

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

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June 15, 2011
Start: 12:30 pm
Recess: 1:14 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
Joel Rivera
Acting Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Erik Martin Dilan
Lewis A. Fidler
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook
Elizabeth S. Crowley
Robert Jackson

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

Larry Scott Blackmon
Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Good

afternoon, ladies and gentleman. Welcome to the State and Federal Legislation Committee. My name is Joe Rivera, and I'm a member of the Committee and I will be chairing today's hearing for Council Member Helen Foster, who cannot be here today. As you know, the session in Albany is ending and we are presented with another opportunity to pass home rule legislation that affects the City of New York. First, I would like to introduce the members who are here with us today. We have Council Member Lew Fidler, Council Member Erik Dilan, Council Member Domenic Recchia and we are also joined by Council Member Robert Jackson.

This afternoon the Committee will be voting on several items. The different issues before us may seem unrelated, but taken together, they reflect a concerted effort to ensure that the State and City governments are working to serve the needs of the people of this great city. We will be considered two bills that deal with commercial bicyclists. One piece of legislation would require stricter enforcement of the administrative code provision regulating

1 commercial bicyclists. It will also hold
2 businesses vicariously liable for the actions of
3 commercial cyclists that they employ.

4 Additionally, we will be considering legislation
5 that will require commercial bicyclists to
6 register with their local police precinct and wear
7 helmets. This will contribute to the safety of
8 both the bicyclist and to pedestrians as well.

9 We've also been joined by Council Member Liz
10 Crowley. We will also consider park - - nation
11 legislation in Astoria. At this moment, I would
12 like to open the hearing to any comments or
13 statements from any of the Committee members.

14 Seeing none, we will move forward. We will now
15 open the hearing to--there are no witnesses that
16 are being presented today, so at this point in
17 time, I will ask the clerk to please call the
18 roll, and I recommend an aye vote on the items on
19 today's agenda.

20
21 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
22 committee clerk, Council Member Rivera?

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dilan?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DILAN: I vote aye.

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Recchia?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RECCHIA: I'll pass.

6 No, I'm joking. I vote aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Crowley?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote

9 aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of five

11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

12 abstentions, all items are adopted. Members,

13 please sign the Committee Reports. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: We're going to

15 keep the vote open for a few moments to allow

16 other Council Members who are on the Committee to

17 come vote. We actually have the Parks Department

18 here, who wants to provide some testimony, so you

19 may proceed.

20 LARRY SCOTT BLACKMON: Good

21 afternoon, acting Chair Rivera, members of the

22 State and Federal Legislation Committee. I'm

23 Larry Scott Blackmon, Deputy Commissioner for

24 Community Outreach with the New York City

25 Department of Parks and Recreation. Thank you for

1
2 the opportunity to testify on the home rule on the
3 Committee's agenda today that would affect New
4 York City's parks. The legislative item as it
5 relates to Parks is a resolution requesting the
6 New York State Legislature to pass bills
7 introduced by Senator Gianaris and Assembly Member
8 Simotis, which would authorize the City of New
9 York to discontinue use of certain parkland and
10 convey it to St. Michael's Cemetery in Queens.
11 The park land that is being referred to is a 3.77
12 acre strip of land adjacent to the cemetery. Any
13 alienation action is subject to the requirement
14 that the City use any proceeds and/or land
15 received in exchange for the conveyance authorized
16 by this act to acquire land for park purposes in
17 an amount equal to or great than the fair market
18 value of the land being conveyed.

19 At this time no replacement park
20 land has been identified in order to adopt
21 alienation legislation. The Parks Department is
22 not aware of a replacement parcel to evaluate in
23 order to ensure that the replacement parcel is of
24 sufficient size and open space value as the park
25 land proposed for alienation as is customary for a

1
2 one to one acre replacement value for the park
3 land alienated. Given the uncertainty surrounding
4 the replacement park land, the fair market value
5 of the land to be conveyed to be established as
6 per the legislation may not be sufficient to
7 acquire replacement parkland to replace the open
8 space value of the alienated park parcel. It
9 would thus be premature to adopt alienation
10 legislation prior to reaching agreement on all
11 aspects of the land swap and the Parks Department
12 is opposed to this piece of legislation at this
13 time. We take the alienation of park land very
14 seriously and after only extensive dialogue and
15 negotiation. Passing this legislation without
16 identifying replacement park land sets a very
17 dangerous precedent. I thank you for the
18 opportunity to testify before you today and I'd be
19 happy to answer any questions you may have.

20 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you very
21 much. I don't have any questions. Thank you.

22 LARRY SCOTT BLACKMON: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Can the clerk
24 call the roll?

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

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Seabrook?

COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote

aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on the

Committee on State and Federal Legislation is now

six in the affirmative, zero in the negative and

no abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RIVERA: Thank you.

This meeting is adjourned.

[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

Kimberley Uhlig

Date

June 22, 2011