

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

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January 14, 2016
Start: 1:33 p.m.
Recess: 1:38 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,
16th Fl.

B E F O R E:
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Peter A. Koo
Ruben Wills
Costa G. Constantinides
Chaim M. Deutsch
Corey D. Johnson
I. Daneek Miller

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2 CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Good afternoon.
3 When do I hit this thing; before or after? First...
4 [background comments] [gavel] Thank you. After two
5 years, still a novice.

6 Good afternoon, I'm Helen Rosenthal,
7 Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on
8 Contracts. I'd like to introduce the other members
9 of the Council of this committee who have joined us
10 this afternoon, I. Daneek Miller, Corey Johnson and
11 Peter Koo.

12 Today the Committee on Contracts will
13 vote on Res. 0923, a resolution adopting the rule
14 amendment of the Procurement Policy Board to raise
15 the micropurchase limit for the procurement and award
16 of construction contracts to \$35,000.

17 Now why is so important? You know, as
18 we've gone around and talked to people in the
19 construction industry, they report that as they are
20 allowed to bid on contracts and get expertise in
21 those areas, it enables them, it puts them in a
22 position where they can win bid awards on the larger
23 contract items, so I'm very excited about increasing
24 the micropurchase levels.

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2 According to the New York State General
3 Municipal Law, it requires the City to award
4 contracts using competitive bidding process and to
5 award contracts to the lowest responsible bidder;
6 however, for the smaller contracts, under the \$20,000
7 threshold, the City has discretion to award such
8 contracts without being subject to the competitive
9 bidding process or the lowest responsible bidder.

10 State law provides that the maximum
11 threshold for construction contracts can be \$35,000,
12 so Res. 0923 will officially raise the threshold for
13 construction contracts from \$20,000 to \$35,000, thus
14 putting the City in the same position as the State in
15 order to award more contracts to our minority- and
16 women-owned businesses. This is an important
17 resolution; when adopted, it will immediately go into
18 effect, raising the micropurchase amount adopted by
19 the Procurement Policy Board on October 21, 2015;
20 that happens in tandem with the passage of this
21 resolution, which will be at the next Stated Meeting.
22 Implementing this new threshold amount will give
23 agencies more discretion in awarding small
24 construction contracts and it's my hope that in doing
25 so it will lead the City to award more small

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COMMITTEE ON CONTRACTS

construction contracts to minority- and women-owned businesses.

I'd like to thank Lisette Camillo, the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services for about two more minutes, and the Procurement Policy Board for their efforts in raising the threshold to \$35,000 for micropurchase construction contracts.

I hope that my fellow committee members will support this resolution and I'd also like to welcome Council Member Chaim Deutsch. Thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Contracts, Res. 0923. Chair Rosenthal.

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Deutsch.

COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Johnson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Miller.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Permission to explain.

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CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: I beg you.

Please.

COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: I just wanna thank you Chair for her leadership on this very, very important initiative; look forward to the passage today and before the general vote [sic]. Thank you so much; vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 5 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, item has been adopted.

CHAIRPERSON ROSENTHAL: Thank you very much. And I forgot to ask; does anyone have any questions or thoughts or comments? Okay. Thank you so much, this is an important step in moving our city forward for our minority- and women-owned businesses. Thank you; I call this hearing to a close.

[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 January 15, 2016