CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

----- X

March 17, 2016 Start: 1:56 p.m. Recess: 3:00 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: DAVID G. GREENFIELD

Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Vincent J. Gentile

Annabel Palma
Inez E. Dickens
Daniel R. Garodnick

Darlene Mealy Rosie Mendez

Ydanis A. Rodriguez

Peter A. Koo Brad S. Lander Stephen T. Levin Jumaane D. Williams

Ruben Wills Deborah L. Rose Donovan J. Richards

Inez D. Barron Andrew Cohen Ben Kallos

Antonio Reynoso Ritchie J. Torres

Mark Treyger

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

2.2

[sound check]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: If you're a council member, please be seated. Yes, Brad, I'm talking to you, and quiet on the set, please. Thank you very much. Good afternoon. We apologize for the delay. Just for your reference, we now have printed copies of the Revised Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Zoning for Equality and Affordability Text right over there to my right. We also have a digital copy on the computer for any member or staff member who would like to peruse said copy before voting on this legislation. You can feel free to do so, and we also handed out some other copies as well. Brad is actually going to start reading the 500 pages now, and will give us a summary in six minutes.

My name is David Greenfield. I'm the

Councilman from the 44th Counsel District in

Brooklyn. I'm privileged to serve as the Chair of
the Council's Land Use Committee. I want to welcome
my esteemed colleagues who are members of the

committee, Council Member Gentile, Council Member

Palma, Council Member Dickens, Council Member Mendez,

Council Member Rodriguez, Council Member Koo, Council

Member Lander, Council Member Levin, Council Member

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

Williams, Council Member Richards, Council Member 2 3 Cohen, Council Member Torres and Council Member 4 Treyger, and Council Member Barron. I want to thank 5 Chair Richards, Chair Dickens and Chair Koo for their work with the Zoning, Landmarks and Planning 6 Subcommittees. We are going to do our regular 7 business first, and then we will discuss MIH and ZQA. 8 The committee is voting today on whether to approve each of the resolutions before you for presentation 10 11 of vote by the full council. The resolutions reflect 12 the recommendations of the applicable subcommittee. 13 First, we have the following four items that we'll be 14 voting on. Once again, this is in the course of our 15 regular business. One we complete the vote on these 16 items, we will then move to the Mandatory 17 Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and

The first item on the agenda is LU No.

345 and 346, that's 3133--3135 Emmons Avenue. This application for a zoning text amendment to create new special permit mechanism within the Special

Sheepshead Bay District, the special permit would allow qualifying lots to seek an increase in commercial floor area and parking (sic) height for

Affordability Text Amendments.

approval of this item.

2.2

2.3

commercial use and allow reductions in the number of required parking spaces. A special permit if approved with respect to the applications in Council Member Chaim Deutch's district would facilitate the enlargement of an existing two-story commercial building to include the full segment for the floor, and is expected to allow the company occupying the building to hire an additional 150 employees.

Council Member Deutsch had indicated his support for this application. The subcommittee has recommended

LU No. 339 Judge Gilbert Ramirez, 443

East 138th Street in Bronx, New York. This is an application by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to amend their previously approved project and Article 11 tax exemption to facilitate the affordability of one multiple dwelling located in Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito's District.

LU No. 340 Carmen Parson's House for the Elderly, 732 Elton Avenue. This is an application with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to amend a previously approved Article 11 tax to facilitate the continued affordability of one

COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on all.

1	COMMITTEE ON LAND USE 7
2	CLERK: Palma.
3	COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic] Aye on
4	all.
5	CLERK: Dickens.
6	COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic] Aye
7	on all.
8	CLERK: Garodnick.
9	COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.
10	CLERK: Mendez.
11	COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.
12	CLERK: Rodriguez.
13	COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
14	CLERK: Koo.
15	COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: [off mic] Aye.
16	CLERK: Lander.
17	COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: [off mic] Aye.
18	CLERK: Levin.
19	COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye.
20	CLERK: Rose.
21	COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: [off mic] Aye.
22	CLERK: Williams.
23	COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Aye on all.
24	CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Aye on all.

the modifications of the two major citywide Zoning

Text Amendments before us. These are the Mandatory
Inclusionary Housing and the Zoning for Quality
Affordability Text Amendments. These two items
represent the giant step forward in zoning policy for
the city. The core goals of these two proposals are
to incentivize, and in certain areas mandate the
production of affordable housing and senior housing
in New York City. I want to thank Mayor Bill de
Blasio for proposing these historic changes that will
generate tens of thousands of units of affordable
including senior affordable housing, and my
colleagues in the Council. I especially want to
recognize my partner in all of this, the Zoning
Subcommittee Chair, Donovan Richards. Thank you
Donovan for your outstanding leadership and great
partnership. It's been a pleasure to work with you.
We're looking forward to working together on many
other fun projects. East New York here we come.
[laughter]

