

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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October 4, 2012
Start: 10:34 a.m.
Recess: 10:50 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Charles Barron
Council Member Inez E. Dickens
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Peter A. Koo
Council Member Brad S. Lander
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Mark S. Weprin
Council Member Jumaane D. Williams

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2 [pause, technical, pause,
3 background noise]

4 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Here we go,
5 good morning. We are convening the Land Use
6 Committee meeting for Thursday, October 4th, and
7 we will conduct, consider the following items.
8 And Land Use No. 680 in Council Districts 24, 28,
9 Gennaro and Wills. It's known as the Jamaica
10 Project within Queens, Community Board 12, Item
11 No. 20135029 HAQ, it's an exemption from real
12 estate taxes, an amendment to the urban
13 development area [laughs], for project located at
14 8906 138th Street, Block 9970, Lot 23; 107-05
15 Sutphin Boulevard, Block 190, Lot 21; and 107-08
16 150th Street, Block 10923--to exempt from property
17 taxes for properties that are being used for
18 community services. In Council Member Brewer's
19 district, District 6, Land Use No. 705, at
20 Manhattan Community Board 7, Item No. 20135017
21 HKM, the Riverside West End Historic District
22 Extension No. 1. This consists of the property
23 bounded by a line beginning at the northwest
24 corner of Broadway and West 79th Street, and
25 following everything that's on the text. Ha ha.

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2 In Council Member Quinn's district, we have a
3 sidewalk café known as Revel, Land Use Item No.
4 706 in Council District 3, Manhattan Community
5 Board 12, Item No. 2010505808 TCM. It's to
6 continue to operate a sidewalk café at 10 Little
7 West 12th Street. We have a rezoning in Council
8 Member Halloran's district, it's Land Use Item No.
9 709, Queens Community Board 7, Item No. 120138
10 ZMQ, it's an application by property
11 owner/landscaper, to change the zoning district,
12 from R4A to a M11, to be contiguous with the rest
13 of his properties. And then we have a, the
14 Bedford-Stuyvesant North Rezoning and Text
15 Amendment, which encompasses four members--Council
16 Members Vann, James, Reyna and Mealy; Council
17 Districts 34, 35, 36 and 41--they're Land Use No.
18 712 to 714, which are related, within Brooklyn
19 Community Board 3, Item No. C 120294 ZMK, Item No.
20 N 120295 ZRK, Nos. N 120296 ZRV. To take care of
21 the--Oh, ZR--I'm sorry, N 120296 ZRY, which
22 encompasses all the requirement for the Bedford-
23 Stuyvesant North Zoning, North Rezoning and Text
24 Amendment. Then we have, in Council Member
25 Vacca's districts, Land Use Item No. 717 in

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2 Council District 13, Bronx Community Board 11,
3 Item No. C 110401 MMX. It's to amend the City map
4 to involve the establishment of legal grades in
5 Marconi Street, north of Waters Place, in
6 accordance with Map No. 13133. Then finally we
7 have in Council Member Foster's District 16, Land
8 Use Item No. 718, Item No. 20135097 HAX, in Bronx
9 Community Board 5. It's to terminate in granting
10 of a new tax exemption for property located at
11 1664, 1694, and 1702 Davidson Avenue, Blocks No.
12 2861, Lots 10, 21 and 50, Borough of The Bronx,
13 Community Board 5. Everything has been vetted
14 thoroughly in the subcommittee meetings. I'll
15 announce now all the Council Members that are
16 here. Council Member Al Vann, Jessica Lappin,
17 Robert Jackson, Steve Levin, Jimmy Vacca, Brand
18 Lander, Mark Weprin, Charles Barron, Peter Koo,
19 Inez Dickens, Rosie Mendez--sorry, I was trying to
20 clear my throat--who's that, Dan Garodnick, Sara
21 Gonzalez, and Maria del Carmen Arroyo.
22 [background comment] I know, you were not late,
23 so, amen. [background comments, laughter] Again,
24 all of the items were fully vetted in the
25 subcommittee meetings, I want to thank the

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2 subcommittee chairs, I want to remind the members
3 that the next subcommittee meetings are scheduled
4 for October 23rd, unless something comes up as an
5 emergency. I would recommend an aye vote on all
6 items on today's calendar, and ask the Clerk, Mr.
7 Martin, to call the roll, please.

8 CLERK: William Martin, Committee
9 Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on Land Use.
10 Council Member Comrie.

11 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.

