

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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June 11, 2013
Start: 1:11 p.m.
Recess: 1:18 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Room, 14th Fl.

B E F O R E:
DARLENE MEALY
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Michael C. Nelson

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

William Martin
Committee Clerk
New York City Council

CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Good afternoon.

My name is Darlene Mealy. I serve as the Chair of the New York City's Council Committee on Contracts. It is my pleasure to welcome you today. Thank you all for attending. Before we proceed I would like to recognize the Council Members who are present here today, Letitia James of the Committee, Robert Jackson, Michael Nelson and I would thank, Miss Manegaoux [phonetic] legal staff here. Today the Committee will vote on Resolution 1739 which concerns the City's smallest contracts, micro purchases. In April, the Procurement Policy Board voted to adapt a ruled amendment to increase the City's micro purchase limit from \$5,000 to \$20,000. Resolution 1739 would ratify that increase. This resolution will allow agencies to forgo the long and sometimes complex bidding process for its smallest contracts. By increasing micro purchase limits agencies will be flexible to procure more of its smallest purchases quickly and efficiently. Now, any time we broaden the scope of contracts that do not require competitive bidding we must be cautious. We do not take this step lightly. From

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2 what we have gathered during our April hearing on
3 this resolution and the talks we had with
4 administrations, sufficient safeguards are in
5 place to make sure that micro purchasing is not
6 abused with regards to either the cost or vendor
7 selection. Given small fractions of City's
8 contracting budget that new limit will capture we
9 believe that an increase to the micro purchase
10 limit presents an opportunity to improve agencies
11 operations without significantly increasing
12 financial - - . Again, thank you for all
13 attending. With nothing further, anyone have any
14 statements? I turn over to Robert Jackson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,
16 Chair Mealy. I appreciate the opportunity to
17 comment. Hello? Yeah. So, Chair Mealy, I thank
18 you for the opportunity to testify regarding this
19 particular, it's on. Whoo. Hello? It's better?
20 Thank you for the opportunity. I read the
21 statement by Andrea Glick [phonetic] the Chief
22 Procurement Officer and the Director of the
23 Mayor's Office of Contract Services. And clearly,
24 what it says is that this is going to make it
25 easier for the City agencies to do business but it

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2 will also, it clearly gives the impression that
3 it's going to be better for MWBE's minority and
4 women owned business enterprises to do business
5 with the City. And that they will have robust
6 oversight of agencies using the micro purchase
7 method. Clearly, if this means increasing the
8 amount of MWBE's, so, micro purchases, I'm in
9 favor of it. Considering the fact that
10 understanding that MWBE's are small business, the
11 backbone of our great city. I have heard it from
12 Mayor Bloomberg, I heard it from many, many
13 elected officials and if, in fact, that is the
14 case, let's move forward in ensuring that small
15 businesses have greater opportunity and less time
16 to get contracts in this small amounts. I just
17 think that we as City Council must ensure and
18 maybe have reports from Marks [phonetic] regarding
19 to ensure that, in fact, it is increasing the
20 diversity for MWBE's with these small micro
21 purchases. So, with that, I say, yes. But let's
22 continue to oversight. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Letitia James?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you.

25 My name is Letitia James and I too want to join

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2 with my colleague and the Chair of this Committee
3 again in support of this piece of, this
4 resolution. Obviously, if we can increase
5 opportunities for women and minority businesses in
6 the City of New York, I fully support that. I
7 just hope that as we move forward and we study the
8 numbers and the data that the opportunities for
9 WMBE increases as a result of this legislation and
10 I look forward to renewing those numbers as we
11 move forward in the next administration. Thank
12 you, Madam Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Thank you.
14 Anyone else? I just hope that we definitely can
15 and we have them make sure that we continue to be
16 vigilant on making sure that some of the contracts
17 are not just using a WMBE, this micro purchasing,
18 to really exclude them from the big, million
19 dollars of contracting. So, without further ado,
20 and thank for all my colleagues, we will take a
21 roll call. Clerk?

22 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William,
23 excuse me, William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll
24 call vote, Committee on Contracts, Resolution
25 1739. Council Member Mealy?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you
3 and I am honored that I put in this resolution.
4 Thank you. I vote aye.

5 MR. MARTIN: Nelson?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Aye.

7 MR. MARTIN: Jackson?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I request
9 to include my name as a co sponsor of this
10 resolution and I vote aye.

11 MR. MARTIN: James?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: As a proud
13 co sponsor I vote aye.

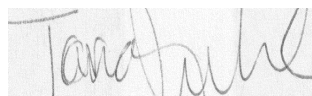
14 MR. MARTIN: By a vote of four in
15 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
16 abstentions item is adopted, Members, please sign
17 a Committee Report. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Thank you. We
19 will hold the vote open. [pause] Contract Hearing
20 is now adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl 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 rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 6/25/13