

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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January 6, 2016  
Start: 10:02 a.m.  
Recess: 10:36 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:

JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
James G. Van Bramer  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Corey D. Johnson  
Mark Levine  
I. Daneek Miller  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Steven Matteo

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

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good  
3 morning Happy New Year, welcome to the first  
4 committee hearing of 2016. I'm Council Member  
5 Julissa Ferreras-Copeland; I'm the Chair of this  
6 committee. We've been joined by Council Members  
7 Levine, Rodriguez, Matteo, Van Bramer and Gibson.

8 Today we have three items on the agenda;  
9 the first item is a Preliminary Budget extender and  
10 the remaining two items are BID items.

11 Preliminary Budget extender is the first  
12 item in this committee and the Council will be  
13 considering for Fiscal Year 2017's budget. It  
14 extends the date by which the mayor releases a  
15 Preliminary Budget and other budget-related dates  
16 under the charter. The administration has until  
17 January 16th of each year to submit the Preliminary  
18 Budget to the Council; if the mayor does not think  
19 that he will be able to do so by the date; then he  
20 must submit legislation to the Council to amend the  
21 dates in the charter. The mayor has requested an  
22 additional five days, until January 21st, to submit  
23 both the Preliminary Budget and the Preliminary  
24 Certificate on maximum capital budget and  
25 obligations. The legislation also extends the date

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2 for the Council's budget response, from March 25th to  
3 March 30th, giving the Council an additional five  
4 days to hold hearings and submit its Preliminary  
5 Budget recommendations. Representatives from OMB are  
6 here to answer any questions you might have on the  
7 Preliminary Budget extender.

8           Next we have two BID items; the first is  
9 proposed Res 0932-A concerning the Fulton Street  
10 Business Improvement District, also known as the  
11 Fulton Area Business Alliance, or FAB Alliance, in  
12 Council Member Cumbo's district.

13           The Fulton Street BID was first created  
14 in 2008 and is primarily centered around Fulton  
15 Street in the Fort Greene-Clinton Hill neighborhoods  
16 of Brooklyn. The BID was created to provide services  
17 to the Fulton Street commercial corridor, an area of  
18 neighborhood retail shops. The Fulton Street BID  
19 neighbors, the MetroTech BID, which is currently  
20 seeking to expand its boundaries to include 10 new  
21 blocks surrounding the cultural district in downtown  
22 Brooklyn. The Fulton Street BID is requesting that  
23 the Council approve amendments to its district plan  
24 so that it can provide services to five other blocks  
25 that fronts the edge of downtown Brooklyn that were

1 not included in the proposed MetroTech expansion.  
2 Specifically the BID is requesting the following  
3 changes: an expansion of its boundaries to include  
4 nine existing properties; one property under  
5 construction, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music  
6 Harvey Theater, as well as removal of one residential  
7 property that was included in error by the BID when  
8 the BID was established; a change in the method by  
9 the assessments are calculated to include both a  
10 front footage rate and an assessed value rate and an  
11 increase in its annual assessment of \$330,000 to  
12 \$500,000.  
13

14 The resolution sets forth the date and  
15 time of the hearing that this committee will hold to  
16 consider the legislation that would effectuate the  
17 three changes I just described. The hearing will  
18 take place on January 19th, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the  
19 Committee Room in City Hall. For more details on the  
20 specific amendments the BID seeks to make to its  
21 district plan, please see the Committee Report  
22 prepared by Finance Division staff, along with the  
23 attached amended district plan.

24 The second BID item that we will be  
25 voting on today is proposed Res 0933-A, which sets

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2 forth January 19th, 2016 at 8 a.m. in the Committee  
3 Room in City Hall as the date, time and place to hold  
4 the public hearing considering the local law that  
5 would authorize an increase in the budget of nine  
6 BIDs and one special assessment district for Fiscal  
7 2016. [background comments]

8           The budget increases have been requested  
9 by the property owners within the boundaries of each  
10 BID and would be used to enhance the services  
11 provided the nine BIDs and one special assessment  
12 district that are seeking budget increases.

13           The first is 108th Street BID in Council  
14 Member Miller's district; the second is Bay Ridge 5th  
15 Avenue BID in Council Member Gentile's district; the  
16 third is Belmont BID in Council Member Torres'  
17 district; the fourth is Bryant Park BID in Council  
18 Member Garodnick's district; the fifth is Columbus  
19 Avenue BID in Council Member Rosenthal's district;  
20 the sixth is the Fulton Mall Special Assessment  
21 District in Council Member Levin's district; the  
22 seventh is the Montague Street BID in Council Member  
23 Levin's district; the eighth is the Myrtle Avenue BID  
24 in Council Member Reynoso's district; the ninth is  
25 the Union Square BID in Council Member Mendez'

1  
2 district, and the tenth is the Village Alliance BID  
3 that spans the districts of Council Members Chin,  
4 Mendez and Johnson.

5 All of these council members have  
6 submitted letters in support of the requested budget  
7 increase; more information regarding the specific  
8 amount of the assessment increases and the additional  
9 services that will be provided can be found in the  
10 Committee Report prepared by the Finance Division.  
11 Representatives from the Department of Small Business  
12 Services are here to answer any questions you may  
13 have on either of these resolutions. We will now  
14 take any questions if any members have any questions.

15 [background comment]

16 Before... OMB's very happy to hear that.

17 [laughter] Before I ask Kevin Penn [sp?], Committee  
18 Clerk, to call the roll I'd like to ask my colleagues  
19 to please take a moment to review the Finance  
20 Committee's 2015 "Year at a Glance" newsletter that  
21 is on the desk in front of you. We had an incredible  
22 year of accomplishments last year; I am grateful to  
23 have worked alongside all of you; I look forward to  
24 another successful year in 2016. Committee Clerk,  
25 you may call the roll.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Kevin Penn, Committee Clerk, roll call in the Committee on Finance, preconsidered Int. and Resolutions 0932-A and 0933-A, Council Member Ferreras-Copeland.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote aye, and again as another reminder, Happy New Year to everyone.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Happy New Year.

I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, the items have been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you and if there's any staff members that are not here, we will leave the roll open for 20 minutes.



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye. Thank

you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at 7 in the

affirmative.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at 8 in the

affirmative.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the

Committee on Finance; 8 in the affirmative, 0 in the

negative and no abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: This meeting of

the Committee on Finance is hereby adjourned.

[gavel]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye on

all.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the  
Committee on Finance; 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
negative; no abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Thank you; with  
that we adjourn the meeting.

[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. 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 January 7, 2016