

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME
USES

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December 13, 2012
Start: 11:17 a.m.
Recess: 11:43 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway
Committee Room, 16th Floor

B E F O R E:
BRAD LANDER
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Rosie Mendez
Annabel Palma
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Kate Daly
Executive Director
Landmarks Preservation Commission

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2 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: If Council
3 Member Williams will take his seat, we could begin
4 the hearing.

5 [Off mic]

6 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right,
7 we're all set.

8 FEMALE VOICE: Oh, and she brought
9 me a copy, no, just--

10 [Off mic]

11 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Yeah, Rosie,
12 you're in the Halloran seat, the far left. That's
13 usually where Halloran sits. I guess he knows
14 that on television, it's the far right.

15 All right, we good to go?

16 FEMALE VOICE: We're good to go.

17 [Off mic]

18 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right.
19 Good morning, I'm New York City Council Member
20 Brad Lander, chair of the City Council's Land Use
21 Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting, and
22 Maritime Uses. Please--yeah, this is--we're
23 starting our meeting today with, you know, at 17
24 minutes after its scheduled starting time, which
25 is maybe a record of the term, certainly the last

1
2 year or so. And for that, I am immensely grateful
3 to my colleagues: Annabel Palma from the Bronx,
4 who is almost always first and so wins the
5 attendance. You're sitting in order of 'cause--
6 and then Maria del Carmen Arroyo, also from the
7 Bronx, also always here on time; Council Member
8 Rosie Mendez from Manhattan; Council Member
9 Williams from Brooklyn, and that's a quorum so
10 we're going to begin.

11 We just have--

12 [Off mic]

13 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: I wasn't
14 criticizing, I was only praising.

15 [Off mic]

16 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: 'Cause if I
17 was criticizing, I'd have to give Jumaane a harder
18 time than you.

19 All right, let's see, we only have
20 one item on the calendar today, it's the Rainbow
21 Room, which is Land Use number 745, action number
22 20135180 HKM in Manhattan Community Board 5. And
23 I'm pleased to ask Kate Daly from the Landmarks
24 Preservation Commission to come up and present it
25 to us. Jenny's on vacation.

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2 KATE DALY: Yes, exactly. I
3 apologize for the substitution, I'm--

4 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: [Interposing]
5 We're happy to have you.

6 KATE DALY: We have to give her a
7 day off once in a while. My name is Kate Daly,
8 I'm the Executive Director of the Landmarks
9 Preservation Commission, and I'm here to testify
10 on the commission's designation of the Rainbow
11 Room.

12 On September 11th, 2012, the
13 Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public
14 hearing on the proposed designation of the Rainbow
15 Room and the proposed designation of the related
16 interior landmark site. The hearing had been duly
17 advertised in accordance with provisions of law.
18 Four people spoke in support of the designation,
19 including the owner, Tishman Speyer, the New York
20 Landmark's Conservancy, the Historic Districts
21 Council, and Mary B. Dierickx. There were no
22 speakers in opposition to designation. On October
23 16th, 2012, the commission voted to designate the
24 Rainbow Room an interior landmark.

25 Since opening on October 3rd, 1934,

1
2 the Rainbow Room has been one of New York City's
3 premier nightspots. An elegant supper club to
4 dine, dance, and enjoy incomparable views.

5 Located at the east end of the 65th
6 floor of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, this room is
7 particularly notable because few interiors of this
8 type survived from the early 20th century. The
9 Rainbow Room was designed by the Associated
10 Architects, the architects of Rockefeller Center.
11 Wallace K. Harrison, a member of the firm Corbett,
12 Harrison & McMurray, acted as lead architect,
13 working with interior decorator, Elena Bachman
14 Schmidt. This double-height space was conceived
15 in the building's original design as a single
16 volume, without columns. The style is Streamlined
17 Modern, with calculated neo-classical flourishes.

18 The commission urges you to affirm
19 the designation. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you very
21 much. Any questions from my colleagues? Anyone
22 with good stories of dates at the Rainbow Room
23 where they noticed the outstanding landmarked
24 interior and are looking forward to its
25 preservation?

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[Off mic]

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I was wondering when they would--

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right, you know, I think this one is pretty straightforward, it's hard to see who would say that this was not landmark worthy. So--

[Off mic]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Ba-da-bum, all right. It's on the record that Rosie wants a little more pizzazz. Right, it's supposed to be the Rainbow Room. Anyway, all right, seeing no questions and a general consensus that there's enthusiasm for the Rainbow Room, at least in some quarters, thank you for your testimony.

We don't have anyone else signed up to testify, so if there anyone is here who came intending to testify, this is your opportunity. If not, we will close--

[Gavel]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: --the hearing on this item and proceed to a vote. We're voting on Land Use number 745, the Rainbow Room, and the

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chair colorfully recommends a vote of aye.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Colorfully.

COUNCIL CLERK: Chair Lander.

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member

Palma.

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member

Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Colorfully?

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: It's the

Rainbow Room.

[Crosstalk]

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member

Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Council Member

Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COUNCIL CLERK: Two, three, four,

five. By a vote of five in the affirmative, zero

negative, and zero abstentions, Land Use 745 is

approved and referred to the full Land Use

Committee.

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[Long pause]

[Off mic]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: All right, we will hold the roll open for 15 minutes for Council Members who didn't realize we would be having a hearing that both started and ended in record time. But thank you, okay, but with that, we'll--

[Gavel]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: --adjourn the meeting. Thank you. I don't think we have a meeting on the calendar before the new year. Land Use is meeting--

COUNCIL CLERK: Monday, the--

[Crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: --Monday the 17th, but this--

COUNCIL CLERK: [Interposing] Your subcommittee--

[Crosstalk]

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: --our--

COUNCIL CLERK: --for the year.

CHAIRPERSON LANDER: -- subcommittee's done for the year, thanks everyone for a lovely--

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank

3

you.

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CHAIRPERSON LANDER: --2012 and

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Happy Holidays.

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[Pause]

7

[Off mic]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tammy Wittman, 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 *Tammy Wittman*

Date December 26, 2012