegal is because that unit is not registered. And so how you would find out that that unit would be illegal is because I guess your local municipality would see that there are some type of illegal activity happening. You'd see people coming in and out or there would be some type of -- at least that's what happens in my --

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: -- my local jurisdiction. So you would report it, and so the way that it would be enforced is through local -- you would -- you would handle it locally through the local municipality.

MR. GANDOLFO: So the county for the most part would have the ability to kind of set their own registration processes where the county could ask the applicant or the registrant if they are up to code with their local municipality?

MS. ROMERO: I understand your question. Because they're not registered, because it's in a municipality that bans the short-term rentals, they're not gonna be able to have a registration number because it's in the municipality that bans short-term rentals. So they'll be unable to get a valid registration number through the -- the registration process.

MR. GANDOLFO: Right. So the county would have to weed that out, kind of, and make sure that it -- it's permitted in the -- the local municipality.

MS. ROMERO: A hundred percent.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: And counties will understand and be aware of the municipalities that have -- that have banned short-term rentals.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: Great question.

MR. GANDOLFO: And the reason I ask is we actually locally had an issue where we have a bed and breakfast that's operating outside of town code, applied for a liquor permit with the State and managed to get approved and falsely certificated that they were up to code with our local town. So that -- that was a concern of mine. We see some of those popping up down in my district, so I appreciate you taking that question.

And now going further, so the -- this chapter amendment makes it unlawful for a booking service to collect a fee for booking if a short-term rental is not properly registered; that's correct? They -- they can't collect a fee?

MS. ROMERO: Can you repeat it? Sorry.

MR. GANDOLFO: Sure. So with this bill it's unlawful for a booking service to collect a fee for booking a short-term rental that is not registered; is that correct?

MS. ROMERO: Right.

MR. GANDOLFO: Now, is that in relation to a specific booking fee that would show up on the invoice? Like a charge for booking or is it -- any fee, is it to the -- is it to the host or is to the tenant?

MS. ROMERO: This is -- this is something that's not -- just to be clear, this is not on -- in the chapter amendment, but it's unlawful for them to facilitate that type of transaction.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So they just can't facilitate the transaction at all, even -- because I -- my reading of it was it would be unlawful for them to collect a fee for booking, so my concern was that if a booking service had changed their fee structure, maybe they went free of charge for the booking and made more money on the ad revenue side or some kind of membership where there's no specific booking fee, if that would be a way for competitors to arise and kind of get around that registration requirement or it would -- it would be unlawful for them to facilitate the transaction at all if it's not registered, not just charge a fee?

MS. ROMERO: Correct.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay.

MS. ROMERO: It's also just not in the chapter amendment, though.

MR. GANDOLFO: I think it is, but...

Okay, now I'm just moving on to a little different track here. So there's different deadlines for the registry creation and the opt out. Is there any concern that the booking platforms will be unable to create a verification technology by the time required for the registries to be created?

MS. ROMERO: No.

MR. GANDOLFO: So you -- they'll be able to -- and

what is the -- in the chapter amendment, what is the new deadline for the registries to be created if they're opted in? Is that December 31st?

MS. ROMERO: The deadline to opt out is nine months after the effective date.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So the deadline to opt out is nine months, okay. And if counties remain opted in, what is the deadline to have a registry up and running?

MS. ROMERO: It's not specified, but they're not able to fine people until the registry is completed. There's no fines or penalties until that registry is fully up and running.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Are there any fines and penalties on a booking service if certain counties are up and running with their registry if they do not yet have the technology in place to verify that particular county's registration system?

MS. ROMERO: They have that technology already.

MR. GANDOLFO: They have the technology --

MS. ROMERO: They do this already in New York City. It's -- it's --

MR. GANDOLFO: Right, but this is empowering the counties to create their own systems. Could those systems differ from the system that New York City uses? I know the original legislation was largely based on New York City, but if counties are doing their own registries, would they might need different processes?

MS. ROMERO: Yeah. I hear what you're think -- what you're saying. I think the spirit of what you're asking is like are

there going to be fines and penalties and harshities, like, on people within a strict timeline and the answer is no, is that there's gonna be time given to the municipalities to figure out their registries and figure out all the -- the intensities of this bill. They're gonna have time for the counties to figure out this registry until -- and then once they figure out this registry then, obviously, there will be fines and fees and whatever figured out after that. There's gonna be leeway with the counties, obviously, for them to figure out this registry. I hear your concern.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So -- so would there be some type of, I guess, grace period for a booking service if a county has a registry that might differ from others and they're having a hard time creating that verification system for that particular county?

