

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

-----X

December 19, 2011
Start: 10:23 a.m.
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Robert Jackson
G. Oliver Koppell
Darlene Mealy
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Julissa Ferreras

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Karen Koslowitz
James G. Van Bramer
Vincent M. Ignizio
James S. Oddo

1
2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Good
3 morning, everyone. Welcome to today's Finance
4 Committee meeting. My name is Domenic M.
5 Recchia, Jr. I'm the Chair of this wonderful
6 Committee. Today we have a number of items on our
7 agenda. Before we do that, I'd like to introduce
8 some of my colleagues who have joined us here this
9 morning. To my far left, we have Lewis Fidler, Al
10 Vann, Leroy Comrie, Jimmy Van Bramer. To my
11 right, Karen Koslowitz, Fernando Cabrera, Gale
12 Brewer, Diana Reyna and Julissa Ferreras and
13 Vincent Ignizio.

14 First we have one Land Use item
15 located at 2011 Brown Place in Council Member
16 Melissa Mark-Viverito's district. This building
17 will receive a tax exemption from HPD, which will
18 allow it to continue to provide 86 units of rental
19 housing to low-income New Yorkers. Council Member
20 Melissa Mark-Viverito supports this item.

21 Our next item related to adopted
22 fiscal 2011/2012 expense budget. This resolution
23 sets forth new designations or changes in the
24 designation of certain organizations receiving
25 local aging and youth discretionary funding as

1
2 well as new designation or changes in the
3 designation of certain organizations receiving
4 funds pursuant to certain initiatives in the
5 budget. Organizations appearing - - the reso that
6 have not yet been completed pre-qualify will have
7 an asterisk by their name. Additional with all
8 transparency resolutions, Council Members have to
9 sign a disclosure indicating whether a conflict
10 exists. If a Council member has a potential
11 conflict with an organization, he or she might
12 want to disclose that on the record. Council
13 Members are now required to disclose any conflicts
14 they may have with proposed subcontractors. This
15 disclosure must be made before the subcontractor
16 will be approved. Members will be contacted by
17 the Council of Ethics and Employment counsel,
18 Nadir Joshua [phonetic] to complete the disclosure
19 forms as necessary.

20 Our last piece of legislation today
21 is the Westchester Square BID. This pre-
22 considered reso sets January 3rd at 10:00am as the
23 date and time for a hearing on legislation that
24 would establish the Westchester Square BID in
25 Council Member Jimmy Vacca's district. If you

1
2 remember during the November 29th Finance hearing,
3 this Committee determined that the notifications
4 sent out by the Department of Small Business
5 Services about the October 17th public hearings is
6 sufficient. This Committee has made another
7 hearing on the Westchester BID in order to give
8 the property owners and tenants in the proposed
9 BID an opportunity to be heard. SBS has been
10 directed to mail notices about the January 3rd
11 hearing to all property owners and tenants in the
12 proposed BID. The first year budget for the BID
13 is \$320,000, with about 2/3 of its budget going
14 toward marketing and sanitation. Council Member
15 Vacca supports this wonderful BID and this
16 establishment.

17 Members of the City Council Finance
18 Division are here to answer any questions about
19 the transparency reso. HPD and SBS are here to
20 answer any questions you may have on the Land Use
21 item and the BID. Also, this is our last
22 Committee hearing of 2011. I want to wish
23 everyone a joyous and pleasant and blessed holiday
24 season. See you in 2012. Our next Finance
25 hearing will be held January 3rd at 10:00am. The

1
2 first Stated meeting of January, which is the
3 Council's charter meeting, will be held on January
4 4th at 12:00 noon. If anyone has any questions,
5 then Billy will call the roll. Before we call the
6 vote, I want to recognize some Council Members who
7 have joined us: Council Member Jimmy Oddo, Council
8 Member David Greenfield and Council Member Joel
9 Rivera.

10 Now, Jimmy Vacca has sent a letter,
11 and I'm going to ask Tanisha Edwards to read the
12 letter from Jimmy Vacca.

13 TANISHA EDWARDS: Dear colleagues,
14 I want to reiterate my unwavering support for the
15 creation of a business improvement district in
16 Westchester Square. The area has seen
17 considerable growth over the past several years
18 and despite setbacks, the business owners and
19 merchants in the area have worked very hard to
20 bring this BID to fruition. I cannot understate
21 the positive impact the BID will have on the
22 quality of life in the Westchester Square area.
23 From better sidewalks and more plantings to
24 general improvements for all street users, these
25 improvements will make Westchester Square a

1
2 cleaner, more attractive place to shop and do
3 business, and will only serve to further increase
4 the growth that the area has already seen.
5 Westchester Square holds tremendous potential for
6 community revitalization in the Bronx and that
7 revitalization is long overdue. The BID is much
8 needed and this designation will be well deserved
9 for all the community members who have worked
10 tirelessly on this proposal. I want to thank all
11 the community members who have been involved in
12 seeing this process through to completion and I
13 also want to thank Chairman Recchia and the
14 Finance Committee staff for all of their hard work
15 throughout this process. Sincerely, Council
16 Member James Vacca.

17 MALE VOICE: Mr. Chairman, I'm
18 very serious about this. Vote for my BID.

19 [background conversation]

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I had Tanisha
21 Edwards read the letter 'cause I'm losing my
22 voice. I've lost it, got it back, and I'm losing
23 it again. Okay. Does anyone have any questions?
24 Perfect. Please call the roll.

25 CLERK: William Martin, Committee

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

Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Finance.

Council Member Recchia?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I'm going to
vote aye and I encourage all my members to vote on
all items.

CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

CLERK: Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CLERK: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

CLERK: Cabrera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz?

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 KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

CLERK: By a vote of 14 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Members, please sign the Committee Reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I also want to put on the record that we've been joined by Helen Diane Foster from the Bronx. I also want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. I want to thank my wonderful Finance staff and under the leadership of Presto Niblack, Jeffrey Rotus [phonetic] and of course our wonderful attorney, Tanisha Edwards, and the entire Finance staff. They do a great job. I also want to thank my personal staff, Liz, Michaela [phonetic] and Halle [phonetic] for the great job they've been doing. Everyone have a safe holiday season. We'll see

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

you back in 2012. God bless you all. We're going to keep the vote open until 11:00.

CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye on all. Thank you.

CLERK: Final vote in the Committee on Finance is 16...

[background conversation]

[pause]

CLERK: Final vote in the Committee on Finance is 16 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

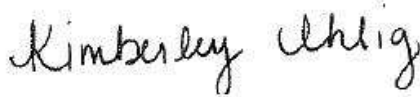
COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: This Finance Committee is hereby adjourned.

[gavel]

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

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.Date 1/8/12