CITY COUNCIL CITY OF NEW YORK -----X TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES of the SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES -----X October 5, 2010 Start: 10:00 am Recess: 11:40 am Committee Room HELD AT: 250 Broadway, 16th Floor BEFORE: MARK S. WEPRIN Chairperson COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mark S. Weprin Leroy G. Comrie, Jr. Daniel R. Garodnick Jessica S. Lappin Diana Reyna Joel Rivera Larry B. Seabrook James Vacca Albert Vann Vincent M. Ignizio Brad Lander Margaret Chin

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## APPEARANCES

Peter Bourbeau Managing Member High Hawk LLC

Judith Gallent Partner Bryan Cave

Ariel Aufgang Project Architect Subotovsky Architects

Richard Sica Vice President Galaxy General Contracting Corp

Ethan Goodman Attorney Wachtel & Masyr, LLP

S. Andrew Katz Crossing Partners LLC

Edith Hsu Chen Director of Manhattan Office Department of City Planning

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Michael E. Levine Director of Planning Manhattan Community Board 1 A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Carol Samol Director of Bronx Office Department of City Planning

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Calvin Jackson Co-chair of Economic Development Committee Bronx Community Board 6

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 4
2	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning
3	everyone. Good morning and welcome to the 16th
4	Floor of 250 Broadway. My name is Mark Weprin.
5	I'm the Chair of the Zoning and Franchises
6	Subcommittee of the Land Use Committee. I am
7	delighted to be joined by my colleagues: Dan
8	Garodnick, Vincent Ignizio, Jimmy Vacca, Joel
9	Rivera and Al Vann. In addition, Brad Lander is
10	here on one of the items. Without further ado,
11	we're going to get started.
12	The first item I want to just
13	mention is an item we had a hearing on last week.
14	This is called the Culver El rezoning. The Land
15	Use numbers are 177 through 193. We had some
16	discussion since the last meeting and there have
17	been some amendments made to the original plan.
18	From what I understand, the
19	Bergament site, property bounded by 36th Street
20	and Old New Utrecht Roadwhich luckily we didn't
21	change the road because then it would have to be
22	New Old New Utrecht Roadand 37th Street and 13th
23	Avenue, will be changed to a C8-2 and block 5300
24	Lot 45 and block 5299 Lot 37 which was generally
25	located in the southeastern portion of the

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 5
2	proposed rezoning shall be deleted from the mixed-
3	use district and shall be zoning M1-2 and linked
4	up with the other M1-2s.
5	Brad Lander, who represents the
6	site and has been very involved in this
7	negotiation and discussion of what's best is here
8	and would like to make a statement on the matter.
9	Anywhere you want to go there, Brad.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Thank you,
11	Mr. Chairman. I just want to say very quickly a
12	few thank yous. I'm very enthusiastic and
13	appreciative of the work that went into making
14	some of these changes.
15	You'll recall from last week, there
16	was a site that could have as-of-right been over
17	100 units of market rate housing. That's been
18	pulled out and recognized that it's commercial
19	use. A couple of other sites that are appropriate
20	for manufacturing are going to stay that way.
21	We're still going to get all of the
22	affordable housing, the 68 units in this excellent
23	Sevco project. I'm pleased that Sevco, working
24	with HPD and City Planning, has agreed to double
25	the affordability period from 15 years, the normal

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 6
2	period under new foundation, to 30 years. So
3	twice as long, the project will remain affordable.
4	That's not quite forever, but it's a great, great
5	step.
6	Also, Sevco has agreed and HPD the
7	New York City Partnership have supported it to
8	allow the Bergament Department Store that's there,
9	for 18 months beyond to continue to use the site
10	they're now using as parking. They'll build the
11	project in phases so we don't make a severe harm
12	to an existing meaningful business in the
13	neighborhood. So a lot of great improvements to
14	the project and lots of thank yous. I'll say them
15	very quickly.
16	The staff here: Carol and Amy and
17	Gail were great. City Planning, the whole
18	Brooklyn office: Purnima, Winston, David Parish,
19	Carolyn. HPD: Jack Hammer, Holly Leicht and Carol
20	Clark. Sevco in general and especially Adam Roth
21	Group, the Bergament counsel all did a lot of work
22	to help us put this together. I really appreciate
23	everybody's help.
24	This has to now go to City Planning
25	to approve the modifications. So we won't see it

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 7
2	in the full Council until the 27th. I am still
3	hopeful on two issues: the school crowding issues
4	and moving forward on the capital plan to get
5	enough school seats in the neighborhood to
6	accommodate growing population and making long-
7	term plans to accommodate open space and parks in
8	the neighborhood, that we can have some progress
9	to report by the time of the full Council meeting.
10	I'm grateful for the work that went
11	in to making these changes and to the committee
12	for helping and when it comes time will recommend
13	and ask that you vote yes in support of the
14	project with the modifications. Thank you.
15	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you very
16	much, Mr. Lander. Did anyone else want to
17	comment? Thank you and congratulations.
18	We are going to move on to the next
19	item. Last week, we did have a café request on
20	the agenda. As it turns out, that request has not
21	been withdrawn. It's in Council Member Lappin's
22	district, who I know stepped out for a minute, but
23	will back.
24	They wrote a letter, which I'll
25	read for the record which says "Dear Council

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 8
2	Member Weprin." That would be me. "SWA
3	Architects PLLC, as an authorized representative
4	of Jasper Hospitality LLC, doing business as East
5	End Bar and Grill, submit this withdrawal letter
6	for the unenclosed sidewalk application without
7	prejudice. If there are any questions, please
8	call my office. Thank you." That's from Shlomo
9	Steve Wygoda. So that request has now been
10	withdrawn.
11	We will now move on to the next
12	item on our agenda. I'm glad we have many Bronx
13	members here today. We're joined by Larry
14	Seabrook, also from the Bronx, and we have a
15	number of Bronx items coming up, so that's good
16	timing. We're going to move on to Land Use 213,
17	known as the High Hawk Rezoning, C 070550 ZMX in
18	Council Member Rivera's district, as I mentioned.
19	We would like to call up Peter
20	Bourbeau. He's going to come up and describe the
21	project. Welcome, make yourself comfortable.
22	Please restate your name for the record. You may
23	start when you can.
24	PETER BOURBEAU: Hello.
25	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Hello.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 9
2	PETER BOURBEAU: My name is Peter
3	Bourbeau. I'm with High Hawk LLC. We're before
4	the committee to request a zoning change at 1776
5	Boston Road and the complete block, which covers
б	other lots. We're looking to change from strictly
7	commercial zoning to commercial and housing.
8	We have 68 apartments proposed,
9	approximately 9,400 square feet of retail space
10	and 9,800 square feet of community facility space.
11	On May 10th, we were certified by
12	the City Planning Commission to go forward. We
13	went before Community Planning Board 3 and passed
14	in June. We also went before the borough
15	president and passed in August. I believe on
16	September 13th we passed the City Planning
17	Commission, full commission to go forward. We are
18	now here to hopefully get approval before going
19	before the full City Council next week.
20	As you can see, it's a project that
21	I believe is tastefully done. It's very
22	attractive. It's only a few feet from the number
23	2 train, number 5 train on 174th Street and
24	Southern Boulevard. Naturally, we would attenuate
25	the noise considerations for the tenants through

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 10
2	extra insulation, extra windows, that sort of
3	thing. It would be a tax credit project for 60
4	percent of AMI. I believe on page three you have
5	the income and the rent levels before you.
6	We're very excited about going
7	forward. We believe it's an excellent project.
8	The neighborhood certainly can use additional
9	housing. Our philosophy, if I might say, on the
10	retail end of it, is to gear ourselves strictly to
11	mom and pop type stores.
12	We believe that mom and pop type
13	stores are more beneficial in the sense that not
14	only would you have a variety of stores rather
15	than one or two large ones, but we believe when
16	you put your investment in a store and generally
17	if you're from the neighborhood, and most of the
18	time that occurs, you're more inclined to stay and
19	weather the tough times that we're in. So I just
20	wanted to put that forward before the Council.
21	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
22	Bourbeau. As you mentioned, the Community Board I
23	understand voted 27-nothing and also City Planning
24	also was a shutout. Mr. Joel Rivera, who
25	represents the district, has told me he supports

