

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

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February 5, 2016
Start: 10:45 a.m.
Recess: 10:52 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: BEN KALLOS
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: David G. Greenfield
Mark Levine
Ritchie J. Torres
Joseph C. Borelli

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

2 [background comments]

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: All right, we're ready
4 to go. Chairman. Quiet. [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Good morning and
6 welcome to this meeting of the Committee on
7 Governmental Operations to all those in attendance,
8 and watching on television and online. We are joined
9 today by reporters. I'm not sure if we have any
10 editorial board members in the room, though I know
11 they are watching online as well as members of the
12 public. Thank you for joining us. We're also joined
13 by Committee Member--Council Member Borelli who
14 continues to have perfect attendance and Council
15 Member Greenfield. We will be shortly joined by--

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
17 Don't I have perfect attendance, too?

18 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: I don't know.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I think so.

20 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Um, we will--we will
21 have to check on whether or not David Greenfield gets
22 a--also a gold star for perfect attendance.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: And we are also
25 joined by Action Rules Committee Chair Mark Levine,

2 who also chairs Parks, but for--sad--sadly after
3 today, you can't get that that second lulu for
4 serving on both. Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito came
5 in on a progressive waiver reform that is included
6 under her leadership rules reforms, consensus driven
7 hearings upon super majority bill sponsorship,
8 legislation and engagement online, equitable and
9 transparent distribution of member item. With long
10 sought after reforms, we are here to vote on today to
11 truly give credit where credit is due. Without her
12 progressive leadership none of today's reforms let
13 alone previous reforms would be possible. In a city
14 most famous for Boss Tweed we've come a long way from
15 Tammany Hall especially in this Council. Editorial
16 boards, advocates, and the people have demanded an
17 end to the corruptive influence of campaign dollars,
18 conflicts of interest, member items, outside income,
19 lulus, and more. The Council has created a model
20 public matching campaign finance system in the
21 country and the Conflicts of Interest Board that has
22 found and continues to root out corruption. In our
23 first year, the City Council created an equitable and
24 transparent formula for distribution of discretionary
25 funding to council members known as member item

2 funding. Today, we are reconsidering a package of
3 reforms that would mean New York City Council Members
4 will be working full time for the people of our city
5 without the corruptive influence of Stipends or
6 outside income. We're voting on four preconsidered
7 introductions today in Governmental Operations with
8 pre two--with two preconsidered resolutions that are
9 being voted on in the Rules Committee
10 contemporaneously, and co-cited with this hearing.
11 The four bills are based on recommendations of the
12 2015 Quadrennial Commission.

13 The first bill, which I have introduced
14 with Council Member Garodnick, also in attendance
15 today, Reynoso, Richards, Cohen and Chin would
16 prohibit outside income with rules further
17 delineating what earned income is accessible. This
18 is coupled with a rules reform that I've also
19 introduced that will eliminate payment in lieu, also
20 known as lulus. These reforms that have long been
21 sought by editorial boards, Good Government Groups,
22 the people, and I am proud to sponsor these bills.

23 The second bill, co-sponsored by Council
24 Member Vacca and myself would increase transparency
25 by making financial disclosure forms of elected

2 officials available for the public to view on the
3 Conflict of Interest Board's website. In 2010, as
4 and advocate, I worked with the New York Public
5 Interest Rights Groups' Bill Mahoney to request
6 copies using the Freedom of Information Law scan and
7 post outside income disclosure forms for state
8 legislators online. Following this action, outside
9 income forms are put online with income ranges by the
10 Joint Commission on public ethics.

11 The third bill, sponsored by Council
12 Member Van Bramer would change the time--timing of
13 the appointment of the Quadrennial Commission from
14 the second year of an election cycle to third, and
15 would give the Quadrennial Commission additional time
16 to deliberate and issue their recommendations.

17 The final bill, sponsored by the Speaker,
18 would increase the salaries of the Mayor, Public
19 Advocate, Borough Presidents, Comptroller and
20 District Attorneys as recommended by the Commission.
21 The bill would also increase salaries of Council
22 Members as well as the Speaker of the Council as
23 recommended by--by the Commission both an additional
24 increase to account for prohibiting most outside
25 earned income, and changing the status of Council

2 Members to full time. This is an investment that I
3 believe well worth it. The people of the City of New
4 York will be getting their money's worth with a full-
5 time legislature that has limited the corrupting
6 influence of outside income, and stipends.

7 These bills will institute important
8 reforms and will create the transparency,
9 effectiveness and efficiency of the City's
10 government. I want to thank committee staff led by
11 Samita Dishmuk, Laurie Wenn, James Suhbudi, as well
12 as Rob Newman, Kathleen Hahn (sic) and our alumni
13 Committee Member David Seitzer, and all the staff and
14 committee staff that have been working with us. I
15 would also acknowledge--like to acknowledge that
16 we've been joined by Council Member Torres, who has
17 braved some of the snow that is apparently impacting
18 the MTA. The MTA is having difficulty with snow,
19 which is concerning, and so just not having any
20 members of the public who wish to testify prior to
21 this vote, and seeing no members who wish to comment
22 before we voted, I just ask that since it is my
23 birthday, my birthday wish is that everyone please
24 vote in favor of these reforms. And at this time I'd
25 like to invite the clerk to call the roll.

2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
3 roll call vote Committee on Governmental Operations,
4 four preconsidered introductions are coupled. Chair
5 Kallos.

6 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Aye on all proudly.

7 CLERK: Greenfield. Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye on all.

9 CLERK: Torres.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Just for Ben
11 Kallos aye on all.

12 CLERK: Borelli.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: Aye on all
14 except Preconsidered Intro T-2015-4070.

15 CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
16 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
17 all preconsidered introductions are adopted with the
18 exception of Preconsidered Introduction in relation
19 to compensation is adopted by a vote of 4 in the
20 affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Thank the committee
23 members for their service. I also want to thank
24 Council Member David Greenfield for bringing
25 Strofski's (sic) Chocolate Pastry Ruguala. It is

2 kosher. It is for my birthday, and I'd like to share
3 it with the committee members and staff, and you have
4 assured me this has value of less than \$50.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: \$9.85 as
6 marked on the box.

7 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Thank you very much
8 and I hereby adjourn this committee meeting. [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 February 15, 2016