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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August 6, 2025 Start: 11:59 a.m. Recess: 12:34 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE ROOM, 16TH

FLOOR

B E F O R E: Kevin C. Riley, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Shaun Abreu
David M. Carr
Kamillah M. Hanks
Francisco P. Moya
Yusef Salaam
Lynn C. Schulman

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Lincoln Restler Keith Powers Erik D. Bottcher

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good morning. This is a microphone check for the Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. Today's date is August 6, 2025. The location is the 16th Floor Committee Room, recorded by Ginelle Yearwood.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: New York City Council, Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchise.

Please silence all cell phone electronic devices and do not approach the dais.

Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: [GAVEL] Good morning,
everyone, and welcome to a meeting of the
Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. I am Council
Member Kevin Riley, Chair of the Subcommittee. This
morning, I am joined remotely by Council Member Moya,
Restler, and in the room I'm joined by Council Member
Schulman, Carr, Hanks, Abreu, and Bottcher.

Today we are voting on several proposals.

The first proposal was a neighborhood study by the

Administration which re-envisions Midtown South below

40th Street. The proposal is known as Midtown South

Mixed-Use Plan and is located in Council Member

Bottcher's and Powers' Districts.

Council Member Cabán's District.

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We will also vote on five private development proposals, Lenox Hill Hospitals, also in Council Member Powers' District, 47 Hall Street in Council Member Hudson's District, 347 Flushing Avenue and 236 Gold Street, both of which are in Council Member Restler's District, and 42-11 30th Avenue in

Beginning with the LUs 324 and 325 regarding the Midtown South Mixed-Use Plan, also known as MSMX, the zoning in Midtown South between 9th Avenue to the west, 5th Avenue to the east, 40th Street to the north, and 23rd Street to the south is out of date. Midtown is one of the most accessible areas of the city and yet this area of Midtown below 40th Street is primarily zoned for manufacturing uses. We have been very focused on building housing in the outer boroughs, and this is an opportunity to build both market rate and affordable housing in Manhattan next to jobs and transit. This rezoning was made possible by the State finally lifting the cap on the residential density that is imposed on the City for decades. This neighborhood plan will create a new special district known as Midtown South Mixed-Use Special District and replace the Garment Center

1 SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 2 Special District. The Special District consists of 3 four sub areas. The first sub area is the northwest 4 between Broadway and 8th Avenue from West 35th Street and West 40th Street, and it covers the City's Garment Districts. The second sub area is to the 6 northeast between 5th and 6th Avenue from the West 35th and West 39th Streets, and it contains numerous 8 hotels given its proximity to the Theater District. The third sub area is to the southeast, also between 10 11 5th and 6th Avenue from West 23rd and West 30th 12 Street, and has a mix of uses and buildings. The 13 majority of the sub area is within the historic 14 district. The fourth sub area is to the southwest 15 between 6th and 8th Avenues from West 23rd and West 16 31st Street and has quite a bit of hotels and mix of 17 uses ranging from the Flower District to the Fashion 18 Institute of Technology. Under the proposed 19 neighborhood plan these four sub areas will be 20 rezoned from light manufacturing and commercial districts to mixed-use districts that will allow 21 2.2 residential use together with light manufacturing and 2.3 commercial uses. Together the plan is projected to produce a significant amount of new housing, 24

approximately 9,700 apartments, of which

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We are recommending several modifications to the land use action approved by City Planning Commission. The first modification is focused on preserving good jobs and the unique ecosystem that exists today in the Garment District. The Garment District which contributes to making New York such a special place in a home for so many different people provides a critical support to Broadway and the fashion industry. The modification is to remove the proposed R12 residential district from the mid-block

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cluster of businesses in the Garment District and that these businesses depend on one another and then that their proximity is to the theater district. If they were relocated throughout the city, they would not be able to function so we are preserving this truly unique section of the city.

The second recommended modification is to the southeast sub area of the rezoning. The proposed M1-8A/R12 mixed use district should be modified to an M1-8A/R11 district for the four blocks between 23rd and 27th Street. The southeast section of this neighborhood plan contains a variety of building types including many that are in the historical

district. Our modifications to reduce the bulk of the proposed residential buildings over these four southern blocks will establish a transition from the highest density areas in midtown to be comparable to lower density areas of Chelsea and Flatiron. This modification will provide for a more holistic planning approach while not having a big impact on the amount of projected houses.

