

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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September 24, 2013
Start: 10:34 a.m.
Recess: 10:41 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 Ferraras

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning
3 and welcome to today's Finance Committee
4 hearing. My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.,
5 and I am joined by my colleagues today.
6 Sitting to my left is Fernando Cabrera, Council
7 Member Fernando Cabrera, Council Member Vann,
8 Council Member Jimmie Van Bramer sitting to my
9 right, Council Member James Otto, Council
10 Member Vincent Ignizio, Council Member Louis
11 Fiddler, Council Member Oliver Koppell, and
12 Council Member Robert Jackson. Today we have
13 two items on our agenda. We have a Land Use
14 item, a transparency reso. Let me start with
15 the Land Use item which is located in Council
16 Member Mendez District in Manhattan. Mascot
17 Flats will receive a partial tax exemption for
18 the acquisition of four building that provide
19 19 units of affordable housing to low income
20 families. The property was formally the J51
21 Program, and the owner has been unable to pay
22 taxes since 2006. With this property tax
23 exemption, the property will receive a full
24 retroactive property tax exemption from 2006 to
25 the present and a partial property tax

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2 exemption beginning at the effective date of
3 this reso. Council Member Mendez supports this.
4 Now, let's move onto the transparency reso.
5 This resolution sets forth new changes in the
6 designation of certain organizations receiving
7 local [inaudible] and youth discretionary
8 funding as well as new changes in the
9 designation of certain organization receiving
10 funding for certain initiatives in the budget.
11 Representatives from Council Finance are here
12 to answer any questions you have on the
13 transparency resos. Organizations appearing in
14 the reso that have not yet completed the pre-
15 qualification process conducted by the Mayor's
16 Office of Contracts, the Council, or another
17 entity are identified in the asterisks, on the
18 charts with an asterisk. As with all
19 transparency resos, Council Members have to
20 sign a disclosure form indicating whether or
21 not a conflict exists with any of the groups on
22 the attached list. If any Council Member has a
23 potential conflict of interest with any
24 organization listed, he or she will have the
25 opportunity to disclose the conflict at the

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2 time of the vote. As a reminder, please
3 disclose any conflicts you may have with the
4 proposed subcontractors that are used by
5 organizations sponsored by discretionary
6 funding. These disclosures must be made by the
7 subcontract--before the subcontractor can be
8 approved. Members will be contacted by the
9 conflict councils, ethics, and employment
10 counsel [inaudible] to complete disclosure
11 forms as necessary. These are all items on for
12 today's agenda. Does anyone have any
13 questions? Seeing no one has any questions,
14 Billy, please call the roll.

15 CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
16 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
17 Finance. Council Member Recchia?

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Before I vote,
19 I will encourage all my members to vote aye. In
20 addition to that, I would like to put on the
21 record that I have a conflict. One of the CASA
22 programs is going to Mark Twain Intermediate
23 School where my daughter is a student. And I
24 vote Aye on all; encourage all my members. We
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2 have been joined by Rosie Mendez, Diana Reyna,
3 and Karen Koslowtiz.

4 CLERK MARTIN: Fiddler?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDDLER: Aye.

6 CLERK MARTIN: Jackson?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on all.

8 CLERK MARTIN: Koppell?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

10 CLERK MARTIN: Vann?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

12 CLERK MARTIN: Cabrera?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

14 CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWTIZ: Aye.

16 CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

18 CLERK MARTIN: Ignizio?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

20 CLERK MARTIN: Otto?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER OTTO: Yes.

22 CLERK MARTIN: Reyna?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

24 CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of 11 in
25 the affirmative, zero in the negative, no

1 abstentions, both items have been adopted.

2 Members, please sign the committee reports.

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4 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: At this time
5 I'd like to recognize Council Member Rosie
6 Mendez who had the tax exemption in her pr--in
7 her district. I believe she--you support it.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chair. I just wanted to come and speak on
10 behalf of this on the record. This is one of
11 many building that during the fiscal crisis of
12 the 70's--landlords abandoned buildings, didn't
13 pay their taxes and we had shells of buildings.
14 This particular building is part of a group
15 called Habitat for Humanity, and in the 1970's
16 President Carter came to this street as well as
17 to the Bronx, everybody remembers when he was
18 in the Bronx, but through Habitat, through
19 Humanity, and other sweat equity programs,
20 we've been able to save and create affordable
21 housing and keep this as an affordable co-
22 operative. And in my district, these low
23 income co-operatives have become cash poor but
24 asset rich. So these tax abatements and
25 exemptions are critical to keep them

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2 affordable. I want to thank my colleagues for
3 voting on behalf of this and the city and HPD
4 for working with the co-operators to ensure
5 that they get these benefits. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you,
7 Council Member Debbie Rose, and that past.
8 Does anybody else have any questions? Without
9 seeing that, we call the vote. I'd just like
10 to make one announcement. Today is Council
11 Member Helen Diane Foster's last day as a
12 Council Member of this New York City Council.
13 She will become the new State Commissioner on
14 Human Rights under Governor Andrew Cuomo. So,
15 we will miss her. She's part of this
16 Committee, and we want to thank her for the
17 years of dedication to this wonderful Council
18 and to this Committee. Thank you very much.
19 We'll leave the vote open 'til 11:10.

20 CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
21 Brewer?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.
23 Thank you.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CLERK MARTIN: Vote now currently stands at 12 in the affirmative. Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Before voting aye, I want to indicate that my husband works part time at the New York Historical Society. The New York Historical Society is receiving a CASA grant in this particular transparency resolution. Thank you very much.

CLERK MARTIN: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on all.

CLERK MARTIN: Current vote in Committee on Finance is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Final vote in the Committee on Finance is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions.

UNKNOWN: This meeting on Finance is adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is no interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date 10/01/2013