

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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October 3, 2013
Start: 10:41 a.m.
Recess: 10:49 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
16th Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Daniel R. Garodnick
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
Diana Reyna
Albert Vann
Vincent M. Ignizio
Ruben Wills

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: ..Weprin; I'm Chair of the Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee and the Land Use Committee and I wanna welcome everyone here today. I wanna thank the members who were here yesterday for their cooperation on what was an extremely long day; just short of the longest day I've had, but many items, many issues and I know some members of the audience loved it so much they're back here today. And I wanna thank the Staten Island Delegation who's not here, for their cooperation as well, 'cause they hung in there till the end almost.

So, I am here today and joined by the following members of the Subcommittee for quorum purposes, Council Member Reyna, Council Member Lappin, Council Member Comrie, Council Member Garodnick, Council Member Wills and Council Member Ignizio and Council Member Vann... did I say Vann? Yeah... no I... I'm just doin' the Subcommittee; we do have other members of the Land Use Committee in the room; I hope they don't take offense if I don't mention them; they will be acknowledged soon enough.

Today I wanna... we had a number of items that we had hearings on that are outstanding; we are only taking one up today and that will be the

1 Memorial Sloan-Kettering CUNY number. You're not
2 only for my sake, right? Okay. The following items
3 which are outstanding are gonna be laid over until
4 our next meeting; that includes the Willets Point
5 Plan, the 22-44 Jackson Avenue, known as 5 Pointz,
6 Hallets Point, Adapt New York City, our micro units
7 that we heard yesterday, 203 East 92nd Street, in
8 Mr. Garodnick's area and Ms. Lappin's area and the
9 Waterfront Revitalization Program, as well as what we
10 heard yesterday as well, the St. George Waterfront
11 Development and the Charleston Development... speaking
12 of which, here is Vincent Ignizio. Did I mention him
13 already? Yeah. Okay.

14
15 So those items are not on today, but
16 today... oh no; sorry. The next meeting, public
17 service announcement, of the Zoning and Franchises
18 Subcommittee is scheduled for October 9th, which is
19 what, a week from yesterday? Right, Wednesday.
20 Okay, no... on this coming Wednesday, 9:45 at City Hall
21 and that'll be immediately followed by the Land Use
22 Committee, so those of you who are big fans of the
23 Zoning and Franchise Committee, 9:45 on Wednesday.

24 With that in mind, we are gonna do a... on
25 the... on the... We're gonna take up the MSK CUNY items,

1 which is Land Use Number 0885 to 0890; before... I'm
2 gonna call... no? Don't ask, no. You know, nature
3 calls; what can you do? No. No. So just for the
4 record on this item, there were issues we heard...
5 there were issues we heard that were concerns to the
6 community; this project does have a parking
7 management plan in place with is... working with MSK to
8 try to alleviate a lot of the parking issues, to
9 encourage employees to park elsewhere, as well as
10 other issues to do with valet parking and making sure
11 there are enough parking spots at given times.

12 We also are including a traffic study,
13 which is fully funded, to try to examine the traffic
14 issues that were raised. In addition there is a
15 guarantee that York Avenue will remain as it is, a
16 two-way street for the foreseeable future and then
17 the traffic study will be done.

18 With that in mind I wanted to call on
19 Council Member Garodnick who wanted to make a
20 statement as the neighboring council person.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you very
22 much, Mr. Chairman; I will be very brief. I just
23 wanna note that this passed by a very slim margin at
24 the Community Board and one of the reasons why there
25

1 was concern is one, which I think we will take steps
2 to address with this traffic study, which is; the
3 situation on York Avenue is extremely challenging and
4 we know that almost any time of day that is street
5 that because of all the activity with institutions
6 that are along the corridor really needs a plan to
7 address it. So I am encouraged and while this is not
8 an item that is in my district, I am encouraged by
9 the... for the presence of a traffic study and the
10 commitment of \$500,000 to do that and also the
11 commitment that there will be no changes to York
12 Avenue, as you say, for the foreseeable future;
13 perhaps ever, certainly nothing before everybody has
14 information as to what the opportunities are over
15 there.

17 The only other thing that I wanted to
18 note today was that there is implication for this
19 approval for the possibility of another sanitation
20 garage to be located on the east side of Manhattan
21 and there are... you know, there have been some
22 preliminary thoughts opposed for locating it at the
23 former site of the Brookdale Campus of CUNY, which
24 actually is still current and at some point former
25 site, and I think it's important for us all to note

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2 that when we're considering the redevelopment of a
3 site like Brookdale, we want to look at the entire
4 block, the full 1st Avenue to the East River, from
5 23rd Street to 25th Street and to the extent that
6 that is within any administration's plan to locate a
7 sanitation garage there, we wanna make sure we are
8 thinking about the entire block that will be within
9 the City's control and not just a sliver of the
10 block, for all obvious reasons.

11 So with that I'm gonna vote yes and will
12 look forward to a serious engagement with the
13 community on the subject of York Avenue and with the
14 Community Board, because that conversation needs to
15 be robust. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Great. Thank you
17 much, Mr. Garodnick and just to emphasize that last
18 point he made; any results of this traffic study will
19 be discussed and consulted with the Community Board
20 as to what action to be taken, based on whatever that
21 traffic study does say.

22 So with that in mind I'm gonna ask Ann to
23 please call the roll as we vote on these items, Land
24 Use Number 0885 to 0890 and I'm gonna pass you the
25 mic.

1 COMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES 7

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair Weprin.

3 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Reyna.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair Comrie.

7 CHAIR COMRIE: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Vann.

9 Council Member Garodnick.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Wills.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member

14 Ignizio.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Cou... [interpose]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: May I be excused

18 to explain my vote?

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member

20 Lappin.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: I'm abstaining

22 from this vote, so I vote to abstain; I'd like to

23 disclose on the record of these proceedings that a

24 person I am associated with may have a financial

25 interest with one of the applicants in this matter.

2 Thank you. And I recused myself from all discussions
3 and negotiations that took place after I became aware
4 of that potential conflict after the hearing took
5 place in the Zoning Committee and I wanna thank Land
6 Use staff for negotiating it on behalf of my
7 constituents.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: By a vote of 7 in the
9 affirmative, 0 negatives and 0 abstentions, Land Use
10 Items 0885 to 0890 are approved and referred to the
11 Full Land Use Committee.

12 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Alright. Well...
13 Okay. So as I mentioned, the next meeting of the
14 Land Use Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises will
15 be next Wednesday, 9:45 across the street and with
16 that in mind we are now adjourning the Subcommittee.

17 [gavel]
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date _____ October 14, 2013 _____