

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDING

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December 18, 2008
Start: 10:38am
Recess: 10:44am

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E: ERIK MARTIN DILAN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Joel Rivera
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Robert Jackson
Rosie Mendez
James Vacca
James S. Oddo

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. I'd like to call this Committee hearing to order. Good morning, everyone. My name is Erik Martin Dilan and I am the Chairman of the City Council's Housing and Buildings Committee. Today the Committee will be hearing a pre-considered resolution sponsored by Council Member Mendez, who is the Chair on the Subcommittee of Public Housing. And the purpose of today's hearing is to vote on a resolution that calls on the United States Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to approve, a second economic stimulus package that includes a \$5 billion in supplemental funding for the Public Housing Capital Fund. Due to NYCHA's operating budget deficits since fiscal year 2002, the Authority has routinely transferred capital funds into their operating budget in order to close their budget gaps. And since fiscal year 2001, NYCHA has repeatedly been shortchanged every fiscal year by the tune of overall \$500 million in capital and operating expenses. Due to this practice of delaying capital projects into their operating budgets, many of their needed capital improvements

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2 have been deferred into the future. NYCHA has
3 already identified \$500 million in capital
4 projects that would be ready to start immediately
5 should these funds become available. I urge my
6 colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution and
7 I'd like to give an opportunity to the sponsor of
8 this resolution, Council Member Mendez to make a
9 brief statement.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,
11 Chair Dilan, and my thanks to you and Speaker
12 Quinn for assisting in getting this Reso done in
13 such a quick time. The reason that we had to move
14 forward with this quickly is because there's an
15 opportunity to get Washington to vote on a second
16 economic stimulus package. If approved it would
17 be implemented during the tenure of President-
18 Elect Obama and would infuse all public housing
19 authorities with the necessary money for capital
20 that all housing authorities across the nation
21 have been shortchanged during the Bush years. New
22 York City Housing Authority alone was shortchanged
23 \$502 million. Any money that would come from this
24 stimulus package would get to address dire needed
25 capital repairs, such as the elevators, which many

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2 of us have been dealing with; and more importantly
3 would also create many jobs in a time where job
4 creation is very important. So I want to thank
5 you, Chair, and thank my colleagues. And I ask
6 everyone to vote in favor. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay, what I'll
8 do is I know that there are some members that do
9 have to leave, so I'd just like to take the
10 privilege of skipping the announcements of all my
11 colleagues who are here and just ask for an
12 immediate vote on the only item on today's agenda.
13 I'd like to ask the Clerk to call the roll.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
15 Committee Clerk. Pre-considered Resolution.
16 Council Member Dilan.

17 CHAIRPERSON DILAN: I vote aye.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Avella.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Fidler.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Mendez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Vacca.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo.

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes. Thank

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you.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of eight

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in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please

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sign the Committee Report. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON DILAN: Okay. I'd like

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to leave the vote open for as long as the rules

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allow to allow some members who are in leadership

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to come up and vote and some members who are in

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transit or in other Committees to vote, and at

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that time this Committee will be adjourned.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Councilwoman Baez,

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how do you vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now

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stands in nine in the affirmative, zero in the

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negative.

[PAUSE]

WILLIAM MARTIN: Check. Councilman Jackson, how do you vote?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now stands in ten in the affirmative, zero in the negative.

[Pause]


WILLIAM MARTIN: Let me get you the Committee Report to sign.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON DILAN: That will adjourn this hearing. I just want to note for the record that Council Member White has been excused for health reasons. That will adjourn this hearing.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler 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 January 2, 2009 _____