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 11
2	this project. Do any of my colleagues have any
3	question on this affordable housing development?
4	Seeing none, we thank you.
5	PETER BOURBEAU: Okay. Thank you.
6	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: It wasn't so
7	bad, right.
8	PETER BOURBEAU: No.
9	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I didn't even
10	give you a hard time about being a Pittsburg
11	Steelers fan.
12	PETER BOURBEAU: Thank you, I
13	appreciate that, knowing that I'm outnumbered.
14	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Staying in the
15	Bronx, we are going to Land Use 219, 3500 Park
16	Avenue, C 080129 ZMX in Council Member Foster's
17	district. We have a group of people to come up:
18	Judith Gallent from Bryan Cave, Ariel Aufgang,
19	Richard Sica, and Jordan Smith. Would you all
20	please come forward? Judith, you're all by
21	yourself? Did you get rid of those guys? Are the
22	other two here? Okay.
23	Please reintroduce yourself and you
24	may start when you want.
25	JUDITH GALLENT: Good morning, Mr.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 12
2	Chairman and members of the subcommittee. I'm
3	Judith Gallent from Bryan Cave on behalf of 3500
4	Park Avenue, which is the hopeful developer of an
5	eight-story, 61-unit affordable housing building.
б	To facilitate the building, the applicant is
7	seeking a rezoning of Block 2389 Lot 20, which is
8	a 15,207 square foot lot located at East 168th
9	Street and Park Avenue in the Bronx.
10	At the Department of City
11	Planning's request, the rezoning affects not only
12	the lot at issue but also five other lots on the
13	block. I'll give a very brief overview of the
14	rezoning and then Ariel Aufgang, the project
15	architect, will take you through a design of the
16	building, which I think is showing.
17	The proposed affordable housing
18	building would be located at the southeast corner
19	of East 168th Street and Park Avenue in the Bronx
20	with 150 feet of frontage along 168th Street and
21	100 feet of frontage on Park Avenue. It's
22	currently used as an at-grade parking lot. The
23	surrounding area is very mixed-used in nature. To
24	the west are the Metro north tracks in an open
25	cut. To the north is PS 132 and the Morgan

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 13
2	playground. Also, to the north are several NYCHA
3	developments, including the Butler, Webster and
4	Claremont Houses.
5	The block itself on which the
6	building would be constructed is also mixed-use in
7	nature, with several multifamily residential
8	buildings with ground floor retail uses, a church,
9	the African Wholesale Market, and here and there
10	an automotive use as well.
11	To the south, the character of the
12	area is more automotive and industrial in nature.
13	To the southwest, there are some residential
14	buildings with ground floor retail.
15	East 168th Street is a kind of de
16	facto boundary line between the more industrial
17	automotive uses to the south and the predominately
18	residential character to the north. The site is
19	currently zoned M1-1, which is a low intensity
20	manufacturing district that allows general
21	commercial, general service and light
22	manufacturing uses at an FAR of 1 and some very
23	limited community facilities at an FAR of 2.4.
24	Excuse me.
25	[Pause]

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 14
2	JUDITH GALLENT: That's being
3	rezoned, there is an existing R7-1 district, which
4	is a middle density, a mid density residential
5	district that allows residential uses at an FAR of
6	4 and community facilities at an FAR of 4.8. So
7	the proposed rezoning would simply extend that R7-
8	1 district west to cover the parking lot, to allow
9	the construction of the building.
10	At City Planning's request, the
11	rezoning would also map a C2-4 commercial district
12	overlay on the site, which would allow a local
13	commercial establishment, sort of service
14	establishment on the site, and also on five other
15	lots to the east, on the block front between Park
16	Avenue and Washington Street where there are some
17	preexisting non-conforming commercial uses. The
18	overlay would make those uses conforming. So at
19	City Planning's request, we're cleaning that up
20	and mapping the overlay.
21	The developer intends to use either
22	HDC's LAMP or mixed-income programs, which have
23	targeted AMI's of between 40 and 60 percent AMI.
24	The development team has renovated
25	and built approximately 5,000 affordable housing

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 15
2	units in 250 buildings throughout mainly the Bronx
3	and Brooklyn.
4	On July 29th, Community Board 3
5	voted unanimously to approve the project on the
6	condition that the developer attempt to provide
7	local job opportunities, both during and after
8	construction, and that the developer return to the
9	community board when the financing program is
10	selected to apprise the community board of the
11	income guidelines, the eligibility requirements
12	for that program. We have agreed to do both of
13	those things, although the financing has not yet
14	been determined.
15	The borough president also
16	recommended approval of the rezoning with the
17	following conditions. The developer tries to
18	partner with the African Wholesale Market, which
19	is located just south of the site. It's a
20	wholesale establishment without retail. The
21	developer would be happy to speak with them and
22	see if they're interested in the unit. There are
23	two spaces on the ground floor of the building
24	that would be available. The developer had
25	thought that perhaps a daycare center might be

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 16
2	something that would be welcome in the area.
3	There is a school across the street. So those are
4	the thoughts but we're certainly willing to speak
5	with the African Market.
6	The borough president also
7	requested that the developer use due diligence in
8	obtaining LEED certification for the building.
9	While the building will absolutely meet the
10	standards for LEED certification, actually
11	obtaining that certification is costly. It's
12	estimated be about \$100,000 for this building.
13	So there will be elements of
14	certification here and maybe all of them,
15	including a light colored roof, motion sensor
16	lighting in the stairs and hallways, Energy Star
17	appliances, an efficient boiler, et cetera, but
18	actually obtaining the certification, the budget
19	for the project may not allow for that. If the
20	budget does allow, the developer is certainly open
21	to pursuing the actual certification.
22	The borough president also
23	requested that the developer hire locally. The
24	developer is actually a joint venture, one of the
25	elements of which is the general contractor for

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 17
2	the project. They are experienced affordable
3	housing developers. Their practice is always to
4	hire locally and to the extent that they have
5	workers on the job, they will do so. They intent
6	to work with the Bronx Overall Economic
7	Development Corporation that does have job
8	training programs and outreach to identify people
9	in the community who are looking for this kind of
10	work. It also will request that all of its subs
11	hire locally.
12	Galaxy Contracting itself, which is
13	Bronx-based, employs 100 people, the majority of
14	whom are members of minority groups. Also,
15	typically minority subcontractors represent 30 to
16	35 percent of subs on these types of jobs, which
17	exceeds HPD's requirement of 20 percent by 10 to
18	15 percent.
19	Finally, the borough president also
20	requested, which was more of a request to City
21	Planning I think for referral out that MTA
22	consider enhanced bus service in the area, because
23	the nearest subway station is two-thirds of a mile
24	away. Although it is accessible by bus, the
25	feeling is that there's been a lot of development

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 18
2	along Webster and Third Avenue without much real
3	access. City Planning did make a referral out to
4	the proper agencies to have that considered.
5	City Planning voted unanimously in
6	favor of the project on September 15th. I'll turn
7	it over to Ariel Aufgang for a description of the
8	building itself.
9	ARIEL AUFGANG: I'm Ariel Aufgang
10	from the firm of Subotovsky Architects. We're
11	proposing here and eight-story building made up of
12	61 apartments and 5,000 square feet of community
13	or commercial space. The apartment distribution
14	is ten studio apartments, 19 one-bedroom, 27 two-
15	bedroom and 5 three-bedroom. The total
16	residential square footage is 53,300 square feet.
17	We're proposing what we think to be
18	a handsomely proportioned brick building with
19	large expanses of glass and metal panels. We're
20	including a stone water table to add a pedestrian
21	scale to the street wall, and we're using recesses
22	and breaks in the façade to add proportion and
23	rhythm.
24	Amenities in the building include a
25	1,500-square foot indoor recreation room and a

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 19
2	3,500-square foot partially planted and shaded
3	outdoor recreation space. There will be two
4	elevators and an indoor laundry room for the
5	tenants to use.
б	As far as security is concerned, we
7	will be providing cameras in all public areas and
8	lighting in all public indoor and outdoor spaces.
9	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member
10	Foster is not here, but I know you've had
11	discussions with her and she's in support of the
12	project. Can you just say that for the record?
13	JUDITH GALLENT: Yes, we met with
14	Council Member Fosters chief of staff and they are
15	quite enthusiastic about the project and support
16	it.
17	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Do any members
18	of the panel have a question? Mr. Vacca?
19	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I think the
20	building looks beautiful. I hope that these
21	pictures we see are really in place when the
22	building goes up. I hope that they're just as
23	nice as the pictures. I could envision that
24	building going up at that location. Aesthetics
25	are also important when we do work. Tell us about

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 20
2	trees and planting. I see just two trees or three
3	trees in the picture. Did you go over that with
4	the community board where there would be planting
5	and trees?
6	ARIEL AUFGANG: We'll be planting
7	street trees every 25 feet. In our renderings, a
8	lot of times, we have to omit trees in order to
9	make sure the building shows in the image. There
10	will be trees every 25 feet with the new ten-foot
11	tree pits all along both frontages of the
12	sidewalk.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Now, City
14	Planning Commission adopted our green regulations
15	some time ago. I don't know if they were
16	officially called green regulations, but they
17	enhanced open space greenery around new
18	construction. So, are you complying with that?
19	Did you check?
20	ARIEL AUFGANG: We'll be complying
21	with all required regulations that pertain to
22	apartment buildings.
23	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Multifamily
24	units are included in that. Okay.
25	ARIEL AUFGANG: Right.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 21
2	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Tell me
3	about parking.
4	ARIEL AUFGANG: We're proposing 20
5	sub-grade parking spaces, 15 of which are required
6	and 5 are voluntary.
7	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: That would
8	be sub-grade. Do you mean underneath the
9	building?
10	ARIEL AUFGANG: Yes, in the cellar.
11	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: You know
12	that that's very expensive?
13	ARIEL AUFGANG: We do know it costs
14	money.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I'm not a
16	builder, I'm not a doctor either, but I can tell
17	you that that's very expensive. So as long as
18	you're prepared to do that, I think it's great
19	because parking is important to a development like
20	that and its success.
21	ARIEL AUFGANG: It's not very
22	expensive to put on the plans, so I'm perfectly
23	prepared to do it.
24	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: When will
25	you know from HPD what program you are included

