

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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February 27, 2013
Start: 10:40 a.m.
Recess: 10:55 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Robert Jackson
G. Oliver Koppell
Darlene Mealy
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Julissa Ferreras
Karen Koslowitz

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James G. Van Bramer

Vincent M. Ignizio

James S. Oddo

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

Elizabeth De Leon Bhargava
Deputy Commissioner
Small Business Services

Eddie Yang
Small Business Services

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning,
3 and welcome to today's Finance Committee Hearing.
4 My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I am the Chair
5 of this wonderful Committee. I'd like to
6 introduce all my colleagues who have joined us
7 here today. We have Council Member Al Vann,
8 Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member
9 Karen Koslowitz, Council Member Joel Rivera, and
10 of course myself, Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. Today
11 we have several items on our agenda. We have a
12 transparency reso, three bid items, and one Land
13 Use item. Let's start with the transparency
14 resolution. This resolution sets forth new
15 changes in the designation of certain
16 organizations receiving local, aging and youth
17 discretionary funding as well as new changes in
18 the designation of certain organizations receiving
19 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the
20 expense budget. Organizations appearing in the
21 reso that have not yet completed the
22 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's
23 Office of Contracts, the Council or any other
24 entity are identified with an asterisk next to its
25 name. Additionally as with all transparency reso,

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2 Council Members will have to sign a disclosure
3 form indicating whether or not a conflict exists
4 with any of the groups on the attached list. If
5 any Council Member has a potential conflict of
6 interest with any organization listed, he or she
7 might want to disclose the conflict at the time of
8 their vote. Please also disclose any conflicts
9 that you have with the proposed subcontractor that
10 are used by organizations you sponsor for
11 discretionary funding. This disclosure must be
12 made before the subcontractor can be approved.
13 Members will be contacted by the Council Ethics in
14 Employment Council, Nadir, to complete disclosure
15 forms as necessary. Next we have three BID items.
16 The first BID item is the Myrtle Avenue BID
17 located in Council Member Diana Reyna and Liz
18 Crowley's district in Queens. This item sets
19 March 13th at 10 a.m. to consider a local law that
20 would amend the BID district plan to remove
21 certain services that the BID is currently
22 required to provide and to allow for additional
23 services. The next BID item is the HUB Third
24 Avenue BID located in Council Member Arroyo's
25 district in the Bronx. This item sets March 13th

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2 at 10 a.m. to consider a local law that would
3 amend the BID's district plan to allow for capital
4 improvement program amended services currently
5 required to provide by the BID and change the
6 level of assessment on vacant properties in the
7 BID. The last BID item is the proposed Soho BID
8 located in Council Member Chin's district in
9 Manhattan. This item sets March 13th at 10 a.m.
10 to consider a local law that would establish the
11 Soho BID. These are all of the BID items and all
12 the affected Council Members have expressed
13 support of these items. Our next and last item is
14 a Land Use Item Sunset 203K located in Council
15 Member Diana Reyna and Erik Dilan's district in
16 Brooklyn will receive a full property tax
17 exemption for 40 years, the rehab of five
18 buildings that provides 21 units of rental housing
19 for low income families. Both council members
20 support this item. These are all our items on
21 today's agenda. Representatives from HPD are here
22 to answer any questions you may have on the Land
23 Use item and Finance staff is here to answer any
24 question you may have on the transparency reso.
25 Before we take questions, if there are any, I want

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2 to remind Finance members that tomorrow at 10 a.m.
3 in the Council chambers the Finance Committee will
4 jointly with the Committee on Community
5 Development, chaired by Council Member Al Vann, to
6 hold an oversight hearing examining the Department
7 of Finance's assessment practices relating to
8 properties in New York City and properties
9 affected by super storm Sandy. This afternoon my
10 counsel, Tanisha Edwards, will e-mail you the
11 hearing briefing documents, which I encourage you
12 to read prior to tomorrow's hearing.

13 Representatives from the DOF and New York City Tax
14 Commission which handles assessment appeals of
15 members of the public have been invited to
16 testify. I encourage all my colleagues to attend
17 this very important hearing. Now back to today's
18 items. SBS Deputy Commissioner Elizabeth De Leon
19 will say a few words about the three BID items on
20 today's agenda. We are joined by Council Member
21 Leroy Comrie and Council Member Gale Brewer. Yes?
22 Oliver Koppell. I said it before. Recognize the
23 chair from the Bronx, Oliver Koppell. Okay. Go
24 ahead Small Business Services.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

