

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE & LABOR

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December 14, 2012

Start: 1:41 p.m.

Recess: 2:06 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway  
Committee Room - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor

B E F O R E:

JAMES SANDERS, JR.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James F. Gennaro  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Michael C. Nelson  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Eric A. Ulrich

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Welcome to  
3 today's meeting of the Committee on ... welcome to  
4 today's meeting on Civil Service and Labor,  
5 December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. We are going to vote on reso  
6 ... wait a second. Oh it is, on reso #1352, calling  
7 upon employers in New York City to hire more  
8 workers over 55 years of age. The Chair is  
9 running late, he's going to be here I hear any  
10 minute, and we have members with us, Council  
11 Member Gennaro, and Melissa Mark-Viverito, and  
12 Council Member Domenic Recchia will be with us  
13 very shortly, as well as the Chair. (pause)

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Are we on? Are  
15 we on? Can we go?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: And Council  
17 Member Recchia is here, and we're going to take  
18 this up, reso #1352 to a vote, thank you.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
20 Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on  
21 Civil Service & Labor, Resolution 1352, Council  
22 Member Nelson.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gennaro.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA, JR.: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito.

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of four in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, the item is adopted.

COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: We'll hold the vote open now for one half hour, it's now 1:22. Thank you. And a correction, it's 1:42.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Council Member Ulrich.

COUNCIL MEMBER ULRICH: I vote aye, and I want to commend the prime sponsor of the bill, Council Member Lappin, for helping older New Yorkers gain employment, and for helping people in this very rough economy, I think it's great work. I'd like to be added to the bill as well. And I want to thank the Committee Chair, thank you, I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently stands at five in the affirmative.

CHAIRPERSON SANDERS, JR.: This Committee will now come to order. Good afternoon,

1  
2 and my name is Council Member James Sanders, Jr.,  
3 and I'm the Chair of the Committee on Civil  
4 Service and Labor. This will sadly be my last  
5 hearing as the Chair of this Committee, as I am  
6 leaving the Council to go join the State Senate  
7 this September. Ah, just checking, I'm glad  
8 you're right. I won't wait until September, I  
9 can't wait and the needs of the people cannot wait  
10 either, we will join in January, not September.  
11 It would be nice to be off. It has been a  
12 wonderful experience sharing this important  
13 Committee and I know the Committee and its work  
14 will continue without me. Today we are voting  
15 upon Resolution #1353, 52, Resolution 1352, which  
16 calls upon employers in the City of New York to  
17 hire more workers 55, over 55 years of age, and  
18 since I'm there or approaching, I like that idea,  
19 let's hire more. Did you know, sir, that  
20 approximately one million, or 12%, of the City of  
21 New York city residents are over age 60?

22 MALE VOICE: I was unaware of that.

23 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS, JR.: Wow, a  
24 figure that is projected to increase by 50% in the  
25 next 20 years. This is due to a demographic

1 change which of course has to do with the  
2 increased longevity of Americans, and the "Baby  
3 Boomer Generation", reaching traditional  
4 retirement age. As Americans live longer, and  
5 many want to or need to stay in the labor market  
6 beyond traditional retirement age. Sadly, many  
7 more will have to stay, and especially if we go  
8 over the fiscal cliff. Unemployment among New  
9 Yorkers age 55, over 55, who wish to be in the  
10 labor market is a significant challenge in the  
11 city. People age 55 to 64 make up 15.1% of the  
12 total labor force nationwide and make up 11.2% of  
13 the total unemployment population nationwide. The  
14 unemployment rate of people 55 to 64 is about  
15 5.9%. Although unemployment for this population  
16 mirrors national trends, it is more troublesome  
17 for older people due to the staggering duration of  
18 unemployment. As of July, 2011 the average length  
19 of time it takes for Americans 55 years old or  
20 older to find employment is 52.7 weeks, compared  
21 to 37.5 weeks for people under 55. Wow! The  
22 resolution under discussion today would urge  
23 businesses in the city to hire such workers in New  
24 York over 55. I hope that my fellow Committee

1  
2 members will support this resolution, and I'm sure  
3 they certainly supported it. We were joined by  
4 Council Members Nelson, Gennaro, Mark-Viverito,  
5 and Ulrich. Finally, finally, my final thanks  
6 now, let's see if I can do this without crippling  
7 people's names. I'd like to thank my Committee  
8 staff, Matthew Carlin, our counsel, and Faith  
9 Corbett, our policy analyst. Again, it has been a  
10 true privilege to be the Chair of this Committee,  
11 to work with such diligent and fine people who  
12 really want to make sure that New York has its  
13 best and is at its best. If you've ever seen me  
14 do something right, it has a lot to do with the  
15 people who I've just named, and if I've stuttered  
16 or stammered, it has a lot to do with I didn't  
17 listen to them. Having said those things, I again  
18 thank them very much, and I will proceed to join  
19 the vote.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member  
21 Sanders.

22 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS, JR.:  
23 Permission to explain my vote. Granted. As a  
24 person who is at that age or fast approaching it,  
25 I really think that this is something that New

1  
2 York should focus on. I do believe that people  
3 this age have something to contribute to the  
4 wherewithal of New York, and we need to take that  
5 into account. Having said that, I vote adamantly  
6 yes.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: The final vote in  
8 the Committee on Civil Service & Labor in regards  
9 to Resolution 1352 is now six in the affirmative,  
10 zero in the negative and no abstentions.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS, JR.: And  
12 since that vote has been made and the resolution  
13 will go forward, I sadly but passionately say that  
14 this meeting is now ... this hearing is now ended.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard A. Ziats, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ December 20, 2012 \_\_\_\_\_