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The third modification we are recommending concerns the street wall regulations in the southeast sub area. The recommendation is to remove the proposed special district regulations that will allow a building to have a higher base height if the building next to it has a base height that is higher than allowed. In this sub area the maximum base height of buildings should remain between 60 and 155 feet to ensure a street wall that is not overwhelming to pedestrians.

I will now turn it over to Council Member

Bottcher to discuss further this exciting re-envision

of Midtown South.

COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Thank you, Chair Riley, and thank you to the Members of this Subcommittee.

roday, we rise to address one of the
greatest challenges facing our city, the housing
crisis that is pushing New Yorkers to the brink. The
city that we love is crying out for action. This is a
moral emergency, an economic emergency, and a threat
to the very future of New York City. Now I had a
whole paragraph here to go on and on about how bad
the problem is with housing in New York City, but the
truth is that New Yorkers are tired of hearing
speeches about how bad the housing crisis is. They
want leaders who will actually do something about it.
So today we are taking bold decisive action to do
just that. We are unlocking 9,535 new homes including
2,842 permanently affordable homes in one of the most
transit rich parts of the city, one of the most
opportunity rich areas in the nation, and an area
that does currently not permit new housing. And we're
doing it while ensuring protections for the garment
sector, investing in transformative public realm
improvements, and addressing critical infrastructure
needs. This is as many affordable homes that has been
built below 96th Street in Manhattan over the past
five years combined in one rezoning.

2	But we also know that livable
3	neighborhoods require more than just homes. They
4	require jobs, services, and economic opportunity.
5	That's why I'm proud that this plan includes robust
6	protections and historic investments in the garment
7	sector, one of the most iconic and creative
8	industrial neighborhoods in the world. The Garment
9	District is home to thousands and thousands of
10	workers, nearly a quarter of New York City's
11	remaining fashion manufacturing jobs. Throughout this
12	process, we've heard from fashion workers, makers,
13	local small businesses who asked us to protect this
14	community and we listened. We've secured 121.9
15	million dollars in public-private investment, a
16	package to support the garment sector. We're also
17	protecting the historic manufacturing core, modifying
18	the zone between 36th and 39th, between 7th and 8th
19	Avenues to preserve space for commercial uses. This
20	will ensure that new housing and business growth can
21	thrive side by side.

And now to the streets themselves. At the heart of the MSMX plan is a transformative vision for public space, a 325-million-dollar investment to turn Broadway into a continuous world-class promenade of

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plazas, greenery, shared streets, rivaling the great civic corridors of cities like Barcelona and Paris, right down the middle of Manhattan. We're delivering a fully pedestrianized Broadway with raised street beds to sidewalk level, native landscaping, public seating, public art, new car-free blocks from 22nd to 25th Street, including New York City's first Kids First Play District. Drum roll please. We're getting a dedicated 34th street car-free busway as part of this plan. A continuous 7th Avenue bike lane from Houston Street to Central Park South, nearly 400 new street trees in an area that has some of the lowest street tree canopy in the city, and Vision Zero safety improvements throughout. Midtown South will no longer just be a great place to work or pass through. It'll be a place to live, to gather, raise families, and build lasting community. And we're also making sure that infrastructure keeps pace with that growth. A 13.5-million-dollar renovation of the McCaffrey Playground, a redesign of that playground on West 31st street, a new enclosed EMS Station 7th at 613 West 29th Street, replacing the inadequate open air trailer on 23rd street, investments in local schools, including the High School of Fashion Industries, a

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2 transit improvement bonus eligibility that covers all
3 sites in the rezoning area, and much, much more.

And finally, this is not a plan that
erases the past, it honors it. So we've got
commitments from the Adams Administration to advance
landmark designations for key buildings in the
Garment and Flower Districts, helping to preserve
Midtown South's unique character as a center of
industry, commerce, and culture.