I want to thank our Speaker Melissa-Mark

Viverito for ensuring that we have the most

transparent, inclusive and thorough legislative

process that I have been part of in my six years here
in the New York City Council. The Speaker recognized

that on average we change our Citywide zoning once 2 3 every 50 years. So today's vote is truly historic, 4 and will have an impact on citywide development, and the landscape for the next 50 years. I also want to thank our outstanding Land Use staff. We're very 6 7 fortunate. There were 430--483 pages of Zoning Text 8 Amendment, and I quizzed every member of the Land Use staff, and they all knew it by heart. Very impressive, I will tell you, and first we--we are 10 11 truly fortunate. We have an outstanding leader, the Director of the Land Use Division. His name is Raju 12 13 Mann. I don't know if he's here. Is Raju here or is he hiding somewhere? [applause] Raju. [cheers] Raju 14 15 is so self-effacing and he's hiding in the back. 16 can recognize him. I tell people you can recognize 17 him because when he started working for the Council 18 around a year ago, he had perfect beautiful black hair, and now most of his hair is gray. 19 [laughter] I only take responsibility for the right side of the 20 gray. The rest of the Council can take 21 responsibility for the left side, but we certainly 2.2 2.3 appreciate your leadership. I will tell you that Raju personally met with every single member of the 24 City Council to review their concerns and to get 25

2	reedback and input. And so, we're really incredibly-
3	-incredibly grateful. The Deputy Director Amy
4	Levitan. Where's Amy? Amy also hiding [cheers/
5	applause] in the corner. Amy is really thethe
6	institutional knowledge of this body, and she's been
7	with us for many years, and sheshe literally went
8	through every facet on this proposal. I'm incredibly
9	grateful for her, and then wewe played a cute trick
10	on one of our newest staffers, and that is our
11	General Counsel Julie Lubin. We told her there
12	wasn't anything serious going on when we hired her a
13	few weeks ago, and then we just threw her into the
14	deep end. Julie, where are you? Julie. Please give
15	her a big round of applause. She was fantastic.
16	Julie is great because she worked previously for City
17	Planning so we knew all their secrets, and there's
18	actuallyyou know, people don't realize, you know,
19	when you leave an agency, you can't lobby another
20	agency for the year. It doesn't mean you can't
21	disclose their secrets. And so, thank you, Julie for
22	giving us the inside track
23	JULIE LUBIN: [off mic] You're welcome.

(sic)

2	CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD:on
3	negotiations with City Planning. We certainly
4	appreciate that. Our Deputy Counsel Dillon Casey to
5	my right really did [cheers/applause] out
6	outstanding work as well. I want to thank him.
7	Brian Paul. Where's Brian? Brian. [cheers/applause
8	Brian. What can we say about Brian except Brian has
9	a lot of patience. Thank you Brian for all that
LO	patience especially when we were tweaking those maps
L1	at the end I at 2:00, 3 o'clock in the morning the
L2	other night. So, we're very, very grateful for that
L3	The great James Lloyd. Where's James. James.
L4	[cheers/applause] I'm sad to say that James will be
L5	taking a leave for a year. He's going back to the
L 6	Navy starting this summer where he's going to be
L7	continuing his service, and he's done outstanding
L8	service here in the Council, and we hope to have him
L9	back here, and we appreciate it. And so, thank you
20	James for your great work. Chris Rice. Where's
21	Chris.
22	CHRIS RICE: I'm doing okay. [applause]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chris, thank you very much, and Liz Lee. Is Liz here? Liz, yes.

[cheers/applause] Thank you. Thank you, very much.

23

25

I--I also really want to recognize on--on my staff I 2 3 have some terrific folks who worked overtime with me. I want to thank my Chief of Staff Danny Paulstein. 4 don't know if I see him here, but I would like to thank him. No, Danny's actually working so hard that 6 7 we have him at another meeting. So thank you, Danny. 8 I want to thank my Counsel Elana Sacheva (sp?). Thank you so much for the great work that you did, and my Communications Director Stephen Snowder (sp?) 10 11 who is with us today as well. I want to thank folks 12 in the Speaker's Office, Ramon Martinez. If you want 13 to negotiate anything, you want Ramon Martinez in that foxhole with you, and he certainly did an 14 15 outstanding job for us, and Joe Toronto, who is his right hand man in negotiations. I want to thank Joe 16 17 very much for his work, and the -- the folks at City 18 Hall they were--they were very fair, and we certainly 19 acknowledge the work that they did especially on the 20 work for John Pollupo (sp?). They spent many days 21 and hours negotiating with us. I'm pleased to say 2.2 that I'm only missing one finger. I'm not dealing 2.3 (sic) with Emma, so I have 9-1/2 fingers left. that's actually--that's actually pretty good. 24

told that most people walk out with just a limb or

So I'm--I--I successfully survived that, but 2 3 certainly the work that John Pollupo did was--was incredible, and I will tell you that every member of 4 5 the senior team of the administration from Carl Weisbrod to Vicky Bean to Alisha Glenn were all 6 7 hands-on, and whenever we needed them, they answered 8 our calls and they spoke to us and negotiated with us, and it really was an incredible collaborative effort. And so, we're really excited about that, and 10 11 I want to thank everyone as well. And then finally, I want to thank the advocacy groups because these 12 13 groups play an incredibly important role. 14 especially want to thank HTC. We saw the at 15 virtually all of our hearings, and so we appreciate 16 that. I want to thank AARP. I've never seen such 17 young seniors in my life, and I'm really thrilled to 18 see them here as well. I want to thank, of course, 19 Third (sic) TBJ, 1199, DC37, NWAACP, RWDSU, the 20 National Urban League, Live On New York. Real 21 affordability for all as we so lovingly call them 2.2 RAFA and A&HD for the work that they did, and they 2.3 really played a very important role, and we recognize that that this was an incredibly collaborative 24 effort. 25