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2 BHARGAVA: Good morning. Good morning, Mr.
3 Chairman and members of the Finance Committee. I
4 am Elizabeth De Leon Bhargava, deputy commissioner
5 at SBS. I am joined today by my assistant
6 commissioner, James Mettham and Eddie [phonetic]
7 Yang from my staff. SBS supports the City Council
8 resolution setting the date, time and place for
9 the public hearing concerning the establishment of
10 the Soho Business Improvement District in the
11 borough of Manhattan. The Soho BID's steering
12 committee has completed successfully the outreach
13 and planning work consistent with SBS program
14 policies. In addition SBS has reviewed the
15 boundaries of the proposed SOHO BID and found the
16 boundaries to be acceptable. The proposed BID
17 includes properties along both sides of Broadway
18 from Canal Street to Houston Street. SBS will
19 arrange for the publication of the summary of the
20 City Council resolution at least once in the city
21 record. The SOHO bid steering committee will
22 arrange the mailing of summary of the resolution
23 as required by law. As requested by Council
24 Member Chin, changes have been made to the
25 proposed Soho BID plan. The changes include the

1 following: residential condo and co-op units will
2 be assessed at just one dollar per year. The
3 annual BID budget was reduced from 700,000 to
4 550,000 and the revised plan will only include
5 three proposed services: sanitation and snow
6 removal, pedestrian and public safety and general
7 administrative services instead of the six
8 originally proposed. SBS is submitting the
9 revised Soho BID plan as attached. Additionally,
10 SBS supports the City Council resolution setting
11 the date, time and place for the public hearing
12 concerning amendments of the HUB Third Avenue and
13 the Myrtle Avenue district plans. Over time, the
14 needs of both districts related to certain
15 services have changed. The HUB Third Avenue BID
16 wishes to modify existing services to add a
17 capital program in the district. The changes in
18 services would result in the modification of the
19 public safety, sanitation, promotion and marking
20 programs and a community service program. The
21 addition of a capital improvement program will
22 provide for street and sidewalk amenities within
23 the district. In order to finance the capital
24 improvements the HUB Third Avenue BID shall change
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2 the method of assessment for vacant properties to
3 an amount equal to 68 percent of the commercial
4 property footage rate. The Myrtle Avenue BID
5 wishes to discontinue a maintenance program and in
6 place of that program add sanitation and graffiti
7 removal services, additional security, business
8 promotional services and additional holiday
9 decorations. The HUB Third Avenue and Myrtle
10 Avenue BIDS will arrange for the publication of a
11 public hearing notice at least once in a local
12 newspaper as required by law and in addition the
13 BIDs will mail a notice to local property owners
14 as requested by the Finance Committee. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you
16 very much. Anybody have any questions? So after
17 you have done this for the Soho BID, this will
18 complete and we can move forward?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

20 BHARGAVA: Absolutely.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: and what is
22 the timeline again for how long we have to wait?

23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

24 BHARGAVA: The timeline? Eddie, would you like to
25 answer that question on the specifics?

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2 EDDIE YANG: Yes, after the public
3 hearing on the 13th, there will be a 30 day - -
4 period, and at the end of that time, the City
5 Council may take up the Soho BID legislation and
6 give its approval or disapproval at that time. So
7 we are looking at a timeframe of--we're now in
8 March--sometime in mid-April, late April for the
9 City Council approval of that legislation.

10 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. So
11 sometime in April we can move forward. We have to
12 wait 30 days from March 13th?

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

14 BHARGAVA: Yes. There is a waiting period.

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: At least.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

17 BHARGAVA: Mm-hmm.

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Anyone
19 have any questions about any of these three BIDs,
20 the transparency, the Land Use items? Okay. I
21 want to thank the SBS for coming here today.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DE LEON

23 BHARGAVA: Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Just hold on
25 for one minute.

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[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning.

We recognize the Council Member from the Bronx,
Helen Diane Foster. Please call the vote.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
committee clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee
on Finance. Council Member Recchia?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I'm voting on
all items on today's agenda. I encourage all of
my members to vote aye. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: - - .

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Did Vinny

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Ignizio vote?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Alright. We

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have been joined by Council Member Oddo, Council

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Member Vincent Ignizio, Council Member Lewis

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Fidler, and now we recognize Council Member Fidler

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from the borough of Brooklyn.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I am going

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to have to look at the disclosure statement, but

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otherwise I vote aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: By vote of 12 in

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the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions all items have been adopted. Members,

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please sign the Committee Reports. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We will keep

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2 the vote open for 30 minutes. Okay. We will keep
3 the vote open until 11:15. Thank you.

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5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll
6 call, Committee on Finance. Council Member Reyna?

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7 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye
8 on all.

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9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the
10 Committee on Finance is now 13 in the affirmative
11 with zero in the negative and no abstentions.

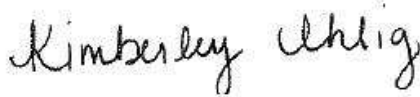
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12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: This
Committee on Finance is adjourned. Thank you.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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 _____

Date _____ 3/5/13