

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 17, 2009

Start: 11:00am

Recess:

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DIANA REYNA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Daniel R. Garodnick
Vincent J. Gentile
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Melinda R. Katz
James S. Oddo
Joel Rivera
Larry Seabrook
David I. Weprin

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

Arva R. Rice

Abraham Maye
Executive Director
Equal Employment Practices Commission

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2 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning
3 and welcome to the Committee on Rules, Privileges
4 and Elections. My name is Diana Reyna and I am
5 Chair for this committee. Before we begin I'd
6 like to introduce the other members of this
7 committee who are present here today. On the
8 floor we have Council Member Melinda Katz, Council
9 Member Jimmy Oddo, Council Member Daniel
10 Garodnick, Council Member Vincent Ignizio, Council
11 Member Vinnie Gentile, Council Member Robert
12 Jackson, Council Member Joel Rivera, Council
13 Member Inez Dickens, Council Member David Weprin.
14 And we have all members acknowledged. Council
15 Member Leroy Comrie, thank you Leroy.

16 Today the Rules Committee will
17 consider the following matter, the appointment of
18 Ms. Arva Rice to the Equal Employment Practices
19 Commission. Ms. Arva Rice, a resident of
20 Manhattan is being considered for direct
21 appointment by the Council to the Equal Employment
22 Practices Commission. If Ms. Rice is appointment
23 she will fill a vacancy and serve for the
24 remainder of a four year term that expires on June
25 30th, 2012.

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2 First, I will briefly describe the
3 functions of the Equal Employment Practices
4 Commission. Equal Employment Practices
5 Commission, under the City Charter, is charged
6 with the duties of reviewing, evaluating and
7 monitoring the employment practices, procedures
8 and programs of city agencies. The goal is to
9 continue an effective affirmative employment
10 program of equal employment opportunity for
11 minority group members and women employed by or
12 seeking employment with the city agencies. Some
13 of the specific powers are monitoring employment
14 practices of all local agencies, reviewing the
15 implementation of affirmative employment programs
16 and auditing agencies' efforts to ensure fair and
17 effective equal employment opportunities for
18 minority group members and women.

19 The Commission consists of five
20 members, two appointed by the Mayor and two
21 appointed by the Council. The Mayor and Speaker
22 together appoint the Chair. Compensation is on a
23 per diem basis, \$250 for a member and \$275 for the
24 Chair. Welcome Ms. Rice. Will you please raise
25 your right hand and be sworn in by counsel.

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2 COUNSEL: Do you swear or affirm
3 that you will tell the truth, the whole truth and
4 nothing but the truth?

5 ARVA RICE: Yes, I will.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
7 much Ms. Rice. Do you have an opening statement,
8 Ms. Rice? Now is the time to share that. Thank
9 you.

10 MS. RICE: Good morning Madam
11 Chairperson and to the other members of the
12 committee. I want to thank you so very much for
13 this opportunity. I was honored to be suggested
14 for the EEPCC Commission by City Council Member
15 Inez Dickens, who is the Council Member in my
16 district. I am excited about this position for
17 two reasons. Number one is because as the
18 President and CEO of the New York Urban League,
19 the New York Urban League has a long standing
20 history working to provide opportunities for
21 people of color in providing them with equal
22 access to employment opportunities.

23 I'm also excited about this
24 opportunity because almost 20 years ago I came to
25 New York City as a New York City Urban Fellow. In

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2 the Urban Fellowship program the goal was to
3 provide opportunities for a diverse group of young
4 people to be introduced to city government and to
5 choose that as an opportunity, career path for
6 them. So I feel like it's a wonderful opportunity
7 personally and professionally for me to serve on
8 this Commission.

9 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you Ms.
10 Rice. I know that we have comments or questions
11 from our colleagues but I have been asked by
12 Council Member Garodnick to vote so if you can do
13 so, no.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
15 you very much. With congratulations to Ms. Rice,
16 I very happily vote aye.

17 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
18 much. I wanted to just give the opportunity to
19 Council Member Dickens, who proudly has nominated
20 Ms. Rice. Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Thank you
22 so much Madam Chair. Arva Rice has more than 15
23 years experience in the non-profit arena, ranging
24 from working with New York City on Trumpaneurs, a
25 micro lending program to working with young people

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2 as a counselor, a mentor and a tutor.

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Prior to joining the New York Urban League, Arva served as the Executive Director of Project Enterprise, an organization that is familiar to most of us in the Council because it provides business loans, technical assistance, peer support to New York City and Trumpaneurs who lack adequate access to business financing.

