

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

-----X

May 20, 2009
Start: 11:40 am
Recess: 11:49 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
David I. Weprin
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Joel Rivera
Diana Reyna
Maria Baez
Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Bill de Blasio
Lewis A. Fidler
James F. Gennaro
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
G. Oliver Koppell
Helen Sears
Albert Vann

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David Yassky
Vincent J. Gentile
Vincent Ignizio
James S. Oddo

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. Good
3 morning and welcome to today's Finance Committee
4 hearing. My name is David Weprin, I chair the
5 Committee.

6 As we prepare for the fiscal 2010
7 budget, we still have business from fiscal 2009 to
8 address.

9 Today we have one item on our
10 agenda, a transparency resolution relating to the
11 adopted fiscal 2009 expense budget. In an effort
12 to make the budget process more transparent, this
13 committee will vote on a resolution approving
14 certain changes in the designation of
15 organizations receiving funding in the fiscal 2009
16 expense budget. Specifically, the resolution
17 before us today sets forth new designations and/or
18 changes in the designation of certain
19 organizations receiving local aging and youth
20 discretionary funding, as well as new designations
21 and/or changes in the designation of certain
22 organizations to receive funding pursuant to
23 certain initiatives in the fiscal 2009 expense
24 budget.

25 Council members should have the

1
2 list of these new designations and changes, which
3 is attached to the resolution.

4 For clarification purposes it is to
5 be noted that organizations appearing in the
6 resolution that have not yet completed the
7 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's
8 Office of Contract Services are identified in the
9 attached charts with an asterisk. Additionally,
10 as with all transparency resolutions, council
11 members will have to sign a disclosure form
12 indicating whether or not a conflict exists with
13 any of the groups on the attached list. If any
14 Council Member has a potential conflict of
15 interest with any of the organizations listed, he
16 or she might want to disclose the conflict at the
17 time of their vote.

18 Scott Crowley from the Finance
19 division walking in--good timing--is available to
20 answer any questions you may have regarding this
21 resolution and representatives from the General
22 Counsel's office are available to answer any
23 questions you may have regarding the conflict of
24 interest disclosure form.

25 I am now going to spend a lot of

1
2 time introducing my colleagues. We have two-
3 thirds of the Republican delegation, including our
4 Minority leader from Staten Island and Brooklyn,
5 Jim Oddo; we have the other half of the two-thirds
6 of the Staten Island delegation, the Minority
7 Whip, Vincent Ignizio. We have the former
8 Attorney General of the state of New York, former
9 long-term Assemblyman for many years and a
10 distinguished number of this City Council from the
11 Bronx, Oliver Koppell. We have the champion of
12 Ground Zero Lower Manhattan, Council Member Alan
13 Gerson. We have our Assistant Majority leader,
14 who hails from Kings County, the Honorable Lewis
15 Fidler; and we have hailing from Queens, Council
16 Member Helen Sears. And we're being joined by our
17 Majority leader Joel Rivera from the Bronx; and
18 Council Member Maria Baez from the Bronx, and I
19 think we're close and we're one short, so please
20 everybody stay in the room.

21 Councilman Fidler has a question.

22 He always has a question.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, which
24 members are we missing? If we make the--

25 [Pause]

1

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Okay. So

3

when are they going to--

4

[Pause]

5

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: When we get a
quorum. Here we are, we have a quorum.

6

7

Okay, seeing no questions I'm going

8

to--

9

[Off mic]

10

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Now you have a
question?

11

12

MALE VOICE: Where were you a
minute ago?

13

14

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Where you were
when I was looking for questions?

15

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I don't
know, I didn't realize I had [off mic].

17

18

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member
Koppell.

19

20

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: You
mentioned in your opening statement there was
[pause] where--and I noticed one here--

21

22

23

[Off mic]

24

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Hang on, hang

25

1

2 on.

3

MALE VOICE: Your microphone--

4

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Sorry. It

5

says on the exhibit E, it says Organization Church

6

of God of East Flatbush and then it says

7

application incomplete at deadline. And I had

8

thought that groups where the application was

9

incomplete at deadline, that they couldn't get

10

money anymore.

