

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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June 22, 2023  
Start: 10:18 a.m.  
Recess: 10:25 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Diana Ayala  
Charles Barron  
David M. Carr  
Amanda Farias  
Crystal Hudson  
Farrah N. Louis  
Francisco P. Moya  
Chi A. Osse  
Keith Powers  
Althea V. Stevens  
Nantasha M. Williams

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a sound check  
3 for the Committee on Finance. Today's date is June  
4 22, 2023. Being recorded by Danny Huong (phonetic) in  
5 the Committee Room.

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

9 At this time, can everyone please silence  
10 your cell phones? Thank you for your cooperation.

11 Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Thank you. [GAVEL]  
13 Good morning and welcome to today's Finance Committee  
14 meeting. I'm Council Member Justin Brannan. I have  
15 the privilege of Chairing this Committee on Finance.

16 We've been joined this morning by Council  
17 Members Stevens, Farias, Hudson, Osse, Carr, Powers,  
18 Ayala, Louis, Barron, Ung, and Williams, and Moya is  
19 on Zoom.

20 Today, the Committee will be voting on  
21 the following items, four Preconsidered Resolutions  
22 relating to nonpayment of property taxes, five  
23 Article 11 Resolutions, and Intro. 1051B.

24 First, the four Preconsidered Resolutions  
25 would set interest rates charged for nonpayment of

2 property taxes. Pursuant to both the Charter and the  
3 Administrative Code, every year the New York City  
4 Banking Commission recommends to the City Council  
5 interest rates to charge for nonpayment of property  
6 taxes. For FY24, the Banking Commission recommends  
7 the following rates: Properties with an assessed  
8 value of no more than 250,000, 9 percent; properties  
9 with an assessed value of no more than 250,000 for  
10 which the owner has entered into an installment  
11 payment agreement with the Department of Finance for  
12 payment of those delinquent property taxes, 6  
13 percent; properties with an assessed value of more  
14 than 250,000 dollars but less than 450,000 dollars,  
15 15 percent; and, finally, 18 percent for properties  
16 with an assessed value of more than 450,000 dollars.

17           The Committee is voting today to adopt  
18 lower interest rates than recommended by the Banking  
19 Commission, and we're voting as follows: Properties  
20 with an assessed value of no more than 250,000  
21 dollars for delinquent property taxes would pay a 5  
22 percent interest; properties with an assessed value  
23 of no more than 250,000 dollars for which the owner  
24 has entered into a payment plan with the Department  
25 of Finance, 2 percent; properties with an assessed

2 value of more than 250,000 dollars but less than  
3 450,000 dollars would pay 8 percent; and properties  
4 with an assessed value of more than 450,000 dollars  
5 would pay 15 percent.

6           The resolutions we're voting on represent  
7 a 1 percent increase from the rates adopted last  
8 Fiscal Year except for the rate for properties  
9 subject to a payment plan which is a new category  
10 created by Local Law 36 sponsored by Council Member  
11 Carr and myself and implemented for the first time  
12 ever here.

13           The Finance Committee believes this small  
14 increase balances the need to maintain the  
15 effectiveness of interest charges to encourage timely  
16 payment of taxes without creating overly burdensome  
17 charges on homeowners. Again, these rates are just  
18 for folks who have failed to pay their property  
19 taxes.

20           Next, the two Article 11 Resolutions  
21 would grant partial 40-year exemptions for McKinley  
22 Square, a total of eight buildings with 156 units in  
23 Council Member Salamanca's and Stevens' District. The  
24 exemptions would impose new HPD regulatory  
25 agreements, a 10 percent set-aside for formerly

2 homeless households, and HPD's Aging in Place  
3 initiative.

4           The next Article 11 is a partial 40-year  
5 exemption for one building with 52 units in Council  
6 Member Farias' District. The exemption would impose a  
7 new HPD regulatory agreement, a 10 percent set-aside  
8 for formerly homeless households, as well as HPD's  
9 Aging in Place initiative.

10           The fourth Article 11 is a partial 40-  
11 year exemption for one building with 59 units in  
12 Council Member Sanchez's District. The exemption  
13 would impose a new HPD regulatory agreement, a 10  
14 percent set-aside for formerly homeless households  
15 and HPD's Aging in Place initiative.

16           The final Article 11 is a 40-year tax  
17 exemption for Flatbush Gardens, a group of 59  
18 buildings with 2,494 units in Council Member Louis'  
19 District. This exemption will run through HPD's  
20 Housing Preservation Opportunities Program to  
21 preserve affordability and allow for substantial  
22 rehabilitation work in all buildings.

23           Finally, Intro. 1051B sponsored by myself  
24 and Council Members Marte, Hudson, Farias, Brewer,  
25 Yeger, and Louis. This bill was heard on June 15th

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2 and would implement State legislation permitting the  
3 expansion of eligibility for the Senior Citizen Rent  
4 Increase Exemption, or SCRIE, as well as DRIE, the  
5 Disability Rent Increase Exemption, for tenants of  
6 apartments in Battery Park City and apartments in  
7 former Article 2 Mitchell-Lama buildings that are  
8 subject to rent regulation agreements.

9 Are there any comments or questions from  
10 my Colleagues on these items?

11 Okay, seeing none, I'm going to ask Billy  
12 Martin, the Committee Clerk, to call the roll.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
14 you. Good morning. All items are coupled. Roll call  
15 Committee on Finance. Chair Brannan.

16 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: I vote aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Moya.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank  
22 you. Powers.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brooks-

3 Powers. Barron.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Brewer.

6 Farias.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FARIAS: I vote aye on all.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanks.

9 Hudson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Osse.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER OSSE: Aye on all.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Sanchez.

14 Stevens.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER STEVENS: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

17 Velazquez. Williams.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

20 Carr.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Permission to

22 explain my vote.

23 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Permission granted.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair. I

25 just want to thank you for your leadership in terms

2 of the passage of the Local Law and the first ever  
3 separate adoption of an interest rate for those in a  
4 payment plan. 2 percent is one of the lowest, I think  
5 the lowest we've ever adopted outside of the COVID  
6 pandemic, and the 5 percent for those who aren't in a  
7 payment plan is still relatively low as we get this  
8 program off the ground so I'm very proud of this  
9 achievement and finally kind of ending this  
10 longstanding debate we've had in this Body about  
11 what's an appropriate level to charge in terms of  
12 interest for non-payers who are legitimately  
13 struggling during difficult times and making it  
14 easier for them to pay back their bills to the City  
15 so thank you, and I vote aye on all.

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

20 CHAIRPERSON BRANNAN: Okay, we're going to  
21 get out of the way for General Welfare, and this  
22 hearing is 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 June 28, 2023