

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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October 8, 2009
Start: 10:00am
Recess:

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MELINDA R. KATZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Tony Avella
Charles Barron
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Simcha Felder
Daniel R. Garodnick
Alan J. Gerson
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Annabel Palma
Joel Rivera
Larry Seabrook
Helen Sears

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2 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Good morning
3 everyone. Let me call Land Use to order and I
4 believe Council Member Sears has an important
5 appointment that she needs to vote now on.
6 Meeting's open; we have a quorum.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Thank you
8 very much Madam Chair. I truly appreciate that.
9 I vote aye on all. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you very
11 much. Let me go through the agenda very quickly.
12 We won't repeat everything that was said at the
13 sub-committee, I call it up from the sub-committee
14 for the record. Let me go through the agenda and
15 we'll vote straightaway.

16 640 Broadway, L.U.1207 is in com
17 Yassky's district. It is a ULURP and UDAP for 640
18 Broadway.

19 L.U. 1213 is Briarwood Plaza
20 rezoning. It is Council Member Avella's district.
21 It is an amendment to the zoning map and I believe
22 you have agreements there as well.

23 L.U. 1217 is a Corner Deli in
24 Council Member Gerson's district. It is a
25 sidewalk café and all the stipulations that were

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2 read into the record at the sub-committee shall be
3 applied here at the full committee on Land Use.

4 Council Member Quinn's district is
5 Café Reggio. It's a sidewalk café.

6 L.U. 1219, as modified, is the
7 special permit application by the Museum of Modern
8 Art. Along with the special permit application at
9 L.U. 1220 with modifications that were read at the
10 sub-committee that the hotel will be under 100,000
11 feet, no loading dock, visibility of the wall will
12 be taken care of by the applicants and they will
13 maintain the lot until it is built.

14 L.U. 1224 is College Point
15 Corporate Park it is a disposition in Council
16 Member Avella's district.

17 L.U. 1233 is in Council Member
18 Weprin's district. It is the Excelsior residence
19 it is an amendment to the zoning map.

20 L.U. 1234 and 1235 are both
21 related, they are in Council Member Vacca's
22 district. It is an amendment to the zoning map
23 plus a special permit on the sound on City Island.

24 South Conduit Avenue is being held
25 over.

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2 L.U. 1237 is in Council Member
3 Quinn's district. It is an amendment to the
4 zoning map 246 11th Avenue.

5 St. George's Syrian Catholic
6 Church, is in Council Member Gerson's district,
7 I'm trying to do this quick for everyone. Council
8 Member Gerson's district which is a landmarking of
9 the church.

10 L.U. 1239 which is Grammar School 9
11 in Council Member Brewer's district is a
12 landmarking of that building.

13 L.U. 1222 is in Council Member
14 Dickens' district. It is a UDAP for 46 through 48
15 East 129th Street.

16 Any discussion? Council Member
17 Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I
19 already made my comments at Zoning on the subject
20 of Land Use 1219 and 1220. I just wanted to add
21 one point to Land Use 1207, which is the 640
22 Broadway. I'm voting for this and I just wanted to
23 make a comment on the record because Council
24 Member Ignizio and I, and the Planning sub-
25 committee worked with HPD. To ensure that when

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2 they are giving authorization letters in the
3 future for various projects that they are going to
4 be putting on their web site the information about
5 what a potential developer needs to do to be able
6 to achieve such a thing from HPD. As well as
7 their past authorizations that they have given to
8 projects in the past, going back to 2006, as well
9 as the projects for which successful funding has
10 been achieved.

11 We wanted to make sure there was an
12 open and transparent process so that anybody who
13 is looking to partner with the city with regard to
14 our land that they know that there's an
15 opportunity. They know how to do it and they know
16 which groups HPD has partnered with in the past.
17 WE thought that was a very positive and welcome
18 development here so I just wanted to add that.

19 I will be voting yes on that and no
20 on 1219 and 1220. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you very
22 much Mr. Chair. Continue the roll.

23 COUNSEL: William Martin, committee
24 clerk, roll call on the Committee on Land Use.
25 Council Member Katz.

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2 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Aye on all and
3 congratulations to everyone involved in the sub-
4 committees and also on the work that was done to
5 reach negotiations today.

6 COUNSEL: Rivera.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
8 on all.

9 COUNSEL: Avella.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: May I have
11 a moment to explain my vote? As I did in the sub-
12 committee, I'm voting no on the MOMA applications.
13 I do believe that the height of the building is
14 too high and that the community should have had
15 more opportunity to weigh into the negotiations
16 that were going on.

17 I also am voting no on Land Use
18 1224, which is an application in my district by
19 DCAS. This is something that I've discussed
20 before the committee before where it relates to
21 relocating businesses in the Willets Point area to
22 my district. I absolutely think it's a disgrace
23 that the Mayor can call these businesses blighted
24 and then yet move them to another neighborhood.

25 So I'm voting no on that

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2 application. No on the MOMA applications and yes
3 on everything else.

4 COUNSEL: Comrie.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

6 COUNSEL: Jackson.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I pass.

8 COUNSEL: Seabrook.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
10 aye on all.

11 COUNSEL: Palma.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

13 COUNSEL: Arroyo.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

15 COUNSEL: Dickens.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

17 COUNSEL: Garodnick.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
19 you. I vote no on 1219 and 1220 and aye on the
20 rest.

21 COUNSEL: Crowley.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
23 aye.

24 COUNSEL: Ignizio.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

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COUNSEL: Felder.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Pass.

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COUNSEL: Council Member Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye

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on all except the one in Council Member Avella's
district, I abstain.

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COUNSEL: Council Member Felder.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes,

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including the one in Avella's district.

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COUNSEL: All items on the

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Committee on Land Use are adopted by a vote of 14

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in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions with the exceptions of L.U. 1219 and

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1220, which were adopted by a vote of 12 in the

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affirmative, 2 in the negative and no abstentions.

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And Land Use item 1224, which is adopted by a vote

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of 12 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 1

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abstention. Council Members please sign the

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committee reports. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON KATZ: There are

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members of the committee in the Transportation

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Committee room so we're going to leave it open for

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ten minutes. Thank you.

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COUNSEL: Council Member Barron.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Liu.

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: I vote yes.

COUNSEL: Council Member Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Final vote on the

Committee on Land Use all items stand at 17 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions with the exceptions of Land Use items 1219 and 1220 are adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and no abstentions. And Land Use item 1224 is adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative and 1 abstention. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I don't know if I want to close the meeting out. I like the position I'm in. Can I recess it so I can come back as chair?

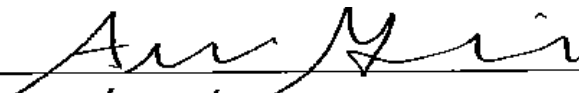
CHAIRPERSON KATZ: No.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: All right.
This meeting is adjourned.

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 October 21, 2009