

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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January 3, 2012
Start: 11:03 a.m.
Recess: 11:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
250 Broadway, 16th Floor

B E F O R E:
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.
Gale A. Brewer
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Robert Jackson
G. Oliver Koppell
Darlene Mealy
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Karen Koslowitz
James G. Van Bramer
Vincent M. Ignizio
James S. Oddo

A P P E A R A N C E S

Elizabeth De Leon
Deputy Commissioner
NYC Department of Small Business Services

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I'm sorry
3 we're getting started an hour later. We were
4 still negotiating some issues with the
5 Administration, and that's why we got started an
6 hour later, as you all know that. I want to wish
7 everyone a happy New Year. Welcome to today's
8 Finance meeting. I hope everyone had a good break
9 and may 2012 be prosperous and healthy for
10 everyone as we move on.

11 Before we get started, I want to
12 welcome back everyone. We're here today; I hope
13 everyone is ready to move forward. We have a lot
14 of work to do and we have a lot of hearings coming
15 up.

16 On today's agenda, we have two BID
17 items and one transparency reso. The Council will
18 formally begin the Fiscal Year 2013 budget cycle.
19 We will begin the cycle by considering a piece of
20 legislation that we typically consider at this
21 time, which is the Preliminary Budget extender.
22 We are not doing this today.

23 We are having a meeting tomorrow.
24 We're going to reconvene tomorrow morning at 10:00
25 a.m., here in this room, to do a mod and to do an

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2 extender, if we are able to resolve certain issues
3 with the Administration. Right now, we are still
4 in talks with the Administration.

5 Our next item relates to the
6 adoption of Fiscal 2012 Expense Budget. This
7 resolution sets forth new designations or changes
8 in the designation of certain organizations
9 receiving local Aging and Youth discretionary
10 funding, as well as new designations or changes in
11 the designation of certain organizations receiving
12 funding pursuant to certain initiatives.

13 Organizations appearing in the
14 resolutions that have not yet completed the pre-
15 qualification process conducted by the Mayor's
16 Office of Contracts, by the Council, or any other
17 entity, are identified with an asterisk.

18 Additionally, as with all
19 transparency resos, Council Members will have to
20 sign disclosures. If any Council Member has a
21 potential conflict, he or she might want to
22 disclose the conflict at the time of the vote.
23 This disclosure must be made before any deal with
24 a subcontractor, this disclosure must be made
25 before the subcontractor will be approved.

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2 Members will be contacted by the Council's Ethics
3 and Employment Counsel Nadir to complete
4 disclosure forms as necessary.

5 Our next piece of legislation is
6 Westchester Square BID. If you remember, during
7 the December 19th Finance hearing, we voted on a
8 reso that set today as the day for a public
9 hearing on Intro 64, which would establish the
10 Westchester Square BID in Council Member Jimmy
11 Vacca's district.

12 At that hearing, the Department of
13 Small Business Services was directed to mail
14 notices about today's hearing to all property
15 owners and tenants in the proposed Westchester
16 Square BID, in order to give the property owners
17 and tenants in the proposed BID an opportunity to
18 be heard.

19 Today, we'll hear from anyone who
20 wants to speak regarding the Westchester Square
21 BID. Do we have anybody that wants to speak about
22 the Westchester Square BID? Okay. Other than
23 SBS? Okay, we can move on. The first year budget
24 for this BID is \$320,000, with about two-thirds of
25 its budget going towards marketing and sanitation.

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Council Member Vacca supports the establishment of this BID.

Our next item also relates to a BID, Proposed Reso 1174-A sets January 18th as the date to consider a Local Law that authorizes an increase in the budgets of six BIDs. The budget increases are being made at the request of all six BIDs, to pay for additional improvement and services in their district. The six BIDs that have requested a budget increase are: the 34th Street BID, the 125th Street BID, the Grand Central BID, the East Gun Hill Road BID, the Fordham Road BID and the Bayside Village BID.

Does anybody have any questions?

All the Council Members approve.

We will now hear from the Department of Small Businesses, if you'd like to make a short statement.

Before we hear from the SBS, I want to remind my colleagues, tomorrow in the Council's Charter Meeting, which is the Council's first Stated Meeting--Nick. Tomorrow is the Council's Charter Meeting. The Charter Meeting begins at noon, rather than the usual time of 1:30. Also, I

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2 know this is the last minute, but there will be a
3 Finance Committee hearing tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.
4 Please try to be on time. We try to get these
5 things done on time. I know, Diana Reyna, I heard
6 that laugh. Listen, we've been pretty good, I
7 thought, with time.

