

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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September 12, 2024

Start: 10:45 a.m.

Recess: 10:53 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Justin L. Brannan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diana Ayala  
Gale A. Brewer  
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
David M. Carr  
Amanda Farías  
Crystal Hudson  
Farrah N. Louis  
Francisco P. Moya  
Chi A. Ossé  
Keith Powers  
Pierina Ana Sanchez  
Althea V. Stevens  
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Carmen N. De La Rosa  
Lincoln Restler

2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone  
3 check on the Committee on Finance recorded on 09-12-  
4 2004 in the Committee Room by James Marino.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and  
6 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for  
7 the Committee on Finance.

8 At this time, please silence all cell  
9 phones and electronic devices to minimize disruptions  
10 throughout the hearing.

11 We thank you for your cooperation.

12 Chair, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: [GAVEL] Okay. Good  
14 morning, and welcome to today's Finance Committee  
15 meeting. I'm Council Member Justin Brannon. I Chair  
16 the Committee on Finance. We've been joined this  
17 morning by Council Members Louis, Brooks-Powers, De  
18 La Rosa, Ayala, Sanchez, Restler, Brewer, Hudson,  
19 Carr, Williams, Ossé, and Fariás, and on Zoom by  
20 Council Members Stevens and Moya.

21 Today, the Committee will be voting on  
22 four items. A property tax exemption resolution, a  
23 transparency resolution, Intro. 898, and Intro. 906.

24 The first, the property tax exemption  
25 resolution is a new 40-year Article XI for four

2 buildings in Council Member De La Rosa's District. As  
3 part of the exemption, the buildings will enter into  
4 an HPD regulatory agreement restricting rents and  
5 setting aside 96 units for formerly homeless tenants  
6 as well as requiring completion of identified  
7 immediate and short-term repairs. HPD's Aging in  
8 Place initiative upgrades will also be implemented as  
9 part of that agreement.

10           Next, a transparency resolution, which  
11 sets forth the new designation and changes in the  
12 designation of certain organizations receiving local  
13 aging and youth discretionary funding and funding  
14 pursuant to certain initiatives in the budget. As  
15 with all transparency resolutions, Council Members  
16 will have to sign a disclosure form indicating  
17 whether or not a conflict exists with any of the  
18 groups on the attached list. If any Council Member  
19 has a potential conflict of interest with any of the  
20 organizations listed, they have the opportunity to  
21 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote. As a  
22 reminder, please disclose any conflicts you may have  
23 with proposed subcontractors used by organizations  
24 sponsored by discretionary funding. These disclosures  
25 must be made before the subcontractor can be

2 approved. Disclosure forms must be completed and  
3 submitted prior to the vote on the transparency  
4 resolution and may be emailed to Everton Smith, who  
5 is also present with us in the chamber today.

6           Finally, both Intros on the agenda relate  
7 to business improvement districts. Intro. 898,  
8 sponsored by Council Member Nurse, would establish  
9 the Cypress Hills Fulton Business Improvement  
10 District with a proposed first year budget of 400,000  
11 dollars, and Intro. 906, sponsored by Council Member  
12 Won, would expand the boundaries of the existing  
13 Queens Plaza Court Square Business Improvement  
14 District to incorporate two sub-districts and rename  
15 the expanded bid to the Long Island City Business  
16 Improvement District. The expanded bid would have a  
17 proposed first year budget of 2,058,978 dollars. Both  
18 bills were heard on June 20th, after which they were  
19 laid aside for the required 30-day period to allow  
20 for any property owner in the proposed extended area  
21 to object the bill with the City Clerk.

22           We've been joined by representatives from  
23 the Department of Small Business Services who will  
24 testify on the objection period. I'll now turn the  
25

2 Committee Counsel to swear them in for their brief  
3 testimony.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL TWOMEY: Good morning.  
5 Raise your right hand, please.

6 Do you affirm to tell the truth, the  
7 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and to  
8 respond honestly to Council Member questions? Calvin  
9 Brown.

10 CALVIN BROWN: I do.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL TWOMEY: Thank you. You  
12 may begin.

13 CALVIN BROWN: Good morning, Chair Brannan  
14 and Members of the Finance Committee. I'm Calvin  
15 Brown, the Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood  
16 Development at the Department of Small Business  
17 Services.

18 Today, we would like to report on a  
19 result of the objections filed with the City Clerk  
20 against the establishment of the proposed Cypress  
21 Hills Business Improvement District and the expansion  
22 for the Long Island City bid. As required by law,  
23 Cypress Hills Fulton Street Steering Committee and  
24 the Long Island City Expansion Steering Committees  
25 mailed the summary of the City Council Resolution to

2 the following parties: To each of the owners of real  
3 property within the proposed district at the address  
4 shown on the latest City assessment roll; to such  
5 other persons as are registered with the City to  
6 receive tax bills concerning real property within a  
7 district; and to tenants of each building within the  
8 proposed district, and arrange publication of a copy  
9 of the resolution at least once in a local newspaper.

10 At the conclusion of the objection period  
11 at 5 p.m. on July 22nd, 2024, and taken into  
12 consideration any objections postmarked by that date,  
13 one valid objection representing less than 1 percent  
14 of the total assessed value of each proposed district  
15 was filed with the City Clerk for properties in the  
16 district. This level of objection is within our  
17 acceptable threshold needed to advance the bill for a  
18 favorable consideration by the full City Council.

19 The Department of Small Business Services  
20 supports the establishment of the proposed Cypress  
21 Hills Fulton Street bid and the expansion of the Long  
22 Island City bid. In our judgment, efforts will  
23 improve the quality of life and the business  
24 conditions in Cypress Hills as well as the Long  
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2 Island City neighborhoods. At this time, I will take  
3 any questions.

4 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Any questions from  
5 my Colleagues? Commissioner, thank you very much.

6 CALVIN BROWN: Thanks.

7 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay, I'll now ask  
8 Billy Martin, Committee Clerk, to call the roll.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
10 you. Good morning. All items are coupled. Roll call  
11 vote, Committee on Finance. Chair Brannan.

12 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye. Thank  
17 you, sir. Powers.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-  
22 Powers.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

5 Hudson.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

14 you. Williams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

17 Salaam. Carr.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: I'd like to disclose

19 on the record of these proceedings that the

20 transparency resolution we're voting on today

21 contains funding for the Jewish Community Center of

22 Staten Island, and I'm a member of that organization,

23 and I vote aye on all.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a

25 vote of 14 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,



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2 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by  
3 the Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay. With that,  
5 this Committee meeting is adjourned. Thank you,  
6 everybody. [GAVEL]

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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 September 13, 2024