NEW YORK STATE SENATE

THE STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

ALBANY, NEW YORK

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3:27 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

SENATOR JAMAAL T. BAILEY, Acting President

ALEJANDRA N. PAULINO, ESQ., Secretary

P R O C E E D I N G S

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The Senate will come to order.

I ask everyone present to please rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the assemblage recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: In the absence of clergy, let us bow our heads in a moment of silent reflection or prayer.

(Whereupon, the assemblage respected a moment of silence.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Reading of the Journal.

THE SECRETARY: In Senate, Sunday, March 17, 2024, the Senate met pursuant to adjournment. The Journal of Saturday, March 16, 2024, was read and approved. On motion, the Senate adjourned.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Without objection, the Journal stands approved as read.

Presentation of petitions.

Messages from the Assembly.

Messages from the Governor.

Reports of standing committees.

Reports of select committees.

Communications and reports from state officers.

Motions and resolutions.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, we're going to begin by recognizing Senator Scarcella-Spanton for an introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Scarcella-Spanton for the purposes of an introduction.

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Good afternoon, everybody.

I rise today with perfect timing, as she walks in, to pay tribute to an extraordinary young woman. Today I got the opportunity to acknowledge Kamora Freeland, who at the age of just 17 has made history by becoming the youngest African-American female licensed pilot. Yes, she deserves a little cheer.

(Applause.)

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: Through a twist of fate, and with the encouragement of her mother, Kamora found her passion for flying airplanes in an aviation program for children

spearheaded by two NYC police officers.

In July 2022 Kamora received a scholarship from the United Youth Aviators, taking her first flight and discovering a profound connection to the skies, which fueled her to earn her student pilot license.

Kamora's leadership and determination extends well beyond the clouds. She is also dedicated to serving her community, volunteering at Little Leaders Learning Castle Preschool, Kids Corner Daycare, Black Pilots of America, and her community food pantry.

Kamora's dedication to service and leadership has earned her numerous accolades and invitations to prestigious events, including the National Youth Leadership Forum and the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence.

Her story is one of resilience, determination and endless potential. As she continues to take off to new horizons, may her achievement inspire all of us to soar toward our dreams without any turbulence. And truly she is such an impressive young woman, she just got a full scholarship to Spelman University.

(Applause.)

SENATOR SCARCELLA-SPANTON: And I am so excited to have her here. We have some of the coolest constituents in the 23rd District.

So thank you and your family, and to the Tuskegee group as well for joining us today.

Thank you, Kamora, and congratulations on your achievement.

MS. FREELAND: (From gallery.) Thank you.

(Applause.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: To Ms. Freeland. May you continue to aspire and rise well above all of us -- 50,000 feet up in the air. May one of us get on your flight in the future.

We extend to you all of the privileges and courtesies of this house. Please rise and be recognized.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Mr. President, now let's recognize Senator Mayer for another introduction.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator

Mayer for the purposes of an introduction.

SENATOR MAYER: Thank you, Mr. President.

I rise to introduce Ronen and Orna Neutra, residents of Plainview, Long Island, who are here with us today in their efforts to have their son, Omer Neutra, an American citizen, and all of the other hostages immediately released.

Omer was kidnapped by Hamas 164 days ago, and we are here today in solidarity with their efforts to bring him and the other hostages home.

Personally, I stand here in awe of their bravery and strength in their efforts to get their son home. But as a parent and grandparent, like all of us -- so many of us -- I find this so difficult.

Omer was 21 when he was taken hostage and is now 22. He grew up in Plainview, Long Island, was a leader in his school, captain on his basketball, volleyball and soccer team, and a leader in his Jewish youth group, the United Synagogue Youth.

After high school, though admitted to attend Binghamton University, he decided to

spend a gap year in Israel.

Today I heard his mother and his father talk about him as a leader, a convener, an empathetic and caring person who chose to do what he believed was right and encourage others to do the same. Hearing this makes this so very painful.

