

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

----- X

January 10, 2017
Start: 11:40 a.m.
Recess: 11:58 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: DAVID G. GREENFIELD
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Vincent J. Gentile
Annabel Palma
Daniel R. Garodnick
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Ydanis R. Rodriguez
Peter A. Koo
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills
Deborah L. Rose
Donovan J. Richards
Inez D. Barron
Andrew Cohen
Ben Kallos
Antonio Reynoso

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger

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

1
2 **TRANSCRIPTION NOTE:** The audio cut out at
3 00:01:30 and resumed at 00:01:40 (time stamped in
4 document). Missing audio portion retrieved from the
5 hearing's video.

6 [sound check]

7 [pause]

8 [background comment]

9 [pause]

10 [background comments]

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Good morning.

12 Good morning. [background comments] [pause] Good
13 morning; welcome to the Land Use Committee meeting
14 for January 10, 2017. Quiet on the set, please.
15 Thank you all for joining us; a very Happy New Year
16 to all. My name is David Greenfield; I'm the Council
17 Member from the 44th Council District in Brooklyn.
18 It is my true privilege to serve as the Chair of the
19 Land Use Committee.

20 I want to welcome my esteemed colleagues
21 who are members of the Committee in joining us today.
22 I want to recognize that Council Member Rosie Mendez
23 in fact was first to arrive today and gets our gold
24 star. I want to thank -- in fact, we actually have
25 to tally it up -- Elena, we've got to figure out who

1
2 came on time over the last year and we'll give out
3 gifts at the next hearing -- Council Member Gentile,
4 who has **[audio cut out here 00:01:30]** joined us,
5 Council Member Garodnick, Council Member Koo, Council
6 Member Levin, Council Member Williams, Council Member
7 Richards, Council Member Cohen, Council Member
8 Torres, and Council Member Treyger. I want to thank
9 the subcommittee chairs for their outstanding work as
10 well; specifically I want to thank Chair Richards and
11 Chair Koo and of course, we have a vacant
12 subcommittee now that formerly Chair Dickens is
13 serving in the New York State Assembly.

14 We have a very short agenda today and the
15 Committee will only be voting on one resolution for
16 presentation and vote by the Full Council and that is
17 Resolution 1349, the Roosevelt Island Tram.

18 This Resolution would authorize the New
19 York Department of Transportation to grant a
20 franchise for the provision of aerial tramway service
21 over the East River between Manhattan and Roosevelt
22 Island to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
23 pursuant to Section 363 of the New York City Charter.

24 The granting of this franchise would
25 allow for the continued operation of the iconic

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

6

Roosevelt Island Tramway between East 60th Street and
2nd Avenue in Manhattan and Main Street on Roosevelt
Island; the current authorizing resolution has
expired. The tram is in Council Members Garodnick's
and Kallos' districts, who are both in support of
this authorizing resolution. Yes, Dan; still good?
All good. Do any members have any questions or
remarks? Hearing none, I will ask the Clerk to call
the roll.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Land
Use, Resolution 1349. Chair Greenfield.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gentile.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams.

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

7

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, the Resolution has been adopted by the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you, Clerk. As is our practice, we're going to keep the vote open for 15 minutes, until 11:57 a.m.

[pause]

[audio resumes here 00:01:40]

[background comments, laughter]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on Land Use, Resolution 1349. Council Member Lander.

[laughter]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Alright; with confession that that scene in *Spiderman* is one of my favorite in all movies, I vote aye.

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently stands at 12.

[pause]

[background comments]

[pause]

[background comments]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution 1349. Council Member Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Ben Kallos to explain to us the phenomenal innovation that has now been christened Kallos' Tram Yoga. Please.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you, Chair. [background comments] Just want to thank the members of the Committee, the Land Use Division, the Department of Transportation and Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. After years of not having a lease for the tram, which is a valuable way for folks

1
2 to get on and off Roosevelt Island, we finally just
3 settled a decades-old dispute around advertising that
4 would permit internal advertising in the tramway so
5 folks can find out about things happening in the
6 community, whether it's events at Four Freedoms park
7 or yoga at the local community center... [interpose]

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Hold on, hold
9 on. The yoga at the local community -- I thought the
10 yoga was on the tram.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: The yoga is
12 advertised on the tram... [crosstalk]

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh. I was
14 telling everybody over the New Year that my
15 resolution was going to be to do Roosevelt Island
16 tram yoga on the tram.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: You are more than
18 welcome to do so.

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Just make sure
22 not to bother any of the other passengers on the
23 tram; I would hate to have to... [crosstalk]

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I do my yoga
25 silently.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: do... do... do
3 constituent [background comments] services involving
4 new complaints about elected officials from other
5 districts doing yoga in my district. But anyway, it
6 provides a great resource; we've limited the
7 advertising to inside the buildings and inside the
8 tram and we ensure, with this vote and hopefully at
9 the Council, that there will be a tram that that
10 franchise will operate through 2068, when the
11 experiment at Roosevelt Island will conclude its 99-
12 year lease. I proudly vote aye.

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: What happens in
14 2068; does everybody have to move?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: It is a -- in
16 response to the question [laugh], Roosevelt Island
17 was created by an act and it is 99-year lease that's
18 currently operated by the Roosevelt Island Operating
19 Corporation by the State of New York and in 2068 that
20 is when the lease expires.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Alright, no
22 pressure, but they might want to start looking for
23 housing; it's a limited supply in New York City.
24 Thank you, Council Member, and congratulations on
25

1 this fabulous, one-in-a-lifetime achievement.

2 [laugh] Well done.

3 [background comment]

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Barron.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now currently
7 stands at 14 in the affirmative.

8 [pause]

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Resolution 1349.

10 Council Member Rodriguez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

12 [pause]

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Reynoso.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on
16 Resolution 1349, Committee on Land Use now stands at
17 16 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no
18 abstentions.

19 [background comment]

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. This
21 concludes the Land Use Committee Meeting for January
22 10, 2017; this Land Use Committee is hereby
23 adjourned.

24 [gavel]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 12, 2017