

1 BROOKLYN DELEGATION OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL 1

2 CITY COUNCIL
3 CITY OF NEW YORK

4 ----- X

5 TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

6 Of the

7 BROOKLYN DELEGATION OF THE NEW YORK
8 CITY COUNCIL

9 ----- X

10 March 16, 2023
11 Start: 11:40 a.m.
12 Recess: 12:30 p.m.

13 HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

14 B E F O R E: Farrah N. Louis, Co-Chairperson
15 Chi A. Ossé, Co-Chairperson

16 COUNCIL MEMBERS:
17 Lincoln Restler
18 Jennifer Gutiérrez
19 Crystal Hudson
20 Sandy Nurse
21 Alexa Avilés
22 Shahana Hanif
23 Rita C. Joseph
24 Darlene Mealy
25 Charles Barron
 Justin L. Brannan
 Kalman Yeger
 Mercedes Narcisse
 Ari Kagan
 Inna Vernikov

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Brooklyn Delegation. Today's date is
4 March 16, 2023. Located in Council Chambers. Recorded
5 by Steve Sadowsky.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
7 welcome to the Brooklyn Delegation.

8 At this time, we ask if you can please
9 place phones on vibrate or silent mode. Thank you.

10 We are ready to begin.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Good morning to
12 today's meeting of the Brooklyn Delegation. I am City
13 Council Member Chi Osse, and I am honored to Co-Chair
14 the delegation with Council Member Farrah Louis.

15 I would like to acknowledge the other
16 Members of the Delegation who are present. Council
17 Member Gutierrez, Council Member Hanif, Council
18 Member Narcisse, Council Member Brannan, Council
19 Member Joseph, Council Member Nurse, Council Member
20 Vernikov, Council Member Yeger, and Council Member
21 Kagan, and Council Member Alexis Aviles.

22 This public meeting of the Delegation is
23 convened pursuant to Section 103 of the Public
24 Officers Law to conduct the following businesses. Co-
25 Chair.

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2 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: This public meeting
3 of the Delegation is convened pursuant to Section 103
4 of the Public Officers Law to conduct the following
5 business.

6 Pursuant to Section 2301 of the New York
7 City Charter, we will vote to recommend Thomas
8 Sorrentino for appointment by the Mayor to the New
9 York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. If nominated
10 by the Mayor, Mr. Sorrentino's appointment will be
11 subject to the advice and consent of the full
12 Council.

13 Pursuant to Section 2403 of the New York
14 City Charter, we will vote to recommend Bobbie
15 Sackman for appointment by the Mayor to the New York
16 City Department of Aging Advocacy Council.

17 Also pursuant to Section 2403 of the New
18 York City Charter, we will vote to recommend Blondell
19 Lighty for appointment by the Mayor to the New York
20 City Department of Aging.

21 Before we vote, I will invite my
22 Colleagues to offer statements on the nominations
23 before us, and we've also been joined by Council
24 Member Hudson.

25

2 Any Members have any recommendations or
3 statements they would like to put forward?

4 Council Member Hudson.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Thank you. I just
6 want to say that the two appointees that we're
7 appointing to DFTA or NYC Aging I think will bring
8 great perspectives considering the population
9 increase that we're going to be experiencing over the
10 next couple of decades and how woefully unprepared
11 the City is for that population increase, and I think
12 the two folks that we are appointing will give great
13 insight and help us to better prepare for the
14 population increase. Thank you.

15 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Council
16 Member Hudson.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Council Member
18 Hanif.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Thank you, Chair
20 Osse and Chair Louis. I am deeply grateful to the
21 Delegation for allowing me to share recommendations
22 last year for the TLC Commission. I am, however,
23 disappointed with where we arrived and will be voting
24 no on Tom Sorrentino's appointment. I think we are in
25 a moment where we really need to uplift the power and

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2 fight that has been led by drivers in the City. The
3 City is iconic because of our yellow cabs and taxis
4 and Uber and Lyft rideshare and so disappointed where
5 we've landed, but I know that this Delegation will
6 continue to fight to lift up and ensure that drivers
7 are part of these conversations, and I look forward
8 to doing that work together. Thank you.

