

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

----- X

December 16, 2014
Start: 11:23 a.m.
Recess: 11:55 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: DAVID D. GREENFIELD
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vincent J. Gentile
Annabel Palma
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel R. Garodnick
Darlene Mealy
Rosie Mendez
Ydanis A. Rodriguez
Peter A. Koo
Brad S. Lander
Stephen T. Levin
Mark S. Weprin
Jumaane D. Williams
Ruben Wills
Donovan J. Richards
Inez D. Barron
Andrew Cohen

Ben Kallos
Antonio Reynoso
Ritchie J. Torres
Mark Treyger
Vincent M. Ignizio

[sound check, background comments, pause]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Good morning.

My name is David Greenfield. I'm the Councilman for the 44th Council District in Brooklyn, and I also serve as the Chair of the Land Use Committee. I want to welcome my esteemed colleagues, members of the committee. I just would like to note that today we are splitting the gold star in half. And this is the end of the year, we will, in fact, be tallying up. We will be tallying up in January as to who, in fact, had the most gold stars, and we will be giving out a small token of our appreciation at the next meeting in January. Yes, very small, council member. And so, today half the star goes to Council Member Koo, and half the star goes to Council Member Wills. It might actually be the tie-breaking star so-- But you left.

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: [off mic] For a meeting.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And if you leave, you lose--you lose the gold star. You must be here consistently.

[background comments]

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Sorry. The
3 Chair's privilege. [comments and laughter]

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Keep it down, please.
5 Keep it down. [laughter]

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: All right, folks
7 quiet on the set. Quiet on the set. [background
8 comments] I also recognize Council Member Gentile,
9 Council Member Palm, Council Member Dickens, Council
10 Member Mendez, Council Member Rodriguez, Council
11 Member Lander, Council Member Levin, Council Member
12 Weprin, Council Member Williams, and Council Member
13 Richards, who shall be noted as actually did come a
14 little big early, but for some reason decided to
15 leave and forfeit his half of the star.

16 I want to thank you all for your prompt
17 attendance. You will see on the table before you
18 there are several items relating to the Committee.
19 First is the Agenda prepared by the committee staff.
20 Thank you, committee staff. Three [sic] of those
21 items, which have had a hearing, and have been
22 reviewed and fully vetted by the subcommittees.
23 Those are the matters on which we will be acting on
24 today. I would like to take the opportunity to thank
25 our subcommittee chairs. Thank you Chair Weprin,

1
2 Chair Koo, and Chair Dickens. Your objection, Chair
3 Dickens, is duly noted.

4 Also before you, are the Joint Reports of
5 the Land Use Committee and the applicable
6 subcommittee for each item we are voting on today
7 with the proposed resolution for each item. What the
8 committee is voting on today is to approve each of
9 the resolutions before you for presentation and vote
10 by the Full Council tomorrow. The resolutions
11 reflect the recommendations of the applicable
12 subcommittee. I note that we are laying over Land
13 Use No. 158, South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. Today
14 we have the following applications on our calendar
15 for consideration.

16 Land Use No. 151, the Sollazzo Plaza
17 rezoning, an application submitted by the Estate of
18 Letizia Sollazzo for an amendment of the Zoning Map
19 to eliminate from within and existing R3-2 District
20 the C1-1 District and establishing an existing R3-2
21 to a C1-2 District. This application is in Council
22 Member Rose's district in Staten Island Community
23 Board 1.

24 Land Use No. 147, 304 to 306 East 8th
25 Street, an application submitted by HPD for an

1
2 approval of an amendment to a previously approved tax
3 exemption for property located at 304 to 306 East 8th
4 Street. This application is in Council Member
5 Mendez's district in Manhattan Community Board 3.

6 Land Use No. 159, the Clinton Site 7, an
7 application submitted by HPD for a property tax
8 exemption at 538 to 548 West 53rd Street. This
9 application is in Council Member Johnson's District
10 in Manhattan Community Board No. 4.

11 The subcommittees have recommended
12 approval of these items as have all the council
13 members in whose districts the projects are located.
14 I recommend an aye vote on all these matters. We've
15 also been joined by Council Member Garodnick. Are
16 there any questions or comments on any of the matters
17 before us today? Hearing none, I will ask the
18 Counsel or the Clerk, rather. The Clerk is shaking
19 things up today by sitting four seats away from us.
20 I will ask the Clerk to call the roll and wish you
21 all a Happy Holidays, a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry
22 Christmas, and Happy Kwanzaa. And for those of you
23 who don't celebrate anything, shame on you but enjoy
24 the holidays. [laughter] Mr. Clerk.

1
2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,
3 roll call vote Committee on Land Use. Council Member
4 Greenfield.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: Gentile.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

8 CLERK: Palma.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye on all.

10 CLERK: Dickens.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Garodnick.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

14 CLERK: Mendez.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission to
16 explain my vote.

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Of course.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: So, today we're
19 voting on a building in my district. It used to be
20 called the Eleanor Bumpurs Homestead named after the
21 African-American woman who was killed by the police
22 when they were trying to do an eviction. I did sweat
23 equity in that building. I spent a couple of cold
24 Saturday putting in some beams. This building is a
25 Limited Equity Cooperative, and this measure today

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

will help keep it affordable, and bring down their taxes. So I want to thank the Chair Dickens and Chair Greenfield for bringing this matter here today, and I vote aye.

CLERK: Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: [off mic] Aye on all.

CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

CLERK: Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

CLERK: Weprin.

COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: [off mic] Aye on all.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Since I was bright and early in the other hearing waiting for this, I deserve at least a quarter star and I vote aye on al.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh, yeah, yeah.

[off mic]

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

COUNCIL MEMBER: You don't really deserve half, so-- [sic] [laughter]

CLERK: Wills.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIS: Aye.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I'm feeling like I should be included for that gold star, but I will vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

[laughter]

CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Aye.

CLERK: By a vote of 15 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions all items have been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. We will keep the vote open until 11:45 a.m. Thank you so much. See you tomorrow.

[Pause]

CLERK: Council Member Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye on all.

[Pause]

[background comments]

CLERK: Council Member Cohen.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

CLERK: The vote now currently stands at
17 in the affirmative.

[Pause]

CLERK: Council Member Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: I vote aye on
all.

CLERK: The vote note stands at 18.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Yes, it was the
hardest one I ever took.

[Pause]

[gavel]

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye on all.

CLERK: Council Member Barron.

[Pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

[Pause]

[background comments]

CLERK: The final vote for the Committee
on Land Use is now--the final vote is now 20 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative, and no abstentions.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: The Land Use
Committee for meeting of December 16, 2014 is hereby
adjourned. We will see you next year. [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 December 26, 2014