

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

-----X

December 10, 2012  
Start: 10:45 a.m.  
Recess: 11:30 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer  
Fernando Cabrera  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Julissa Ferreras  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Vincent Ignizio  
Robert Jackson  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Karen Koslowitz  
James S. Oddo  
Diana Reyna  
Joel Rivera  
Albert Vann  
Mark S. Weprin

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Samara Karasyk  
Asst. Commissioner of External Affairs  
NYC Department of Finance

Preston Niblack  
Finance Committee Counsel  
New York City Council

Emre Edev  
Finance Committee Analyst  
New York City Council

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Could  
3 everybody come in and find their seat? All  
4 members, please find your seat. All right, before  
5 we get started today, I'd like to thank my entire  
6 Finance staff under the leadership of Preston  
7 Niblack and Deputy Director Jeff Rodus, and of  
8 course my wonderful attorney, Tanisha Edwards, and  
9 the entire Finance staff working extremely hard  
10 these last few weeks, and I want to thank them.  
11 Welcome to today's Finance hearing, my name is  
12 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., I'm the Chair of this  
13 Committee. At this time I'd like to recognize all  
14 those members who have joined us today, Council  
15 Member Al Vann, Council Member Leroy Comrie,  
16 Council Member Karen Koslowitz, Council Member  
17 Julissa Ferreras, Council Member Joel Rivera,  
18 Council Member Cabrera, Council Member Gale  
19 Brewer, Council Member Jackson ... did I miss  
20 anybody? Okay. today there are several items on  
21 our agenda. There is a BID item, a land use item,  
22 transparency reso, expense budget modification,  
23 the expense budget modification has nothing to do  
24 with the November plan, just so everybody is clear  
25 on that. This has nothing, there's nothing in

1  
2 that mod that we're voting on to do with the  
3 November plan, we'll take that up at a later time,  
4 and we'll have full discussion on that with all  
5 the members. We have three local laws on various  
6 topics, and a resolution calling, relating to the  
7 Congress to pass ... to resolve this fiscal cliff  
8 issue and what's going on with the budget in  
9 Washington. We've also been joined by Council  
10 Member Jumaane Williams. Let's first start with  
11 the BID item, proposed Reso 1587-A, that's  
12 December 18<sup>th</sup>, there's a date to consider local law  
13 that would authorize an increase in the budget for  
14 seven BIDs, these budget increases are being made  
15 at the request of the properties within the BIDs.  
16 The seven BIDs that requested a budget increase  
17 are: Fifth Avenue, 47<sup>th</sup> Street, Bryant Park,  
18 Downtown Alliance, Kings Highway, and the North  
19 Flatbush, and one in the Speaker's district,  
20 Flatiron BID, in the Speaker's district. All the  
21 Council Members who represent these BIDs have  
22 submitted letters of support for the budget  
23 increases.

24 Next we have Land Use Item, these  
25 items provide a 32-year full property tax

1  
2 exemption for the rehab of property located at 539  
3 and 531 East 147<sup>th</sup> Street in Council Member Carmen  
4 Arroyo's district in the Bronx. This property  
5 provides 20 units of rental housing to low-income  
6 families, Council Member Arroyo supports this  
7 item.

8                   Before we move on, I just want to  
9 also put on the record that Council Member Helen  
10 Diane Foster is excused from today's meeting, I've  
11 got a letter here, she had to go to Europe to pick  
12 up her sister who was involved in a very bad  
13 accident, and our prayers go out to the Foster  
14 family and that her sister makes a quick recovery.

15                   On the transparency reso, this  
16 resolution sets new changes in the designation of  
17 certain organizations receiving local aged and  
18 youth discretionary funding, as well as new  
19 changes in designation of certain organizations  
20 receiving funding pursuant to certain initiatives  
21 in the expense budget. Organizations appear in  
22 the reso that have not yet completed the pre-  
23 qualification, contacted by MOCS or any other  
24 entity or City Council are identified with an  
25 asterisk. Additionally, as with all transparency

1  
2 resos, members will have to sign a disclosure form  
3 indicating whether or not a conflict exists. If  
4 any Council Member has potential conflict with any  
5 of the organizations listed, he or she may want to  
6 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.  
7 Please also disclose any conflicts you may have  
8 with the subcontractors that are used by  
9 organizations. This disclosure must be made  
10 before the subcontract can be approved. Members  
11 will be contacted by Council's Ethics and  
12 Employment Counsel Nadir to complete disclosure  
13 forms as necessary.

