

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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November 17, 2011
Start: 10:27 a.m.
Recess: 10:50 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: LEROY G. COMRIE, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Charles Barron
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel R. Garodnick
Sara M. Gonzalez
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
Rosie Mendez
Annabel Palma
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
James Sanders, Jr.
Larry B. Seabrook

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James Vacca
Albert Vann
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Daniel J. Halloran III
Vincent M. Ignizio
Peter A. Koo

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Good morning.

Today is Thursday, November 17th, 2011. I'm Leroy Comrie, chairing the Land Use Committee hearing for today. We are joined by Council Members Diana Reyna, Jessica Lappin, Mark Weprin, Brad Lander, Al Vann, Vinny Ignizio, Peter Koo, Sara Gonzalez, Charles Barron, Inez Dickens, Joel Rivera and we're expecting a couple of other members on their way.

We are considering a few items on today's agenda. Let me run through them quickly. We have two pre-considered items in Staten Island in Council Member Rose's district. Both are in Community Board 12. One is called Richmond Gardens. It's Item No. 20125186 HAR. And the other one is an exemption from real property taxes. The other one is called Fairway Gardens, Item No. 201125187 HAR. Also exemption for property taxes.

We have a UDAP in Council Member Rivera's district, Item No. 447, El Rio Residence in Community Board 6, which is located at East 179th Street. We also have in Council Member Rivera's district another UDAP called the Bronx

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2 River Arts Center in Bronx Community Board 6, Item
3 No. C 110366 HAX. It's to provide emergency
4 access purposes - - existing Bronx River Arts
5 Center. We have two third party transfers; one in
6 Council Member Jackson's district, Community Board
7 9, Land Use No. 497, Item No. 20125124 HAM. We
8 also have a third party transfer, Land Use No.
9 498, which effects Council Members Mendez,
10 Dickens, Jackson and Mark-Viverito in Community
11 Boards 3, 9, 10 and 11. The details have been
12 vetted again in the subcommittees. It's under
13 Item No. 20125125 HAM. We have some sidewalk
14 cafes; two in Council Member Mendez's district.
15 Venieros Pasticceria and Cafe, Land Use Item No.
16 508, Manhattan Community Board 3. Apparently
17 they've been around for 100 years.

18 [background conversation]

19 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Council Member
20 Garodnick knows them. They're Item No. 20125046
21 TCM. It's to continue to maintain a sidewalk cafe
22 at 342 East 11th. The second one in Council
23 Member Mendez's Community Board 3 is called Ryan's
24 Irish Pub, Land Use Item 509, Item No. 20125058
25 TCM to continue to operate a sidewalk cafe at 151

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2 2nd Avenue. The third one is in Speaker Quinn's
3 district, Land Use Item No. 510, Manhattan
4 Community Board 12, 20125179 TCM called
5 Zezzogiorno, it's to continue to operate an
6 enclosed sidewalk cafe at 195 Spring Street.

7 Now we have some items in regard to
8 the Brooklyn Navy Yard property, Land Use Items
9 No. 511 through 518. Do I have to read all of
10 these item numbers? Yes? No? No? Alright, so
11 all item numbers will be between--they're all in
12 the documentation because there are a lot of item
13 numbers. It's the Admiral's Plaza project in
14 Council Member Levin's district, also effecting
15 Council Member James. Thank you, Charles. We
16 have the next item, which is to give the Brooklyn
17 Navy Yard an opportunity to access federal
18 property and to update it and also to maintain
19 some historic property. Then we have Land Use
20 Item No. 519, which is the special 4th Avenue
21 enhanced commercial district effecting Brooklyn's
22 Community Board 2, 6 and 7, Item No. C 110386 ZMK
23 effecting Members Levin, Gonzalez and Lander.
24 They all are in favor of it.

25 And also Item No. 520, which also

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2 pertains to the Land Use District, Item No. N
3 110387 ZRK. We have a modification to a
4 restrictive - - in Council Member Gonzalez's
5 district, Life Quality Motors [phonetic], Brooklyn
6 Community Board 7, Item No. M 830094B ZMK.

7 We have a school to be built, a 750
8 seat primary/intermediate school facility bounded
9 by Kermitt [phonetic] Place, Katan Avenue, East
10 8th and East 7th, Block 5321, Lot 4464 and 73 in
11 Brooklyn School District 15 in Community Board 7
12 in Brooklyn in Council Member Lander's district.
13 It will be called P.S. I.S. 437, Item No.
14 20115470 SCK.

15 We have an Asset Control Property
16 in Council Member Dilan's district, Land Use No.
17 467, which is located in--two of them at 386
18 Miller Avenue and 2406 Pacific Street in Brooklyn,
19 Blocks 37, 43, 41, 144, 415. They're both Asset
20 Control Properties under Item No. 20125065 HAK.

