

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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November 25, 2014
Start: 10:24 a.m.
Recess: 10:47 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

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

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

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: Good morning and welcome to today's Finance hearing. I am Council Member Julissa Ferreras and the chair of this committee. We've been joined by Council Members Rosenthal, Rodriguez, Majority Leader Van Bramer, Council Member Gibson, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Levine. We have a short agenda today; only two items. The first item is a transparency resolution and the second item is a BID legislation. The transparency resolution sets forth new changes in the designation of certain organizations receiving local aging and youth discretionary funding as well as new changes in the designation of certain organizations receiving funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the budget. Organizations appearing in the resolution that have not yet completed the prequalification process conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, the council and other entities are identified in the attached chart with an asterisk. As with all transparency resolutions council members will have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether or not a conflict exist with any

1
2 of the groups on the attached list. If any council
3 member has a potential conflict of interest with
4 any organizations listed he or she has the
5 opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time of
6 their vote. As a reminder please disclose any
7 conflict you may have with proposed subcontractors
8 that are used by discretionary funding. These
9 disclosures must be made before the subcontractor
10 can be approved. Jeremy Plofker [sp?] of the
11 Generals Councils Office can assist you with any
12 questions or concerns regarding disclosures. The
13 BID item that we have, we will be voting on today
14 is resolution 462 which sets forth December 8th... 14
15 at 10:00 a.m. in this room as a date, time, and
16 place to hold the public hearing concerning the
17 local law that would authorize and increase the
18 budgets of 10 BIDS. The budget increases have been
19 requested by the property owners within the
20 boundaries of each BID. The increases would be used
21 to enhance the services provided in each of these
22 BIDS; for example additional sanitation, holiday
23 lights display, outdoor art projects, and
24 marketing. The 10 BIDS that are seeking budget
25 increases are the 34th Street BID in Council Member

1 Johnson's district, the 47th Street BID in Council
2 Member Garodnick's district, the 86th Street Bay
3 Bridge BID in Council Member Gentile's district,
4 the 161st Street BID in Council Member Gibson's
5 district, the 125th Street BID in Council Member
6 Dickens' district, the Columbus Amsterdam BID in
7 Council Member Levine's district, the Forest Avenue
8 BID in Council Member Rose's district, the Myrtle
9 Avenue Brooklyn BID in Council Member Cumbo's
10 district, the Steinway BID in Council Member
11 Constantinides district, and the Sunnyside Shines
12 BID in Council, in Majority Leader Van Bramer's
13 district. All of the council members have submitted
14 letters in support of the requested budget
15 increases. More information regarding the specific
16 amounts of the assessment increases and the
17 additional services that will be provided can be
18 found in the community report prepared by the
19 Finance Division. For those, those are the items
20 for today. I will first open up the floor for
21 questions on the transparency resolution and then
22 for questions regarding the assessment increases.
23 Any questions? Seeing none... Before I have Billy
24 Martin the Committee Clerk... Where is Billy? Oh,

1 we're here before Billy? Oh no! Where is Billy?
2
3 Alright. I wanted to mention one housekeeping item.
4 I have requested that representatives of the HPD,
5 from HPD come to the council to do a briefing on
6 HDFCs, Article 11 tax exemptions, and some of the
7 other property tax exemptions that we are regularly
8 considering in this committee. The briefing will
9 take place on Wednesday, December 3rd at 1:00 p.m.
10 on the 16th floor. So members and your staff please
11 be sure if you can't make it if you can send a
12 staff. This is on all the tax recommended
13 legislation that we vote on out of this committee.
14 It should be a great opportunity for us to learn
15 about the property tax exemption process for HDFCs.
16 So please bring your questions and concerns about
17 specific projects if you have them. I strongly
18 encourage all my colleagues to attend. And can I
19 call the roll? People have to get... Alright well
20 Billy's late but the good news is members we no
21 longer have to sign sheets. Yay! So I could have
22 totally taken the roll. Alright, Billy Martin will
23 call the roll.

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic]

Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer.

Gibson.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [off mic] I vote

aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Levine.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: So we'll keep the
roll open for 20 minutes. And Council Member Van
Bramer whenever you're ready.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member
Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I'm going to
vote aye although I am assured that we will be

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COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

correcting the error in the Queens Food Pantry Initiative to restore the funding to St. Theresa's in two weeks. So acknowledging the, the unintentional error that's in the document we have before us I'll vote aye and look forward to restoring the funding to St. Theresa's Food Pantry in Woodside in two weeks.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Council Member Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Current vote on Finance is... all items have been adopted by a vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Committee on Finance. Final vote Committee on Finance is now eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative, and no abstentions. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS: The Finance Committee meeting 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 November 26, 2014