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 22
2	in? You said you requested LAMP and you requested
3	another program.
4	JUDITH GALLENT: The mixed-income
5	program.
6	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: The mixed-
7	income program. Did you tell HPD which one you
8	prefer? Is there a preference?
9	JUDITH GALLENT: I'd have to have
10	Richard Sica, who is signed up.
11	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Please make
12	your way to the mike and make sure you're on the
13	record.
14	RICHARD SICA: Thank you very much.
15	My name is Richard Sica. I'm here representing
16	3500 Park LLC. I also happen to be vice president
17	of Galaxy General Contracting Corp and we'll be
18	the contractor.
19	On your point about the parking, it
20	is expensive, but we feel it's very important.
21	It's an amenity that we feel is important for this
22	particular project, so we've included it in the
23	plans.
24	With regard to the funding, most
25	likely it would be the LAMP, but we haven't ruled

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 23
2	anything else out. We've had very, very
3	preliminary conversations with HPD about the
4	project. We were waiting to have the zoning
5	approved and actually have a project that we can
6	submit to the Buildings Department and then
7	proceed with negotiating the financing with HPD.
8	There are also applications that
9	will be pending for tax credits, which is a
10	funding source that we'll also look into.
11	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I just want
12	to end by saying that I see this is in an R-7
13	district. It's very seldom if you build something
14	in an R-7 district that that does not require the
15	approval process that you're now engaged in. Very
16	few developers will include parking above what is
17	required in the R-7. So I do think that that's a
18	good point.
19	I'm online every day. I check the
20	Building Department website every day to see
21	what's going on in the Bronx and my district.
22	There are very few permits these days. So you
23	doing this and you constructing housing right now
24	in our borough is the exception and not the rule.
25	I wish you luck.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 24
2	RICHARD SICA: Thank you.
3	ARIEL AUFGANG: Thank you, very
4	much Councilman.
5	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Any other
6	comments, besides Mr. Vacca needing a new hobby?
7	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: It's really
8	very informative. It's not a hobby. It's more of
9	an addiction I think, because I had problems in
10	2004 and I still am addicted to that website. But
11	it's great.
12	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Anyway, we are
13	joined by Jessica Lappin, by the way. I didn't
14	mention that. She's back in the committee room.
15	There are no other questions. I think we're fine
16	now and we appreciate it and we'll be voting on
17	that today.
18	RICHARD SICA: Thank you very much.
19	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.
20	Our next item, we're going to stay in the Bronx,
21	Land Use 220, the Crossings at Southern Boulevard,
22	C 100036 ZMX. That's in Council Member Arroyo's
23	district. Here to testify on this is S. Andrew
24	Katz and Ethan Goodman, on behalf of the
25	applicant.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 25
2	Gentlemen, whenever you're ready,
3	please state your name for the record and get
4	started. Thank you.
5	ETHAN GOODMAN: Good morning,
6	Council Members, Chair Weprin. My name is Ethan
7	Goodman and I'm with the firm of Wachtel & Masyr.
8	We represent Crossings Partners LLC, the
9	applicant. I'm joined by Andrew Katz, a principal
10	for Crossings Partners.
11	Crossings Partners is seeking
12	approval for the rezoning of an approximately
13	55,000 square foot area at the intersection of
14	Southern Boulevard, Hunts Point Avenue, and
15	Bruckner Boulevard in the Longwood section of the
16	Bronx. The application proposes to change the
17	site's zoning from its current R7-1 with a
18	commercial overlay to a C4-5x contextual district.
19	This is a high visibility site in
20	the South Bronx. It sits directly across the
21	street from the number 6 subway and at the end of
22	the Southern Boulevard retail corridor. You can
23	also see it in this rendering that's in front of
24	you that it sits in clear visibility of the
25	elevated Bruckner Expressway.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 26
2	It's also a greatly underutilized
3	site. Currently, the land is occupied by a one-
4	story retail building, a gas station and a large
5	vacant lot that's been that way for more than ten
6	years. That vacant lot was actually the subject
7	of another rezoning over a decade ago for proposed
8	housing at the time that never went forward. It
9	was excavated but remained vacant and it's vacant
10	to this day.
11	The rezoning will facilitate
12	construction of what is currently envisioned to be
13	an approximately 277,000 square foot mixed-use
14	project with two floors of small and mid-sized
15	retailers, totaling about 90,000 square feet; four
16	stories of office uses along Bruckner Boulevard,
17	totaling approximately 48,000 square feet; and
18	eight stories of affordable housing, containing
19	approximately 136 residential dwelling units.
20	The project has been met with a
21	great deal of enthusiasm, both locally and borough
22	wide. In June, Bronx Community Board 2 voted
23	unanimously to recommend unconditional approval of
24	the rezoning. In July, the Bronx borough
25	president's office issued a recommend to approve

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 27
2	the project, stating the rezoning would allow the
3	site to "become a beacon of revitalization that
4	has taken place in this once-devastated
5	neighborhood."
6	In September, the City Planning
7	Commission voted unanimously to approve the
8	rezoning.
9	The project is also supported
10	wholeheartedly by the local business community, as
11	it will serve as an anchor to the local retail
12	strip along Southern Boulevard and allow local
13	residents to shop locally.
14	The Southern Boulevard BID, newly
15	formed, unfortunately was unable to attend this
16	meeting, but is fully supportive of the project
17	and has written a letter of support that I'd like
18	to formally introduce into the record.
19	As I mentioned, I'm joined here by
20	the developer Andrew Katz. Rather than going into
21	detail through every party of the project, we'd be
22	happy to take any questions you may have. We'd
23	like to thank you very much for your time.
24	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you very
25	much. I apologize; I hadn't seen it before in the

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 28
2	drawing. So the residential floors, are they
3	going to be the top floors of the plan?
4	ETHAN GOODMAN: The residential
5	floors are actually the top eight floors. The
6	first two floors would be retail.
7	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Are the
8	retail?
9	ETHAN GOODMAN: Yes.
10	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Then the
11	offices are the next level up and then the
12	residential on top.
13	ETHAN GOODMAN: Right. In the
14	rendering that's shown along Bruckner, the office
15	is shown in a slightly different color. It's a
16	slightly lighter beige color, four stories.
17	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Right.
18	ETHAN GOODMAN: I should mention
19	one thing and that's that the Community Board did
20	ask if there was any way we could increase the
21	number of affordable units. There is a
22	possibility, if we can get financing from HPD on
23	it, that we could convert the office to additional
24	affordable housing and the unit total might
25	approach about 200 units, if that's the case.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 29
2	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I see. Does
3	anyone have any comments or questions for this
4	group? I guess not. Well good. Thank you very
5	much. We appreciate you coming down and putting
6	together such nice drawings. You're excused.
7	Thank you very much.
8	ETHAN GOODMAN: Thank you very
9	much.
10	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: We're going to
11	move on. We've been joined by Council Member
12	Diana Reyna and the chair of the Land Use
13	Committee, Leroy Comrie, who is here. I think I
14	got everybody else. We're going to move to the
15	next one.
16	We have closed that hearing on 220
17	and we're going to move on to a Land Use in
18	Manhattan, Land Use 221 and 222, the North Tribeca
19	Rezoning, C 100369 ZMM and 100370 ZRM, in Council
20	Member Chin's district. I did see her here
21	before. Do we know if she's coming back? Carol
22	and she were speaking. Margaret was here. I
23	didn't know if she wanted to speak on this item.
24	Joining us is Edith Hsu Chen and
25	Grace Han. Michael Levine, do you want to have

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 30
2	him come up? Why don't you come up with them?
3	Michael is with the Community Board. Come on, Mr.
4	Levine, you can join these lovely ladies. You can
5	start when you're ready. Please state your name
6	again for the record. Good morning.
7	EDITH HSU CHEN: Good morning,
8	Council Members. My name is Edith Hsu Chen. I'm
9	the director of the Manhattan Office and the
10	Department of City Planning. I'm here with my
11	colleague Grace Han and with Michael Levine from
12	Community Board 1. We're very happy to talk to
13	you today about the North Tribeca rezoning.
14	This rezoning has been a long time
15	in the making. I think you would all recognize
16	and agree that for several years the North Tribeca
17	neighborhood has been not just a thriving or a
18	flourishing but also an established residential
19	neighborhood.
20	The zoning for the area, however,
21	has been manufacturing. It's an M district. We
22	all recognize, the community board, the Department
23	of City Planning, property owners, neighbors,
24	store owners, that the M district zoning was
25	obsolete for the neighborhood.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 31
2	So we've been in discussions with
3	the community board for the past four years to
4	talk about a rezoning to establish special
5	regulations for the neighborhood. We were very
6	excited, beginning this year, we got a very
7	enthusiastic letter of support from the community
8	board to proceed with the rezoning that you have
9	before you today.
10	The rezoning does do four things
11	that were very important to both the City Planning
12	Department and to the Community Board. Number
13	one, it allows for residential development. The
14	existing zoning is obsolete in that it generally
15	does not allow new residential construction or
16	even conversions. There are very, very strict
17	limitations on residential land use. It also
18	allows a wider range of commercial uses.
19	Second, it introduces a contextual
20	bulk envelope, which is very important to both of
21	us, including height limits for the neighborhood.
22	Also, in working with the community board, we
23	established areas for affordable housing for the
24	Inclusionary Housing Program. Finally, we
25	developed a set of tailored regulations for the

