

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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April 22, 2021
Start: 9:32 a.m.
Recess: 9:42 a.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 1)

B E F O R E: Daniel Dromm
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Adrienne Adams
Alika Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Selvena Brooks-Powers
Robert Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie Cumbo
Dharma Diaz
Vanessa Gibson
Barry Grodenchik
Karen Koslowitz
Farrah Louis
Steven Matteo
Francisco Moya
Keith Powers
Helen Rosenthal
Jimmy Van Bramer

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

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud is up.

3 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Back up is rolling.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you. Sergeant
5 Kowalski, you may begin the opening.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and welcome
7 to today's remote New York City Council hearing on
8 the Committee on Finance. At this time, would
9 Council staff please turn on their video? Please
10 place electronic devices on vibrate or silent. Thank
11 you. Chair, we are ready to begin.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Good morning and
13 welcome to today's meeting of the Committee on
14 Finance. I am Council member Daniel Dromm and I am
15 the Chair of the committee. This morning, we are
16 joined by Council members Ampry-Samuel, Cornegy,
17 Grodenchik, Koslowitz, Louis, Powers, Cumbo, Matteo,
18 Diaz, and Rosenthal. Today, the committee will be
19 voting on five items: a transparency resolution, to
20 article 11 property tax exemptions, and to BID
21 related resolutions. Let's begin with the
22 transparency resolution. The transparency resolution
23 sets for a new designation and changes in the
24 designation of certain organizations receiving local,
25 aging, anti-poverty, and youth discretionary funding

2 and funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the
3 budget. As with all transparency resolutions,
4 Council members will have to sign a disclosure form
5 indicating whether or not a conflict exists within
6 any of the groups on the attached lists. If any
7 Council member has a potential conflict of interest
8 with any of the organizations listed, he or she has
9 the opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time
10 of their vote. As a reminder, please disclose any
11 conflicts you may have with proposed subcontractors
12 used by organizations sponsored by discretionary
13 funding. These disclosures must be made before the
14 subcontractor can be approved. Disclosure forms must
15 be completed and submitted prior to the vote on the
16 transparency resolution and may be emailed to Charles
17 Davis. Next, we have to land use items. The first
18 is Astoria Towers in Council member Moya's district.
19 This action would provide a partial 40 year article
20 11 property tax exemption to support the preservation
21 of 62 units of affordable rental housing. The second
22 is Claremont area in Majority Leader Cumbo's
23 district. The action would provide a full 40 year
24 article 11 property tax exemption to support the
25 preservation of 41 units of affordable homeownership.

2 Each Council member is supportive of the exemptions
3 in their district. Finally, we have the two BID
4 resolutions. These resolutions set the hearing date
5 of May 13, 2021 and city Council virtual room one at
6 9 AM for the Finance Committee to consider local laws
7 that would authorize amendments to the district plans
8 of the two business improvement districts. The first
9 resolution relates to the Flatbush Avenue business
10 improvement District in Council member Eugene's
11 district which seeks an amendment that would
12 authorize additional services for the district and
13 change the method of assessment on which the district
14 charge is based. The second BID resolution relates
15 to the Queens Plaza Court Square business improvement
16 District in Council member Van Bramer's district
17 which seeks an amendment that would change the method
18 of assessment on which the district charges based.
19 Are there any questions on any of the items on the
20 agenda? Seeing none, I am going to ask Billy
21 Martin, the committee clerk, to call the Finance
22 Committee role.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Good morning. Thank
24 you. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call

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2 vote Committee on Finance. All items are coupled.

3 Chair Dromm?

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Powers?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cornegy?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sorry.

11 Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Cumbo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. Rosenthal?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Grodenchik?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Adams?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ampry-Samuel?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I vote

24 aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ayala?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: I vote aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: Moya?

4 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Louis?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dharma Diaz? Council

8 member Diaz? [inaudible 00:05:28] We will come

9 back, Council member Diaz. Brooks-Powers?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BROOKS-POWERS: I vote

11 aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Matteo?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dharma Diaz?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you. One moment.

17 By a vote of 16 in the affirmative, zero in the

18 negative, and no abstentions, all items have been

19 adopted by the committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you very much

21 and, with that, I am going to--

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: One second. Can we hold

23 the vote open and Council member Grodenchik has his

24 hand raised.

25 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: I'm sorry.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I just want
3 to, Chair-- I will wait for you to recognize me.
4 I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Council member
6 Grodenchik, of course.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I just want to
8 thank my colleagues. I neglected in my vote to thank
9 Chair Dromm and Speaker Johnson and all of you who
10 have been advocating for emergency food allocations.
11 I added up the package. It seems to be between 16
12 and \$17 million more, further step to make sure that
13 nobody in the city it goes hungry and I know how hard
14 the Speaker, our Chief of Staff, Chair Dromm, and
15 others, Chair Levin have worked on this and I think
16 this is a wonderful, wonderful thing and we will
17 continue to press for more so that no New Yorker ever
18 goes hungry. So, thank you, Chair Dromm--

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: for allowing
21 me to make remarks.

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Thank you, Council
23 member Grodenchik. You are becoming known as the
24 food man. So, we are very grateful for your
25 advocacy, as well. Thank you.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you.
3 Thank you.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mr. Chair, we been
5 joined by Council member Gipson.

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Great. Council
7 member Gibson? Your vote? Council member Gibson?
8 Council member Gibson? Council member Gibson, we are
9 waiting for your vote. Council member Gibson?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I'm sure she
11 is trying to change that backdrop.

12 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Probably.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [inaudible
14 00:08:25]

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Chairman, Council member
16 Gibson is having some technical issues with her
17 sound. Staff is helping her out with it now and she
18 should be on shortly.

19 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Good morning. Can
21 you hear me?

22 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Oh. I'm sorry,
24 Chair. I didn't think we started. So sorry about
25 that. I'm like, why don't I hear anything? Okay. I

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2 vote yes on today's agenda. Thank you so much.

3 Thanks.

4 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: All right. Thank
5 you, Council member Gibson. We appreciate it. All
6 right. This meeting--

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mr. Chair?

8 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Yes?

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: I apologize. Mr. Chair.
10 Committee clerk, William Martin. Let me just--
11 Final vote Committee on Finance . All items have
12 been adopted by a vote of 17 in the affirmative, zero
13 in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Okay. Thank you,
15 Billy Martin. And with that, this meeting is
16 adjourned at-- I guess I don't know what time it is.
17 Let me see. 9:45 a.m. It's a busy day today. Thank
18 you very much.

19 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Thank you all. The live
20 has ended.

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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 May 29, 2021