

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

-----X

February 10, 2012
Start: 1:40 p.m.
Recess: 2:15 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Elizabeth Crowley
Julissa Ferreras
Vincent J. Gentile
James Vacca
Daniel Dromm
James G. Van Bramer

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

John Mulve
Legislative Aide
Council Member Daniel Halloran's Office

Christopher Campisi
Board Member
Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society

Elliot Socci
President
Douglaston Civic Association

Julia Schoeck
Board Member
Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society

Joan Helman
Concerned Citizen

William Seavers
Concerned Citizen

Michelle Nero
Concerned Citizen

CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Hi.

Good afternoon, everybody. I'm Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito. I'm chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation and today we will be listening to—we're having a hearing on two bills. The first bill is Intro No. 761, which is going to co-name 33 thoroughfares and public places through the city of New York. The second bill is Intro No. 448, sponsored by Council Member Halloran and Council Member Koo, which will rename six streets in Queens back to their historic original names. I know we have a lot of representatives here from the Douglaston [phonetic] Civic Association, so I really want to thank you for being here. I know this has been a long time coming, and I had had conversations with Council Member Halloran that I was committed to pairing this up with our street naming bill because it seemed appropriate and we do those hearings about twice a year. I thank you all for coming, and so at that point, I'm just going to actually convene and ask the people that are here to testify on these street namings. I think I'm going to first ask the representative for Council Member Halloran—I think you wanted to

1
2 say a few words. Council Member Halloran had a
3 personal meeting today. He really could not
4 reschedule, but this is very important to him. I
5 had spoken to him before today and so, I don't
6 know—John Mulve [phonetic] representing Council
7 Member Halloran will have his brief statement on
8 his behalf and then we'll open it up to the others
9 that are here to testify.

10 JOHN MULVE: Thank you, Madam
11 Chair. As the Chair said, the Council Member had
12 an unavoidable scheduling conflict, so he asked me
13 to come and speak on his behalf. My name is John
14 Mulve, I am Council Member Halloran's legislative
15 aide. I'm going to read a statement the Council
16 Member prepared.

17 Chair Mark-Viverito, today we will
18 hear from the family and friends of dozens of New
19 Yorkers who have dedicated their lives to the
20 service of their community, New York City and the
21 world. These individuals undoubtedly had a
22 positive impact on the lives of those around them.
23 The Council will then vote to bestow unique honor
24 on them by co-naming a street after them, so that
25 their legacy can live on. We're also gathered to

1
2 discuss Intro 448, a local law that will amend the
3 City Map to restore the historic names of six
4 streets in my district. This bill will seek to
5 help preserve some of the unique historical
6 character of Douglaston Queens, a community that
7 was first settled in 1656 has remained largely
8 unchanged since the mid-1800s. Douglaston is home
9 to two recognized historic landmarked communities
10 and the residents take this landmark designation
11 extremely seriously. Everything from the original
12 cobblestone curbs to the massive tree canopy
13 remind visitors of a much simpler time. As with
14 many other communities, including right outside
15 this building in lower Manhattan, the original
16 settlers named streets after things that they
17 encountered on a daily basis or after prominent
18 families that owned property in the area. When
19 the village of Marathon, now known as Douglaston,
20 mapped their properties in the early 19th Century,
21 every street was given a name. Over 100 years
22 later, the city determined that numbering streets
23 was more efficient and allowed for greater ease
24 for traveling and following directions. Unlike
25 the grid pattern that shapes most of New York

