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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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June 21, 2010
Start: 1:32pm
Recess: 1:40pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DARLENE MEALY
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member Michael C. Nelson

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

N/A

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[background noise]

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[gavel]

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CHAIRPERSON MEALY: The Committee

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on Contracts will start now. Good afternoon, my

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name is Council Member Darlene Mealy, I'm the

7

Chair of New York City Committee on Contracts. It

8

is my privilege to preside over this hearing, to

9

consider Resolution Number 115 of two thousand--

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2010, sponsored by my colleague, Council Member

11

James. Before we proceed, I would like to

12

recognize the other members that are here today:

13

Mark-Viverito of Manhattan; Council Member James

14

of Brooklyn; Mike Nelson, Council Member Mike

15

Nelson of Brooklyn. And I would like to thank our

16

staff, our legal staff, Lisette Camilo, Counsel to

17

the Committee, and Israel Rodriguez, Policy

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Analyst to the Committee. This will be Israel's

19

last hearing of the New York City Council today.

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Yes, we missed this part, well she miss--

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[laughter] And he is leaving to pursue new

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endeavors, and we thank you for all that you have

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done for us. And we will miss you. So, we wish

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you all the best. And keep moving on. Don't

25

stop. [applause] Okay, Reso No. 115 of 2010

1 supports HR 3771, which amends the federal Small
2 Business Act to establish mentorship and assistant
3 programs designed to help minority, veteran owned,
4 women owned small business operate in
5 construction/industrial. The construction
6 industry is an area that provides an entry point
7 for many small businesses, especially those owned
8 by minority womens and veterans. Though the
9 industrial provides rewarding careers, it is a
10 challenging one that demands specialized knowledge
11 by business owners to truly be successful. Though
12 the City can do much better with regards to the
13 success of the City's MWBE program, advocates have
14 recognized that MWBE's required capacity building
15 in a number of areas to increase the number of
16 certified firms, to submit the lowest bid, one of
17 the two criteria used by the City to award
18 publicly big contracts. Some of the areas that
19 have been highlighted are increased training in
20 finding and responding to bid opportunities,
21 maintaining an efficient internal infrastructure,
22 to properly do business with the City. And
23 prepare estimate skills, estimating skills. Most
24 importantly, access to financing and bonding, and
25

1
2 essential to doing more contracting with the City.
3 Capacity building would be MWBE's the knowledge
4 necessary to eventually submit the lowest bid and
5 be awarded more contracts. HR 3771 amends the
6 U.S. Small Business Act to establish mentorship
7 programs to assist MWBEs, and establishes grants,
8 programs for states and localities to enhance
9 access to specialized education and resources for
10 firms owned by women, minorities and veterans in
11 construction industry. HR 3771 addresses many of
12 the issues that prevent MWBEs from obtaining more
13 public contracts. If enact, HR 3771 will directly
14 impact many New York City MWBE construction firms
15 seeking to do business with the City. I would
16 like to take this time to turn this over to my
17 colleague who is sponsoring this bill, Council
18 Member Letitia James.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES: Thank you,
20 Madam Chair. First, let me say that this bill was
21 in response to several factors. One of the
22 factors being that the City did not meet their
23 WMBE goals for prime contracts, MWBE goals for
24 persons of color and women in the City of New
25 York. We fared much better with respect to

1
2 subcontracting goals. In fact, we exceeded those
3 goals. There's a number of challenges to meeting
4 those goals, and that is why I put forth this
5 Resolution in support of a piece of legislation
6 which was sponsored by my very good friend and
7 colleague in Congress, Congresswoman Yvette Clark,
8 HR 3771, which would enhance the Small Business
9 Act by requiring the Small Business Administration
10 to establish programs to advance the specialized
11 knowledge and professional services needed for
12 companies to operate in the construction industry;
13 and two, to improve their credentials in order to
14 qualify for financial and surety credit. And to
15 compete, and also this was an attempt, an attempt
16 to increase opportunities for businesses of color,
17 and women, so that they can compete for federal
18 construction contracting, construction
19 opportunities, as well as opportunities in the
20 City of New York. It's really critically
21 important that as we know, a number of businesses
22 of color and women are disadvantaged in applying
23 for surety bonds, as well as they lack access to
24 capital. It is for these reasons that I've put
25 forth this Resolution and I would hope that my

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2 colleagues would support this, as well. And
3 obviously support the legislation being put forth
4 in Congress by Congresswoman Yvette Clark, so that
5 we could increase the wealth in communities of
6 color and provide more opportunities for
7 businesses of color to thrive, and to survive in
8 this very challenging economy. I thank you Madam
9 Chair and I would urge that we move the bill as
10 quickly as possible. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON MEALY: Thank you.

12 Since this is a Resolution, we will not have any
13 government agencies here today, but we want, will
14 any of my colleagues have anything to say? Well,
15 we thank you, we know that we need these small
16 business contracts. And I'm glad that my
17 colleague did put in this Resolution and we will
18 be looking forward to helping our small
19 businesses, minority, women and veterans. We can
20 never forget our veterans. So this hearing is now
21 adjourned.

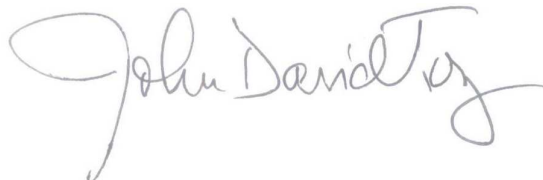
22 [gavel]

23 [background noise]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG, 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature_____

Date July 6, 2010