

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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December 16, 2015  
Start: 10:49 a.m.  
Recess: 11:31 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
Chairperson

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

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

2 [sound check, pause]

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good

4 morning and welcome to today's Finance hearing. I am  
5 Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and I chair  
6 the committee. We've been joined by Council Members  
7 Matteo, Levine, Johnson, Cornegy, Van Bramer, and we  
8 have other colleagues walking in. Today, we have  
9 eight items on the agenda, two budget modifications,  
10 a transparency resolution, and five land use items.  
11 Let's start with the budget modification. The first  
12 is a revenue modification, which recognizes \$304.2  
13 million in new revenue in Fiscal 2016. The new  
14 revenue results largely from increased collection in  
15 the personal income tax, the real property transfer  
16 tax and the mortgage recording tax. In this mod,  
17 approximately \$135.2 million will be added to the  
18 Budget Stabilization Account to pre-pay Fiscal 2017  
19 debt service in Fiscal 2016, and approximately \$169  
20 million will be added to the City's general reserve.  
21 The second modification is an expense modification  
22 that represents movements of approximately \$322.3  
23 million of funding between and within city agencies  
24 to implement expense budget changes, which were  
25 reflected in the Fiscal 2016 November Financial Plan,

2 and includes any agency changes for local initiatives  
3 as well as other discretionary programs. The net  
4 fiscal impact of this modification is zero. Some  
5 highlights of the expense modification include a  
6 2,000 slot expansion of the City's year-round jobs  
7 initiative to older youth called Work, Learn and  
8 Grow. The Work, Learn and Grow Employment Program  
9 was designed to build off the experience gained in  
10 the Summer Youth Employment Program, and provides  
11 participants of the 2015 SYP, who are between the  
12 ages of 14 to 24 and currently in school, with career  
13 readiness training and paid employment opportunities  
14 for up to 25 week from October to April. If you  
15 remember, at adoption, the Council added \$12 million  
16 to create this initiative to provide this year-round  
17 jobs program for 6,000 young people. With the  
18 addition of the \$4.2 million, the Council would meet  
19 its target of providing 6,000 jobs for Fiscal 2016.  
20 We know more needs to be done, and the Council will  
21 continue to fight for more funding until jobs are  
22 available and obtained for any and all youth who seek  
23 them. The Expense Budget modification also provides  
24 an \$88.3 million increase in the budget of the  
25 Department of Homeless Services to support adult and

2 family shelter operations. This funding comes at a  
3 time when street homelessness is on the rise,  
4 according to the Mayor's Management Report, for  
5 Fiscal 2015 released in September. With the numbers  
6 expected to increase to 3,350 in Fiscal 2016, up from  
7 3,152 in Fiscal 2015, as with Work, Learn and Grow--  
8 as with the Work, Learn and Grow Program, we know  
9 that more needs to be done to curb not only street  
10 homelessness, but also chronic homelessness and all  
11 homelessness. The Council will continue vigorous  
12 oversight of this issue in the months to come. The  
13 Council looks forward to engaging the Administration  
14 in the coming months on all budgetary issues, and  
15 will work zealously to ensure that the Council's  
16 priorities are not only reflected in the budget, but  
17 are funded at the levels that ensure their  
18 effectiveness. For Council Members with questions on  
19 the Expense and Revenue Budget modifications,  
20 representatives from OMB are here to answer any  
21 questions you may have.

22                   Next, we have the Transparency  
23 Resolution, which sets for the new designation, and  
24 changes in the designation of certain organizations  
25 receiving local, aging and new discretionary funding

2 and funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the  
3 budget. Organizations appearing in the resolution  
4 that have not yet completed the pre-qualification  
5 process conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contract  
6 Services, the Council or any other entity are  
7 identified in the attached chart with an asterisk.  
8 As with all transparency resolutions, Council Members  
9 will have to sign a disclosure form indicating  
10 whether or not a conflict exists when any of the  
11 groups on the attached list. If any Council Member  
12 has a potential conflict of interest with any of the  
13 organizations listed, he or she has the opportunity  
14 to disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.

15           As a reminder, please disclose any  
16 conflict you may have with the proposed  
17 subcontractors that are used by organizations  
18 sponsored by discretionary funding. These  
19 disclosures must be made before the subcontractors  
20 can be approved. Wohan Grant (sic) General Counsel's  
21 Office can assist you with any questions or concerns  
22 regarding disclosures.

