

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE OF RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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August 14, 2008
Start: 11:08am
Recess: 11:22am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DIANA REYNA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria Baez
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Lewis A. Fidler
Vincent J. Gentile
Robert Jackson
Melinda R. Katz
James S. Oddo
Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
Joel Rivera
David I. Weprin

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2 MALE VOICE: Testing, one, two
3 three. Testing, one, two, three. Today's
4 Committee is going to be on Rules, Privileges and
5 Elections. Today's date is August 14, 2008. And
6 it's being recorded by Ibierto Coriaso.

7 CHAIRPERSON DIANA REYNA: Good
8 morning and welcome to the Committee on Rules,
9 Privileges and Elections. My name is Diana Reyna
10 and I am Chair to this committee. Before we begin
11 I'd like to introduce the other members to this
12 committee who are present here today. I have
13 Council Member Lewis Fidler, Council Member Leroy
14 Comrie, Council Member Inez Dickens, Council
15 Member Maria Baez, Council Member Joel Rivera,
16 Council Member Erik Dilan and Council Member Jimmy
17 Vacca, who is just here present supporting.

18 Today the Rules Committee will be
19 considering the following matter, the designation
20 of Bishop Mitchell G. Taylor to the Civilian
21 Complaint Review Board. Bishop Taylor, a resident
22 of Queens, is being considered for designation by
23 the Council to the Civilian Complaint Review
24 Board. I'd like to ask for silence in the
25 chambers.

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2 If designated by the Council and
3 subsequently appointed by the Mayor, he will
4 replace Syngee Lee Lamb and serve for the
5 remainder of a three year term expiring on July 4,
6 2011. First I will briefly describe the
7 functions of the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

8 The Civilian Complaint Review Board
9 is independent from the City's police department
10 and charged with the duty to investigate
11 complaints of misconduct by police officers
12 towards the public. Board members are required to
13 reflect the city's diversity. The board consists
14 of 13 members, 5 designated by the Council, 5
15 appointed by the Mayor and 3 designated by the
16 Police Commissioner, which are the only members
17 who have law enforcement experience.

18 CCRB has a civilian staff
19 responsible for conducting investigations of
20 complaints received by the board. CCRB
21 jurisdiction is limited to complaints claiming
22 excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy
23 or use of offensive language. The board operates
24 in panels of at least three members. All CCRB
25 members are eligible for compensation on a per

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2 diem basis. The current per diem rate is \$291.

3 Welcome Bishop Taylor. Will you please raise your
4 right hand and be sworn in by Council?

5 FEMALE VOICE: Do you swear or
6 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and
7 nothing but the truth?

8 BISHOP MITCHELL J. TAYLOR: I do.

9 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: And if you have
10 an opening statement, now is the time to do so to
11 share.

12 BISHOP TAYLOR: Thank you. Madam
13 Chair Reyna, majority whip, Leroy Comrie, Council
14 Member Inez Dickens, Council Member Lou Fidler and
15 to all the distinguished members of this
16 particular committee. I'm grateful to be here to
17 address you on today.

18 I am Bishop Mitchell Taylor, senior
19 pastor of the Center of Hope International and the
20 founder of the East River Development Alliance,
21 organizations that are dedicated to providing
22 residents of public housing, the tools and
23 resources for self sufficiency. And the latter is
24 necessary to gain economic mobility.

25 I extremely grateful to be

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considered today for service on the Civilian Complaint Review Board. As a lifelong resident of New York City, specifically Queens, the most ethnically diverse borough in the city, I've had the distinct opportunity to interact with people from many walks of life. I have great admiration and respect for the New York City Police Department. But as a pastor and an advocate and a native New Yorker I also understand the complexities that are congruent with that day to day operation.

So I'm honored to be considered for the noble and important task as serving as a member of the CCRB. I know that my experiences and my interactions vast throughout the city will enable me to be fair and objective addition to the board. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you Bishop Taylor. I understand Council Member Inez Dickens must be excused. I'd like to call upon her.

COUNCIL MEMBER INEZ DICKENS: Thank you so much Madam Chair. And I am requesting permission to be excused and to vote at this time.

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2 Affirmative, if I may, for Bishop Taylor whom I've
3 known over the years. I strongly support his
4 appointment. I feel he will be an asset
5 representative of not only his community but of
6 all residents of the City of New York. May I have
7 permission please Madam Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Yes.

9 MS. DICKENS: I vote yes. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you
12 Council Member Dickens. Council Member Leroy
13 Comrie.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEROY G. COMRIE,
15 JR.: Thank you Madam Chair. Today' I'd just like
16 to speak in the affirmative for and thank Bishop
17 Taylor for wanting to serve as a member of the
18 CCRB. Which is a body that truly needs to have
19 someone of his caliber, his character and his
20 compassion.

21 A person that has truly worked in
22 Long Island City, throughout Queens and the city
23 to empower the rights of the underprivileged to
24 give people a leg up that wouldn't have an
25 opportunity before. Who has definitely created

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2 economic empowerment for the people around his
3 church and through urder [phonetic], has
4 definitely lifted up the ability of people to do
5 better in life for themselves, creating programs
6 and working with city agencies to do food
7 pantries, to do outreach, to do improvements for
8 their social services.

