

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 27, 2012

Start: 3:01 p.m.

Recess: 3:27 p.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
LEROY COMRIE
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
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
Joel Rivera

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2 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay. We are
3 ready to start. It's 10 a.m. somewhere in the
4 world, but it's not 10 a.m. on the 27th anymore.
5 We are ready to start the Land Use Committee
6 Hearing for November 27, 2012. We are joined by
7 the very patient members, Council Member Daniel
8 Halloran, Rosie Mendez, Brad Lander, Mark Weprin,
9 Jimmy Vacca, Charles Barron, Jumaane Williams,
10 Inez Dickens, Robert Jackson, Vinny Ignizio, Diana
11 Reyna, Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Annabel Palma,
12 Joel Rivera, Sara Gonzalez, Al Vann, and also in
13 the room are Jimmy Van Bramer, Margaret Chin. I
14 think I have everyone that is in the room. We are
15 going to be voting in two sections on things
16 today. We have to vote first on the civic center
17 override. I would do a full explanation on that,
18 but suffice it to say that we are very
19 disappointed that the administration could not
20 come to a reasonable agreement with us regarding
21 the 22 Reade Street building. We believe
22 wholeheartedly that this is something the
23 administration should have championed to ensure
24 that there was a museum for the African American
25 burial ground that could have been set up and we

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2 are very disappointed that the administration
3 could not find a way to come to an agreement on
4 something that is so critical, even in this
5 difficult time. So we are asking first to vote on
6 a motion to file the Mayor's communication dated
7 November 19th, 2012 disapproving the Council's
8 action to disapprove the disposition of 22 Reade
9 Street as set forth in resolution 1578, Land Use
10 Item 721, coupled with a vote to repass the
11 resolution 1578, Land Use 721 notwithstanding the
12 mayor's objection. So this is to override the
13 mayor's objection to allowing the Council to not
14 allow the mayor to sell Reade Street. It's a lot
15 of double negatives there. We're going to do the
16 vote on that. An aye vote will indicate that
17 you're voting to do the override. Billy Martin,
18 please call the roll.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
20 Committee Clerk—

21 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: (interposing)
22 Well, actually, does any member want to make a
23 comment on this? Not too long 'cause folks...

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
25 very much. I just wanted to thank my colleagues

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2 for the stance they took regarding 22 Reade
3 Street. As I had mentioned at earlier hearings
4 that this is an area where African people who
5 built New York City, there remains 20,000 under
6 the ground here, and in that particular area, 427
7 remains were in that area, and we simply wanted a
8 museum and community space for the people of that
9 community to have an international museum. There
10 is already some Congressional legislation claiming
11 that property for a museum and we wanted to
12 impress upon the mayor the importance of
13 respecting the black community and our history by
14 supporting a museum, and he played some games with
15 us and talked back and forth, but the bottom line
16 he is refusing to do that, and that is why the
17 override is important. I particularly want to
18 thank Council Member Margaret Chin. Council
19 Member Margaret Chin was working hard with us, and
20 her community wanted some space in that building
21 as well, and she has stood with us and supported
22 us with the museum, and we support her community
23 getting some space in that building as well. So
24 Margaret I just wanted to publically thank you for
25 your work and your ability to understand what we

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were going through and I encourage an aye vote on the override.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: [off mic) - their patience and understanding today as we try to work this out with this administration. I want to thank-

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON:
[interposing] - - .

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Sorry. I thought you were done.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I just want thank Inez Dickens and yourself as well. Particularly Inez you have given I think reasonable alternations and resolutions that the mayor should have accepted, so I want to thank both of you as well.

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Thank you. I want to make the same thank yous and I want to thank all of the members for their patience as we dealt with that matter. Now we will go through the rest of today-s Land Use agenda. Oh, I'm sorry. We have to call the vote on that particular item.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,

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Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on Land Use. Council Member Comrie?

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Gonzalez?

COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma?

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: [no

audible response]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: [no audible

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response]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: I vote yes

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to [off mic].