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 32
2	size of retail and other land uses.
3	So together, we believe we've put
4	together a very unique and appropriate package for
5	the North Tribeca neighborhood. I will now turn
6	the microphone to Grace Han, who will walk you
7	through the details of the rezoning. Thank you.
8	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.
9	GRACE HAN: Good morning, Council
10	Members. I'm going to walk through the packet
11	that was just handed out. Starting with this
12	first page, this shows a few of the different
13	building types that are in North Tribeca. The
14	buildings on your left, these are actually two new
15	construction buildings that were approved by the
16	BSA under the current zoning as Edith Hsu Chen
17	explained. New residential construction is
18	allowed and you must get approval by the BSA.
19	The second one sort of shows the
20	larger footprint buildings that exist. This
21	neighborhood was historically a food distribution
22	warehouse. In the 1970s and 1980s, artists began
23	to move in to take advantage of the large floor
24	plates. Finally, the building on the right shows
25	some of the more cast iron style buildings with

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 33
2	the narrow frontages and building heights of about
3	five to six stories.
4	The next page shows the rezoning
5	area. Currently, the entire rezoning area lies in
6	the special Tribeca mixed-use district. This is a
7	special zoning district that was established in
8	1995. Areas A-1 and A-2 and A-3 are considered
9	South Tribeca and those are rezoned to allow
10	commercial and residential uses as-of-right, but
11	at that time, areas B-1 and B-2 were considered to
12	be still more manufacturing uses and those
13	remained a manufacturing zone.
14	Area A-4 was created in 2006 and
15	was rezoned to a commercial district, kind of
16	showing that the neighborhood was already becoming
17	a very solid residential and commercial
18	neighborhood.
19	The next page shows the existing
20	land uses in the area. As you can tell, the
21	yellow represents buildings that are fully
22	residential and the orange represents mostly
23	buildings that have ground floor retail and
24	residential above. The current zoning doesn't
25	allow retail on all streets, and it also has

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 34
2	limited residential uses for smaller buildings.
3	But on the whole, residential is not allowed.
4	Buildings shown in purple are
5	existing manufacturing uses. Most of those are
6	photography studios, furniture showrooms, clothing
7	showrooms or just storage facilities.
8	Also, something to note, is the
9	Holland Rotary exits in the middle. These are the
10	exits for the Holland Tunnel and are kind of a
11	dominate feature in sort of dividing up North
12	Tribeca from the west side and the east side.
13	The next map shows the existing
14	zoning. As I mentioned, A-4 was rezoned to C6-3
15	and C6-2A to allow residential uses in 2006. Area
16	B-1 and B-2 is an M1-5 zoning district. Also, in
17	Area B-2, there are the special district limits,
18	also retail and hotel uses are currently not
19	permitted in the B-2 district. So this rezoning
20	would allow residential uses and ground floor
21	retail, and also hotels in area B-2.
22	The next page shows the proposed
23	zoning. There are two actions here. The zoning
24	map action would map the C6-2A throughout and
25	create three new sub-areas. The zoning text

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 35
2	amendment would create three new sub-areas: Area
3	A-5, A-6 and A-7. Sub-areas B-1 and B-2 would be
4	eliminated. Each of these sub-areas would have
5	distinct bulk envelopes that are fine tuned to
6	their existing built environment. The text
7	amendment would specify specific floor area
8	ratios, street wall height and maximum building
9	heights.
10	These would also allow residential
11	conversions as-of-right, which are currently not
12	permitted without a special permit by the City
13	Planning Commission.
14	I'm going to walk through each of
15	the sub-areas, beginning with Area A-5. Area A-4,
16	which was rezoned, will remain unchanged and this
17	will only change Area A-5, A-6, and A-7.
18	So Area A-5, which we also call the
19	Washington and Greenwich Street area, is bounded
20	by Canal Street to the north and a northerly
21	extension street called Collister Street and also
22	a mid-block boundary between West and Washington
23	Streets.
24	This area is unique because it's
25	actually a grid of very narrow streets.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 36
2	Washington Street is one of the few narrow
3	north/south streets in the area. This zoning is
4	an expansion of the exiting C6-2A in Area A-4. It
5	was a bulk envelope that was agreed upon by the
6	City Council and the Commission when it was
7	rezoned in 2006. That has a 5.5 FAR, 110 maximum
8	building height and a street wall of 60 to 70
9	feet.
10	Moving further west is the Holland
11	Rotary Area. This area is near the Holland Tunnel
12	exits. It's unique because it has especially wide
13	streets. Hudson, Varick, Avenue of the Americas
14	are all passing through Area A-6. The Holland
15	Tunnel and also two small parks help to draw more
16	light and air here.
17	For those reasons, it was discussed
18	with the community and also determined that this
19	was for the Inclusionary Housing zoning district
20	should be applied. So that would give a base FAR
21	of 5.4 and with the provision of affordable
22	housing, it could go up to 7.2. This is our
23	standard citywide C6-2A Inclusionary Housing
24	zoning district. The existing buildings here,
25	because they do front Hudson Street and Varick
1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 37
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2	Street, also do tend to be much taller and higher
3	in bulk.
4	Finally, the Lispenard Street area
5	is four blocks. This is actually the area where
6	the name Tribeca first was coined. It's bounded
7	by Avenue of the Americas on the east and Broadway
8	on the west. Here we would keep the same 5.0 FAR.
9	Most of the buildings here would probably have a
10	one story enlargement since they are in historic
11	districts. We would keep the standard C6-2A bulk
12	envelope, which is a 60 to 85 foot street wall and
13	120 maximum building height.
14	Finally, this is existing special
15	district. There were other text amendments that
16	are included. In addition to creating the three
17	new sub-areas, there are also restrictions on
18	retail establishment size. Currently, in South
19	Tribeca, there are restrictions limiting ground
20	floor establishments. This would limit ground
21	floor establishments to 5,000 square feet on
22	narrow streets and 10,000 square feet on the wide
23	streets. Also, hotels with over 100 rooms would
24	not be permitted, except by a City Planning
25	Commission special permit.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 38
2	In addition, to ensure that the
3	artists who are there and the furniture showrooms
4	and photography studies that are there can keep
5	working, we would continue to allow some light
6	manufacturing uses. The existing residential
7	conversions requirements, which are very unique to
8	Tribeca and are based on square footage, would be
9	eliminated and replaced with citywide standards,
10	which allow for greater flexibility in unit types
11	and a mix of that city.
12	We're happy to take any questions.
13	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Mr. Levine,
14	why don't you speak on behalf of the community
15	board and then we'll get into some questions.
16	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: Thank you for
17	the opportunity to speak. My name is Michael
18	Levine. I'm the director of planning for
19	Manhattan Community Board 1. I'm here to testify
20	on behalf of our chair, our Tribeca Committee and
21	our full community board, which has unanimously
22	adopted a resolution in support of the proposed
23	zoning change.
24	What I'd like to do first is thank
25	the Department of City Planning, the Manhattan

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 39
2	office and the full agency for the cooperation we
3	received in what we consider to be a joint
4	endeavor between the department and the community
5	board members. We had both come to the conclusion
6	that the southern portion of Tribeca, which was
7	rezoned in 1995, now had the northern section of
8	Tribeca resembling it in the mixed-use character
9	and nature of the district.
10	So when we discussed with the
11	Department of City Planning it's time to rezone
12	northern Tribeca to make the regulations similar
13	to those in southern Tribeca, we came to similar
14	conclusions as to what we felt should occur.
15	Our committee and our community
16	board adopted several resolutions in which we
17	requested six specific considerations that were of
18	utmost importance to our community. I'd like to
19	quickly review those six characteristics and then
20	you'll understand why we support this zoning in
21	its entirety.
22	The first item we were very
23	concerned about is the proliferation of large
24	scale liquor selling establishments in Lower
25	Manhattan. We've seen what it can do to other

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 40
2	communities. We want to keep the small scale
3	mixed-use character of Tribeca intact. We asked
4	the Department of City Planning to limit the size
5	of retail uses on the ground floor and the
6	Department has done so: 5,000 square feet on the
7	side streets and 10,000 square feet on the
8	avenues. We are assuming this will assist us in
9	preventing the proliferation of large scale clubs
10	in the district.
11	Number two, we wanted to limit the
12	size of large scale retail uses. We're very
13	concerned that they drive our small businessmen
14	from the community. There were those who estimate
15	that we lost more than half of the small
16	businesses in the Lower Manhattan area, south of
17	Canal Street, after 9/11. We'd like to make sure
18	that large scale retail uses do not replace them.
19	This zoning will preserve the small scale
20	character of retail uses by keeping storefronts,
21	again, in the small range and now allowing for the
22	combination of retail stores on several lots.
23	Number three, we want to prevent
24	the high density proliferation in the northern
25	Tribeca area. We're very pleased that the FAR

