CITY COUNCIL CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

-----X

December 10, 2012 Start: 10:45 a.m. Recess: 11:30 a.m.

Council Chambers

City Hall

HELD AT:

BEFORE:

DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR. Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer Fernando Cabrera Leroy G. Comrie, Jr. Julissa Ferreras Lewis A. Fidler Vincent Ignizio Robert Jackson G. Oliver Koppell Karen Koslowitz James S. Oddo Diana Reyna Joel Rivera Albert Vann Mark S. Weprin

**Ubiqus** 22 Cortlandt Street – Suite 802, New York, NY 10007 Phone: 212-227-7440 \* 800-221-7242 \* Fax: 212-227-7524

## A P P E A R A N C E S

Samara Karasyk Asst. Commissioner of External Affairs NYC Department of Finance

Preston Niblack Finance Committee Counsel New York City Council

Emre Edev Finance Committee Analyst New York City Council

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 3
2	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Could
3	everybody come in and find their seat? All
4	members, please find your seat. All right, before
5	we get started today, I'd like to thank my entire
6	Finance staff under the leadership of Preston
7	Niblack and Deputy Director Jeff Rodus, and of
8	course my wonderful attorney, Tanisha Edwards, and
9	the entire Finance staff working extremely hard
10	these last few weeks, and I want to thank them.
11	Welcome to today's Finance hearing, my name is
12	Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., I'm the Chair of this
13	Committee. At this time I'd like to recognize all
14	those members who have joined us today, Council
15	Member Al Vann, Council Member Leroy Comrie,
16	Council Member Karen Koslowitz, Council Member
17	Julissa Ferreras, Council Member Joel Rivera,
18	Council Member Cabrera, Council Member Gale
19	Brewer, Council Member Jackson … did I miss
20	anybody? Okay. today there are several items on
21	our agenda. There is a BID item, a land use item,
22	transparency reso, expense budget modification,
23	the expense budget modification has nothing to do
24	with the November plan, just so everybody is clear
25	on that. This has nothing, there's nothing in

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 4
2	that mod that we're voting on to do with the
3	November plan, we'll take that up at a later time,
4	and we'll have full discussion on that with all
5	the members. We have three local laws on various
6	topics, and a resolution calling, relating to the
7	Congress to pass to resolve this fiscal cliff
8	issue and what's going on with the budget in
9	Washington. We've also been joined by Council
10	Member Jumaane Williams. Let's first start with
11	the BID item, proposed Reso 1587-A, that's
12	December 18 <sup>th</sup> , there's a date to consider local law
13	that would authorize an increase in the budget for
14	seven BIDs, these budget increases are being made
15	at the request of the properties within the BIDs.
16	The seven BIDs that requested a budget increase
17	are: Fifth Avenue, 47 <sup>th</sup> Street, Bryant Park,
18	Downtown Alliance, Kings Highway, and the North
19	Flatbush, and one in the Speaker's district,
20	Flatiron BID, in the Speaker's district. All the
21	Council Members who represent these BIDs have
22	submitted letters of support for the budget
23	increases.
24	Next we have Land Use Item, these
25	items provide a 32-year full property tax

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 5
2	exemption for the rehab of property located at 539
3	and 531 East 147 <sup>th</sup> Street in Council Member Carmen
4	Arroyo's district in the Bronx. This property
5	provides 20 units of rental housing to low-income
6	families, Council Member Arroyo supports this
7	item.
8	Before we move on, I just want to
9	also put on the record that Council Member Helen
10	Diane Foster is excused from today's meeting, I've
11	got a letter here, she had to go to Europe to pick
12	up her sister who was involved in a very bad
13	accident, and our prayers go out to the Foster
14	family and that her sister makes a quick recovery.
15	On the transparency reso, this
16	resolution sets new changes in the designation of
17	certain organizations receiving local aged and
18	youth discretionary funding, as well as new
19	changes in designation of certain organizations
20	receiving funding pursuant to certain initiatives
21	in the expense budget. Organizations appear in
22	the reso that have not yet completed the pre-
23	qualification, contacted by MOCS or any other
24	entity or City Council are identified with an
25	asterisk. Additionally, as with all transparency

