

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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April 4, 2019

Start: 1:45 p.m.

Recess: 1:49 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - 15th Fl.

B E F O R E: STEVEN MATTEO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Margaret S. Chin
Vanessa L. Gibson
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen T. Levin

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

[sound check] [pause]

(Continuation of Recessed Meeting of
March 22, 2019)

CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: [gavel] Good
afternoon, everyone. I'm Steve Matteo. I'm Chair of
the Standards and Ethics Committee. I want to thank
you all for your patience today. I want to start off
by saying we're joined by Council Members Levin,
Koslowitz and Chin. Council Member Gibson was with
us throughout the morning. I want to thank committee
staff for their professionalism, and I'm going to
read for the record a summary Executive Session now.
In Executive Session, the Committee continued its
review of two open matters. The Committee dismissed
one of the matters and will take no further action on
it. This matter involved allegations that a Council
Member violated the city's Conflict or Interest Laws
by insinuating that a staff member should participate
in political activities. After investigating the
claims, the Committee found that the factual
allegations were unsubstantiated. Members of the
Committee are bound by a confidentiality agreement
not to discuss that matter further. The committee
also reviewed an open matter regarding alleged

violation of Council Rule 10.80 by Council Member Barry Grodenchik. Upon reviewing the Report of Preliminary Inquiry, and after hearing testimony today from Council Member Grodenchik, the committee decided to initiate formal disciplinary proceedings against Member Grodenchik concerning allegations that the Council Member violated the Anti-Discrimination and Harassment Policy. More specifically, that over the course of approximately one year Council Member Grodenchik paid unwelcomed attention to a Council staffer including the following: Engaging in dialogue about the staffer's weight that made the staffer uncomfortable, repeatedly greeting only this particular staffer with a hug and a kiss on the cheek, and finally making the staffer uncomfortable at a work meeting attended by several other people by blowing a kiss at the staffer across the table, and when the meeting concluded walking around the table to give the staffer a hug and a kiss while not doing this to any other participants at the meeting. The next steps for the Committee are to adopt procedures to govern this disciplinary hearing, and to serve the Council Member with a formal notice of charges. The hearing will be conducted in Executive Session and

will not be open to the public. After the hearing concludes, the Committee will deliberate, and vote on the charges and penalties in Executive Session, and adopt the report containing findings of fact. If the committee finds that the Council Member violated Council policy, and believes any sanctions are warranted, the report and recommendations of the committee will be forwarded to the full Council for a vote. Members of the Committee are bound by a Confidentiality Agreement not to discuss this matter outside of Executive Session, and with that, I am closing this meeting. [gavel] Thank you everybody again for your patience.

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 May 12, 2019