9 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: Council Member
10 Narcisse.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Good morning to
12 all of my Colleagues in the Delegation, Chair Osse
13 and Chair Farrah Louis, for giving me an opportunity
14 to talk on behalf of Thomas. Thomas, for me, is a
15 person in my community that wherever I go will be
16 there from Community Board 18 to doing things in the
17 school building, and he had showed interest in the
18 Taxi and Limousine for his work, always talking about
19 how he wanted to address the inequities when it comes
20 to Taxi and Limousine. To that note, I want to put on
21 record my father is a long-time driver of a yellow
22 cab in New York City and Taxi and Limousine as well
23 so, for me, I always have the question for him how he
24 sees New York City, what's been taking place with the
25 yellow cab and what can he do actually to push the

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2 agenda to make sure that the folks that invest their
3 lifetime savings don't go unseen, and ever since, I
4 would say on a regular basis, he would call me, he
5 would let me know what's his vision, what we should
6 push for in order to address the problem that faces
7 our city. Yes, he's not a driver right now as talking
8 in the Taxi and Limousine, but he has been putting
9 his heart and soul to his work, and he manifested in
10 many ways for me. As a constituent that he is for me,
11 he is always active and committed to the cause of
12 advancing inequities in our community to make sure
13 that we address the inequities all over so, because
14 of that, I am pushing forward to vote yes, and I
15 encourage my Colleagues to do the same because that's
16 the person at present, and I promise I will do
17 everything I can to make sure I hold him accountable
18 to his work so I will vote yes for him.

19 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Council
20 Member Narcisse. Any other Council Members want to
21 provide remarks at this time? Council Member Aviles.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Thank you, Chair
23 Louis and Chair Osse. I think I just would like to
24 remind my Colleagues around the importance of
25 appointing people most directly impacted by the

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2 advisory bodies through which we have a
3 responsibility so I think it's important to ensure
4 that while folks may have empathy and sympathy, it's
5 important for people who are actually having that
6 experience to be on these bodies and to represent
7 those voices in full authenticity and so I just would
8 like to make that statement for my Colleagues. Thank
9 you.

10 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: Thank you, Council
11 Member Aviles. If there are no more Members of the
12 Delegation who wish to speak, the Clerk will now call
13 the roll. Clerk.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. This is
16 the vote for the Brooklyn Delegation of the New York
17 City Council. Items are coupled. Chair Louis.

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: I vote aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Chair
20 Osse.

21 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: I vote aye on all
22 with the exception of Section 2301 in which I vote
23 no.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you. Brannan.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNAN: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Yeger.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye on all with the
5 exception of Sackman.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Aviles.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILES: Aye on all with
8 the exception of Mr. Sorrentino.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you. Barron. Gutierrez.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GUTIERREZ: Aye on all with
12 the exception of Sorrentino.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hanif.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HANIF: Aye on all with the
15 exception of Sorrentino.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Hudson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER HUDSON: Aye on all.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Joseph.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Aye on all.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Mealy.
21 Narcisse.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Nurse.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Aye on all except
25 for Sorrentino.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.
3 Vernikov.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Aye on all
5 except Bobbie Sackman.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER KAGAN: Aye on all except
8 for Sackman.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
10 you. One moment.

11 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: We'll keep the vote
12 open. Can everyone else go?

13 No? We have to keep everyone? Okay.
14 Sorry.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: I'll have
16 the tally in one second.

17 CO-CHAIRPERSON OSSE: We're going to open
18 the vote back up.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
20 you. Continuation roll call vote Brooklyn Delegation.
21 Council Member Barron. Council Member Barron.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote yes on all
23 except for Tom Sorrentino, I vote no.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you. Council Member Restler.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye on the DFTA
3 appointees and no on Sorrentino.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
5 you, Council Member.

6 Continuation roll call Brooklyn
7 Delegation. Council Member Mealy.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye on
9 Sorrentino. I vote aye Lightly and no on Sackman.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Results
11 for the vote on Brooklyn Delegation. We have Lightly
12 has been approved by the Delegation with 16 in the
13 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no
14 abstentions, Sackman with 12 in the affirmative, 4 in
15 the negative, and no abstentions, and Sorrentino with
16 nine in the affirmative, seven in the negative, no
17 abstentions.

18 CO-CHAIRPERSON LOUIS: This Delegation
19 hearing is now closed. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date March 28, 2023