

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

1

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES
AND ELECTIONS

----- X

Thursday, March 10, 2022

Start: 9:50 a. m.

Recess: 9:59 a. m.

HELD AT: HYBRID HEARING - Council Chambers
- City Hall

B E F O R E: HON. KEITH POWERS, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS

JOSEPH C. BORELLI

JUSTIN L. BRANNAN

GALE BREWER

SELVENA BROOKS-POWERS

CRYSTAL HUDSON

RAFAEL SALAMANCA

PIERINA ANA SANCHEZ

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

KALMAN YEGER

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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

[N/A]

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 3

2 SERGEANT LUGO: Pc is good. Cloud is good. Can we
3 send it to the stream?

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS [UNKNOWN]: [INAUDIBLE 00:00:26]

5 SERGEANT LUGO: Good morning, everyone... (CROSS-
6 TALK)

7 SERGEANT AT ARMS [UNKNOWN]: [INAUDIBLE 00:00:28]
8 Stream.

9 SERGEANT LUGO: Good morning, everyone. Welcome
10 to today's New York City Council Hybrid Hearing of
11 the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.

12 At this time, would panelist please turn on you
13 videos?

14 UNKNOWN: [INAUDIBLE 00:00:45] good.

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS [UNKNOWN]: To minimize
16 disruptions... (CROSS-TALK)

17 UNKNOWN: [INAUDIBLE 00:00:47] Good morning,
18 everyone, stream.

19 SERGEANT AT ARMS [UNKNOWN]: please set electronic
20 devises to vibrate or silent... (CROSS-TALK)

21 UNKNOWN: Good morning everyone, welcome to
22 today's... (CROSS-TALK)

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS [UNKNOWN]: Thank you for your
24 cooperation, Chair we are ready to begin... (CROSS-
25 TALK)

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 4

2 UNKNOWN: [INAUDIBLE 00:00:55] Council Hybrid
3 Hearing of the Committee of [NO AUDIO]

4 [GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

5 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Good morning, and welcome to
6 the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections, my
7 name is Keith Powers, I am the Chair of this
8 committee.

9 Before we begin the hearing today, I would like
10 to introduce the council members who have joined us
11 presently, we have The Minority Leader Joseph
12 Borelli, Council Member Justin Brannan, Council
13 Member Gale Brewer, Council Member Chrystal Hudson,
14 Council Member Rafael Salamanca, and Pierina Sanchez.
15 And I am sure we will be joined by more shortly.

16 I would also like to acknowledge Rules Committee
17 Counsel Lance Polivy; and the staff members of the
18 council's investigative unit, Chuck Davis, and
19 investigators Alycia Vassell; Julius Caranda, and
20 [INAUDIBLE 00:01:39] Jordon.

21 Today we will be voting on two candidates for the
22 Council's Advice and Consent for the Conflicts of
23 Interest Board.

24 On March 7th, this committee considered the
25 nominations of Georgia Pestana and Ifeoma Ike for

2 appointment to the Conflicts of Interest Board. Both
3 candidates provided testimony and fielded questions
4 from council members.

5 Georgia Pestana is a resident of Manhattan and a
6 candidate for appointment by the Comptroller of the
7 Conflicts of Interest Board. If she receives advice
8 and consent of the council, she will serve a six-year
9 term that begins on April 1, 2022 and expires on
10 March 31, 2028.

11 Ifeoma Ike is a resident of Brooklyn and a
12 candidate for appointment by the Public Advocate to
13 the Conflicts of Interest Board, if she receives the
14 advice and consent of The City Council, she will
15 serve a six-year term that begins on April 1, 2022
16 and expires on March 31, 2028.

17 I want to note on the record that Miss Ike
18 submitted additional documentation following our
19 hearing regarding the potential conflicts of interest
20 that we had discussed at Monday's meeting. Those
21 materials have been distributed to all members of the
22 committee.

23 We have also been joined by Council Member Brooks
24 - Powers at this time as well.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 6

2 Before we take a vote and open the vote, do any
3 members have any questions or comments about the two
4 nominees before we open the vote?

5 We have also been joined by Council Member Yeger
6 as well, apologies.

7 Do we have any comments or questions before we
8 start?

9 UNKNOWN: [INAUDIBLE 00:3:18]

10 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Okay, we have... Seeing no
11 questions or comments, we will now ask the clerk to
12 take the roll call vote. I will also keep the vote
13 open in case other members are joining us after we
14 conclude.

