

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

Committee on Land Use

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May 8, 2014
Start: 10:53 a.m.
Recess: 11:15 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E: David Greenfield
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Annabel Palma
Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel Garodnick
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Peter Koo
Brad S. Lander
Mark Levin
Mark S. Weprin
Jumanne D. Williams
Donovan J. Richards
Inez D. Barron
Andrew Cohen
Ben Kallos
Antonio Reynoso
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger

Vincent Ignizio
Vincent J. Gentile
Ruben Willis

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2 CHAIR GREENFIELD: Good Morning my name
3 is David Greenfield I'm the council member from the,
4 44th councilman district in Brooklyn and privileged
5 to serve as a chair of the land use committee and I
6 wanna welcome my esteemed colleagues who are members
7 of the committee and thank them all for joining us.
8 We have council member Vincent Gentle, we have chair
9 Dickens who get the gold star for being the earliest
10 member here today, so thank you chair. Council
11 member it is not a joke in fact we will tally it up
12 and prizes will be distributed at the end of the
13 calendar year not the fiscal year. Folks were
14 getting excited. We haven't ordered the prizes just
15 yet. We wanna thank council member Garodnick, chair
16 Koo, chair Weprin, council member Richards, council
17 member Barron, council member Mealy, council member
18 Cohen, council member Kallos, council member Reynoso,
19 council member Torres and of course council member
20 Treyger. You have seen him here before you have
21 several items to the committee. First is the agenda
22 prepared by the committee staff containing those
23 matters which have had a hearing and have been
24 reviewed and fully vetted by the subcommittees.
25 These are the matters in which we will be acting

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2 today. I'd like to thank of course the 3
3 subcommittee chairs, chair Mark Weprin, chair Peter
4 Koo and chair Inez Dickens for the work and the
5 subcommittees. Also before you are joined the
6 reports of the land use committees and applicable
7 subcommittee for each item we are voting on today
8 with a proposed resolution for each item. What the
9 committee is voting on today is to approve each of
10 the resolutions before you for presentation and vote
11 by the full council. The resolutions reflect the
12 recommendations of the applicable subcommittee and in
13 addition today you will also find a briefing sheet
14 which gives you additional information about those
15 matters and other matters which have been scheduled
16 to be heard by the subcommittee. Today we have the
17 following applications on our calendars for our
18 consideration. We have 2 applications for an
19 expansion of Rockefeller University above and across
20 the FDR Drive, which I recommended for approval.
21 Rockefeller University is located in council member
22 Kallos district. We also have before us an
23 application from New York City School Construction
24 Authority for site selection of 98 Drum Avenue for
25 the continued use of the PS3 annex as 177 seat

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2 primary school. The school is located in council
3 member Caberes [sp] district. Lastly, we have an
4 amendment to a previously approved tax exemption for
5 a 365 Jay Street in council member Levin district.
6 The subcommittee has recommended approval of these
7 items as have the member in who's district these
8 projects are located. The chair recommends an I vote
9 on all these matters. I will now read the
10 application numbers into the record and then I will
11 have council members who would like to speak and ask
12 questions on the projects. Item #37, 365 Jay Street,
13 20145358 HAK in council members Levin district.
14 Brooklyn Community Board 2 an amendment to
15 previously, to previously approve tax exemption for
16 the property located at 365 Jay Street in the Borough
17 of Brooklyn. LU #49, Rockefeller University
18 expansion C140157 ZSM in council member Kallos
19 district. Manhattan Community Board 8, the grant of
20 a special permit to allow the development of a
21 building within d-mapped air space above the Franklin
22 Delano Roosevelt Tribe in connection with the
23 proposed expansion of an existing university. Item
24 #50, Rockefeller University expansion C, 1400688 MMM,
25 in council members Kallos district. Manhattan

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2 Community Board 8, for an amendment to the city
3 planning map involving closing the volumes of the FDR
4 Drive between East 64th and East 68th Street. Item #
5 56, PS33 annex in the Bronx, 2014351 SCX, in council
6 member Caberis [sp] district, Bronx Community Board
7 5. The proposed school site selection for continued
8 as an approximate 177 seat primary school facility.
9 PS33 annex located at 2392 98 Drum Ave in the Borough
10 of the Bronx. With that I also thank and recognize
11 council members Kanizo [sp] and Lander for joining us
12 and I recognize council member Kallos to speak.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to the
14 land use committee chair Greenfield, zoning committee
15 chair Weprin, my colleagues on this committee and to
16 Rockefeller University for meeting with me so
17 frequently since January and for joining use yet
18 again today. Thank you to speaker Melissa Mark-
19 Viverito and her land use staff, Gail Benjamin and
20 congratulations on her retirement, Ada Fox [sp], Ann
21 Mequewey [sp], Alonso Carr and Rob Maralua who is
22 left us and who I wish well in his new career. I am
23 pleased to ask my colleagues to join me in voting yes
24 on both applications from Rockefeller University to
25 expand their world class institution to attract more

