

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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March 23, 2011
Start: 10:00 am
Recess: 10:06 am

HELD AT: Committee Room
250 Broadway - 16th Fl.

B E F O R E:

MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Larry B. Seabrook
James Vacca
Albert Vann
Vincent M. Ignizio
G. Oliver Koppell

2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Quiet please.

3 Morning everyone, good morning. My name is Mark
4 Weprin, and I chair of the Subcommittee on Zoning
5 and Franchises of the Land Use Committee. We have
6 a busy morning today. It's going to be the
7 Subcommittee followed by Land Use, and I know
8 there's a Finance hearing in this very room, so
9 we're going to try to push ahead. I'm delighted
10 to be joined this morning by the following members
11 of the Subcommittee: Council Member Joel Rivera,
12 Council Member Leroy Comrie, Council Member Robert
13 Jackson, Council Member Larry Seabrook, Council
14 Member Jessica Lappin, who just stepped out, but
15 will be right back in, Council Member James Vacca.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Yes, I'm
17 here.

18 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: And we might
19 be joined by some other distinguished council
20 members as we move on and we have two items that
21 are related on the agenda. We already had the
22 hearing on this item. They are Land Use Nos. 325
23 and 326, the Webster Avenue/Bedford Park/Norwood
24 re-zoning in the Bronx, Community Boards 7 and 12.
25 We are very lucky to have with us today some of

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2 the council members who represent this area, and
3 we're going to ask if they would like to say a few
4 words. We are also joined by Council Member Reyna
5 before I do that and I'd like to ask Council
6 Member Koppell, who represents this area to say a
7 few words.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman. I know this was on the agenda
10 before and one constituent of mine, a resident of
11 the area, raised some issues in fact were relevant
12 to the basic re-zoning, but the Committee was very
13 considerate in giving some time to consider those
14 objections and I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman
15 and members, I appreciate your coming for this
16 sort of special meeting of the Subcommittee so
17 that we could move this along at this stated
18 meeting today. This particular re-zoning has a
19 unanimous support of the Community Board. It was
20 done with the Bronx Office of City Planning. It
21 was done in consultation with the community. We
22 already have considerable inquiries from
23 developers interested in building housing,
24 including affordable housing, which is something
25 that we very much welcome. Webster Avenue is a

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2 unfortunately underutilized strip that I think
3 with this re-zoning is going to see some real
4 revitalization. The Norwood Community in which it
5 lies already has a fair amount of rebuilding going
6 on or new building and so this is a really
7 positive step. Again, I want to thank the members
8 for taking the time to hear this this morning.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: [off mic]

10 Story of my life. What can I say? Mic wasn't
11 working. Thank you, Council Member Koppell.

12 Council Member Seabrook would also like to make a
13 comment.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you
15 very much, Mr. Chairman. This plan is certainly
16 one that is long overdue and is certainly one that
17 has the support of the community and when we look—
18 and I was very pleased with the affordable housing
19 component that's put in place for this area, which
20 is in some parts a desolate area. And the only
21 use that is has is a deathtrap right next to the
22 cemetery that has one of the largest drag racing
23 tracks that's there and the number of deaths that
24 take place there is unbelievable, so this is a
25 tremendous opportunity for the community and

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2 everybody would certainly applaud this and I want
3 to thank you so much for holding this meeting
4 around this issue. Thank you very much, Mr.
5 Chair.

6 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you, Mr.
7 Seabrook. Well, with that in mind, we're going to
8 move to a vote on this matter. Again we're going
9 to couple the two items Land Use 325 and Land Use
10 326. The Chair will recommend an aye vote, and I
11 will now call on the counsel, Christian Hilton, to
12 please call the roll.

13 COUNSEL: Chair Weprin?

14 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

15 COUNSEL: Council Member Rivera?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

17 COUNSEL: Council Member Reyna?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

19 COUNSEL: Council Member Comrie?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye.

21 COUNSEL: Council Member Jackson?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

23 all.

24 COUNSEL: Council Member Seabrook?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote

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aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Vacca?

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

COUNSEL: By vote of ten in the affirmative, none in the negative with no abstentions, L.U. 325 and 326 are approved and referred to the full Land Use Committee.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kimberley Uhlig 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.

Signature

Kimberley Uhlig

Date

April 11, 2011