

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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June 28, 2012  
Start: 7:56 p.m.  
Recess: 8:16 p.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: --Council  
3 Member on the Finance division, the Finance  
4 Committee.

5 [long pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good evening,  
7 ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the committee  
8 room of the New York City Council Chamber. My  
9 name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. and I am the chair  
10 of the Finance Committee of the New York City  
11 Council. At this time, I would like to introduce  
12 all my colleagues who have joined us today. To my  
13 left, Jimmy Oddo, Darlene Mealy, Diana Reyna,  
14 Diane Helen Foster, Julissa Ferreras, Vincent  
15 Ignizio. To my right, Oliver Koppell, Gale Brewer  
16 and Al Vann, Annabel Palma--is there anyone else--  
17 and Karen Koslowitz and Rosie Mendez.

18 Today this Committee will take the  
19 necessary actions to allow the full City Council  
20 to adopt fiscal 2013 budget. We will adopt an  
21 expense capital and revenue budget, which includes  
22 Schedule C fixed property tax rates, set the  
23 property class shares, adopt a transparency  
24 resolution, take action on other budget related  
25 resolutions. We will also vote on non-budget

1  
2 related items. We will vote to override the  
3 Mayor's veto on the Banking Commission bill, also  
4 vote on four Land Use items. Before we start, I  
5 would like to take a second to thank our talented  
6 and hardworking Finance staff under the leadership  
7 of Preston Niblack, First Deputy Jeffrey Rodus-

8 [applause]

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: They deserve  
10 recognition for their around the clock work to  
11 make sure the budget runs smoothly. Also I want  
12 to take a minute to thank the entire staff of the  
13 Finance division individually because all of them  
14 work hard and many work behind the scenes to  
15 ensure that the Council adopt an on time and  
16 responsible budget, so I want to thank them all.  
17 I also have to start off by giving a special thank  
18 you to my attorney sitting at my right, Tanisha  
19 Edwards. Thank you for - - .

20 [applause]

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I want to  
22 thank the administrative support staff, Nicole  
23 Anderson and Maria Pagan. I want to thank the  
24 education and public safety unit under the  
25 leadership of Regina Ryan, Eisha Wright, Christina

1  
2 Perrotti, Lionel Francois and John Lisyanskiy; the  
3 health and human services and government  
4 operations unit Latonia McKinney, under her  
5 leadership is Shadawn Smith, Pakhi Sengupta,  
6 Crystal Coston, Pamela Corbett and John Russell;  
7 the infrastructure and economic development unit  
8 under the leadership of Nathan Toth [phonetic],  
9 Chima Obichere, Kate Seely-Kirk and Ralph  
10 Hernandez; the budget support staff and state  
11 federal budget unit under the leadership of Scott  
12 Crowley, we have Jimmy Ray - - and Jessica Jimenez  
13 [phonetic]; the revenue unit Ray Majewski under  
14 his leadership, we have Paul Sturm, Eva - -  
15 Jonathan Albach [phonetic] and Alice Goverton  
16 [phonetic]; of the finance division and the  
17 Finance Committee counsel Tanisha Edwards, who I  
18 just can't tell her how much she did. I want to  
19 thank her so much. Of course, I have to thank my  
20 amazing staff Liz Smuckler [phonetic], Michaela  
21 Lynch [phonetic] and Kenny Grace [phonetic].

22                   With that said, let's move on. The  
23 Finance Committee members should have a budget  
24 packet, which contains all the budget related  
25 legislation that must be voted on by the Committee

1  
2 and at the full Council. The packet also includes  
3 supporting schedules that are not voted on, but  
4 filed with the Committee. On your desk, the  
5 Finance Committee Members should have the Land Use  
6 items and the Banking Commission bill and the  
7 veto. Before I provide a brief description about  
8 the items to be voted on today during the Finance  
9 Committee, I want to strongly emphasize the  
10 Finance Committee members will be given only one  
11 budget packet, so after you vote on the packet  
12 items, you must bring your packet and all of the  
13 contents to the Stated Meeting to vote again. Non  
14 Finance Committee members will be given the budget  
15 packet at the Stated Meeting.

