

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON GENERAL WELFARE

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June 30, 2009
Start: 12:09pm
Recess: 12:13pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
BILL DEBLASIO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Gale A. Brewer
Julissa Ferreras
Helen D. Foster
Jessica S. Lappin
Annabel Palma
Thomas White, Jr.

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

CHAIRPERSON DE BLASIO: [gavel]

This meeting of the General Welfare Committee is called to order. Want to thank my colleagues who are in attendance, Council Members Gale Brewer, Julissa Ferreras, Annabel Palma and Jessica Lappin. Thank you all for being here. I want to thank all the staff who helped to put together today's hearing, pinch hitting for Molly Murphy today. Acting as counsel, Matt Gewolb, thank you so much, doing a fine job. And Molly also obviously helped us to prepare this meeting before she went away. Migna Taveras, Crystal Costin [phonetic] and Cara Krueger, thank you all very much. Today, we're going to vote on Resolution 2002-A, which I am very pleased to be cosponsoring with the Speaker. We are trying to respond quickly to a very troubling developing in our City, which is the City Department of Homeless Services' Decision to implement a policy which is euphemistically called the Income Contribution Requirement, ICR, which would require people in homeless shelters to pay a rent payment for their time in shelter. I think it's fair to say that throughout the City, we've heard tremendous

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2 distress from people of all walks of life, at the
3 notion that people in need, in the middle of an
4 economic crisis, who tragically end up in shelter,
5 would then be in a kind of double jeopardy and
6 forced by the City to pay towards the cost of
7 shelter. When in fact, what we should be trying
8 to do is help them towards recovery and self-
9 sufficiency by helping to ensure that any money
10 they are able to earn is kept and made available
11 for their future. So there's tremendous, I think
12 a tremendous consensus that this is an ill-advised
13 policy and a mistake; in fact, it's also been very
14 hard to implement, and the State and the City
15 agreed not to move forward after an initial, after
16 some fits and starts. We're hoping that this
17 policy is once and for all nullified. And
18 although we haven't gotten very clear answers from
19 the Administration, as of our last hearing, there
20 is hope at the state level, and that's the point
21 of this resolution, to call upon the Assembly and
22 the Senate to pass legislation sponsored by
23 Assemblyman Wright and Senator Squadron, that
24 would end this State mandate, and end the practice
25 of charging these payments of folks in shelter.

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2 So, appreciate everyone being here, and urge all
3 members of the General Welfare Committee to vote
4 yes. And now, Clerk, if we could please call the
5 roll.

6 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
7 Clerk. Roll call on the Committee on General
8 Welfare, Resolution 2002-A. Council Member
9 DeBlasio.

10 CHAIRPERSON DE BLASIO: Yes.

11 CLERK: Brewer.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: [off mic]
13 Yes.

14 CLERK: Palma.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]
16 Yes.

17 CLERK: Lappin.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

19 CLERK: Ferreras.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: [off mic]
21 Yes.

22 CLERK: By a vote of five in the
23 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,
24 item is adopted. Council Members, Council
25 Members, please sign the Committee report.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER: And I ask of you,
3 your clerkship, to please hold the roll open,
4 'cause I know a few of our colleagues will be
5 coming in shortly. Thank you, and [off mic] do
6 you recess or adjourn in this situation.

7 [background voices] So just say we'll hold the
8 roll open. [on mic] Alright, we'll hold the roll
9 open for now, and adjourn the meeting later.

10 [pause]

11 CLERK: Council Member Foster.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

13 [pause]

14 CLERK: Council Member White.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER WHITE: Aye.

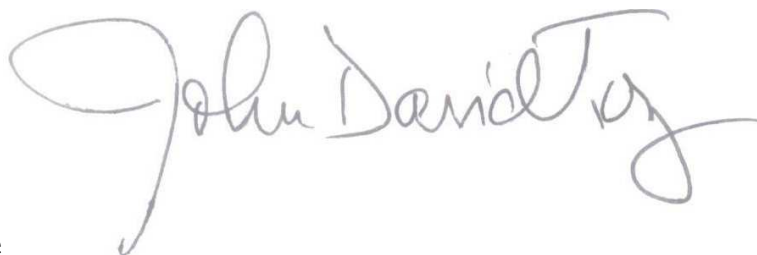
16 CLERK: Final vote on the Committee
17 on General Welfare is now seven in the
18 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
19 abstentions. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON DE BLASIO: This
21 meeting of the General Welfare Committee is now
22 adjourned. [gavel]

23

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed label "Signature".

Signature

Date July 24, 2009