1		COMMITTEE ON FINANCE	1
2	CITY COUNCIL CITY OF NEW YO	ND W	
3		X	
4			
5	TRANSCRIPT OF	THE MINUTES	
6	Of t	the	
	COMMITTEE ON F	'INANCE	
7		November 28, 2018	
8		Start: 10:08 a.m.	
9		Recess: 10:33 a.m.	
10	HELD AT:	Committee Room - City Hall	
11	BEFORE:	DANIEL DROMM	
12		Chairperson	
13	COUNCIL MEMBE	ERS: ADRIENNE E. ADAMS	
		ANDREW COHEN	
14		ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR. LAURIE A. CUMBO	
15		VANESSA L. GIBSON BARRY S. GRODENCHIK	
16		RORY I. LANCMAN	
17		STEVE MATTEO FRANCISCO P. MOYA	
18		KEITH POWERS	
		HELEN K. ROSENTHAL JAMES G. VAN BRAMER	
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 2
2	APPEARANCES (CONTINUED)
3	Michael Blaise Backer
4	Deputy Commissioner of Neighborhood Development At the New York City Department of Small
5	Business Services, SBS
6	Steve Kaufman Former President of the Throggs Neck Merchants
7	Association, Legal Counsel
8	Bob Jaen President of the Throggs Neck Merchants
9	Association
LO	Ellen Baer President of the Hudson Square Business
L1	Improvement District
L2	Jill Salayi Co-Chair of the Hudson Square Business
L3 L4	Improvement District Expansion Steering Committee, General Manager at Workman Publishing
L4 L5	
L 6	
L 7	
L8	
L 9	
20	
21	
22	
23	
2.4	

2 [gavel]

3	CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, good morning
4	and welcome to today's Finance Committee meeting. My
5	name is Council Member Daniel Dromm and I'm the Chair
6	of this committee. I hope everyone had an enjoyable
7	thanksgiving. We have been joined today by Council
8	Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member Adrienne
9	Adams, Council Member Keith Powers, Council Member
10	Steve Matteo, and Council Member Francisco Moya and
11	we're hoping the other Council Members will join us
12	shortly but we're going to go directly into the
13	hearing and hear testimony as well. Today we have
14	three items on the agenda; an Article XI property tax
15	exemption and two BID items. Let's start with the
16	Land Use Item, which is 451 to 455 East 116 th Street
17	in Manhattan, Council Member Ayala's district in
18	Manhattan. The property will receive a partial 40-
19	year property tax exemption to preserve 53 units of
20	affordable housing under the city's HDFC program.
21	Council Member Ayala is supportive of the project.
22	Next, we'll hold a public hearing on the two BID
23	items, Intro 1226 and Intro 1227. Intro 1226 relates
24	to the establishment of the Throggs Neck business
25	improvement district in Council Member Gionai's

2	district. On November 14 th , this Committee voted out
3	voted on Resolution 615 to set today as the hearing
4	date to hear from individuals who may be affected by
5	the proposed establishment of the BID. The proposed
6	Throggs Neck BID is located in, in, in the in the
7	southeast portion of the borough of the Bronx in the
8	neighborhood of Throggs Neck and in Bronx Community
9	Board ten. The proposed district extends along both
10	sides of the East Tremont Avenue from Bruckner
11	Boulevard to Miles Avenue. The proposed district is a
12	low-density residential area of 180 properties with
13	substantial commercial overlay. The BID project the,
14	the BID projects a first-year budget of 340,000
15	dollars in which it proposes to offer such things as
16	maintenance and sanitation services, marketing and
17	retail attraction services and administration and
18	advocacy, advocacy services. Council Member Gjonaj
19	supports the establishment of the proposed Throggs
20	Neck BID. Intro 1227 relates to the Hudson Square BID
21	in Speaker Johnson's district. On November 14 th , this
22	Committee voted on Resolution 616 to set today as the
23	hearing date to hear from individuals who may be
24	affected by the proposed changes to the BID. The
25	Hudson Square BID was first established in 2008

2	primarily to address issues presented by the areas
3	increased commercial and residential popularity with
4	its proximity to the Holland Tunnel. In October 2013,
5	the district plan was amended for the establishment
6	of the special Hudson Square zoning district to
7	create a new assessment class for residential
8	properties developed under the new special zoning
9	district. The BID is currently requesting for council
10	to approve the following changes to the district
11	plan: one, an extension of the BID boundaries further
12	west along Canal Street to West Street and further
13	North from West Houston to Clarkson Street and two, a
14	1,400,000 dollar increase in its annual assessment
15	from 2,500,000 to 3,900,000. Speaker Johnson supports
16	the proposed extension and other changes to the BID.
17	For both BID items we'll first hear from any
18	witnesses to who wish to testify. Once we have heard
19	any testimony, we will then adjourn the hearing for
20	at least 30 days to allow any property owner within
21	the proposed area of the BID to file an objection to
22	the establishment or extension of the BID with the
23	City Clerk. In the absence of object of, of
24	objections filed either by the majority of all of the
25	 impacted property owners or by property owners owning