16           So let's start with the non-budget  
17 related items that are on your desk. We first  
18 have the Banking Commission bill, Intro 485-A,  
19 sponsored by my colleague, Council Member Al Vann.  
20 This bill establishes an advisory body that will  
21 hold public hearings and prepare an assessment  
22 every two years on banking needs throughout New  
23 York City. Once a year the Board will prepare and  
24 publish a report written in plain language - - on  
25 how the city's depository banks are doing in

1  
2 helping to meet those needs. If you remember, the  
3 Committee and the full Council passed legislation  
4 on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor issued  
5 a message of disapproval and vetoed the  
6 legislation. The veto message is attached to the  
7 briefing report. Today the Committee will vote to  
8 re-pass Intro 485-A and file the Mayor's veto  
9 number M-817. In order to override the Mayor's  
10 veto, this bill in question must be posed to the  
11 Committee that asks whether Intro 485-A should be  
12 re-passed notwithstanding the objections of the  
13 Mayor. I encourage all my colleagues to vote aye.

14 The next items are all Land Use.

15 The first Land Use item is the Bialystoker  
16 Synagogue in Council Member Margaret Chin's  
17 district in Manhattan. This property serves low  
18 income seniors. It consists of one building with  
19 126 units of rental housing. This property will  
20 also undergo rehab and will receive a partial tax  
21 exemption to assist in the rehabilitation.

22 The second Land Use item is Access  
23 House, a property located in Council Member Rosie  
24 Mendez's district. The property serves low income  
25 seniors. It consists of one building with 16

1  
2 units. The property will undergo rehab and will  
3 receive a partial tax exemption.

4 The third Land Use item is the  
5 Kosciuszko Street Apartments, a property that will  
6 be located in Council Member Al Vann's district in  
7 Brooklyn. The property - - constructed will serve  
8 low income families in ten units throughout five  
9 buildings.

10 The last Land Use item is Schaeffer  
11 Apartments in Council Member Erik Dilan's district  
12 in Brooklyn. The property will be newly  
13 constructed with severe formerly homeless  
14 individuals and 33 units throughout the one  
15 building. All four Council Members support these  
16 projects.

17 Our next item is a transparency  
18 reso. This reso sets forth the designations or  
19 changes in the designation of certain  
20 organizations receiving local aging and youth - -  
21 funding as well as new designations or change sin  
22 designation of certain organizations to receive  
23 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in fiscal  
24 2012 and '11 budgets. For clarification purposes,  
25 it is to be noted that organizations appearing in



1  
2 the reso that have not yet completed the  
3 prequalification process conducted by MOCs and the  
4 Council or another entity are identified in the  
5 attached charts with an asterisk. Additionally,  
6 as with all transparency resos, Council Members  
7 will have to sign a disclosure form indicating  
8 whether or not a conflict exists with any of the  
9 groups attached on the list. If any Council  
10 Member has a potential conflict of interest with  
11 any of the organizations listed or - - he or she  
12 might want to disclose the conflict at the time of  
13 their vote.

14 Now let's move on to the budget  
15 related items the Finance Committee will vote on.  
16 I will provide a brief description of the items on  
17 our agenda today to require a vote. Preston  
18 Niblack, the director of the Finance division,  
19 will testify shortly to provide a greater detail.  
20 The first item is reso A, capital budget. Second  
21 is reso B, capital budget, which is the capital  
22 budget as amended by reso. The third item is a  
23 resolution adopting the contract budget. Fourth  
24 is the resolution adopting the expense revenue and  
25 contract budget. Fifth is the resolution to

1  
2 approve the amendment to the five year education  
3 capital plan. The sixth is the resolution  
4 approving 39<sup>th</sup> year of the community development  
5 program and 38<sup>th</sup> year of reallocations. The  
6 seventh, eighth and ninth items are three property  
7 tax reso. The tenth item is the resolution  
8 approving the expense budget mods. The eleventh  
9 item is the resolution approving the revenue  
10 budget modification. As a reminder to Council  
11 Members, schedule C is the schedule C of the  
12 expense revenue contract budgets, so we do not  
13 vote on schedule C separately. Disclosures must  
14 be made for FY '13, schedule C and reso A capital.  
15 Liz, Jim and - - have copies of the forms. The  
16 budget packet that members have in front of them  
17 contain all the items just mentioned. The budget  
18 packet also contains supporting documents and  
19 schedules items to be which are not voted on by  
20 the members. Before I turn the microphone over to  
21 see if anybody would like to ask Preston Niblack  
22 any questions or the Office of Management or  
23 Budget, I want to briefly speak about this year's  
24 budget and the process. This is my eleventh  
25 budget and my third year as chairman of the

