

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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May 11, 2011
Start: 10:20 am
Recess: 11:20 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Council Member Fernando Cabrera
Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Julissa Ferreras
Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Council Member Darlene Mealy
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Albert Vann

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

Paul Nelson
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Small Business Services

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[background noise]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Well, then we'll get started. Al Vann's coming down. Al Vann told me he'll be here. Good morning, Shadawn [phonetic]. [pause] Okay, first of all, good morning, want to welcome everyone to the Finance Hearing today. Before we get started, I just want to make a few housekeeping announcements. Number one, tomorrow, May 12th, is the beginning of our hearings for the Finance Committee, will be starting. We have Sani--we're starting off with Sanitation tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock.

FEMALE VOICE: 10:30.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: 10:30. We're here at 2:50.

FEMALE VOICE: Yes, on the - - floor.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: On the 14th floor. Okay? So, tomorrow starts and it's from here on till June 6th, we'll be having hearings, basically every week. So that everyone who's on the Finance Committee should definitely check the hearing schedule. I want to thank the entire Finance Committee, Preston Niblack, Jeffrey Rodus,

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2 Tanisha Edwards, Shadawn and the entire Finance
3 staff, all the hard work in putting together the
4 hearing. And Anthony Brito, where's Anthony?
5 He's around here somewhere.

6 FEMALE VOICE: He's back there.

7 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: He's back
8 there, hiding. I just want to thank the entire
9 staff, they're doing a great job, and the weeks
10 ahead we're, you know, really going to have a hard
11 time. I always want to thank our Sergeant-at-
12 Arms, for always putting up with us, and working
13 with us. Okay? So we're going to get started.
14 Welcome to today's Finance Committee meeting, my
15 name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., I'm the Chair of
16 this wonderful Committee. Today we have a number
17 of items on our agenda. But before we move
18 forward, I'd like to introduce all my colleagues
19 who joined us this morning. We have Leroy Comrie,
20 Joel Rivera, Mr. Cabrera [laughter], Fernando
21 Cabrera, [background voices] my head. Margaret
22 Chin, Lew Fidler and Karen Koslowitz. We got
23 everybody?

24 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. First

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2 I'll, we have Land Use item, the Clinton Commons
3 is a new construction, the co-op will receive a
4 property tax exemption for 102 units, it's in
5 Speaker Quinn's district. Our next item relates
6 to the Adopted Fiscal 2011 and 2010 Expense
7 Budget. This resolution sets forth new
8 designations or changes in the designation of
9 certain organization receiving local aging and
10 youth discretionary funding, as well as a news
11 destination or changes in the designation of
12 certain organizations to receive funding pursuant
13 to certain initiatives in the Fiscal 2011/2010
14 Budget. For classification purposes, it is to be
15 noted that organizations appearing in the Reso
16 that have not yet completed the prequalification
17 process, by the Mayor's Office of Contractors or
18 by the Council or any other entity, in the
19 attached charts has an asterisk next to its name.
20 Okay. Additionally, with all transparency
21 resolutions, Council Members will have to disclose
22 indicating whether or not a conflict exists. If
23 any Council Member has a potential conflict with
24 any organization listed, he or she might want to
25 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.

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2 I'd like to remind Council Members that they are
3 not required to disclose any conflicts they may
4 have with proposed subcontractors that are used by
5 the organization. This disclosure must be made
6 before the subcontractor will be approved. Our
7 last piece on the agenda is the Chinatown BID.
8 This legislation sets May 26th at 10:00 a.m. as
9 the date and time for a hearing to consider
10 legislation that would establish the Chinatown BID
11 in Council Member Chin's district. Council Member
12 Chin supports the establishment of this BID.
13 Members of the Counc--Finance are available to
14 answer any questions that you may have regarding
15 the transparency reso land use items at this time.
16 Now, we're going to hear from the Department of
17 Small Business Services about the Chinatown BID.
18 I just want to mention a few reminders. Like I
19 said, tomorrow is the beginning of the hearings,
20 and we'll start off with the Department of
21 Sanitation. And it'll be on the 14th Floor. Our
22 next round of Budget hearings will be at 10:00
23 a.m. on Monday, the 16th, we'll be joined by Fire
24 and Criminal Justice Committee. Okay? We'll hear
25 from FDNY, Department of Corrections, Criminal

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2 Justice Coordinator, and Legal Aid. Please try to
3 be on time, we are beginning at 10:00 o'clock.
4 Remember, all Executive Budget hearings are joint
5 with the Finance Committee, so there is an
6 Executive Budget hearing scheduled. Finance
7 Committee Members are expected to attend. In
8 addition to that, Mark Page will be testifying at
9 the last hearing on June 6th. After he testified,
10 we will start taking testimony from the public.
11 Okay? Before we have SBS testify, would like to
12 introduce those other colleagues who have joined
13 us: Darlene Mealy, Julissa Ferreras. [background
14 voices] Okay. Assistant Commissioner Paul
15 Nelson. [pause] Sergeant-at-Arms. Paul Nelson,
16 I want you to know, my new Chief of Staff, his
17 name is Paul Nelson.

