

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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August 25, 2010
Start: 11:00 am
Recess: 11:22 am

HELD AT: Hearing Room
250 Broadway, 16th Fl.

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)

Dr. Joel A. Forman
Association Professor of Pediatrics
And Preventive Medicine
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Good morning
3 ladies and gentleman and welcome to the Committee
4 on Rules, Privileges and Elections. My name is
5 Joel Rivera and I chair the committee.

6 Before we begin, let me introduce
7 the members who are here with us today. To my
8 left, we have Council Member Rosie Mendez. We
9 have Council Member Minority Leader Jimmy Oddo.
10 We have Council Member Erik Dilan, Council Member
11 Elizabeth Crowley. To my right, we have Council
12 Member Jimmy Vacca, Council Member Karen
13 Koslowitz, Council Member Vincent Gentile and
14 Council Member Lew Fidler.

15 Today, the Rules Committee will
16 consider one appointment to the New York City
17 Board of Health. Dr. Joel Forman, a resident of
18 Queens, Mayoral appointment to the Board of
19 Health. If appointed, Dr. Forman will fill the
20 vacant position formerly held by Dr. Thomas Sang
21 and serve for the remainder of a six-year term
22 that expires on May 31st of 2012.

23 I will briefly describe the
24 functions of the Board of Health. The board is
25 part of the New York City Department of Health and

2 Mental Hygiene. The board's chairperson is the
3 commissioner of the department.

4 The main function of the board is
5 to promulgate the New York City Health Code, which
6 encompasses any matter within the jurisdiction of
7 the department. The department has jurisdiction
8 to regulate on all matters affecting health in the
9 city, including, but not limited to mental health,
10 mental retardation, alcoholism and substance abuse
11 related needs of the city residents.

12 The scope of the department's
13 jurisdiction includes such diverse disciplines as
14 communicable diseases and environmental health
15 services, radiological health, food safety,
16 veterinarian affairs, water quality, pest control
17 and vital statistics. New emerging pathogens and
18 biological warfare are the most recent additions
19 to the department's roster of concerns.

20 The board also is charged with
21 certain administrative responsibilities such as
22 the issuance, suspension or relocation for food
23 vendors' permit. The board may declare a state of
24 great and imminent peril and take appropriate
25 steps subject to mayoral approval and can declare

2 certain conditions as nuisances and such
3 conditions be abated or otherwise corrected.

4 Besides the chairperson, the board
5 consists of ten members, five of whom shall be
6 doctors of medicine who must have at last ten
7 years experience in any or all of the following:
8 clinical medicine, neurology, psychiatry, public
9 health administration, or a college university
10 public health teaching.

11 The other five members need not be
12 physicians but shall hold at least a master's
13 degree in either environmental, biological,
14 veterinarian, physical or behavioral health or
15 science or rehabilitative science or in a related
16 field and with at least ten years experience in
17 their respective fields.

18 The chairperson of the Mental
19 Hygiene Advisory Board is required to be one of
20 the ten board members, provided that such
21 individual meets the requirements for the board
22 membership.

23 The nine board members, other than
24 the chairperson and the member who shall be the
25 chairperson of the Mental Hygiene Advisory Board

2 serve without compensation and are appointed by
3 the mayor of a term of six years. At this point,
4 I want to welcome Dr. Forman. Will you please
5 raise your right hand and be sworn in?

6 MALE VOICE: Dr. Forman, do you
7 solemnly swear or affirm that your foregoing
8 statements will be truthful to the best of your
9 knowledge? Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Perfect. Just
11 make sure the microphone is on.

12 DR. JOEL A. FORMAN: It's on.

13 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Do you have an
14 opening statement?

15 DR. JOEL A. FORMAN: Just very
16 briefly. I just thought first I'd say thank you
17 very much to you, Chair and all the Council
18 Members for this opportunity. It's actually very
19 exciting for me.