2	a majority of the assessed value of the property
3	within the proposed BID, the Committee and the full
4	Council may adopt from legislation establishing that
5	Throggs Neck BID in expanding the Hudson Square BID
6	respectively. In order to do so, the Committee and
7	the full Council must be prepared to answer the
8	following four questions in the affirmative: one,
9	were all notices of hearings for all hearings
10	required to be held, published and mailed as so
11	required; two, does all the real property within the
12	district's boundaries benefit from the establishment
13	or expansion of the district except as otherwise
14	provided by the law; is all real property three, is
15	all real property benefited by the district included
16	within the district and four, is the establishment or
17	expansion of the district in the best interest of the
18	public. If the Committee and the full Council find in
19	the affirmative on these four questions and the
20	number of objections required to prevent the
21	establishment or expansion of the BIDs are not filed,
22	then the legislation can be adopted. Additionally,
23	for the Hudson Square BID, the Committee and the full
24	Council must determine that it is in the public
25	interest to authorize an increase in the maximum

2.2

annual expenditure amount that the relevant tax and
debt limits will not be exceeded and that notice of
the proposed of the increase proposed expenditure
amount was properly published. For further details on
the two BIDs please refer to the Committee Reports,
the City Planning Commissioner Reports and the BIDs
proposed district plans. Representatives from the
Department of Small Business Services are here to
provide testimony on the two BID items; SBS please
come up and my Counsel will, will swear you in.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Do you affirm that your testimony will be truthful to the best of your knowledge, information and belief?

MICHAEL BLAISE BACKER: I do.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Thank you, you may proceed.

MICHAEL BLAISE BACKER: Good morning

Chair Dromm and members of the Finance Committee.

I am Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner

of... for Neighborhood Development, Department of

Small Business Services. I'm joined by BID

Program Director, Roxanne Earley and our Senior

Program Manager for BID Development, LeMel

Lindsey. We are here to testify in support of the

2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
0	
1	
2	
3	
4	
	11

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

1

2

2

2.5

proposed Throggs Neck business improvement district. At SBS we are working hard to open doors for New Yorkers across the five boroughs focusing on creating stronger businesses, connecting New Yorkers to good jobs and fostering thriving neighborhoods. We believe that the vitality of the city's commercial corridors is a key part of achieving this goal and BIDs have been valuable and proven partners in revitalization and economic development efforts across the five... all five boroughs. In addition to our role overseeing and supporting the city's existing network of 75 BIDs, SBS also supervises the BID formation and expansion process, serving as an advisor and resource for communities interested in developing or expanding BIDs. Every year SBS works with numerous communities throughout the five boroughs and are in various stages of BID formation or expansion. Throughout the process we are careful to ensure that each steering committee we work with adheres to our planning policies and procedures, solicits robust community input and performs extensive outreach to collect and demonstrate broad based support

	1
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

across all stakeholder groups. Moreover, we are cognizant of the unique nature of each community we assist and aim to empower local stakeholders to make determinations on proposed services, boundaries, and budget size that best suit their community's needs and their appetite and ability to pay assessments. While we always impart strong planning principles and share our data and best practices from across the BID network when working with any community, BID formation is fundamentally a community driven process and we recognize that the power and effectiveness of BIDs rests in the unmatched understanding of local needs and issues. Similar to other recent BID formations that SBS has overseen, the Throggs Neck BID formation effort involved numerous meetings and consultations with local stakeholders throughout the planning and outreach phases. After an extensive outreach effort and close coordination with all key parties, SBS determined that the documented support among all stakeholder groups, including over 50 percent of the area's total assessed value providing written support in favor, was sufficient to submit the

application to the legislative process. As
required by law, the Throggs Neck Steering
Committee mailed the summary of the City Council
Resolution no less than ten days and no more than
30 days before today's hearing to the following
parties: to each owner of real property within
the proposed district at the address shown on the
latest city assessment roll; to such persons as
are registered with the city to receive tax bills
concerning real property within the district; and
to tenants of each building within the proposed
district. Furthermore, SBS arranged for the
publication of a copy of the summary of the
resolution at least once in the city record.
Additionally, I would like to acknowledge and
thank Council Member Mark Gjonaj for his ongoing
support of the Throggs Neck BID formation effort.
Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that
representatives of the BID formation effort are
here today to testify and address any specific
questions that I am unable to answer. At this
time, I am happy to take any questions.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

2.1

2.2

23

24

25

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Are there any questions? Seeing none I thank you very much for coming in and for giving testimony.