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

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COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: May I be

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excused to explain my vote? Thank you. I just

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wanted to also express my disappointment in the

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mayor on this. Having grown up in the public

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school system, which I think is a great thing, but

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there was definitely a lack of education around

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people of African descent and I think this would

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have been a great opportunity for the mayor to use

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this as what they call a teachable moment I

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2 believe, and I think he blew it on this. It's
3 very disappointing and hurtful to me that it seems
4 again the history of people of African descent are
5 not as important enough to be recognized in a way
6 that I think it should be. I'm very disappointed
7 in this. I vote aye and thank you to Council
8 Member Barron, Chin, Comrie and Dickens and
9 everyone else. Thank you—and Jackson.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, if I
12 could just briefly explain my vote, Mr. Chairman.
13 I am just disappointed that we didn't get there
14 because I want the record to reflect how hard many
15 of my colleagues and close we were to getting to
16 where we needed to go. I believe the building
17 ought be disposed of, and I believe that the
18 museum was a right way to go and my colleagues
19 came really close. If there is going to be blame
20 to go around I think we will back here again,
21 renegotiating this sale, but when you come to a
22 body at the very last minute and you say you want
23 to start negotiating at the very last moment, that
24 doesn't give this body the due respect it deserves
25 and the ability from which to negotiate, so I am

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2 telling you one thing that for the city population
3 to understand is that this Council was at the
4 table. We were very close to an agreement, but
5 the problem is when you come and you engage the
6 Council such late in time it makes it difficult
7 from which to have an agreement, but I hope we
8 will back here. It ought occur, and I think good
9 people on both sides will come together in the
10 future, and I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Halloran?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 18
14 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
15 abstentions, motion to file a mayor's message and
16 readopt Reso 1578 and Land Use 721 has been
17 approved.

18 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay. Now we
19 have the rest of today's Land Use calendar. I
20 want to thank all of my colleagues again and I'll
21 talk about it a little bit more in the chambers
22 just to move the agenda along. Today's Land Use
23 calendar, we are dealing—one minute, one minute,
24 one minute. If they ask for a one minute recess,
25 so - - . Nobody stepped too far.

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[long pause]

CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: We can restart. That was the blink for the blink; that was the blink for something else obviously. Today's Land Use agenda, we have Land Use Item Number 681, Hunter's Point South Phase I, Queens Community Board 2, motion to file per withdrawal. This is item number 20135038 HAQ. This was an application submitted by HPD for exemption of real property taxes. So this is a motion to file for a withdrawal. We have Land Use Item Number 708 for a sidewalk café in Manhattan Community Board 2. It's also a motion to file per expiration of time to act, was known as Juicerie, Land Use Item Number 20135026 TCM for a consent to maintain an unenclosed sidewalk café at 19 Kenmare Street. We have Land Use Item Number 725, Mercedes House in Manhattan Community Board 4, Item Number N120305 ZRM. It's an amendment to the zoning resolution relating to Article 11, Chapter 6, the Special Clinton District. This was dealing with the— regarding the horse stall location hat was being built by two trees [phonetic]. Land Use Item Number 727 is a 800 seat primary school located in

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2 Community Board 4. I believe that is Council
3 Member Reyna's district, Land Use Item number
4 20105658 SCQ to build a 800 seat primary school
5 located on the east side of 98th Street between 50th
6 and Christie Avenues. We also have another 444
7 seat primary school, Land Use Item Number 728 in
8 Queens Community Board 5, Item Number 20125527 SCQ
9 to locate the 440 seat school at 360 Seneca Avenue
10 in Queens in Community School District Number 24.
11 We also have Land Use Item Number 729, Hunt's
12 Point South Phase I, Parcel A, in Queens Community
13 Board 2, Council Member Van Bramer's district,
14 20135155 HAQ, and also Land Use Item Number 730,
15 which is coupled Hunt's Point South Phase I,
16 Parcel B, Land Use Item 20135156-Hunter's Point.
17 Sorry. Hunter's Point. Hunter's Point is in
18 Queens. Hunt's Point is in the Bronx. Item
19 Number 20135156 HAQ, and this is for the Hunt's
20 Point real estate properties on 1 Borden Avenue
21 and also at 150 50th Street, and I believe Council
22 Member Van Bramer wanted to make a comment on the
23 Hunter's Point. Do you still want to do that,
24 Council Member? Hunter's Point. Yes. Your turn.
25 Thank you. Hunter's Point South project.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'll be
3 very quick, and I just want to thank the Chair and
4 the members of the Land Use Committee, but this is
5 an important accomplishment on behalf of our
6 Community Board 2. I was on Community Board 2 and
7 its Land Use Committee when we fought for these
8 middle income apartments, Parcels A and B are 100
9 percent middle class housing, and it's about 1,000
10 units of affordable middle class housing, so I
11 want to thank the members of Community Board 2 in
12 Queens, our chair Joe Connelly, and ask all of you
13 to support this. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Would any
15 other member like to comment on anything else on
16 the agenda? Seeing none, I would recommend an aye
17 vote on everything on today's agenda. I want to
18 thank the subcommittee chairs for their hearings
19 on the matters, so that they were fully vetted. I
20 want to remind members that the next Land Use
21 Subcommittee meetings will be held on December 4th,
22 and the full Committee December 6th. Again, I want
23 to thank all of the members and everyone for your
24 patience today as we try to get to an agreement on
25 the civic center matter. With that, I'd ask the

