

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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December 20, 2010  
Start: 10:13am  
Recess: 10:55am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.  
Chairperson

- COUNCIL MEMBERS:
- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
  - Council Member Fernando Cabrera
  - Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
  - Council Member Karen Koslowitz
  - Council Member Robert Jackson
  - Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
  - Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
  - Council Member Darlene Mealy
  - Council Member James S. Oddo
  - Council Member Diana Reyna
  - Council Member Joel Rivera
  - Council Member James G. Van Bramer
  - Council Member Albert Vann

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

Jeremy Waldrop  
Assistant Commissioner  
Department of Small Business Services

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. I  
3 know, Nick, I know, I'm going to give you a  
4 second. Jerry, you got it under control? All  
5 right. Thanks for our Sergeant-at-Arms. Good  
6 morning, welcome to today's Finance Committee  
7 hearing. My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., and  
8 I'm the Chair of this wonderful Committee, and I  
9 welcome everyone to this hearing this morning.  
10 Before we move further, I'd like to introduce all  
11 my colleagues who are here and who have joined us  
12 today. We have Fernando Cabrera, Jimmy Van  
13 Bramer, Joel Rivera, Diana Reyna, Karen Koslowitz,  
14 Lewis Fidler, and as other members arrive, we will  
15 recognize them. Today we have two items on our  
16 agenda. One bid and one transparency resolution.  
17 Let's start with the bid item. As you may  
18 remember, on December 8th this Committee approved  
19 the resolution said today is the day to consider a  
20 local law that would authorize an increase in the  
21 budget of seven bids, therefore increasing the  
22 amount of assessment for each property owner with  
23 the bids. The budget increases for the seven bids  
24 are being made at the request of the bids, the  
25 seven bids that will see a budget increase are

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2 125th, 103rd Avenue, I think Maria Carmen Arroyo's  
3 district, 125th Street is Inez Dickens', Bergen  
4 Beach bid is, is Mike Nelson and Domenic Recchia  
5 by adoption. [laughter] They're right across the  
6 street from me, that's why. The Myrtle Avenue in  
7 Brooklyn by Tish James; the Fashion Center,  
8 Speaker Quinn; the Fifth Avenue, Speaker Quinn;  
9 and Times Square in Speaker Quinn. All of the  
10 Council Members in the respective bids have  
11 submitted letters of support for the budget  
12 increases. Pursuant to the bid law, increasing  
13 the amount to be expanded annually for  
14 improvements, services and maintenance requires  
15 the adoption of local law by the City. Such a  
16 local law may be adopted by the City Council after  
17 the determination that it is in the public  
18 interest to authorize such an increase, and that  
19 the tax and debit limits prescribed in the bid law  
20 will not be exceeded. Pursuant to the bid law,  
21 the budgets of bids cannot exceed 20 percent of  
22 the total real property tax as levied in the year  
23 of the budget increase request. The Fiscal 2011  
24 property tax levy is \$18.2 billion, therefore the  
25 budget of each bid that seeks a budget increase

1  
2 cannot exceed \$3.7 billion, which I can assure my  
3 colleagues it does not. [laughter] The amount of  
4 the bid increases is in your briefing packet.

5 Okay? We're good, we have SBS Jeremy's here,  
6 Deputy Commissioner who's going to testify. Just  
7 let me, I have a little bit more reading to do.

8 On, now I'm just going to go over the transparency  
9 resolution, which mostly makes technical  
10 corrections to designations in Schedule C, the  
11 Resolution will make a change to designation in  
12 Fiscal 2011/2010 expenses budget. Council Members  
13 should have these list changes and in some cases  
14 additions which is attached to the Resolution.

15 For clarification purposes, we know that  
16 organizations appear in the Resolutions that have  
17 not yet completed the prequalification process  
18 conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contracts and  
19 by the Council, or any other government agency,  
20 are identified in the attached charts with an  
21 asterisk. Additionally, as with all transparency  
22 resolutions, Council Members will have to sign a  
23 disclosure form indicating whether or not a  
24 conflict exists. And if a conflict does exist  
25 before you vote, you should make that public.

1  
2 Okay? Representatives from Council Finance are  
3 available to answer any questions you may have  
4 regarding the transparency resolution. And  
5 Jeremy, Deputy Commissioner from SBS, will now--  
6 Assistant Commissioner, will now talk. It can be  
7 brief--

8 JEREMY WALDROP: Yes, sir.

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: --and to the  
10 point.