2

3

4

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

So LU 335, the zoning for quality and affordability--and yes, Gloria Pasmeno (sp?) wherever you are I got your Tweet, and I'm going to speak a little bit slower so you can take notes--is a text amendment to address the parking height and bulk floor area rules across the city to promote the development of affordable housing and senior affordable housing. The subcommittee chaired by Chair Richards has recommended a series of modifications in his proposed that are outlined in detail in the materials in front of you. Now, our wonderful Land Use staff, just so that you know, they are not forcing you to read all 500 pages of text. We have this, which is a summary, a/k/a a cheat So for those of you in the press, for those of you in the staff, our members who would like, look this and you will see all of the major changes that were made in the proposal. And Chair Richards is doing a wonderful job modeling the City Council modifications, and thank you so much for that. appreciate that as well. The modifications that we are discussing today are aimed at strengthening the core goals of the proposals while scaling back on certain changes to protect neighborhood context.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

Along these lines, the subcommittee had recommended reducing height increases for market rate housing, scaling back certain bulk changes, increasing oversight of waivers provided and scaling back on the parking changes proposed. The key changes we are making reflect the feedback of community board and other elected officials including borough presidents. Richard, don't make me call you out by name. You were pretty loud over here. How are you? Including the presidents and other interest groups. this in simple language, we focused on three areas in ZQA. We wanted that the benefits should go to affordable and senior housing, not to market rate housing. We wanted to respond to concerns about the transit zone by providing more parking in areas that don't have great access to mass transit, and it was very important to us to maintain neighborhood So specifically, just to highlight some of context. the bigger changes, we removed a special permit that would have allowed changes of the height and setback for irregular sites because those were market rate development sites. We got rid of another special permit that would have allowed a parking waiver for market rate units and instead of sending it to the

2 BSA, we're sending it to City Planning so there can 3 be a full ULURP review so the Council Members and 4 community boards can weigh in. And so in short, if it created more affordable housing we kept it in. it didn't, we took it out. We listened to community 6 7 boards, and we made changes to the transit to the 8 transit zones, and that was a number one area that we heard concern from the outer borough community boards. And as City Planning said, they're not 10 11 really transit zones, they're shopping and quality of 12 life zones as well. Just because you live next to one 13 subway, doesn't mean that you have great access to mass transit or to shopping especially in the outer 14 15 boroughs where you may need a car to get around. 16 what we did was really incredible. We undertook a 17 district-by-district review of this. We maintained 18 the transit zone overall, but we went neighborhood by 19 neighborhood, and block by block and we created maps 20 that truly reflect the local needs. And I really 21 think that the community boards will be very 2.2 impressed by the results. Moreover, we're protecting 2.3 neighborhood context. For example, we limited significant new concentration of nursing homes in 24 25 districts that already have a lot of nursing homes.

And further in R32 districts that have one-family 2 3 homes, they are 25 feet tall, it would have been a 4 mistake to allow for a 65-foot building next door. So we carved those out. I want to thank Council Member Alan Maisel, who flagged that for us, and we 6 7 lowered the height increases to 10 feet in the R4 districts and 15 feet in R5 districts with certain 8 additional requirements so that we can keep the context of those single-family and two-family 10 11 neighborhoods. And finally, in regards to ZQA, we 12 kept the additional five feet for commercial spaces, but not for market rate housing with the exception of 13 14 the Manhattan core that we carved out altogether. 15 And once again, this reflects the concerns of those 16 in the Manhattan Community Board and the council 17 members who fought for decades to win height limits 18 in their districts. In sum, we want you to know that 19 we heard you loud and clear, and we literally went 20 through every single recommendation of every single 21 community board of every single borough president and 2.2 of every elected official who gave us feedback. 2.3 the changes that you see today are intense changes that reflect those requests and those concerns, and I 24 genuinely believe we addressed most of the concerns 25

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

that were brought to us by our colleagues in
government.

LU 334, the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Program is a text amendment that would establish a new mandatory inclusionary housing program. This proposal will allow New York City to require that all new residential development in certain areas provide a set-aside of residential units for affordable housing. This program represents a huge step forward from the previous Voluntary Inclusionary Housing Program because it will not allow substantial residential development without affordable housing. And because it requires a more substantial portion of the building to be set aside for affordable housing, the subcommittee has recommended a series of changes that will require units to be provided for families with lower incomes, would disincentivize off-site housing, and would strengthen the programming requirements. Specifically, we modified the proposal to introduce a new low-income option requiring 20% of new buildings, provide for families making 40% of the area median income. That's \$31,00 for a family of three, and they would pay only \$775 in rent on a brand new two-

bedroom apartment. Also, we set aside in the
existing option what is known as Option 1. Once you
can see this all in here, where we're going to
require that 10% of the building be provided for
families making 40% of the area median income, and
would decrease the overall incomes for the final
workforce option. So made significant changes to
achieve deeper levels of affordability on both ends
of the program. The changes to both of these
programs required countless hours of work, and once
again, we thank everyone in the Council, at the
Mayor's Office, and the Department of City Planning,
at HPD for their efforts to bring these proposals to
this point. And I am confident that with these
changes proposed here these proposals will benefit
New York City for years to come. This is literally
the best affordable housing plan of any city in the
United States of America that we are passing today
and I, therefore, strongly recommend that we approve
these items as modified. Are there any questions or
comments on the proposed modifications, and just to
be clear, of course, you can still make remarks when
vou vote. I'm sorrv.