8 Before we hear from SBS, let me
9 introduce all of my colleagues who are here today:
10 Vincent Ignizio, Jimmy Oddo, Al Vann, Fernando
11 Cabrera, Darlene Mealy, Karen Koslowitz, Robert
12 Jackson, Oliver Koppell, Diana Reyna, Joel Rivera,
13 and Helen Diane Foster. Did I miss anybody?
14 Okay, SBS, do you want to say a few words?

15 ELIZABETH DE LEON: Good morning
16 Mr. Chairman and members of the Finance Committee.
17 I am Elizabeth De Leon, Deputy Commissioner at the
18 Department of Small Business Services.

19 I am here to express our support of
20 the establishment of the Westchester Square
21 Business Improvement District in the Borough of
22 the Bronx.

23 Geographically, the proposed BID
24 generally includes properties along both sides of
25 the Williamsbridge Road and East Tremont Avenue

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2 from Eastchester Road and Silver Street to
3 Westchester Avenue, and the properties in the
4 triangular blocks in the middle of the district
5 along East Tremont Avenue and Williamsbridge Road.

6 Services to be provided in the
7 Westchester Square BID include: supplemental
8 sanitation and security, marketing and promotion
9 of local businesses, holiday lights, economic
10 development and new initiatives, administration,
11 and other services as may be required for the
12 promotion and enhancement of the district.

13 Proposed capital improvements
14 include street and sidewalk amenities to beautify
15 the district and improve pedestrian circulation
16 and safety. The Westchester Square District
17 Management Association will manage the district.
18 The budget for the first year of operation has
19 been determined to be \$320,000.

20 As required by law, the Westchester
21 Square BID Steering Committee mailed the summary
22 of the City Council Resolution to each and every
23 member, owner of the real property within the
24 proposed district at the address shown on the
25 latest City assessment roll, to such other persons

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2 as are registered with the City to receive tax
3 bills concerning real property within the
4 district, and to tenants of each building within
5 the proposed district. In addition, SBS arranged
6 for the publication of a copy of the summary of
7 the resolution at least once in the City Record.

8 Additionally, SBS supports the City
9 Council resolution setting the date, time and
10 place for a public hearing concerning an increase
11 in the amount to be expended in six Business
12 Improvement Districts.

13 The six BIDs will arrange for the
14 publication of a notice of the public hearing at
15 least once in a local newspaper having general
16 circulation in the districts, specifying the time
17 when and the place where the hearing will be held
18 and stating the proposed amount to be expended
19 annually. In addition, the BIDs will mail notices
20 to property owners providing them with information
21 about the public hearing as well as reasons for
22 their requests for the increased assessments.

23 The six BIDs requesting increases
24 of annual expenditures desire to further expand
25 and reinforce existing supplemental services

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2 currently provided in the business districts. The
3 BIDs wish to increase the amount to be expended
4 annually beginning on July 1st, 2011 as follows:
5 Bayside Village, \$155,000; Fordham Road, \$625,000;
6 Central Park Partnership--

7 [Pause]

8 ELIZABETH DE LEON: Grand Central
9 Park Partnership--see, that's why I bring him with
10 me--\$12,709,372; Mosholu-Jerome-East Gun Hill
11 Road, \$259,000; 125th Street, \$947,820; and 34th
12 Street Partnership, \$9,940,000.

13 We look forward to testifying as to
14 the matters I just discussed in a future hearing.

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you. I
16 want to recognize we've also been joined by Jimmy
17 Van Bramer. Does anyone have any questions? Not
18 seeing any questions, I think we have to vote.
19 Call the vote. Where's Billy? Who's calling the
20 vote?

21 [Pause]

22 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Scott, could
23 you do me a favor? Tell them I have to vote next
24 door, to hold the vote open?

25 [Pause]

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Give him a
microphone and let's call the roll.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
Committee Clerk, roll call vote in the Committee
on Finance. Council Member Recchia?

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I encourage
all my members to vote aye on all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
on all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Reyna?

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Koppell?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye on
all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Vann?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 14 in

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the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items have been adopted.

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Members, please sign the committee reports. Thank
you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you all

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for coming. Happy New Year, I'll see you all

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tomorrow morning.

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Keep the vote open for a half hour.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 *Donna Hintze*

Date January 9, 2012