

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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August 22, 2012
Start: 10:57 a.m.
Recess: 11:02 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Robert Jackson
G. Oliver Koppell
Darlene Mealy
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Julissa Ferreras
Karen Koslowitz

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James G. Van Bramer
Vincent M. Ignizio
James S. Oddo

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Is Staten
3 Island in the room? Okay. Alright.

4 [gavel]

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Quiet please.
6 Good morning and welcome to today's Finance
7 Committee hearing. My name is Domenic M. Recchia
8 Jr. and I'm the chair of this wonderful Finance
9 Committee. I welcome you all to City Hall this
10 morning. Before we move further, I'd like to
11 recognize all the members that have joined us here
12 today. We have Helen Diane Foster, Vincent
13 Ignizio, James Oddo, Diana Reyna, Fernando
14 Cabrera, Joel Riviera, Leroy Comrie, Robert
15 Jackson, Al Vann, Gale Brewer, Oliver Koppell. We
16 have also been joined by Emerson Sykes [phonetic],
17 who is my attorney today because Tanisha Edwards
18 is on vacation. Today we only have one item on
19 our agenda, the transparency reso, which set forth
20 changes in designation of certain organizations
21 receiving local aging and youth discretionary
22 funding as well as new changes in the designation
23 of certain organizations receiving funding
24 pursuant to certain initiatives in this budget.
25 Organizations appearing in the reso that have not

1 yet completed the prequalification process
2 conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contract
3 Services, the Council or other entity are
4 identified in the attached chart with an asterisk.
5 Additionally, as with all transparency resolutions
6 Council Members will have to sign a disclosure
7 form indicating whether or not a conflict exists
8 with any of the groups on the attached list. If
9 any Council Member has a potential conflict of
10 interest with any of the organizations listed, he
11 or she might want to disclose a conflict at the
12 time of their vote. As a reminder, Council
13 Members are now required to disclose any conflicts
14 they may have with proposed subcontractors that
15 are used by organizations they sponsor for
16 discretionary funding. This disclosure must be
17 made before the subcontractor can be approved.
18 Members will be contacted by the Council's Ethics
19 and employment counsel, Nadir, to complete
20 disclosure forms. We have also been joined by
21 Karen Koslowitz. This is the only item on the
22 agenda today and members of the Council of Finance
23 are available to answer any questions you may have
24 regarding the transparency resolution. Does anybody
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2 have any questions? We're not seeing any
3 questions--we welcome Lew Fidler who has joined
4 us--to please call the vote.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
6 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
7 Finance. Council Member Recchia?

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I vote aye
9 and encourage all my colleagues to vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic] -

20 - .

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: So as due
22 [phonetic].

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic] -
24 - . -last week. I would rather take a chance and
25 do something that I personally don't think will

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2 work, but other people think will work than do
3 nothing, which is what a no vote would be, so I
4 vote aye on all.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: So
6 recognized. We have also been joined by Darlene
7 Mealy from Brooklyn. Okay. Continue to call the
8 vote please.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Pass.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [no audible
17 response]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We're going to hold the vote open for 30 minutes. Okay? I just want to address something that Mr. Fidler was talking about. What he was talking about was the funding that's going towards - - taskforce that was for gun control by Fernando Cabrera and Council Member Jumaane Williams, who headed. They made certain recommendations and Mr. Fidler just had some issues with the one of those groups. It's his matter of opinion, but the taskforce did a lot of hard work. I want to thank Council Member Fernando Cabrera and Council Member Jumaane Williams. This taskforce worked hard for months and this is the first gun control initiative that the City Council ever put out and yes, it's a work in progress. At the end of the year we are going to analyze what we did and see how we can make it better and every Council Member will have an opportunity to put their input and voice their opinion about funding the way it's going down. Mr. Jackson, did you vote? I know you passed.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: [off mic]

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2 - - .

3 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Oh. Okay.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Is there an
5 evaluation piece for the gun taskforce allocation?6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yeah. Mr.
7 Niblack would like to address that.8 PRESTON NIBLACK: There is \$250,000
9 set aside as part of the total gun violence
10 initiative funding for evaluation.11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Do you know
12 who is yet going to be doing that or that to be
13 decided?14 PRESTON NIBLACK: We're discussing
15 it with the administration. The CEO Initiative
16 that the Administration has had some evaluative
17 capacity and we're looking at various options
18 there, but we haven't finished those discussions
19 yet.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Just so I
22 could just follow up on what Council Member Gale
23 Brewer said, you know, the first year that we did
24 CASA [phonetic], we had an evaluation done and it
25 was very, very helpful because after that

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2 evaluation we made changes that they recommended
3 and now today it is working better than it ever
4 did before and it is because of having evaluation
5 to get outside person to do a whole audit of how
6 it works and give us back their opinion and there
7 is money in there. Okay? So... Council Member
8 Jackson, are you ready? Yes. Council Member
9 Jackson?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
11 all.

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We
13 will keep the vote open for 30 minutes. Thank you
14 very much.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: By current vote
16 of 15 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no
17 abstentions, the resolution is adopted. Council
18 Members, please sign the Committee Report. Thank
19 you.

20 MALE VOICE: Rules Committee will
21 be next. All Council Members on Rules Committee
22 please come to the front.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
24 Van Bramer?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now
3 currently stands at 16 in the affirmative.

4 [pause]

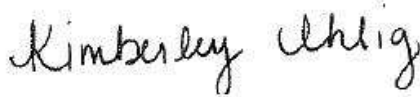
5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: The meeting
6 is adjourned and Rules Committee will be starting
7 shortly.

8 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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.

Signature _____

Date _____8/30/12_____