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 6
2	resos, members will have to sign a disclosure form
3	indicating whether or not a conflict exists. If
4	any Council Member has potential conflict with any
5	of the organizations listed, he or she may want to
6	disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.
7	Please also disclose any conflicts you may have
8	with the subcontractors that are used by
9	organizations. This disclosure must be made
10	before the subcontract can be approved. Members
11	will be contacted by Council's Ethics and
12	Employment Counsel Nadir to complete disclosure
13	forms as necessary.
14	Our next item is an expense budget
15	modification 2013, the mod is necessary to fund
16	capital programs and initiatives and implement
17	many provisions that are reflected in today's
18	transparency reso, as well as those that were
19	reflected in the previous transparency resos. I
20	want to emphasize that this budget mod related to
21	Council programs only, this budget mod does not
22	address any actions reflected in the November
23	plan, like I said earlier. I repeat, this mod
24	reflects Council programs and discretionary
25	funding only. Having said that, this mod

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 7
2	transfers about \$7.78 million between agencies to
3	fund local initiatives and the net effect of the
4	mod is zero. For details about the programs with
5	the agencies that will see funding as a result of
6	the mod, please see Appendix A in the budget
7	modifications.
8	Now let's move on to the three
9	local laws. The first local law before I do
10	that, we've been joined by Council Member Jimmy
11	Oddo, the Minority Leader, we've been joined by
12	Vincent Ignizio from Staten Island, we've also
13	been joined by Lewis Fidler of Brooklyn. Our
14	first local law, sponsored by Council Member
15	Lappin and Garodnick, proposed Intro 926, extends
16	New York City biotech credit to December $31^{st}$ ,
17	2015, the city's biotechnology credit provides a
18	refundable credit up to \$125,000 to small
19	qualified emerging technology companies that focus
20	on biotechnology. Without this local law, the
21	credit would sunset at the end of this year.
22	Since the city's biotech credit was initially
23	authorized in 2009, the number of jobs in biotech
24	research has increased by 11.6%, and the number of
25	biotech firms has increased 27%. I thank Council

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 8
2	Member Lappin and Garodnick for sponsoring the
3	bill.
4	Our next local law is Intro 958-A,
5	sponsored by Council Member Oddo and Ignizio and
6	myself. The law requires the Department of
7	Finance to create and publish a brochure, The New
8	York City Property Tax System as it Relates to
9	Class 1 and Class 2 Properties. The brochure will
10	be published on DOF's website by January 15, 2013
11	for Class 1 properties, January 15, 2014 for Class
12	2 properties. Just so you know, Class 1 is one-
13	and two-family homes, Class 2 is co-ops and
14	condos. The property tax system is a very complex
15	system, and I want to thank the Department of
16	Finance Commissioner Frankel for working with the
17	Council to create and publish this brochure, so
18	that the public can better understand this
19	complicated system.
20	Our next local law is a pre-
21	considered intro that extends the due date for
22	payment of real property taxes for certain Class 1
23	and Class 2 properties affected by Superstorm
24	Sandy, and I want to thank Council Member Oddo and
25	State Senator Lanza for really taking the lead on

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 9
2	this. For property taxes due January 1, 2013,
3	this legislation extends payment without interest
4	or penalty to April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2013. The properties that
5	would be covered by this bill are Class 1, Class 2
6	tax lots that in the month of November, 2012
7	received a red sticker from the Department of
8	Buildings due to damage as a result of the effects
9	of Hurricane Sandy, or up until December 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
10	has received a red sticker from the Department of
11	Buildings due to damage as a result of the effects
12	of Superstorm Sandy, after having already received
13	a yellow sticker from the agency in the month of
14	November. Red stickers indicate that the
15	Department of Buildings has determined it to be
16	seriously-damaged and unsafe to enter, occupy or
17	have been completely damaged by the storm. Yellow
18	stickers indicate buildings that are less severely
19	damaged than buildings with red placards, but DOB
20	has still limited the use of the building and
21	requires the owner to make repairs. Many
22	individuals are still dealing with the effects of
23	Superstorm Sandy, I am hopeful that by extending
24	the due date for property tax payments this
25	legislation will provide some financial relief to

