

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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October 5, 2011

Start: 10:33am

Recess: 10:40am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Helen D. Foster
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member James S. Oddo
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member James G. Van Bramer

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

N/A

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right,
3 Sergeant-at-Arms, let me know when you're ready.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Ready.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

7 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Shh, shh.

8 Mr. Niblack, could you please take your
9 conversation outside? I'd like to move [laughter]
10 Okay? Shh. Are you ready, Sergeant-at-Arms.

11 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Good
13 morning, and welcome to today's Finance Committee
14 meeting. My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., I'm
15 the Chair of this wonderful Committee, and I
16 welcome everyone here to City Hall. Today we have
17 a number of items on our agenda, but before we do
18 that, I'd like to introduce all my colleagues who
19 have joined us this morning. To my left we have
20 Council Member Al Vann, Council Member Jackson,
21 Council Member Cabrera, Council Member Joel
22 Rivera; to my right, we have Council Member
23 Julissa Ferreras, we have Council Member Diana
24 Reyna, Council Member Lewis Fidler, Council Member
25 Karen Koslowitz, and of course we have Tanisha

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2 Edwards, my attorney, and we've also been joined
3 by Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. I believe I
4 recognized everyone. First, we have one Land Use
5 item, this property which will undergo a rehab is
6 located at 243 Kensington Avenue, in Brooklyn,
7 Council Member Al Vann's district. The building
8 currently provides 80 units of housing to low
9 income seniors. Council Member Vann supports this
10 item. Our next item relates to the adopted Fiscal
11 2012 and 2011 expense budget. This Resolution
12 sets forth new designations or changes in the
13 designation of certain organizations receiving
14 local aging and youth discretionary funding, as
15 well as new designations or changes in the
16 designation of certain organizations receiving
17 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in these
18 budgets. Organizations appearing in the
19 resolutions that have not yet completed the
20 prequalification process, conducted by the Mayor's
21 Office of Contract Services, by the Council or
22 another entity, are identified in the attached
23 charts with an asterisk. Additionally, as with
24 all transparency resos, Council Members will have
25 to sign a disclosure form indicating whether or

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2 not a conflict exists with any of the groups on
3 the attached list. If any Council Member has
4 potential conflict with any organization, he or
5 she might want to disclose the conflict at the
6 time of their vote. As a reminder, Council
7 Members, that they are now required to disclose
8 any conflict they may have with proposed
9 subcontractors that are used by organizations they
10 sponsor for discretionary funding. This
11 disclosure must be made before the subcontractor
12 will be approved. Members will be contacted by
13 the Council's Ethics and Employment Counsel, Nadir
14 Joshua, to complete disclosure forms as necessary.
15 Our last piece of legislation is the Westchester
16 Square BID, Reso 959, sets forth October 17th at
17 10:00 a.m., as the date and time for a hearing on
18 this legislation, that would establish the
19 Westchester Square BID in Council Member Jimmy
20 Vacca's district. If approved, this would be the
21 City's 68th BID, the first year budget for this
22 budget for this BID is \$320,000, with about two-
23 thirds of its budget going towards marketing and
24 sanitation. Council Member Vann--Vacca, supports
25 the establishment of this BID. Members of Council

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2 Finance are available to answer any questions you
3 may have regarding the transparency resolutions.
4 Does anybody have any questions on transparency
5 resolutions? Without seeing any questions, HPD is
6 here to answer any questions you may have on the
7 Land Use item, and SBS is here to answer any
8 questions you may have on the BID. Does anyone
9 have any questions on either one of them: the HPD
10 or the BID? Without seeing no questions, I would
11 like to call a vote. But before I do that, I want
12 to recognize we've been joined by Council Member
13 Leroy Comrie. Please call the roll.

14 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
15 Clerk, roll call vote in the Committee on Finance.
16 Council Member Recchia.

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Before I
18 vote, I have a conflict that I must disclose, is
19 that there is money being given to one of my
20 daughter's schools in this, in today's
21 transparency reso, and I give money to all public
22 schools, and this is one of the schools going to
23 my daughter's school. So, I vote aye, encourage
24 all my Members to vote aye.

25 CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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CLERK: Fidler. Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

17

mic] Aye.

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CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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[pause]

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'm going

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to vote aye. I just want to note, I haven't

24

finished reading the entire transparency

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resolution. I may have to make some note later

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on, but for the moment, I'll just leave it at aye.