MICHAEL BLAISE BACKER: And I thank you.

I'm going to I think the second testimony now if that's easier for you all.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Alright.

MICHAEL BLAISE BACKER: I will... you have a full copy of my testimony, I'll probably skip the first three or four paragraphs since they are very similar but again, I'm, I'm Michael Blaise Backer, Deputy Commissioner for Neighborhood Development and I'm here also to testify in support of the expansion of the Hudson Square Business Improvement District. Similar to other recent BID expansions that SBS is overseeing, the Hudson Square expansion effort involved numerous meetings and consultations with local stakeholders throughout the planning and outreach phases. Additionally, the Steering Committee organized many community sessions, held informative public displays, and distributed various supplemental material to inform the community. After extensive outreach in close

coordination with all key stakeholders, SBS
determined that the documented support among all
stakeholder groups including over 50 percent of
the area's total assessed value signing in favor
was sufficient to submit the application into the
legislative process. As required by law, the
Hudson Square expansion steering committee mailed
the summary of the City Council Resolution no
less than ten days and no more than 30 days
before today's haring to the following parties:
to each owner of real property within the
proposed district at the address shown on the
latest city assessment roll; to such persons as
are registered with the city to receive tax bills
concerning real property within the district and
to tenants of each building within the proposed
district. Furthermore, SBS arranged for the
publication of a copy of the summary of the
Resolution at least once in the city record.
Additionally, I would like to acknowledge and
thank Speaker Cory Johnson and Council Member
Margaret Chin for their ongoing support of the
Hudson Square BID expansion effort. Lastly, I
would like to acknowledge that the BID expansion

2.1

2.2

effort is also represented here today by the president of the Hudson Square BID and members of the expansion steering committee who will also be providing testimony. Thank you and I'm happy to take any questions.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, any questions?

Alright, thank you very much for coming in and

for giving... [cross-talk]

MICHAEL BLAISE BACKER: Thank you very much... [cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: ...testimony and now

I'd like to call up our next panel. Uh-huh. Okay,

so I'm going to call up a former colleague of

ours, Steve Kaufman from Throggs Neck BID and Bob

Jaen, I hope I pronounced that correctly also

from the Throggs Neck BID, BID. (1002)

STEVE KAUFMAN: Oh, I got to start all over. Do I have to mention prehistoric times, okay? I want to thank you all for giving us a hearing to establish a BID in the Throggs Neck area of the Bronx. As the former President of the Throggs Neck Merchants Association and now legal counsel, I'm proud to work with such an incredible Merchants Association. Unfortunately,

over the years it has become apparent the
negative impact the Tremont commercial corridor,
within Throggs Neck area, has been surrounded by
malls, chain stores, and the Hutch Metro Center
which houses many medical centers, city agencies,
offices and offices. Vacancies abound on Tremont
Avenue. The merchants voluntarily undertook the
Herculean effort to establish a BID in the
Tremont area stretching from Miles Avenue in the
south to Bruckner Boulevard in the north.
Numerous public meetings were held, mailings were
sent, door to door solicitation by the members
were done, surveys were undertaken, articles and
advertisements were placed in the local
newspapers. After many discussions, reason
prevailed and the merchants knowing that they
would be assessed 38 dollars a linear foot voted
overwhelmingly, 144 to 28 for a BID. The owners
similarly voted to accept the BID by an assessed
valuation of 27,800,000 dollars to 8,800,000
dollars in the negative. We ask for your support
today for our survival as a vibrant community
corridor and a wonderful middle-class area is
dependent on it. the merchants who will

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

2.1

2.2

23

24

25

eventually foot the bill overwhelmingly supported the BID. Many feel that without the BID, the united advocacy for the merchants and owners and the enhancements that it brings will be faced in a precarious position, with the BID, there will be a renaissance. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much, next please.