1 Finance Committee. As chairman, I have seen  
2 firsthand the tremendous amount of work and  
3 dedication made by the Speaker, the Council and  
4 the Mayor to balance the city's priorities. This  
5 year's budget was not easy. Although this budget  
6 originally was viewed as somewhat painless as  
7 compared to prior budgets, we did get a few last  
8 minute surprises that required the Council to work  
9 closely and collaboratively with each other in  
10 City Hall to make tough choices and compromise on  
11 levels that were extremely difficult - - this  
12 budget. We were also able to work collaboratively  
13 with the administration to ensure libraries would  
14 remain open for five days, both daycare and after  
15 school programs are restored at or above FY '12  
16 level meaning not one child will lose access to  
17 his or her care. In fact, nearly 4,000 more city  
18 children will be able to take advantage of these  
19 services. In FY 2013 budget nearly 30,000 out of  
20 school time slots for school aged children are  
21 restored and more than 160,000 children will be  
22 able to participate in after school programs saved  
23 or funded by the Council. The Council also  
24 successfully prevented the closure of fire  
25

1  
2 companies and protected senior services. An  
3 increase of funding for senior case managers - -  
4 their caseloads for all case managers do not rise  
5 above 80. Education, the Council reached an  
6 agreement with the DOE to avoid a reduction in  
7 teachers and restored funding to help teachers buy  
8 necessary materials for the classroom this fall.  
9 Additionally working with the DOE, DC 37,, the  
10 Council helped avoid layoffs of 250 school aides.  
11 All of this was done with a budget that remains  
12 balanced without increasing taxes or major cuts to  
13 essential services budget is supported by 2.4  
14 billion prior year resources carried from FY '12,  
15 '13 and 1 billion from the retired health  
16 [phonetic] benefits trust, the creation of which  
17 reflects the fiscal responsible and insightful  
18 action by saving surpluses funds during the city's  
19 boom years 2006, 2007. Before we move forward,  
20 does anybody like to ask Preston Niblack or anyone  
21 from OMB any questions? Okay, without seeing any  
22 questions to be asked, Council Member Al Vann  
23 would like to say a few words on the banking bill.  
24 I recognize Council Member Al Vann.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you,

1  
2 Chairman. Just a couple of things. As you know  
3 the Mayor vetoed a very significant piece of  
4 legislation. As a matter of fact, we enacted the  
5 strongest local community reinvestment law in the  
6 nation. Oddly enough on the very same day in Los  
7 Angeles, California, they were passing similar  
8 legislation, so from coast to coast, we were  
9 addressing community needs. We should be very  
10 clear and notwithstanding the protests of the  
11 Mayor, the responsible banking act really  
12 emphasizes bank transparency and it encourages  
13 reinvestment. It does not require the banks to do  
14 anything, unless you interpret transparency as  
15 being a requirement. It does provide a  
16 transparency as to focus and we think that will  
17 encourage them to meet the outstanding needs, and  
18 the reason why we must veto this bill is because  
19 we passed it in the first place. Foreclosure is  
20 continuing to soar in our city. Small businesses  
21 are still struggling to get access to credit, and  
22 the need for the funding for affordable housing  
23 has never been greater--with the required I think  
24 it's reported 10,000 families are sleeping in  
25 shelters during the month of April in the city of

1  
2 New York. Also the Mayor protests saying that the  
3 banks will run away if we pass this legislation.  
4 I don't know of anybody who runs away from money,  
5 not even banks, so I question and challenge that  
6 protest. We passed it. We saw the need for it.  
7 I'm sure that we will move and override his veto.  
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Does  
10 anyone else have a comment or anything they would  
11 like to say? OMB is here to answer questions on  
12 the revenue modifications. Okay. Without seeing  
13 that, please call the roll. Before I vote, prior  
14 to voting, I am disclosing the following  
15 relationships with organizations listed in  
16 schedule C or resolution A, reso A: my children go  
17 to public school 215. My one daughter is  
18 graduating and my other daughters go to Mark Twain  
19 Intermediate School and there is funding in this  
20 budget allocations for those schools. I have to  
21 put that on the record. I vote aye and encourage  
22 all my colleagues to vote aye on the entire  
23 budget. Thank you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Okay. I  
25 have to disclose that I'm an honorary director of

1  
2 the Brooklyn College - - Hillel Foundation and an  
3 honorary director of the Wyckoff House  
4 Association, both groups receiving money in this  
5 budget and my son was an accepted law student at  
6 NYU just today. I'm not sure I have to disclose  
7 that.

