

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON AGING

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May 11, 2010
Start: 10:20am
Recess: 10:40am

HELD AT: 250 Broadway Hearing Room
16th Floor

B E F O R E:
JESSICA S. LAPPIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Gale A. Brewer
Margaret Chin
Vincent J. Gentile
Greenfield
David G. Peter A. Coo
Karen Koslowitz
Melissa Mark-Viverito

1
2 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Good morning
3 everybody and welcome to the Committee on Aging.
4 We're going to vote this morning on Resolution
5 number 7. I'm Jessica Lappin, the Chair of the
6 Committee. We're joined today by Councilwoman
7 Margaret Chin, Councilwoman Debbie Rose,
8 Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member
9 Peter Koo, Councilwoman Maria del Carmen Arroyo
10 and Council Member Jimmy Vacca.

11 The resolution that we're voting on
12 today, number 7, would call upon the federal
13 government to enact legislation that would
14 authorize a one-time \$250 stimulus payment for
15 social security beneficiaries in order to offset
16 the loss of a COLA increase this year. Since
17 1975, those who receive social security benefits
18 have received a modest yearly increase to their
19 benefits due to a cost of living adjustment, or
20 COLA, that was tied to the inflation rate. But
21 this year, because of the recession, the inflation
22 rate remained flat and there was no COLA. While
23 the inflation rate may be zero, seniors
24 consistently face rising costs on other fronts,
25 such as healthcare, food, energy and housing. A

1
2 COLA increase would not eliminate those burdens,
3 but would provide an additional cushion,
4 especially when many seniors have factored in the
5 likelihood of a COLA increase to their budgets.

6 President Obama recently called
7 upon Congress to authorize a second \$250 stimulus
8 check for social security recipients to offset
9 this loss. And as of now, there are numerous
10 bills pending in congress to do that, or something
11 similar.

12 On April 30th, this committee held
13 a hearing on the resolution and advocates from
14 AARP and others came and testified in support,
15 particularly our Congressman Charlie Rangel, who
16 gave a very passionate and effective plea and
17 testimony that I think many of us found very
18 moving, and really said that those of us in the
19 Council could help him in his efforts to help
20 seniors not only in New York but across the
21 country by passing a resolution like this. So I'm
22 very pleased that we will be voting on this today
23 and certainly ask my colleagues to support this
24 resolution and for an affirmative vote. And I
25 would ask the Counsel to call for a vote, please.

1
2 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
3 Committee Clerk. Roll Call on the Committee on
4 Aging. Council Member Lappin.

5 CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Aye.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Arroyo.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: Mark-Viverito.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARK-VIVERITO: Aye.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vacca.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'd like to
12 vote with an explanation. Of course I'm voting
13 yes. The federal government has not raised this,
14 has not given the seniors the COLA in 2009, and
15 they do not intend to do it in 2010. And the
16 reality is that the cost of living has gone up.
17 The federal government says that the cost of
18 living has not gone up. They only have to talk to
19 senior citizens in our city whose water bills are
20 going up again, and who face ConEd rates through
21 the roof, rising transit fares on the buses and on
22 the subways and taxes and fees and traffic tickets
23 galore. So, this is the least we could do, and I
24 hope that Congress heeds our resolution and that
25 we get it out to anyone and everyone. So I vote

1

2 yes.

3

WILLIAM MARTIN: Chin.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes.

5

WILLIAM MARTIN: Rose.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes.

7

WILLIAM MARTIN: Koo.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Yes.

9

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of seven
11 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
12 abstentions, item is adopted. Members, please
13 sign the Committee Report. Thank you.

13

14

15

CHAIRPERSON LAPPIN: Thank you all
very much. I'm going to adjourn this meeting and
I'm going to keep the vote open for 10 minutes.

16

17

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
Koslowitz.

18

19

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote
Aye.

20

21

WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote now stands at
eight in the affirmative.

22

[Pause]

23

24

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
Brewer?

25

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote Aye.

1

2 Thank you.

3

4

5

WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote now stands at
nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative and
no abstentions.

6

[Pause]

7

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

8

Gentile.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

10

[Pause]

11

WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote now stands at

12

ten in the affirmative, zero in the negative and

13

no abstentions.

14

[Pause]

15

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

16

Greenfield.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I vote

18

Aye.

19

[Pause]

20

WILLIAM MARTIN: Vote is now 11 in

21

the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

22

abstentions.

23

[Pause]

24

WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote on the

25

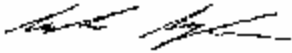
Committee on Aging is now 11 in the affirmative,

2

zero in the negative and no abstentions.

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 5/21/10 _____