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2 top scientist to the east sides hospital and bio-tech
3 corridor. There were understandable concerns in our
4 already highly developed community about overcrowding
5 in our neighborhood and obstruction to east river
6 parks. However, over the past months, Rockefeller
7 University has demonstrated that it is not only
8 sensitive to these concerns, but will be a valuable
9 partner in improving open space in our community.
10 They've shown a firm commitment to improving the
11 quality of life in our neighborhood while mitigating
12 any issues that may arise. They've laid forth a
13 vision for a more beautiful and dynamic neighborhood
14 in addition to an improved and expanded hub for the
15 scientist. Made significant progress to work with me
16 and the community in good faith on areas of concern
17 raised through this process. I'm enthusiastic about
18 both this project and the individuals behind it and
19 ask my colleagues to join me in voting yes today.

20 CHAIR GREENFIELD: Thank you chair
21 Kallos. Any other members have any comments or
22 questions about any of the items today? Ok, I would
23 also like to recognize the esteemed Staten Island
24 Borough President, Jimmy Oddo who has joined us here
25 today as well. Thank you for joining us. [applause]

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2 Council member and also recognize that while she
3 still will be here with us for several more months,
4 the cat is out of the bag as they say and we've all
5 learned that unfortunately for us and good for her
6 Gail Benjamin is retiring this summer and she really
7 has been the land use committee. I think when people
8 think land use and city council the first thing they
9 think is Gail Benjamin. She is wealth of knowledge,
10 she's incredibly patient and really someone who is
11 unique in terms of the services that she has provide
12 the to the City of New York. So we will formally
13 celebrate her retirement and our lost in future
14 months but now that is officially out of the bag I
15 wanted to recognize that and just recognize that
16 [applause] in whole service and council as well. I
17 also wanna welcome James Lloyd the gentleman with the
18 lovely tie standing right over there. He is a city
19 planner who will be doing all sorts of fun stuff with
20 computers and mapping and the councils land use
21 division so only if you need directions on how to get
22 to your next event [laughter] no, James do you do
23 that or no? No not that, but he if there's anything
24 that you need in the world of mapping, James will in
25 fact just started a couple of days ago and were

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COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

looking forward to great things from James, so we thank you very much and welcome you aboard. With that I will not hearing no other questions or comments I will ask the clerk to call the roll.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Lee Martin, committee clerk roll call vote. Committee on land use. Council member Greefield.

CHAIR GREENFIELD: I vote I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Gentle.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTLE: I vote I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Garodnick.

CONCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Mealy.

[pause]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Richards.

[pause]

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COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: KALLOS.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Enthusiastically

yes.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Reynoso

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Ignizo

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZO: Yes.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I on all.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: To recognize

council member Williams. Council member Williams how
do you vote?

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Torres.

[pause]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Council member

Williams.

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COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote I.

What's up Jimmy Oddo? [laughter]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: By vote of 17 on the affirmative, 0 on the negative and no extensions. All items have been adopted. Members please sign the committee reports. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you as this is our practice were gonna keep the vote open until 11:15 and thank you all of the council members for coming out here today.

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Welcome council member Arroyo.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Council member Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes, si.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Mucho gracias. Welcome council member Levine.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Levin

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Personal thing. It's a Williamsburg thing.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: If it wasn't a council member named Levine then.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I forgot about that to-shay. For 4 years you had a good run though.

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COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I on all.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Vote currently stands
at 19.

[pause]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Council member
Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: I.

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Vote now stands at 20.

[pause][background talking]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Council member Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote I on all.

[pause]

CLERK LEE MARTIN: Final vote committee
on land use is 21 in the affirmative, 0 in the
negative and no extensions.

CHAIR GREENFIELD: Thank you clerk. The
land use committee is now adjourned.

[gavel]

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. 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.



Date May 12, 2014