

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

----- X

September 14, 2016
Start: 10:30 a.m.
Recess: 11:00 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens
Daniel R. Garodnick
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Margaret S. Chin
Deborah L. Rose
Jumaane D. Williams
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
The Speaker (Council
Member Mark-Viverito)
Steven Matteo
Corey D. Johnson
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

2
3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Good morning and
5 welcome at the New York City... [interpose, background
6 comments] Good morning and welcome at the New York
7 City Council Committee on Rules, Privileges and
8 Elections resumed from recess. My name is Brad
9 Lander, chair of the Committee; we're joined this
10 morning by Council Member Mark Levine, Council Member
11 Jumaane Williams, Council Member Debi Rose, Minority
12 Leader Steve Matteo, Council Member Dan Garodnick and
13 also Asher Garodnick. [background comments] Good
14 morning. Welcome to our new Committee Counsel
15 Patrick Bradford, as well as several of our other
16 colleagues, Corey Johnson and Laurie Cumbo. And
17 thanks, as always, to the staff members of the
18 Council's Investigative Unit, Chuck Davis, Alicia
19 Vissel [sp?], Andrea Johnson Brown and Otto Knight.

20 In a communication dated August 10th,
21 2016, the Mayor formally submitted the name of Hari
22 Indi Savitala to the Council, nominating him for
23 appointment to the New York City Environmental
24 Control Board as the Noise Specialist. Should he be
25 appointed, he'll serve for the remainder of a four-

2 year term expiring on March 5th, 2019. We had a
3 hearing with Mr. Savitala in which I have to say it
4 may be the best hearing in terms of just
5 demonstrating pure qualifications for the job without
6 any connection to anyone; he was reached out to by
7 the administration because he's one of the people
8 that has the noise qualifications and expertise that
9 we need in this position; our only regret was we
10 asked him some questions about how to solve the noise
11 problems in New York City and he did not solve all of
12 those problems in our short hearing, but his
13 qualifications I would say were indisputable and
14 [background comments] he was quiet even, so but uh.
15 Alright, so I feel wholehearted in recommending an
16 aye vote on Mr. Savitala. Are there any Council
17 Members who wish to speak before we call the roll?
18 [background comments]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Mr. Chairman,
20 just a quick comment. First of all, I'm delighted to
21 be joined by my son Asher today and thank you for
22 recognizing him.

23 On this appointee, you know it is rare
24 that you see a combination of expertise and the
25 office for which they are appointed to be so well-

2 matched and in this case it was simply extraordinary;
3 you have an acoustical engineer with an expertise in
4 quiet being appointed to the Environmental Control
5 Board. We have great expectations, we hope for great
6 things; he seems also like a lovely guy and they
7 should all be this easy. So thank you and I'm
8 certainly gonna support him.

9 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: And we don't have
10 press here this morning, but I would... you know we
11 always ask, either as part of our questions when we
12 give pre-hearing questions or at the committee, how
13 the person, you know became connected to the job; did
14 someone reach out to them; did they reach out to
15 someone, and usually, of course, there's some kind of
16 connection like that; here he's on the list of people
17 with the acoustical sound engineer expertise and the
18 administration was looking for someone with that
19 expertise and they called him because he was on that
20 list and so that's a good story and hopefully it will
21 help the Environmental Control Board rule effectively
22 on noise complaints, which as Council Members know
23 are in fact the number one 311 complaint to New York
24 City and to our offices in many cases.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 6

2 Okay, without further ado and seeing no
3 other comments, we will ask the clerk to call the
4 roll. Take it away Billy.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
6 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Rules,
7 Privileges and Elections. Chair Lander.

8 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I for one expect
11 him to solve every noise issue brought up to him; I
12 vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
23 the item has been adopted.

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 7

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you; we'll
3 keep the roll open for a few minutes for other
4 members who are nearby to come complete the vote.

5 [pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Ten minutes, we will
7 hold the roll open for 10 minutes.

8 [pause]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation, Committee
10 on Rules, Speaker Mark-Viverito.

11 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently
13 stands at 7 in the affirmative. [background
14 comments] Oh, Council Member Chin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote is now 8.

17 [pause]

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee Clerk Matthew
19 DeStefano [sp?], Committee on Rules, Privileges and
20 Elections, continuation of roll call. Council Member
21 Dickens.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I vote aye and I
23 apologize to the staff and to my chair for my
24 lateness. Thank you. Thank you for holding the vote
25 open.

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 8

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands 9
3 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
4 abstentions.

5 [pause]

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Committee on Rules,
7 Privileges and Elections. The final vote stands at 9
8 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
9 abstentions.

10 [pause]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: The vote for the
12 Rules Committee is now closed.

13 [gavel]

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 22, 2016