

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 29, 2019

Start: 3:30 p.m.

Recess: 4:15 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th 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)

1 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS 3

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Good afternoon
4 everyone. Thank you for your patience. I'm Steve
5 Matteo. I'm Chair of the Standards and Ethics
6 Committee. I'm joined by my colleagues Vanessa
7 Gibson and Margaret Chin. The Committee on Standards
8 and Ethics is meeting today regarding a pending
9 disciplinary matter opened pursuant to Section 10.80
10 of the Council Rules concerning Council Member Barry
11 Grodenchik as well as other committee business.
12 Because it is necessary for the committee to discuss
13 confidential personnel issues, I am making a motion
14 for the Committee to move into Executive Session
15 pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. Do
16 I have a second?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Second.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Seconded by Margaret
19 Chin. All those in favor say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Noting that the ayes
23 have it I'm going to close this portion of the
24 meeting and reopen in Executive Session. Before we
25 proceed into Executive Session, I will note for the

2 public that this committee may vote on certain items
3 of business during the session, and as a result,
4 there may be an additional open session of the
5 committee later today. Thank you. [gavel]
6 [Executive Session/pause] [gavel]

7 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Alright, welcome
8 back everyone. Thank you for your patience. So, the
9 Committee on Standards and Ethics opened a meeting
10 earlier today regarding the pending disciplinary
11 matter initiated pursuant to Section 10.80 of the
12 Council Rules concerning Council Member Barry
13 Grodenchik. Because it was necessary for the
14 committee to those confidential personnel issues in
15 conjunction with the pending disciplinary matter, the
16 committee voted to move into Executive Session
17 pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. We
18 are now returning to open session to make public the
19 outcome of today's vote regarding the pending
20 disciplinary matter, and I am joined by Council
21 Members Gibson and Chin. Based up a thorough and
22 wide ranging investigation conducted by both the
23 Council's Office of the General Counsel and the
24 Special Council retained by the Committee to
25 prosecute this disciplinary proceeding, the committee

2 voted today to issue two charges against Council
3 Member Grodenchik. The charges state that from 2017
4 until early 2019 the Council Member engaged in
5 certain conduct that was based upon the complainant's
6 gender that cause the complainant to be discriminated
7 against and harassed in the workplace. The charged
8 conduct is found by the committee to have occurred
9 was standards of violation of Council Policy and
10 Council Rule 10.80. The committee will hold a
11 disciplinary hearing on these charges on May 13, 2019
12 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The hearing will be held in
13 executive session, and Council Member Grodenchik has
14 a right to be represented by counsel at the hearing.
15 The Council has hired Carey Cohen to serve as special
16 counsel and present the case against Council Member
17 Grodenchik to the committee. While the proceedings
18 are confidential, after the committee deliberates on
19 the charges, the findings and recommendations of the
20 committee will be made public. In addition to this
21 action concerning Council Member Grodenchik, the
22 Committee reviewed a Report of Preliminary Inquiry
23 concerning allegations of misconduct by Council
24 Member Andy King. The allegations against Council
25 Member King include engaging in sexual harassment,

2 permitting an associated person/spouse to perform
3 Council business, creating a work environment where
4 his spouse was permitted to engage in harassment of
5 the Council employee. Allegations the Council Member
6 King created an environment wherein an employees'
7 office with supervisory responsibilities repeatedly
8 threatened by those (sic) in the office and at work
9 functions, and on at least one occasion the employee
10 committed an act of violence against a subordinate
11 employee. Finally, there are allegations of numerous
12 instances of misuse of city resources. Despite many
13 attempts to interview Council Member King about these
14 allegations, he has refused to cooperate with the
15 investigation, and only made himself available for
16 five minutes to discuss a separate, but related
17 investigation and to one of his staff members. In
18 light of the committee's review of a preliminary
19 investigation into the allegations against Council
20 Member King and Council Member King's refusal to
21 cooperate with the committee, the committee voted to
22 commence these proceedings against Council Member
23 Andy King. The next steps are for the Special
24 Counsel to review the committee's report, conduct
25 further investigation as necessary, and make a

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2 recommendation of charges, if any, to this committee.

3 This concludes our summary of the committee's votes

4 during today's meeting. This meeting is now

5 adjourned. Thank you all for coming. [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 May 24, 2019