1
2 City, Douglaston is a small community of short,
3 winding streets that often don't go further than a
4 block or two. The entire community of Douglaston
5 is about ten blocks long, north of Northern
6 Boulevard and cut off from the neighboring areas
7 by the Long Island Rail Road. In fact, there are
8 only two routes into and out of Douglaston, one of
9 which is a back, winding road known only to the
10 locals. Despite the city's insistence that every
11 street be given a numerical designation, the
12 community of Douglaston has been fighting to keep
13 and then subsequently to restore their historic
14 street names for nearly 100 years. Through the
15 efforts of Council Member Matthew Troy [phonetic]
16 in the early 1970s, many of these streets were
17 restored to their historic names. Over the past
18 four decades, other Council Members, including my
19 predecessor, have attempted to finish restoring
20 the historic names of these streets with none or
21 with limited success. The map change that we are
22 discussing today represents the final restoration
23 of the historic names for this community.
24 Prospect Avenue, Hamilton Avenue, Orient Avenue,
25 Church Street, Pine Street and Poplar [phonetic]

1
2 Street will join existing street names such as
3 Cherry, Ridge, Forest, Manor and Shore. My office
4 has reviewed and would happy to provide to you
5 maps and other historic documents from as early as
6 1853 and as late as 1934 showing these historic
7 names. The Douglaston Little Neck Historical
8 Society has been tireless advocates for this
9 historic restoration and protection. This bill
10 have a very miniscule cost impact on the city and
11 will go a long way to preserving our community's
12 heritage and history. This bill has unanimous
13 support from the community and from other elected
14 officials. In addition to the Little Neck
15 Douglaston Historical Society, the bill has the
16 support of local civic association and Community
17 Board 11 in Queens. I'm in receipt of letters
18 from numerous residents of Douglaston as well as
19 Congressman Gary Ackerman and Assembly Member Ed
20 Bronstein. Unfortunately, I am unable to be with
21 you in person. I had previously planned to attend
22 this hearing when it was scheduled earlier this
23 week, but the rescheduled time conflicts with a
24 proceeding at the New York State Supreme Court,
25 which I was not able to reschedule. I express my

1
2 strongest support for this bill and I wish to
3 thank Council Member Mark-Viverito for scheduling
4 this hearing and for voicing her support of the
5 bill, Speaker Christine Quinn for bringing the
6 bill to a vote later this month, Council Member
7 Peter Koo for his support as a co-sponsor, and to
8 Pat Mulvehill [phonetic], Chris Sartori
9 [phonetic], Jeff Haberman [phonetic] and all the
10 other Council staff that has worked to make this
11 bill a reality. I look forward to voting yes in
12 the near future. Dan Halloran.

13 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
14 you, John, very much for those words on behalf of
15 the Council Member and with that, I know we have a
16 couple of people here to testify and I think you
17 know, this—we do these as I said, street namings,
18 and this is a separate bill, but related, twice a
19 year, and I think it's always great because you
20 really get to learn about the contributions of
21 individuals and having streets named after them,
22 but in this case, learning a little bit about the
23 history of your community and obviously of New
24 York City is really interesting as well, so thank
25 you all for your efforts, and I'm sure you'll be

1
2 happy when this is finally done. I'm going to
3 call first three people to testify. We have Julia
4 Schoeck [phonetic], Christopher Campisi
5 [phonetic], Elliot Socci [phonetic]. I'll have
6 those three first. If you can come to the table
7 to testify... Sorry if I mispronounced your names.
8 Whenever you are seated, anybody can feel free to
9 begin. Please when you start testifying just
10 mention your name please for the record. We've
11 been joined by council Member Danny Dromm.

12 CHRISTOPHER CAMPISI: Thank you,
13 Madam Chair, my name is Chris Campisi. I'm a
14 resident of one of the streets that's affected by
15 this bill, Prospect Avenue, also known as 240th
16 Street. I have served for many years as a board
17 member of the Little Neck Douglaston Historic
18 Society as well as a founding member of the local
19 development corporation of Douglaston. I know my
20 compatriots here and my neighbors are going to
21 speak a lot about the historic aspect of it—the
22 fact that we've taken many years to both get our
23 neighborhood historic district status and the work
24 that's gone into that and the importance of
25 restoring these street names to unify that

