

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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March 3, 2010
Start: 11:23 am
Recess: 11:29 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Erik Martin Dilan
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Margaret Chin
Daniel J. Halloran III
Albert Vann
Stephen Levin

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Good morning.

I am Council Member Erik Martin Dilan. I will be acting chairperson for today's Public Housing hearing on behalf of Council Member Mendez, who has a person situation.

Today, the committee will be voting on a Preconsidered Resolution before the committee, introduced by Council Member Stephen Levin. The Resolution calls for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to approve the New York City Housing Authority's mixed finance modernization plan which this committee heard on March 1st.

The plan would transfer and restructure ownership of 21 developments built by the State and the City of New York that would ultimately qualify the nearly 21,000 units for federal funding. President Obama's stimulus legislation, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, provides NYCHA with a one-time opportunity to federalize these units.

Currently, the 21 developments in NYCHA's portfolio do not receive federal subsidies and are expected to incur an estimated operating

1 deficit of approximately \$90 million this year
2 alone. Whatever reservations one may have about
3 this mixed-finance modernization plan must be set
4 aside to enable NYCHA to receive these federal and
5 private funds for much needed operating costs and
6 capital repairs.
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8 It is important to note that NYCHA
9 maintains control and operation of these
10 developments throughout the creation of an HDFC
11 which will achieve its longtime goal of placing
12 the 21 developments into the federal funding
13 formula. NYCHA has tried to achieve this goal in
14 past years but has been unsuccessful through court
15 action as well as other potential federal
16 legislative ideas.

17 The Chairwoman sincerely hopes that
18 NYCHA is very successful, as do I, in this very
19 ambitious endeavor. We both would like to thank
20 Chairman John Rhea and the residents for
21 advocating and for testifying on the hearing on
22 March 1st.

23 The Chairwoman would also like to
24 congratulate Council Member Levin, as do I, on
25 what she believes will be the successful passage

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2 of his first legislative item. I urge my
3 colleagues to vote in favor of this Resolution.
4 If Council Member Levin would like to make a
5 statement about this bill at this time, I'd like
6 to ask him to do so and if he could keep it brief.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you,
8 Chairman Dilan. I'll keep it very brief. I want
9 to thank you Chairman Dilan and I also want to
10 thank Chair Mendez for your support of this
11 Resolution and for your continued dedication to
12 safe and affordable housing and public housing in
13 the City of New York. I also want to thank Ben
14 Goodman and Baaba Halm for their work on this
15 Resolution.

16 I'm very proud to be sponsoring
17 this Resolution calling on the United States
18 Department of Housing and Urban Development to
19 approve the plan recently passed by the New York
20 State Legislature. I want to mention shepherded
21 through Assemblyman Vito Lopez, which is the
22 Assembly sponsor, to allow 21 city and state built
23 developments to receive federal funding.

24 This plan will help alleviate
25 NYCHA's \$149 million deficit annually by bringing

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2 about \$65 million of operating capital funds into
3 the City of New York. I agree with Chairman Dilan
4 that any reservations that may be due to the
5 mixing of financing public and private should be
6 set aside. This is a once in a lifetime
7 opportunity to get a tremendous amount of capital
8 and expense money into NYCHA.

9 I think a lot of credit is due to
10 Chairman Rhea for his creative leadership on this
11 issue. And obviously a lot of credit is due to
12 President Obama and Congress for putting through
13 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and
14 allowing a tremendous amount of burden to be
15 lifted in the City of New York.

16 It is my hope that this Resolution
17 will pass today to send a message to HUD that the
18 City of New York and the City Council of New York
19 is in support of this and this plan will help to
20 ensure that 21,000 units remain as public housing
21 for generations to come. Thank you very much, Mr.
22 Chairman.

23 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Thank you very
24 much, Council Member Levin. I'd like to ask the
25 clerk to call the roll.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk, roll calling the Committee on
4 Public Housing. Council Member Dilan?

5 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mark-Viverito?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: I
8 vote aye.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: Chin?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of three
12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
13 abstentions, item is adopted. Council Members,
14 please sign the committee report. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: We'll leave the
16 roll open for a few minutes as to allow Council
17 Member Halloran to vote. After that we will close
18 the roll.

19 [Pause]

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Halloran?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote on Public
23 Housing is now four in the affirmative, zero in
24 the negative and no abstentions.

25 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: This Committee

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on Public Housing is now adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 *Donna Hintze*

Date April 1, 2010