20 I thought I'd just very briefly
21 just tell you who I am and what I do. I grew up
22 in Southern New England. I went to medical school
23 in the University of Vermont and been a New York
24 City resident since 1990, for 20 years, always in
25 Queens, even when I was training. I've worked at

2 Mt. Sinai Hospital and Medical School since then,
3 ever since the beginning of my training, straight
4 through.

5 I currently am an associate
6 professor in pediatrics and preventive medicine
7 under two chairs, Dr. Satlin for peds and Dr. Phil
8 Landrigan, who is very well known in children's
9 environmental health. I run the peds training
10 program. So I train pediatric residents and then
11 I oversee all of our sub specialty training like
12 gastro neurology, cardiology and things like that.

13 I have a great interest in health
14 policy and actually my first opportunity was with
15 the city to help develop the guidelines for lead
16 exposure in pregnant and lactating women back in
17 2004. It was sort of my first dip into it. It
18 was a great experience. It led to doing the same
19 work nationally for CDC.

20 Then I now have two other major
21 responsibilities that involve policy work. One is
22 with the National Network of Children's
23 Environment Clinics that's partially funded
24 through the CDC and EPA but also partially
25 independently funded. We do all kinds of

2 consultations and policy work around environmental
3 exposures. It was through that actually that I
4 got involved in working with some of the schools
5 affected by 9/11 and some other things that have
6 happened in schools and other things around the
7 city.

8 Then lastly, I'm on the Committee
9 on Environmental Health for the American Academy
10 of Pediatrics. We primarily do policy related
11 work. Actually, those two groups work together a
12 lot. Some of the bigger projects we've done have
13 been really guidance for professionals and
14 families around disasters.

15 Actually the most recent, which was
16 not in my statements because it hadn't happened
17 yet, was the Gulf oil spill. We actually recently
18 got out about three or four weeks ago, some pretty
19 good FAQ sheets for providers. But we've done the
20 same with Hurricane Katrina, with the wildfires in
21 California and then the very first ones were
22 actually after September 11th here.

23 So that's sort of my experience. I
24 think I bring both pediatric and environmental
25 health and some policy expertise to the committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Perfect. Do
3 any members of the committee have any questions
4 for Dr. Forman? Seeing none at this point in
5 time, the chairperson recommends an aye vote.
6 Will the clerk please call the roll?

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
8 Committee Clerk, roll call in the Committee on
9 Rules, Privileges and Elections. Council Member
10 Rivera?

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.
12 Congratulations.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dilan?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: Just a
15 second to explain. I heard the gentleman's
16 opening and he mentioned that he was from southern
17 New England, so it gave me a little pause that I
18 might be voting today to approve a Red Sox or
19 Patriots fan, which aside from his professional
20 qualifications, which he's definitely to serve in
21 the capacity. I vote yes, but with a little
22 reservation that he might be a fan of some Boston
23 area teams. But I vote yes.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Fidler?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Councilman

2 Dilan speaks like a typical Yankee fan. Met fans
3 have no such compunctions about Boston. Since we
4 disclose everything on the record, I noticed in
5 your CV that you attended Penn Undergrad. I
6 should disclose I'm the proud parent of a Penn
7 undergrad student now, in case that's a conflict.
8 I know that the *New York Post* finds conflicts in
9 everything. I vote aye on all, having disclosed
10 that.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gentile?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: With
13 congratulations, aye.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Crowley?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
16 aye.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Koslowitz?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote
19 aye and congratulations. I'm happy to see that
20 you live in Queens.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of seven
24 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
25 abstentions, item is adopted.

2 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to
3 leave the vote open for a few moments so other
4 members will have the opportunity. The Speaker is
5 on her way down. Will the members please sign the
6 committee reports?

7 [Pause]

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: Speaker Quinn?

9 SPEAKER QUINN: I vote aye. See
10 you later.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now
12 stands at eight in the affirmative, zero in the
13 negative and no abstentions.

14 [Pause]

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
16 Comrie?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye
18 on the appointments for Rules, Privileges and
19 Elections.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote
22 aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dickens?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote on the

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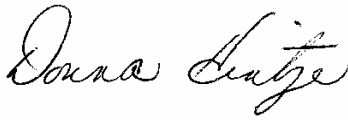
2 Committee on Rules is now at 11 in the

3 affirmative, zero in the negative and no

4 abstentions.

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 September 9, 2010