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 41
2	restrictions will be very similar to southern
3	Tribeca and will, in fact, allow us to keep a
4	mixed-use medium scale residential commercial and
5	somewhat manufacturing area. We're very pleased
6	with the FAR proposals as you see them in the text
7	before you.
8	Number four, we want to make it
9	possible for existing illegal dwellings to become
10	legalized. The main provision of this zoning is
11	that all residential uses will be as-of-right, as
12	they are in southern Tribeca. This is something
13	we have looked forward to for a very long time.
14	It recognizes the change in use in the northern
15	Tribeca area.
16	Number five, we are very pleased to
17	see that there will be the encouragement of
18	affordable housing in certain portions of the
19	area. There will be an incentive zoning provision
20	as the Department of City Planning has described
21	to you, for certain sites that could be potential
22	redevelopment sites in northern Tribeca.
23	For these reasons, we are very
24	pleased to lend our support to the proposed zoning
25	before you today. We encourage this committee to

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 42
2	recommend adoption of the proposed zoning text.
3	If there are any questions, I'll be
4	pleased to answer them.
5	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
6	Levine. We are joined by Council Member Margaret
7	Chin, who represents this area. She had some
8	questions she'd like to ask.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I think my
10	first comment is I wanted to thank the community
11	board for their hard work on this. I know this
12	took years in coming, and also the cooperation and
13	collaboration with City Planning.
14	It's an impressive plan. I think
15	it takes into consideration the changing character
16	of the neighborhood. I was just wondering, in
17	terms of the whole idea of creating opportunity
18	for more affordable housing. So, I guess, how
19	real is it? Because I know in the other rezoning
20	and in Lower Manhattan we always try to seek this
21	opportunity. Sometimes it hasn't happened. In
22	this North Tribeca rezoning, maybe can you address
23	that realistically where you think it can happen?
24	My second question is you know that
25	we have overcrowding in our public school. Have

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 43
2	you taken that into consideration in terms of
3	increasing school capacity and also whether there
4	will be some site that might be good for school
5	siting, for elementary school and things like
6	that? Just the two questions.
7	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: Grace, do you
8	want to address the issue?
9	EDITH HSU CHEN: Good morning,
10	Council Member Chin. On your first question
11	regarding the application of the Inclusionary
12	Housing program. First, in terms of where we
13	mapped it, again, in consultation with the
14	community board, we established that the area
15	around the Holland Tunnel Rotary area was the
16	right area for this program. As you know, the
17	Inclusionary Housing program does provide for a
18	slight increase in the allowable FAR. This is the
19	bonus floor area in exchange for the provision of
20	affordably housing units.
21	So around the Holland Tunnel Rotary
22	area, the maximum FAR can get to 7.2 FAR whereas
23	in the other sub-areas Grace described, the
24	maximum FAR is at 5.5 or 5 FAR.
25	GRACE HAN: Again, we deemed that

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 44
2	the Holland Tunnel Rotary area to be appropriate
3	because it does already have existing bigger
4	buildings. It has the wide streets. It has the
5	Holland Tunnel Rotary area itself, which provides
6	for a lot of light and air. So we deemed this
7	area to be good to handle the slight uptick in the
8	FAR.
9	There are some development sites.
10	There aren't a lot in North Tribeca. But we
11	believe that this incentive is robust enough to
12	deliver the affordable housing units. Of course,
13	this will be dependent on the developer and the
14	property owner. But we are confident, as we have
15	been throughout many of our rezonings, all our
16	rezonings that include the Inclusionary Housing
17	program, that this is the right amount of
18	incentive to get the affordable housing units.
19	Not too much and not too little.
20	COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Because there
21	is still a height cap.
22	GRACE HAN: There is still a height
23	cap, yes, which is 120 feet. The 7.2 FAR can fit
24	in the 120 feet height limit. So, there is no
25	problem with the capacity of the FAR within the

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 45
2	bulk envelope.
3	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: Thank you. Let
4	me address the second question, Council Member
5	Chin, regarding the Board of Education and school
6	seats in the district. The one characteristic of
7	this proposed rezoning is that it's not radical.
8	It will not introduce a large number of new
9	housing units very, very rapidly. It recognizes
10	the change that has already occurred in the
11	northern Tribeca area and encourages a small
12	amount of new housing units to come on the market
13	in the years to come. It's not radical overnight
14	change in the district. It recognizes what's
15	there now.
16	We on the community board have been
17	working with the Department of Education, with the
18	local school board, with the local community
19	district representatives to increase the number of
20	seats in the Tribeca area. All of Lower Manhattan
21	has increased a three-fold increase in population
22	in the past 30 years. We have worked very hard to
23	try and provide sufficient school seats in the
24	financial district, in the civic center area,
25	Battery Park City and, of course, in Tribeca. We

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 46
2	will continue to work with the Department of
3	Education to make sure there are sufficient seats.
4	We have included additional school
5	seats in every budget request we have made every
6	year to the city government and the City Council
7	for funding in the capital budget each year. We
8	hope that this committee and the Council will
9	support our requests in the future. So thank you
10	for raising the question.
11	COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you
12	very much. Thank you, Chair.
13	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.
14	Council Member Reyna has a question.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you,
16	Mr. Chair. I just want to go to the other text
17	amendments you had pointed out. Light
18	manufacturing, can you just explicitly discuss
19	what you mean by light manufacturing as far as
20	text amendment is concerned?
21	GRACE HAN: Thank you. Basically,
22	there are not a lot of light existing
23	manufacturing, but there are furniture showrooms,
24	photography studios, garment manufacturing. We
25	want to allow those uses.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 47
2	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: These are
3	all live/work spaces that are illegal?
4	GRACE HAN: The majority of them
5	are live/work spaces.
6	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: They're
7	legal or illegal?
8	GRACE HAN: They're legal.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: They're
10	legal?
11	GRACE HAN: They're legal. This
12	zoning would continue to allow them to operate
13	legally under the zoning, but these uses would
14	continue to be allowed.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: You said
16	they're not live/work spaces?
17	GRACE HAN: Some of them are, yes.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Some or
19	most, but if they are live/work spaces they're not
20	legal.
21	GRACE HAN: They're currently
22	legal.
23	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: They are
24	legal.
25	GRACE HAN: They are legal and they

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 48
2	will continue to be legal.
3	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: You're
4	considering the artist space light manufacturing.
5	Is that my understanding?
б	GRACE HAN: Well there is some
7	woodworking, some garment manufacturing, some
8	carpentry, some photography studios, and furniture
9	showrooms.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So how is
11	that being protected within this zoning?
12	GRACE HAN: Under the new zoning,
13	they would not be permitted uses, but we are
14	keeping them in the text and allowing them to
15	continue.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So their
17	current zoning is?
18	GRACE HAN: M1-5.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: M1-5.
20	GRACE HAN: It's being rezoned to a
21	C6-2A.
22	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: C6-2A. A as
23	in apple.
24	GRACE HAN: Yes.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: These

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 49
2	spaces, as far as, obviously these are unique
3	spaces. They don't create commercial spaces like
4	this, but yet we're going to be designating them
5	as commercial spaces. Are they going to have
6	residential use as well because they're considered
7	under the loft law?
8	GRACE HAN: Sorry, I'm not sure I
9	understand your question.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: They're
11	live/work spaces in manufacturing zoned areas.
12	Correct?
13	GRACE HAN: Correct.
14	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So are they
15	lofts under the loft law, registered lofts?
16	GRACE HAN: Some of them are
17	registered under the loft law, but not all of
18	them.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: This zoning
20	will continue to protect this space.
21	GRACE HAN: Exactly.
22	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: To continue
23	to be commercial use as well as residential.
24	GRACE HAN: Right.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So that if

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 50
2	there's a turnover?
3	GRACE HAN: They can continue to
4	use.
5	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Provide this
6	space for future light manufacturing.
7	GRACE HAN: To do those similar
8	uses, yes.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Was there an
10	analysis conducted concerning what type of
11	business?
12	GRACE HAN: Yes, it was looked into
13	our EAS and we listed all of these sorts of
14	furniture showrooms, the one that I listed and
15	they are listed and described in the EAS.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So there is
17	a documented report concerning the analysis of
18	light manufacturing to protect further use of this
19	space for future preservation?
20	GRACE HAN: Yes.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you
22	very much.
23	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.
24	Council Member Chin has a follow-up question.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So in terms

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 51
2	of the Inclusionary zoning, affordable housing
3	component, how many units of affordable housing do
4	you anticipate can be created in that area?
5	EDITH HSU CHEN: Around the Holland
6	Tunnel Rotary area, our most conservative estimate
7	is that there would be 16 affordable housing units
8	projected. The Inclusionary Housing program, of
9	course, we have to take into consideration a
10	maximum FAR that is appropriate for the
11	neighborhood. So going beyond the 7.2 wouldn't
12	reflect the character of the neighborhood.
13	So maintaining the Inclusionary
14	Housing program equation and taking into
15	consideration what the right maximum amount of FAR
16	is, we got to 7.2 FAR for this area. Then when we
17	took a look at the potential development sites, we
18	did end up conservatively at 16 units.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.
20	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member
21	Reyna again.
22	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I'm sorry.
23	As chair of Small Business, I just want to get a
24	full understanding as to the commercial space
25	you're referring to. Obviously, this is unique