1
2 process. One of the things that I wanted to add—
3 not expecting to go first in this testimony—was
4 from a practical standpoint how important this is.
5 My family has lived in a house on Prospect Avenue
6 for almost 60 years. My daughter is the fourth
7 generation in that house. One of the things that
8 I've noted living their my whole life is that for
9 the first 50 out of the 60 years that we lived
10 there, the street name was nice to have because
11 we're also known by both addresses—240th Street and
12 Prospect Avenue are the way our house is listed on
13 the front of the home. It wasn't until the last
14 ten years that this problem really became a much
15 more acute one and something that really needs to
16 be addressed in an action such as this bill. The
17 fact is with the development of GPS systems, with
18 the development of automated maps as the United
19 States Postal system goes to computerizing its
20 databases, we've really had difficulty with things
21 like mail delivery, with things like UPS, with
22 things like FedEx, trying to find out where we
23 are, who we are, how do you packages to us. This
24 is not just at holiday time when the drivers
25 aren't the same, the mail people are different.

1
2 It's become an ongoing thing as databases get
3 expanded, every car has GPS and nobody can seem to
4 find out where we are and how we exist. I'm
5 speaking to this from a practical standpoint. I
6 think this bill is incredibly important. It would
7 go a long way towards unifying this neighborhood
8 with the other neighborhoods in Douglaston or the
9 other streets in Douglaston that have actual names
10 rather than numbers, and it would help us in terms
11 of the development of electronic means to sort of
12 locate addresses. That's going to be my..

13 ELLIOT SOCCI: My name is Elliot
14 Socci. I am president of the Douglaston Civic
15 Association. I hasten to state I am not a
16 resident of the area requesting the restoration of
17 street names to their original state; however, I
18 do support the restoration of the street names.
19 It is important to note that the area, known as
20 the Douglaston Hill District, has attained New
21 York City Landmark status--not the entire area, but
22 a significant portion is landmarked. The criteria
23 for attaining land marking is that the area has a
24 sense of place--from its original development,
25 particular types of architecture represented in

1
2 the neighborhood, the tree lined streets and the
3 general appearance all contributed to a sense of
4 place. In some measure, the street names also
5 contributed to this sense of place. All of these
6 characteristics capture a bygone era for this
7 community. Removing the original street names
8 diminished what the residents had been trying to
9 preserve. Restoring the original street names
10 would restore the historical sense of the
11 community and restore the original sense of place.
12 To that end, I request that the original names be
13 restored. Thank you.

14 JULIA SCHOECK: Good morning. I'm
15 Julia Schoeck. I was the president of the
16 Douglaston Little Neck Historical Society. I'm
17 still on their board. This is an issue that we've
18 worked so hard for many years through many
19 political people and many organizations and we're
20 just so pleased to see this actually come to this
21 stage where we're having a hearing about it. Also
22 I'm so glad that we have not fewer than ten people
23 here to represent our interest, and also another
24 letter from someone who lives on Pine Street,
25 which is one of the streets involved here, and she

1
2 is writing a letter saying we want our Douglaston
3 address street names to be changed and back to its
4 historic original name, Pine Street - - thoughtful
5 enough to write this letter so that we could
6 present it today. We are pleased to be here and
7 we look forward to what happens next and thank you
8 very much.

9 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Well, I
10 just have one question, Ms. Schoeck. I have a
11 feeling based on how you were directing everyone
12 else that you've been in this for a while, but
13 just a question. I'm just curious myself, what
14 have been the delays in getting this done over the
15 years?

16 JULIA SCHOECK: Well, it first went
17 to Councilman Avila [phonetic], and it was
18 progressing, and somehow it got lost in the
19 shuffle. I don't know why, and a date was
20 established and then postponed, and then he turned
21 it over to Councilman Halloran, and so he sort of
22 had to start from square one. Like everything
23 else today, it takes time, but he was able to
24 achieve it and we're glad to be here today to see
25 what's happening. I don't know what other

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

possible reason could there be for this.

CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: I don't know—it's the first time—'cause I've been chairing this committee now for just about a year now—over a year now, but it's a map change, which is the first usually that we've just done. The other street namings are just co-naming and the street keeps its original name. So this is an actual changing it, so that only one name exists, so it will hopefully streamline all of the confusion that's been indicated in the past. I'm glad that we're able to work to do this and I'm glad you're all here. This is a good showing. We do street namings and we may have one person that comes and represents, so it's a very strong showing to have over ten people on any one issue. Thank you for testifying. We'll call the next panel. We've got Joan Helman [phonetic]; M. Nero [phonetic] and William Seavers [phonetic].

[pause]

CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Anyone can feel free to start. Just, again, if you could just state your name at the beginning for the record.

1
2 JOAN HELMAN: Okay, Madam Chair,
3 Council Members, my name is Joan Helman. I live
4 at 240-34 43rd Avenue, which I hope to be renamed
5 Pine Street. I am of Access A Ride due to chronic
6 back problems. My late husband, Joseph Helman,
7 was also a client due to lung cancer. As such, we
8 used Access A Ride quite often for Joe's
9 chemotherapy radiation therapy, oncologist, and
10 hospital visits. Because the GPSs of Access A
11 Ride vehicles directed them to go to a dead end
12 street at 43rd Avenue in Little Neck and not 43rd
13 Avenue in Douglaston, I had to constantly call the
14 expediter at Access A Ride to say the vehicle was
15 not our house for our pick up. Then the expediter
16 would contact our driver to let the driver know
17 that he or she must get to Douglaston Parkway and
18 43rd Avenue regardless of the GPS directing the
19 driver to the dead end street in Little Neck. We
20 often had to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour until the driver
21 finally came our house. I thought I could remedy
22 this situation by having Access A Ride add to
23 their manifest that we were off Douglaston Parkway
24 and not Little Neck Parkway; however, the drivers
25 rely on their GPS and very rarely read the

1
2 manifest. One time a driver called me and said he
3 was at our address when he was at the Little Neck
4 area and that we were a no show. I told him I was
5 standing outside my house and he was not there,
6 and was actually at the wrong place in Little
7 Neck. He insisted he was at the right place and
8 that we were a no show and it would go on our
9 record. My husband who could hardly walk at that
10 time had to get to the train station in the rain
11 so that we could get to the Langone [phonetic] NYU
12 Cancer Care Center on 34th Street for his radiation
13 therapy. Crying and frustrated, I put in a
14 complaint to Access A Ride, but the added stress
15 it caused to an already stressful situation was
16 immeasurable. Had our street been named Pine
17 Street at that time, none of the problems with
18 Access A Ride would have occurred. There is no
19 Pine Street in Little Neck. The GPS of all
20 vehicles will be updated if our street will be
21 renamed Pine Street to show my street as Pine
22 Street as well as the other historic names in the
23 Douglaston Hill area. I still use Access A Ride
24 and dread calling for a pick up from my house. I
25 need them and should not dread calling for this

1
2 service I and others in my area require. We need
3 the historic name, Pine Street, and all the
4 historic names of the streets restored not just
5 because it is appropriate for this historic area,
6 but because all residents in the Douglaston Hill
7 district require the service—who require the
8 services of Access A Ride or ambulances must have
9 their health needs met immediately to ensure their
10 health and quality of life. Thank you.

11 WILLIAM SEAVERS: Good afternoon.
12 My name is Bill Seavers, and I'm a resident of
13 Douglaston Hill for about 50 years. I was
14 committee chairman who ran some of the research
15 that went into developing the data and historical
16 facts that made it possible for this area to be
17 designated not only by the City Council, but also
18 to place it on the national register of historic
19 places in - - . I thought that the letter that
20 Council Member Halloran wrote was exceedingly
21 generous and there is nothing else that can be
22 added to it, so kudos to him for what he put on
23 paper; however, I do have one thing that I'd like
24 to add to this proceeding and that is something
25 that everybody in the room probably is familiar