CLERK: Garodnick.

Permission to explain my vote.

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair Koo, to 3 explain his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Thank you. Downtown Flushing has about ten large-scale developments either under construction or in the pending stages. These mostly consist of luxury condos, hotels, and commercial strip. The only projects for any affordable housing, they all are municipal parking lots that have been painstakingly negotiated by the city, community and the developers. I attend a town hall last week where about 100 people told me in no uncertain terms that they are scared that there will be reprisal of our neighborhood. This is why I have asked for 40% AMI option to allow for a deeper level of affordability, and I'm very happy the Council's bill made that provision. But we must also preserve our residential character. Z here--ZQA must respect the parking needs of outer boroughs, and you must not undo the contextual zonings that were completed under the last administration. Eliminating R3-2 zones will ensure our single-family homes will not be surrounded by high-rises, and eliminating the BSA waivers for market rate parking and requiring a full ULURP, will ensure our community boards continue to have a voice

2.2

2.3

in planning our communities. This bill is not

perfect. It's not going to single-handedly resolve

our affordability crisis, but it is a good start. I

would like to thank the Administration for working in

good faith with our communities. I will vote yes.

CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Request permission to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Lander to explain his vote.

Greenfield and thanks for your leadership throughout this process. I will be enthusiastically voting yes on both Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and Zoning for Quality and Affordability today. In 2003, when I was at the helm of the Fifth Avenue Committee, the Bloomberg Administration proposed the upzoning of Fourth Avenue to allow apartment buildings along the avenue, and, you know, and the neighborhood at the time there were some people that didn't want taller buildings on Fourth Avenue. But there were more people who said we would be open to additional density on Fourth Avenue. It's served by a subway. It's an appropriate place for taller buildings and

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

more apartments, but the neighborhood is continuing to gentrify and we need to know that there are going to be affordable units there. It seemed like a rela--a--a--a reasonable idea, and we learned that a lot of other cities around the country had a Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning Program, and that New York at the time didn't even have a voluntary one. And, we pushed very hard for what we thought was just a simple and obvious thing. We'll take the density. Guarantee us some affordability. And at the time, we were treated like we were crazy. We didn't even win a voluntary program, and today 13 years later, there's a whole lot of market rate housing on Fourth Avenue, and there is not one affordable unit. we've lost the hundreds of units of affordable housing that we might have had on Fourth Avenue, but today the whole city is running. So that the next time things like this happen in every neighborhood, and I look forward to that including Gowanus neighborhood just a little bit away from Fourth Avenue where we will be able with smart and good community planning to plan for the planning, the infrastructure, the urban design, the mix of use as we want and to quarantee affordable units through

Mandatory Inclusionary Housing. When the de Blasio 2 3 Administration proposed it, they already had proposed 4 what was by almost any measure the strongest Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program in the 5 country, but this Council has made it significantly 6 7 I'm proud of the process that took place, 8 the consultation with individual members, the balance of setting collective priorities and working on individual member issues across both of these. I 10 11 want to thank both chairs for their leadership. I 12 want to echo the thanks to Raju and his team, and to 13 the Speaker for creating the space for us to work together. We have not gotten to 100% agreement, but 14 15 we have strengthened this policy in so many ways, and I would urge people if you're not going to look 16 17 through all of these pages, the document yes. Well, 18 you can go with the fine Power Point, but the summary 19 sheets are--are important as well. And I do want to 20 point people to it because there are some things we 21 really haven't even talked about that are quite significant things that the Council has done to 2.2 2.3 improve this. We've talked about the deeper affordability, but to strengthen incentives for on-24 site affordability are a big deal, and they're much 25

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

The ways in which it's hard to go through stronger. loopholes at the BSA, the way in which there's equitable access to amenities, and a mix of units throughout the building. The way in which we're going to have more transparency and today you can't even figure out which Voluntary Inclusionary units exist, the ways in which there's going to be more transparency, the way in which the Administration has agreed to report on the commitments made to neighborhood through the Neighborhood Development There's commitment that this Council has fought on to make sure that manufacturing zones are strengthened even as we're--and that we've got a commitment in here to move forward rapidly on the manufacturing districts. And, of course, one-there's some fantastic stuff on local hiring, on better efforts to make sure about construction safety, and one that I'm especially enthusiastic about is the commitment from the Administration to work with us on a citywide certificate of mill (sic) harassment policy to make sure that landlords and developers don't use up zonings or gentrification as an excuse to harass out tenants, and then upgrade the building and that will be made more difficult as a

proudly vote aye on all.