This is a bold, balanced, and long overdue plan. It builds on the housing, it builds the housing we need, protects the jobs we depend on, and reclaims the public space for people. It creates a neighborhood that's not just dense, but livable, not just central, but equitable, not just historic, but visionary. This is what it looks like to build the future.

I want to thank my Colleague, Council

Member Keith Powers. I want to thank my Staff,
including Laurie Hardjowirogo, Carl Wilson, and
Hannah Moses. I want to thank the City Council's
Planning and Land Use Division, all the amazing staff
there, and our partners in the Mayor's Office and the
Office of City Planning, and all the tireless

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you, and

good afternoon, everyone, and thank you all for being

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here today for quite an important vote for not only
the City, our Districts, but Midtown and the future

Midtown and Manhattan.

As many of you know, it's been a long, years-long process to get here, and I'm excited to say that we are finally moving forward with a plan to bring more housing to Midtown and Midtown South. As many of you know, I've been a vocal supporter alongside my Colleagues like Council Member Bottcher in zoning changes for New York City to address the housing crisis. Just last year, the City Council passed a historic rezoning of the city, which took a great first step towards increasing supply to address the housing shortage. But I think many of us felt like that was a step and not the complete picture, and the Midtown South rezoning the Committee is voting on today is a next big step for the City and for Manhattan. You've all heard me talk before about all the great things this plan will do, but I want to reiterate a couple of reasons why I think this is a great opportunity for progress in our city. Of course, as I noted, we are in the middle of a housing crisis, and that means we have to think outside the box to solve it. This gives us a chance to do that.

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We have empty offices and depleted offices all throughout Manhattan in my District and Council Member Bottcher's District and others that also demand a solution to how we are going to move them forward as well. And if we can move vacant offices into become new homes in a part of the city that is less housing than the rest of the city for decades, I believe that is a win. Currently, the Garment District has fewer residents than any district in the five boroughs. Thus, a 24/7 mixed-use community will increase pedestrian activity and be beneficial for ground floor businesses and for the streetscape. This plan would create nearly 10,000 new units, including nearly 2,900 permanently affordable homes for low and middle-income New Yorkers in a community that is transit-rich, near good schools, great businesses, and much more.

This plan also supports community

facilities and makes sure that our streetscape and

our beautification will happen alongside a new,

booming neighborhood. We're taking advantage of new

tools to make sure that we can do that. We're working

hard to try to minimize construction times and

preserve a great neighborhood character.

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There are many benefits that are being part of this plan, but I want to give a special shout-out to my Colleague, Councilor Bottcher, who has tirelessly from the beginning fought to make sure that the existing and important industries that reside within this area do not lose a future and do not lose the support of this city at a time where there's so much happening and so much change. And I can attest, sitting at the table with him for the last few days and weeks, many phone calls exchanged, and trying to hash out a plan that we think works for everyone, he has been tireless in his ability to navigate difficult questions, but to see the big picture around the housing crisis, while also a very ever-present picture of how the fashion and garment and flower industries will continue to thrive and survive in this neighborhood where they have called home for so long. I believe we have struck a very good balance to make sure we can do all of the above, and like all plans, maybe I don't know if we got it perfect, but I feel like we worked as hard as we can to make sure it was perfect for as many people as possible. I think this will revitalize an area bogged down by current zoning restrictions limiting its

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potential, and I am very happy that we've moved this
forward.

Again, I want to thank Council Member Erik Bottcher and our Borough President Mark Levine, who joined us in this early support to get this plan moving. I want to thank Barbara Blair and the Garment District Alliance, who came forward with the vision early on about how we might move this forward. I want to thank everybody who reached out to us throughout this process to make sure that this was a plan that worked for everyone. And I want to thank my Staff, to Franklin and to Ben and to Emma, who worked very hard in many community board meetings and much more to get here. I want to thank Dan Garodnik, the team at City Planning, Community Boards 4, 5, and 6, and the Land Use Here team here at the Council, who have been working on this plan alongside of us for years. I'm proud of this plan. I'm proud of what we have accomplished, and I encourage my Colleagues to vote yes to advance it to the full Council. Thanks so much.

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you, Council Member Powers.

