

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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July 20, 2017
Start: 11:51 a.m.
Recess: 12:03 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:

BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Daniel R. Garodnick
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Margaret S. Chin
Deborah L. Rose
Helen K. Rosenthal
Jumaane D. Williams
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
The Speaker (Council Member
Mark-Viverito)
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check]

3 [pause]

4 [gavel]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Good morning
6 everyone, welcome. [background comments] Thanks for
7 coming to this hearing on the Committee on Rules,
8 Privileges and Elections. We are re-opening this
9 meeting from Thursday, July 13th. I am Dan
10 Garodnick; my colleague, Brad Lander, is out of town
11 and I am acting as the Chair of the Rules Committee
12 today.

13 Before we begin, I want to introduce a
14 few other members of the committee here; we have
15 Ydanis Rodriguez, Mark Levine, Margaret Chin; Steve
16 Matteo. I'd also like to acknowledge the counsel to
17 the Committee, Elizabeth Guzman. I also want to
18 recognize the staff members from the Council's
19 Investigative Unit -- Chuck Davis, as well as Andre
20 Johnson-Brown and Joseph Anderson.

21 As you all know, in a letter dated June
22 16, 2017, Mayor Bill de Blasio formally submitted the
23 name of Thomas Sorrentino to the Council of the City
24 of New York for its advice and consent regarding his
25 recommendation by the Brooklyn Delegation for

2 appointment to the New York City Taxi and Limousine
3 Commission to serve the remainder of a seven-year
4 term that expires on January 31, 2022.

5 There has been some follow-up since our
6 meeting on July 13; during that time, Mr. Sorrentino
7 had stated that upon appointment he would resign from
8 Community Board 18 and he would resign as the
9 treasurer for the Kings County Democratic Committee
10 chairmanship. Also, Mr. Sorrentino informed the
11 Committee that he is in the process of resigning his
12 position as treasurer for the dormant campaign of
13 Council Member Alan Maisel when he was an assembly
14 member. That resignation process may overlap with
15 his appointment to the TLC. Charles Davis confirmed
16 with the Deputy General Counsel for the Conflicts of
17 Interest Board that it would not violate Chapter 68
18 of the Charter if Mr. Sorrentino was appointed while
19 going through the resignation process so long as
20 neither Mr. Sorrentino nor the campaign engage in
21 fundraising pursuant to Charter Section 2604(b)(12).
22 Mr. Sorrentino confirmed in writing and on the record
23 that he would not engage in fundraising. In
24 addition, Council Member Maisel confirmed that his
25 campaign is in fact dormant and that no fundraising

2 will take place. That seems highly credible in light
3 of the fact that he is not running for the Assembly,
4 or so it appears.

5 And I want to note we've been joined by
6 The Speaker, Melissa Mark-Viverito, and I will now
7 open the floor to any public comments. Are there any
8 public comments? [background comments] See no
9 public comments, I will note that if anybody has a
10 written statement, there is still an opportunity to
11 present a copy of that statement to the sergeant-at-
12 arms.

13 Are there any members with any questions
14 or comments? Seeing now, I'll now call upon the
15 clerk to take the vote regarding the appointment
16 here.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Rules,
19 Privileges and Elections. Council Member Garodnick.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Mark-Viverito.

6 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the
8 affirmative.. [background comment] By a vote of 6 in
9 the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
10 abstentions, the item has been adopted by the
11 Committee.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
13 much; we're going to hold the roll open for about 15
14 minutes and after that time we will be adjourned.
15 Thanks everybody.

16 [gavel]

17 [pause]

18 [gavel]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation...

20 [pause]

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation Committee
22 on Rules. Council Member Rose.

23 [background comments]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I vote aye. I vote
25 aye.

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2 [pause]

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Rules,
4 Council Member Espinal.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: I vote aye.

6 [pause]

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call
8 vote on Rules. Council Member Rosenthal.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye. I hereby
10 call... [background comment]

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on Committee
12 on Rules now stands at 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the
13 negative and no abstentions.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: The Committee
15 on Rules, Privileges and Elections is now closed.

16 [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 August 2, 2017