

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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March 20, 2013

Start: 10:20 a.m.

Recess: 10:27 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room  
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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

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

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Karen Koslowitz  
Council Member James G. Van Bramer  
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio  
Council Member James S. Oddo  
Council Member Ruben Wills

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Ed O'Malley  
Administrative Services Director  
City Council

Marcello Testa  
Fiscal Officer  
City Council

Lee Martin  
Committee Clerk  
Committee on Finance

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2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Good morning  
3 and welcome to today's Finance Committee Hearing.  
4 My name is Domenic M. Recchia, Jr. I'm the Chair  
5 of this wonderful Committee and I welcome everyone  
6 here today. Today we have a very important  
7 agenda. We have one important item that effects  
8 everyone here, the Council's Operating Budget.  
9 Under the charter the Council has until March 10<sup>th</sup>  
10 to submit the Mayor's to the Mayor's own operating  
11 budget for this fiscal year. The budget must be  
12 presented to the Mayor for an inclusion in the  
13 executive budget with an amendment by the, if the  
14 Council approves it. In January the charter date  
15 was extended to March 21<sup>st</sup> with legislation passed  
16 by this committee. This year, the Council's  
17 budget totals are just over \$51.5 million which  
18 reflects a decrease of 1.1 percent or  
19 approximately \$573,000 from last year. The  
20 Council's budget reduction impacts central staff  
21 operation and reflect over \$300,000 in OTPS  
22 savings, including reduction in computer supplies,  
23 office equipment maintenance and printing  
24 contracts. The reduction reflects a few central  
25 staff vacancies that will not be filled. Council

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2 Member officers and staff will not be affected.  
3 Shh. The Council's Administrative Services  
4 Director, Ed O'Malley and Fiscal Officer Marcello  
5 Testa are here to answer any questions on the  
6 operating budget. Before I take questions I want  
7 to make sure that it does not go unnoticed that  
8 the City Legislative Body is charged with  
9 monitoring the operation and performance of City  
10 agency and analyzing and improving the City's  
11 budget, performing its responsibility in the land  
12 use process and, of course, passing laws. The  
13 Council has done all of this with a budget that  
14 totals less than one tenth of one percent of the  
15 City's total budget, which is over \$68 billion.  
16 This is a testament to the remarkable leadership  
17 of Speaker Quinn. Now, does anyone have any  
18 questions for Ed O'Malley or Marcello Testa? But  
19 before we take questions I want to recognize all  
20 those members that are joined us. We have Jimmy  
21 Oddo from Staten Island, Vincent Ignizio from  
22 Staten Island, Karen Koslowitz from Queens, Diana  
23 Reyna from Brooklyn and Queens, Helen Diane Foster  
24 from the Bronx, Al Vann from Brooklyn, Leroy  
25 Comrie from Queens, Ruben Wills from Queens,

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2 Oliver Koppell from the Bronx and Joel Rivera from  
3 the Bronx. Now, I see a question from the Council  
4 Member from the Bronx, Oliver Koppell.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]  
6 I don't have a serious problem with it but I just  
7 wonder why we are presenting this at this  
8 particular time, considerably before the executive  
9 budget is presented.

10 MALE VOICE 1: By charter we're  
11 required to pass it. This is the last date that  
12 we have to pass it.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Oh, is  
14 that right? Okay. The second question I have is  
15 I note in the, on page one

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]  
17 Council Member, could you turn your mic on. I  
18 don't think your mic is on.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: My mic is  
20 on.

21 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I note  
23 that on page one it says Council Member office  
24 budgets and it then says funds allocated for  
25 member budgets totaled \$292,330 with Committee

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2 Chairs receiving \$332,336. Is that, just, is that  
3 uniform for all Members?

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MALE VOICE 1: Yes, that's the  
baseline--

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [interposing]  
Who are you asking that?

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MALE VOICE 1:  
Yes, that's the baseline budget for  
all members and the extra \$40,000 is for Committee  
Chairs.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And is  
there discretion on the part of the Speaker to  
allocate more to Members for their budgets?

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Well, it all  
depends what, if there is a emergency. If  
somebody has, like, in Super Storm Sandy, okay, I  
needed more help, all right, in those districts.  
You know, we got some more help. It all depends,  
you know, if there's an event or if there's an  
emergency. You know, there's always discretion.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: So, there  
is some discretion to exceed those numbers?

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes.

MALE VOICE 1: Yes.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: And do we, is there a report indicated when, with respect to the spending? I know that with respect to our individual discretionary requests we now have transparency. Do we have transparency with respect to this, these items or this type of expenditure.

MALE VOICE 1: So, at the end of the fiscal year we produce a report on what actually was spent.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Right. And does that allocate, indicate by district or by member?

MALE VOICE 1: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Yes?

MALE VOICE 1: By member.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Okay. So, we have a report for last year of that?

MALE VOICE 2: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Where is that? Is that, where is that found?

MALE VOICE 2: I can have one sent to you.



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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Would you, please?

MALE VOICE 2: Sure.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Thank you very much. Let's call the roll.

MR. LEE MARTIN: Lee Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote, Committee on Finance. Council Member Recchia?

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I vote aye and encourage all my members to vote aye.

MR. MARTIN: Rivera?

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

MR. MARTIN: Reyna?

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Comrie?

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Foster?

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Koppell?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Vann?

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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MR. MARTIN: Koslowitz?

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: Oddo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: By a vote of ten in  
the affirmative, zero in the negative, no  
abstentions, aye - - .

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. I'm  
going to hold the vote open for 30 minutes to 11  
o'clock. [pause]

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Van  
Bramer?

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote  
aye. [pause]

MR. MARTIN: Council Member  
Cabrerera?

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye on  
all. [off mic]

MR. MARTIN: Council Member Mealy?

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

MR. MARTIN: [pause] Council Member  
Brewer?

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

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MR. MARTIN: [pause] Council Member

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Ferreras?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote

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aye on all.

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MR. MARTIN: [pause] Council Member

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Fidler?

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

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MR. MARTIN: [pause] Council Member

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Jackson?

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye

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on all.

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MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the

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Committee on Finance is now 17 in the affirmative,

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zero in the negative and no abstentions.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: This Finance

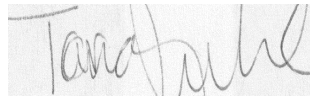
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Committee is hereby adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Tara Juhl 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 rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara Juhl".

Date 4/3/13