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 52
2	space that at one point had heavy manufacturing.
3	So today, we're turning it into light
4	manufacturing. It's a live/work space. You run
5	the risk of taking away that type of space from a
6	market that no longer is building this type of
7	space.
8	You're telling me you're protecting
9	it for further use into the future to continue to
10	have commercial establishment but you live in them
11	as well. Have you run the numbers as far as how
12	will the protection that you have designated here
13	be able to not allow for there to be only
14	residential use?
15	GRACE HAN: The first comment I
16	will say is that the zoning that's in place today
17	is actually a light manufacturing zoning. The M1-
18	5 is a light manufacturing zoning.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It's M1-5?
20	GRACE HAN: Yes, correct, M1-5.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It doesn't
22	include 2, 3 or 4?
23	GRACE HAN: It does not, which are
24	the heavier manufacturing districts.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Correct.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 53
2	GRACE HAN: So this has always been
3	a light manufacturing at a maximum FAR of 5. This
4	rezoning proposal very specifically wants to
5	preserve the character of the Tribeca
б	neighborhood, which includes still some light
7	manufacturing. The reality is, it is, indeed, an
8	established residential neighborhood with some
9	mixed-use, with some commercial and with some
10	light manufacturing, with some community
11	facilities, but the balance has tipped towards
12	residential land use now.
13	Our proposed rezoning for the C6-
14	2A, again, would allow for the continuation of
15	some of the light manufacturing uses that you
16	normally do not get in a normal C6-2A. We are
17	establishing a C6-2A within the special Tribeca
18	mixed-use district that also has this special
19	continuation regulation. So we share your
20	interest in making sure these light manufacturing
21	uses can continue.
22	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: May I offer an
23	additional piece of information about the
24	transformation of Tribeca? This zoning text would
25	allow existing manufacturing uses to remain and

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 54
2	would allow them to be as-of-right. The problem
3	right now is we get so many cases at the community
4	board, at the City Planning Commission and at the
5	Board of Stands and Appeals where building owners
6	are requesting variances
7	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
8	[interposing] I agree.
9	MICHAEL E. LEVINE:because they
10	cannot rent the space.
11	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Correct.
12	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: Therefore,
13	we're putting property owners and building owners
14	into enormous expense to come to the Board of
15	Stands and Appeals, to come to the Community Board
16	if they're seeking a special permit to come before
17	the City Planning Commission and go through the
18	public review process to allow one floor in the
19	building to be rented for residential purposes
20	because there is no longer a market for
21	manufacturing or heavy commercial use.
22	So we see this zoning district as
23	allowing as-of-right residential, commercial and
24	light manufacturing and allowing the market forces
25	to determine how the space shall be used, without

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 55
2	putting an unexpected burden on the property owner
3	to seek a variance every time they want a change
4	in use, they will have the full menu of
5	appropriate uses. The market will determine the
6	future use of the spaces in northern Tribeca.
7	That's the way it works in southern Tribeca and
8	very successfully at the present time.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Well,
10	southern Tribeca, Mr. Levine, is part of a city.
11	So there are five boroughs. I understand very
12	well what the BSA process is and the variances
13	that are imposed as an option for landlords.
14	There is also what I have seen in my own district,
15	self-created hardship. So when people claim there
16	isn't a market for something, they're also forcing
17	there to be not a market for it. So I'm just
18	trying to understand what protections are built
19	into this zoning.
20	What I'm hearing from you then is
21	that there's going to be an option for all three,
22	of which will be dictated by a market as opposed
23	to a protection to preserve these spaces for
24	continued use of commercial as opposed to tipping
25	it over to just residential.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 56
2	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: That is
3	correct. That will reflect what is occurring
4	right now. The tipping has moved towards almost
5	predominately residential with an attempt to
6	preserve the commercial and the light
7	manufacturing and the retail that are there now.
8	That trend is occurring right now.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: But the
10	trend will evaporate the business aspect of it and
11	will continue to just tip over for only
12	residential, because it's what you've seen in the
13	past.
14	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: Time will tell.
15	We will see where the economy takes us.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Is this part
17	of the exclusion zoned for 421A.
18	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: That I do not
19	know.
20	GRACE HAN: No.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So there's
22	an as-of-right 421A tax credit exclusion.
23	EDITH HSU CHEN: [off mic]
24	GRACE HAN: I want to just add
25	that, again, this rezoning, while it doesn't have

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 57
2	perhaps what you're looking for, overt protections
3	for light manufacturing, it actually does build in
4	that the light manufacturing uses can continue as-
5	of-right. Whereas, a normal C6-2A, those uses
6	would not be allowed anymore, except for under
7	certain grandfathered uses. But new light
8	manufacturing uses would not be allowed.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It's
10	disheartening to think that we're going to create
11	protections when there really aren't, because
12	we're leaving it up to the market. Obviously, the
13	landlord is going to go with the highest market
14	price. You get more for residential than you do
15	for commercial which is why there's such a demand
16	for Tribeca to be rezoned.
17	Having said that, as far as the
18	421A exclusion zone, if there's Inclusionary
19	Zoning as well as a 20 percent mandate for 421A
20	tax credits, does that increase the number of
21	affordable units or does it remain at 16 units?
22	EDITH HSU CHEN: No, I don't think
23	it would increase the units, it just strongly
24	encourages that those units would be provided.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Sixteen

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 58
2	units was the maximum amount of plausible ideas?
3	GRACE HAN: The minimum.
4	MICHAEL E. LEVINE: The minimum.
5	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: The minimum.
6	So the maximum would be?
7	GRACE HAN: That is dependent upon
8	the
9	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
10	[interposing] The cap on the FAR?
11	GRACE HAN: That in part, yes.
12	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So having
13	the cap on the FAR, can you just calculate for me
14	what would be the maximum?
15	GRACE HAN: The Inclusionary
16	Housing works for new construction. It's not for
17	conversion.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It's also
19	preservation.
20	GRACE HAN: For preservation also.
21	In this area there are a limited number of
22	developments. We are certain that there is a
23	development site there. It's vacant today and you
24	could build today. Anymore additional units would
25	be on the condition that somebody would tear down

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 59
2	maybe a small building that's existing there and
3	rebuild a bigger and taller building. That's more
4	of what we call a potential site versus sort of a
5	projected site. I don't know off the top of my
6	head how many smaller buildings could be torn down
7	to be built for a new development.
8	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I think that
9	would be helpful for Council Member Chin to
10	address her constituency having that information
11	because there is always the potential for.
12	Sixteen units minimum is great, but we want to,
13	obviously, adhere to the fact that there is a
14	potential for more. To know where that more is,
15	is very important. Thank you.
16	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you.
17	Any other comments or questions from the panel?
18	We're going to close this hearing. Thank you all
19	very much.
20	We're going to move on to our final
21	item. Our final item is in the Bronx, Land Use
22	numbers 223 and 224. This is the Third
23	Avenue/Tremont Avenue rezoning. You're welcome.
24	Thank you. On behalf of these items, we have from
25	City Planning Juton Horstman and Carol Samol.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 60
2	Welcome back, Mr. Hylton. You may start whenever
3	you're ready. Please state your name again for
4	the record.
5	CAROL SAMOL: Thank you, good
6	morning. My name is Carol Samol and I'm director
7	of the Bronx Borough Office of the Department of
8	City Planning. I'm joined by Juton Horstman who
9	is the project manager for the Third
10	Avenue/Tremont avenue rezoning.
11	I would just say a few words of
12	introduction. We've been working on this project
13	and on this proposal since 2006. Community Board
14	6 has been a very good partner in developing this
15	kind of fine grain approach for the Central Bronx
16	and revitalizing these two major corridors of
17	Third Avenue and Tremont Avenue. Really designed
18	the proposal to provide affordable housing,
19	improve and control urban design by providing
20	height limits, attracting private investment and
21	creating and preserving jobs in the area, as well
22	as preserving the neighborhood character of some
23	of the surrounding neighborhood streets.
24	Community Board 6 was instrumental
25	in shaping the extent of the proposal. During the

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 61
2	process, they encouraged us to expand ours study,
3	which was previously just focused on Third Avenue,
4	to include Tremont Avenue, which they consider
5	their downtown. If you go there, it really does
6	have a downtown feeling. It's an active street,
7	kind of low scale. Third Avenue is very
8	different.
9	During the public review process,
10	we had approval from the community board,
11	unanimous, no conditions and also, from the
12	borough president as well as City Planning
13	Commission. So we're very happy to be here today
14	to present this proposal in the final phase of
15	review.
16	You have in front of you some
17	materials that Juton will use to kind of walk
18	through the proposal. You have the current land
19	use and current zoning as well as the proposal,
20	our stated goals and some photos that demonstrate
21	the existing conditions as well as what could be
22	built under the proposal as well as a zoning
23	comparison chart with all the numbers and things
24	like that. So I'll turn it over to Juton
25	Horstman.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 62
2	JUTON HORSTMAN: Good morning, City
3	Council Members. My name is Juton Horstman from
4	the Department of City Planning. This is a map
5	amendment to change the zoning on 75 blocks along
6	the Third Avenue and Tremont Avenue corridors and
7	the residential area to the west.
8	The study area consists of the two
9	main corridors, the Third Avenue corridor which
10	begins at Fordham Plaza in the north and goes down
11	to the Cross Bronx Expressway in the south. Then
12	the Tremont Avenue corridor which goes from
13	Webster Avenue in the west to just past Southern
14	Boulevard, Daly Avenue in the east.
15	The existing zoning has been in
16	place since 1961 and has been outmoded since the
17	elevated train, which ran along Third Avenue was
18	removed in 1973.
19	Due to the elevated train, which
20	ran along Third Avenue corridor, this consists
21	most auto related and light manufacturing uses,
22	with St. Barnabas Hospital having a strong
23	presence in this area. Along Tremont Avenue, the
24	area is underdeveloped due to the limitations in
25	the current zoning but contains mostly single