21 That is everything that is going to
22 be voted on at today's meeting. We've been joined
23 by Council Member Dan Garodnick as I said earlier
24 and Council Member James Sanders. Anyone wish to
25 make any items--and oh, also joined by Council

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2 Member Ruben Wills, who is monitoring what we're
3 doing in the Committee today. Would anyone like
4 to comment on anything on today's agenda? I want
5 to remind the public that everything was fully
6 vetted by our capable subchairs at the
7 subcommittee meetings, so everything has been
8 discussed and vetted. All projects have been
9 thoroughly reviewed by the committee, by the
10 subcommittees, so without further ado, I would
11 recommend an aye vote, since no one has raised
12 their hand with a burning desire to make a
13 comment, so thank you all.

14 [background conversation]

15 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: You can say
16 anything while you're voting. So with that, I
17 recommend an aye vote on all, and I would ask
18 Christian Hilton to call the roll.

19 COUNSEL: Chair Comrie?

20 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye on all.

21 COUNSEL: Council Member Rivera?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
23 on all.

24 COUNSEL: Council Member Reyna?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye

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on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
one Land Use No. 467 and aye on all the rest.

COUNSEL: Council Member Sanders?

COUNCIL MEMBER SANDERS: Aye on
all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: I would
like to just say something before I vote. Thank
you, Chair. I would like to thank Amanda Burden
[phonetic] and - - of City Planning on Land Use
519 and 520, which is the special 4th Avenue
enhancement. I also want to thank Brad Lander and
also Steve Levin for all the work you've done and
congratulations on the 4th Avenue stuff and also
the borough president, very, very important.
Looking forward to enhancement in that area.
Also, I have another project which is Life Quality
Motors. I believe that Richard is here - -
congratulations. Continue the good work and my
expectation is that it will be greener, so I vote

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aye with all. Thank you.

COUNSEL: Council Member Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on
all.

COUNSEL: Council Member Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

COUNSEL: Council Member Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COUNSEL: By a vote of 14 in the
affirmative, none in the negative and no
abstentions, the aforementioned items are approved
except for L.U. 467, which is approved by a vote
of 13 in the affirmative, one in the negative.
The aforementioned items are approved by a vote of
14 in the affirmative, none in the negative and no
abstentions. Council Member Mendez?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye on all
3 and for the information of the Chair, Council
4 Member Williams and Levin are still in the parking
5 lot. They're on their way up. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay. Please
7 check the calendar for the next set of committee
8 meetings. Council Member Levin is coming in.
9 Please check the calendar for the next set of
10 subcommittee meetings. I want to wish everyone a
11 Happy Thanksgiving and since Carol has taken a
12 shine to being on vacation, we will hold the roll
13 open for another 4 hours.

14 [laughter]

15 [background conversation]

16 COUNSEL: Council Member Levin?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

18 [background conversation]

19 COUNSEL: Council Member Williams?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be
21 excused to explain my vote? I vote aye on all,
22 but I also seriously want to apologize to my
23 colleagues yesterday at the Landmarks hearing. I
24 was pretty distracted throughout the hearing on
25 the phone, so I just wanted to apologize for that,

1 but I vote aye on all. Thank you.

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3 COUNSEL: The vote now stands 17
4 in the affirmative, none in the negative, no
5 abstentions on all items except L.U. 467, where
6 the vote is 16 in the affirmative, 1 in the
7 negative.

8 COUNSEL: Council Member Arroyo?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

10 COUNSEL: By a vote of 18 in the
11 affirmative, none in the negative, no abstentions,
12 all the aforementioned items are approved and
13 referred to the full Land Use Committee with the
14 exception of L.U. 467, which is approved by a vote
15 of 17 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative, no
16 abstentions.

17 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Committee
18 adjourned. [gavel]

19 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay.
20 Reopening the Land Use Committee meeting for
21 November 17th for the one and only, Robert
22 Jackson.

23 COUNSEL: Council Member Robert
24 Jackson?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you,

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Mr. Chair. I vote aye on all.

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COUNSEL: Final vote for this

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Committee on Land Use is 19 in the affirmative,

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none in the negative on all the aforementioned

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items, except L.U. 467, which is approved by a

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vote of 18 in the affirmative, 1 in the negative.

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CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Alright.

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Meeting is hereby adjourned. Thank you.

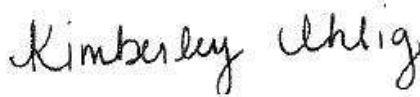
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[gavel]

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 _____



Date _____

11/30/11