1
2 with - - the name Willis [phonetic]-Willis Points,
3 Willis Farm-he is known throughout Queens as part
4 of the history. I'm showing you now the original
5 map, which I obtained at the topographical office
6 in the Queens borough president's office. This is
7 the original map that he prepared, and it
8 subdivides a farm that was owned by a farmer by
9 the name of Jeremiah Lambertson [phonetic], and
10 Jeremiah Lambertson deserves more credit than he
11 has gotten because he-nobody is acquainted with
12 him anymore. He had a son who did a great deed at
13 Shiloh [phonetic], and he also was very sensitive
14 to his environment when this subdivision was
15 created. I think it's worthwhile to mention that.
16 This is the original document. I have nothing
17 further to add except to thank you for your
18 graciousness and the willingness to proceed in
19 such rapidity. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Well,
21 thank you all. Am I assuming that that map has
22 the names of the original streets? Okay - - okay.

23 WILLIAM SEAVERS: I'm prepared to
24 give you a copy.

25 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Oh,

1
2 that's wonderful. Well, thank you. I know that
3 with your testimony, it concludes the testimony
4 for the Douglaston renaming, so again, I want to
5 thank everyone that's here. I know Ms. Nero,
6 you're next and you're speaking on the other bill,
7 which is the co-namings of streets. I just want
8 to recognize Council member Jimmy Van Bramer is
9 here and Council Member Rose Mendez, who is not a
10 member of this Committee, but does a street naming
11 in this bill and she does have some words that she
12 wants to share, but Ms. Nero, the floor is yours.

13 MICHELLE NERO: Okay, I want to
14 thank you, Madam Chair and Committee for seeing me
15 today. I'm here as you mentioned to talk about
16 co-naming a street for my father, Reginald Nero
17 [phonetic], so I prepared a short little pictorial
18 summary of my dad's work in the community for the
19 past 60 years. As it shows in the beginning he
20 was a World War II veteran.

21 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO:
22 [Interposing] I'm sorry, if you could just state
23 your name 'cause you didn't... for the record, and
24 then just keep going.

25 MICHELLE NERO: I'm sorry.

1
2 Michelle Nero. Okay. He was a World War II
3 veteran. In the war, he had boxing tournaments
4 for the troops. He helped organize those. 1949,
5 he came out of the army. He started the Brooklyn
6 Wings female basketball tournament in Brooklyn.
7 In 1951, he found himself working for Dupont
8 [phonetic] on Wall Street, and he started the Wall
9 Street League of male basketball championship, and
10 that's in the packet as well. Later on the '60s,
11 he became a civil servant and he worked as an
12 assistant gardener for the Parks Department of New
13 York. He found himself in East New York in 1967,
14 and I have included a letter from Frank Ericali
15 [phonetic] asking from the Mayor's Office, and
16 they were asking if he could start a youth program
17 in the area. Later on, he was transferred to
18 another park, Ebbet's Field Park [phonetic] in
19 Brooklyn and there, he started the basketball
20 tournaments as well as soccer - - , double dutch,
21 paddleball, track, art shows and chess. My
22 father's vision as that parks are for families, so
23 he started out with the basketball tournaments to
24 get the young men involved in basketball because
25 he felt that that was very important for them to

1
2 engage in something that was positive, but as they
3 started coming, then he would say, "bring your
4 wife, bring your sister, bring your children," and
5 then he set up bleachers, so that the whole
6 community then became involved and it wasn't just
7 the young men getting off the street, but it was
8 the whole family. It was a family atmosphere. He
9 would have balloons. He would have flags. He did
10 all types of things. In the '80s, he found
11 himself transferred to Wingate Park [phonetic],
12 where he worked with State Senator Marty
13 Markowitz, out of the Wingate Park area, and he
14 had then some of his alumni move to Queens to Rego
15 Park, and they asked him, "Nero, can you come out
16 to Rego Park? Can you start the basketball
17 tournaments for us out there?" This is my father's
18 legacy. He went from Wall Street, to East New
19 York, to Ebbet's Field, to Wingate Park, to Rego
20 Park—wherever he found youth. His philosophy was
21 "youth and sports." That was going to help them to
22 learn the things that he thought was important,
23 and that's teamwork, sportsmanship and self-
24 respect. Some of the other things that my father
25 did - - you probably say, "Well, how did he get