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 63
2	story commercial uses and it's the regional
3	downtown for the local residents.
4	The area to the west of the Third
5	Avenue corridor is our stable neighborhoods which
6	have seen out of context development occurring in
7	the last couple of years, a number of 12, 13-story
8	buildings out of scale with the smaller scale
9	residential neighborhood.
10	In the southernmost area is a
11	manufacturing district which isn't really your
12	typical manufacturing district. It has a library,
13	three schools. We've seen two Boards of Standard
14	and Appeals projects for new residential projects,
15	parks, playgrounds, all in this area.
16	So the issues with the current
17	zoning are that because the zoning is outdated,
18	not residential development is allowed along Third
19	Avenue or the manufacturing areas in the south.
20	They must currently go through the Board of
21	Standards and Appeals to get residential here.
22	This has created a number of parking lots and
23	vacant land along the corridor and breaks up the
24	neighborhood connectivity of the neighborhood of
25	the west as well as the neighborhoods to the east.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 64
2	Along Tremont Avenue, the area is
3	vastly underdeveloped, which is limiting the
4	commercial development on this important corridor.
5	The neighborhood area is seeing out of scale
6	development, leaving the small scale homes
7	unprotected.
8	The goal of the rezoning is to
9	strengthen Third Avenue and Tremont Avenue as
10	major corridors that will promote a healthy mix of
11	uses, including affordable housing, retail and
12	commercial, while preserving the neighborhood
13	character. By doing this, we would expand the
14	development potential along Third Avenue and
15	Tremont Avenue corridors, create new opportunities
16	for housing and private investment, incentivize
17	permanently affordable housing, retain the viable
18	light manufacturing and auto related uses and
19	creating jobs, knitting together the neighborhoods
20	of Belmont, Tremont, Fordham and Bathgate,
21	providing support for major institutions including
22	St. Barnabas Hospital and unifying the urban
23	design and preserving the neighborhood character
24	by imposing height limits in this area.
25	So with the proposed zoning, there

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 65
2	are three commercial districts, the C4-5X, the C4-
3	4A, and the C4-4D. These districts would allow a
4	wide range of commercial uses and include
5	flexibility to build multistory retail and office
6	uses. It would incentivize permanently affordable
7	housing while establishing height limits and
8	unifying the urban design.
9	The difference between the C4-5X,
10	C4-4A and the C4-4D, as far as FAR goes, is
11	minimal. Along the C4-5X areas is just south of
12	Fordham Plaza and on the Third Avenue and Tremont
13	Avenue intersection where there is strong public
14	transportation access in this area. You have the
15	Metro North stops in both of those.
16	The C4-4A areas are major nodes at
17	180th Street and Third Avenue intersection and
18	then along Tremont Avenue. This would expand the
19	development potential to allow for full office and
20	commercial uses here.
21	The C4-4D is along St. Barnabas
22	Hospital which would allow for full residential
23	and community facility use for the hospital.
24	The R7X/C1-4 zoning district is on
25	the intersection of Tremont and Southern

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 66
2	Boulevard. This would help incentivize
3	permanently affordable housing and establishing
4	height limits on this important intersection.
5	The mixed-use districts, which are
б	the M1-4, R7-A and R7-X districts are in three
7	sections, and they're in gray on the map. These
8	would help provide opportunities for new
9	residential development while preserving the light
10	industrial uses in these areas. They would create
11	permanently affordable housing while establishing
12	height limits, requiring street walls.
13	There are three areas. The one in
14	the north, we found a strong presence of auto
15	related uses here. So this would really help
16	preserve this area and maintain the jobs and the
17	auto related uses that are here. The middle
18	section, there's a number of light industrial type
19	uses here, some plumbing and welding shops, things
20	of that nature. This would also, again, help
21	maintain those uses. Then the southern area, it's
22	a manufacturing area today. We have a couple of
23	very strong industrial uses that are here. So
24	that would, again, help preserve those.
25	The area to the west of Third

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 67
2	Avenue, we would be proposing the R-6A and R-5
3	zones. This would help ensure new development
4	better matches the existing development, which
5	would help discourage tear downs and establish
6	height limits. This is lowering the zoning from
7	what is currently allowed today from R-7 to this
8	R-6A and R-5. But with the R-5, you have a lot of
9	owner occupied home with the partnership homes
10	program. So this would help preserve those and
11	the neighborhood context of those areas.
12	Based on our goals, the rezoning
13	would increase the overall development by over
14	700,000 square feet. It would create
15	approximately 700 new units of housing with at
16	least 114 being permanently affordable housing.
17	It would create jobs and retain the current light
18	manufacturing jobs and related jobs that are in
19	this area.
20	The community has been quite
21	supportive as we've worked with them closely
22	throughout the process. They gave us unanimous
23	support for the rezoning, as well as the borough
24	president, who had no conditions. Thank you.
25	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Great. I know

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 68
2	Council Member Rivera, who represents the
3	district, is supportive of the project as well.
4	Are there any questions? Do you have questions,
5	Diana?
6	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Sure.
7	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I'm not
8	forcing you. But I saw you taking notes. Diana
9	Reyna has questions.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you,
11	Mr. Chair. I just wanted to understand, again,
12	you're referring to light manufacturing and jobs
13	being protected. How are you going about that?
14	What makes it a protection? The previous
15	presentation doesn't protect it. It gives is an
16	option.
17	CAROL SAMOL: We're doing a couple
18	of things. We are using the MX district in areas
19	where there is a concentration of active firms.
20	However, there is also very much capacity there to
21	redevelop to provide much needed affordable
22	housing there. We have many, many vacant lots,
23	parking lots, just dead storage that provides no
24	jobs whatsoever. There are a lot of those in this
25	area, much more than I think active industrial

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 69
2	uses, really.
3	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right.
4	CAROL SAMOL: The MX district would
5	allow those active uses to remain and grow and new
6	ones to locate there. I think one of our largest
7	employers in the area owns their own property.
8	They've expanded in the past. We wanted to
9	support that.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right.
11	CAROL SAMOL: By allowing them to
12	grow and expand and not have to worry about the
13	zoning.
14	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Correct.
15	CAROL SAMOL: In addition, not
16	related to
17	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
18	[interposing] If you can just pause. Can you show
19	me on the map where that particular situation is?
20	CAROL SAMOL: You want to show them
21	the site?
22	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: In that
23	area, is that part of an IBZ?
24	CAROL SAMOL: No, the IBZ is
25	directly south of there.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 70
2	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Is this part
3	of the abutment area?
4	CAROL SAMOL: No. This was an
5	interesting area, because there are so many
6	community facilities and BSA residential uses
7	there that you go there and you hardly believe
8	that it's manufacturing except that there are
9	still these strong manufacturing uses in the area
10	that we wanted to retain. So the MX was our
11	solution to that that would allow both of those.
12	Actually, in the Bronx we've found
13	MX to be really successful in exactly that. We've
14	had it in Port Morris, in Morrisania. We just
15	recently mapped it in the Lower Concourse. We
16	find, we've had probably ten years of experience
17	in the Bronx with MX districts, that industrial
18	uses expand and residential either buildings are
19	converted to residential or new residential is
20	developed. They work very well together.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: There's a
22	little box that is by Alden Place. It's an M1-1 I
23	believe.
24	CAROL SAMOL: Yes.
25	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: It's being

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 71
2	converted into a C4-5X.
3	CAROL SAMOL: Yes. That is a
4	grocery store and open parking and just and old
5	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
6	[interposing] A supermarket or a grocery store?
7	That's a big lot.
8	CAROL SAMOL: It's a Western Beef
9	with a big opening parking
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA:
11	[interposing] That's a supermarket.
12	CAROL SAMOL: With a big open
13	parking lot and an old warehouse that's not active
14	today. The property owner there approached us and
15	he was interested in doing affordable housing. We
16	thought this was a good marriage. So we tried to
17	work it into the procedure so we could ensure the
18	right densities and heights and uses. He wants to
19	replace the supermarket in the new development.
20	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: City
21	Planning has conducted an analysis concerning the
22	businesses that exist there today.
23	CAROL SAMOL: Correct.
24	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: What has
25	been converted due to a BSA variance, do they have

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 72
2	that information?
3	CAROL SAMOL: Do you mean how BSA
4	cases? We could get that. I just know that
5	especially in this southern section here by
6	Tremont Park, a really strong number of BSA cases
7	for residential. What I think we'd find more is
8	just under utilization of the land. Along Third
9	Avenue where the El ran, we see just parking lots,
10	vacant land, and vacant buildings, except for the
11	area right around St. Barnabas, that's another
12	area where we're trying to encourage jobs by
13	encouraging and supporting the expansion of the
14	hospital.
15	We have, to the north you'll see,
16	there's like a beverage distributor and that kind
17	of thing. That's really more of what we've seen
18	along Third Avenue. That's been the predominant
19	response.
20	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I'm
21	interested on a separate note, just in the
22	business aspect and what businesses exist and to
23	monitor all of this because we have to learn to
24	just have a comparison as to what we've zoned.
25	I've seen a lot of M zones disappearing. There's