12 CLERK: Barron.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I would
14 just like to say to this--may I have your
15 attention, please? There's discussion down there.
16 [background comments] I just want to let y'all
17 know, and I know you're going to be very happy
18 about this, my birthday is Sunday, I'll be 62
19 years old, October 7th. [applause, cheers] Thank
20 you, thank you. [background comments, laughter]
21 Watch yourself, watch yourself, now. [laughs] I
22 am number one in building affordable housing,
23 number one.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I was
25 noting that usually Charles sits on one of the

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edges, but he's moving toward the center here,
maybe that's because as he ages, he's you know,
moving toward the center.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: As I age, I
get more wisdom. The center's going to be
radical. [background comment] Aye on all.
[laughter]

CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
all.

CLERK: Gonzalez.

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]
Aye on all.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER [off mic] Yes.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]
Aye on all and that's number one--aaaaa!

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [off
mic] Aye.

CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Oh, I'm
sorry, I--I was ready to, I really wanted--

CLERK: Hang on, hang on.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I don't
generally let men speak for me. [background
comments]

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Oh, sorry,
Jessica.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: [off mic]
Aye.

CLERK: Vacca.

COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [off mic]
Aye on all.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] Aye
on all.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye on all,
and I'd like to invite any sponsors of the bill
that would ban credit discrimination in employment
to come to our briefing at 11:00 a.m. on the 15th
floor.

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CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Apologies to Council Member Lappin, I was just so eager to vote aye on all. Thank you.

CLERK: Weprin.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: [off mic]
Jessica don't accept apologies.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Jessica, you want to vote for me, I'm used to having women speak for me, actually. Aye on all.

CLERK: Rivera.

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: [off mic] I vote aye.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: [off mic]
Aye.

CLERK: By a vote of 16 in the affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions, all items have been adopted. Members, please sign committee reports.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Pardon me, may I have an opportunity to vote, please?

[background comments]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Hey, whoa.

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[background comments]

CLERK: Council Member Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: May I explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: So ordered.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on all. [background comment] He did. I don't like - -

CLERK: [interposing] Current vote stands at 17 in the affirmative.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Members, please remember to sign the committee reports. I want to thank the staff, and I'm hearing that we are losing another member of the Land Use team. Christian Hilton has decided to move to the private sector. And today may be [background comments, boos, hissing] may be his last--today may be his last meeting. Christian Hilton has decided to move to the private sector. [background comments] I guess he wants to, he wants to be bored, he wants to be bored and not as active, and you know, get to work at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, I guess, - - but, anyhow, he will be missed, he was a quiet but substantial force

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2 here in the Land Use Committee, always
3 deliberative and focused on what he had to say.
4 He truly was a person that I enjoyed learning from
5 and sharing conversations with. He is a truly
6 grounded individuals, even though he's from
7 Brooklyn. [background comment, laughs] But--
8 yeah, yes, I come through Brooklyn every day.
9 Okay [background comment] I know, I know [laughs]
10 but, you know, I just found out that he is going
11 to be leaving us and moving onto new ventures.
12 Let's wish him well and [background comment] I
13 don't think he did. So, you know, but clearly he
14 is desirous to try something else after being here
15 for how long, Christian? How long were you here?
16 CHRISTIAN HILTON: [off mic] Six
17 years on this term.
18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Yeah, but he's
19 been here since the last administration, in
20 various capacities, since Peter Vallone, right.
21 Since, so he's been around, he's been around these
22 halls for a minute and [background comments] he's
23 moving. Yeah, so, we will never allow him to come
24 before the Committee, I think we're in consensus
25 about that. But Christian, it's been a pleasure

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2 knowing you and thank you for your service to the
3 City, 'cause working here is truly a labor of
4 love. And I understand you need to go make some
5 money. [background comment] Now that you got
6 married, I can understand the wife is putting
7 pressure on you for some dollars. [laughter]
8 For--Thank you for your service. Okay?

9 CHRISTIAN HILTON: Thank you.

10 [applause]

11 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: With that, the
12 meeting is, the hearing, the meeting is over. We
13 will hold the roll open for 15 minutes, as a
14 couple of members indicated they're on their way.
15 Thank you everyone.

16 [gavel]

17 [pause, background noise]

18 CLERK: Hello? Council Member
19 Reyna.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye on all.

21 CLERK: Vote now currently stands
22 at 18 in the affirmative.

23 [pause, background noise]

24 CLERK: Final vote in the Committee
25 on Land Use stands at 18 in the affirmative, zero

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in the negative, and no abstentions.

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[pause, background noise]

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Okay, this

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meeting is adjourned, thank you very much.

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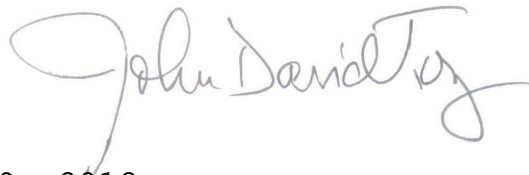
[gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date November 19, 2012