

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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November 21, 2024
Start: 10:40 a.m.
Recess: 10:57 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Justin L. Brannan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diana Ayala
Gale A. Brewer
Selvena N. Brooks-Powers
David M. Carr
Amanda Farías
Kamillah M. Hanks
Crystal Hudson
Farrah N. Louis
Francisco P. Moya
Keith Powers
Yusef Salaam
Pierina Ana Sanchez
Althea V. Stevens

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mic check, mic check.

3 This is the mic check on the vote on Finance. Today's
4 date is November 21, 2024, in the Committee Room,
5 recorded by Walter Lewis.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. Welcome
7 to the New York City Council hearing vote on the
8 Committee on Finance.

9 At this time, please do not approach the
10 dais and silence all electronics.

11 Chair, you may begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Thank you, Sergeant.
13 [GAVEL] Okay, good morning, and welcome to today's
14 Finance Committee meeting. I'm Council Member
15 Brannon. I have the privilege of Chairing the
16 Committee on Finance. We've been joined this morning
17 by Council Members Hudson, Salaam, Fariás, Brewer,
18 Sanchez, Carr, Hanks, Stevens, Louis, and Ayala, and
19 on Zoom, we've been joined by Council Member Brooks-
20 Powers.

21 Today, our Committee will be voting on
22 eight items, six property tax exemption resolutions,
23 as well as Intros 557-B and 981-A.

24 The first two exemption resolutions are
25 for new partial 40-year Article XI exemptions for

2 preservation of one building each in Council Member
3 Avilés' District. Both buildings are affordable
4 housing developments for very low-income elderly and
5 disabled people, undergoing conversions to HUD's
6 Rental Assistance Demonstration, or the RAD program.
7 As part of the exemption, each building will enter
8 into a regulatory agreement with HPD, which caps
9 household incomes at 50 percent AMI, set aside 30
10 percent of units for homeless tenants, and provide
11 light-touch retention and stabilization services, as
12 well as complete identified immediate and short-term
13 capital repairs.

14 The next exemption is for a new full 40-
15 year Article XI for preservation of one affordable
16 senior housing rental building in Council Member
17 Brewer's District. As a condition of the exemption,
18 the building will enter into an HPD regulatory
19 agreement, capping unit incomes at 50 percent AMI,
20 will set aside 25 units for homeless tenants, and
21 reserve the remaining units for seniors. On-site
22 social services and aging-in-place programming will
23 also be offered.

24 The fourth exemption is a new full 40-
25 year Article XI for preservation of 114 rental

2 buildings in Council Member Riley's District. As a
3 condition of receiving the exemption, the project
4 will enter into an HPD regulatory agreement that will
5 require a minimum 15 percent set-aside for homeless
6 tenants and restrict rents. Identified short-term and
7 critical need repairs will also be completed.

8 The fifth exemption is a new partial 40-
9 year Article XI for preservation of one rental
10 building in Council Member Abreu's District. As a
11 condition of receiving the exemption, the building
12 will complete identified short-term and critical need
13 repairs, as well as enter into a 40-year HPD
14 regulatory agreement which would set aside 15 percent
15 of units for homeless tenants and participate in
16 HPD's Aging-In-Place Initiatives imposing rent
17 restrictions.

18 The final exemption today is a new
19 partial 40-year Article XI for preservation of one
20 rental building in Council Member Salaam's District.
21 As a condition of receiving the exemption, the
22 building will complete identified short-term and
23 critical need repairs and enter into a 40-year HPD
24 regulatory agreement which sets aside 15 percent of
25 units for homeless tenants, participating in the

2 HPD's Aging-In-Place Initiative, and imposing rent
3 restrictions.

4 Finally, the two bills, 557-B, sponsored
5 by Council Member Brewer, would require the New York
6 City Office of Technology and Innovation to create a
7 specific 3-1-1 category for the public to file
8 complaints related to unlicensed cannabis retailers.

9 Intro. 981-A, also sponsored by Council
10 Member Brewer, would update existing reporting on the
11 City's inspection and enforcement of unlicensed
12 sellers of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, tobacco
13 products, and illicit cannabis. This update will
14 involve reporting related to the new enforcement
15 actions local authorities may make under state
16 cannabis law and provide increased details on the
17 outcomes of each inspection that's been conducted by
18 City agencies.

19 I'd like now to recognize Council Member
20 Brewer for remarks on her bills.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very
22 much. As you indicated, 557 collects the details of
23 unlicensed cannabis store complaints and sends them
24 to the Sheriff's Office. Right now, you call 3-1-1.
25 You don't collect it. It just goes to the Sheriff's

2 Office and nobody knows the data. So that's what 557-
3 B is all about.

4 981-A requires reporting relating to the
5 expanded local authority to conduct enforcement
6 actions and increase details on the outcomes of each
7 inspection. We know how important Operation Padlock
8 to Protect is, to the credit of the Sheriff, and it's
9 an example of building the plane while flying it.
10 Some essentials were missed, such as public reporting
11 on enforcement activity and creating, as I said
12 earlier, a proper 3-1-1 complaint system, which the
13 public needs. The Sheriff has done a great job
14 sealing stores since the start of Operation Padlock
15 to Protect in May and that enforcement will continue
16 indefinitely, but we need two things, ongoing support
17 from OMB and enhancement to the enforcement process.
18 As I indicated earlier, right now, if you call 3-1-1,
19 the operator directs you to leave a voicemail for the
20 Sheriff or send an email. There's no followup and
21 there's no tracking. So, the existing reporting
22 requirements were created prior to Operation Padlock
23 to Protect and are no longer adequate for this
24 reason.

2 I certainly want to thank all the amazing
3 Staff Members who participated. I'll list them later
4 when we speak, particularly Sam Goldsmith from my
5 office.

6 Also, do I talk about Land Use now, or
7 wait?

8 Okay, so the Chair mentioned a building
9 in my District for a 40-year Article XI tax
10 exemption. This is a building now owned by WSSP. It's
11 basically an organization that supports affordable
12 housing for seniors, and this particular building is
13 landmarked. This particular building had women in it
14 for many years in terms of, not affordable, but a
15 place that women could go to be safe over the years.
16 It was originally built by the Vanderbilts many, many
17 years ago, and it's very exciting that it will be
18 converted with its beautiful architecture inside and
19 outside for affordable housing, and so thank you very
20 much.

21 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Thank you, Council
22 Member.

23 Do any of my Colleagues have any remarks?

24 Okay, seeing none, I will now ask Billy
25 Martin, the Committee Clerk, to call the roll.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
3 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
4 vote Committee on Finance. All items are coupled.
5 Chair Brannan.

6 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: (INAUDIBLE)

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers.

12 Louis.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-

15 Powers.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: (INAUDIBLE)

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Farías.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIÁS: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ossé.
3 Sanchez.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER SANCHEZ: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Stevens.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.
8 Won. Salaam.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: With congratulations
12 to Council Member Brewer, I vote aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a
16 vote of 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,
17 and no abstentions, all items have been adopted by
18 the Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay, we're going to
20 leave it open, but you guys can go. Thank you.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Council
22 Member Brooks-Powers?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you, Council Member. Current vote in the Committee on

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2 Finance is now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the
3 negative, and no abstentions.

4 Thank you, Finance Members. Thank you.
5 The vote is still open.

6 Continuation of the vote in the Committee
7 on Finance. Council Member Moya.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you. The vote is currently at 14 in the affirmative.

11 Council Member Brewer to close.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Hearing is
13 adjourned. [GAVEL]

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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 November 22, 2024