

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

2019 MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD

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July 23, 2019

Start: 4:08 p.m.

Recess: 4:17 p.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough
President and Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Rosie Mendez, Director of
Community Affairs for the
Office of the Manhattan
Borough President
Diana Ayala, Council Member
Margaret Chin, Council Member
Mark Levine, Council Member
Keith Powers, Council Member
Carlina Rivera, Council Member
Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Helen Rosenthal, Council Member
Molly Hollister, Chairperson for
Community Board 6
Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chairperson
for Community Board 3

A P P E A R A N C E S

Gabby Dann-Allel, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

DIRECTOR MENDEZ: We are reconvening the recessed meeting of July 18, 2019, for a vote on the East Side Coastal Resiliency.

Madam Borough President, do you want to say something?

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Do we want to introduce ourselves first just so we have a quorum? I'm Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President.

MARK LEVINE: Mark Levine, 7th District City Council.

KEITH POWERS: Keith Powers, 4th Council District, Manhattan.

HELEN ROSENTHAL: Helen Rosenthal, District 6, Upper West Side.

MOLLY HOLLISTER: Molly Hollister, Chair Community Board 6, Manhattan.

ALYSHA LEWIS-COLEMAN: Alysha Lewis-Coleman, Chair of CB-3.

CARLINA RIVERA: Carlina Rivera, 2nd Council District.

YDANIS RODRIGUEZ: Council Member Rodriguez, District 10.

MARGARET CHIN: Council Member Margaret Chin, District 1.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Thank you, everyone. We're here, as I believe, to look at the proposed resolution that is dated July 23rd, and there may be comments or suggestions that people have. I know that the Chair of Board 6 had some, and I know that Council Member Rivera has a couple of statements. Do you want to be sure that your changes have been made?

DIRECTOR MENDEZ: The changes were made. Stephanie had already made them, but I do have one. Again, Stephanie, your office will be making this change. It's in the Further Resolve, it's "as the securing of funding for a flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction..."

I'm sorry, this would be "be it further resolved." Yes, it would be on page 7 and it's based on the CB-6 resolution so again the paragraph is being added by your office. They have this. "As the securing of funding for a flyover bridge at the pinch point and preparations for its construction..." No, it's not in the resolution. I'll read it. "are now guaranteed the protraction of its schedule which isn't set to begin until the other parts of the ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use

of the waterfront and we expect the ESCR revisit the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements" so that's been funded and we'd like to see that within your Resolution as well. Thank you.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Council Member Rivera, did you want to say anything?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I don't see Jamie Torres-Springer from the Department of Design and Construction, but I wanted to add on the record that I was disappointed recently in a Gothamist article where he was quoted as saying "in this case, we came to a conclusion that we can't deliver the project without a full closure of the park. It is very unfortunate." The reason why it's such a disappointing quote is because we are actively trying to work on the priorities of our community, and it is clear that many neighbors have come to testify for phased-in construction in addition to mitigation and in addition to a number of things so I'm unclear as to why that comment would be made on the record to a reporter and it's alarming so I'm sorry that he is not here for me to confront him, but I want to get it

on the record that I am disappointed. That is not how you enter into negotiations honestly and openly when we're all working for the same thing, and I just want to thank every single person who made it to the Borough Board today for your time and for your effort in advocating for what we hope will be a Resiliency Plan that is a model for other cities.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Thank you. Are there any other comments or are there any other ways in which we should be proceeding? Anybody else?

We've been joined by Council Member Diana Ayala. Thank you very much.

Yes, Margaret Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Borough President, even though I don't have the park, I have the part that's going into the park so I just want to make sure that during the construction project that I want to make sure that the trucks that are going into the park, they're traveling through South Street to go in, I want to make sure that the DOT works with DDC to make sure that there's no construction, there's no hazard, problem there because a lot of the community residents are still going to be utilizing Pier 35 and the esplanade so that's something that we're very

concerned about to make sure that safety is included in those areas to make sure people can cross the street safely to go to the esplanade and go to Pier 35.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Is there anyone here from DDC? Yes.

GABBY DANN-ALLEL: My name is Gabby Dann-Allel. I'm from the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. I've worked with most of your offices and both Community Boards extensively so far this year to talk about this plan and figure out these challenges ahead of us. I know the First Deputy Commissioner Jamie Torres-Springer, he's on his way back, but I just want to say in the meantime to address your comment, Council Member, that we're still evaluating the phasing as was repeatedly said to you. I'm sorry that comment was seen in the press because I know it's something that is, if not the main priority but one of the top concerns for folks, and, even if it was a misquote or taken out of context, it's something that people read through the community and are concerned to see, but I just want to reiterate from the Mayor's Office that we are seriously looking at phasing this project and if it's possible.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Thank you.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Anyone else?

All right. So we take a vote. Go ahead, Rosie, if you want to call the roll.

JAMES CARAS: Jim Caras, Special Counsel to the Manhattan Borough President for Legal Affairs and Land Use for a couple more weeks.

The Manhattan Borough Board Resolution in front of you with the one change proposed by CB-6, and that would be to add on page 7 in the "therefore be it further resolved" list of bullets, the bullet "as the securing of funding for a flyover bridge at the pinch point in preparation for its construction are now guaranteed, the protection of its schedule which isn't to begin until the other parts of the ESCR are in place is an unnecessary disruption to the use of the waterfront and we expect the ESCR to revisit the staging plan and look at ways to begin the flyover bridge construction contemporaneously with its north and south improvements" so that will be added into the final version sent over. With that, we can call the vote. Council Member Chin.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Chair of Community Board 3

Alysha Lewis-Coleman.

CHAIR LEWIS-COLEMAN: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Chair of Community Board 6

Molly Hollister.

CHAIR HOLLISTER: Aye.

JAMES CARAS: Chair of the Manhattan

Borough Board, Manhattan Borough President Gale

Brewer.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: I vote aye, and

I just throw in the caveat of a thank you to everyone

who's made this possible from the amazing hearings

that the Community Boards have held, all the work of

the Council Members, certainly of the City, and I say, having watched projects over the years, we are going to have to have the most robust oversight, community stakeholder meetings on such a regular basis like no one has ever seen because this is a huge project, maybe even bigger than the amazing work that the Council Member did and others have on rezoning. This is a huge project, and it's going to take everybody's effort to make it successful. On that, I vote aye.

DIRECTOR MENDEZ: We have 10 votes in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions. The vote passes.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT BREWER: Thank you, everyone.

DIRECTOR MENDEZ: This meeting has now ended. Thank you.

To the staff at the City Council, the Sergeants, and all of the Speaker's staff, thank you for allowing this to happen here today.

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 August 24, 2022