2.2

2	result of the certificate of mill harassment
3	policies. So, with big thanksoh, and finally on
4	ZQA, we can now build some senior housing on that
5	Bishop Boardman parking lot, and I can't wait for the
6	day that we can cut the ribbon and move someand let
7	some new seniors move into what's today an
8	underutilized parking lot. So with apologies for the
9	length of those remarks, and again with gratitude to
10	the chair, and with everyone who worked on this, I

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: No apologies needed. As I said, we gave you the 500 pages, and as promised after 15 minutes you read through it all, and you gave us a summary. We're very grateful for that. Clerk, continue the roll, please.

CLERK: Levin.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Levin to explain his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank you for your leadership. Chairman Richards, thank you for your leadership in shepherding these very complicated

2 and very dense and complex politically land use measures through this Council. I want to thank the 3 4 Speaker for her leadership. I want to especially acknowledge Raju Mann and the entire Land Use staff 5 who have really been incredibly diligent working with 6 7 every individual member on every individual issues 8 that they have both in MIH and ZQA, and it's really been a model of how a legislative body can transparently consider large scale land use measures. 10 11 I am going to vote aye on both measures, and 12 following up on what Council Member Lander said, I 13 have seen large parts of my district have gotten rezoned over the last 15 years, and there were so many 14 15 missed opportunities in Downtown Brooklyn, Fourth Avenue, Williamsburg, Greenpoint where we could have 16 17 done so much better, so much better for the people of 18 New York City when it comes to affordable housing. 19 Developers are building skyscrapers in Downtown 20 Brooklyn with at most a sliver of affordability, and 21 in some instances no affordability at all. And--and that really is--is--is so disappointing, and I 2.2 2.3 commend this administration for seeing the inequity in that, and -- and the injustice in that and moving 24 forward on the Mandatory Inclusionary Zoning 25

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

framework that will allow for thousands and thousands of--of units to be built throughout New York City that are affordable, they're affordable to people that live in those communities. And--and in addition on the ZQA, we're putting a priority on senior housing and allowing seniors to be able to stay in New York City for -- for generations to come because what's happened over the last 15 years with the loss of federal funding for senior housing, it's been an absolute crime. And--and I commend this Administration for really taking it up and saying-not taking, but not being discouraged from--from limitations from other--other branches of government, other federal and state government and saying that they're going to take on this issue head on. with that, I vote aye on both.

CLERK: Rose.

thank you and appreciate the negotiating skills of the Land Use, the Council Land Use, Chair--Raju and staff, the Land Use Chair and committee, and mostly my colleagues for their thoughtful deliberations on behalf of all of our constituents, and I appreciate that the neighborhood nuances were considered and

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

2 included in this Zoning Text Amendment, MIH and ZQA, 3 and I vote aye. Thank you.

CLERK: Williams.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Excused to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Williams to give a short explanation of his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I didn't say I just said explain. [laughter] But I'm not--I did explain in the subcommittee. Some of my remarks are on record. I just wanted to--to add for clarity, of course, my objection to MIH as it is. Ιt isn't to say that we shouldn't include height and conveyances in the same options, and the exact same neighborhoods, but rather, we should not pass a plan, which allows communities to avoid including any lowincome options and continue to further segregate the I wanted to make sure that was clear and, of course, it is still the best in the nation as it should be. I think New York City should lead the way, but I--we--I think we did have an opportunity for more people to look at this plan. Not to say they--they--if there was a way that we would have addressed the fair housing issue just a little

2	better, I still believe that that is a concern. As
3	good as the plan is, that it is good for the people
4	who are welcoming the lower income units into their
5	communities, and people who do not want them
6	historically still would have an issue, of course.
7	MIH is notwasn't meant to be a solution for all of
8	our city housing's problems. So I look forward to
9	continuing to work on that issue. I vote no on MIH
10	334 and yes on ZQA 335.

CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Chair Richards to explain his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Can I read through all my testimony from the subcommittee hearing.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Most definitely note.

council Member Richards: Okay. But I want to thank you for your leadership and partnership throughout this whole process. Seriously, it's been a joy to work with you, and look forward obviously to continuing rezoning the entire city. [laughs] But

2 it's a honor. It's been a honor to work with you. I 3 just wanted to commend once again our Land Use staff 4 Raju Mann. Thank you so much. My son now knows the alphabet. I'm not sure if it's correct, though. 5 He's saying ZQA, MIH. [laughter] So I'm hoping the 6 7 Administration is going to commit some more Universal 8 Pre-K in my district so that we can really send them on their way to learning their ABCs the correct way. But in all seriousness, I want to thank everyone once 10 11 again, all of our -- the Council Members who fought 12 ferociously--ferociously for their communities I mean 13 down to the sock. They really cared about every inch 14 of their communities, and I want the public to know, 15 and I want the community boards to know whether the 16 cameras were on or off that these members here fought 17 very hard. I want to thank the Administration once 18 again. I want to thank the Speaker especially for 19 her leadership, Ramon, Joe, Serranto (sp?) who was in 20 the room when we were negotiating all of this stuff. 21 They are--you definitely--when you go into battle, 2.2 you want to go in with some strong people, and these 2.3 were some strong people, and we got a lot of changes because of it. I just want to echo what many of our 24 25 colleagues said. Listen, this Mandatory Inclusionary