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The second vote concerns LUs 339, 340, and 341 regarding the Lenox Hill Hospital. Applicant is seeking to modernize and enlarge the hospital, which has been at this location since the 1800s.

Lenox Hill Hospital is located on the full block bounded by East 76th and 77th Streets between the Lexington and Park Avenues on the Upper East Side.

The hospital consists of 10 buildings that have not been renovated in decades and that need to be bought to the current standards for hospitals. Specifically, the proposal involves demolishing the existing building along the Lexington Avenue to construct a new hospital building and renovating the remaining building.

The proposal involves three actions. The first action is to rezone the majority of the block to C1-8 and C1-9 commercial districts while maintaining the existing R10 residential zoning at the westernmost end of the block. The second action is a zoning text amendment to create a special permit that will control the overall bulk of the proposed enlarged hospital, allow an increase in the maximum floor area for the hospital uses on the site, and map

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2 Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. The third action is 3 for the actual special permit.

Taken together, these three actions will facilitate the redevelopment of Lenox Hill Hospital into a facility with 475 single-bed patient rooms that meet current industry standards and provides first-rate services to all New Yorkers. This long-due renovation will also include significant transit improvement to the southbound 77th Street subway station on the Number 6 line that will include a new covered subway entrance that increase their capacity and an ADA accessible elevator and ramp and improve pedestrian circulation.

We are recommending the following modification to the land use actions approved by the City Planning Commission. CBC approved two alternative development scenarios. The first development scenario known as Option One will permit a taller narrow tower along Lexington and the second development scenario, known as Option Two, will permit a shorter but wider tower also along Lexington Avenue that will extend into the mid-block. The recommendation is to remove Option Two from the special permit and reduce the maximum height of the

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established traffic issue along 77th Street. Our

3 modifications ensure a better circulation path for

the ambulances and will finally alleviate the long-4

standing congestion of this street. The hospital has

also agreed to relocate the entrance to the 6

7 hospital's mother/baby services off of Park Avenue

and place it on 77th Street. 8

> I will now turn it over to Council Member Power to further discuss the much-needed renovation of this hospital which has been an asset to the whole city since the 1800s.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I'll be brief for you, Council Member Riley (INAUDIBLE)

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: The third vote concerns LUs 331 and 332 regarding the 47th Hall Rezoning Proposal. Applicant is seeking to repurpose a full block next to the Navy Yards that consists of several buildings which were used in the past for manufacturing. Under the proposal, the block will be converted into a mixed-use development that would include residential, commercial, and manufacturing uses. The new apartments will be located both in the new building and within some of the existing buildings which will be converted into residential

Brooklyn to allow additional commercial uses. The

proposal will also make a legal non-conforming

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available MIH Option to deepen the required level of

affordability. The modification is to remove Option

Two. This will require that the applicant provide the

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affordable units to families on average making 60

percent AMI which is approximately the maximum of

87,500 for a family of three. Council Member Restler

supports this application.

I would now like to give the floor to Council Member Restler for his remarks.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Thank you Chair Riley. You do a superb job with this Committee and really appreciate your leadership. And I want to just firstly congratulate Council Members Bottcher and Powers on a banner day and a major achievement that was many, many, many years in the making but you were the guys that brought it over the finish line.

Just two projects in the District that we spent a fair bit of time negotiating and thinking through and just want to speak to briefly. First 347 Flushing which is an unusual one because it's an existing building newly built that the developer came to us and asked for us to modify the zoning so that what they've constructed would be in compliance and essentially we shifted a bunch of community facility space to commercial space, but I wanted to ensure that in that process of losing some community facility space, which is always so valuable, that the

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landlord worked with some of the leading communitybased organizations in the community to provide space in their building to expand their great work. So the Shomrim who play an essential role in keeping the Williamsburg community safe will have half a dozen dedicated parking spots for their vehicles and for their emergency response and command center in this building's parking lot, and United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn, the beloved and exceptional social service organization that serves the community, is going to actually be opening a new food pantry in this building which I am thrilled about. So, I'm grateful to the landlord and his representatives and to the community-based organizations, the Shomrim and UJO, for working together with the leadership at 347 Flushing to advance these agreements, and I'm proud to support this project. The project at 347 Flushing has been has been a really positive development for our community.