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 10
2	homeowners who are trying to rebuild their lives
3	around Superstorm Sandy. I want to thank the
4	administration for working closely with me,
5	Council Member Oddo, Council Member Ignizio, whose
6	districts suffered devastating effects by
7	Superstorm Sandy on this legislation, also Council
8	Member Eric Ulrich and Council Member James
9	Sanders, and Council Member Steve Levin, these are
10	all things that are really, really, you know,
11	devastating to the city.
12	Our next item is pre-considered
13	reso sponsored by Brad Lander, this resolution
14	calls on United States Congress and President
15	Obama to reach an agreement by the end of the year
16	on deficit reduction that would avert short-term
17	damage to the already-struggling economy, and
18	reach an agreement. The resolution urges Congress
19	and President Obama to consider minimizing
20	additional burdens middle-class, low-income
21	families and to prioritize broadly-shared economic
22	recovery.
23	These are the items on today's
24	agenda. We have people here to answer any
25	questions. We've also been joined by Council

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 11
2	Member Koppell. First we'll have questions. Does
3	anybody have any questions? I believe Gale Brewer
4	has a question, so we recognize the Council Member
5	from the upper West Side, Gale Brewer.
6	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you
7	very much. (microphone not working)
8	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Here,
9	Gale.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: My
11	question, thank you, my question is regarding the
12	really excellent idea on the tax abatement. How
13	does one communicate with those parcels, and how
14	do you keep people who don't deserve to get the
15	delayed opportunity away?
16	MR. NIBLACK: So I'm going to have
17	a representative from the Department of Finance
18	come up to talk about the measures that we'll take
19	on this to answer your question.
20	MS. KARASYK: Hi, Council Member,
21	I'm Samara Karasyk, Assistant Commissioner of
22	External Affairs with the Department of Finance.
23	For the deferred due date we are working closely
24	with the Department of Buildings, so there are 521
25	properties currently that were pulled, that were

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 12
2	marked, as red-tag properties according to the
3	Department of Buildings, and we haven't sent their
4	bills yet. When we do, they will have the delayed
5	due date of April 1 <sup>st</sup> . And then if there are other
6	properties that were yellow that become red over
7	the course of December until the $28^{ ext{th}}$ , we will let
8	them know that they are also delayed.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: But how do
10	you communicate with them if they maybe don't have
11	a mail delivery situation, etc.?
12	MS. KARASYK: One thing that we're
13	planning is working very closely with all of you,
14	and we're going to put a lot of information on our
15	website as well, to make sure that sort of through
16	those venues. We're also, we have information
17	that we're giving at the restoration centers which
18	we're working to finalize right now, to make sure.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I have
20	another question for Finance, can I ask that, Mr.
21	Chair?
22	MR. NIBLACK: Let me just add,
23	Council Member Brewer, we've discussed several
24	things internally that will follow up, we've had a
25	couple of conversations with the members also

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 13
2	about ideas we'll follow up on, so we'll continue
3	to talk with the Department of Finance about the
4	best way to reach out to people.
5	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. A
6	different question on Finance though, what is the
7	status with co-ops and condos in the three-year
8	abatement, so that they don't get caught up, not
9	in this hurricane issue, but in other issues? Can
10	you elaborate on that from the Department of
11	Finance's perspective?
12	MS. KARASYK: Yes, we're continuing
13	to bill as if the condo/co-op abatement were still
14	had not expired, and then, you know, we'll see
15	what happens in January.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.
17	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I just
18	want to recognize Diana Reyna and Jimmy Van Bramer
19	have joined us, Council Member Koppell has a
20	question.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL:
22	(microphone not working)
23	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Hold on,
24	can we get a microphone please? Sergeant-at-arms,
25	get him a microphone please.

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 14
2	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you,
3	Mr. Chairman. I didn't … I believe you announced
4	this budget modification that's part of the agenda
5	today, is that correct?
6	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: That's
7	correct, it has nothing to do with the November
8	plan.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: No, I
10	know, but I have a question, looking at the items
11	here.
12	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: There
14	maybe Preston can answer it, there's an item here,
15	it's on chart 8, and it says, it has two it
16	lists two different city agencies, one, I don't
17	know what New York City & Company is, but it's a
18	city-related agency in any event, and the
19	Department of Cultural Affairs, and it appears to
20	be a transfer of moneys from New York City and
21	Company to the Department of Cultural Affairs of
22	\$99,950.
23	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yes.
24	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Could you
25	explain that?