9 But even more critically, working
10 with people on the Earned Income Tax Credit
11 program, making sure that the program that he's
12 gotten over \$20 million, at least. I think that
13 number is low probably now, of income back into
14 the community by people filling out their tax
15 forms and applying for the Earned Income Tax
16 Credit has really infused a lot of money into Long
17 Island City. He was part of the effort to bring
18 the first bank back to Long Island City. And is
19 actually working to start a credit union projects
20 in Long Island City.

21 He's just done so much for the
22 community. He's such a great person and a humble
23 individual. I'm glad that he has decided to take
24 on this task to be part of the CCRB. On behalf of
25 the Queens delegation I'm happy that he has

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2 undertaken this desire. That he's following
3 through with it and he'll be a great addition to
4 the CCRB. I hope that they Mayor's Office
5 processes his appointment and does everything to
6 ensure that he is made a member as soon as
7 possible. Thank you Madam Chair. I urge all of
8 the members to vote in affirmative for Bishop
9 Taylor.

10 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you
11 Council Member Comrie. Council Member David
12 Weprin.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID WEPRIN: Thank
14 you Madam Chair. I, too, want to echo the support
15 of the Queens delegation. I have personal
16 knowledge of Bishop Taylor since I've been in the
17 City Council and the work that he's done. Not
18 only in Queens but really throughout the entire
19 city; he really is a leader in the faith based
20 community and the advocacy community. The
21 community concerned about food and hunger and
22 social services for those in need. I think he
23 will be an outstanding appointee to the Civilian
24 Complaint Review Board and I strongly endorse his
25 confirmation.

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2 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you
3 Council Member Weprin. If there are no other
4 council member, we will call a vote and before I
5 do so, we have called upon Speaker Christine
6 Quinn. So while she's on her way up, I'd like to
7 just comment on Bishop Taylor, who I have known
8 and worked with when I was Chair of the
9 subcommittee on Public Housing. His intelligence,
10 leadership in the public housing arena is
11 remarkable. And what you have done is put your
12 money where your mouth is as far as self
13 sufficiency for families in the trenches of
14 poverty and uplifting communities out of poverty.

15 You have fought the war against
16 poverty and we have seen the results of that.
17 Your humility, like Council Member Comrie has
18 mentioned is outstanding. And part of that
19 humility, I'd like to just for the record, express
20 to my colleagues if they didn't see Black in
21 America the series. The organization East River
22 Development Alliance was featured and you had case
23 studies of success. And so I congratulate you,
24 your organization, your staff. I'd like to make
25 sure that we're not overwhelming you with this

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2 position because adding more to your plate would
3 mean that you would be taken away from the
4 trenches of where you began. I only hope that you
5 can balance a lot of what will be before you. And
6 I proudly support your nomination to the CCRB.
7 Thank you.

8 We have been joined by Council
9 Member Vincent Gentile, Council Member Melinda
10 Katz, Council Member Jimmy Oddo. And I'd like to
11 call a vote. We have been joined by Council
12 Member Robert Jackson as well.

13 CLERK: Reyna.

14 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye and
15 I urge a vote in the affirmative.

16 CLERK: Rivera.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOEL RIVERA: I vote
18 aye.

19 CLERK: Baez.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MARIA BAEZ: Aye.

21 CLERK: Comrie.

22 MR. COMRIE: Aye.

23 CLERK: Fidler.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER LEWIS A. FIDLER:

25 Aye.

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CLERK: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT JACKSON:

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Aye.

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CLERK: Katz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MELINDA R. KATZ:

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Aye.

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CLERK: Weprin.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID WEPRIN: Aye.

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CLERK: Garodnick. Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES S. ODDO: Yes.

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CLERK: Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VINCENT J. GENTILE:

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Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Council Member

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Dilan is next door and we're just waiting for both

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him and the Speaker

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CLERK: The vote now stands at 11

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in the affirmative, no negative, no abstentions.

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CLERK: Speaker Quinn.

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SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN: Thank

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you. I love getting to vote at Rules. Thank you

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Chairperson Reyna. But I'm particularly excited

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today about the Queens delegations terrific

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appointment to the CCRB, Bishop Taylor. In

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2 addition, I should disclose to being Chuck Marra's
3 bishop which is more than a full time job. So I'm
4 wondering if you have time to serve on the CCRB.

5 [Laughter]

6 He's been a terrific part of the
7 Council's family, working with us on so many
8 issues from economic development to expanding
9 banking to particularly food and hunger and
10 nutrition. So we're just very honored that you've
11 also agreed to be a member of the CCRB. Thank you
12 very much and I vote aye.

13 CLERK: The vote now stands at 12
14 in the affirmative, none in the negative, no
15 abstentions. Motion passed.

16 CLERK: Council Member Dilan.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ERIK MARTIN DILAN:
18 I vote aye.

19 CLERK: The vote now stands at 13
20 in the affirmative.

21 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: This meeting is
22 adjourned. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: This is the
24 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. I'd
25 like to re-open for a roll call vote. Council

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2 Member Michael McMahon.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL MCMAHON:

4 Aye.

5 CLERK: Vote now stands at 14 in
6 the affirmative.

7 MR. MCMAHON: Thank you.

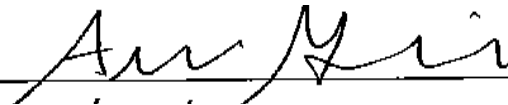
8 CLERK: No negative, no
9 abstentions.10 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: This meeting is
11 adjourned

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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 3, 2008