8 [applause]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I know NYU  
10 is getting money, and I'm not sure if I have to  
11 disclose it, but I wanted to brag on his behalf,  
12 and with that, I vote aye on all.

13 MALE VOICE: Foster? Council  
14 Member Foster.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: - - .

16 MALE VOICE: Koppell?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]  
18 - - aside from that, I don't believe that there  
19 are any conflicts. I vote aye on all.

20 MALE VOICE: Vann?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I'd like to  
22 disclose that I have family who work at Medgar  
23 Evers College to the extent that there is funding  
24 in here I'd like to disclose that members of my  
25 family are employed there. I vote aye.

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MALE VOICE: Mealy?

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COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye

4

on all.

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MALE VOICE: Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye on

7

all.

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MALE VOICE: Cabrera?

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on

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all.

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MALE VOICE: Koslowitz?

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye on

13

all.

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MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Pass.

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MALE VOICE: Ignizio?

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I'd like

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to vote no on 485-A - - tax fixing resolution - -

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adjusted base proportions bill and I'd like to

20

disclose that my daughter attends P.S. 36, Public

21

School 36, in my district and the YMCA summer

22

camp, both of which are receiving funds in this

23

budget and I vote aye on the rest. Thank you.

24

MALE VOICE: Oddo?

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'd like to



1

2 disclose that I've been here since 11:30am today.  
3 It's all been printed, right? They can't reduce  
4 my number.

5 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: There is  
6 always next year.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: It should be  
8 an interesting year, next year. I have to  
9 disclose that I am an adjunct professor. I teach  
10 one class in the fall at the College of Staten  
11 Island. We will be getting reso A funding. I  
12 vote no on Intro 485-A and the three pre-  
13 considered resolutions having to do with - - tax  
14 class share fixing rate adjusted base proportion,  
15 blah, blah, blah. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: He didn't get  
17 it.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I have to do  
19 that whole shtick all over again?

20 [background conversation]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I have an  
22 endless supply of material if you want me to go  
23 somewhere else. I'll be here all week. No on  
24 Intro 485-A. No on the three pre-considered tax  
25 class share fixing resolutions, and I have to

1  
2 disclose that I teach one class in the fall as an  
3 adjunct professor at the College of Staten Island  
4 that is getting some reso A money.

5 [background conversation]

6 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, let's  
7 calm down everyone. We have to move forward.

8 [background conversation]

9 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Everyone  
10 knows that Jimmy Oddo is an excellent college  
11 professor. Okay. Who else? We recognize Jimmy  
12 Van Bramer, Joel Rivera—

13 MALE VOICE: Council Member Foster?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.

15 MALE VOICE: Van Bramer?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye on  
17 all.

18 MALE VOICE: All items on today's  
19 agenda have been adopted by a vote of 15 in the  
20 affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
21 abstentions, with the exceptions of Introduction  
22 485-A, tax fixing resolutions and percentage base  
23 have been adopted by a vote 13 in the affirmative,  
24 two in the negative and no abstentions. Council  
25 Members, please sign all Committee reports. Thank

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you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We're going to leave the vote open for 15 minutes. Alright. Stated Meeting will start in 15 minutes.

MALE VOICE: Council Member Comrie?

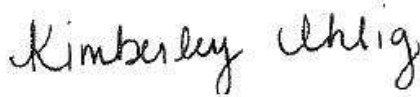
COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye on all. I am to disclose that York College, which is receiving monies in from my—is receiving capital monies for the general help of York College is an organization—my wife works at York College, but is not affiliated in any way, shape or form with the part of the college that is receiving the money. Aye on all.

MALE VOICE: Final vote in the Committee on Finance is now all items have been adopted by a vote 16 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions with the exceptions of Introduction 485-A, three tax fixing resolutions and base percentage resolutions which those items have been adopted by a vote of 14 in the affirmative, two in the negative and no abstentions. Thank you. Finance hearing is now concluded.

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 \_\_\_\_\_7/22/12\_\_\_\_\_