14 Our next item is an expense budget  
15 modification 2013, the mod is necessary to fund  
16 capital programs and initiatives and implement  
17 many provisions that are reflected in today's  
18 transparency reso, as well as those that were  
19 reflected in the previous transparency resos. I  
20 want to emphasize that this budget mod related to  
21 Council programs only, this budget mod does not  
22 address any actions reflected in the November  
23 plan, like I said earlier. I repeat, this mod  
24 reflects Council programs and discretionary  
25 funding only. Having said that, this mod

1  
2 transfers about \$7.78 million between agencies to  
3 fund local initiatives and the net effect of the  
4 mod is zero. For details about the programs with  
5 the agencies that will see funding as a result of  
6 the mod, please see Appendix A in the budget  
7 modifications.

8                   Now let's move on to the three  
9 local laws. The first local law ... before I do  
10 that, we've been joined by Council Member Jimmy  
11 Oddo, the Minority Leader, we've been joined by  
12 Vincent Ignizio from Staten Island, we've also  
13 been joined by Lewis Fidler of Brooklyn. Our  
14 first local law, sponsored by Council Member  
15 Lappin and Garodnick, proposed Intro 926, extends  
16 New York City biotech credit to December 31<sup>st</sup>,  
17 2015, the city's biotechnology credit provides a  
18 refundable credit up to \$125,000 to small  
19 qualified emerging technology companies that focus  
20 on biotechnology. Without this local law, the  
21 credit would sunset at the end of this year.  
22 Since the city's biotech credit was initially  
23 authorized in 2009, the number of jobs in biotech  
24 research has increased by 11.6%, and the number of  
25 biotech firms has increased 27%. I thank Council

1  
2 Member Lappin and Garodnick for sponsoring the  
3 bill.

4 Our next local law is Intro 958-A,  
5 sponsored by Council Member Oddo and Ignizio and  
6 myself. The law requires the Department of  
7 Finance to create and publish a brochure, The New  
8 York City Property Tax System as it Relates to  
9 Class 1 and Class 2 Properties. The brochure will  
10 be published on DOF's website by January 15, 2013  
11 for Class 1 properties, January 15, 2014 for Class  
12 2 properties. Just so you know, Class 1 is one-  
13 and two-family homes, Class 2 is co-ops and  
14 condos. The property tax system is a very complex  
15 system, and I want to thank the Department of  
16 Finance Commissioner Frankel for working with the  
17 Council to create and publish this brochure, so  
18 that the public can better understand this  
19 complicated system.

20 Our next local law is a pre-  
21 considered intro that extends the due date for  
22 payment of real property taxes for certain Class 1  
23 and Class 2 properties affected by Superstorm  
24 Sandy, and I want to thank Council Member Oddo and  
25 State Senator Lanza for really taking the lead on



1  
2 this. For property taxes due January 1, 2013,  
3 this legislation extends payment without interest  
4 or penalty to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The properties that  
5 would be covered by this bill are Class 1, Class 2  
6 tax lots that in the month of November, 2012  
7 received a red sticker from the Department of  
8 Buildings due to damage as a result of the effects  
9 of Hurricane Sandy, or up until December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
10 has received a red sticker from the Department of  
11 Buildings due to damage as a result of the effects  
12 of Superstorm Sandy, after having already received  
13 a yellow sticker from the agency in the month of  
14 November. Red stickers indicate that the  
15 Department of Buildings has determined it to be  
16 seriously-damaged and unsafe to enter, occupy or  
17 have been completely damaged by the storm. Yellow  
18 stickers indicate buildings that are less severely  
19 damaged than buildings with red placards, but DOB  
20 has still limited the use of the building and  
21 requires the owner to make repairs. Many  
22 individuals are still dealing with the effects of  
23 Superstorm Sandy, I am hopeful that by extending  
24 the due date for property tax payments this  
25 legislation will provide some financial relief to

1  
2 homeowners who are trying to rebuild their lives  
3 around Superstorm Sandy. I want to thank the  
4 administration for working closely with me,  
5 Council Member Oddo, Council Member Ignizio, whose  
6 districts suffered devastating effects by  
7 Superstorm Sandy on this legislation, also Council  
8 Member Eric Ulrich and Council Member James  
9 Sanders, and Council Member Steve Levin, these are  
10 all things that are really, really, you know,  
11 devastating to the city.

