

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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May 15, 2012
Start: 10:39am
Recess: 11:15am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
JAMES SANDERS, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
James F. Gennaro
Melissa Mark-Viverito
Michael C. Nelson
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Eric A. Ulrich

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2 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: This hearing
3 will now come to order. Good morning and thank
4 you for coming. My name is Council Member James
5 Sanders, Jr. and I am the chair of the Committee
6 on Civil Service and Labor. Again, I need to
7 announce that the Council recently started webcast
8 hearings live on our website--just so that we are
9 aware that we are live and archived forever on the
10 Council's website. This morning we will be having
11 a second hearing and voting on proposed Resolution
12 1319-A, which calls upon the legislature to pass
13 and Governor Cuomo to sign into law Assembly 99148
14 and Senate 6413, which would raise the state's
15 minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$8.50 an hour,
16 and unlike the current law, the rate would be
17 increased automatically due to inflation. To
18 reiterate what we have learned at last week's
19 hearings, New York's minimum wage was last
20 increased in 2009 from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an
21 hour. Today \$7.56 would be required to buy what
22 \$7.25 worth of goods would have been in 2009. I
23 think an increase to \$8.50 is modest and
24 reasonable. This is a no brainer. \$7.25 is
25 currently the federal minimum wage, but the law

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2 allows states to set a higher rate. The idea that
3 the same wage applies to every state when it's far
4 more expensive to live in some places like New
5 York, it's already problematic. So the fact that
6 it is so controversial to require employers to pay
7 \$8.25 an hour in New York in 2012 is beyond me,
8 but here we are, calling upon the state to the
9 right thing for our city's most vulnerable
10 workers, many of whom work in some of the most
11 difficult jobs imaginable. We have to thank
12 Council Member Jumaane Williams for sponsoring
13 this resolution. We have been joined by Council
14 Members Seabrook of the Bronx and our Chair of
15 Finance Recchia of Brooklyn. Other members have
16 been in and are coming back to this hearing. We
17 want to thank the Committee staff, Matthew Carlon
18 [phonetic], who is counsel, and Faith Corbett
19 [phonetic], our policy analyst and Alex Kevorkian
20 [phonetic], senior economist. We look forward to
21 a good vote on this issue.

22 [background conversation]

23 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Alright. We
24 have been joined by Council Member Mark-Viverito
25 and I mentioned everyone else. Under those

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conditions we are ready to call the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Pin,
Committee Clerk. Roll call in the Committee on
Civil Service and Labor Reso 1319-A. Council
Member Sanders?

CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Absolutely,
aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia?

COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mark-Viverito?

COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of four
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, the item has been adopted. Members,
please sign the Committee Report.

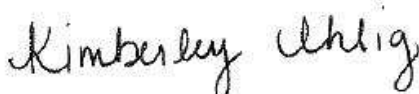
CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: I will hold
this vote open... Under those conditions, we will
not hold this vote open. I want to thank everyone
who has showed up for their promptness and I want
to thank everyone. This hearing is now adjourned.

[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 _____



Date _____5/25/12_____