

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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December 16, 2015  
Start: 10:47 a.m.  
Recess: 11:34 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: BRAD S. LANDER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Ydanis A. Rodriguez  
Margaret S. Chin  
Deborah L. Rose  
Jumaane D. Williams  
Rafael L. Espinal, Jr.  
Mark Levine  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Steven Matteo

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Huh, are you leaving  
4 or--?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER: No.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Great. Super.  
7 We're good. [gavel] Beautiful. Thank you.

8 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Good morning and  
10 welcome as we reopen this meeting of the City  
11 Council's Committee on Rules, Privileges and  
12 Elections. I'm Brad Lander joined this morning by  
13 Council Members Rafael Espinal, Dan Garodnick, Debbie  
14 Rose, Mark Levine, and Minority Leader Steven Matteo,  
15 and other members will be joining us momentarily.  
16 Thanks to our Committee Counsel Hamid (sp?) Hussein  
17 and to our Council Investigative Unit Chuck Davis,  
18 Deandra John--Deandra Johnson and Alysia Rachel  
19 (sp?). Yesterday, Tuesday, December 15th, we  
20 considered two items. First, a resolution  
21 authorizing the Speaker to file or join an amicus  
22 brief on behalf of the Council in support of the  
23 Council's previous approvals related to the  
24 development of Willets Point. This brief will be  
25 filed in connection with the case currently pending

2 in the New York State Court of Appeals captioned  
3 *Avella et al. v. City of New York, et al*, and the  
4 Council is amongst the et al. Second, Ms. Hope  
5 Knight appeared before the committee and provided  
6 testimony and fielded questions from the committee  
7 concerning her proposed appointment by the Mayor to  
8 the City Planning Commission. As you may have seen  
9 in the Gotham Gazette yesterday or this morning, it  
10 was one of our--our most encouraging hearing to date  
11 in this hearing for nominees. Today, this committee  
12 will vote on the resolution and determine whether  
13 counsel should give its advice and consent for the  
14 appointment of Ms. Knight, a Manhattan resident, to  
15 succeed Boni Jong (sp?) and complete the remainder of  
16 a five-year term that expires on June 20th--June  
17 30th, 2018. Are there any members who wish to make a  
18 statement for the record? Seeing none, we will  
19 proceed to ask the clerk to take a vote on both  
20 items.

21 CLERK: William Martin. Roll--Committee  
22 Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Rules. Chair  
23 Lander.

24 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: I vote aye on both.

25 CLERK: Garodnick.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

3 CLERK: Rose.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Aye.

5 CLERK: Espinal.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

7 CLERK: Levine.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

9 CLERK: Matteo.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Aye.

11 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
12 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
13 all items have been adopted.

14 CHAIRPERSON LANDER: Thank you. We will  
15 keep the--the vote open for another 20 minutes or so  
16 to allow other members including the Speaker to come  
17 up and vote. Thank you very much. [pause,  
18 background comments]

19 CLERK: Continuation of roll call, the  
20 Committee on Rules. Speaker Mark-Viverito.

21 SPEAKER MARK-VIVERITO: I vote aye.

22 CLERK: The vote now currently stands at  
23 7 in the affirmative. [background comments, pause]

24 CLERK: Matthew DeStefano, Committee  
25 Clerk. Continuation of roll call, Committee on

1 COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS 6

2 Rules, Privileges--Privileges and Elections. Council  
3 Member Chin.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye on both.  
5 Thank you.

6 CLERK: The vote now stands at 8 in the  
7 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.  
8 [background comments, pause] Continuation of roll  
9 call Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.  
10 Council Member Williams.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I proudly vote  
12 aye.

13 CLERK: The vote now stands at 9 in the  
14 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.  
15 [background comments, [pause] Committee on Rules,  
16 Privileges and Elections. The final vote 9 in the  
17 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

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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. 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 23, 2015