

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES AND
INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

----- X

August 23, 2017
Start: 11:19 a.m.
Recess: 11:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: JAMES G. VAN BRAMER

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Elizabeth S. Crowley
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Peter A. Koo
Stephen T. Levin
Andy L. King
Costa G. Constantinides
Laurie A. Cumbo
Helen K. Rosenthal

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

1

2

[sound check, pause]

3

CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Good to go.

4

Alright. Thank you and good morning, and welcome to

5

today's vote by the Committee on Cultural Affairs,

6

Libraries and International Intergroup Relations on

7

this important resolution, and I am Jimmy Van Bramer

8

the Chair of the Committee, and we're formally in

9

session. We're going to hold a hearing a vote on a

10

very important resolution, which condemns the

11

Charlottesville Neo-Nazi Rally, and it calls upon

12

President Trump to swiftly and unequivocally and

13

consistently denounce such actions and ideologies,

14

and direct funding to organizations working to

15

counter the far-right extremism. We're joined by

16

Council Member Andy King of the Bronx, and we're

17

going to keep this hearing open, but also to

18

facilitate the vote because there are many committee

19

meetings happening simultaneously, and I'm going to

20

ask if Council Member King can vote now, and then we

21

will hold this committee open in recess until we

22

begin again and hear more testimony and have more

23

votes. So, if the roll can be called for Council

24

Member King.

25

1
2 CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew Di
3 Stefano, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
4 International Intergroup Relations, roll call on the
5 pre-considered resolution. Council Member King.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: [off mic] May I be
7 excused to explain my vote.

8 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Of course.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Thank you, Mr.
10 Chair and thank you for bringing this hearing
11 together to bring awareness, but more importantly
12 call to action and united all Americans against the
13 bigotry and prejudice that's happening all across our
14 country. As great and as strong as our country is in
15 2017, there are certain norms that have been
16 prevalent that has been laid out in our statues and
17 pictures all across this country, and I'm glad, you
18 know, one of the things that we complain about our
19 president I think one of the greatest things that's
20 come out of this debacle of his miscommunication and
21 bad communication and every Council-his principal
22 conversations was that he will help us to what
23 America truly is right now, and do we need to really
24 change it on the front lines, and the great-greatest
25 way to inspire people is to say something to inspire

1
2 people, and as much as you might not like what he's
3 said, he's waking up America for Americans to act,
4 and what has happened in Charlottesville and even all
5 across into towns that have marked whether it's in
6 Boston, Massachusetts or any place that people have
7 said enough is enough, and we want to be standing
8 true and strong as great Americans. So, on one end,
9 I am dissatisfied with what Trump has done, and on
10 the other hand I'm grateful that he's waking us all
11 up just to take a step forward to improve America.
12 Because the only way American improves is when we all
13 come together as one. So, with that all being said,
14 I'm glad to vote on this resolution to call on Trump
15 to denounce all acts of bigotry and prejudice as the
16 leader of our country, and more importantly, any
17 funding that has been removed to fight all these
18 ridiculous acts of hatred be restored, and as we move
19 forward as a better government. So, with that, all
20 being said, I vote aye.

21 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very
22 much, Council Member King, and with that, we will
23 hold this committee meeting in recess, and begin
24 shortly and also obviously keep open the vote until
25 more members are present. Thank you. [recess] Just

1
2 for Helen. Alright. We're good to go? [background
3 comments] Sure, sure.

4 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Do you want to
5 say anything, Helen?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: [off mic] No.

7 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Okay.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: No, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: [laughs] [pause]
10 Great. Thank you very much. We are now calling the
11 Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and
12 International Intergroup Relations hearing back into
13 session when we would like to have the clerk call the
14 roll for Council Member Helen Rosenthal who has
15 joined us.

16 CLERK: Continuation of roll call on
17 Preconsidered Resolution. Councilwoman Rosenthal?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: With gratitude
19 to Council Member Van Bramer as always, I vote aye.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very
22 much Council Member Rosenthal, and we will once again
23 go into recess until we have other members join the
24 committee vote. [recess] Alright. So, once again we
25 are calling this very important hearing on this very

1
2 important resolution to order. We're joined by
3 Council Member Elizabeth Crowley from Queens, and
4 we're very pleased, I'm very pleased to be a co-
5 sponsor of this resolution along with the Speaker and
6 Council Member Lander. Once again, no one needs to
7 be reminded of what happened in Charlottesville on
8 August 12th, and the Neo-Nazi Alt Right White
9 Supremist groups converging on Charlottesville and
10 marching to protest the removal of the statue of
11 Robert E. Lee. Also, a few people need to be
12 reminded of the President's shameful response to that
13 rally, and to that violence, and to the tragic death
14 of Heather Heyer, who was killed on that day. So, we
15 as a Council are taking the position, taking a stand
16 as I believe it right to do so calling on the
17 President to swiftly and unequivocally and
18 consistently--because he has not consistently done
19 so--denounce the actions and ideologies and to have
20 the President direct funding to organizations that
21 work to counter far right extremism and the president
22 should also stop equivocating and saying that they're
23 bad people on both sides or good people on both
24 sides, and that has to happen on a regular basis.
25 So, I want to--the respect for my colleagues' time and

1
2 ask the clerk to call the roll for those Council
3 Members who are here.

4 CLERK: Continuation of roll call on the
5 preconsidered resolution. Council Member Crowley.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote aye and I
7 thank Council Member/Chair Van Bramer for taking this
8 stance and hearing this very important bill. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Thank you very
11 much, Council Member Crowley and I vote—I can vote as
12 well on this.

13 CLERK: Chair Van Bramer.

14 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.
15 We're going to hold the vote open as we have other
16 council members still on their way so we'll once
17 again keep this committee in session, and hold the
18 vote open until all the council members have been
19 heard. Thank you. [pause] [background comments,
20 pause]

21 CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Great. We are
22 back in session on this very important resolution,
23 and very important hearing. We're going to call the
24 roll for the last time, and then close this hearing.
25 So, I'll ask the clerk to call the roll.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CLERK: Continuation of roll call on the
preconsidered resolution. Council Member
Constantinides.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I proudly
vote aye.

CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
the preconsidered resolution has been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON VAN BRAMER: Great. This
committee hearing is formally adjourned.

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 September 2, 2017