

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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October 22, 2014  
Start: 10:34 a.m.  
Recess: 11:09 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room-City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JULISSA FERRERAS  
Chairperson

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

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

Michael Blaise Backer  
Deputy Commissioner  
Neighborhood Development Division  
Department of Small Business Services

James Metham  
Assistant Deputy Commissioner  
Neighborhood Development Division  
Department of Small Business Services

Michael Melamed  
Business Improvement District Analyst  
Department of Small Business Services

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Good morning and  
3 welcome to today's Finance Committee hearing. I am  
4 Council Member Julissa Ferreras and I chair this  
5 committee. We've been joined by Council Member  
6 Rodriguez, Van Bramer, Gibson, Johnson, Cumbo and  
7 Matteo.

8 We have a short agenda today; only two  
9 items. The first item is a transparency resolution  
10 and the second item is a big legislation. The  
11 transparency resolution sets forth new changes in the  
12 designation of certain organizations receiving local  
13 aging and youth discretionary funding, as well as new  
14 changes in the designation of certain organizations  
15 receiving funding pursuant to certain initiatives in  
16 the budget. Organizations appearing in the  
17 resolutions that have not yet completed the  
18 prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's  
19 Office of Contracts the Council and other entities  
20 are identified in the attached charts with an  
21 asterisk. As with all transparency resolutions,  
22 council members will have to sign a disclosure form  
23 indicating whether or not a conflict exists with any  
24 of the groups on the attached list. If any council  
25 member has a potential conflict of interest with any

1  
2 of the organizations listed here, she has the  
3 opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time of  
4 their vote. As a reminder, please disclose any  
5 conflicts you may have with the proposed  
6 subcontractors that are used by organizations  
7 sponsored by discretionary funding. These  
8 disclosures must be made before the subcontractor can  
9 be approved. Jeremy Plofker of the General Counsel's  
10 office can assist you with any questions or concerns  
11 regarding disclosures.

12 The BID item that we be voting on today  
13 is Intro 438, which is a local law that would  
14 establish the West Shore Business Improvement  
15 District on Staten Island in Council Member Matteo's  
16 district. Council Member Matteo supports the  
17 establishment of this BID. This BID would be the  
18 city's 70th BID and the city's first industrial BID.  
19 The first year... the total first year budget of the  
20 BID will be \$110,000, which will go towards  
21 Sanitation, district-wide improvements, security  
22 services and administrative and advocacy services.  
23 On September 10th, 2014, this committee held a  
24 hearing to consider Intro 438 and all the testimony  
25 we heard was in support of the BID establishment. As

1  
2 required by law, the hearing was closed without a  
3 vote and a 30-day objection period began to allow  
4 property owners affected by the establishment of the  
5 BID to formally object to its creation. According to  
6 the city clerk with whom these objections would be  
7 filed, no property owner filed an objection to the  
8 creation of the West Shore BID during the 30-day  
9 period. That's great. Congratulations.

10 Accordingly, the committee may now vote  
11 in favor of Intro 438 if we can answer the following  
12 four questions in the affirmative: Were all notices  
13 of the hearing for all hearings required to be held  
14 published, mailed and required by law and otherwise  
15 sufficient? Does all the real property within the  
16 district boundaries benefit from the establishment of  
17 the district except as otherwise provided by law? Is  
18 all real property benefitted by the districts  
19 included within the district? Is the establishment  
20 of the district in the best interests of the public?

21 The Department of Small Business Services  
22 is here to testify to help us answer those questions.  
23 For further details on the management structure and  
24 the district profile of the West Shore BID, a  
25 description of the services that will be provided and

1  
2 information regarding the properties located within  
3 the BID. Please refer to the BIDs proposed district  
4 plan and the committee's reports prepared by the  
5 Finance Division.

6 Those are our items for today and I will  
7 open up the floor to my colleague, Council Member  
8 Matteo, for comment.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you, Madam  
10 Chair. Before I get into my remarks, I just want to  
11 make the point that you stated that every business  
12 owner is for this, and that really is how we make  
13 sure that BIDs get passed because if the property  
14 owners and the business and the merchants don't want  
15 it, it won't happen and here in the West Shore iBID,  
16 they've wanted it and for the last three and a half  
17 years, they've become partners with my office, with  
18 the borough president's office, SIABC. So it's been  
19 a great partnership, it's been a long process, but  
20 one that's been well worth it, so I want to thank  
21 you, Chair Ferreras, for your support and working  
22 with us. I want to thank your committee counsel,  
23 Tanisha and Rebecca; Cesar Claro, SIABC; Steve  
24 Carillo, who's here today, for his hard work. I want  
25 to thank SBS. I want to thank my former boss and now

1  
2 the borough president, Jimmy Oddo, as well as the  
3 Minority Leader, Vin Ignizio, and it's a great day  
4 for the West Shore of Staten Island.

5           Bloomfield and Chelsea have enormous  
6 potential to become part of a jobs coast for my  
7 district and my borough. Just look at the vacant  
8 land and the interest that has already been shown by  
9 successful enterprises such as the Brooklyn Brewery,  
10 and you'll understand that the West Shore is finally  
11 going to expand; get the services they need. Like  
12 any area, it has its challenges, but that's why the  
13 BID was created, to address those challenges,  
14 especially the illegal dumping, limited city services  
15 and lack of marketing in the area. The BID would be  
16 able to contract services to address these issues:  
17 cleaning and Sanitation, private security, a project  
18 man to help give members the tools they need to  
19 succeed. Essentially, we are creating an enhanced  
20 civic association for this area. Nurturing this area  
21 will create a breeding ground for future Staten  
22 Island based careers and businesses, which will be  
23 the foundation of our borough's future prosperity.