Housing, you can put it up against any other city's 2 3 program, and I can assure you that they're going to 4 be looking to revise their plans now. This is the most aggressive and ambitious policy out of any city 5 in this country, and this Council ought to be 6 7 commended for moving forward with it. There's always 8 better you can build, but I believe that we've reached a place that won't stymie development that will still help us to obtain the goal of affordable 10 11 housing and senior housing. And on ZQA, you know, I 12 know there's always been challenges. When you speak of rezoning a community or changing the density or 13 heights of a community, you know, people want to keep 14 15 the characters of their neighborhoods. But I do want to say that we are in a crisis. [coughing] There's 16 17 There are 50, nearly 55 or 50,000 people a need. 18 sleeping in homeless shelters, and we cannot continue 19 with the status quo. So if that means adding a floor 20 to a particular building in a neighborhood so that 21 seniors have a place to live, that is critical. 2.2 if it means eliminating a parking spot, and as I said 2.3 at the subcommittee hearing, cars shouldn't be the only--shouldn't have a place to live before human 24 25 beings do. And if that means eliminating a parking

2.2

2.3

spot to ensure that somebody, a senior has housing, it is our duty as elected officials to actually lead on an issue like this, and to ensure people have a place to live in space. So wit that, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you once again for your leadership. I

CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Mr. Chair, permission to be excused to explain my vote.

proudly vote aye on both of these proposals.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Barron to explain her vote.

want to--I also want to commend the staff for the great work that they've done. It's really tremendous but I don't think that it has reached what I feel are the needs of people in my community. To the AARP, I'm a member, a card carrying member, but I think that there's still is not the reach that it should have. As we look at MIH and we understand that through much of the changes that were made, there will be at least a ten percent inclusion of people making \$40,000. That only reaches about 10% of the people in my community because there's a 35% below that 10% who are only making up to \$35,000. So they

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

are not a part of being able to apply, and I was reading a federal report, which says gentrification is not only pushing one community out and bringing in another community, but it's having a community that's not eligible or able to apply for the housing that's going in. The Option 3 reminds me of the recent advertising from the previous administration that offered affordable housing to people making \$200,000. And this Option 3 has an average of \$115,000. So if you're going average down to 115 of the AMI, not \$115,000, 115 AMI, if that's the average then you're certainly going to have a significant number perhaps of people who make more than that 115% of the AMI, and that's troubling. In terms of the ZQA, the push to have housing built on the parking lots is admirable, but I read Zoning Regulation 25-25, which says that the federal government prohibits construction on parking lots. Prohibits construction on parking lots. In order to begin to explore that, you have to request a waiver. I don't know that this administration has reached out or sent a messages or plans or thinks that the present Congress will be willing to do that, or what the history has been in granting that waiver. So, that's questionable to me

as well, and the developer that's receiving a 5%--2 3 that's an additional five foot height for providing 4 13-foot ground floor space for a community facility or for retail, that's great, but I don't think that it should have been an either/or proposition. 6 7 the developer does not have to also consider 8 affordable housing. Because a developer with that 13 foot ground floor space can have all market housing above. So that's also troubling to me. So, I've 10 11 been told that, well, you've got to be able to 12 realize that you've got to have this cross-13 fertilization of money so that the developer can get a reasonable rate of return. I would like to know 14 15 what is a reasonable rate of return, and who has set 16 that amount, percentage or whatever to be the 17 reasonable rate of return, and how do we monitor 18 that. I know that I've been told the BSA will look 19 at that, but who set this reasonable rate of return, 20 and what is that amount? And I think that all of us 21 has--this has us focusing on the 25% and the 30% of apartments for so-called affordable, whatever the 2.2 2.3 ranges are. But we're not looking at 70 or 75% that are market rate, and at a time when we have 68,000 24 25 people living in--in shelters and people who are

8

9

10

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

- homeless, and people who are the working poor, I
 think we use--we need to use every opportunity to
 explore how we can look at those persons who are the
 most rent burdened to make sure that they get full
 advantage of any housing that we approve, and with
 that I vote no on these two.
 - CLERK: Cohen.
 - COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Thank you. I vote yes on LU 334 and no on LU 335.
- 11 CLERK: Kallos.
- 12 COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Permission to 13 explain my vote.
 - CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member Kallos to explain his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Thank you to the Speaker, Chair Greenfield, Chair Richards, and the Council staff for all your hard work in amending both proposals to reflect the voices and expertise of our communities. I have my weekend reading set aside for me before our upcoming vote. I spent the past year fighting to approve Zoning for Quality Affordability, ZQA and Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, MIH, develop housing or all New Yorkers while protecting light and air by eliminating building heights. Last year, I

