

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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April 18, 2012
Start: 1:18 p.m.
Recess: 1:25 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JOEL RIVERA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Erik Martin Dilan
Lewis A. Fidler
Vincent J. Gentile
Robert Jackson
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Karen Koslowitz
James S. Oddo
Christine C. Quinn

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

James Stolpinski
Candidate for Appointment

Robert Nolan
Candidate for Appointment

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Rules Committee. My name is Joe Rivera, and I chair the Committee. Before we begin, let me introduce the members who are here with us today. We have Minority Leader, Jimmy Oddo. We have Council Member Erik Dilan. We have Deputy Majority Leader Leroy Comrie. We have Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz. We have Council Member Jimmy Vacca. We also have Council Member Robert Jackson, and we have the Majority Whip, Al Vann. Sorry. Thank you. We also have our staff here from the Rules Committee. We have Chuck Davis. We have Emerson Sykes [phonetic], Jasmine Vega [phonetic], Alicia Vasal [phonetic] and Deandra Johnson [phonetic] as well.

Today we have before us two candidates for our review. We have James Stolpinski, a resident of Staten Island, as a candidate for appointment by the mayor to serve as a labor representative on the Waterfront Management Advisory Board. If appointed, Mr. Stolpinski will serve the remainder of a one year term that will expire on August 31st, 2012. We

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2 also have Robert Nolan, a resident of the Bronx,
3 is a candidate for redesignation and subsequent
4 reappointment by the mayor to the Health and
5 Hospitals Corporation board of directors. If
6 redesignated and reappointed, Mr. Nolan will serve
7 the remainder of a five-year term that will expire
8 March 20th, 2017—and we've also been joined by
9 Council member Inez Dickens. Will the candidates
10 please raise your right hands to be sworn in?

11 MALE VOICE: Do you swear or affirm
12 that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and
13 nothing but the truth?

14 MULTIPLE VOICES: [off mic]

15 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
16 much. Let me briefly explain the functions of the
17 Waterfront Management Advisory Board. The Board
18 serves as an advisory body to the deputy mayor for
19 economic development, the commissioner of Small
20 Business Services, and the City Planning
21 Commission concerning any matters relating to the
22 industrial, commercial, residential, recreational
23 or other use of wharves, waterfronts property and
24 waterfront infrastructure in the city. The Board
25 consists of 17 members, the deputy mayor for

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2 Economic Development, the chairperson, the
3 commissioner of Small Business Services as vice
4 chair, the chairperson of the City Planning
5 Commission, the commissioner of environmental
6 protection, one City Council member designated by
7 the City Council and 12 members to be appointed by
8 the mayor with the advice and consent of the City
9 Council. Provided that there is at least one
10 appointed member from each borough, appointed
11 members shall include representatives of labor,
12 the maritime industries, the transportation
13 industries, the real estate industry, the hospital
14 industries as well as environmental advocates and
15 community advocates. Appointed members are not
16 compensated. Welcome, Mr. Stolpinski, I hope I
17 didn't destroy your last name. Do you have an
18 opening statement?

19 JAMES STOLPINSKI: [off mi]

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Just press the
21 button, and just identify yourself for the record.

22 JAMES STOLPINSKI: Hi, my name is
23 James Stolpinski. Thank you for inviting me, Mr.
24 Chairman and members of the City Council. I don't
25 have a prepared statement. I can tell you a

1
2 little bit about myself, and then I'll take some
3 questions.

4 My name is James Stolpinski. I'm
5 president of ILA Local 920 in Staten Island. I'm
6 also secretary treasurer of the Atlantic Coast
7 District, which encompasses from Halifax to
8 Virginia to the Great Lakes. I've been an ILA
9 member and a longshoreman [phonetic] for 43 years
10 in the port of New York and New Jersey. Next
11 month, I will be celebrating my 61st birthday and
12 61 years as a Staten Island resident.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to
14 save all questions until the end, so thank you for
15 your opening statement. We'll now move and I'll
16 discuss the functions of the Health and Hospitals
17 Corporation (HHC). HHC is a public benefit
18 corporation charged with the duty of providing
19 high-quality, dignified and comprehensive health
20 care and treatment to the public, especially to
21 those who cannot afford such services. HHC's
22 board of directors consists of 16 members who
23 administer HHC. Included within the Board's
24 membership in addition to the five ex officio
25 members are ten appointees of the mayor, five of

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2 whom are designated by the Council for
3 consideration by the mayor. The term of office
4 for directors is five years with a vacancy filled
5 under the terms of the original appointment.
6 Directors are not compensated, but are reimbursed
7 for actual expenses. Welcome, Mr. Nolan. Do you
8 have an opening statement?

