

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES,  
AND ELECTIONS

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April 10, 2014  
Start: 11:17 a.m.  
Recess: 11:35 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm  
14th Fl

B E F O R E:  
BRAD LANDER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Deborah L. Rose  
Inez E. Dickens  
Junaane D. Williams  
Margaret S. Chin  
Mark Levine  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Vincent Ignizio  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez

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

Inez Dickens

Amatia Booth

Chuck Davis

Deandra Johnson

Dianna Arriaga

Junaane Williams

Margaret Chin

Mark Levine

Melissa Mark-Viverito

Rafael Espinal, Jr.

Vincent Ignizio

Ydanis Rodriguez

Daniel Garodnick

Deborah L. Rose

Meera Joshi

NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: [gavel] Good morning  
3 and welcome to the New York City Council Committee on  
4 Rules, Privileges, and Elections. I'm Brad Lander.  
5 Before we begin I would like to introduce the other  
6 members of the committee who are with us this morning  
7 from Manhattan, Council Members Inez Dickens and Dan  
8 Gardonick; from Brooklyn, Council Member Ralph  
9 Espinal; from Manhattan, Council Member Margaret  
10 Chin; from Staten Island, Council Member Debbie Rose;  
11 Council Members Mark Levine and Ydanis Rodriguez from  
12 Manhattan; and Council Member Junaane D. Williams of  
13 Brooklyn. I would also like to acknowledge the  
14 committee's attorney, Amatia Booth and to acknowledge  
15 and thank the staff members from the council's  
16 investigative unit who prepare the strong reports  
17 that we use in considering nominees, Chuck Davis,  
18 Deandra Johnson and Dianna Arriaga. Thank you to  
19 them.

20 This morning we are voting on the Mayor's  
21 nomination of Meera Joshi for appointment as chair to  
22 the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission on  
23 April 3, 2014. The council held a public hearing of  
24 the rules committee across the street and will now  
25 consider whether to give its advice and consent for

2 the candidate. Meera Joshi is a resident of  
3 Brooklyn. If the council gives it advice and  
4 consent, she will be appointed to the Taxi and  
5 Limousine Commission and subsequently designated by  
6 the Mayor as chair, filling a vacancy and serve the  
7 remainder of the seven year term which will expire on  
8 January 31, 2017.

9 The Tax and Limousine Commission was  
10 created pursuant to Local Law 12 of 1971. Chapter 65  
11 of the Charter states there shall be a TLC which is  
12 of the purpose of further developing and improving  
13 taxi and limousine service in the City, consistent  
14 with the promotion and protection of public comfort  
15 and convenience. Adopting and establishing and  
16 overall public transportation policy governing taxi,  
17 coach, limousine and wheelchair accessible van  
18 services, as it relates to the overall public  
19 transportation network of the City. Establishing  
20 rates, standards and criteria for the licensing of  
21 vehicles, drivers, owners and operators of those  
22 services and provide authorization to operate  
23 commuter van services.

24 The TLC consists of nine members  
25 appointed by the Mayor, all with the advice and

2 consent of the City Council. Five must be residents,  
3 one from each borough, and are recommended by the  
4 appointment by a majority vote of the council members  
5 from that borough. TLC members are appointed for  
6 seven years and can serve until the appointment and  
7 qualification of a successor. Vacancies other than  
8 those with the expiration of a term are filled for  
9 the unexpired term and the Mayor may remove any  
10 member for cause upon stated charges.

11 The Mayor designates one of those members  
12 to act as Chair and Chief Executive Officer and the  
13 Chair, which Ms. Joshi will be, if the council  
14 confirms her. She'll have charge of the organization  
15 and the authority to employ, assign and superintend  
16 the duties of the officers and employees as necessary  
17 to carry out the provisions of Chapter 65 of the  
18 Charter. It is a full time position and currently  
19 receives \$192,198 annually. Other members of the TLC  
20 are not entitled to compensation.

21 Pursuant to the Charter all proceedings  
22 of the TLC and the documents and records in its  
23 possession shall be public records and the TLC shall  
24 make an annual report to the City Council on or  
25 before the second Monday of January of each year.

2 The TLC and the council is overseen by the  
3 Transportation Committee who Chair, Ydanis Rodriguez  
4 is here and he is also a member of this committee.

5 We had a good and thorough hearing. We  
6 talked about a lot of different issues. About the  
7 different challenges, the new outer borough taxis,  
8 taxi of tomorrow, the ongoing challenges of  
9 discrimination that people can face in hailing a  
10 taxi. About some rules related to suspension of TLC  
11 drivers, both for reasons we talked about as very  
12 sensible, like reckless driving and reasons that we  
13 weren't so sure are sensible.

14 What I would say we learned is that the  
15 Taxi and Limousine community is a very, varied and  
16 diverse industry with people who disagree on almost  
17 everything. With one exception, they all love Meera  
18 Joshi and want her to be the Chair of the Taxi and  
19 Limousine Commission. I emerged from the hearing  
20 very enthusiastic about supporting her and not only  
21 because she is a resident of my district.

22 Are there any comments from members of  
23 the committee before we proceed to the vote? Council  
24 Member Rodriguez:

2 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I congratulate  
3 Meera Joshi and I thank the administration for  
4 nominating someone with outstanding curriculum  
5 when it comes to her experience working with a taxi,  
6 livery, green, limousine industry and I no doubt that  
7 she will be a great leader with whom we are going to  
8 working, moving important legislation and at the same  
9 time improving transportation in our city. She is  
10 definitely someone that I support 100 percent.

11 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: For the record, let  
12 me not be so glib as to the reasons that people like  
13 her. She served as general counsel for several years  
14 of the TLC, so she knows its issues well. She worked  
15 at CCRB and worked at the Department of  
16 Investigation. She has both substantive knowledge  
17 and has demonstrated procedure fairness on an  
18 important turf overlapping the responsibilities of  
19 this committee.

20 With that, I will ask our council to  
21 proceed to call the roll. Let me say this in the way  
22 we are supposed to. Seeing no further comments, we  
23 will now take the vote on the message contained in  
24 the attached M35 regarding Meera Joshi's appointment  
25 to the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS 8

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
3 Committee Clark. Roll call vote for the Committee  
4 on Rules, Privileges & Elections M35. Council  
5 Member Lander.

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Vote Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Espinal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

25

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of ten in  
3 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
4 abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members  
5 please sign the committee report. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you. We will  
7 hold the vote open for a few minutes for the last  
8 remaining member of the committee who has a busy  
9 schedule.

10 [talking in background]

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-  
12 Viverito.

13 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the  
15 Committee on Rules is eleven in the affirmative,  
16 zero in the negative and no abstentions.

17 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: This meeting of  
18 the Rules Committee is adjourned.

19 [gavel].  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date May 1, 2014