

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

----- X

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

1
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

9 [Pause]

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

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

25

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

12

1
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