During her tenure at the Agency, they were able to double board giving, develop individual giving campaign, added high impact funders such as Robin Hood, Tiger and eBay Foundations, and doubled its revolving loan fund.

She has extensive staff training and facilitation experience. She had facilitate strategic planning sessions for non-profits including the Center for the Urban Future and the National Urban League. She has also served as a guest speaker, a panelist, a key note speaker for both non-profit and for profit organizations. She has developed numerous staff development publications and has co-authored Check It Off, a youth development approach to staff training and the journal, After School Matters.

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2 Arva lives in the village of
3 Harlem. She is a constituent and a very, very
4 good friend and I am proud, more than proud, to
5 support her appointment to the EEPC. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you
7 Council Member Dickens. I want to just to note
8 for the record as well, our borough president of
9 Manhattan, Scott Stringer, has expressed in this
10 letter. I'd like to note the first line, I'm
11 writing to express my support for Arva R. Rice's
12 candidacy to the Equal Employment Practices
13 Commission. Thank you Borough President Stringer.
14 I want to ask if any other member has any comment
15 or question.

16 I'd like to, for housekeeping
17 matters, mention for the record Ms. Rice. As the
18 President and CEO of the New York Urban League, is
19 it your intention to abide by the Conflicts of
20 Interest Board opinion 2009-474? Which advised
21 you to reclude yourself at the EEPC from any
22 matters involving the three city agencies that the
23 New York Urban League has contracts with,
24 Administration for Children Services, Department
25 for the Aging and the Department of Housing,

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2 Preservation and Development or any other city
3 agency with which the Urban League may hereafter
4 have contracts with.

5 MS. RICE: Yes, I will abide by
6 their recommendation.

7 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
8 much. Without any further delay, I'd like to call
9 a roll call.

10 CLERK: Reyna.

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye.
12 Congratulations.

13 CLERK: Rivera.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Comrie.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

17 CLERK: Jackson.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON:
19 Absolutely, yes.

20 CLERK: Katz.

21 [No response]

22 CLERK: Weprin.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

24 CLERK: Gentile.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With

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2 congratulations, I vote aye.

3 CLERK: Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS:

5 Emphatically, aye and congratulations.

6 CLERK: Fidler.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

8 CLERK: Oddo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: If Inez is
10 emphatic, I'm emphatic. Yes.

11 CLERK: Vote now stands at 10 in
12 the affirmative, no negative, no abstentions.
13 Motion carries.

14 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: As we await
15 Speaker Quinn to come and cast her vote, I just
16 wanted to recognize Executive Director, Abraham
17 Maye, who is with us today. Thank you so much for
18 joining us.

19 ABRAHAM MAYE: Thank you Madam
20 Chairlady.

21 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Mr. Maye, would
22 you like to comment on the record or...?

23 MR. MAYE: Only that we are pleased
24 to have this addition to our Commission. With the
25 appointment of Ms. Rice, the Commission will, for

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2 the first time in a while be full in terms of
3 having two members appointed by the Mayor and two
4 appointed by the City Council and of course, our
5 Chairperson.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
7 much Mr. Maye. We owe it all to our Majority
8 Whip. I'd like to recognize Council Member Katz
9 is with us and our Speaker has just arrived.

10 CLERK: Council Member Katz.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: Aye.

12 CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

13 SPEAKER QUINN: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: The vote now stands at 12
15 in the affirmative, no negative, no abstention.
16 Motion continues to carry.

17 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I'd like to
18 leave the vote open. Council Member Seabrook,
19 welcome.

20 CLERK: Seabrook.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Madam
22 Chair, I vote aye and certainly with this
23 recommendation that comes highly and necessary
24 that I want to congratulate you and certainly
25 looking forward to working with you.

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Congratulations. I vote aye on all.

CLERK: The vote now stands at 13
in the affirmative, no negative, no abstention.
Motion carries.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
much.

CLERK: Council Member Dilan.

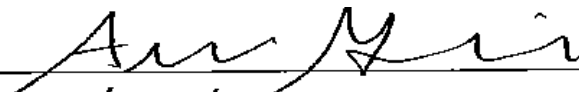
COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

CLERK: Current vote on Committee
on Rules, Privileges and Elections now stands at
14 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no
abstentions. William Martin, Committee Clerk.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Amber Gibson, 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amber Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Date September 24, 2009