23           Last, we have the five LU items, which  
24 would all grant real property tax exemptions to  
25 City's HDFC program. First, the Land Use item on the

2 agenda is Riverton Square Apartments located in  
3 Council Member Dickens' office--Dickens' district in  
4 Manhattan. Of the 1,229 units in the building of  
5 this project will preserve almost 80% or 975 of those  
6 units as housing for low and moderate income  
7 households. And in return, this project will receive  
8 a full 30-year property tax exemption. This project  
9 is moving forward as a result of the long-term  
10 negotiations between Council Member Dickens and the  
11 sponsor to ensure the maximum affordability as this  
12 apartment complex will be preserved both for future  
13 and existing tenants. In addition, as a result of  
14 Council Member Dickens' leadership, the sponsor has  
15 agreed to contribute \$40 million in capital  
16 improvements with improvements made in the order  
17 requested by the tenants. In addition, due to  
18 Council Members' strong urging, the sponsor will  
19 remove all hazardous violations immediately, and  
20 resolve all non-hazardous violations within six  
21 months. Since the beginning and throughout, Council  
22 Member Dickens has spearheaded this process, and has  
23 been a fierce advocate on behalf of the tenants. She  
24 unfortunately was not able to attend today's hearing,  
25 but she has asked me to state on her behalf that she

2 is strongly in support of this project, and urges her  
3 colleagues to vote in support.

4           The second LU item is the Monsignor  
5 Alexius Jarka Hall located in Council Member  
6 Reynoso's district in Brooklyn. This project will  
7 preserve 64 units of housing for low-income seniors  
8 and will receive a partial 35-year property tax  
9 exemption. Council Member Reynoso supports this  
10 project.

11           The third LU item is 96 Rockwell Place  
12 Condo Unit 2-A located in Council Member Cumbo's  
13 district in Brooklyn. This project will preserve one  
14 unit of housing for low-income households and will  
15 receive a full 40-year property tax exemption.  
16 Council Member Cumbo supports this project.

17           The Fourth LU item is East 94th Street in  
18 Council Member Maisel's district in Brooklyn. This  
19 project will preserve 40 units of housing for low and  
20 moderate income households, and will receive a  
21 partial 35-year property tax exemption, and Council  
22 Member Maisel supports this project.

23           The final LU item is Fox Hill Apartments  
24 in Council Member Rose's district in Staten Island.  
25 This project will preserve 364 units of housing for



2 low-income households and will receive a partial 40-  
3 year property tax exemption.

4                   Those are agenda items for today. Before  
5 I open the floor for questions, I want to note that  
6 today is the last Finance meeting of 2015. I'd like  
7 to thank all my Finance colleagues for such a  
8 productive, successful year as we work together to  
9 protect the interest of all New Yorkers. In the next  
10 few weeks please keep an eye out for the Finance  
11 Committee's Year at a Glance Bulletin that summarizes  
12 our accomplishments over the past year. This  
13 document will be sent via email by my Chief Counsel  
14 Tanisha Edwards, and will also be distributed at our  
15 next Finance meeting. I'm extremely proud to have  
16 served as the Chair of the Finance Committee  
17 throughout this year, and I look forward to working  
18 together to further our goals in 2016. I want to  
19 wish my colleagues, the Council staff and all of you  
20 here today a very happy holiday season and a happy,  
21 healthy and prosperous new year. We will now go to  
22 questions, if we have any on the agenda. That's  
23 because my opening statement was so amazing.  
24 [laughter] We will now call the roll--the vote.

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE 10

2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.

3 Roll call vote Committee on Finance. Chair Ferreras-  
4 Copeland.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote  
6 aye and happy new year.

7 CLERK: Van Bramer.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER. [off mic] Aye.

9 CLERK: Cornegy.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: [off mic] Aye.

11 CLERK: Johnson.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

13 CLERK: Levine.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Matteo.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off mic] Yes.

17 CLERK: By a vote of 6 in the  
18 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
19 all items have been adopted.

20 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you  
21 and if there's any staff of missing members, I know  
22 that some are at the press conference, we will keep  
23 the roll open until 10:15--11:15. The roll will  
24 remain open until 11:15. [pause] [background  
25 comments]

1 COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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2 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
3 Committee on Finance. Council Member Rosenthal.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

5 [pause]

6 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
7 Committee on Finance. Council Member Gibson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [pause] I vote  
9 aye. [pause]

10 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
11 Committee on Finance. Council Member Cumbo.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I want to thank  
13 you all for holding the vote open for me. I'm also  
14 very proud today to vote on the Arts as a Catalyst  
15 for Change Initiative, and to add additional groups  
16 to this growing movement of arts organizations that  
17 are going to have a tremendous impact on ending gun  
18 violence in the City of New York as we know it, and I  
19 proudly vote aye.

20 CLERK: The final vote Committee on  
21 Finance now stands at 9 in the affirmative, 0 in the  
22 negative and no abstentions. [pause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: I proudly conclude  
24 and close this vote. [gavel]

25

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