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 73
2	established areas, such as the IBZs, but beyond
3	that no other protection for the M zones. So the
4	mix works for a certain period I'm assuming and
5	then it starts tipping over.
6	CAROL SAMOL: I can point to our
7	experience with the Port Morris MX, which we
8	mapped. It was the very first MX in the city and
9	it was further expanded in 2005. We've actually
10	seen existing businesses growing. We've seen some
11	vacancies, only because of the economy. That's
12	the bad thing. We've seen new residential, our
13	first new residential construction. We've mostly
14	seen conversions in that area. That's what I can
15	give you today. We do pay attention to these
16	things to understand what the dynamics are in the
17	Bronx.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right. I
19	just don't want to see us creating a trend where
20	we're going from living prevailing wage jobs to
21	minimum wage jobs, which tend to happen when we
22	start diluting our manufacturing zones. So just
23	trying to keep a current database of what we had,
24	what we currently have and what we foresee to be
25	able to understand the correlation between land

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 74
2	use and small business. Thank you.
3	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Any other
4	comments or questions from my colleagues? Thank
5	you very much. We do have someone else here to
6	testify in favor of this project. So we're going
7	to bring up Calvin Jackson. Mr. Jackson, come on
8	up. When you're ready, Mr. Jackson, just restate
9	your name. You can start when you're ready.
10	CALVIN JACKSON: Good morning, City
11	Council, ladies and gentlemen and a special hello
12	to Joel Rivera, who is the councilman in my
13	district, District 6.
14	My name is Calvin Jackson. I'm the
15	co-chair of the Economic Development Committee of
16	Bronx Community Board 6. I'm also privileged to
17	be the president of the Tremont Business and
18	Community Organization, TBCO for short.
19	As an active member of the
20	community, and president of the TBCO, I strongly
21	support the Third Avenue/Tremont rezoning. In
22	2006, TBCO was formed by our current Chairman,
23	Radame Perez and several of the business and
24	community leaders for the Bathgate and East
25	Tremont neighborhoods of the Bronx.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 75
2	It is the mission of our nonprofit
3	organization to preserve and enhance the East
4	Tremont business corridor. We are primarily
5	focused on helping our neighborhood retailers and
6	store owners to succeed, while offering our local
7	residents and shoppers of this regional downtown
8	the best in quality and value.
9	Over the past few years, TBCO has
10	held events bringing the business community and
11	those that they serve together. These events have
12	proven charitable and promotional, yet create a
13	climate of genuine collaboration during these
14	economically difficult times.
15	TBCO, for example, has organized
16	the Lights Up Tremont event in which we provide
17	holiday street lighting along the East Tremont
18	commercial strips. We have also sponsored a Santa
19	Claus during the holidays to give back to the
20	neighborhood residents. For example, TBCO hosts a
21	yearly turkey giveaway, serving over 100 local
22	residents. In this month, we once again invite
23	everyone to our annual Halloween event. If you
24	were to join us at the East Tremont Banco Popular
25	Branch, you would witness over 1,000 children and

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 76
2	families within the Tremont neighborhood receiving
3	Halloween safety tips, treats and having a great
4	time.
5	With activities such as this, in
6	which we strive to build a vibrant community
7	foundation, we aim to encourage the city to
8	support our goal of forming the first ever
9	business improvement district, BID, for the
10	residents in the Tremont business community.
11	With the city's support, we have
12	confidence that our neighborhood will very soon
13	obtain its own BID. We have recently joined
14	forces with another strong based organization,
15	SoBRO. With their assistance over the coming
16	year, we'd like to provide merchant based service
17	to our surrounding neighborhoods and promote
18	business growth.
19	As such, we can encourage advocacy
20	to local and state governments for better access
21	to municipal services, promotional activities like
22	holiday lights and supplemental sanitation.
23	It is the greater mission of the
24	TBCO to make certain that the residents also
25	benefit from the work being put into creating a

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 77
2	vibrant East Tremont. Not simply by having a
3	first class shopping district, but by helping to
4	elevate so much of the problems that local
5	residents face on a daily basis. We need to
6	provide new opportunities for housing so families
7	don't look at East Tremont as a simply gateway
8	community but as a permanent community to raise
9	generations, with economically stable, and social
10	community facilities.
11	We need to expand development
12	potentials along Third Avenue and Tremont Avenue
13	so that we could create jobs and opportunities for
14	some of our local light manufacturers,
15	construction and industrial companies. It's time
16	that we increase commercial retail and office
17	opportunities to add to the already strong
18	commercial district.
19	Council Members, we need your
20	support. Please assist us in producing a more
21	appealing East Tremont and Bathgate neighborhood.
22	It is our hope that the New York City Council will
23	helps us achieve TBCO's goal by voting to approve
24	City Planning's proposal to strengthen our major
25	corridor with the Third Avenue/East Tremont

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 78
2	rezoning.
3	We know that the proposed rezoning
4	would promote a strong mix of affordable housing,
5	retail and commercial opportunities, while
6	preserving the surrounding neighborhoods'
7	character in a way that makes us truly proud of
8	our community.
9	On behalf of TBCO, I would like to
10	extend my utmost appreciation for City Planning,
11	Community Board 6 and the community support and we
12	anticipate the City Council's future partnership
13	in our role to help protect and preserve the
14	vibrancy of the Tremont Avenue community.
15	Thank you and I look forward for
16	your support.
17	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
18	Jackson. I know Council Member Rivera has a
19	comment.
20	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Yes, thank
21	you very much, Chairman. First, I want to thank
22	City Planning, obviously, for working with my
23	office, working with the borough president's
24	office and the community board in establishing
25	this rezoning.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 79
2	I especially want to thank Calvin
3	Jackson and, of course, the TBCO and the local
4	business community for coming together and working
5	with the various government entities and residents
6	and businesses along the Third Avenue/Tremont
7	corridor to make sure that this rezoning is going
8	to be a successful one and does lay down a
9	foundation for future success for our business
10	community there.
11	It has been a real collaborative
12	effort and that is why I'm honored and privileged
13	to be working with the various government entities
14	and the various organizations there to make this
15	rezoning happen. I recommend my colleagues to
16	vote aye on this. Thank you, Chairman.
17	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
18	Rivera. Thank you, Mr. Jackson for your
19	testimony. We're going to move to close this
20	hearing. Now I am going to couple all the items
21	we heard today as well as the Culver El rezoning
22	which was Land Use numbers 177-193. In addition,
23	we're going to couple Land Use 213, the High Hawk
24	rezoning; Land Use 219, 3500 Park Avenue, which we
25	heard; Land Use 220, the Crossing at Southern

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 80
2	Boulevard; and Land Use 221 and 222 which was the
3	North Tribeca rezoning; and finally, Land Use 223
4	and 224, the Third Avenue/Tremont Avenue rezoning.
5	Those items will all be coupled.
6	Also, you should know that, once
7	again, Land Use 216 East End Bar and Grill's
8	application for an enclosed sidewalk café has been
9	withdrawn.
10	So all of those aforementioned
11	items are now coupled. The recommendation is an
12	aye vote. I'm going to ask Christian Hylton, the
13	counsel to the committee to please call the roll.
14	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Chair Weprin?
15	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.
16	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
17	Rivera?
18	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.
19	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
20	Reyna?
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
22	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
23	Comrie?
24	COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I just want
25	to congratulate the Bronx City Planning division

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 81
2	and Manhattan City Planning for all of the work
3	that they did on Fordham Avenue, Third Avenue and
4	Tremont Avenue rezoning and the North Tribeca and
5	to all of the other parties, and also to Council
6	Member Lappin for making sure that a sidewalk café
7	that was going to be negative in her community,
8	she had a very effective set of meetings to have
9	that withdrawn. Aye on all.
10	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
11	Seabrook? I'm sorry. Council Member Vann?
12	COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.
13	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
14	Garodnick?
15	COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
16	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
17	Lappin?
18	COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Thank you,
19	Council Member Comrie. Aye.
20	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
21	Vacca?
22	COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.
23	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: Council Member
24	Ignizio?
25	COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

1	SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 82
2	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: By a vote of
3	nine in the affirmative, none in the negative and
4	no abstentions, LU 213, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223,
5	224 are approved and referred to the full Land Use
6	Committee. LU 177-193 are approved with
7	modifications and referred to the City Planning
8	Department. LU 216, motion to file pursuant
9	withdrawal is approved and referred to the full
10	Land Use Committee.
11	CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
12	Hylton. Ladies and gentlemen, that will be the
13	end of this meeting. We are going to leave the
14	rolls open for a few minutes. Council Member
15	Seabrook stepped out and will be back in a few
16	minutes. Without any further comments, we are now
17	adjourned. Thank you.
18	[Pause]
19	CHRISTIAN HYLTON: This meeting of
20	the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee of October
21	5th, 2010 is adjourned.

## CERTIFICATE

I, Donna Hintze 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.

Dana dentze

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_October 27, 2010\_\_