joined Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer and 2 3 many of my Manhattan colleagues in the Council in 4 calling for changes to ZQA, that threatened our neighborhood, particularly our side streets with 5 height increases that have led to over-development. 6 In response to our advocacy, the Department of City 7 8 Planning Chair Carl Weisbrod agreed to remove both height increases to RAB, and limit height increases that are R6B or R7A, thereby, protecting the quiet 10 11 mid-block of the side streets throughout Manhattan. 12 Still, the proposal would have considerably weakened 13 the Sliver Law, removed the hills and valleys that 14 give our mid-blocks character, and provide light and 15 air, and allowed additional height in cases even where no affordability was being built. All these 16 17 issues were identified by a study that my office 18 funded by the Friends of the Upper East Side Historic 19 District and City Task. Community Boards 6, 8 and 20 11, that I represent in Manhattan, noted these 21 issues, when they voted against the original ZQA. addressed these issues and statements before the 2.2 2.3 Manhattan Borough Board as well as my testimony before the City Planning Commission's hearing, and 24 our zoning hearings, where I also asked for deeper 25

and broader affordability in Mandatory Inclusionary 2 3 Housing. I joined the association with Neighborhood 4 Housing and Development, NHD, and the Real 5 Affordability for All, RAFA, calling for deeper affordability so that we could -- when we get up 6 7 density, we get housing for all New Yorkers, 8 including those who need it most. We also fought for brothers and sisters to ensure subsidies provide local jobs, and improves construction safety. As 10 11 Vice Chair for Policy of the Progressive Caucus, I 12 joined my progressive colleagues in the Council in a 13 letter seeking deeper affordability, additional 14 affordability to disincentivize off-site housing 15 among many other key improvements. As Chair of the 16 Committee on Governmental Operations, with the 17 oversight over the Board of Standards and Appeals, I 18 fought for financial hardship review by HPD with all 19 our location materials posted online in real time, 20 these are the first of many BSA reforms to come. 21 I've also offered Introduction 1015, co-prime 2.2 sponsored by Housing Chair Jumaane Williams and 2.3 Council Member Rosie Mendez that has already been heard, and would create a database for all affordable 24 housing units require enforcement by HPD with defined 25

2 and centralized applications for new and existing 3 affordable housing. After lots of hard work from the 4 Council, I'm proud to have worked with my colleagues 5 to have negotiated these final changes, zoning for quality and affordability. In addition to 6 7 eliminating the increase in RAP contextual districts, 8 we reduced the height increases in other contextual districts including bringing the maximum R10A increase from 50 feet, 5-0, five stories, to 25 feet. 10 11 In R10A districts the initial proposal would have 12 made narrow streets as tall as wide streets, 13 eliminating the hills and varrows--valleys. This is 14 no longer the case. We're no longer giving away 15 height for free and tying--and we are tying 16 additional heights and contextual districts in 17 Manhattan to affordable housing. Districts 18 oversaturated with nursing homes such as mine where 19 rent regulated affordable housing would be displaced 20 in favor of \$15,000 a month beds paid for by 21 Medicaid, and our city budget will remain protected by a special permit. Seniors who would have been 2.2 2.3 squeezed into a 275-foot units, which will now be set to at a higher 325 square feet. And originally NYCHA 24 tenants would have been walled in by new construction 25

40 feet from their windows with luxury units built 2 3 high above them, but will continue to be protected by 4 60-foot requirement between the buildings. original proposals would have re-opened the zoning 5 loophole, but we stopped with the Sliver Law, and 6 7 that loophole will remain shut, and the Sliver Law 8 will remain safe. With regard to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing, we're providing for lowerincome New Yorkers by requiring housing 10% of the 10 11 housing at 40% of the AMI when selecting 25% at 60% We'll provide an option for 20% at 40% of 12 of AMI. 13 IMI--AMI, and additional options. And so, what that 14 means is an average family income of \$24,000 for a 15 single or \$31,000 for a family of three will now have affordability. Finally, MIH will be more transparent 16 17 as we've required HPD to create a system to track, 18 register and monitor the new affordable units 19 created. As would be required by Introduction 1015, 20 the HPD projects will provide funding incentives for local outreach and hiring, and the Department of 21 2.2 Buildings will impose requirements and fines that 2.3 will make construction favors--safer. For these reasons, I vote aye on both text amendments as well 24 25 as the previous land use call-ups.

2.2

2.3

2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [pause] I--I know as we spoke earlier, I just, you know, not only are we--not only is ZQA expanding this--the supply of senior housing, but David Greenfield is expanding our stock of comedic amusement, for which I am grateful, and I vote aye.

CLERK: Treyger.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Permission to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. Just for the recording, according to Sally Goldenberg, it's like a mediocre comedic quality. Council Member Treyger to explain his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: So, I--I'd like to commend an thank both Chair Greenfield and Chair Richards for really championing these measures in the Council, and for making their offices and themselves very accessible throughout this entire process. I want to strongly commend the Speaker, her staff who have spend and the Land Use staff who have really spent so much time with us, and over and over and over again making sure that we are paying respect to

2

3

4

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

2.3

24

25

the individual features of our neighborhoods. let me say this, I'm very sensitive, and I appreciate when we hear from residents, and we hear from advocates and leaders, yes, each neighborhood is unique. There's no question about that, but what is not unique across the entire city of New York is the need for senior housing. That is the number one request that comes across to my office every single day in addition to Sandy recovery issues. housing, every day someone comes in, someone calls asking for is there an apartment available for senior housing. So I believe that government has an obligation to act, not to just simply bicker but to act. And so I do want to commend this Council and I do want to commend the Administration for--and the advocates for taking a stand and saying we have to do something to further entice and to further motivate and trigger the construction of senior housing in New York City. With regards to MIH, I am of the belief that it's not enough to say that we have to do everything possible to make New York City a place where people could afford to live. I think we have to make the city affordable where people have a chance to own a piece of this city. The term social

