

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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February 1, 2012  
Start: 10:17 a.m.  
Recess: 10:37 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Helen D. Foster  
Robert Jackson  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Darlene Mealy  
Diana Reyna  
Joel Rivera  
Albert Vann  
Fernando Cabrera  
Julissa Ferreras  
Karen Koslowitz

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James G. Van Bramer  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
James S. Oddo

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay  
everybody. This is an important day. Good  
morning.

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Are we ready?  
The tape's on? Good morning and welcome to  
today's Finance Committee hearing meeting. My  
name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I'm the chair of  
this wonderful committee. Before we get started,  
I'd like to introduce all of my wonderful  
colleagues in government who have joined us today:  
the minority leader, Jimmy Oddo—we recognize him;  
Fernando Cabrera, Vincent Ignizio, Karen  
Koslowitz; Julissa Ferreras; Helen Diane Foster;  
Darlene Mealy, Lewis Fidler and Jimmy Van Bramer.  
I welcome you all here today. Today we have two  
items on the agenda. The first we have the  
contract transparency bill. We had a hearing on  
this bill last month and we heard from MOCS  
regarding the bill implementation. Proposed Intro  
729-A would require the posting of material terms  
of contracts entered into by the city on a newly  
created public online searchable database that  
would be established by the mayor. The purpose of

1  
2 this legislation is to allow easy public access to  
3 contract information and present such information  
4 in a way that allows the public at large to  
5 understand the services contracted by the city. I  
6 applaud Council Member Mealy for introducing this  
7 wonderful legislation. I'd also like to thank  
8 Tanisha Edwards, Preston Niblack and Jeff Rodus  
9 [phonetic] for all of their hard work on this  
10 legislation as well as Marla Simpson from the  
11 Mayor's Office of Contract Services and the  
12 Administration. It has been a pleasure working  
13 with all of you.

14 Our last item relates to the  
15 adopted Fiscal 2012 Expense Budget. The  
16 resolution will set forth new designations or  
17 changes of the designation of certain  
18 organizations receiving local aging and  
19 discretionary funding, as well as new designations  
20 or changes in the designation of certain  
21 organizations receiving funding pursuant to  
22 certain initiatives in these budgets.  
23 Organizations appearing in the reso that have not  
24 yet completed the pre-qualification process  
25 conducted by the mayor's Office of Contracts,

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2 Accounts or any other entity are identified in  
3 asterisks. Additionally with all transparency  
4 resos, Council Members who think they might have a  
5 conflict, please you have to disclose that, and  
6 make an announcement prior to—I recommend you make  
7 an announcement prior to your voting on this.

8 Okay? Representatives from the administration are  
9 here to answer any questions on the contract bill.

10 Does anyone have any questions on these two items?

11 Before we do that, okay, my colleague, Darlene  
12 Mealy, would like to make a statement about this  
13 wonderful bill she is introducing. We recognize  
14 Council Member Darlene Mealy from Brooklyn.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Thank you,  
16 Cahir Recchia, my colleagues and all. I'm very  
17 pleased that this Intro 72-A [phonetic] is up for  
18 a vote this morning and on the agenda for today's  
19 State Meeting. Last Monday, we heard MOCS  
20 Department Director Marla Simpson testify about  
21 the administration's support for this bill, and  
22 the plan to have most categories of information  
23 available for public use by this July. We also  
24 learned that there is more work to be done in  
25 improving access to contract terms in plain

1 English this year, not the following year.  
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3 Nevertheless, this bill makes a real improvement  
4 by providing public access to contract terms. I  
5 thank Domenic Recchia, Tanisha Edwards, Jeff Rodus  
6 and all the staff for their work in crafting this  
7 legislation that both meaningful and practical  
8 [phonetic]. I ask all of you to join me in voting  
9 in favor of Intro 729-A today. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you  
11 very much, and it's all made possible because our  
12 wonderful director, Preston Niblack, who does a  
13 great job. Now, alright. Before we call the  
14 roll, I just wanted to remind everyone tomorrow is  
15 Groundhog Day. Go see the groundhog in Staten  
16 Island Zoo, 7 o'clock in the morning. All Council  
17 Members were invited. Jimmy Oddo is throwing a  
18 breakfast for everybody. Also, I just want  
19 everyone to know the forms are coming out for  
20 expense budget. They will be coming out on  
21 February 13<sup>th</sup> and Scott Crowley will be sending  
22 around memos to that and having a-set up meetings  
23 and will explain everything to our wonderful staff  
24 right around that time. You'll be getting more  
25 information under Scott Crowley's leadership.

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2 Also tomorrow the budget is coming out. Everyone  
3 should receive a phone call today that the mayor  
4 is inviting all Council Members to be at City Hall  
5 at 11 o'clock. Okay? 11 o'clock. And that is  
6 just for members, no staff. Members only. So if  
7 you cannot make it, one of your staff members will  
8 not be able to attend. Okay? I just wanted to  
9 bring all these things to attention to my  
10 colleagues and we've just been joined by Joel  
11 Rivera. Welcome. Okay. Anybody else have any  
12 questions or anything else they want to say? Any  
13 comments? Please call the roll.

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

17 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I encourage  
18 all my colleagues to vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

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

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: By vote of 11 in

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the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items have been adopted.

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Members, please sign the Committee Reports. Thank

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you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We're going

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to keep the vote open to 10:45. The vote will

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remain open to 10:45. Thank you.

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[long pause]

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I recognize

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the Council Member from Brooklyn, Al Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently stands at 12 in the affirmative.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.  
Leroy Comrie. Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]  
Yes.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently stands at 14 in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 15 in the affirmative. The final vote in the Committee on Finance is now 15 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions.

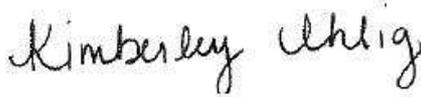
MALE VOICE: This meeting is adjourned.

[gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_2/20/12\_\_\_\_\_