

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITION AND STANDARDS

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July 28, 2011
Start: 9:15am
Recess: 9:22am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
STEPHEN T. LEVIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Leroy G. Comrie
Council Member Inez E. Dickens
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member James G. Van Bramer
Council Member Mark S. Weprin

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

N/A

2 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Good morning,
3 welcome to the Subcommittee on Planning,
4 Dispositions and Concessions, I'm Council Member
5 Stephen Levin, Chair of this Subcommittee. Thank
6 you all for reconvening. We had adjourned the
7 Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday. I'm happy to say
8 that we're in a position to be able to vote on
9 this item. I am joined this morning by Members
10 of the Subcommittee, Council Member Inez Dickens
11 of Manhattan, Council Member Sara Gonzalez of
12 Brooklyn, Council Member Peter Koo of Queens;
13 we're also joined by Council Member Diana Reyna,
14 Council Member Joel of Brooklyn, Council Member
15 Joel Rivera of The Bronx, and Council Member Jimmy
16 Van Bramer of Queens, Mark Weprin of Queens, and
17 Vinnie Ignizio of Staten Island. I'm going to ask
18 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, who worked very
19 long and hard on this issue regarding Gotham
20 Center, to say a couple of words this morning.
21 Council Member Van Bramer?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
23 you very much, Mr. Chair, and thank you very much
24 to all of my colleagues who were patient as we
25 worked on this very important project for my

1 district. Today, the New York City Council will
2 vote on plans to complete Phase Two of Gotham
3 Center, a 900,000 square foot commercial tower
4 that includes space for retail on the ground
5 floor, at a time of very high unemployment,
6 particularly in the construction industry. This
7 project will create over 5,000 jobs for New
8 Yorkers: 1,600 construction jobs, and 3,600
9 permanent jobs. This project will continue the
10 rebirth and transformation of the Queens Plaza
11 area, bringing additional tax revenue to the City.
12 This step represents the beginning of Phase Two of
13 a plan that has already resulted in the tear down
14 of the dreaded municipal garage, which was an
15 eyesore in Queens for decades. That garage was
16 replaced by an attractive skyscraper that now
17 houses the Department of Health and its 2,700
18 employees. We must continue the progress that has
19 been made. As a result of concerns raised by some
20 regarding parking, I am pleased to note the
21 following. One, we've received assurances from
22 the Administration that vigilant enforcement of
23 placard abuse in the Dutch Kills area, including
24 towing of illegally parked City owned vehicles,
25

1 will be rigorously enforced. Two, the creation of
2 new parking lots for DOT and NYPD school safety
3 vehicles which had previously been parking on the
4 street in Dutch Kills, will be built; one is
5 already, the other will be finished in a couple of
6 months. Three, a significant reduction in long
7 term parking spots throughout the surrounding
8 area, has been agreed to. Four, the City Council
9 is looking at home rule legislation supporting the
10 establishment of residential parking, which I know
11 is supported by many, including the Dutch Kills
12 community. I will continue to work towards this
13 important initiative with the Speaker and my
14 colleagues. Phase Two will also create 388
15 parking spaces which do not currently exist. If
16 this plan were rejected, those 388 parking spots
17 could be lost, perhaps forever. So, it is for all
18 of these reasons that I urge my colleagues to
19 support this project today. I will be voting yes,
20 and I will continue to work to make improvements
21 to Queens Plaza and continue to be a forceful
22 advocate for the continued revitalization of
23 greater Long Island City. Thank you very much.

24
25 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Thank you very

2 much, Council Member Van Bramer. Thank you for,
3 for working hard and advocating for your
4 community, and for your willingness to put in the
5 hard work and making the tough choices, but also
6 taking a stand for the community that you
7 represent. So I commend you for that, and I thank
8 you for, for moving the item.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Thank you. I
12 am going to now ask Carol Shine, Counsel to the
13 Committee, to call the roll. I am going to adv--
14 I'm going to be asking the Members of the
15 Committee to vote yes on this item, and Council
16 Member Sara Gonzalez will be voting on items that
17 we voted on on Tuesday.

18 COUNSEL SHINE: Carol Shine,
19 Counsel to the Committee. Chair Levin?

20 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I vote, I vote
21 aye.

22 COUNSEL SHINE: Okay, Council
23 Member Gonzalez, both LU 389 and 434.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I vote
25 aye and I believe all items for 7/26? Okay, thank

2 you.

3 COUNSEL SHINE: Council Member
4 Dickens.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.
6 [pause] --for quickly finishing this off to
7 ensure that our residents will be put back to
8 work.

9 COUNSEL SHINE: Council Member Koo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: I vote aye,
11 and I congratulate Council Member Van Bramer for
12 doing a good job, and thank you.

13 COUNSEL SHINE: By a vote of four
14 in the affirmative, none in the negative, and no
15 abstentions, both LU 389 and 434 and approved and
16 referred to the full Committee.

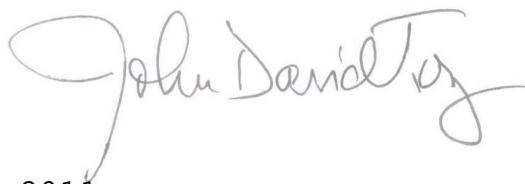
17 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Okay, this
18 hearing is adjourned.

19 [applause, cheers]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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 handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date August 5, 2011