

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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June 26, 2013
Start: 1:59 p.m.
Recess: 2:04 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Rm, 16th Fl.

B E F O R E:

MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio

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

Anne McCoy
Committee Clerk
New York City Council

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2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okie dokey,
3 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mark Weprin.
4 I'm the Chair of the Zoning and Franchises
5 Subcommittee of the Land Use Committee and we are
6 here today to, today we will be voting on Land Use
7 847, 848 and 849 which together make up the
8 applications for Madison Square Garden. I am
9 joined by the following Members of the
10 Subcommittee who are here, Council Member Al Vann,
11 Council Member Dan Garodnick, Council Member
12 Jessica Lappin, Council Member Leroy Comrie,
13 Council Member Vincent Ignizio, as well as some
14 Members of the Land Use Committee who are here but
15 for quorum purposes I wanted to mention the
16 Subcommittee about you, Council Member Dickens is
17 here as well. It's always good to see you.
18 Anyway, last week the Subcommittee had a very
19 lengthy hearing in which the MSG representatives
20 along with the project proponents and opponents
21 offered thoughtful testimony on the conditions of
22 the Special Permits MSG is seeking, mainly with
23 regard to the term of the arena permit and the
24 type of signage to be permitted outside and the
25 need for the revamp to station. I want to

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2 sincerely thank everyone who participated in that
3 hearing. While many spoke about the need for
4 upgrades in New York's largest transportation hub
5 I want to reiterate that Madison Square Garden is
6 not responsible for the infrastructure and
7 station. Madison Square Garden representatives
8 have assured the Subcommittee that they have over
9 the years been a cooperative partner with Amtrak,
10 New Jersey Transit, the MTA and the Long Island
11 Railroad with regard to examining new ways of
12 improving the functionality of the station and
13 seeing as s safe and attractive Penn Station and
14 that they have committed to their continued
15 cooperation with the railroads in the future. As
16 it is in MSG's interest to have a safe and
17 functional station we are confident MSG will do
18 this. We do not, however, believe that the
19 Council should be approving a special permit for
20 the 15 years which then delegates tot eh
21 Department of City Planning, excuse me, for 15
22 years which then delegates to the Department of
23 City Planning the ability to extend it beyond our
24 imposed timeframe. This was seen as a loophole and
25 therefore we would recommend ads did the Speaker

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2 that we reduce the permit period from 15 years to
3 10 years and remove the conditions imposed by the
4 City Planning Commission that would allow that
5 special permit term to be extended by the
6 Department of City Planning without City Council
7 approval. We also believe that there, that this
8 is an appropriate area for advertising,
9 specifically for advertising of the sponsors of
10 Madison Square Garden. We think such advertising
11 will enliven the blank face that exists on 8th
12 Avenue and will not adversely affect the setting
13 for the Farley Post Office. We recommended that
14 we modify the Planning Commissions decision as
15 follows, number one, to allow Madison Square
16 Garden in to install signage on what they refer to
17 as the returns which on MSG's original application
18 faced north and south of the 8th Avenue wall of the
19 theater on the 8th Avenue wall of the theater, two
20 that we only permit sponsor advertising for MSG
21 and three, that we allow MSG to install and
22 operate their signage without regard to when
23 Amtrak installs its additional station
24 identification signage on the MSG site. This was
25 an issue that was raised at the hearing so they

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2 can do that without regard to the Amtrak signage.
3 Lastly, Community Board Four and Five asked that
4 we eliminate the requirement for benches in the
5 plaza and we concur and we recommend they modify
6 the application to remove those benches. Again,
7 the Members of this Subcommittee and I are
8 grateful for the impressive participation and
9 thoughtful debate that took place during the
10 hearing process. I would like to now call on Anne
11 to please call the roll, Anne McCoy [phonetic] to
12 please call the roll on Land Use numbers 847, 848
13 and 849 with the modifications I just described.
14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. ANNE MCCOY: Chair Weprin?

16 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

17 MS. MCCOY: Chair Comrie?

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.

19 MS. MCCOY: Council Member Vann?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

21 MS. MCCOY: Council Member
22 Garodnick?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

24 MS. MCCOY: Council Member Lappin?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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MS. MCCOY: Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

MS. MCCOY: Okay, by a vote of six in the affirmative, no abstentions and no negatives Land Use Items 847, 848 and 849 are approved with modifications and referred to the Full Land Use Committee.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you very much. We have a number of Members who are in the building who were here before who are now, we have a lot going on around the City Hall today so we apologize for the delay in getting this meeting started. We are going to hold the rolls open until the Land Use Committee Meeting starts but in that, with that understanding that the rolls will be held open until Land Use starts, this hearing is, and meeting is now adjourned. [pause]

MS. MCCOY: Council Member Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Just give me one second.

MS. MCCOY: Oh. [pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Okay, Anne.

MS. MCCOY: [off mic] Council Member Reyna?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Permission
3 to explain my vote?

4 MS. MCCOY: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: So moved.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you.

7 I just wanted to commend the discussion that took
8 place around Madison Square Garden and I just
9 wanted to reiterate the issue of a 2035, if I
10 recall correctly, in a letter that was sent to the
11 Speaker and the Council regarding a plan for
12 future development of Penn Station and the group
13 of railroad discussions that had been taking place
14 and the issue of having a concurrent term of what
15 would be a 2035 year of expiration on the special
16 permit as opposed to a ten year. Having said that
17 I understand that there was a negotiation process,
18 this has been approved at 10 year and I will vote
19 in favor of but I wanted to just make my opinion
20 heard as far as those specific years that were
21 part of the discussion from the hearing as heard
22 last, two weeks ago or last week. Thank you, Mr.
23 Chair, and I vote aye.

24 MS. MCCOY: The vote now stands,
25 seven in the affirmative, zero in the negative,

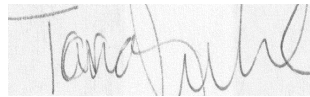
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zero abstentions. [pause]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl 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

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 7/17/13