

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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July 23, 2019  
Start: 11:02 a.m.  
Recess: 11:15 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: Peter Koo  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams  
Francis P. Moya  
Mark Gjonaj  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Carlina Rivera  
Andrew Cohen  
Ⓢ

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

Alice Blank

1  
2           MICHAEL LEONARDO: Check, check, this is  
3 the prerecorded sound test for the Committee on Parks  
4 and Rec. It's being recorded by Michael Leonardo.

5 [pause]

6           CHAIRPERSON KOO: Good morning, everyone.  
7 Yeah, the meeting is going to start now. [gavel]  
8 Good morning. I'm Council Member Peter Koo and I'm  
9 pleased to chair the Committee on Parks and  
10 Recreation. And we here joined by Council Members  
11 Adams, Moya, Gjonaj, Van Bramer, Rivera, and Council  
12 Member Cohen. Today the committee will be voting on  
13 a preconsidered bill that [inaudible] co-named 86  
14 Thoroughfares in Public Places Throughout the City.  
15 This is our semi-annual bill where we seek to honor  
16 the individuals and organizations that have made  
17 lasting contributions to the people of our city.  
18 Some of this includes co-names for active community  
19 members, heroic New Yorkers who sacrificed their  
20 lives for others, people who committed their lives to  
21 public services, or those who greatly enriched the  
22 city's culture landscape. I'm proud to support this  
23 bill and I urge my colleagues on the committee to  
24 vote in favor of this legislation. Thank you. So  
25 before we vote, any members want to make any comments

1  
2 or statements? Seeing none. Any public want to make  
3 any comments or statements? Seeing none. Oh, you  
4 do? Just one minute, all right? State your name.

5 ALICE BLANKUNIDENTIFIED: I just wanted  
6 to make sure that the council is aware that one of  
7 the co-namings was voted against by the Community  
8 Board 1. This is for the corner of West Broadway and  
9 Lispenard Street. And I just wanted to read  
10 something that I felt...

11 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Can you state your name  
12 first?

13 ALICE BLANK: Alice Blank.

14 CHAIRPERSON KOO: OK, thank you.

15 ALICE BLANK: And I'm a member of  
16 Community Board 1. And I just wanted to make a  
17 statement. We're very much, of course, aware that  
18 street co-naming happens all over the city. I know  
19 Board 1 has its bylaws that make it quite clear that  
20 they're not very much in favor of co-naming, given  
21 the number of streets, the difficulty of getting to  
22 these streets, the history of these streets, the  
23 density of these streets, and the extraordinary  
24 amount of folk who merit honors, of course, for all  
25 of the tremendous amount of tragedy that Community

1 Board 1 has seen. So I just wanted to note this  
2 particular street and just, I state, we all  
3 appreciate the vitally important role of the police  
4 in our community and the fallen officer, Sergeant  
5 McNaughton, whose life was tragically lost in the  
6 valorous service in Iraq. But when a community board  
7 votes against co-naming a street it must have an  
8 important reason for doing so and its members do not  
9 expect that their views will be disregarded without  
10 directly engaging them, without sharing any  
11 reasoning, and without confronting the community's  
12 reasoning. This small act raises large questions  
13 about the integrity of our community board process.  
14 The council should be urged to consider allowing the  
15 community and the community board that represents  
16 them to have an opportunity to further discuss and  
17 consider these street co-namings. The community  
18 board was not made aware that the street co-naming  
19 was going through without any consideration. In  
20 other words, we as members did not know this was  
21 going through. We also want to add that Sergeant  
22 McNaughton, and I'm speaking on behalf of myself,  
23 certainly, not Community Board 1, Sergeant McNaughton  
24 has been honored with a bronze plaque on the Canal  
25

2 Street Subway with his name entered on the police  
3 memorial in the Battery and honored with namings in  
4 several hours in home towns in Long Island.

5 Community Board 1 has had immense loss and many  
6 heroes who merit recognition, from the lost of 9/11,  
7 the recent terror acts in Hudson River Park, to the  
8 many fallen heroes in their line of duty. The  
9 community rightly must be very careful to be fair to  
10 all those worthy of honor. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Any more members of  
12 public want to read statements? No? Seeing none.  
13 Mr. Clerk, can you call the roll?

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Billy Martin,  
15 committee clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Parks  
16 and Recreation. Council Member Koo.

17 CHAIRPERSON KOO: I vote yes.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cohen.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Permission to  
20 explain my vote for 10 seconds?

21 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yeah, please, yeah.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I just want to say  
23 we're voting on William Scribner Way, and I knew Bill  
24 personally. He was an incredibly talented  
25 individual. I vividly remember taking my daughter to

1  
2 see him conduct a *Peter and the Wolf* concert at the  
3 New York Botanical Garden. He will be sorely missed,  
4 and I'm really very proud that we're able to do this  
5 today, and with that I vote aye.

6 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: King.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KING: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
11 briefly explain my vote.

12 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Yes, please, yeah.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you,  
14 Mr. Chair. I just wanted to also mention and call  
15 the names of Frank Corrado and Ethel Plimack. Frank  
16 Corrado was unofficially the mayor of Long Island  
17 City and a Korean war veteran and someone who I knew  
18 very well and who everyone loved, and he died very  
19 recently. We all miss him already, and I know he  
20 would absolutely love this honor. And Ethel Plimack  
21 died at 108 years of age. She happened to live on  
22 my block, and she was an early pioneer, working until  
23 she was 96 years old, and when she left her  
24 employment she sued her employer for age  
25 discrimination because she still wanted to work. She

1 was an amazing woman, a legend in Sunnyside, and she  
2 also happened to be the mother of a very, very famous  
3 artist and the grandmother of an Academy Award  
4 winner. Ethel Plimack is a legend and it will be  
5 thrilling to name, co-name, my very street after  
6 Ethel Plimack. So with that I vote aye on all.  
7 Thank you very much.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gjonaj.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Aye on all.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Moya.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: Aye.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Permission to  
16 explain my vote?

17 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Please, yeah.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I am really,  
19 really pleased today to have the inclusion of this  
20 package of street co-namings in the memory of Herbert  
21 Louis Huntley, Sr., who was a stellar hero in the  
22 Jamaica area and I'm very, very proud of his service  
23 to his community, among many other things. He  
24 happened to be the very first African American  
25 manager of Dan's Supreme Supermarket in Jamaica. He



1  
2 was a stalwart example of a role model for Jamaica,  
3 Queens, and I proudly vote aye on all.

4 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: A vote of 8 in  
6 the affirmative, zero negative, and no abstentions.  
7 The item has been adopted by the committee.

8 CHAIRPERSON KOO: We will hold the vote  
9 for five more minutes in case council members show up  
10 to vote.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Final vote on  
12 Committee on Parks and Recreation. The item is  
13 adopted by the committee, 8 in the affirmative, zero  
14 in the negative, and no abstentions.

15 CHAIRPERSON KOO: Thank you very much.  
16 The meeting 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 July 29, 2019