1
2 any more time," but that's my dad. 1969, he was
3 on the steering committee that started Medgar
4 Evers College in Brooklyn. 1993, the community
5 rewarded him by putting him on the wall of
6 distinction, which is a big wall in Brooklyn. It
7 was the Bedford bowl [phonetic], and they had
8 murals of different people on there like Jesse
9 [phonetic] Owens, Nelson Mandela, and they put my
10 dad up there. 1994, he decided that he was going
11 to start some jazz on the steps of Medgar Evers
12 College, so him and two other friends - - Lucas
13 and Reggie Green took money out of their pockets
14 and had some musicians come down in the summer to
15 play jazz for the people of the community. In
16 2000, the New York Historical Society contacted us
17 and they wanted to put him in their exhibit called
18 "Unsung Heroes," so they came, they took pictures
19 and photos, and so my father's picture hung in the
20 New York Historical Society gallery. This is just
21 a brief overview of the man called Reginald Nero.
22 Youth and sports he believed was the formula for
23 success. He was only 5'1", but he walked among
24 giants. His motto "respect, family and fun." This
25 was Reggie Nero, and I'm very proud of him and I

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

wish you could have met him. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Thank you, Ms. Nero. That's wonderful and very much worthy of a street co-naming, so thank you for sharing that. Thank you for taking the time. Not everybody does, and that means a lot as well. So thank you all for testifying, and I'll turn it over now to my colleagues, who I think have a few words. Rosie Mendez, I know wanted to say a few words and then Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. Okay, she'll defer to you, Jimmy, since you're a member of the Committee. Thank you, Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you to my colleague, Rosie Mendez, for being overly gracious and allowing me to go first. I wanted to just mention a couple of things. One, I am sponsoring the renaming of a street in Long Island City in the Queensbridge section of my district for Bishop Moses Taylor and Bishop Taylor founded the Center of Hope International, which is a very, very significant congregation in my district that today is run by his son, Bishop Mitchell Taylor and

1
2 Bishop Moses Taylor founded the church in a home
3 with just a few members and he and now his son
4 have grown it into a terrific organization that
5 really helps all of the people in my district, but
6 most particularly those in public housing in the
7 Queensbridge and Ravenswood and Woodside houses in
8 addition to those in the Astoria houses, which is
9 not in my district. I spoke to Bishop Mitchell
10 Taylor as I was coming to this meeting today and
11 we talked a little bit about his father and this
12 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the
13 church and Bishop Mitchell Taylor's 25th
14 anniversary as the pastor and we're going to—as
15 long as this passes, Madam Chair—we're going to
16 unveil the street renaming at the 2nd anniversary
17 of the credit union that was Bishop Moses Taylor's
18 dream that his son, Bishop Mitchell Taylor, was
19 able to successfully create and that we think is
20 going to be in April, so I wanted to mention
21 Bishop Moses Taylor and all that he has done for
22 my district and for the city and ask that everyone
23 join me in honoring his life and his legacy and
24 then I see also Kevin Czartyoryski [phonetic] is
25 here. This is Councilwoman Crowley's district,

1
2 and this one is very significant. Detective Kevin
3 Czartyoryski I knew personally and knew well. His
4 sister, Diane Ballack [phonetic] is a constituent
5 of mine, and president of the 108th Precinct
6 Community Council in Sunnyside. Kevin was a
7 police officer and he was a leader and he rushed
8 to the World Trade Center site after the buildings
9 collapsed. He stayed there for many weeks and
10 months and he came down with some horrible cancers
11 as a result, and died a very young man as a
12 result. He was also a gay man in the police force
13 and did so much with the hate crimes taskforce and
14 other things. I once inadvertently took a cruise
15 with Kevin. My partner and I were on a cruise and
16 Kevin and his sister happened to be on the same
17 cruise, so we had some fun together, but he was a
18 great man, and I'm really thrilled that Council
19 member Crowley has sponsored this, and I look
20 forward to honoring Kevin's life as well.