11

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Where's Mr.

12

Crowley? Scott Crowley?

13

SCOTT CROWLEY: It's a negative.

14

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Scott.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Oh it's

16

taken away?

17

MR. CROWLEY: It's taken away.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I see.

19

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Can you answer

20

that question?

21

MR. CROWLEY: Yes, the money was

22

taken away from that group.

23

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Well put it on

24

the record.

25

MR. CROWLEY: Do I have to talk--

1
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Yeah, we have
3 a question on the record. Introduce yourself,
4 identify yourself for the record and answer the
5 question on the record.

6 MR. CROWLEY: Do you mind if I
7 borrow your microphone?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: No, go
9 ahead.

10 MR. CROWLEY: Thank you. Scott
11 Crowley from the Finance division. That money was
12 withdrawn.

13 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Okay.

15 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Okay,
17 thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Can we call
19 for a vote?

20 [Off mic]

21 [Pause]

22 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Roll call.

23 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
24 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call on the
25 Committee on Finance. Council Member Weprin.

1

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

2

MR. MARTIN: Rivera.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

4

MR. MARTIN: Baez.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

6

MR. MARTIN: Fidler.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Based on

8

Mr. Crowley's excellent testimony, I'll vote aye.

9

MR. MARTIN: Gerson.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Always got

11

to suck up to the finance staff this time of year.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Trying to

13

think of something to outdo that, but I'll just

14

vote aye.

15

MR. MARTIN: Koppell.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

17

MR. MARTIN: Sears.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

19

MR. MARTIN: Yassky.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

21

MR. MARTIN: Ignizio.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: So moved.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You're that

24

moved, huh?

25

1

2

MR. MARTIN: Oddo.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Oh boy,

5

that's an Albany thing.

6

MR. MARTIN: By a vote of 10 in the

7

affirmative, zero negative, no abstentions, item

8

is adopted.

9

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: [Interposing]

10

Please sign the committee report, Council Members,

11

do you have the committee report?

12

[Off mic]

13

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: And the

14

disclosure forms. I'm going to keep the role open

15

for a half-hour until approximately 12:15, other

16

than that we're adjourned.

17

FEMALE VOICE: Good job.

18

[Off mic]

19

MALE VOICE 1: Yeah, the sheet is

20

here.

21

MALE VOICE 2: Thank you.

22

[Pause]

23

MR. MARTIN: Gentile.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Yes.

25

MR. MARTIN: Vote now stands at 11.

1

[Pause]

2

MR. MARTIN: Gennaro.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

4

MR. MARTIN: Vote now 12 in the
affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
abstentions.

5

6

7

FEMALE VOICE: Eleven.

8

[Pause]

9

MR. MARTIN: Brewer.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

11

[Off mic]

12

FEMALE VOICE: Thirteen.

13

MR. MARTIN: Vote now currently
stands at 13 in the affirmative.

14

15

[Pause]

16

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: And Land Use.

17

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Vann.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

19

MR. MARTIN: The vote on Finance
now stands at 14 in the affirmative.

20

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: You need me
to join the meeting or we already did that?

22

23

[Pause]

24

MR. MARTIN: Gioia.

25

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

3

I vote yes.

4

MR. MARTIN: Vote is now 15 in the

5

affirmative.

6

[Pause]

7

MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Yes to all,

9

and to all a good--

10

[Crosstalk]

11

MR. MARTIN: Vote is now 16 in the

12

affirmative, zero in the negative, and no

13

abstentions.

14

[Crosstalk]

15

[Pause]

16

MR. MARTIN: De Blasio.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye on

18

all.

19

MR. MARTIN: Vote on the Committee

20

on Finance is 18 in the affirmative, zero in the

21

negative, and no abstentions.

22

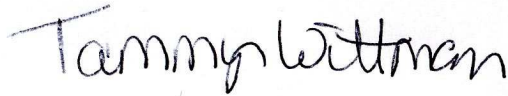
23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Wittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Signature_____

Date June 12, 2009_____