

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF
THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND
FRANCHISE

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May 6, 2014
Start: 9:52 a.m.
Recess: 10:30 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E: Mark A. Weprin
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Daniel Garodnick
Jumanne D. Williams
Donovan J. Richards
Antonio Reynoso
Ritchie J. Torres
Vincent Ignizio
Vincent J. Gentile
Ruben Willis

A P P E A R A N C E S

Ben Kallos

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2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Alright if we
3 can have everybody's attention. Yeah he gave me the
4 thumbs up. Good morning everyone. My name is Mark
5 Werpin, I am the chair of the Zoning can we have
6 quite please. It's a short meeting I promise. So we
7 can get back to our conversations right away. Ok. I
8 am Mark Weprin, I'm chair of the Zoning and Franchise
9 Subcommittee and I'm joined by the following members
10 of the subcommittee. Vincent Gentle, Ruben Wills,
11 Antonio Reynoso, Richie Torres and Vincent Ignizio.
12 And I know other members are on their way. We only
13 have 1 item on the agenda today and we already had
14 the hearing on it. It is the Rockefeller University
15 expansion. Its land use numbers 49 and 50. And we
16 are joined today by council member Ben Kallos who
17 represents the Rockefeller University and we've also
18 been joined by Dan Ganorick as well. So what I'm
19 going to do is call on council member Kallos who has
20 a statement to make about this project and his
21 opinion. Mr. Kallos.

22 CHAIRPERSON KALLOS: Thank you zoning
23 committee chair Weprin. My colleagues on the
24 committee and to Rockefeller University for meeting
25 with me so frequently since January and joining us

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2 today. I'm please to ask my colleagues to vote yes
3 on both application from Rockefeller University to
4 expand their world class institution to attract more
5 top scientist the east sides hospitals and bio-tech
6 corridor. There was understandable concern in our
7 already highly developed community about overcrowding
8 in our neighborhood and obstructions to east river.
9 However, over the past months, Rockefeller University
10 has demonstrated that is not only sensitive to those
11 concerns but will be of valuable partner in bettering
12 our community. They've shown a firm commitment to
13 improving the quality of life in our neighborhood
14 while mitigating any issue that may arise. They've
15 laid forth a vision for a more beautiful and dynamic
16 neighborhood in addition to an improved and expanded
17 hob for the sciences. We've made significant
18 progress in our work and they are going to be working
19 with both my office and the community in good faith
20 on the areas of concern raised through this process.
21 I'm enthusiastic about this project and the
22 individuals behind it and ask my colleagues to vote
23 to approve. I would also like to take a moment to
24 thank the land use staff, Gail Benjamin and
25 congratulations on her retirement. Ada Fox and Anne

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2 McKellie [sp], Alonzo Carr and though he's not with
3 us anymore Rob Maralua [sp]. All of whom were
4 incredibly supportive. Went through volumes and
5 volumes of text going back to 1973 and beforehand and
6 really took on this issue and helped us to come to
7 positive resolution. With that, thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: I noticed ever since
9 Ben you started working on this issue everyone is
10 retiring, I don't understand. [laughter] Anyway, so
11 yes that's our only item for the day so I'm going to
12 make a motion to approve land use number 49 and 50.
13 The Rockefeller University expansion. I'd like to
14 call on Ann McCoy to call the roll and a vote.

15 ANN MCCOY: Chair Weprin.

16 CHAIR WEPRIN: I vote I.

17 ANN MCCOY: Council member Gentle

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTLE: I vote I.

19 ANN MCCOY: Council member Gradonick

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GRADONICK: I

21 ANN MCCOY: Council member Wills

22 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLS: I vote I.

23 ANN MCCOY: Council member Reynoso.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Permission to
25 explain my vote.

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2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Yes, council member
3 Reynoso to explain his vote.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: In your opening
5 statement council member Kallos you mentioned good
6 faith. I want you to be weary of good faith and make
7 sure that you did best you can to lock in as much as
8 possible before the vote to guarantee that your to
9 guarantee that your community is taken care of but I
10 will vote I.

11 ANN MCCOY: Council member Torres.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote I.

13 ANN MCCOY: Council member Ignizio.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNISIO: Yes.

15 ANN MCCOY: By a vote of 7 the
16 affirmative, no negative, no extensions. Land Use
17 items 49 and 50 are approved and referred to the full
18 Land Use Committee.

19 CHAIRPERSON WERPIN: That is great. I
20 wanna acknowledge Vincent Ignizio gets the gold star
21 today for being on time, first one here. And we are,
22 that's our only item on the agenda. We are gonna
23 leave the rolls open for a few minutes to get a
24 couple more members who are on their way. Not gonna
25 put a time on it but will figure it out like 10:20

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2 we'll do get it at 10:20. And the Land Use Committee
3 will be meeting this Thursday, 11:00 a.m. at City
4 Hall, Conference Committee Room. So please be there.
5 And with that in mind and the rolls being open until
6 10:20 the meeting is now adjourned.

7 ANN MCCOY: Council member Williams.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote I and
9 the meeting is adjourned.

10 [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. 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.



Date May 8, 2014