

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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April 29, 2010  
Start: 11:52 am  
Recess: 12:00 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
- Council Member Fernando Cabrera
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie Jr.
- Council Member Julissa Ferreras
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
- Council Member Robert Jackson
- Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
- Council Member Karen Koslowitz
- Council Member Darlene Mealy
- Council Member James S. Oddo
- Council Member Diana Reyna
- Council Member Joel Rivera
- Council Member Eric A. Ulrich
- Council Member James G. Van Bramer
- Council Member Albert Vann

## A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Opening Statement  
Chairperson  
Committee on Finance

William Martin  
Committee Clerk  
Committee on Finance

Poems read by:  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
James G. Van Bramer  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Albert Vann

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning.

Welcome to today's Finance Committee meeting. My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I am the Chairman and I welcome everyone here today. I'd like to introduce my colleagues. We have Mr. Cabrera from the Bronx. We have Mr. Rivera from the Bronx. We have Mr. Ulrich from Queens. We have Jimmy Van Bramer from Queens. We have Julissa Ferreras from Queens. We have Mr. Fidler from Brooklyn. We have Jackson, Mr. Jackson from Manhattan. We have Al Vann from Brooklyn, Gale Brewer from Manhattan and I think I included everybody. And Leroy Comrie [off mic] Leroy Comrie from Queens and Mr. Ignizio from Staten Island.

I welcome everyone here today. I just want to remember and tell everyone today is Poem in Your Pocket Day. I hope my colleagues have a poem in their pocket. AT the end of the hearing today I will read my poem by Ken Siegelman, a poet from Brooklyn in my District. And so for those of you who would like to hear me say my poem at the hearing--and Mr. Van Bramer will read his poem. It's Poem in Your Pocket Day.

Today we have a transparency

1  
2 resolution on our agenda; hopefully this will be  
3 the last one until the start of the new fiscal  
4 year. This transparency resolution makes mostly  
5 technical corrections to previously designated  
6 organizations. Specifically the resolution before  
7 us today sets forth new designations and changes  
8 or changes the designation of certain  
9 organizations receiving local aging, youth  
10 discretionary funding as well as new designations  
11 or changes in the designation of certain  
12 organizations to receive funding pursuant to  
13 certain initiative in the Fiscal 2010, 2009 and  
14 2008 Expense Budgets.

15 For clarification purposes it is to  
16 be noted that organizations appearing in the  
17 resolutions that have not yet completed the  
18 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's  
19 Office of Contract Services, by the Council or any  
20 other entity are identified in the attached charts  
21 with an asterisk. Additionally as with all  
22 transparency resolutions, Council Members will  
23 have to sign a discloser form including whether or  
24 not a conflict exists with any of the groups on  
25 the attached lists. If any Council Member has a

1  
2 potential conflict of interest with any of the  
3 organizations listed, he or she might want to  
4 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.

5 Members of Council Finance are  
6 available to answer any questions you may have  
7 regarding the transparency resolutions. Does  
8 anyone have any questions? Yes Ms. Brewer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Directions  
10 for our Youth, who's the Director now? Directors  
11 for our Youth.

12 [Pause]

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Well  
14 afterwards I would appreciate knowing, thank you  
15 very much.

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: If we, if we  
17 could get that answer for Ms. Brewer. Any other  
18 questions? With no other questions, call the  
19 roll.

20 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William  
21 Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call on the  
22 Committee on Finance. Council Member Recchia.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I encourage  
24 all my colleagues to vote aye. Aye.

25 MR. MARTIN: Rivera.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

3

MR. MARTIN: Brewer.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

5

MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

7

MR. MARTIN: Fidler.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [No audible

9

response]

10

MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I pass.

12

MR. MARTIN: Koppell.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

14

MR. MARTIN: Vann.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

16

MR. MARTIN: Ferreras.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

18

MR. MARTIN: Cabrera.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

20

MR. MARTIN: Van Bramer.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

22

MR. MARTIN: Ignizio.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Yeah I'm

25

ready.

1

2

MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote

4

aye.

5

MR. MARTIN: By a vote of 12 in the

6

affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions

7

the item is adopted. Members, please sign the

8

Committee report. Thank you.

9

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I would also

10

like to recognize Oliver Koppell. Everyone please

11

sign. But before we close out the meeting, since

12

it's Poem in Your Pocket Day, I have a poem and

13

Mr. Van Bramer has a poem he would like to read.

14

And Lew Fidler has a poem. Okay. So I'll read

15

mind first. It's called Leo by Ken Siegelman who

16

is a Brooklyn poet, a good friend of mine and Lew

17

Fidler's.

18

He was a flat liner most of his

19

life

20

Who oiled the hinges of his pigeon

21

coup.

22

When the chimney belched charcoal

23

mist

24

Atop of his roof in Bensonhurst...

25

He opened the shaky wire gate

1  
2                   When he heard them coo in lost  
3 hours of August nights,

4                   Before the sparrows chirped the  
5 brown predawn to grey..

6                   He gobble walked to the closest  
7 store on the avenue

8                   That's sold wild bird seed,

9                   And kept it sealed in the shadows  
10 of his fig tree yard

11                   As if the rollers could detect

12                   The pencil yellowed slats of food  
13 kept fresh

14                   From those that bloated wormy brown

15                   On the steps of slated veiny rocks  
16 of backyard steps,

17                   Fired up the merciless spoilage of  
18 July...

19                   I never really got to know him;

20                   Colored like the grey plaid shirts  
21 he wore by late October

22                   Disappearing in and out, and back  
23 again,

24                   From the basement of his house

25                   Where he scraped the curls of



1

2 cellar paint

3

And tapped the pigeon coop

4

securely,

5

After winter had its way with wood

6

and rusting nails...

