

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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June 6, 2013

Start: 10:35 a.m.

Recess: 10:40 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Margaret S. Chin
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Vincent R. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Letitia James
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Albert Vann
Council Member Ruben Wills

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Ready to go?
[background noise] Just give me the finger when
you're ready. No, no, no, not that finger.
[laughter, background noise] No, we don't have
that. We're not there yet. Ready? Hi, good
morning, everyone. Sorry for the delay. My
name's Mark Weprin, I'm Chair of the Zoning and
Franchises Subcommittee of the Land Use Committee.
I'm delighted to be joined by the following
members of the Subcommittee here today: Council
Member Rivera, Council Member Reyna, Council
Member Vann, Council Member Garodnick, Council
Member Lappin and Council Member Ignizio. This is
the continuation of a recessed meeting from
Tuesday. We have a couple of items just to take
care of before we have some people who have to
vote, as well. Council Member Chin has a
statement she wanted to read on the hearing we
heard the other day, and approved for Land Use No.
837, the Water Street Pops Text Amendment that we
were happy to have. And Council Member Chin has a
statement she'd like to read. Council Member.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you,
Chair Weprin. 'Cause I can't stay for the Land

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2 Use Committee, I just wanted to have my colleagues
3 support this and read this statement into the
4 record. Good morning, thank you to the Chairs for
5 giving me this opportunity to speak on this
6 application. I would also like to thank Mayor,
7 the Mayor's Office, the EDC and the Department of
8 City Planning for working with the Lower Manhattan
9 Community to craft a proposal before you. This
10 text change, while only a pilot program, was done
11 by the City in response to damage caused by Super
12 Storm Sandy. When Lower Manhattan was shut down,
13 the City heard our cries for assistance. We look
14 at the impact Sandy had on our small businesses,
15 we know that in order for businesses to thrive
16 again, we had to do something to bring foot
17 traffic back downtown. Like all those affected by
18 Sandy, we knew that something need to be done to
19 enliven our street, bring people to the businesses
20 affected, and to show everyone that we are back
21 and better than ever. This application will build
22 further flexibility into the kind of events that
23 can be held in the plaza, in our case, along Water
24 Street. From the Bowery to the Seaport, this
25 amendment will allow for immediate programming of

1 the Water Street privately owned public spaces,
2 following Super Storm Sandy. It will be effective
3 only for this summer, fall and holiday season.
4 This text amendment will bring vibrancy and life
5 back to the small businesses of Lower Manhattan
6 community. It will also bring cultural
7 programming and imaginative creation to our street
8 for kids and parents alike. I believe that this
9 program will show families, workers, and visitor
10 who come to the financial district, all that Lower
11 Manhattan has to offer. This amendment will
12 showcase the cuisine, the culture, the resiliency
13 of the first council district, local arts groups,
14 local artists, chefs. An innovative streetscape
15 design will create the kind of environment that we
16 dream can exist in our neighborhood streets. When
17 my committee toured the Seaport neighborhood with
18 the Small Business Committee chaired by Council
19 Member Reyna, we saw shops devastated. Water and
20 electrical damage and virtually every building
21 along Water Street were being dewatered and
22 emergency generators crowding the street. When we
23 called, the City responded. By working with the
24 Alliance for Downtown New York, the Lower
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2 Manhattan Cultural Council, Community Board One,
3 local businesses and residents, to find a way to
4 attract commerce and create programming that will
5 treat our taste buds and reach our children's mind
6 and even exercise our bodies. This is the kind of
7 collaborative work we need all the time, to
8 improve our neighborhood, and I wholeheartedly
9 support this inventive pilot program, and ask that
10 my colleagues support this application. Thank you
11 so much.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you,
13 you're welcome, Council Member Chin. Thank you.
14 I would like now to remind the members that last
15 time we had two items that are laid over to--Land
16 Use No. 821, which was the telecommunications
17 franchise agreement; and then the big item that we
18 heard the hearing already, 829, 830 and 831, which
19 is known as BAM South. That will not be taken up
20 today. I'd like to now call on Counsel to please
21 call the roll of those members who were not here
22 for the actual vote at the last meeting, who would
23 like to cast their vote now.

24 COUNSEL: Council Member Vann on
25 all previously adopted items.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye on
3 all.

4 COUNSEL: Council Member Ignizio on
5 all previously adopted items.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]
7 Yes.

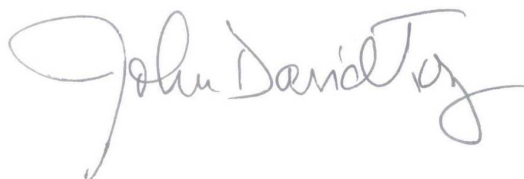
8 COUNSEL: On Land Use Nos. 827,
9 832, 836, 837 and 838, vote stands at ten in the
10 affirmative, zero negatives and zero abstentions,
11 and are referred to the full Land Use Committee.
12 Land Use Item 828 is a motion to file approved by
13 ten in the affirmative, zero negative, zero
14 abstentions, and referred to the full Land Use
15 Committee.

16 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: All right,
17 well thank you very much. With that, we are going
18 to adjourn the Subcommittee on Zoning and
19 Franchises, the Land Use Committee will
20 immediately follow, so we will adjourn. The next
21 date of our next meeting has not been established
22 yet. We will let you know as soon as we know.
23 With that in mind [background noise] We have no
24 new items on this agenda. So with that in mind,
25 the meeting is now adjourned. [gavel]

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 a dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed word "Signature".

Date June 25, 2013