

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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April 2, 2009
Start: 11:02 am
Recess: 11:18 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: DIANA REYNA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Tony Avella
- Council Member Maria Baez
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Inez E. Dickens
- Council Member Simcha Felder
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
- Council Member Eric N. Gioia
- Council Member Robert Jackson
- Council Member Darlene Mealy
- Council Member James S. Oddo
- Council Member Annabel Palma
- Council Member Christine C. Quinn
- Council Member Joel Rivera
- Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
- Council Member Albert Vann
- Council Member David I. Weprin

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Malini Cadembi Daniel
Candidate for Appointment
Equal Employment Practices Commission

Abraham May
Executive Director
Investigative Unit
City Council

Barbara
Committee Counsel

Chuck Martin
Committee Investigator

2 [Gavel banging]

3 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

4 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Good morning.

5 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Sit down.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Welcome to the
7 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. My
8 name is Diana Reyna and I am Chair of this
9 Committee. Before we begin I'd like to introduce
10 members of this Committee who are present. We
11 have Council Member Joel Rivera, Council Member
12 Larry Seabrook, Council Member Daniel Garodnick,
13 Council Member Maria Baez, Council Member Leroy
14 Comrie, Council Member Eric Gioia, Council Member
15 Robert Jackson and Council Member David Weprin,
16 and Council Member Al Vann and Council Member
17 Felder, Simcha Felder, and Council Member Palma,
18 Annabel Palma and Council Member Darlene Mealy who
19 have joined us as well.

20 Today the Rules Committee will
21 consider the following matter: the appointment of
22 Malini Cadambi Daniel to the Equal Employment
23 Practice Commission. Welcome. Malini Cadambi
24 Daniel is a resident of Brooklyn, is being
25 considered for a direct appointment by the Council

2 to the Equal Employment Practices Commission. If
3 Ms. Cadambi Daniel is appointed she will fill a
4 vacancy and serve for the remainder of a 4-year
5 term that expires on June 30th, 2012.

6 First I will briefly describe the
7 functions of the Equal Employment Practices
8 Commission. The Equal Employment Practices
9 Commission under the City Charter, the Commission
10 is charged with the duties of reviewing,
11 evaluating and monitoring the employment
12 practices, procedures and programs of City
13 agencies and the Department of Citywide
14 Administrative Services.

15 The goal is to continue an
16 effective affirmative employment program of equal
17 employment opportunity for minority group members
18 and women employed by or seeking employment with
19 City agencies. Some of the specific powers are:
20 1) monitoring employment practices of all local
21 agencies; 2) reviewing the implementation of
22 affirmative employment programs and auditing
23 agencies' efforts to ensure fair and effective
24 equal employment opportunities for minority group
25 members and women.

2 The Commission consists of five
3 members, two appointed by the Mayor and two
4 appointed by the Council. The Mayor and Speaker
5 together appoint the Chair. Compensation on a per
6 diem basis is \$250 for a member and \$275 for the
7 Chair.

8 Welcome Ms. Cadambi Daniel, will
9 you please raise your right hand and be sworn in
10 by counsel?

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL BARBARA [No last
12 name given]: Do you swear or affirm to tell the
13 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

14 MS. MALINI CADEMBI DANIEL: I do.

15 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you so
16 much. And we have been joined, to your left, by
17 the Executive Director, Abraham May, welcome.

18 MR. ABRAHAM MAY: Thank you. Good
19 morning.

20 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I'd like to--
21 good morning. I'd like to have Ms. Cadambi
22 Daniel, if you have a statement to share with this
23 Committee, to do so now.

24 MS. DANIEL: I think the Equal
25 Employment Practices Commission has a unique and

2 important mandate to help City agencies and boards
3 fulfill the letter and spirit of affirmative
4 employment practices and law. And I would be
5 greatly honored to be a part of that Commission.

6 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you very
7 much Ms. Cadambi Daniel. I want to just ask Mr.
8 May, did you want to say something in support of
9 Ms. Cadambi Daniel?

10 MR. MAY: I'd be pleased to. The
11 Equal Employment Practices Commission has been
12 requested by the Investigations Unit of the City
13 Council to review the application relative to its
14 investigation and our responses have all been
15 positive. We have no issue at all.

16 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Thank you. We
17 have been joined by Council Member Tony Avella.
18 And I don't know if there's any questions for our
19 candidate. I'd like to call the roll.

20 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
21 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call on the
22 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.
23 Council Member Reyna.

24 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: I vote aye and
25 congratulations.

2 MR. MARTIN: Rivera.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

4 MR. MARTIN: Baez.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

6 MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye

8 and congratulations on two issues, okay, congrats

9 and when are you due? When are you due?

10 MS. DANIEL: End of May.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE:

12 Congratulations.

13 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

14 MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote

16 aye.

17 [Background noise]

18 MR. MARTIN: Seabrook.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: To

20 explain my vote--

21 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: [Interposing]

22 Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: --

24 certainly it is important that we fill this

25 appointment because it had certainly been vacant

2 for too long and I'm glad that the Council has
3 moved to have this. And I had discussed this with
4 Mr. May some time ago at the hearings about this.
5 And I welcome your appointment to this. And it's
6 a very important mission in which you have to
7 fulfill. Congratulations to you and good luck.

8 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
10 aye.

11 [Off mic] [Laughing] Just so you
12 know you're on the record--

13 MR. MARTIN: Weprin.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

15 MR. MARTIN: Garodnick.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK:

17 Congratulations. I vote aye.

18 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: We are waiting
20 for other members and the Speaker as well. I just
21 wanted to congratulate Ms. Cadambi Daniel, twice
22 over. I know that she's expecting and that was
23 the reason why--

24 [Background noise, crosstalk, and
25 laughter]

2 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: Council Member
3 Felder wishes to congratulate you as well.

4 MS. DANIEL: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER:
6 Congratulations.

7 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: But we are very
8 excited to have you serve the City of New York in
9 your capacity. And while we wait I just want to
10 make sure that I thank our counsel, Barbara, as
11 well as our investigator for this Committee, Chuck
12 Davis, who does a tremendous job vetting every
13 candidate.

14 [Pause]

15 CHAIRPERSON REYNA: We've been
16 joined by Council Member Jimmy Oddo and Council
17 Member Lewis Fidler.

18 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Oddo.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

20 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Fidler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

22 [Pause]

23 MR. MARTIN: Vote now stands at 10
24 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
25 abstentions.

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2 [Pause]

3 [Background noise]

4 FEMALE VOICE: I vote aye.

5 [Cheering in the background,
6 laughter, background noise]

7 MR. MARTIN: The current vote now
8 stands at 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the
9 negative, no abstentions.

10 [Background noise]

11 MR. MARTIN: Council Member
12 Dickens.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on
14 all.

15 MR. MARTIN: Vote on Rules now
16 stands as 12 in the affirmative, 9 in the negative
17 and no abstentions. Dilan, Katz and Gentile.
18 Dilan, Katz and Gentile.

19 [END TAPE 1002]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature Laura L. Springate

Date April 13, 2009