

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

----- X

August 16, 2016
Start: 10:41 a.m.
Recess: 11:13 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND
Chairperson In Absentia

I. DANEEK MILLER
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Ydanis A. Rodriguez
James G. Van Bramer
Vanessa L. Gibson
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Corey D. Johnson
Mark Levine
I. Daneek Miller
Helen K. Rosenthal
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good morning and
4 welcome today's—to today's Finance Committee's
5 hearing. I'm Council Member I. Daneek Miller, and I
6 am chairing today's hearing at the request of Finance
7 Chair Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. Today, I'm glad t
8 be joined by my colleagues Council Member Matteo,
9 Council Member Richards, Levine, Rosenthal, Gibson
10 and, of course, Majority Leader—Leader Van Bramer.

11 [pause] Today, we'll be voting on four items:

12 Proposed Resolution 993-A a BID item and a land use
13 item and transparency resolution. Let's start with
14 the proposed 993-A, sponsored by the Speaker, which
15 calls upon the State Legislature to expand New York
16 State's child care tax credit. The city child care
17 tax credit indeed to reduce the cost of child care
18 for low-income working parents. The lack of
19 affordable child care is a major obstacle to being in
20 the workforce that we need today, particularly when
21 single parents—when single parents are involved.

22 The federal, state and governments has
23 similar credits, but the city's credit is more
24 restrictive than those credits. In its current form
25 a major limitation of the city's tax credits is that

2 the—it begins to phase out annual household costs if
3 low-income \$25,000. It further phases out to zero at
4 \$30,000. Consequently, many low-income families are
5 ineligible for this credit. In addition, the maximum
6 amount of the credit is limited for 75% of the state
7 allowable.

8 Proposed Resolution 993-A asks the state—
9 that the state removes the limitations increasing the
10 income threshold for the full credit to \$35,000,
11 increase the phased out to zero, the threshold to
12 \$45,000 and deepening the maximum credit to 100% of
13 the allowable state credit. Moreover, while the
14 federal and state credits cover expenses for
15 childcare, and adult care dependents, in addition to
16 child care expenses, the city credit does not. The
17 need to care for seniors and other adults unable to
18 care for themselves is also a barrier to employment
19 and, therefore, this resolution would also call for
20 the city's credit to expand to include the costs of
21 caring for adult dependents. The legislation is part
22 of the Council's overall effort led by the Speaker to
23 support New York City's family caregivers. Later
24 today, the full Council will also be voting on
25 proposed Intro 1084-A, which was voted out by the

2 Civil Service and Labor Committee to create a
3 division of paid care within the Office of Labor
4 Standards to research and educate about workforce
5 issues related to home care, child care workers.
6 This division will ensure that workers in the
7 caregiving industry have the support that they need
8 to provide the best care for our seniors, children,
9 disabled, and all the others that they are providing
10 service throughout the city. In addition, the full
11 Council will vote on proposed Intro 1081-A, which
12 will require the Department for Aging to conduct a
13 survey and put out comprehensive plans to address the
14 needs of the city's unpaid caregivers. Taken
15 together, these three pieces of legislation will help
16 strengthen families, protect workforce, and help the
17 city's residents balance competing jobs and family
18 responsibilities.

19 Next, we have the BID item. The
20 preconsidered resolution sets forth for September 14,
21 2016 here at 10:00 a.m. in this room at this date,
22 will be held a public hearing to consider the local
23 law that would establish the Great JFK Business
24 Improvement District in Council Member Richards' and
25 Wills' district. The BID would be-be located in an

2 industrial commercial area adjacent to JFK Airport.
3 The area consists of businesses related to off-
4 airport air cargo industry such as customs brokers,
5 messengers, logistic services, freight forwarders,
6 and would also include hotels and manufacturing
7 businesses, government and government related
8 facilities and residential homes. The 500,000
9 annual—the \$500,000 annual budget of the BID would
10 provide services related to district managing,
11 networking, and labor force development, public
12 safety and security, technical services and planning
13 studies, projects and development, advocacy and
14 administrative work. Representatives from the
15 Department of Small Business Services are here to
16 answer any questions. I'd like to call upon Council
17 Member Richards to speak on his efforts to create
18 this BID.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Thank you so
20 much, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the Finance
21 Committee and all the staff who's worked on this. In
22 particular I also want to acknowledge Chris Goddard
23 and Jennifer Kistan (sp?) and Barbara Cohen, all the
24 civic associations, UNCA (sic), Spring Jam, Community
25 Boards 12 and 13 for their hard work to getting us to