12 Our next item is pre-considered  
13 reso sponsored by Brad Lander, this resolution  
14 calls on United States Congress and President  
15 Obama to reach an agreement by the end of the year  
16 on deficit reduction that would avert short-term  
17 damage to the already-struggling economy, and  
18 reach an agreement. The resolution urges Congress  
19 and President Obama to consider minimizing  
20 additional burdens middle-class, low-income  
21 families and to prioritize broadly-shared economic  
22 recovery.

23 These are the items on today's  
24 agenda. We have people here to answer any  
25 questions. We've also been joined by Council

1  
2 Member Koppell. First we'll have questions. Does  
3 anybody have any questions? I believe Gale Brewer  
4 has a question, so we recognize the Council Member  
5 from the upper West Side, Gale Brewer.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you  
7 very much. (microphone not working)

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Here,  
9 Gale.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: My  
11 question, thank you, my question is regarding the  
12 really excellent idea on the tax abatement. How  
13 does one communicate with those parcels, and how  
14 do you keep people who don't deserve to get the  
15 delayed opportunity away?

16 MR. NIBLACK: So I'm going to have  
17 a representative from the Department of Finance  
18 come up to talk about the measures that we'll take  
19 on this to answer your question.

20 MS. KARASYK: Hi, Council Member,  
21 I'm Samara Karasyk, Assistant Commissioner of  
22 External Affairs with the Department of Finance.  
23 For the deferred due date we are working closely  
24 with the Department of Buildings, so there are 521  
25 properties currently that were pulled, that were

1  
2 marked, as red-tag properties according to the  
3 Department of Buildings, and we haven't sent their  
4 bills yet. When we do, they will have the delayed  
5 due date of April 1<sup>st</sup>. And then if there are other  
6 properties that were yellow that become red over  
7 the course of December until the 28<sup>th</sup>, we will let  
8 them know that they are also delayed.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: But how do  
10 you communicate with them if they maybe don't have  
11 a mail delivery situation, etc.?

12 MS. KARASYK: One thing that we're  
13 planning is working very closely with all of you,  
14 and we're going to put a lot of information on our  
15 website as well, to make sure that sort of through  
16 those venues. We're also, we have information  
17 that we're giving at the restoration centers which  
18 we're working to finalize right now, to make sure.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I have  
20 another question for Finance, can I ask that, Mr.  
21 Chair?

22 MR. NIBLACK: Let me just add,  
23 Council Member Brewer, we've discussed several  
24 things internally that will follow up, we've had a  
25 couple of conversations with the members also

1  
2 about ideas we'll follow up on, so we'll continue  
3 to talk with the Department of Finance about the  
4 best way to reach out to people.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. A  
6 different question on Finance though, what is the  
7 status with co-ops and condos in the three-year  
8 abatement, so that they don't get caught up, not  
9 in this hurricane issue, but in other issues? Can  
10 you elaborate on that from the Department of  
11 Finance's perspective?

12 MS. KARASYK: Yes, we're continuing  
13 to bill as if the condo/co-op abatement were still  
14 ... had not expired, and then, you know, we'll see  
15 what happens in January.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I just  
18 want to recognize Diana Reyna and Jimmy Van Bramer  
19 have joined us, Council Member Koppell has a  
20 question.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL:

22 (microphone not working)

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Hold on,  
24 can we get a microphone please? Sergeant-at-arms,  
25 get him a microphone please.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,  
3 Mr. Chairman. I didn't ... I believe you announced  
4 this budget modification that's part of the agenda  
5 today, is that correct?

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: That's  
7 correct, it has nothing to do with the November  
8 plan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: No, I  
10 know, but I have a question, looking at the items  
11 here.

