

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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January 29, 2013  
Start: 10:16 am  
Recess: 10:32 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
MARK S. WEPRIN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Robert Jackson  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Diana Reyna  
Joel Rivera  
Larry B. Seabrook  
James Vacca  
Albert Vann  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Ruben Wills

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

John McDonald  
El Toro Blanco

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. If I  
3 could have everyone's attention, we'll get  
4 started. We're good? Alright. Thank you for  
5 your patience. Can we have some quiet please?  
6 Quiet on the set. Okay. Good morning, everyone.  
7 My name is Mark Weprin. I am the chair of the  
8 Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee of the Land Use  
9 Committee. I am joined by the following members  
10 of the Subcommittee: Council Member Leroy Comrie,  
11 also chair of the Land Use Committee, the very  
12 talkative Vinny Ignizio and Diana Reyna, and also  
13 somewhat talkative Ruben Wills and Robert Jackson,  
14 who are here with us today. We have a few items  
15 on the agenda. We will be laying over the  
16 following items on the Durst West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
17 project that we heard and closed the hearing on  
18 the other day. Those are Land Use number 749, 750  
19 and 751. This will be laid over to what I assume  
20 will be a meeting on Thursday at 9:30 before the  
21 Land Use Committee meeting as there are some items  
22 still being discussed on that matter, and so the  
23 only item on our agenda, which we will be taking  
24 up today is El Toro Blanco in Speaker Quinn's  
25 district. This is a sidewalk café application.

1  
2 It is Land Use number 753, and I'd like to call on  
3 John McDonald to please come up to please sit at  
4 that table, make sure the mic is on. It's  
5 sometimes counterintuitive—push it. Is it on? So  
6 I want you to—I think you're good. Should be on.  
7 I hear it crackling. So Mr. McDonald, please  
8 state your name again, describe the sidewalk  
9 application and I know you have been talking to  
10 Speaker Quinn's office about some issues in the  
11 neighborhood that you have a letter there that you  
12 want to read into the record, but please state  
13 your name and describe the application.

14 JOHN MCDONALD: My name is John  
15 McDonald. I am here for a sidewalk café  
16 application for El Toro Blanco at 257 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

17 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good start.  
18 Go ahead. You have a letter there, I understand?

19 JOHN MCDONALD: I do. It says Dear  
20 Council Member Quinn, this letter serves as our  
21 agreement with the Chair, Council Member Mark  
22 Weprin and the encompassing members of the  
23 Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises that we will  
24 commit to the following: number one, we will  
25 ensure that all sidewalk café seating is fully

1 covered by the café awning in order to maintain  
2 lower noise levels for residents above the café,  
3 number two, changes reflecting the awning size  
4 will be reflected in revised plans submitted to  
5 the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs.  
6 If there are any questions, please call my office.  
7 John McDonald.  
8

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Well done.

10 Well done. Having been given the nod from Speaker  
11 Quinn's office, I know they have agreed to this as  
12 well, and - - that letter. Does anyone on the  
13 panel have a question for this gentleman? No?  
14 Okay. Seeing none. Well, we thank you very much.  
15 I'm glad we could resolve this issue, and we  
16 appreciate your time here today.

17 JOHN MCDONALD: You guys should  
18 take a break. Take a break.

19 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.  
20 Appreciate it. I am going to close the hearing on  
21 this item, El Toro Blanco, Land Use number 753,  
22 and we are going to move—we have been joined by  
23 Jessica Lappin, and we are going to be voting on  
24 this item, so I am now going to call on counsel to  
25 please read the roll.

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COUNSEL: Chair Weprin?

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I vote aye on  
this café.

COUNSEL: Council Member Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Wills?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

COUNSEL: By a vote of seven in the  
affirmative, zero abstentions and zero negatives,  
Land Use item number 753 is approved and referred  
to the full Land Use Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. Thank  
you very much. We are going to keep the rolls  
open. There is one member who we have been in  
contact with who supports this item who is on his  
way and will be here momentarily. Great. And

1  
2 then we are going to recess this meeting until  
3 9:30 on Thursday, which is January 31<sup>st</sup> I believe.  
4 Yes. At that point we will hopefully be taking up  
5 the Durst item. Okay? With that in mind, the  
6 meeting is now recessed. Do I get to slam the  
7 gavel anyway? Okay. Good. Alright, the meeting  
8 is now recessed till Thursday and we are going to  
9 hold the rolls open for the one member. Thank  
10 you.

11 [gavel]

12 COUNSEL: On Land Use 753, Council  
13 Member Garodnick?

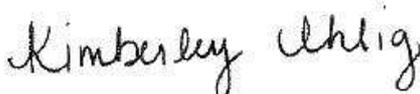
14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Very  
15 happily vote yes. Thank you.

16 COUNSEL: The vote now stands Land  
17 Use 753 eight in the affirmative, zero  
18 abstentions, zero negatives, and is approved and  
19 referred to the full Land Use Committee.

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 \_\_\_\_\_2/12/13\_\_\_\_\_