

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND
MARITIME USES

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June 29, 2010
Start: 12:12pm
Recess: 12:18pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member James Sanders, Jr.
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

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

N/A

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right.

3 [gavel] This meeting of the Subcommittee of
4 Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses is
5 called into session. I'm Chair Brad Lander, we're
6 joined today by Committee Members Maria Del Carmen
7 Arroyo, James Sanders, Dan Halloran and Jumaane
8 Williams; and Jimmy Vacca's sitting in on our
9 meeting today. We have just one item on our
10 calendar: Land Use No. 127, IS-285, a 390 seat
11 intermediate school in the hybrid section of The
12 Bronx, in Council Member Arroyo's district. She
13 worked very hard to make sure that the school
14 could meet as many of the goals that the community
15 had as possible. And I'm pleased to recognize her
16 at this time.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chair. I'm, today, really, really happy that
19 we're about to approve an application for the
20 siting of a middle school in a community that for
21 decades has been struggling to make this dream
22 come true. And as a community, collectively, we
23 are not happy that it's not as big as we would
24 like it to be. But in, in a way, it does help us
25 get to a place where we can provide the middle

2 school seats that that community desperately
3 needs. The, the work that the community and the
4 coalitions that came together, to get this
5 application to the point where we're at today, is
6 a long list, and I cannot, in the interests of
7 time, go through every single list, but I'm going
8 to show it to you. It's a very long list.

9 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: She's telling
10 the truth, it's a long list.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [laughs]
12 But I first want to thank you, in your leadership
13 as Chair of this Subcommittee, to, for standing
14 behind myself, Council Member Foster, and our
15 community to ensure that what application and
16 project we actually get, the community is happy
17 with. And I think that we're there. The Land Use
18 staff, Gail Benjamin, Alonzo Carr, and from the
19 Speaker's office, Chuck Meara, who was an
20 incredible support; the Education Committee staff,
21 Regina Ryan. The School Construction Authority,
22 who was not very flexible at first, but we were
23 able to be very persuasive in the process of, of
24 getting them to give us a school design that would
25 allow us to build a 4,000 square foot green roof

2 that would provide and incredible learning
3 laboratory for our students in that community.

4 And, and the School Construction Authority,

5 Lorraine Grillo, were un--incredibly supportive at
6 the end of the process. The Deputy Mayor,

7 Walcott's office, Gregorio Mayer [phonetic]. And

8 my colleagues in government--without their support

9 I don't know that we would have gotten to this

10 place, the Borough President's Office, and in

11 particular Jessie Mojica, his Director of

12 Education at The Bronx Borough Office.

13 Assemblywoman Vanessa Gibson and her staff. My

14 colleague Helen Diane Foster. She and I share

15 this community in common, and, and she in

16 particular is a resident of that community, and

17 understands the decades of struggle that this

18 community has undertaken to get this school. And

19 our community advocates, they're in the back with

20 the signs. [laughs] The concerned parents of

21 Highbridge, all of the parent associations in the

22 community, the tenants associations, our clergy.

23 And I want to especially recognize a couple of

24 individuals who attended every single meeting that

25 we had as representatives of the community, to

2 ensure the community's voice was always heard.

3 Chauncey Young, Cynthia Williams and Jose

4 Gonzalez, who came to provide public testimony at

5 our hearing last week. And I want to also

6 recognize Carlton Curry, the PA President for

7 District Nine, and Jose Gonzalez, I said, and

8 Wendell Jackson, from Community Board Four who is

9 actually a new Chair of that community board.

10 And, you know, there's just been so many

11 individuals involved in getting us to where we're

12 at today. I am very happy and proud that we will

13 be able to deliver to the Highbridge community a

14 school that you can be proud of. A school that

15 will serve as a model for learning and design in

16 our City, and will probably be the second school

17 in the City with a green roof. So,

18 congratulations, Highbridge. And I encourage my

19 colleagues to vote yes.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you so

21 much, Council Member. We've also been joined by

22 Committee Member, Council Member Rosie Mendez from

23 Manhattan. Just so everyone knows, we, what has

24 transpired since our last meeting, we have a memo

25 to Council Member Arroyo, Council Member Foster

2 and Borough President Diaz from Lorraine Grillo,
3 Acting President and CEO of the School
4 Construction Authority, committing to provide a
5 range of modifications and enhancements to the
6 project, so that it'll be able to house the green
7 roof and sort of science exploratory roof that,
8 that Council Member Arroyo discussed. And to make
9 those changes, which I won't go into detail,
10 structural in the building. The cost of those
11 items is estimated to be \$1.5 million, there'll
12 still need to be additional resources to really
13 build out the green roof, but this will, will make
14 it possible. So, a very significant
15 accomplishment. I also want to congratulate the
16 community advocates who were very persuasive at
17 the Committee, and echo Council Member Arroyo's
18 thanks to all the parties--civic, political,
19 School Construction Authority--who helped make
20 this happen. And the Chair recommends a vote of
21 aye. Asks the Counsel to call the roll.

22 COUNSEL: Grisham Hill [phonetic],
23 Counsel to the Committee. Chair Lander.

24 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Aye.

25 COUNSEL: Council Member Sanders.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye.

3 COUNSEL: Council Member Arroyo.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Oh, yes.

5 COUNSEL: Council Member Mendez.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

7 COUNSEL: Council Member Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS:

9 Congratulations to the Council Member and everyone
10 who worked on this. I vote aye.

11 COUNSEL: Council Member Halloran.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Always the
13 Republicans last, huh? Aye.

14 COUNSEL: By a vote of six in the
15 affirmative, none in the negative, no abstentions,
16 LU 127 is approved and referred to the full Land
17 Use Committee. [applause, background noise]

18 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Yes, great.

19 [laughs] We'll leave the vote open until the next
20 Subcommittee meeting begins, and thanks everyone
21 very much.

22 [pause, background noise]

23 COUNSEL: Council Member Palma.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: I vote aye.

25 COUNSEL: Vote now stands seven in

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2 the affirmative, none in the negative, no
3 abstentions. LU 127 is referred to the full Land
4 Use Committee.

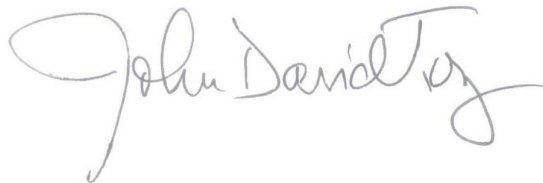
5 [gavel]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: This meeting
7 is adjourned.

8

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG, 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 "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature_____

Date July 15, 2010