

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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September 24, 2012

Start: 11:12 a.m.

Recess: 11:47 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Lewis A. Fidler
Vincent J. Gentile
Robert Jackson
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Karen Koslowitz
James S. Oddo
Christine C. Quinn

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

Paula Berry
Candidate for Reappointment
Waterfront Management Advisory Board

Henry Wan
Candidate for Reappointment
Waterfront Management Advisory Board

Susan Grossman
Candidate for Reappointment
Tax Commission

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for joining us this morning. We apologize about the delay. Technology is supposed to make things faster, not slower, but at least we are starting. I want to welcome everyone here to the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. My name is Joe Rivera. I'm the chair of the Committee. Before we begin, let me introduce the members who are here with us today. We have Council Members Erik Dilan, Council Member Al Vann, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, Council Member Jimmy Vacca, Council Member Karen Koslowitz, Council Member Robert Jackson, Council Member Leroy Comrie, as well as the Committee staff. We have Chuck Davis with us, Emerson Sykes [phonetic], Jasmine Vega and Alicia Vassal [phonetic] as well. Today the Rules Committee will consider three candidates for advice and consent. Before us we have Paula G. Berry, a resident of Brooklyn, as a candidate for reappointment by the mayor to serve as the member representing the hospitality industry on the Waterfront Management Advisory Board. If Ms. Berry receives the advice and consent of the

1 Council, she will be eligible to serve the
2 remainder of a three year term that will expire on
3 August 31st of 2015. Henry Wan, a resident of
4 Queens, is a candidate for reappointment by the
5 mayor to serve as the member representing the real
6 estate industry on the Waterfront Management
7 Advisory Board. If Mr. Wan receives the advice
8 and consent of the Council, he will be eligible to
9 serve the remainder of a three year term that will
10 expire on August 31st, 2015. And we have Susan
11 Grossman, a resident of Manhattan, as a candidate
12 for reappointment by the mayor to serve on the Tax
13 Commission. If Ms. Grossman receives the advice
14 and consent of the Council, she will be eligible
15 to serve the remainder of a six year term that
16 expires on January 6th, 2018. Welcome, Ms. Berry,
17 Mr. Wan and Ms. Grossman. Will the candidates
18 raise your right hands at this point in time to be
19 sworn in?
20

21 MALE VOICE: Do you swear or affirm
22 that you will tell the truth, the whole truth and
23 nothing by the truth?

24 MULTIPLE VOICES: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very

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2 much. First I will briefly explain the functions
3 of the Waterfront Management Advisory Board. The
4 Board serves as an advisory body to the deputy
5 mayor for Economic Development, the commissioner
6 of Small Business Services, and the City Planning
7 Commission concerning any matters relating to the
8 industrial, commercial, residential, recreational
9 or other use of wharves, waterfront property and
10 waterfront infrastructure in the city. The Board
11 consists of 17 members, the deputy mayor of
12 Economic Development as chairperson, the
13 commissioner of Small Business Services as vice
14 chair, the chairperson of the City Planning
15 Commission, the commissioner of Environmental
16 Protection, one City Council Member designated by
17 the City Council and 12 members to be appointed by
18 the mayor with the advice and consent of the City
19 Council. Provided that there is at least one
20 appointed member from each borough appointed
21 members shall include representatives of labor,
22 the maritime industries, the transportation
23 industries, the real estate industry, the
24 hospitality industries, as well as environmental
25 advocates and community advocates. Appointed

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2 members are not compensated. At this point, we
3 will start off with Ms. Berry. Do you wish to
4 make an opening statement?

5 PAULA BERRY: I do not except that
6 I hope you all have my answers to your questions.

7 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Perfect.
8 Thank you very much. Mr. Wan, do you have an
9 opening statement?

10 HENRY WAN: Not really except that
11 I am very happy to serve if I have got the
12 opportunity and thank you for considering the
13 reappointment.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
15 much, Mr. Wan. And next I will briefly describe
16 the functions of the Tax Commission. The Tax
17 Commission is responsible for reviewing and
18 correcting all assessments of real property within
19 the city. The Commission has a president and six
20 commissioners all of whom must have at least three
21 years experience in the field of real estate or
22 real estate law. The president receives an annual
23 salary of \$192,198; commissioners receive an
24 annual salary of \$25,677. Ms. Grossman, do you
25 have an opening statement?

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2 SUSAN GROSSMAN: No, I believe my
3 questions and answers, but I would like to thank
4 you for the opportunity to be considered to serve
5 again on the Commission.

6 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Perfect.

7 PAULA BERRY: I forgot to say that
8 too, but I feel very privileged to be here as
9 well.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We have also
11 been joined by the chairman of the Tax Commission,
12 Mr. Glenn Newman, who is with us in the audience.
13 Thank you for joining us, and short, sweet and to
14 the point is always perfect, so thank you very
15 much for your short, sweet and to the point
16 comments. We have been joined by Council Member
17 Dickens. Does any member of the Committee have
18 any questions for the candidates for reappointment
19 today? Seeing none, at this point in time, the
20 Chair recommends an aye vote, and have the clerk
21 call the roll.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
23 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee
24 on Rules. Council Member Rivera?

25 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye and

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congratulations.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye and
congratulations.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan?

COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye
on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote
aye. I had the opportunity to say hello to them
earlier, and I appreciate their service to the
city of New York.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:
Congratulations. Thank you for your service to
the city. - - .

COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of

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2 eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and
3 no abstentions, all items have been adopted.

4 Members, please sign the committee reports.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We are going
6 to hold the vote open for other members to come up
7 and vote and once again, congratulations. Make
8 sure the Committee Members sign the committee
9 report. Thank you.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
11 Oddo?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now
14 stands at nine in the affirmative.

15 [pause]

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
17 Fidler?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'm ready.
19 Oh. I'm sorry. Yes.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now
21 currently stands at ten in the affirmative.

22 [pause]

23 [background conversation]

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on
25 Rules. Speaker Quinn?

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SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the

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Committee on Rules now stands at 11 in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative and no

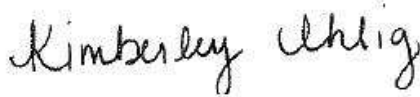
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abstentions.

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 _____10/7/12_____