21 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Thank
22 you, Council Member. Council Member Mendez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you,
24 Chairwoman and thank you, my colleagues. I'm here
25 today to speak on behalf of former Councilwoman,

1
2 Miriam Friedlander. She was the Councilwoman who
3 represented District 2, which I represent now,
4 though back then, it was made up of what's now
5 District 1 and 2 when it was 35 Council Districts,
6 now we're at 51. She was member of the City
7 Council from 1974 until 1991—for 18 years, until
8 redistricting happened. She was at the time I
9 think one of three women on the City Council. She
10 passed away in 2009 shortly after my reelection.
11 She was one of my heroes. She was very
12 progressive, a feminist, a leftist, an advocate
13 for LGBT rights. She got into a lot of clashes
14 with then Mayor Koch and one of our local papers
15 quoted Mayor Koch as saying—if I could just read
16 this—he called her opinions sometimes misguided,
17 and her political judgment misguided, but “admired
18 her intensity in getting things done for her
19 community.” She certainly taught me a lot and I
20 was proud to have gotten to know her, work with
21 her, and have gotten her support and one of the
22 things I certainly remember, when I didn't live in
23 the district that I live in now, but when I lived
24 in Brooklyn across the river in Williamsburg, was
25 when she brought act up [phonetic] to City Hall to

1
2 take over the steps of City Hall and she stood up
3 and then in the Lower East Side we created the
4 first AIDs housing. So she was a big pioneer.
5 She got the City Council to create the Women's
6 Committee. It didn't exist--well, there were only
7 three women back then too. So she's a great hero
8 for many of us in the Lower East Side, and if I
9 could do half of what she did during my short term
10 on the City Council, I will accomplish a lot.
11 Thank you. Thank everyone for the opportunity to
12 speak on behalf of Miriam Friedlander Way
13 [phonetic] 'cause she always wanted it her way.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON MARK-VIVERITO: Sounds
16 like my kind of gal. Thank you, Council Member
17 Mendez. I think I had met her very briefly, but
18 definitely know the legacy of Miriam. I also just
19 wanted to comment on a street naming that Council
20 Member Inez Dickens has submitted and that we are
21 hearing as well today, Cheyenne Baez Way.
22 Cheyenne Baez is a young woman who unfortunately
23 was gunned down way too early, a victim of a stray
24 bullet, and actually she was very young at 17.
25 Her family lived in my district. The incident

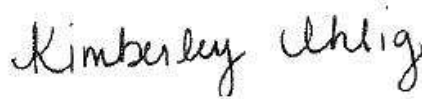
1
2 happened in Inez Dickens' district, which we are
3 neighbors in upper Manhattan, but this young woman
4 was very active in trying to mentor youth against
5 peer pressure, particularly around gang issues, so
6 it's very unfortunate, very sad that she died in
7 this fashion and we've been working really on the
8 issue of gun violence in our community and trying
9 to get people more involved. Her family, her
10 mother in particular, has been very vocal and very
11 active on this issue now based on her experience.
12 I wanted to definitely support that effort and
13 thank Council Member Dickens for shepherding that
14 through. With that, if there's no one else here
15 to say anything, we thank again everyone for being
16 here. This is the hearing. We will have--the
17 next meeting will be a vote on this matter and
18 we're hoping that we will be voting on all of
19 these bills in a very short period of time. So
20 with that, this hearing is adjourned.

21 [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

Handwritten signature of Kimberley Uhlig in cursive script, written over a horizontal line.

Date

2/27/12