15 Uh, we will now take a vote [INAUDIBLE 00:03:32]
16 the clerk.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning, William Martin,
18 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee Rules,
19 Privileges and Elections. Items are coupled.

20 Chair Powers?

21 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: I vote aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Salamanca?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAMANCA: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

25 Brannan?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye. I want to
5 just, uh, say that it has been a somewhat challenging
6 process, and... But in a sense it has brought out
7 the issues that COIB deals with, and made the... I
8 think clarified for the public, the amazing amount of
9 work that went in to this discussion from council
10 staff. And hopefully the public sees that we are
11 very serious about asking questions, getting to the
12 root of what the issues are, and trying to come up
13 with the best possible candidates for this really
14 important Conflicts of Interest Board.

15 Thank you very much.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Hudson?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Permission to explain my
18 vote?

19 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Permission granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: I echo the sentiments from
21 Council Member Brewer. And, I also want to
22 acknowledge what has transpired in the process of
23 this vote. Time and time again, Black women have to
24 jump through every hoop, bend over backwards, and do
25

2 ten cartwheels just to demonstrate that they are
3 worthy.

4 Just last week, Tucker Carlson demanded that
5 Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson show him her LSAT scores.
6 What may I ask is the difference between Fox News
7 anchors demanding an exceptional Black women show her
8 test scores and the line of questioning Miss Ike had
9 endure from some of my colleagues?

10 I am so honored to vote, yes, to nominate both
11 Ify Ike and Georgia Pestana to our Conflicts of
12 Interest Board, both women who I am confident will
13 serve on the board with distinction.

14 I vote aye.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

17 Sanchez?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: I vote aye, and I want to
19 also just thank the two candidates, uhm, Ify Ike and
20 Georgia Pestana for answering all of the questions,
21 and especially, particularly, uh, Ify Ike for all of
22 the questions that she answered with us and for
23 following up with more information.

24 Aye on all.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you

2 Brooks - Powers?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS - POWERS: Permission to
4 explain my vote?

5 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Permission granted.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS - POWERS: Uhm, also echoing
7 the sentiments from Council Member Brewer. This has
8 been a tough process, but at the same time, this what
9 the process should be. The position of COIB is a
10 prestigious role in our government, and it is an
11 agency that elected officials and staff alike look to
12 for guidance to make sure that what we do is
13 ethically appropriate. And by the definition of
14 these roles, we must hold candidates to very high
15 standards.

16 I am excited that we have two very qualified
17 candidates, uhm, that have been put up for this
18 position, that they have made themselves, uh,
19 transparent and participated in this process. I do
20 not want to associate myself in this case to make it
21 seem like a process that took place was unnecessary
22 or unwarranted. I do want to take a moment to thank
23 Miss Ifeoma for making herself available to answer
24 those questions that have come her way.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 10

2 And, with all of that being said, I vote aye for
3 both candidates. Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Borelli?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BORELLI: I vote no on all, and
6 would urge that we always give, uh, candidates the
7 same level of scrutiny, uh, both in their public
8 comments, public, uh, tweets, and, uh, their personal
9 character every time we have someone come before the
10 committee. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Very disappointing to find
12 out you are a window seat guy and not an aisle seat
13 person, but we will let it go.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of seven in the
15 affirmative, one in the negative, and no abstentions,
16 both items have been adopted by the committee...

17 (CROSS-TALK)

18 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Where is the... Can we just
19 hold the vote open? Apologies, we have the Speaker
20 coming up shortly, and I want to afford her the
21 opportunity to vote. Please keep it open, thanks.

22 [SILENCE]: [00:08:14 TO 00:9:46]

23 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Can continue the roll call
24 vote, and [INAUDIBLE 00:09:48] to invite Madam

25

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 11

2 Speaker, and if you would like to make any comments,
3 of course, as well.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Rules M-015 and M-
5 016, uh, Speaker Adams?

6 SPEAKER ADAMS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you.

8 Final vote now on Committee on Rules on M-015 and
9 M-016, they are both adopted by the committee: eight
10 in the affirmative, one in the negative, and no
11 abstentions.

12 CHAIRPERSON POWERS: Thank you, and that concludes
13 our Rules Committee Hearing today.

14 Thanks so much.

15 [GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND] [00:10:22]

16 [HEARING CLOSES AT 00:11:38]

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date April 3, 2022