

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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June 21, 2016
Start: 11:12 a.m.
Recess: 12:20 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E:
BRAD S. LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel R. Garodnick
Ydanis R. Rodriguez
Margaret S. Chin
Deborah L. Rose
Jumaane D. Williams
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.
Mark Levine
The Speaker (Council
Member Mark-Viverito)
Steven Matteo
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland
Andrew Cohen

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

2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Alright, good
3 morning. [gavel] Welcome to the New York City
4 Council Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.
5 I'm pleased to resume this meeting from recess. My
6 name is Brad Lander; I chair the committee and we are
7 joined this morning by Margaret Chin, who was first
8 here, Council Member Debi Rose, Council Member Mark
9 Levine, Council Member Steve Matteo, Council Member
10 Dan Garodnick, and we're joined as well by Council
11 Member Julissa Ferreras and I think by Council Member
12 Andy Cohen.

13 Thanks to the committee's attorney, Jason
14 Otano and as always, to Chuck Davis, our Director of
15 Investigations, and Deandra Johnson.

16 In a communication dated June 4, 2016,
17 the Bronx County Democratic Committee formally
18 submitted the name of Rosanna Vargas to the Council
19 for appointment to the New York City Board of
20 Elections; should the Council appoint Ms. Vargas, she
21 will fill a vacancy and serve the remainder of a term
22 that ends December 31, 2016. As members will
23 remember, we had a conversation with Ms. Vargas about
24 the issue of her serving as a lobbyist and I'm
25 pleased to point out to members; you have in your

2 packet a letter from her on her firm letterhead
3 indicating that upon her appointment her firm will
4 have her removed as a registered lobbyist and that
5 during her tenure as a commissioner she will not
6 engage in any lobbying, so that holds up the
7 standards that this body has had for appointees to
8 all various boards and commissions -- [interpose,
9 background comment] yes.

10 And in addition, in a letter dated June
11 3, 3016, the Mayor formally submitted the names of
12 Larry Dais, a resident of Manhattan, and Allen
13 Cappelli, a resident of Staten Island, to the Council
14 of the City of New York for its advice and consent
15 regarding their nomination for appointment to the New
16 York City Civil Service Commission, and should they
17 receive the advice and consent of the Council, they
18 will each serve the remainder of a six-year term that
19 expire on March 21, 2021 and you'll remember there
20 that we spoke of Mr. Cappelli; at the time he was a
21 member of the MTA Board, but his appointment was
22 confirmed by the Legislature and so he is no longer a
23 member of the MTA Board.

24 Are there any questions or comments from
25 the floor? Yeah, Council Member Garodnick.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you,
3 Mr. Chairman; I just wanted to echo your view about
4 the importance of this committee continuing to adhere
5 to the standard that appointees should not also be
6 contemporaneously lobbying the City Council.

7 Obviously we had a colloquy with the applicant and
8 the nominee at the hearing in which there was some
9 suggestion that that the lobbying would continue, but
10 in light of the fact that we have this letter saying
11 that she will not register as a lobbyist nor engage
12 in any lobbying activities during her term as
13 commissioner of the Board of Elections in the City of
14 New York, I think that that resolves that question,
15 but I do think that it's important for the Council to
16 stick to that principle; the appointees that we
17 approve should not be contemporaneously lobbying us.
18 So I thank you and I will be voting yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you, Council
20 Member Garodnick. And with that we'll ask -- is he..
21 [background comments] is Billy here? There he is,
22 great. We'll ask the committee clerk to call the
23 roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Rules,
4 Privileges and Elections. Chair Lander.

5 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Levine.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Yes.

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

19 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Martin. And we will leave the roll open for some
21 other members who will be trickling in to vote a
22 little later.

23 [background comments]

24 [pause]

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
3 the Committee on Rules. Council Member Dickens.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now currently
6 stands at 7 in the affirmative.

7 [pause]

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,
9 the Committee on Rules. Speaker Mark-Viverito.

10 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote now
12 Committee on Rules stands at 8 in the affirmative, 0
13 in the negative and no abstentions.

14 [background comments]

15 FEMALE VOICE: Alright, this hearing is
16 adjourned.

17 [gavel]

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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 July 8, 2016