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 15
2	MR. NIBLACK: Yes, this is an item
3	that was added early on for an event called Design
4	Week, which was modeled sort of after Fashion
5	Week, intended to promote the design industry.
6	The New York City and Company turned out not to
7	have an appropriate 501C3 or similar eligible
8	charitable organization that could use the money,
9	so now the Department of Cultural Affairs will
10	either do a contract with NYC & Company or simply
11	procure on their behalf services and goods that
12	they need to do, to implement this program.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.
14	Chairman, I have some … Mr. Chairman, if I may.
15	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yes.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I have,
17	unfortunately, some serious concerns about the
18	manner in which the Department of Cultural Affairs
19	is conducting its mandate, and therefore on this
20	item I wish to vote no.
21	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: That's
22	fine, at the time you can vote any way you wish,
23	but we could talk about it afterwards, you know.
24	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Very good.
25	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay,

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 16
2	we'll follow up and see what your concerns are.
3	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you.
4	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: And
5	we'll take them, discuss it with the Commissioner.
6	Okay, I believe Diana Reyna has a question. Can
7	we give the Council Member a microphone please?
8	Billy, I'm glad to see, you're doing very well,
9	Billy. Maybe you should put a blue jacket on.
10	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I just
11	wanted to ask a question regarding the tax
12	deferral as far as properties are concerned, is
13	that going to include what would be small
14	businesses in designated M zones where there is
15	Hurricane Sandy-related damages and or is this
16	just exclusive to residential?
17	MR. NIBLACK: The property tax
18	relief that we're voting on today, and that we're
19	taking to Albany, applies only to residential,
20	Class 1 and Class 2.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: So that the
22	Class 2, if there's a small business within those
23	two categories, where there's a commercial
24	storefront and residential above that would be
25	Class 1, that would be picked up as part of the

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 17
2	property tax deferral?
3	MR. NIBLACK: Right, where's Emre?
4	I'm going to ask Emre Edev to come forward and
5	speak to that.
6	MR. EDEV: My name is Emre Edev,
7	I'm the analyst for the Finance Committee on
8	property tax. This applies just to Class 1 and
9	Class 2 properties. If there's a commercial space
10	in the Class 2 property, that would be covered,
11	it's still Class 2, as long as it's classified as
12	Class 2, so it's a technical definition, but it's
13	not specific towards small businesses in that
14	sense.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right.
16	MR. EDEV: If that's what you're
17	asking.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Right. And
19	is there going to be a future expansion of the tax
20	deferral for perhaps designated areas for property
21	owners in M zones to assist property owners there?
22	MR. NIBLACK: I think, given what
23	it took to get this particular action, I'm not
24	sure that I anticipate us doing any further tax,
25	property tax actions, to help businesses. I think

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 18
2	there may be other actions recognizing the
3	problem. Council Member Oddo, who is the sponsor
4	of this, raised this problem, issue, with this
5	also, you know, we're pursuing other things with
6	the administration regarding what we can do for
7	small businesses.
8	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Thank you
9	very much.
10	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Okay,
11	Council Member Leroy Comrie has a question. We
12	recognize the Council Member from Queens. Pass
13	over the mic.
14	COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.:
15	Actually the same question that Council Member
16	Koppell had regarding the money going from NYC &
17	Company to Cultural Affairs, and what it was being
18	used for. I don't have his addition I'm not
19	sure if his additional concern about Cultural
20	Affairs, I just wanted to make sure that New York
21	City & Company would be able to do everything that
22	they needed to do under their mandate, and so that
23	part of the question was answered.
24	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yeah,
25	they have indicated to us that they have enough

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 19
2	funding.
3	COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: Thank
4	you.
5	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: To do
6	everything they're required to do. Okay, does
7	anybody else have any questions? I know, Jimmy.
8	Does anybody have any questions? Seeing no more
9	questions, we recognize Council Member Jimmy Oddo,
10	he would like to say something. Go ahead. Here.
11	Here, Jimmy.
12	COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I got it,
13	thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want
14	to take a couple of minutes to address two of the
15	bills that the Republican delegation is enacting.
16	If I were in a better mood, I'd make a nice
17	irreverent joke about coalition government, but
18	it's not that kind of day. The first bill, which
19	requires the Department of Finance to prepare a
20	commonsense pamphlet results from, I think, a lot
21	of frustration that all of us feel twice a year
22	when property bills go out, and our constituents
23	think that we have once again raised their
24	property tax. I just find it kind of odd that in
25	a day and age when everyone in government talks

