

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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March 26, 2014  
Start: 10:00 a.m.  
Recess: 10:09 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm  
14th Fl

B E F O R E:  
JULISSA FERRERAS  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Corey D. Johnson  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
I. Daneek Miller  
James G. Van Bramer  
Laurie A. Cumbo  
Mark Levine  
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.  
Vanessa L. Gibson  
Vincent Ignizio  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Good morning.  
Welcome to today's Finance hearing. My name is  
Julissa Ferreras, and I chair this committee. I'd  
like to acknowledge the Council Members that are here  
today. We've been joined by Council Member  
Rodriguez, Council Member Levine, Council Member  
Rosenthal, Council Member Gibson, and I believe I saw  
-- Okay, we'll presume it wasn't him.

And I'd like to take this opportunity to  
say it is a very special day in the Council. We have  
young ladies who are going to be joining us as  
Council Members for a day. In particular, I'm really  
excited to be joined by Lena [phonetic] Ignizio and  
her niece--and her cousin Olivia. So thank you for  
joining us here today.

We're going to get today's business  
started. Today we have one Land Use item in the  
Transparency Resolution. Initially, the Finance  
Committee was scheduled to vote today on a revenue  
budget modification and expense budget modification.  
However, the vote on these items will not take place  
today, but instead take place on April 10th. More  
details on the two modifications will be provided as  
we near closer to the date.

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Now, let's move onto our agenda. We will begin first with the Land Use item, which is in Council Member Vanessa Gibson's district in the Bronx. Artsbridge Senior Housing is an HDFC, and will receive a property tax exemption under Section 14-2 of the Real Property Tax Law. These exemptions are-- these exemptions are available for projects that provide housing for handicap or senior persons of low income. This project will be a seven-story elevator building with a community facility, accessory parking, and will provide 61 units of rental housing to low income seniors. The property tax exemption will be in effect for 40 years, and will enter into a regulatory agreement with the Department of Housing and Preservation and Development, otherwise known as HPD.

If you remember, in our previous hearing the committee voted on this item. However, a technical amendment was needed to the property description. So the committee has amended a description, and today we'll vote on the corrected resolution. Council Member Gibson is aware of this change and supports this project.

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2 Next, we will discuss the Transparency  
3 Resolution. This resolution sets forth new changes  
4 in the designation of certain organizations receiving  
5 local into a new discretionary funding, as well as  
6 new changes in the designation of certain  
7 organizations receiving funding pursuant to certain  
8 initiatives in the budget. Organizations appearing in  
9 the resolutions that have not yet completed the pre-  
10 qualification process conducted by the Mayor's Office  
11 of Contract Services, the Council, and any other  
12 entity are identified in the attached charts with an  
13 asterisk.

14 As with all transparency resolutions,  
15 council members will have to sign a disclosure form  
16 indicating whether or not a conflict exists with any  
17 of the groups in the attached list. If any council  
18 member has a potential conflict of interest with any  
19 of the organizations listed, he or she has the  
20 opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time of  
21 the vote. As a reminder, please disclose any  
22 conflicts you have with proposed subcontracts that  
23 are used by organizations sponsored by discretionary  
24 funding. These disclosures must be made before the  
25 subcontract can be approved.

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Jeremy Plecker [phonetic]. I always do that. Placker-- Yes, thanks. I'm sorry -- from the General Counsel's Office can assist you should any questions regarding the disclosure. Council Member Gibson supports this project, and representatives from HPD are here to answer any questions you may have on the Land Use items. There are all--these are all the items for today before we take questions from the members on these items. I will turn the mic over to my colleague Council Member Gibson for comment on the Land Use item. Council Member Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you Madam Chairwoman, and a good morning to my colleagues and to each and every one of you. While I recognize that this item on the agenda is just a technical amendment, I do want to emphasize and express my firm support for the approval of this tax exemption for Artsbridge. Highbridge CDC is a huge part of the west part of my district. They've done an incredible amount of housing for seniors as well as supportive services for many of our residents.

And so, when they came to me about this project, I was more than happy to support it because I think we have an urgent need across the city for

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housing for many of our seniors that are now being priced out of traditional Mitchell-Lama and rent stabilized housing. So, I applaud the leadership of the Chairwoman and certainly want to thank HPD for their work and efforts in working to make Artsbridge a reality for many, many families that will now call this their home. And I firmly express my support again. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

[Pause]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you Council Member Gibson. If there are no further questions, I'll ask-- Are there any further questions from members? No. If there are no further questions, Billy Martin will call the roll.

CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk, Roll call vote, Committee on Finance. Council Member Ferreras?

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

CLERK: Gibson

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

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CLERK: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

CLERK: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: If I may explain.

CLERK: Please explain their role, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I just wanted to introduce as we said to the members of the committee my daughter Lena, and my niece Olivia, and my other niece Alyssa [phonetic], who's in this Woman's History Month, we want to show how the women are in charge here. So, ladies, as you can see Chairwoman Ferreras, Tanisha Edwards for doing for great things. My niece Alyssa here wants to be a journalist. So that's why she's taking pictures, and looking at all of us, and these guys are just hanging out having a good time. And next to them, next to them is my mother and father. They're having a family day today, and just [applause] want to thank you all for being so kind. So with that, I congratulate my colleague Miss Gibson on her amendment, and thank you Madam Chair, and I vote aye on all.

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CLERK: The vote is seven in the affirmative and zero in the negative and no abstentions. Both items have been adopted. Members please sign the committee reports. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Thank you, and we're going to keep the roll open until 10:50.

[Pause]

CLERK: Council Member Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

CLERK: The vote now stands at eight affirmative.

[Pause]

CLERK: Council Van Bramer.

COUNCIL VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

CLERK: The final vote in the Committee on Finance is nine in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER: With that, this hearing of the Finance Committee is adjourned.

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 April 18, 2014