11 JEREMY WALDROP: Good morning, Mr.  
12 Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee.  
13 Again, I'm Jeremy Waldrop, with a cold, Assistant  
14 Commissioner at the Department of Small Business  
15 Services. SBS supports the law providing an  
16 increase in the amount to be expended by the seven  
17 business improvement districts. As required by  
18 law, the seven bids have published a notice of the  
19 public hearing, at least once, in a local  
20 newspaper having general circulation in the  
21 districts, specifying the time when and the place  
22 where the hearing will be held; and stating the  
23 purpose, the proposed amount to be expended  
24 annually. In addition, the bids certify that they  
25 have mailed a letter to property owners informing

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2 them about the proposed assessment increase, and  
3 the time and place of this public hearing. The  
4 City's bids supplement City sanitation and public  
5 safety services, promote businesses through  
6 marketing initiatives and public events, enhance  
7 the City's physical environment through  
8 streetscape improvement projects and engage local  
9 communities through student internship programs.  
10 In addition, bids in partnership with the City  
11 government help create jobs, improve the quality  
12 of life of New Yorkers and visitors, enhance the  
13 City's tax base and strengthen the local economy  
14 in these tough economic times. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Does any  
16 Council Member have any questions. [pause] Okay.  
17 [pause] Is there anybody that'd like to testify,  
18 on the bids? I see we have members of the bids.  
19 Okay. [pause] We're waiting for Mr. Oddo to get  
20 here. Jimmy Oddo. While we're doing that, I want  
21 to recognize Al Vann has joined us. And remind  
22 everyone we have a City Council meeting, and then  
23 we also have a wonderful, wonderful holiday party.  
24 Does anybody have any questions. [laughter]  
25 Okay. [pause] All right. Must be the elevators.

1  
2 [pause] I like those Jets, what about those  
3 Giants? Oh my god, it's crazy. While we're  
4 waiting, I just want to thank the Finance staff,  
5 Tanisha Edwards, did a great job as always;  
6 Preston, Jeff, and the--Scott Crowley. And the  
7 entire Finance staff, always doing a great job.  
8 [off mic comment, laughter] Well, you know what?  
9 [laughs] We need one more, Ramon Martinez. [off  
10 mic comment] [laughs] This week, we don't know  
11 yet. Okay. Mr. Martinez, while you're here, we  
12 should try to open up the steps, 'cause it'd be  
13 easier for us to get up and down. [pause] Okay.  
14 [pause] Okay, we recognize Vinnie Ignizio joined  
15 us, and Council Member Jimmy Oddo. Please call  
16 the roll.

17 CLERK: William Martin, Committee  
18 Clerk, roll call vote on Committee on Finance.  
19 Council Member Recchia.

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I vote aye  
21 and encourage all my colleagues to vote aye on  
22 all.

23 CLERK: Rivera.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

25 CLERK: Reyna.



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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I, I want

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to acknowledge that I have previously made a

6

disclosure on Bergen Beach Youth Organization. I

7

rely on that today and I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye.

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CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

12

CLERK: Koslowitz.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

14

all.

15

CLERK: Van Bramer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17

CLERK: Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

19

CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: [off mic]

21

Yes.

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CLERK: By a vote of ten in the

23

affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items are adopted. Members

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please sign the Committee reports.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Thank you,  
3 this hearing, we'll hold the vote open--till  
4 10:50.

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: Council Member, Council  
7 Member Jackson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on  
9 all.

10 CLERK: Vote now, now is at eleven.  
11 Council Member Koppell.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

13 CLERK: Council Member Koppell.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

15 CLERK: Vote now stands at twelve.

16 [pause]

17 CLERK: Council Member Mealy.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote all.  
19 Happy holidays.

20 CLERK: Vote is now 13.

21 [pause]

22 CLERK: Council Member Brewer.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

24 [pause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: This meeting

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is adjourned, December 20th, Committee on Finance.

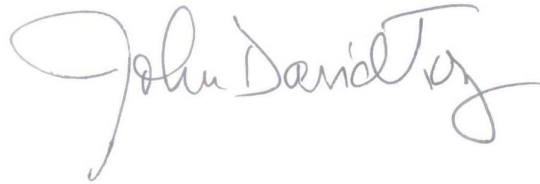
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[gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the printed word "Signature".

Signature

Date January 17, 2011