

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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August 22, 2012  
Start: 11:15 am  
Recess: 11:39 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JOEL RIVERA  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.  
Elizabeth S. Crowley  
Inez E. Dickens  
Erik Martin Dilan  
Lewis A. Fidler  
Vincent J. Gentile  
Robert Jackson  
James Vacca  
Albert Vann  
Karen Koslowitz  
James S. Oddo  
Christine C. Quinn

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

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Good morning and welcome to the Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections. My name is Joe Rivera, and I'm the chair of the Committee. Before we begin, let me introduce the members who are here with us today. We have Council Member Jimmy Vacca, Council Member Lew Fidler, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley, Council Member Darlene Mealy, Council Member Leroy Comrie. We also have Council Member Al Vann, Council Member Karen Koslowitz, and we are also joined by--Council Member Robert Jackson is sitting down in the audience. We also have with us committee staff. We have Chuck Davis in the back. We have Emerson Sykes [phonetic] here to my right, Jasmine Vega and Julius Corandi [phonetic]. Today we have before us one candidate for review, Joseph Douek--hopefully, I don't butcher your name. I apologize--a resident of Brooklyn, is a candidate for appointment by the Brooklyn Borough President to the City Planning Commission. If the Council gives its advice and consent, Mr. Douek will succeed Shirley A. McCrae and serve the remainder of a five year term that expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. First I will briefly describe the functions

1 of the City Planning Commission.

2  
3 The City Planning Commission has 13  
4 members, 7 appointed by the mayor, 1 by the public  
5 advocate and 1 by each of the borough presidents.  
6 The Planning Commission is responsible for the  
7 long range planning to ensure orderly growth and  
8 development, assist in developing the ten year  
9 capital plan, prepares and modifies the zoning  
10 resolution, among a number of other critical  
11 functions. Commission members serve five years  
12 terms. There is no limitation on the number of  
13 terms that a CPC member may serve. CPC members  
14 are prohibited from holding any other city office  
15 while they serve on the Planning Commission. The  
16 chair receives an annual salary of \$205,180. The  
17 member who is designated as vice chair receives an  
18 annual salary of \$62,271 and the other members  
19 receive an annual salary of \$54,150. Welcome, Mr.  
20 Douek. Will you please raise your right hand to  
21 be sworn in? You don't have to stand up. Just  
22 raise your right hand and make sure the button is  
23 on.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Do you swear or  
25 affirm that you will tell the truth, the whole

1  
2 truth and nothing but the truth?

3 JOSEPH DOUEK: I affirm.

4 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Perfect. If  
5 you have any statements at this point in time you  
6 may proceed.

7 JOSEPH DOUEK: Thank you, Mr.  
8 Chairman. I'm honored to be in front of this  
9 Committee today for consideration of my  
10 appointment to the City Planning Commission by the  
11 Brooklyn Borough President nomination. For the  
12 past ten years, I have had the pleasure of serving  
13 my city as a board member of the New York City  
14 Economic Development Corporation (EDC),  
15 representing the Brooklyn Council Delegation by  
16 nomination of the Speaker and as an Industrial  
17 Development Agency (IDA) board member by  
18 nomination of the Brooklyn Borough President.  
19 During my tenure as a board member of those  
20 agencies, I have worked hard to bring greater  
21 transparency and accountability to our efforts.  
22 Recently the head of a citizen's watchdog group  
23 told me that over the past ten years, the changes  
24 that she has seen are remarkable. Many of you  
25 here will recall the fruits of my labor in

1  
2 creating the five borough road show that EDC and  
3 IDA have done once every few years. At my  
4 suggestion, agency staff would set up a morning  
5 workshop at each borough and invite the local  
6 elected officials, not for profits, businesses and  
7 other stakeholders where senior agency management  
8 would be available to them to go through the many  
9 programs and benefits that the agency offers.

10 That is commensurate with my belief that you, the  
11 local elected officials, know your area and  
12 constituents best. From the President of the  
13 United States on down, the one message we here  
14 loud and clear are jobs, jobs, jobs. As a City  
15 Planning commissioner, I will use my position to  
16 leverage our most valuable non-renewable resource,  
17 land, to create jobs—well paying jobs that come  
18 with a vibrant and healthy economy. Nevertheless,  
19 job creation should go hand in hand with quality  
20 of life considerations and affordable housing.

21 More can be done and more should be done. It will  
22 be presumptuous for anyone to provide specifics on  
23 how to get there until they have had an  
24 opportunity to serve and better understand the  
25 interworkings [phonetic] of the Commission, but my

1  
2 goal of job creation, affordable housing,  
3 preservation where warranted and an overall better  
4 quality of life will guide my decisions. The  
5 amount of land that we have is finite, but our  
6 population will grow infinitely. We need to plan  
7 for the future of the city and the millions of new  
8 residents that we expect of the next few decades  
9 and with your consent, I will do my part. Thank  
10 you, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
12 much. Do any members have any questions? Seeing  
13 none, I'll just ask the clerk to please call the  
14 roll.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
16 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on  
17 Rules. Council Member Rivera?

18 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye and  
19 I urge all of the members to vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: [off mic]

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic] -  
24 eleven years ago when I chaired the Brooklyn  
25 delegation, it was privilege to nominate Mr. Douek

1  
2 to the EDC position that he still holds, and he's  
3 not betrayed that trust in any way. He has been a  
4 diligent public servant. He is someone that is  
5 well known throughout Brooklyn. People know him  
6 and they actually like him too, which is a real  
7 feat in Brooklyn and I just absolutely know that  
8 the Borough President has made a brilliant choice  
9 in appointing Joe to the City Planning Commission  
10 and it's a great pleasure to vote aye. On behalf  
11 of all of my colleagues in Brooklyn, I  
12 congratulate you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of  
24 eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and  
25 no abstentions, item has been adopted. Members,



1  
2 please sign the Committee Report.

3 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to  
4 keep the vote open for 20 minutes for other  
5 members who need to come up and vote and  
6 congratulations on your extended term.

7 JOSEPH DOUEK: Thank you.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote  
9 currently stands at nine in the affirmative.  
10 Excuse me. Council Member Oddo?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote stands  
13 at nine.

14 [pause]

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Speaker Quinn?

16 SPEAKER QUINN: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote in the  
18 Committee on Rules now stands at ten in the  
19 affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
20 abstentions.

21 [pause]

22 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very  
23 much. This concludes Committee on Rules,  
24 Privileges and Elections. I now adjourn the  
25 meeting.

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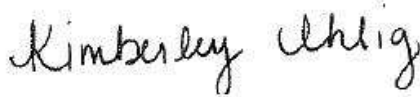
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[gavel]

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 \_\_\_\_\_8/29/12\_\_\_\_\_