As Americans and New Yorkers, Ronen and Orna deserve that their government do everything possible to ensure his safety and immediate release. It is only fitting that we as state leaders meet with them and hear that story. Many of us have done that today.

I believe we need our government to do more. This is not about being Jewish or not being Jewish. I speak proudly as an American Jew, but this is about being human, about lifting up this family and this effort. The Neutra family's fight to bring Omer home needs to be all of our fights.

This is not the place for the dispute about the politics of the Middle East. This is simply about making release of the hostages front and center in this moment, to ensure their loved ones know about their

condition and, sadly, to bring the bodies of those who died home to their families.

But even so, as an American citizen, a New Yorker -- someone who we would celebrate and honor -- it is especially important. In this chamber we speak on many important issues, but this one is different. It's bipartisan. It's personal. It's emotional, and so critical.

I'm proud to be standing for Omer and all the other hostages to insist that they be released and returned to their loved ones. I'm honored to acknowledge Ronen and Orna and their courage. Let us pray for the immediate release of Omer and others to all those who love them.

Thank you to my colleague Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, who arranged this visit.

Mr. President, please acknowledge them, pray with them, and ensure that we give them all the respect of this house.

Thank you.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: To the Neutra family, we applaud you and we thank you for your courage. (In Hebrew.) We are together with you. (In Hebrew.)

Please rise and be recognized and receive all of the privileges and courtesies of this house, and the prayers of this house.

(Standing ovation.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Thank you, Mr. President.

Let me also add my words of welcome to the Neutra family and let them know that we're all praying for the safe return of their son.

I have two motions, Mr. President.

Amendments are offered to the following Third Reading Calendar bills:

By Senator Skoufis, page 18, Calendar 332, Senate Print 5500;

By Senator Rivera, page 28, Calendar 454, Senate Print 8470.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The amendments are received, and the bills will retain their place on the Third Reading Calendar.

Senator Gianaris.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Please take up the reading of the calendar.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The

Secretary will read.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 223, Senate Print 346, by Senator Gounardes, an act to amend the Labor Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 223, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Gallivan, Helming, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Rhoads and Tedisco.

Ayes, 46. Nays, 9.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 309, Senate Print 101A, by Senator Ryan, an act to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 9. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 55.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 354, Senate Print 965, by Senator Bailey, an act authorizing and directing the Commissioner of Education to conduct a study on the number of children who are caregivers.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 55.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 358, Senate Print 540, by Senator Thomas, an act to amend the General Business Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 55.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 359, Senate Print 682, by Senator Comrie, an act to amend the General Business Law.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Lay it aside for the day.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill will be laid aside for the day.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 420, Senate Print 14, by Senator Gounardes, an act to amend the General Obligations Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 420, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 37. Nays, 19.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 423, Senate Print 1610, by Senator Hoylman-Sigal, an act to amend the Real Property Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 4. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: In relation to Calendar 423, those Senators voting in the negative are Senators Borrello, Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick, Gallivan, Griffo, Helming, Lanza, Martins, Mattera, Murray, Oberacker, O'Mara, Ortt, Palumbo, Rhoads, Rolison, Stec, Tedisco, Weber and Weik.

Ayes, 37. Nays, 19.

SENATOR O'MARA: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 473, Senate Print 147A, by Senator Gianaris, an

act to amend the Public Health Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 485, Senate Print 5007B, by Senator Gonzalez, an act to amend the State Technology Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Announce

the results.

THE SECRETARY: Ayes, 56.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

THE SECRETARY: Calendar Number 517, Senate Print 1160, by Senator Skoufis, an act to amend the Education Law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Read the last section.

THE SECRETARY: Section 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day after it shall have become a law.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: Call the roll.

(The Secretary called the roll.)

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: The bill is passed.

Senator Gianaris, that completes the reading of today's calendar.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Is there any further business at the desk?

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: There is no further business at the desk.

SENATOR GIANARIS: Move to adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m.

ACTING PRESIDENT BAILEY: On motion, the Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 19th, at 3:00 p.m.

(Whereupon, at 3:41 p.m., the Senate adjourned.)