7

I think he always wished to be as

8

free

9

As the puffed chest birds he kept

10

as pets'

11

To wing figure eights.

12

While never losing sight of them or

13

Bensonhurst.

14

Thank you.

15

[Applause]

16

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Mr. Van

17

Bramer.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank

19

you Mr. Chair. My poem is--I apologize to our

20

native Queens Julissa Ferreras and Erich Ulrich by

21

Walt Whitman who of course was most famous for his

22

works in Brooklyn. And the title of the poem is A

23

Noiseless Patient Spider, also known as Eric A.

24

Ulrich. The poem is as follows:

25

A noiseless, patient spider,

1  
2 I mark'd where, on a little  
3 promontory, it stood, isolated;

4 Mark'd how, to explore the vacant,  
5 vast surrounding,

6 It launch'd for filament, filament,  
7 filament, out of itself;

8 Ever unreeling them--ever  
9 tirelessly speeding them.

10 And you, O my Soul, where you  
11 stand,

12 Surrounded, surrounded, in  
13 measureless oceans of space,

14 Ceaselessly musing, venturing,  
15 throwing,--seeking the spheres, to connect them;

16 Till the bridge you will need, be  
17 form'd--till the ductile anchor hold;

18 Till the gossamer thread you fling,  
19 catch somewhere, O my Soul.

20 Walt Whitman.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you Mr.  
22 Van Bramer. Now Mr. Fidler, if anyone else has a  
23 poem.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I, you  
25 know, following Walt Whitman, the origins of my

1  
2 poem I don't know who wrote it. But I've  
3 committed it to memory so I don't have it in my  
4 pocket.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: That's  
6 impressive.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: It's  
8 entitled The Bee.

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: {Laughing}

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: The bee is  
11 such a busy soul. He has no time for birth  
12 control.

13 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [Laughing]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: And that is  
15 why in times like these there are so many sons  
16 of bees.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right,  
18 let's hear it from Mr. Fidler. That's impressive.

19 [Applause]

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Mr. Vann--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [Interposing]  
22 Mr. Chairman I think we can end on something more  
23 profound.

24 [Laughter]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah. I

1  
2 found out that--upon that I found great  
3 inspiration with the same poem that sustained  
4 President Nelson Mandela the 27 years that he was  
5 in prison. And when I found that out I was just,  
6 hey, we have something in common. And everyone is  
7 probably familiar Invictus.

8                   Out of the night that covers me,  
9                   black as a pit from pole to pole,  
10                  I thank whatever God there be  
11                  for my unconquerable soul...  
12                  In the fell clutch of circumstance,  
13                  I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
14                  Under the bludgeoning of chance,  
15                  my head is bloody but unbowed.  
16                  Beyond this place of wrath and  
17                  tears  
18                  looms but horror of the shade;  
19                  And yet the menace of the years,  
20                  Finds, and shall find me unafraid.  
21                  It matters now how strait the gate,  
22                  how charged with punishments the  
23                  scroll,  
24                  I am the master of my fate,  
25                  I am the captain of my soul.

1

2 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right.

3

4 Let's here it for Al Vann.

4

5 [Applause]

5

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Anyone else?

6

7 Jimmy Oddo did you vote?

7

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: No I have not

8

9 voted.

9

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. You

10

11 missed Mr. Fidler and you got Mr. Vann but you

11

12 missed me and Jimmy Van Bramer. That's okay--

12

13 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [Interposing]

13

14 I am the new--

14

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: --we don't

15

16 need to be on your team--

16

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [Interposing]

17

18 I am the new Jose Rivera. I'm going to film

18

19 everything--

19

20 [Laughter]

20

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Why are you

21

22 lashing the jet war? I?

22

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Wait. Say

23

24 that again?

24

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Why are you

25

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lashing the jet war?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: The reason I'm lashing the jet wars is manifold. One lack of talent. Two, bad luck. Three, I listen to this guy right here--

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [Interposing]  
[Laughing]

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: --the enemy Lew Fidler. All right. I vote yes.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We'll keep the vote open to--for a half hour. 30 minutes, anyone else have any questions or anything? We'll see you at the stated meeting.  
Meeting closed.

[Gavel banging]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Oh it's still open right?

[Laughter]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Vinnie--it's open.

[Crosstalk]

[Pause]

[Background conversation]

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Reyna.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission  
3 to explain my vote. Granted. I wanted to make  
4 sure that on the record I expressed concern with  
5 an allocation that has been rerouted to an agency  
6 under investigation, under infant mortality  
7 reduction and cancer initiative. I vote aye on  
8 everything else. Bye-bye.

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You're on.

10 MR. MARTIN: Koslowitz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

12 MR. MARTIN: Mealy.


13 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

14 MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the  
15 Committee on Finance is now 16 in the affirmative,  
16 0 in the negative and no abstentions. Thank you.

17 [END 1003.MP3]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate 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 cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_Laura L. Springate\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_May 13, 2010\_\_\_\_\_