MS. ROMERO: Once the registry is up and running, it will be up and running. I'm just saying that the -- it's not written into the bill at this moment, the -- the timeline that you're asking for. I'm just saying that once the registry is up in running, it's up and running.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. All right. Thank you.

And back -- and these questions might be redundant, and I apologize in advance.

MS. ROMANO: Oh, that's okay.

MR. GANDOLFO: So now if a county opts out, a township can still opt in and make their own registry.

MS. ROMANO: Yes.

MR. GANDOLFO: And if a county opts in, the town can still opt in and have a separate registry from the county they're within.

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: If the county does not opt out -- repeat your question.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So, if -- if the county does -- if the county does not opt out, stays opted in, can a local township within that county also create their own registry?

MS. ROMERO: No.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So it would -- it would supercede to the county only.

MS. ROMERO: Yes.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Okay. And if a township currently has some form of registry and now their county remains opted in, can they maintain that registry that's already created or do they have to shelf it and defer it to the county?

MS. ROMERO: They are allowed to continue their registry.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. For indefinitely? Do they have to phase it out or they can just...

MS. ROMERO: I mean, yeah, indefinitely.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. So they could -- they could keep it going forever along with the -- the -- their county.

MS. ROMERO: Yeah.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Okay. And in that instance, what would the split of the hotel and occupancy tax look like? Would that have to be decided in local legislation?

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: So, every locality is different. And the distribution, it's hard for me to answer your question in that every locality has a different distribution of -- of taxes.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. Because I'm asking, like, say a township already has an occupancy tax and now a county that doesn't decide, *We're gonna stay opted in, we're gonna create a registry and now we want some of that action. We want some of that money.* If they now pass a competing occupancy tax, would both stay at their full amount under the statute or...

(Pause)

MS. ROMERO: Hypothetically, if both the local municipality and the county wanted to, both could issue an occupancy tax per your question.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. And they'd each have their own occupancy tax, all right. Okay.

Okay, and my final question here, to opt out the county would have to pass a local law by December 31st. Is that just -- is that like a home rule request or is that just a local resolution by the county declaring their intention or would they have to deliver a home rule of sorts up here?

MS. ROMERO: Just a local law.

MR. GANDOLFO: Okay. All right. That's all I have. Thank you very much; thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

Mr. Jensen.

MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Will the sponsor yield for --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Will the sponsor yield?

MR. JENSEN: -- a few questions?

MS. ROMERO: Certainly.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: The sponsor yields.

MR. JENSEN: I -- I thank the sponsor for yielding. I just want to follow up on Mr. Gandolfo's last couple of questions. I live in a town that currently has its own registry. It has its own zoning enforcement to deal with short-term rental properties. If the county that I reside in chooses to stay in and not opt out and create their own countywide registry, would the municipality be -- are they forced to share their registry data with --

MS. ROMERO: Can you repeat the question already? I'm sorry, the door opened and I, like, couldn't hear you. Sorry.

MR. JENSEN: Yeah, no problem. So, I live in a town that has a registry currently. They already have restrictions on the number of permitted short-term rentals and -- short-term rentals and --

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Colleagues in the back, can we keep it down, please? Thank you.

MR. JENSEN: Short-term rentals, how many can be approved in town, they have zoning restrictions, they have their list. If the county that I reside in chooses to stay in and create their own registry, would the municipality that already has a registry be forced to share their documentation and their list with the county for their documentation?

MS. ROMERO: No, they would not.

MR. JENSEN: Okay. Would the host company, Airbnb, VRBO -- #nofreeads -- would they be forced to share any documentation for approved clients that have paid out with the municipality that may have not opted in. So if the town that I live in does not share their list with the county, could the county request from the vendor the data to collect sales tax?

MS. ROMERO: Could the county request from the --

MR. JENSEN: Yep, so there's -- the town of Josh has not shared their -- their short-term rental list with the county of Jensen. Could the county of Jensen request of Airbnb the list of all county-based rentals for a period of time for the collection of sales tax purposes?

MS. ROMERO: Has the county -- is the county opted in or opted out?

MR. JENSEN: They are in.