9 ROBERT NOLAN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
10 Thank you very much first of all for allowing my
11 name to appear on your agenda this morning for
12 consideration. Approximately a year ago, I had
13 been recommended by the Bronx Council Delegation
14 for a position on the Health and Hospitals
15 Corporation Board. I appeared before the Rules
16 Committee. The Rules Committee approved me. I
17 appeared before the Council, of course, approved
18 me, and I received a letter from the mayor in June
19 of last year. One of the concerns raised by
20 members of the Council delegation is they wanted a
21 better and more direct relationship with the Bronx
22 member on the board, and I began from the first
23 meeting in June to send out an e-mail to the
24 Council Members in the Bronx or their
25 representative presenting the highlights of what

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2 happened at the monthly HHC meetings, and I've
3 done that religiously since the first meeting in
4 June and continued to do so, so I'm before you for
5 a full five year appointment. I hope that you'll
6 consider me for the full five-year appointment.
7 It's an exciting time to be on the Health and
8 Hospitals Corporation board. I'm looking forward
9 to serving the people of the Bronx and the city on
10 that Board. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Does any
12 members have any questions? Council Member Jimmy
13 Oddo?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like
16 to - - to the borough of the Bronx. Just keep us
17 in mind. We're looking for allies at every turn
18 at HHC.

19 ROBERT NOLAN: Well, thank you very
20 much, Council Member. You should know that one of
21 the first issues that came up was my question of
22 what city hospital exists in Staten Island, and I
23 got answers of course about the other types of
24 facilities that are there short of a city
25 hospital, so coming from the Bronx and Staten

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2 Island have always been allies as the smaller
3 boroughs, so you can be assured of my support for
4 Staten Island absolutely.

5 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Are there any
6 other questions on behalf of the Committee
7 members? Council Member Jimmy Vacca?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]
9 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I too want to single out
10 Bob. He is a friend for years, and I do want to
11 say that since he has served on HHC we and the
12 Bronx delegation get what I consider to be
13 extensive reports from him communicating with us
14 the business that HHC board is looking at,
15 considering, the minutes. It's a very detailed
16 report. It's something that I have not received
17 from other borough appointees since I'm here, so a
18 lot of work goes into it, and I think that's a
19 good way of keeping the members in touch, so I
20 thank you for that, and it's my honor to recommend
21 his reappointment not only as a constituent and a
22 friend, but I think as someone who has already
23 proven that he is very committed to doing a
24 wonderful job there.

25 ROBERT NOLAN: thank you very much,

1
2 Councilman.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Any other
4 questions or statements on behalf of the members?
5 Okay, so I just want to finish off by recommending
6 an aye vote for both candidates. I think Mr.
7 Stolpinski will do a stellar job in his capacity,
8 and my work experience with Mr. Nolan over the
9 years, he has a background working in city
10 government for significant amount of years
11 formerly, with the borough president's office, and
12 we thought he was out when he retired, but we
13 brought him back in to city government in this
14 capacity, and he's stuck with us for a long time,
15 so I recommend an aye vote for both candidates.
16 If the clerk can please call the roll. Just give
17 me one second. Okay. Perfect. Call the roll?
18 We're short staffed today, so... Vinny is playing
19 triple duty.

20 MALE VOICE: Rivera?

21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye for
22 both candidates and I recommend the members vote
23 aye as well.

24 MALE VOICE: Comrie?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

2 MALE VOICE: Dilan?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: [off mic]

4 MALE VOICE: Jackson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

6 all.

7 MALE VOICE: Vann?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

9 MALE VOICE: Dickens?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

11 MALE VOICE: Vacca?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]

13 MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye and

15 congratulations.

16 MALE VOICE: Oddo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

18 MALE VOICE: The vote on rule

19 stands at nine in the affirmative, no negative and

20 no abstentions. Please sign the reports.

21 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to

22 also leave the roll open for a few moments while

23 the Speaker is on her way up and other members

24 that may need to join us. Thank you.

25 MALE VOICE: Fidler?

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

3 MALE VOICE: The vote in the
4 Committee on Rules stands at ten in the
5 affirmative, no negative and no abstentions.

6 MALE VOICE: Speaker Quinn?

7 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye on all.

8 MALE VOICE: The vote in Rules
9 stands at 11 in the affirmative, zero in the
10 negative and zero abstentions.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: That concludes
12 the meeting on Rules, Privileges and Elections.
13 This hearing is adjourned.

14 [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 Kimberley Uhlig

Date 4/23/12