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: There ...  
14 maybe Preston can answer it, there's an item here,  
15 it's on chart 8, and it says, it has two ... it  
16 lists two different city agencies, one, I don't  
17 know what New York City & Company is, but it's a  
18 city-related agency in any event, and the  
19 Department of Cultural Affairs, and it appears to  
20 be a transfer of moneys from New York City and  
21 Company to the Department of Cultural Affairs of  
22 \$99,950.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Could you  
25 explain that?

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

MR. NIBLACK: Yes, this is an item that was added early on for an event called Design Week, which was modeled sort of after Fashion Week, intended to promote the design industry. The New York City and Company turned out not to have an appropriate 501C3 or similar eligible charitable organization that could use the money, so now the Department of Cultural Affairs will either do a contract with NYC & Company or simply procure on their behalf services and goods that they need to do, to implement this program.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr. Chairman, I have some ... Mr. Chairman, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I have, unfortunately, some serious concerns about the manner in which the Department of Cultural Affairs is conducting its mandate, and therefore on this item I wish to vote no.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: That's fine, at the time you can vote any way you wish, but we could talk about it afterwards, you know.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Very good.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay,

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

we'll follow up and see what your concerns are.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: And we'll take them, discuss it with the Commissioner. Okay, I believe Diana Reyna has a question. Can we give the Council Member a microphone please? Billy, I'm glad to see, you're doing very well, Billy. Maybe you should put a blue jacket on.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I just wanted to ask a question regarding the tax deferral as far as properties are concerned, is that going to include what would be small businesses in designated M zones where there is Hurricane Sandy-related damages and ... or is this just exclusive to residential?

MR. NIBLACK: The property tax relief that we're voting on today, and that we're taking to Albany, applies only to residential, Class 1 and Class 2.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So that the Class 2, if there's a small business within those two categories, where there's a commercial storefront and residential above that would be Class 1, that would be picked up as part of the



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

property tax deferral?

MR. NIBLACK: Right, where's Emre?

I'm going to ask Emre Edev to come forward and speak to that.

MR. EDEV: My name is Emre Edev, I'm the analyst for the Finance Committee on property tax. This applies just to Class 1 and Class 2 properties. If there's a commercial space in the Class 2 property, that would be covered, it's still Class 2, as long as it's classified as Class 2, so it's a technical definition, but it's not specific towards small businesses in that sense.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right.

MR. EDEV: If that's what you're asking.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right. And is there going to be a future expansion of the tax deferral for perhaps designated areas for property owners in M zones to assist property owners there?

MR. NIBLACK: I think, given what it took to get this particular action, I'm not sure that I anticipate us doing any further tax, property tax actions, to help businesses. I think

1  
2 there may be other actions recognizing the  
3 problem. Council Member Oddo, who is the sponsor  
4 of this, raised this problem, issue, with this  
5 also, you know, we're pursuing other things with  
6 the administration regarding what we can do for  
7 small businesses.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you  
9 very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay,  
11 Council Member Leroy Comrie has a question. We  
12 recognize the Council Member from Queens. Pass  
13 over the mic.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.:  
15 Actually the same question that Council Member  
16 Koppell had regarding the money going from NYC &  
17 Company to Cultural Affairs, and what it was being  
18 used for. I don't have his addition ... I'm not  
19 sure if his additional concern about Cultural  
20 Affairs, I just wanted to make sure that New York  
21 City & Company would be able to do everything that  
22 they needed to do under their mandate, and so that  
23 part of the question was answered.

24 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yeah,  
25 they have indicated to us that they have enough

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

funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Thank  
you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: To do  
everything they're required to do. Okay, does  
anybody else have any questions? I know, Jimmy.  
Does anybody have any questions? Seeing no more  
questions, we recognize Council Member Jimmy Oddo,  
he would like to say something. Go ahead. Here.  
Here, Jimmy.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I got it,  
thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want  
to take a couple of minutes to address two of the  
bills that the Republican delegation is enacting.  
If I were in a better mood, I'd make a nice  
irreverent joke about coalition government, but  
it's not that kind of day. The first bill, which  
requires the Department of Finance to prepare a  
commonsense pamphlet results from, I think, a lot  
of frustration that all of us feel twice a year  
when property bills go out, and our constituents  
think that we have once again raised their  
property tax. I just find it kind of odd that in  
a day and age when everyone in government talks