MS. ROMERO: They're opted in?

MR. JENSEN: Yes. But they do not have the list of approved or licensed short-term rental properties in every municipality. They would only have the documentation from the vendor about point-of-sale for a set period of time.

MS. ROMERO: Okay. So the -- and let me see if this answers your question.

MR. JENSEN: Yep.

MS. ROMERO: If it doesn't, bring -- bring it back to me. The booking services must collect data related to all of the short-term rental guests stays, and that includes the dates of stay, numbers of guests, cost per stay, physical address, the cost of stay including -- and this is your -- I think to your point -- itemization of sales tax and hotels and motel occupancy tax collected, but also physical address. And then the booking service will report the data to each county and the county will share the data with all city, town and village governments and they'll make it available to enforcement agencies upon request.

MR. JENSEN: Yeah. So, and that's the -- if there's not -- and my interpretation of -- and correct me if I'm misunderstanding -- but I take that as local municipalities do not already have their own permitting process and registry list. If they already have their own system for doing this, could the county collect sales tax without having a full list of licensed and approved properties?

MS. ROMERO: So, the State collects sales tax and

redistributes it to the municipalities.

MR. JENSEN: So could that -- would they be able -- the State be able to collect sales tax, then, for -- so they would. So counties would still be able to get the sales tax revenue for permitted short-term rental property transactions even if they're not on a registered database that the county has access to?

MS. ROMERO: Yes, Assemblymember, and that's the whole point of this bill.

MR. JENSEN: Thank you very much. I think no further questions. I don't know if I left enough breadcrumbs for me to find my next questions, but I appreciate your time. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Read the last section.

A Party vote has been requested.

Ms. Walsh.

THE CLERK: This act shall take effect immediately.

MS. WALSH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Minority Conference will generally be in the negative on this chapter amendment, although if there are members, and I know that there are some, who wish to be in the affirmative, they may vote accordingly at their desks. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Solages.

MS. SOLAGES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The Majority Conference will be voting in the affirmative. Those who

wish to vote in the negative can do so now.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

The Clerk will record the vote.

(The Clerk recorded the vote.)

Mr. Molitor to explain his vote.

MR. MOLITOR: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm voting yes on this bill because I think it makes the previous bill a lot better, and I really appreciate that it gives counties the option to opt out if they don't want to do the registry.

So I will vote in the affirmative. Thank you.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Mr. Molitor in the affirmative.

Are there any other votes? The Clerk will announce the results.

(The Clerk announced the results.)

The bill is passed.

Ms. Romero, congratulations. This is your very first bill and it's a debate bill.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes for the purposes of an introduction.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Thank you, Madam Speaker. On behalf of our colleague Ms. Tapia, we would like to welcome to our Chambers the North Manhattan Improvement Corporation. They have been in operation for over --

(Applause/cheering)

-- four decades. They were founded in 1979 with just two staff members, and it has grown to become an invaluable resource to the Bronx as some sections of Manhattan. They -- also, they have with them today their Director of -- well, she started out as Executive Director for Social Services. She is now the Director -- Executive Director of the entire organization. So would you please welcome Miss Maria Lizardo and her cohorts as they are joining us here in the Chambers on behalf of our colleague Ms. Tapia.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes. On behalf of the Majority Leader, Ms. Tapia, the Speaker and all the members, we welcome you, the North Manhattan Improvement Corporation, to the Chamber. We extend the privileges of the floor and hope you enjoy the proceedings today, and thank you so very much for traveling to join us today.

(Applause)

Mr. Gandolfo for the purposes of an introduction.

MR. GANDOLFO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is my distinct honor today to welcome Gina Calabrese, Professor of Clinical Education at St. John's University School of Law. She is also the Associate Director of the Consumer Justice for the Elderly Litigation Clinic and the co-director of the Public Interest Center. She's here today advocating for consumer protection issues, some of which I don't support, but it's okay because she's also my aunt and my godmother, and I'm very happy that she has been able to join us here

today in Albany. And I -- I did have to apologize to her a couple of years ago when I voted against a bill that she worked very hard on, but there's no love lost at our holiday dinners.

So Madam Speaker, would you please extend all the cordialities of the House to Gina Calabrese, my beloved aunt.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes, of course. On behalf of Mr. Gandolfo, the Speaker and all the members, Professor and Auntie, we welcome you to the Chamber, extend the privileges of the floor. Appreciate all of the hard work that you're doing at award-winning St. John's University, and thank you so very much for joining us today.

