

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

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September 5, 2012

Start: 1:33 p.m.

Recess: 1:45 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - 16th Floor
250 Broadway

B E F O R E:

STEPHEN T. LEVIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Sara M. Gonzalez
Peter A. Koo

A P P E A R A N C E S

Robin Levine
Deputy General Counsel
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

David Warne
Assistant Commissioner
NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Chris Gonzalez
Asst. Commissioner of Government Affairs & Research
NYC Housing Preservation & Development

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2 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Okay. This
3 meeting will come to order. Good afternoon,
4 welcome to the Subcommittee on Planning,
5 Dispositions and Concessions, I'm Council Member
6 Stephen Levin, Chair of the Subcommittee, joined
7 this afternoon by my colleague Sara Gonzalez of
8 Brooklyn, and colleague Peter Koo of Queens.
9 Pardon? And we will be hearing on a couple of
10 items today, I would like to begin with Land Use
11 #683, Mt. Hayden Property, that is 20135040 PNO,
12 and testifying on this item today, Robin Levine,
13 Deputy General Counsel of the New York City
14 Department of Environmental Protection and David
15 Wayne (sic), Assistant Commissioner of the New
16 York City Department of Environmental Protection.
17 This is an application pursuant to Section 72-H of
18 the New York general municipal law for the
19 proposed disposition of real property known as the
20 Mt. Hayden property, Green County, State of New
21 York, from the City of New York by and through the
22 New York City Department of Environmental
23 Protection to the State of New York by the New
24 York State Department of Environmental
25 Conservation. Mr. Wayne.

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2 MR. WARNE: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, good afternoon,
4 members of the Subcommittee, my name is David
5 Warne, I'm an Assistant Commissioner with the New
6 York City Department of Environmental Protection.

7 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Pardon me,
8 sorry about that.

9 MR. WARNE: That's quite all right.

10 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Just for the
11 record.

12 MR. WARNE: I've been called worse.
13 And I do work with DEP's Bureau of Water Supply,
14 which is our upstate arm which manages the
15 watershed and water supply portion of our system.
16 This item is the disposition of a couple of
17 parcels of land totaling about 814 acres, they had
18 been purchased by the city in 2002 and 2005 under
19 our land acquisition program, which is part of our
20 watershed protection initiative, and it is the
21 transfer of that land to the New York State
22 Department of Environmental Conservation for their
23 ownership and stewardship and management, as part
24 of their recreation program. They have
25 significant land holdings throughout the Catskill

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2 park and in portions of our watershed. I believe
3 you have a copy of my prepared testimony, I'd be
4 happy to go through that if that's helpful, or I
5 could answer any questions that you may have.

6 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Can you speak a
7 little bit of the process of acquisition back in
8 2002? Was there a cost associated with that?
9 What has it been used for for the last ten years?

10 MR. WARNE: Absolutely. In 1997
11 the city began a robust program of acquiring land
12 in the watershed for the purpose of water quality
13 protection. We buy only vacant land, with the
14 purpose of maintaining it in a vacant state, to
15 prevent development, to prevent water quality
16 problems associated with development. We've
17 bought, since 1997, slightly more than 120,000
18 acres of land in our watersheds, and it's been a
19 very successful component of the overall watershed
20 protection effort. These two parcels that
21 comprise the Mt. Hayden property were acquired in
22 2002 and 2005, as I said it's about 814 acres, and
23 they were acquired at a cost of slightly more than
24 \$1.1 million combined. And it has been maintained
25 as vacant property since that time, it has been ...

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2 we do allow certain passive recreational uses,
3 hiking, hunting, fishing, on the property.

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I think that
5 we're going to move speedily, do any of my
6 colleagues have any questions on this item?
7 Seeing none, Commissioner Warne, thank you very
8 much for your testimony, and we are going to close
9 this item. I thank you very much, I appreciate
10 it.

11 MR. WARNE: Great, thank you, I
12 appreciate your time.

13 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: We have next up
14 Land Use #627, and I'm going to ask Chris
15 Gonzalez, Assistant Commissioner at HPD, to
16 testify on this item. Hi, Chris.

17 MR. CHRIS GONZALEZ: Good
18 afternoon, my name is Chris Gonzalez, Assistant
19 Commissioner of Government Affairs at HPD. I am
20 testifying on behalf of Land Use item #627, which
21 we are respectfully withdrawing. Did you have any
22 questions?

23 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I do not. Do
24 any of my colleagues have any questions on that
25 item? Seeing none, thank you very much, Mr.

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Gonzalez.

MR. CHRIS GONZALEZ: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Okay, so we're closing Land Use #627, and then Land Use #680, Jamaica Project, and #681, Hunter's Point South Phase 1, that's Land Use #680 is 20135029 HAQ, Land Use #681 is 20135038 HAQ, both in Queens Council district ... Community Board district 12, the other Community Board district 2, these two items will be laid over to the meeting on September 19th. And with that I will ask ... we have one, two, I'll ask my colleagues to vote to approve Land Use #683 and the Mt. Hayden property, and a vote to withdraw Land Use #627, motion to file pursuant to withdraw. Call the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Chair Lander.

Excuse me, Chair Levin. Sorry.

CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I vote aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

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Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of three in the affirmative, none in the negative and no abstentions, Land Use item #683 is approved and referred to the full Committee, and Land Use item #627, motion to file pursuant to withdrawal is approved and referred to the full Land Use Committee.

CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: So with that this meeting is adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Richard A. Ziats, 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 _____ September 11, 2012 _____