18 PAUL NELSON: I, we get, we get
19 emails--

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: And everyone,
21 don't know that, that Carol, Karen Becker from my
22 office is leaving. Karen. [boos] She's going to
23 the Parks Department. [pause] Okay, Paul Nelson,
24 you're on.

25 PAUL NELSON: Great, good morning,

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2 Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Finance
3 Committee. I'm Paul Nelson, an Assistant
4 Commissioner at the Department of Small Business
5 Services, SBS. SBS supports the City Council
6 Resolution setting the date, time and place of the
7 public hearing concerning the establishment of the
8 Chinatown Business Improvement District, in the
9 borough of Manhattan. The Chinatown BID Steering
10 Committee has successfully completed the outreach
11 and planning work consistent with SBS program
12 rules. In addition, SBS has reviewed the
13 boundaries of the proposed Chinatown BID, and
14 found the boundaries to be acceptable. The
15 proposed BID district is generally bounded by
16 Broom Street to the north, Broadway to the west,
17 Allen Street to the east, and Madison and Worth
18 streets to the south. SBS will arrange for the
19 publication of the summary of the City Council
20 Resolution at least once in the City Record, the
21 Chinatown BID Steering Committee will arrange for
22 the mailing of a summary of the Resolution, as
23 required by law. As requested by the Chinatown
24 BID Steering Committee, SBS also submits two
25 revised pages to the Chinatown BID district plan.

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Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, thank you. Does any Council Member have any questions. We'll start off with Margaret Chin. Would you like to make a statement or have a question?

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off mic]
Yes. [on mic] I'd like to make a statement, Chair. I personally want to thank Chair Recchia for taking the time to speak to me about this BID, and also to meet with some of the community leaders who's been supporting this effort for many, many years. It's time has finally come, and we're so happy that the date is being set at the City Council. In the last couple of year, I mean, this effort has taken about 20 years, but in the last couple of years, the community really stepped up, to try to rally support, and especially after 9/11, Chinatown has suffered tremendously, and in the rebuilding effort there were consensus around a need for a Chinatown Business Improvement District, to help revitalize the business and to bring more visitors and tourists to the community, to help create more jobs, and also improve the quality of life in our community. And this effort

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2 has gotten the support of three local community
3 boards, which is I think is unprecedented. And
4 it's supported by the City Planning. So, I'm
5 really looking forward to the City Council
6 hearing, and thank you again, Chair Recchia, for
7 your encouragement and your support. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
9 very much, Council Member, and I just want to
10 thank you 'cause you've been working on this so
11 diligently, and extremely hard, and you should be
12 reward, and the people of your district should
13 really be just so excited and thrilled for the
14 outstanding work that you have been doing. In
15 addition to that, I just want to make a statement
16 that we made in the last time, I just want to make
17 the record clear, that the moneys you collect from
18 this BID will be used for the Chinatown BID, is
19 that correct?

20 PAUL NELSON: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: And it will
22 not be used for any other City entity, City agency
23 or any other partnership?

24 PAUL NELSON: The Steering
25 Committee will, I mean, sorry, the BID Board of

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2 Directors, has discretion over those funds, but
3 the funds will be used for the purpose of the
4 improvement of the district, yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, I just
6 want to make the record clear. Does any other
7 Council Member have any questions? Without seeing
8 any questions, we'll call for--we have to take a
9 vote?

10 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes. Call
12 for a vote. I encourage all my colleagues to vote
13 aye.

14 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
15 Clerk, roll call vote on the Committee on Finance,
16 Council Member Recchia.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye on
18 all.

19 CLERK: Rivera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
21 on all.

22 CLERK: Comrie.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]
24 Aye on all.

25 CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

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Aye.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic] Aye

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on all.

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CLERK: Mealy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Ferreras.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]

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Aye on all.

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CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off

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mic] Aye.

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CLERK: By a vote of nine in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items are adopted, Members please

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sign the Committee reports.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. And I

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just want to know Al Vann is with us this morning.

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Okay, we're going to leave the vote open for a

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half hour. Okay.

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[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Vote now currently stands
at ten in the affirmative.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye
on all.

CLERK: Current vote is now eleven
in the affirmative.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote
aye.

CLERK: Vote now currently stands
at twelve in the affirmative.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on
all.

CLERK: Vote in Finance now stands
at 13 in the affirmative.

[pause, background noise]

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CLERK: Council Member Reyna.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye
on all.

[pause]

CLERK: Council Member Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

CLERK: Final vote in the Committee
on Finance stands at 15 in the affirmative, zero
in the negative and no abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Oh, yes.

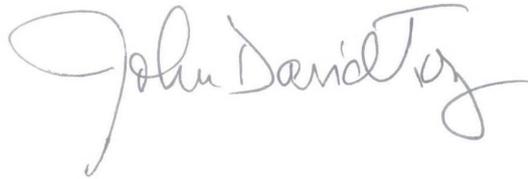
[pause] This Committee hearing on Finance is
adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date May 27, 2011