- 2 mobility needs to come back into our vocabulary. It
- 3 needs to be at the forefront. I believe that when
- 4 people had a chance to own a piece of their
- 5 neighborhood that is a big answer to gentrification.
- 6 To me, when you live in an apartment for 20, 25
- 7 | years, and you choose to move out, when you help
- 8 | build up that neighborhood, you should share in the
- 9 prosperity and the growth that you've contributed.
- 10 So MIH is a starting point. It is one of the most
- 11 aggressive housing policies out in the country, but I
- 12 | hope it's a starting point for us to do more to
- 13 | assist working families to own a piece of New York.
- 14 With that, I vote age on all. Thank you.
- 15 CLERK: By a vote of 14 in the
- 16 affirmative, 2 in the negative and 1 abstention, both
- 17 | items, LU 334, the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing and
- 18 | LU 335 Zoning for Quality Affordability have been
- 19 adopted.
- 20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. I
- 21 also just want to reflect for the record, and I think
- 22 | it's important to note that there were varied
- 23 concerns that were raised along the process, and not
- 24 all of those concerns were able to be addressed
- 25 within the actual text amendment. As a result, I am

2.2

2.3

in receipt of a letter from the Mayor of the City of

New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio to Speaker Melissa

Mark-Viverito outlining commitments that this

administration has made to the City Council to

address many of those concerns. I'm just going to

read the top lines into the records.

The first is there's a commitment to reach extremely low-income households by using financing programs including Ella and Sara (sp?) to reach AMRs as well as 30% AMI in AMI--MIH rezoned neighborhoods.

The second is a commitment for transparency on the Neighborhood Development Fund and other--other infrastructure improvements that have been promised and will be promised.

The third is an expanded certification of no harassment policy. I refer to Council Member Brad Lander for more details.

The fourth is a commitment on deeper affordable senior housing.

The fifth is furthering local hiring incentives in HPD financed developments, including getting 15% of the granted points for developers who will hire locally.

2.2

2.3

		The	six	th	is	to	use,	hire	e NYC	to	conne	ect
low-	-income	work	ers	to	CO	nst	ruct	ion c	pport	uni	ties	at
HPD	finance	ed de	evelo	pme	ent							

The seventh point is an HPD commitment to promoting MWBE.

The eighth point is a commitment by the Administration and the New York City Department of Buildings to require new safety and super requirements for major construction projects within the City of New York beginning July 2016.

The ninth commitment is for studying the Soho and NoHo districts.

The tenth commitment is to further the Fresh Program. I refer you to Chair Richards for more information on that.

The eleventh commitment is on strengthening the manufacturing districts, and a quicker timeline on those strengths.

The twelfth commitment is on the voluntory--Voluntary Inclusionary Housing Program to re-examine and improve the program.

The thirteenth commitment is on Mandatory Inclusionary Housing enforcement.

2.2

2.3

The fourteenth commitment is to make sure that Council members are consulted before RFPs for land that is controlled by HPD, NYCHA or EDC.

The fifteenth commitment is a commitment that was well reported on, which is a study for deeper affordability in the City of New York.

And finally, the last, the sixteenth commitment is that the Board of Standards and Appeals will have more transparency and more information that is available through the DSA including information that will now be sent to the local community boards. And like I said, this is a letter sent from the Mayor to the Speaker of the City Council.

So what's going to happen now is we are going to send these modifications to City Planning for review on whether these modifications are within the scope the text. We expect that it shouldn't be a problem, and we should receive it back from City Planning either Monday or a Tuesday, and we expect the full Council will vote on Tuesday. As is our practice in this committee, I'm going to keep the committee open for 15 more minutes to allow for council members who haven't yet arrived to arrive, and so we will keep this committee open until 3:05

2.2

2.3

- p.m. Thank you all, and congratulations, and a
 special thanks again to outstanding Land Use staff.
- 4 | Thank you very much. [applause]
 - COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Chairman

 Greenfield, I have more concessions to read into the record. [pause]
 - CLERK: Rodriguez to vote.
 - COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye and thank you to the Mayor for putting the vision on building houses for the working class and middle-class.
 - CLERK: The vote stands at 15 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative, and 1 abstention. [pause]
 - CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: The clerk will call the final roll.
 - on Land Use Items 339, 340, 345, 346 and 347 were adopted by a vote of 18 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions. Items 334 and 335 were adopted by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, 2 in the negative and 1 abstention.
 - CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. The Land Use Committee for the meeting of March 17, 2016 is hereby adjourned. [gavel]

${\tt C} \ {\tt E} \ {\tt R} \ {\tt T} \ {\tt I} \ {\tt F} \ {\tt I} \ {\tt C} \ {\tt A} \ {\tt T} \ {\tt E}$

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 March 21, 2016