

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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November 3, 2011
Start: 11:05 a.m.
Recess: 11:40 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E: DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Lewis A. Fidler
Helen D. Foster
Robert Jackson
G. Oliver Koppell
Darlene Mealy
Diana Reyna
Joel Rivera
Albert Vann
Fernando Cabrera
Julissa Ferreras
Karen Koslowitz

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

James G. Van Bramer
Vincent M. Ignizio
James S. Oddo

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Welcome to
3 today's Finance Committee hearing. My name is
4 Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I'm the chair of this
5 wonderful Committee. At this time, I'd like to
6 recognize all the members that have joined us. To
7 my far left, we have Council Member Al Vann,
8 Council Member Robert Jackson, Council Member,
9 Gale Brewer. To my right, we have Council Member
10 Darlene Mealy, we have Council Member Leroy
11 Comrie, we have Council Member Oliver Koppell,
12 Council Member Karen Koslowitz and of course, my
13 good friend Council Member Joel Rivera, who I
14 missed. I'm sorry about that. We have from
15 Staten Island Council Member Vincent Ignizio and I
16 think we got everybody. As more Council Members
17 come, we will recognize those members.

18 Today we have a transparency
19 resolution, one Land Use item, a budget mod and
20 three property tax fixing resolutions. Let's
21 first start with the transparency resolution. The
22 transparency resolution makes mostly technical
23 corrections to the designations listed in Fiscal
24 2012 Schedule C and designates new organizations
25 under the faith-based imitative. For

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2 clarification purposes, it is to be noted that
3 organizations appearing in the resolutions that
4 have not yet completed the prequalification
5 process conducted by the Mayor's Office of
6 Contract Services, by the Council or other
7 government agencies are identified in the attached
8 charts with an asterisk next to it. Additionally,
9 as with all transparency resos, Council Members
10 will have to sign disclosure form indicating
11 whether or not a conflict exists. If any Council
12 Member has potential conflict of interest with any
13 organization listed, he or she may want to
14 disclose that at the time of their vote.

15 We also have an expense budget mod
16 that is related to this transparency reso, as well
17 as past transparency resolutions. This mod is our
18 first budget mod relating to Fiscal 2012 Expense
19 Budget that we adopted in June. This mod
20 reallocates appropriations that were affected in
21 the FY 2012 Adopted Budget to fund City Council
22 initiatives. This mod only includes Council-
23 related items and does not include any item from
24 the administration. Without this modification
25 many organizations would not get their funding.

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2 Items in today's transparency reso that require
3 budget mod in order for their funding to move
4 forward are referenced in the charts with a double
5 asterisk.

6 Now let's move to the Land Use
7 item. This Land Use item--the Kelly Street
8 Apartments, located in the Bronx in Council Member
9 Maria del Carmen Arroyo's district. They'll
10 receive a property tax exemption for the rehab of
11 the property. The Kelly Street apartments will
12 provide 79 units of rental housing for low-income
13 families.

14 Our last three items on the agenda
15 are three tax fixing resos. Under current law, no
16 class shares of the real property tax levy can
17 increase by more than 5% from the previous year's
18 share. Governor Cuomo recently signed legislation
19 at the Council's request setting the class shares
20 cap for this year's property tax at 2.5%, rather
21 than the state law default of 5%. Under the
22 amended law, no class share of the real property
23 tax levy can increase by more than 2.5% from the
24 previous year's share. If the 2.5% cap were not
25 adopted, then the 5% cap would apply and the

1
2 typical taxpayer bills for a Class 1 property
3 would be \$97 higher. Class 2 is not affected by
4 this action today. So today we're amending the
5 three property tax fixing resos adopted on June
6 29th, 2011 to help make New York City a little
7 more affordable for Class 1 homeowners. I urge
8 all of my colleagues to vote yes on these amended
9 property tax resolutions. We are lowering the
10 taxes. I want to state that very clear. Okay? -
11 - from the Finance division is available to answer
12 any questions you may have on the property tax
13 reso. Preston Niblack, the director of the
14 Finance Division, is here to answer any questions
15 on the budget mod. Does anybody have any
16 questions? Without seeing any questions, call the
17 vote. I recognize Helen Diane Foster from the
18 Bronx joined us.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,
20 committee clerk. Roll call vote in the Committee
21 on Finance. All items are coupled. Council
22 Member Recchia?

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I encourage
24 all my colleagues to vote aye on all, and I vote
25 aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Brewer?

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Jackson?

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 11

in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, all items have been adopted.

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Members, please sign the Committee Reports.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. I'm going to keep the vote open. In the meantime when the vote is kept open, Rules will begin its hearing. Okay? Yes, you are excused unless you're on Rules. Rules will start immediately following this. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Revised roll call in the Committee on Finance. Council Member Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, to supersede my previous vote, I vote no on the tax fixing resolutions and aye on all others.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: No on the tax fixing resolutions and yes on the others. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Revised vote in the Committee on Finance is now all items have been adopted by a vote of 12 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions with the exception of three tax fixing pre-considered resolutions--excuse me, Council Member Van Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on

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2 all.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: All items are now 13 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions with the exception of three pre-considered resolutions in regards to tax fixing, which is now adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Fidler?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

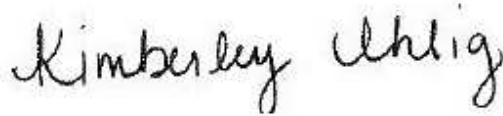
COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the Committee on Finance now stands all items have been adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions with the exception of the three pre-considered resolutions in regards to tax fixing have been adopted by a vote of 13 in the affirmative, two in the negative and zero abstentions.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: This meeting is 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 _____

Date _____ 11/16/11 _____