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 20
2	about transparency, the property tax process is
3	incredibly opaque. If you think about it, no one
4	makes a bigger investment in their lifetime, or
5	for the most of us, than their home. Yet the
6	process by which we pay taxes, not only does the
7	public not understand, I would defy anyone to ask
8	51 Council members and see how many of us get an A
9	in explaining this process. It is the result of a
10	few decades of city laws, state laws, court
11	decisions and lots of politics, and when those
12	bills go out, as they have in the last few days,
13	and your constituents and mine see that there is a
14	hundred dollar increase, they come to our district
15	offices and they say, "Why did you raise my
16	taxes?" And when you begin to explain to them, if
17	you can, the process, maybe 45 seconds into it
18	their eyes roll over and they consider you to be
19	the typical politician, overwhelming them with
20	words. So what we thought would be a small step,
21	an admittedly small step, is to have the
22	Department come up with a pamphlet, as best as
23	they can, to explain this process in plain
24	English. And the fact that the Department came up
25	with an 11 13, 13-page one-pager, tells you just

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 21
2	how convoluted this process is. This is a draft
3	of it, I can't show you or I'd have to put you in
4	a cobra clutch and make you tap out, because it's
5	not going to be released until January, but this
6	is how convoluted this process is, that the plain
7	English guide is 13 pages. I think that we all
8	need to become experts in this, and we all need to
9	try to educate our constituents in the process,
10	because if they want to change it, they can do two
11	things: they can elect a whole bunch of people who
12	see government the way I do, and there can be more
13	of us fighting for lower taxes that's not going
14	to happen in New York City or at least the
15	public can understand it, and maybe then they can
16	demand some sort of change, and maybe it truly can
17	be grassroots and from the bottom on up. So when
18	this comes online on the $15^{ ext{th}}$ , I encourage you to
19	get this in the hands of as many of your
20	constituents, let's help them, let's educate them
21	in the process, and then let's empower them, if
22	they want to change it, so be it. The second bill
23	is a little bit more if that was emotional, if
24	that weren't emotional enough, the second bill is
25	quite emotional. A few … a week or two after

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 22
2	Sandy hit, Senator Lanza and I, Andy Lanza, former
3	member of this body, were driving the impacted
4	community and we came upon what has now become
5	like an iconic picture, at least locally, on
6	Staten Island of what Sandy meant, and that's
7	Toto's Restaurant on Father Capodanno Blvd. If
8	you've seen the pictures you know the destruction.
9	And I've known John Toto for a long time, he … his
10	restaurant suffered three quarters of a million
11	dollars in damage, his home, which was located two
12	structures behind the restaurant, was completely
13	destroyed, and Andrew and I got out of the car and
14	we were talking to John, and John gave us a litany
15	of the challenges he's facing, and then topped it
16	off by saying, "And I have to pay \$13,000 in
17	taxes, property taxes for this restaurant." And
18	Senator Lanza looked at me, I looked at him, I
19	talked to Council Member Ignizio, and we called
20	Speaker Quinn and we said, "We have to give some
21	relief to the very folks who are hit the worst."
22	This is very limited in scope, and I appreciate
23	the questions from my colleagues, Council Member
24	Reyna in particular. When we started this, this
25	was about trying to help John Toto and his

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 23
2	business. We negotiated with the administration,
3	Preston did a great job, the Speaker did a great
4	job. If this were left to OMB, we'd have no bill
5	right now, and there'd be no relief. My hope is
6	that this Council, which has tried to demonstrate
7	in the last several years how in tune we are to
8	the importance of small business, goes back and
9	takes another bite at the apple, and has very
10	limited universe, very tailored in scope, relief
11	for the worst businesses. But this is a two-step
12	process, it's what the Council can do, delaying
13	the payments till April. We have signed on an
14	Assembly Member and a State Senator to carry
15	another piece of bill in the Legislature to
16	actually give a rebate, anyone who is interested
17	in the specifics, I won't bore you with them now.
18	but I just want to voice my appreciation to
19	Speaker Quinn for being open to the idea, for
20	Preston and the staff, and Chairman Recchia for
21	fighting for it. We made a commitment that we're
22	going to help the victims of Sandy every way we
23	can, this is a small slice of that total help, and
24	I appreciate the support of my colleagues.
25	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Thank