1  
2 about transparency, the property tax process is  
3 incredibly opaque. If you think about it, no one  
4 makes a bigger investment in their lifetime, or  
5 for the most of us, than their home. Yet the  
6 process by which we pay taxes, not only does the  
7 public not understand, I would defy anyone to ask  
8 51 Council members and see how many of us get an A  
9 in explaining this process. It is the result of a  
10 few decades of city laws, state laws, court  
11 decisions and lots of politics, and when those  
12 bills go out, as they have in the last few days,  
13 and your constituents and mine see that there is a  
14 hundred dollar increase, they come to our district  
15 offices and they say, "Why did you raise my  
16 taxes?" And when you begin to explain to them, if  
17 you can, the process, maybe 45 seconds into it  
18 their eyes roll over and they consider you to be  
19 the typical politician, overwhelming them with  
20 words. So what we thought would be a small step,  
21 an admittedly small step, is to have the  
22 Department come up with a pamphlet, as best as  
23 they can, to explain this process in plain  
24 English. And the fact that the Department came up  
25 with an 11 ... 13, 13-page one-pager, tells you just

1  
2 how convoluted this process is. This is a draft  
3 of it, I can't show you or I'd have to put you in  
4 a cobra clutch and make you tap out, because it's  
5 not going to be released until January, but this  
6 is how convoluted this process is, that the plain  
7 English guide is 13 pages. I think that we all  
8 need to become experts in this, and we all need to  
9 try to educate our constituents in the process,  
10 because if they want to change it, they can do two  
11 things: they can elect a whole bunch of people who  
12 see government the way I do, and there can be more  
13 of us fighting for lower taxes -- that's not going  
14 to happen in New York City -- or at least the  
15 public can understand it, and maybe then they can  
16 demand some sort of change, and maybe it truly can  
17 be grassroots and from the bottom on up. So when  
18 this comes online on the 15<sup>th</sup>, I encourage you to  
19 get this in the hands of as many of your  
20 constituents, let's help them, let's educate them  
21 in the process, and then let's empower them, if  
22 they want to change it, so be it. The second bill  
23 is a little bit more ... if that was emotional, if  
24 that weren't emotional enough, the second bill is  
25 quite emotional. A few ... a week or two after

1  
2 Sandy hit, Senator Lanza and I, Andy Lanza, former  
3 member of this body, were driving the impacted  
4 community and we came upon what has now become  
5 like an iconic picture, at least locally, on  
6 Staten Island of what Sandy meant, and that's  
7 Toto's Restaurant on Father Capodanno Blvd. If  
8 you've seen the pictures you know the destruction.  
9 And I've known John Toto for a long time, he ... his  
10 restaurant suffered three quarters of a million  
11 dollars in damage, his home, which was located two  
12 structures behind the restaurant, was completely  
13 destroyed, and Andrew and I got out of the car and  
14 we were talking to John, and John gave us a litany  
15 of the challenges he's facing, and then topped it  
16 off by saying, "And I have to pay \$13,000 in  
17 taxes, property taxes for this restaurant." And  
18 Senator Lanza looked at me, I looked at him, I  
19 talked to Council Member Ignizio, and we called  
20 Speaker Quinn and we said, "We have to give some  
21 relief to the very folks who are hit the worst."  
22 This is very limited in scope, and I appreciate  
23 the questions from my colleagues, Council Member  
24 Reyna in particular. When we started this, this  
25 was about trying to help John Toto and his

1  
2 business. We negotiated with the administration,  
3 Preston did a great job, the Speaker did a great  
4 job. If this were left to OMB, we'd have no bill  
5 right now, and there'd be no relief. My hope is  
6 that this Council, which has tried to demonstrate  
7 in the last several years how in tune we are to  
8 the importance of small business, goes back and  
9 takes another bite at the apple, and has very  
10 limited universe, very tailored in scope, relief  
11 for the worst businesses. But this is a two-step  
12 process, it's what the Council can do, delaying  
13 the payments till April. We have signed on an  
14 Assembly Member and a State Senator to carry  
15 another piece of bill in the Legislature to  
16 actually give a rebate, anyone who is interested  
17 in the specifics, I won't bore you with them now.  
18 but I just want to voice my appreciation to  
19 Speaker Quinn for being open to the idea, for  
20 Preston and the staff, and Chairman Recchia for  
21 fighting for it. We made a commitment that we're  
22 going to help the victims of Sandy every way we  
23 can, this is a small slice of that total help, and  
24 I appreciate the support of my colleagues.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Thank

