

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

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December 14, 2011

Start: 1:35pm

Recess: 1:43pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: STEPHEN T. LEVIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Charles Barron
Inez E. Dickens
Sara M. Gonzalez
Peter A. Koo

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

Carol Clark
Assistant Commissioner
NYC Housing Preservation and Development

2 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Good afternoon.

3 Welcome to the Subcommittee on Planning,

4 Dispositions and Concessions. We're going to have

5 a very brief hearing today in the recess of the

6 Landmarks Hearing. I'm Council Member Stephen

7 Levin, Chair of the Subcommittee joined today by

8 my colleagues, Charles Barron of Brooklyn and

9 Peter Koo of Queens. We are hearing one item

10 today, Land Use No. 499, a proposal subject to

11 Council review and action pursuant to the Urban

12 Development Action Area Act, Article 16, New York

13 General Municipal Law at the request of the

14 Department of Housing and Preservation and

15 Development. This is non - - number 20125161 HAK,

16 and includes a number of addresses in Brooklyn,

17 that is 106 Hopkinson Avenue, 237 Sumpter Street,

18 220 McDougal Street, 2019 Fulton Street, 728

19 Madison Street, 766 Herkimer Street, 516 Crescent

20 Street, all in the borough of Brooklyn in

21 Community Districts 3, 16 and 5. The program is

22 neighborhood stabilization and the Council Members

23 for these addresses are Council Member Darlene

24 Mealy and this Subcommittee's own Charles Barron.

25 Testifying on these items Carol Clark Assistant

2 Commissioner at HPD and Peter Madden [phonetic].
3 Commissioner Clark?

4 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER CLARK: Good
5 afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the
6 Subcommittee. I'm joined by my colleague, Peter
7 Madden, of the Office of Development and you
8 noted, L.U. 499 is the proposed amendment of four
9 city-owned vacant lots that are located at the
10 addresses that you cited that were previously
11 approved for disposition. This action also
12 consists of amending a tax exemption that was
13 previously approved for a series of vacant lots,
14 and in total, these seven lots comprise the newly
15 proposed project known as Hopkins and Sumpter.
16 The sponsor Mutual Housing Association of New York
17 proposes to construct seven buildings containing
18 26 units of affordable rental housing. Council
19 Member Barron has indicated his support. He has
20 one of those lots in his district. The other six
21 are still under discussion with Council Member
22 Mealy. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: We've also been
24 joined by Subcommittee Member, Inez Dickens of
25 Manhattan. Do any of my colleagues have any

2 questions on these items? Charles? Okay. We are
3 actually going to not vote today on these items
4 and we are going to adjourn the hearing, but prior
5 to that I think Council Member Barron did want to
6 make a remark. Do you want to make a remark?
7 Before we close out the hearing..

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Oh,
9 absolutely. Absolutely.

10 [laughter]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just
12 wanted to say to Carol Shine I understand that you
13 may be moving on and I just—you are moving. She
14 is. She is moving on and this is her last meeting
15 for this Committee, so I just wanted to say how
16 much that I appreciate your stay here. I could
17 tell the big secret now how we have similar
18 politics. I could never mention that prior to
19 this moment, so that she didn't get in trouble.
20 Most of the outburst you heard from me, I got from
21 Carol. On the real side, she is just a real
22 person. We had a very real relationship and we
23 disagree—agree most of the time. The few times we
24 did disagree, it was very respectful, and so I
25 want to wish you the best wherever you go, and

2 you're going to be missed.

3 [applause]

4 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Council Member
5 Dickens?

6 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Carol, it
7 has been a pleasure over the years of working with
8 you. You're brilliant. You know how to tell the
9 City Council Members they're wrong, and you make
10 us think it came up from us. You're excellent at
11 that, and we appreciate your hard work and your
12 dedication. Whether we agreed or didn't agree
13 with what your assessment was, the bottom line is
14 you were truthful, you were honest, and you did it
15 respectful regardless of what you had to do. I
16 want to say thank you. I do salute you. I do
17 wish you well. I think you've got a lot of nerve
18 leaving us, but that's okay. We'll try to get
19 along without you. I don't know if we will, but
20 we will try to get along without you. Thank God
21 we've still got Gail [phonetic]. So thank you,
22 Carol.

23 [applause]

24 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I'm going to
25 allow Council Member Koo to say a couple of words.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you.

3 I'm a new Council Member. I only know Carol for
4 two years, but because our city has dedicated
5 workers, civil servants like her, our city remains
6 a great city in the world because elected
7 officials come and go—four years, eight years.
8 Even the mayor comes and goes—four years, eight
9 years—

10 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: [Interposing]

11 12.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: But they are
13 here to provide a - - of city government. They're
14 the backbone of government. So thank you, Carol.
15 Thank you for your dedicated service for over 20
16 years. 20 ½ years. That's a long time. So on
17 behalf of my district, thank you for your
18 wonderful service, dedicated service to our city
19 that makes our city one of the greatest cities in
20 the world. Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: I would just
22 like to say how wonderful it's been to be able to
23 work with Carol over the last two years. Carol
24 has been with this Subcommittee since she was in
25 third grade in 1994.

2 [laughter]

3 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Not second
4 grade, third grade. Her expertise and her
5 willingness to show me the ropes and to tell me
6 what is what has been invaluable to me and I will
7 be forever grateful. For the record, I never have
8 disagreed with you. I always agree with you.
9 It's really just been a great joy for me to work
10 with you and I want to thank you for really
11 guiding me in this role, and for your kindness to
12 my staff, responsiveness to any issue at any time.
13 This city has been well served by you. The city
14 is a better place for your service and so I want
15 to thank you very much on a personal level, on a
16 professional level and on behalf of my staff and
17 the constituents that I represent. As a small
18 token, we went out and got you some flowers.

19 [applause]

20 CHAIRPERSON LEVIN: Thank you very
21 much, Carol, and you're going to tell me what to
22 say. We're going to close the hearing and adjourn
23 the meeting. Thank you very much, Carol.

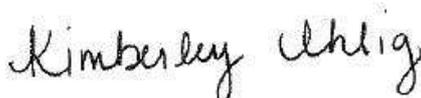
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.Date 1/4/12