24           So again, I've been involved; I've been  
25 on the Steering Committee. Now I'm carrying the ball

1  
2 as the elected representative of the area. I thank  
3 everyone involved. It's a great day for Staten  
4 Island. It's a great day for the West Shore. I'm  
5 looking forward to starting the real work once we  
6 pass and then hopefully the Mayor signs it and again,  
7 thank you, Chair Ferreras.

8 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you, Council  
9 Member and congratulations again. Obviously, it  
10 takes... putting BIDs together are not easy in a lot  
11 of cases, so it speaks to your leadership.

12 I just want to remind everyone that we  
13 will have a presentation by SBS. It will be provided  
14 about the Business Improvements Districts. It will  
15 take place on Monday, October 27th at 10:30 a.m. in  
16 this room, so please be sure to attend this. It will  
17 be... it will cover the history of the BIDs in the  
18 city, an overview of BID creation process and BID  
19 management and ways council members can help form a  
20 BID. I strongly urge all my colleagues to attend  
21 what will surely be a very informative presentation  
22 and I'd like to thank SBS for their work on it.  
23 Thank you very much. And just a reminder, this is  
24 really something that I think many members, while  
25 we've been approving some of these BIDs, you've asked

1 questions that have been important. This will be a  
2 members only meeting with SBS, so please be sure to  
3 mark your calendars at 10:30 a.m. There'll be a  
4 meeting for staff in December, but this one will be  
5 Monday, October 27th at 10:30 a.m. for members only.  
6 Okay, SBS, you can come up to testify and you will be  
7 sworn in.

8 [Pause]

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Do you affirm that  
10 your testimony will be truthful to the best of your  
11 knowledge, information and belief?  
12

13 ALL: I do.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BACKER: Alright,  
15 good morning, Chair Ferreras and members of the  
16 Finance Committee. I am Michael Blaise Backer,  
17 Deputy Commissioner of the Neighborhood Development  
18 Division at the Department of Small Business  
19 Services. I am joined by my Assistant Commissioner,  
20 James Metham and Michael Melamed from the BID Program  
21 team.

22 As required by law, the West Shore  
23 Business Improvement District Steering Committee  
24 mailed a summary of the City Council resolution to  
25 the following parties: each owner of real property

1 within the proposed district at the address shown on  
2 the latest City Assessment Roll, such other persons  
3 that are registered with the city to receive tax  
4 bills concerning real property within the district  
5 and tenants of each building within the proposed  
6 district. In addition, SBS arranged for the  
7 publication of a copy of the summary of the  
8 resolution in the City Record.  
9

10 We would like to report on the result of  
11 the objections filed with the City Clerk against the  
12 establishment of the proposed West Shore Business  
13 Improvement District. At the conclusion of the  
14 objection period at 5:00 p.m. on October 10th, 2014,  
15 and taking into consideration any objections  
16 postmarked by that date, no objections were filed  
17 with the City Clerk. Due to zero objections being  
18 filed, this was within our acceptable threshold  
19 needed to advance the bill for a favorable  
20 consideration by the full City Council.

21 The Department of Small Business Services  
22 supports the establishment of the West Shore BID. In  
23 our judgment, the BID will improve business  
24 conditions and quality-of-life in the West Shore  
25 industrial area, making it a better place to do

1  
2 business and laying the groundwork for further  
3 neighborhood development and activities in the West  
4 Shore of Staten Island.

5 I would like to acknowledge that the BID  
6 Steering Committee is represented here today by the  
7 Staten Island Economic Development Corporation in  
8 case there are any questions about the specifics of  
9 the BID plan. At this time we are happy to take any  
10 questions.

11 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Thank you very  
12 much for your testimony. Colleagues, do you have any  
13 questions on this BID? And does anyone have any  
14 questions on the transparency resolution? No? Okay,  
15 great. Thank you for your...

16 [crosstalk]

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER BACKER: Thank you.

18 [crosstalk]

19 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Testimony. And I  
20 now will have Billy Martin read the roll.

21 [Pause]

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Yes, we're in  
23 quorum, six is a good quorum.

24

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
3 Committee Clerk. Roll call vote, Committee on  
4 Finance. Chair Ferreras.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I vote aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rodriguez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Gibson.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cumbo.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
17 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
18 items have been adopted. Members, please sign the  
19 Committee Reports. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: We will keep the  
21 vote open for 20 minutes. If you're a staff member  
22 to a member that is on this committee, please give  
23 them a call and let them know that we will be open  
24 for 20 minutes.

25 [Pause]

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 13

2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member...

3 [gavel] Council Member Ignizio.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I vote aye.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now stands at 7.

6 [Pause]

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Miller.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I vote aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote now stands at 8 in

10 the affirmative.

11 [Pause]

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Levine.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: I vote aye.

14 [Pause]

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member

16 Rosenthal.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

18 [Pause]

19 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cornegy.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote on Committee

22 on Finance is 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the

23 abstentions.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: This Finance

25 hearing is now adjourned. [gavel]

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 10/24/2014