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2 clerk to call the roll, and recommend an aye vote
3 on everything on today's calendar.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
5 Comrie?

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Aye on all.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no
13 on L.U. 729 and 730 and aye on the rest.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on
16 all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gonzalez?

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Palma?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Arroyo?

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye.

25 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens?

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COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [no
audible response]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander?

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: [no audible
response]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [no audible
response]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Williams?

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Halloran?

COUNCIL MEMBER HALLORAN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Levin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 16
in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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2 abstentions, all items have been adopted with the
3 exceptions of Land Use Items 729, 739 have been
4 adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, one in
5 the negative and no abstentions.

6 CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: Okay. We have
7 some members that went downstairs for the pre-
8 stated press conference. They will be back up in
9 a minute, so we will hold the roll open until
10 those that we know are in the building have had
11 the opportunity to vote. Again, I want to thank—I
12 didn't thank the Land Use staff. Gail Benjamin
13 and Ann and the team for everything that they
14 tried to do to inform us on everything we needed
15 to know so that we could act accordingly to that.
16 We are going to be moving straight into the Stated
17 Meeting, and looking forward to having an
18 expedited State Meeting. We will hold the roll
19 open for those members that are downstairs that
20 are on their way back upstairs. With that,
21 Council Member Garodnick is here.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
23 Garodnick, motion to file mayor's message and
24 readopt reso 1578 and L.U. 721.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 19 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, and all other items on today's agenda?

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COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: That vote now stands at 17 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions, again with the exceptions of Land Use Items 729 and 730, which are now adopted by a vote of 16 in the affirmative, one in the negative and no abstentions.

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[long pause]

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call, Committee on Land Use to file Mayor's message and readopt reso 1578 and L.U. 721. Council Member Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 20 in the affirmative on all other items on today's agenda. Council Member Lappin?

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COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: The vote now stands at 18 in the affirmative, zero in the

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2 negative and no abstentions and L.U. Items 729
3 and 730 now stand at 17 in the affirmative, one in
4 the negative and no abstentions.

5 [pause]

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation,
7 Committee on Land Use roll call to file mayor's
8 message and readopt Reso 1578 and Land Use Items
9 721. Council Member Vacca?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: the vote now
12 stands at 21 in the affirmative, zero in the
13 negative, no abstentions. On all other items on
14 the Land Use agenda, Council Member Vacca?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: All other items
17 on today's agenda are currently adopted by 19 in
18 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
19 abstentions again with the exceptions of Land Use
20 Items 729 and 730, which are now adopted by a vote
21 of 18 in the affirmative, one in the negative and
22 no abstentions.

23 [background conversation]

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Land Use Item
25 725, 727, 728, 729 and 730 along with L.U. items

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781 and 708, Council Member Dickens?

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member
Weprin?

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Those items are
now adopted by a vote of 21 in the affirmative,
zero in the negative and no abstentions, with the
exceptions of Land Use Items 729 and 730, which
are now adopted by a vote of 20 in the
affirmative, one in the negative and no
abstentions. Thank you.

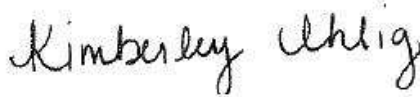
CHAIRPERSON COMRIE: I'm going to
close out the meeting. The Land Use Committee
meeting for November 27th, 2012 is hereby
adjourned.

[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

12/9/12