(Applause)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

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

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Yes, ma'am. We have a few resolutions.

Resolution by Mr. Mikulin, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 106, Mr. Mikulin.

Legislative Resolution mourning the death of Norma Lucia Gonsalves, distinguished citizen and devoted member of her community.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Mr. Mikulin on the resolution.

MR. MIKULIN: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to speak on this resolution. Norma Gonsalves was a trailblazer within our community. She lived in East Meadow with her husband John for many years. She was a teacher, and when she retired from the teacher [sic] she decided to be a person that was involved in civic engagement. She became involved in the local community, and eventually she became the Nassau County Presiding Officer of the Legislature. She was a wonderful lady, she was a dear friend. She knew my wife's grandfather very, very well. She always supported me. And let me tell you something, she was an individual that it didn't matter what party you were with, if she liked you, she supported you and I was always very happy to have her support at every step of the way. In -- in her 80's she even walked door to door with me. She was a wonderful person. She always advocated for the hospital. Even after her retirement she advocated for Nassau University Medical Center, which I say that it is a great thing that we're doing this resolution today because NUMC was up here advocating for resources for themselves. And one of the last conversations I had with her was, *John, we have to save the hospital*. She also sent me a gift when my son was born last July. So she was a very dear friend, devoted member to the community, and we will all miss her. May she rest in peace.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on the life of Norma Gonsalves.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you.

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

A resolution by Ms. Woerner, the Clerk will read.

THE CLERK: Assembly Resolution No. 132, Ms. Woerner.

Legislative Resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Frederick Allen Elks Lodge No. 609 and the Mary A. Carter Temple No. 362 of Saratoga Springs.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Woerner on the resolution.

MS. WOERNER: Thank you, Madam Speaker and my colleagues. It is -- it is truly a pleasure in honor of Black History Month for me to be able to join with you in commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Frederick Allen Lodge No. 609 and the Mary A. Carter Temple No. 362 of Saratoga Springs.

On August 6, 1929, the Frederick Allen Elks Lodge No. 609 received its charter from the national organization the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, the largest international African-American fraternal organization with more than 1,500 lodges and 500,000 members.

The Mary A. Carter Temple No. 362, which is the women's auxiliary of the Frederick Allen Lodge, got its -- its -- received its charter six weeks later on September 17, 1925. And they, too, are celebrating their centennial.

For ten decades, the Frederick Allen Elks Lodge and

the Mary A. Carter Temple have worked to cultivate charity, justice, fidelity, patriotism and brotherly and sisterly love, and this is a mission that they have shared with the IBPOE of W.

Since its inception 100 years ago, multiple generations of families and community members of color have gathered in fellowship at the Frederick Allen Lodge, which prior to urban renewal of the late 1960s was a thriving entertainment, social and cultural center for Saratoga's African-American community. Today, community members from across Saratoga County and the region flock to the Frederick Allen Lodge for its annual sold-out jazz barbecue, holiday pop-up market which highlights African-American artisans and small businesses, and many musical events that they host year-round.

And so it is truly a pleasure to be with you today as we commemorate 100 years of these organizations which are steeped in a proud and distinguished history for the Black community in Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County. So thank you all so much for the opportunity to recognize these great organizations today.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you, Ms. Woerner.

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

We have a number of additional resolutions before the House. Without objection, these resolutions will be taken up together.

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

(Whereupon, Assembly Resolution Nos. 129-131 were unanimously approved.)

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: Madam Speaker, would you call on Ms. Clark for the purposes of an announcement?

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Ms. Clark for the purposes of an announcement.

MS. CLARK: I am announcing that we will -- the Majority Conference will have conference after -- immediately following Session in Hearing Room C.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: Thank you. Immediate Majority Conference in Hearing Room C following the adjournment of Session.

Mrs. Peoples-Stokes.

MRS. PEOPLES-STOKES: I now move that the Assembly stand adjourned and that we will reconvene at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, February the 26th, tomorrow is a Session day.

ACTING SPEAKER HUNTER: On Mrs. Peoples-Stokes' motion, the House stands adjourned.

(Whereupon, at 2:27 p.m., the House stood adjourned until Wednesday, February 26th at 10:30 a.m., that being a Session day.)