BOB JAEN: Good morning Council Chair and fellow Council Members. My name is Bob Jaen and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the proposed Throggs Neck Improvement District in the Bronx. As the President... as the recent President of the Throggs Neck Merchants Association I can truly say that we are blessed to have a great Merchants Association. Several years ago, the members in the Merchants Association were both saddened and frustrated to see the Tremont commercial corridor within Throggs Neck neighborhood surrounded by the development of big chains such as Target and Co-op City, one of the largest indoor malls in the country, nearby. In response to these changes, the Throggs Neck Merchants formed a

steering committee in 2014 and proposed to
establish the BID along East Tremont from
Bruckner Boulevard to the Northern part of, of
Miles Avenue South. Over the past few years, the
Throggs Neck Steering Committee, in coordination
with, with the New York City Small Business
Services has worked diligently through the BID
formation process. Throughout this process, the
steering committee held numerous public meetings,
distributed surveys identifying local challenges,
sent ballots to every stakeholder in the
district, published notifications in several
local newspapers and engaged stakeholders in
person. As a result of our efforts, efforts the
Throggs Neck BID formation effort received
support from over 50 percent of the area's total
assessed value. On behalf of the Throggs Neck
Steering Committee, we ask for your support today
so that the Throggs Neck can continue to be a
vibrant commercial corridor. Many folks in our
community, including the overwhelming support
from merchants, feel that a BID and its ability
to enhance our community and advocate on our
behalf is necessary for our success. Thank you.

2.2

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much.

Are there any questions? Okay, thank you to this

panel for coming in, good to see you all and good

luck with your work.

BOB JAEN: Thank you.

STEVE KAUFMAN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay and before I call up the next panel let me just say we've been joined by Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Council Member Andy Cohen, Council Member Barry

Grodenchik and Council Member and Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo. Our next panel is Jill Salayi, I hope I said that right from the Hudson Square BID and Ellen Baer from the Hudson Square BID as well.

ELLEN BAER: Good morning Mr. Chair and Finance Committee members. I'm Ellen Baer, President of the Hudson Square Business
Improvement District. Formed in 2009, our BID has been successfully transforming the public realm in Hudson Square, known to many of you as the former printing district, now a major media and technology hub, into a place for people, not just cars and trucks bound for the Holland Tunnel. One

of very few BIDs that does not provide
supplementary sanitation services, our focus has
been on pedestrian safety services, through our
signature pedestrian safety manager program and
the implementation of our 27-million-dollar
public, private partnership with the city, Hudson
Square is now. With help of our Council member,
Speaker Cory Johnson, to date, we have planted or
retrofitted 250 trees using an award winning
innovation in green infrastructure, have
completed a five million dollar renovation of the
new Spring Street Park on Sixth Avenue and are
beginning construction of a protected bike lane
with a widened sidewalk with new greening,
seating and lighting along Hudson Street from
Canal to Houston. The BID and the city each
contribute 50 percent of capital expenditures to
Hudson Square Is, Is Now and there are no
attendant expense budget costs for the city. The
original boundaries of the BID complement what
would eventually become the Hudson Square Special
District. It has become abundantly clear that the
existing BID boundaries do not match the
physical, economic, or environmental boundaries

of the neighborhood. Throughout the first nine
years of the BID, we've consistently heard from
business, businesses just outside our boundaries,
asking for the amenities and services available
to BID members. Recent re-zonings such as 550
Washington have created an opportunity to better
tie together the neighborhood and improve
physical connections to surrounding neighborhoods
and open spaces. In July 2016, we convened a
steering committee representing the variety of
commercial stakeholders in both the existing BID
and potential expansion area, to explore this
issue of better aligning BID and neighborhood
boundaries. For the past two years, the steering
committee, in coordination with the New York City
Department of Small Business Services has been
leading an expansion process that has involved
extensive community outreach. Building on the
city's outreach template, we have held local
visioning sessions, installed interactive
displays in public areas, and designed engaging
mailer materials to get extensive feedback about
the needs of the expansion to area stakeholders.
Based on that feedback, the steering committee is

proposing a plan with the following key
components: expansion of the current BID
boundaries beyond the Hudson Square Special
District to encompass the entire neighborhood
including major gateways on the north, south and
west. Services consistent with those offered by
the BID; pedestrian safety management,
streetscape planning and design, retail and
marketing, advocacy, and maintenance of
improvements we install. To cover these
additional services, the steering committee has
proposed an increase to our annual budget from
2.5 million to 3.2 million initially over the
with the ability to increase the budget to 3.9
million dollars over time. Increases above the
initial 3.2 million dollars would require our
board's approval. The Hudson Square BID expansion
steering committee and our many engaged
stakeholders look forward to advancing, advancing
the BID expansion in the coming months and to the
opportunity to serve the entire Hudson Square
neighborhood. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you.

2.1

2.2

JILL SALAYI: Good morning Mr. Chair and
Jinance Committee... [cross-talk]

 $\label{eq:CHAIRPERSON DROMM: You have to turn} % \begin{center} \begin{center}$

JILL SALAYI: Is it on?