And then at 236 Gold Street, we're approving a new housing development on a vacant lot, which is where housing should be going, and there was a lot of community opposition to this one. Community

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members felt that this should be a lower density site as housing on the other side of this project is mostly row houses, but we were able to come to an agreement on the project where we are going to build the full number of units that the developer proposed, 114 units, but we've included a meaningful setback on the Concord Street side that will limit I think some of the concerns that neighbors have had, although not alleviate them altogether unfortunately. The developer has agreed to allocate 500,000 dollars to the Parks Department for parks improvements in the immediate area, a number of sustainability improvements, has agreed to changes to limit some of the negative potential impacts of their design on the surrounding neighborhood, and we'll continue to do our best to help support the Bridge Plaza community in addressing congestion issues and other quality of life matters, but I'm grateful to Bill Vinicombe and to the Bridge Plaza community for engaging with us and trying to find common ground. My staff has done a great job on all these projects. Angela Yang has newly taken over our land use portfolio and done a great job shepherding this all through, and I really want to thank Lena and William from the Land Use team

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for their terrific advice and counsel, and I'd be remiss you know in congratulating my Colleagues, Eric and Keith, on the Midtown South for not shouting out Genevieve and Dan as well from DCP. I know this is one that they were deeply, deeply invested in and helped get over the finish line with us so congrats to all and thanks for the time to explain my support

CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you, Council Member Restler.

for these two projects in District 33.

The sixth vote concerns LUs 337 and 338 regarding the 42-11 30th Avenue Rezoning Proposal.

Applicant is seeking to develop a mixed-use residential building with approximately 32 apartments, of which approximately eight apartments will be permanently affordable housing. The proposal involves two actions. The first is a zoning map amendment to change the existing R5 residential district with a C1-2 commercial overlay to an R6A residential district with a C2-4 commercial overlay. The second action is a zoning text amendment to map a Mandatory Inclusionary Housing area.

We are recommending to modify the available MIH Option to deepen the required level

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2	affordability. The modification is to remove Option
3	Two and to add Option Three.
4	Counsel, are there any Council Members
5	with questions or remarks at this time?
6	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: No.
7	CHAIRPERSON RILEY: I will now call for a
8	vote to approve with modifications LUs 324 and 325
9	relating to the Midtown South Mixed-Use Plan
10	Proposal; to approve with modifications LUs 339, 340,
11	and 341 relating to Lenox Hill Hospital Proposal; to
12	approve with modifications LUs 331 and 332 relating
13	to the 47th Hall Street Rezoning Proposal; to approve
14	LUs 333 and 334 relating to 347 Flushing Avenue
15	Rezoning Proposal; to approve with modifications LUs
16	335 and 336 relating to 236 Gold Street Rezoning
17	Proposal; and to approve with modifications LUs 337
18	and 338 relating to the 42-11 30th Avenue Rezoning
19	Proposal.
20	Counsel, please call the roll.
21	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Chair.
22	CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Aye.
23	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
24	Member Moya.

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

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2	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
3	Member Abreu.
4	COUNCIL MEMBER ABREU: Aye.
5	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
6	Member Hanks.
7	COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Aye.
8	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
9	Member Schulman.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN: Aye.
11	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
12	Member Salaam.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER SALAAM: I vote aye.
14	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: Council
15	Member Carr.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.
17	SUBCOMMITTEE COUNSEL VIDAL: By a vote of
18	seven affirmative, zero opposing, and zero
19	abstentions, LUs 333 and 334 are approved without
20	modifications, and LUs 324, 325, 331, 332, and 335
21	through 341 are approved with modifications. These
22	items are referred to the full Land Use Committee.
23	CHAIRPERSON RILEY: Thank you. That
24	concludes today's business.

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2	I would like to thank the members of the
3	public, my Colleagues, Subcommittee Counsel, Land Use
1	and other Council Staff and the Sergeant-at-Arms for
5	participating in today's meeting.
ó	This meeting is hereby adjourned. Thank
7	you. [GAVEL]
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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 September 2, 2025