2 this point. I also want to acknowledge and thank
3 Mayor de Blasio. Listen, this area has—it's a very
4 unique area that sits in JFK. There's this creative
5 tension amongst homeowners, and then business owner
6 and manufactures and hotels and industrial
7 businesses, and this BID is a step forward in
8 ensuring that we get the quality of life that our
9 community has been calling for a very long time, but
10 in particular what our district deserves. And, um, I
11 look forward to continuing the work and, um, work
12 with all parties to ensure that we come up with the
13 plan and—and the scope of services that's really
14 going to benefit the particular area. So while we
15 understand that we have to live with the airport, you
16 know, the community also deserves a better quality of
17 life, and this BID is going to go a long way in
18 ensuring that there's something concrete in place to
19 ensuring we take the steps necessary to better of
20 life. So I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
21 hosting this hearing today, and thank our chairwoman
22 of Finance Julissa Ferreras for her work in ensuring
23 that we reach this historic date. This will be the
24 first Business Improvement District in my district

2 actually. So, we're looking forward to passing this
3 legislation eventually. Thank you all.

4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Thank you. Before
5 we go into the next item, I do want to privilege to
6 kind of speak about that very briefly. While I don't
7 have the touch of this business improvement district
8 it—it does impact my community, and the district that
9 I represent and I am fully confident that Council
10 Member Richards and Council Member Wills will make
11 sure that it produces the quality of life and the
12 economic stability that we all hope for. So thank
13 you.

14 Next, we have land use item, which is 301
15 West 46th Street in Council Member Corey Johnson's
16 district. This property will receive a 40-year full
17 property tax exemption to construct 12 units of
18 affordable housing through the City's HDFC program.
19 Representatives from the Department of Preservation
20 and development are here to answer questions that we—
21 we may have on this item.

22 Lastly, we have the transparency
23 resolution, which will set forth the new
24 designations, changes and designations of certain
25 organizations receiving aging and youth discretionary

2 funding and funding pursuant to the certain
3 initiatives in this year's budget. Organizations
4 appearing in the resolution that have not yet
5 completed pre-qualification process conducted by the
6 Mayor's Office of Contract Services, the Council or
7 another entity are identified in the tax charts in
8 asterisk. As with all transparency resolutions,
9 council members will have to sign disclosure forms
10 indicating whether or not a conflict of interest
11 exists of any group on the attached list. If any
12 council member has a potential conflict of interest
13 with any of the organizations listed, he or she has
14 an opportunity to disclose the conflict at this time
15 of their vote? [coughs] excuse me. As a reminder,
16 please disclose any conflicts you may have with
17 proposed subcontractors that are used by
18 organizations sponsored by discretionary funding.
19 These disclosures must be made before the
20 subcontractor can be approved. Owen (sic) Grant from
21 the General Counsel's Office can assist you with any
22 questions or concerns regarding these disclosures.
23 Are there any questions on today's agenda? Hearing
24 none...

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

10

2 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
3 Destefano, Committee on Finance, roll call on
4 Resolution 993-A, the preconsidered transparency
5 resolution, the preconsidered resolution regarding
6 Greater JFK and the preconsidered land use item.
7 Chair Miller.

8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I vote aye.

9 CLERK: Rodriguez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

11 CLERK: Van Bramer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

13 CLERK: Gibson.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] Aye on
15 all.

16 CLERK: Levine.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

18 CLERK: Rosenthal.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

20 CLERK: Matteo.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] I vote
22 aye.

23 CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
25 the items have been adopted.

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

11

2 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: With that, we will
3 hold the—I thank her—we'll hold the vote open for
4 another ten minutes. Thank you. [pause]

5 CLERK: Committee on Finance,
6 continuation of the roll call. Council Member Cumbo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye and I
8 thank you for your patience.

9 CLERK: The vote now stands at 8 in the
10 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

11 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: With that we close
12 the—close the hearing.

13 [gavel]

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 August 17, 2016