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: No, you just need to push the button and a little red light will come on.

JILL SALAYI: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

JILL SALAYI: So, good morning Mr. Chair and Finance Committee members. My name is Jill Salayi and I'm the Co-Chair of the Hudson Square Business Improvement District Expansion Steering Committee. I am also the General Manager at Workman Publishing, an independently owned family of publishers with 225 employees working out of our offices at 225 Varick Street, located in the BID expansion area. Workman's been at the Varick Street location for almost 14 years and I have personally witnessed the dramatic transformation of the neighborhood, particularly the results of the BID's efforts directly to our south along Varick Street. I am proud to have Co-Chaired the

expansion steering committee over the past two
years and to be presenting our proposed BID
expansion on behalf of the committee. Our
steering committee has represented divers'
viewpoints of the neighborhood and engaged in
thoughtful consideration of the neighborhood's
identity and expansion area stakeholder's needs
at every step of the way. Beyond my role on the
Steering Committee, I feel personally that the
BID expansion is critical for bringing about the
kind of positive neighborhood change that our
company and its employees need. The intersection
of Varick and Clarkson Streets, situated at the
northeast corner of our building, poses a
significant pedestrian, pedestrian safety
challenge for our employees. On a typical day,
during the evening commute hours, Holland Tunnel
bound and local cross-town traffic become tangled
in this poorly designed intersection, blocking
crosswalks and pitting aggravated drivers against
pedestrians trying to safely reach local transit
destinations such as the west Fourth Street
subway station. On more than one occasion,
employees have reported to me in tears about

nearly being struck by a vehicle. It is critical
that steps be taken to improve this situation and
I believe that the BID's Pedestrian Safety
Manager Program and proposed design changes to
the Varick-Clarkson intersection will go a long
way toward creating a safer environment for our
people. In today's competitive environment,
workplace quality of life is a key component in
attracting and retaining a talented workforce,
and in a city like New York, workplace quality is
driven very much by the quality of the
surrounding streets, sidewalks and open spaces.
The BID has done a great job in humanizing the
street level experience on the blocks just south
of us, with all of the greening and seating that
has been added under the BID's streetscape
program. Many of our employees have passionately
voiced their desire for those sidewalk amenities
on our block, which currently exists as a barren
slab of space only adding to the overwhelming
feeling of the adjacent traffic. Additionally,
improved connections to Hudson River Park are
badly needed, as our neighborhood is underserved
by open space, which plays an important role in

2.1

2.2

the health and wellness of our employees. Hudson River Park, a first-class open space, is located just a quarter mile from our office, but the uninviting and sometimes unsafe conditions of the connecting pedestrian corridor on Houston Street serve as a major deterrent to accessing the park. The potential for re-making this corridor into a pedestrian friendly corridor promises to unlock the incredible value of the Hudson River park for our employees, and to that end, we would greatly benefit from the BIDs streetscape services. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much, are there any questions? Okay and thank you very much and we thank, thank you for coming in and giving testimony today. Alright, before I ask Billy Martin, the Committee Clerk to call the roll I'd like to remind my finance colleagues that we'll be holding a joint hearing tomorrow morning at ten a.m. in chambers with the Committee on Civil Service and Labor on the Health Care Saving Agreement that was signed as part of the recent Labor Contract Settlements.

2	And with that I'm going to ask our Clerk, Billy
3	Martin to call the roll.
4	COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,
5	Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on
6	Finance LU 264, Chair Dromm?
7	CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.
8	COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cohen?
9	COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Permission to
10	explain my vote?
11	CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.
12	COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Just one second,
13	I did see our colleague Council Member Gjonaj
14	this morning and he just asked me to express his
15	appreciation for all of the hard work that went
16	into getting the new Throggs Neck BID to this
17	point and wanted to encourage all of his
18	colleagues to vote aye. So, because he encouraged
19	me, I'm going to vote aye on all. Thanks.
20	COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cumbo?
21	COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.
22	COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rosenthal?
23	COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] I
24	vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer?

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 1 2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: [off mic] 3 Aye. COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Grodenchik? 4 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: [off mic] I 5 6 vote aye. 7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams? 8 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye. 9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Moya? 10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: [off mic] A 11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Powers? 12 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye. COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo? 13 14 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] Yes. 15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of 16 ten in the affirmative, zero in the negative and 17 no abstentions the Item has been adopted by the 18 Committee. 19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, I want to 20 thank everybody for coming and with that this 21 hearing is adjourned at, at 10, 10:50 in the 2.2 morning. Yep. 23 [gavel]

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

December 15, 2018