

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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March 25, 2010  
Start: 10:13 am  
Recess: 10:21 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.  
Gale A. Brewer  
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Robert Jackson  
G. Oliver Koppell  
Darlene Mealy  
Joel Rivera  
Albert Vann  
Fernando Cabrera  
Julissa Ferreras  
Karen Koslowitz  
Jimmy G. Van Bramer  
Vincent M. Ignizio  
Kames S. Oddo

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

Edward O'Malley  
Director of Administrative Services  
New York City Council

Marcello Testa  
Fiscal Officer  
New York City Council

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning  
3 and welcome to today's Finance Committee meeting.  
4 My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I am the chair  
5 of the committee. Today we have a number of items  
6 on our agenda. First, I'd like to introduce all  
7 the members of the Finance Committee who are here  
8 today. We have Al Vann, Robert Jackson, Jimmy Van  
9 Bramer, Leroy Comrie, Joel Rivera, Lew Fidler,  
10 Jimmy Oddo, Fernando Cabrera from the Bronx, Karen  
11 Koslowitz and Gale Brewer sitting behind me.  
12 Sorry, Gale, I didn't see you.

13 We have two resolutions relating to  
14 the City's annual operating budget under the City  
15 Charter. The Council has until March 10th to  
16 submit to the Mayor's own operating budget for the  
17 next fiscal year.

18 This date was extended to March  
19 31st by legislation passed by this committee in  
20 December. Today's vote on the operating budget  
21 will be the Council's first fiscal 2011 budget  
22 action.

23 The fiscal 2011 budget of the  
24 Council does not see an increase or decrease as  
25 the Council's budget was adjusted to take into

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2 account the 8.1% cost of living adjustment, COLA.  
3 In other words, the FY 11 for central staff  
4 operation and Council Member office and staff will  
5 remain unchanged. Marcello Testa and Ed O'Malley  
6 from the Administrative Services Division will  
7 testify.

8                   Next we have a Land Use item. If  
9 you remember, on the last Finance hearing, this  
10 committee voted on a resolution that would provide  
11 a property tax exemption to Medgar Evers Houses, a  
12 property located in Council Member Vann's district  
13 in Brooklyn. The resolution that we are voting on  
14 today reflects a technical correction to that  
15 resolution voted on in our last hearing. Council  
16 Member Vann is aware of this technical change.

17                   Our last piece of legislation  
18 relates to the adopted Fiscal 2010 expense budget.  
19 In an effort to make the budget process more  
20 transparent, this committee will vote on a  
21 Preconsidered Resolution approving certain changes  
22 in the designation of organizations receiving  
23 funding in the Fiscal 2010 expense budget.

24                   Specifically, the resolution before  
25 us today sets forth new designation and/or changes

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2 in the designation of certain organizations  
3 receiving local, aging and youth discretionary  
4 funding as well as new designation changes to  
5 receive funding pursuant to initiatives in Fiscal  
6 2010 expense budget. The Council Members have the  
7 list of these new designation and changes which is  
8 attached to the resolution.

9 For clarification purposes, it is  
10 to be noted that organizations appear in the  
11 resolution that have not yet completed the  
12 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's  
13 Office of Contracts, by the Council or another  
14 entity are identified in the attached charters.

15 Additionally, as well with all  
16 transparency resolutions, Council Members will  
17 have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether  
18 or not a conflict exists. If any Council Member  
19 has a potential conflict with any organization  
20 listed, he or she might want to disclose the  
21 conflict at the time of their vote.

22 Members of Council Finance are  
23 available to answer any questions you may have  
24 regarding transparency resolutions and Land Use  
25 items.

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2 At this time we have Marcello Testa  
3 and Ed O'Malley who will testify. Please identify  
4 yourself for the record.

5 EDWARD O'MALLEY: Good morning, Mr.  
6 Chair, I'm Ed O'Malley. I'm director of  
7 administrative services for the City Council.

8 MARCELLO TESTA: Good morning. My  
9 name is Marcello Test. I'm the fiscal officer for  
10 the New York City Council. Do we have any  
11 questions?

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Just give a  
13 brief overview.

14 MARCELLO TESTA: Briefly, last  
15 year's adopted budget was about \$50.5 million.  
16 We've added \$2.3 million for COLA money, bringing  
17 the total amount to \$52.3 million. The proposed  
18 budget before you will use the same figures, so  
19 we're basically staying flat from the modified  
20 budget. The Council will continue to make every  
21 effort that we can in purchasing on the LTPS side  
22 to keep our budget under control.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. Do  
24 any Council Members have any questions? Gale.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I have

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2 questions. I know the COLA portion, but is there  
3 anything else you can tell us? I know it's  
4 basically flat from last year. Was there any  
5 other overview you can give us? Any changes at  
6 all?

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MARCELLO TESTA: We have two areas  
8 where we've experienced some increases in rent, in  
9 particular at 250 Broadway. We're in the tenth  
10 year of our lease and we've gone up approximately  
11 \$450,000 in additional rent. I guess in members'  
12 rent we've gone up approximately.

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EDWARD O'MALLEY: About \$193,000.  
14 It was about a 5% increase from the prior year.

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MARCELLO TESTA: So it was about  
16 \$200,000 in rent increases for member district  
17 offices and \$450,000 in rent increase for 250  
18 Broadway.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: At 250  
20 Broadway, we're using the same amount of space.  
21 There's no way to decrease the amount of space we  
22 have and lower the rent?

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MARCELLO TESTA: We considered  
24 that, but with the City Hall renovations on the  
25 horizon and everybody moving there, we're going to

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2 need all the space that we have.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So the increase for the rent for district offices, that still has to come out of the individual's allocation. Is that correct?

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MARCELLO TESTA: That's correct.

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EDWARD O'MALLEY: That's correct.

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MARCELLO TESTA: Although in this year it is really a COLA increase. The members' budgets are going up \$15,000 from the last fiscal year.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Does anyone else have any further questions? I'd like to recognize Vincent Ignizio who has joined us. Without further questions, all four items will be coupled. One Preconsidered Land Use item, Preconsidered transparency resolution and the two Preconsidered resolutions relating to the Council's operating budget. At this time call the roll.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll calling the Committee on Finance. Council Member Recchia?

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie?

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye

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on all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 13 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Council Members please sign the committee reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Don't forget to sign. This meeting is adjourned. We'll keep the vote open for 30 minutes.

I see we have Mr. Ryan in the house. Did we check him out?

WILLIAM MARTIN: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now stands at 15 in the affirmative.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 April 9, 2010\_\_\_\_\_