[pause]

CLERK: By a vote of eleven in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Members, please sign the Committee reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We're going to leave the vote open till what time?

FEMALE VOICE: 11:00.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: 11:00 o'clock. But in addition to that, I just want everyone to know that we were supposed to have a hearing tomorrow, Finance with Education; that has been deferred. Hopefully, that's going to be on the layoffs and Local 372, the school aids and family workers and kitchen help workers. That hearing will, we're trying to get it on for next week, either Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, so please keep it op--keep those dates open for a Finance, joint with Education, hearing next week, and we'll notify everyone as soon as it opens up. I recognize Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I'm sorry,

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2 Mr. Chair, I recognize that under one of the
3 transparency resolutions, Adult Literacy Services
4 Initiative, Union Settlement Association is
5 receiving funds. I need to disclose that I am an
6 advisory board member of the Union settlement. I
7 am not on the actual board, but the advisory
8 board. So I just wanted to, for the record,
9 indicate that. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Does
11 anyone else have any other conflicts? Just to
12 remind everyone, we have to put on the record,
13 when you vote today at the State Council Meeting,
14 also, any conflicts that you may have. Okay, does
15 anyone else have any more questions? [background
16 comment] Okay. Council Member Vacca got delayed
17 and he'd like for me to read this statement for
18 the record. "I fully support the creation of the
19 Business Improvement District from Westchester
20 Square. The area has seen considerable growth and
21 revelation over the past several years, and the
22 business owners and merchants in this area have
23 really worked together to bring this proposal the
24 attention it deserves. Foot traffic at shops is
25 up thanks to hard work and cooperation of the

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2 local merchants association. The benefits of the
3 BID to Westchester Square will have a tremendous
4 impact on the quality of streetscape, better
5 sidewalks, more plantings and other improvements
6 for pedestrians and motorists. These benefits
7 will only serve to further increase foot traffic
8 to the shops in Westchester Square, an area that
9 holds great potential for community revitalization
10 in The Bronx. The BID is much needed and I want
11 to thank all of the merchants and community
12 members who have worked so hard on this proposal,
13 and I thank Chairman Recchia and the Finance
14 Committee staff for their attention to this
15 important matter, as well. Sincerely, James
16 Vacca, Council Member." We've been joined by
17 Council Member Oddo, Council Member Ignizio.
18 Would you like to vote?

19 CLERK: Ignizio.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Love to.
21 Aye.

22 CLERK: Oddo.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

24 CLERK: Vote now currently stands
25 at 13 in the affirmative.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We're
3 going to keep the vote--hold on. Helen Diane
4 Foster.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye. Yes.
6 Here.

7 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: You have to
8 put in the microphone, Council Member.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Good
10 morning, yes.

11 FEMALE VOICE: Any conflicts?

12 CLERK: Vote now stands at 14 in
13 the affirmative.

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We
15 resolve this? Okay. Anybody else? I want to
16 thank Tanisha Edwards, my attorney, and everyone,
17 Tanisha Edwards is one of those selected under 40
18 from the City Hall News. [cheers] Tonight is her
19 big party at the Kitchen [applause] everybody's
20 invited. And also, want to welcome back--Judge
21 Edwards. We got to talk about that Helen Foster,
22 'cause she does live in The Bronx. [laughter]
23 Also, I want to welcome back Ralph has joined our
24 staff, Ralph stand up so everybody knows. He came
25 back to the Finance staff. [applause, cheers]

1
2 Okay. And so, okay, I got to go. [laughter]

3 This meeting is over.

4 [gavel]

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: Council Member Koppell.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

8 [background noise]

9 CLERK: Current vote on the
10 Committee on Finance is now 15 in the affirmative.

11 [pause]

12 CLERK: Council Member Brewer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

14 CLERK: Vote in the Committee on
15 Finance is now 16 in the affirmative, zero in the
16 negative, and no abstentions.

17 [pause]

18 CLERK: Council Member Mealy.

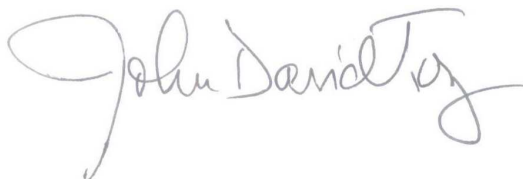
19 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye
20 on all.

21 CLERK: Final vote in the Committee
22 on Finance is now 17 in the affirmative, zero in
23 the negative and no abstentions, thank you.

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.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date October 19, 2011