1  
2 you very much, Council Member Oddo. Council  
3 Member Vincent Ignizio wants to say something.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank  
5 you very much, and our leader Oddo really said it  
6 all, but I want to take the two bills separately,  
7 I wanted to thank the Finance staff, and you,  
8 Chairman Recchia, for being there, as well as  
9 Tanisha, the whole way of making sure that we were  
10 able to do this brochure and get it through the  
11 process. With the Sandy victims, I mean, I just  
12 wanted to give voice to my friend, Mike Abruzzo,  
13 who lost his house on Yetman Avenue, it totally  
14 doesn't exist any more. You saw him on Nightline  
15 and on many of the national shows, this was across  
16 the street from the home that we had two  
17 fatalities in. And Mike said, "I have no money, I  
18 have nowhere to go, and beyond that, I'm getting a  
19 property tax bill that the city is making me have  
20 to pay." And that is the voice of what really  
21 spawned us having these conversations and, you  
22 know, when we think about what happened in the  
23 storm, we think about how the city cannot help  
24 hurt people, and that's what it was really about  
25 doing, about relieving some stress that they had



1  
2 in their lives of paying their property tax bill,  
3 and if that helps somewhat, I'm happy to have been  
4 a part of it. And with regards to the businesses,  
5 there definitely has to be a way that we can take  
6 somebody's business tax bill, and give them some  
7 relief. You can't turn around and say, "Yes, you  
8 lost \$750,000-worth of your business, and by the  
9 way, here's a \$20,000 tax bill." It's just not  
10 the right thing to do. For everybody out there  
11 preaching that we're going to be there for you,  
12 well, there are some people in and around this  
13 building that need to be there a little bit  
14 stronger on this issue. Thank you very much for  
15 the time, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Thank  
17 you, Council Member Ignizio. I also want to thank  
18 the Finance staff in doing a great job, and of  
19 course Tanisha and everyone else, but I also want  
20 to thank Emre. Where's Emre? You do a great job  
21 in explaining the property tax and for helping  
22 with that brochure, putting it together, I  
23 personally want to thank you for that. All right,  
24 we have all the thank yous, we have all the  
25 recognitions, everybody's happy, let's call the

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

vote. Anybody else wants to say anything?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm not really happy.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I know, but we're making progress, Jimmy. One thing, we signed David Wright, so let's call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Wayne Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Finance. Council Member Recchia.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I vote aye and encourage all my colleagues to vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye and (inaudible) (microphone not on).

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yeah, I believe yes, yes. Yes, we will see to it.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I vote aye  
and (inaudible) (microphone not on).

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye  
on all and (microphone not on).

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I vote aye  
on all except I would like to (inaudible)  
(microphone not on).

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO:

(inaudible) (microphone not on)

COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: (inaudible)  
(microphone not on)

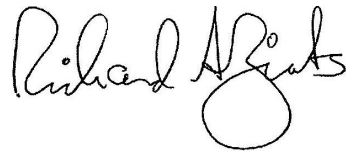
1  
2 COMMITTEE CLERK: All items on  
3 today's agenda have been adopted by a vote of 15  
4 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
5 abstentions, with the exception of pre-considered  
6 budget modification related to MN1, and pre-  
7 considered reso in relation to transparency, which  
8 has been adopted by a vote of 14 in the  
9 affirmative, one in the negative and no  
10 abstentions, and the pre-considered resolution in  
11 regards to the fiscal cliff has been adopted by a  
12 vote of 13 in the affirmative, two in the negative  
13 and no abstentions. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: This  
15 meeting, we'll keep it open for ... till 11:30.  
16 (pause)

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: The  
18 Committee hearing on Finance is now adjourned.

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 19, 2012