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 24
2	you very much, Council Member Oddo. Council
3	Member Vincent Ignizio wants to say something.
4	COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank
5	you very much, and our leader Oddo really said it
6	all, but I want to take the two bills separately,
7	I wanted to thank the Finance staff, and you,
8	Chairman Recchia, for being there, as well as
9	Tanisha, the whole way of making sure that we were
10	able to do this brochure and get it through the
11	process. With the Sandy victims, I mean, I just
12	wanted to give voice to my friend, Mike Abruzzo,
13	who lost his house on Yetman Avenue, it totally
14	doesn't exist any more. You saw him on Nightline
15	and on many of the national shows, this was across
16	the street from the home that we had two
17	fatalities in. And Mike said, "I have no money, I
18	have nowhere to go, and beyond that, I'm getting a
19	property tax bill that the city is making me have
20	to pay." And that is the voice of what really
21	spawned us having these conversations and, you
22	know, when we think about what happened in the
23	storm, we think about how the city cannot help
24	hurt people, and that's what it was really about
25	doing, about relieving some stress that they had

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 25
2	in their lives of paying their property tax bill,
3	and if that helps somewhat, I'm happy to have been
4	a part of it. And with regards to the businesses,
5	there definitely has to be a way that we can take
6	somebody's business tax bill, and give them some
7	relief. You can't turn around and say, "Yes, you
8	lost \$750,000-worth of your business, and by the
9	way, here's a \$20,000 tax bill." It's just not
10	the right thing to do. For everybody out there
11	preaching that we're going to be there for you,
12	well, there are some people in and around this
13	building that need to be there a little bit
14	stronger on this issue. Thank you very much for
15	the time, Mr. Chairman.
16	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Thank
17	you, Council Member Ignizio. I also want to thank
18	the Finance staff in doing a great job, and of
19	course Tanisha and everyone else, but I also want
20	to thank Emre. Where's Emre? You do a great job
21	in explaining the property tax and for helping
22	with that brochure, putting it together, I
23	personally want to thank you for that. All right,
24	we have all the thank yous, we have all the
25	recognitions, everybody's happy, let's call the

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 26
2	vote. Anybody else wants to say anything?
3	COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm not
4	really happy.
5	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I know,
6	but we're making progress, Jimmy. One thing, we
7	signed David Wright, so let's call the roll.
8	COMMITTEE CLERK: Wayne Martin,
9	Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on
10	Finance. Council Member Recchia.
11	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: I vote
12	aye and encourage all my colleagues to vote aye.
13	COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera.
14	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.
15	COMMITTEE CLERK: Reyna.
16	COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.
17	COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer.
18	COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye
19	and (inaudible) (microphone not on).
20	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: Yeah, I
21	believe yes, yes. Yes, we will see to it.
22	COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie.
23	COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE, JR.: I vote
24	aye.
25	COMMITTEE CLERK: Fidler.

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 27
2	COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I vote aye
3	and (inaudible) (microphone not on).
4	COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson.
5	COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye
6	on all and (microphone not on).
7	COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell.
8	COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I vote aye
9	on all except I would like to (inaudible)
10	(microphone not on).
11	COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann.
12	COMMITTEE CLERK: Ferreras.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.
14	COMMITTEE CLERK: Cabrera.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.
16	COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz.
17	COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.
18	COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.
20	COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO:
22	(inaudible) (microphone not on)
23	COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo.
24	COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: (inaudible)
25	(microphone not on)

1	COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 28
2	COMMITTEE CLERK: All items on
3	today's agenda have been adopted by a vote of 15
4	in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
5	abstentions, with the exception of pre-considered
6	budget modification related to MN1, and pre-
7	considered reso in relation to transparency, which
8	has been adopted by a vote of 14 in the
9	affirmative, one in the negative and no
10	abstentions, and the pre-considered resolution in
11	regards to the fiscal cliff has been adopted by a
12	vote of 13 in the affirmative, two in the negative
13	and no abstentions. Thank you.
14	CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA, JR.: This
15	meeting, we'll keep it open for till 11:30.
16	(pause)
17	COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: The
18	Committee hearing on Finance is now adjourned.

## CERTIFICATE

I, Richard A. Ziats, 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.

Richard ARe

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_December 19, 2012\_\_\_\_\_

29