

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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March 28, 2019  
Start: 10:27 A.M.  
Recess: 10:59 A.M.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Andrew Cohen  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Keith Powers  
Francisco Moya  
Adrienne Adams  
Barry Grodenchik  
Steve Matteo  
Laurie Cumbo  
Robert Cornegy  
Vanessa Gibson  
Rory Lancman

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

Felice Rosner, Resident  
368 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan

2 Sergeant-at-Arms: Test, test, this is a  
3 test. Today's date is March 28, 2019. This is the  
4 Committee hearing on Finance being recorded by  
5 Sergeant-at-Arms, Evan [phonetic] Lopez.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [gavel] Okay, good  
7 morning and welcome to today's Finance Committee  
8 meeting. My name is Council Member Daniel Dromm and  
9 I'm the Chair of the Committee. We've been joined by  
10 Council Member Andy Cohen, Council Member Jimmy Van  
11 Bramer, Council Member Keith Powers, Council Member  
12 Francisco Moya, Council Member Adrienne Adams,  
13 Council Member Barry Grodenchik and Council Member  
14 Steve Matteo. Today the Committee will be voting on  
15 seven items, an expense budget modification, a  
16 revenue budget modification, two resolutions to  
17 approve the Council's fiscal 2020 operating budget, a  
18 transparency resolution and two Article 11 property  
19 tax exemptions. Let's start with the budget  
20 modifications. The first modification is an expense  
21 budget modification that represents movements of  
22 approximately \$1.8 billion of funding between and  
23 within City agencies to implement expense budget  
24 changes which were reflected in the February 2019  
25 financial plan. The second is a revenue budget

2 modification that recognizes \$868.5 million in new  
3 revenues and combines \$400 million of prior year  
4 payables and \$1.4 million from the general reserve  
5 implementing changes reflected in the February 2019  
6 financial plan. Of these funds the total amount of  
7 \$2.65 billion is added to the budget stabilization  
8 account which will prepay debt service for fiscal  
9 2020. The third and fourth items are the Council's  
10 fiscal '20 operating budget which totals \$87.6  
11 million. This is divided into \$65.3 million for  
12 personnel services and \$22.3 million for other than  
13 personnel services. The next is the transparency  
14 resolution which sets forth the new designation and  
15 changes in the designation of certain organizations  
16 receiving local and youth discretionary funding and  
17 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the  
18 budget. Organizations appearing in the resolution  
19 that have not yet completed the prequalification  
20 process conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contract  
21 Services, the Council or another entity are  
22 identified in the attached charts with an asterisk.  
23 As with all transparency resolutions, Council Members  
24 will have to sign a disclosure form indicating  
25 whether or not a conflict exists with any of the

2 groups on the attached list. If any Council Member  
3 has a potential conflict of interest with any of the  
4 organizations listed, he or she has the opportunity  
5 to disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.  
6 As a reminder, please disclose any conflicts you may  
7 have with proposed subcontractors used by  
8 organizations sponsored by discretionary funding.  
9 These disclosures must be made before the  
10 subcontractor can be approved. Benjamin Smith from  
11 the general counsel's office is here and can assist  
12 you with any questions or concerns regarding  
13 disclosures. Lastly, we have the two Article 11  
14 exemptions. The first is 369 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in  
15 Council Member Rivera's district in Manhattan which  
16 would receive a full 32 year exemption to preserve 29  
17 units of affordable housing. The second is Glendale  
18 Apartments in Council Member Holden's district in  
19 Queens which would receive a partial 40 year  
20 exemption to preserve 72 units of affordable housing  
21 and we do have somebody who wants to speak before we  
22 vote. That is Felice Rosner and I want to welcome  
23 her and ask her to come up to the witness table and  
24 to speak.

