

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
  
Of the  
  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

----- X

October 7, 2013  
Start: 1:47 p.m.  
Recess: 2:06 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:  
  
ROSIE MENDEZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
  
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo  
Margaret S. Chin  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
James G. Van Bramer

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Good afternoon, this hearing is coming to order. I am Councilwoman Rosie Mendez and I chair the Committee on Public Housing. We are joined today by Council Members Jimmy Van Bramer from Queens, Maria Del Carmen Arroyo from the Bronx and Margaret Chin from Manhattan.

Today we will be voting on Preconsidered Resolution sponsored by Speaker Christine Quinn and myself; it is a resolution authorizing the Speaker to bring or join in litigation or to file or join an amicus brief on behalf of the City Council for the purpose of challenging the Land Lease Initiative Request for Expressions... did I get that all out... they keep changing... the Land Lease Initiative Request for Expressions of Interest issued by the New York City Housing Authority on August 16th of this year.

NYCHA's Land Lease Initiative is a plan to lease its property to private developers for the construction of predominantly market rate housing.

The Committee held an Oversight Hearing on this plan back in April when NYCHA was putting out an RFP, a Request for Proposal, which has now changed to this RFEI, the Request for an Expression of

1 Interest. And I will briefly reiterate our main  
2 concerns now.

3  
4 First, under NYCHA's plan private  
5 developers will build market rate apartments on NYCHA  
6 land; 80 percent of the new apartments will be market  
7 rate and only 20 percent will be affordable. This is  
8 inconsistent with the purpose of NYCHA and it's  
9 inconsistent with the needs of our city.

10 Take a look around; we already have  
11 plenty of housing that's too expensive for regular  
12 hard-working families; what we need is housing that  
13 families can afford.

14 Second, NYCHA has not meaningfully  
15 engaged its residents, resident leaders, elected  
16 officials and other community stakeholders; it did  
17 not develop its plan in consultation with the  
18 community and it has not incorporated the community's  
19 feedback and concerns into its plan.

20 Yes, NYCHA has done presentations, I sat  
21 through them and some of you may have as well, but  
22 there's a difference between presenting and listening  
23 and engaging. We've heard what NYCHA residents have  
24 to say; now we need them to hear... we've heard what  
25 NYCHA's had to say, but we need them to hear what our

1 residents are saying; what we have to say and that's  
2 why Speaker Quinn and I have sponsored this  
3 resolution. If NYCHA won't listen to us at meetings  
4 or at hearings or in the press, then maybe they'll  
5 listen to us in the courtroom.  
6

7 At this time I ask the clerk to please  
8 call the roll and I urge all my colleagues to vote  
9 yes on this resolution that is before us.

10 KEVIN PENN: Kevin Penn [phonetic],  
11 Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on Public  
12 Housing. Council Member Mendez.

13 CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: I vote aye.

14 KEVIN PENN: Arroyo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: I vote aye and if  
16 I can be added as a sponsor, co-sponsor. Thank you.

17 KEVIN PENN: Chinn.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

19 KEVIN PENN: Van Bramer.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

21 KEVIN PENN: By a vote of 4 in the  
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative, no abstentions; the  
23 item has been adopted. Members, please sign the  
24 Committee Report.  
25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

5

CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: We're gonna keep the roll open for just a little bit longer to see if a couple of members do come in.

KEVIN PENN: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

KEVIN PENN: Vote stands at 5 in the affirmative.

CHAIRPERSON MENDEZ: Hello. This hearing is now adjourned.

[gavel]

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 \_\_\_\_\_ October 19, 2013 \_\_\_\_\_