2                   FELICE ROSNER: Good morning everyone.

3 I'm a resident at 368 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan and

4 I'd like to read a letter that we've prepared to

5 present to you. Dear Chairman Dromm, we understand

6 that our request for an Article 11 exemption is on

7 the Finance Committee's calendar for this Thursday as

8 File number T2019-4022. We, the Board members and

9 tenants of 368 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street HDFC request the support

10 of the New York City Council towards our Article 11

11 property tax exemption application which has been

12 submitted and is pending the Council's approval. Our

13 Council Woman, Carlina Rivera, supports our request

14 as we have shown her that we are reliable,

15 responsible and trustworthy in our commitment to

16 preserving our building as an affordable housing

17 resource as we have for 40 years. Our building's

18 members reflect the diversity of the lower east side

19 in age, race, creed and sexual orientation. There

20 are owner members who have grown up in our building

21 and have lived their entire lives here. Our building

22 was a force for stability during decades of neglect

23 and crime in our neighborhood. HPD is also

24 supporting our request for an Article 11 property tax

25 exemption. We have worked closely with this agency

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2 to apply for a green housing preservation program,  
3 GHPP, loan for the building's rehabilitation and will  
4 be signing a new regulatory agreement upon closing.  
5 We appreciate your consideration to this matter and  
6 look forward to your support and approval. Thank  
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much.  
9 We have your testimony here written as well and we're  
10 gonna have that on file. I thank you for coming in  
11 to give testimony. All right, are there any  
12 questions from Council Members? We've been joined by  
13 two other Council Members, our Majority Leader,  
14 Laurie Cumbo and Council Member Robert Cornegy. Okay  
15 and with that I'm gonna ask Billy Martin, the  
16 committee clerk to call the roll.

17 CLERK: William Martin, committee clerk,  
18 rollcall vote, Committee on Finance. All items are  
19 coupled. Chair Dromm?

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Cohen?

22 COUNSEL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

23 CLERK: Cornegy?

24 COUNSEL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

25 CLERK: Cumbo?

2 COUNSEL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

3 CLERK: Van Bramer?

4 COUNSEL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

5 CLERK: Grodenchik?

6 COUNSEL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye but I do  
7 want to say that I am disappointed even though I love  
8 the people that work at the Department of Sanitation  
9 that we have to dip in a relatively snowless winter,  
10 they were spreading salt around like, I don't know  
11 what it was like. It was like something that didn't  
12 cost anything and I am gonna vote for this but I hope  
13 that in the future, the other side of City Hall will  
14 be a little more careful when they send people out.  
15 It's also an environmental hazard as well as spread  
16 all that salt when it doesn't snow so thank you.

17 CLERK: Adams?

18 COUNSEL MEMBER ADAMS: Agreeing with my  
19 colleague, Council Member Grodenchik, I vote aye.

20 CLERK: Moya?

21 COUNSEL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: Powers?

23 COUNSEL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

24 CLERK: Matteo?

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2 COUNSEL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm voting no on  
3 MN3 and no on the transparency resolution, aye on the  
4 rest.

5 CLERK: A vote of 10 in the affirmative,  
6 0 in the negative and no abstentions, all items are  
7 adopted with the exceptions of the preconsidered  
8 resolution transparency and preconsidered MN3 have  
9 been adopted by a vote of 9 in the affirmative, 1 in  
10 the negative and no abstentions.

11 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay and with that,  
12 we'll hold the vote open for another 10 minutes.  
13 Thank you everybody for coming in.

14 [Pause]

15 CLERK: Continuation rollcall, Committee  
16 on Finance, Council Member Gibson?

17 COUNSEL MEMBER GIBSON: I vote aye.

18 [Pause]

19 CLERK: Continuation rollcall, Committee  
20 on Finance, Council Member Lancman?

21 COUNSEL MEMBER LANCMAN: Aye.

22 CLERK: All items in today's Finance  
23 agenda have been adopted by a vote of 12 in the  
24 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions  
25 with preconsidered resolution in regards to

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2 transparency and the preconsidered budget mod. MN3  
3 have been adopted by the Committee 11 in the  
4 affirmative, 1 in the negative and no abstentions.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay, thank you very  
6 much and with that this meeting is adjourned at 11  
7 a.m. [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 April 30, 2019