

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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August 09, 2017  
Start: 10:38 a.m.  
Recess: 10:53 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] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good  
4 morning and welcome to today's Finance Committee  
5 hearing. My name is Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. I'm  
6 the Chair of the committee. I'd like to first  
7 acknowledge the members that have joined us, Council  
8 Members Cornegy, Rosenthal, Levine, Gibson and  
9 Rodriguez, and I know other members will be joining  
10 us. Before I continue, I'd like to extend my  
11 condolences to, our condolences to Minority Leader  
12 Matteo and his family on the loss of his father  
13 yesterday. We'd also like to—I'm sure we're going to  
14 be doing something in the Stated Session today, but  
15 he's a member of this committee, someone we greatly  
16 respect, and I know that he has spent many days  
17 during our budget negotiations also at the side of  
18 his ailing father. So, we—we wish him our sincerest  
19 condolences and, you know, the life cycle is the life  
20 cycle. We also want to congratulate our other  
21 committee member, Council Member Laurie Cumbo on the  
22 birth of her beautiful Prince Noah. She looks like a  
23 beautiful mommy and is very excited. So, we'd like  
24 to congratulate her also on the birth of her son.  
25 So, with that being said, today the Committee will be

2 voting on two bills. The first a preconsidered  
3 introduction introduced by the request of the Mayor  
4 concerns the levying of a surcharge on wireless  
5 communication service. Since 2002, the City has  
6 imposed a monthly 30 cent subcharge–surcharge on  
7 wireless communication services providing revenue  
8 that goes to support the operation of public safety  
9 communications network serving the city. This year’s  
10 State Budget included a new provision that requires  
11 the Council to enact new legislation to extend the  
12 current surcharges as well as to levy a new 30 cent  
13 surcharge on prepaid wireless communication services.  
14 The State and not the City would now administer the  
15 surcharge, but the City will continue to use these  
16 funds for public safety communication purposes.  
17 Finally, I will note that OMB assumed the  
18 continuation of the current surcharge in Fiscal  
19 2018’s Adopted Financial Plan. If the city elects  
20 not to adopt the new legislation, Council Finance  
21 estimates that there would be a shortfall of \$11.1  
22 million in Fiscal 2018.

23 The second bill that the committee will  
24 vote on this morning is a preconsidered introduction  
25 sponsored by Council Member Deutsch that would

2 increase the maximum qualifying income for the Senior  
3 Citizen Homeowner Exemption and the Disabled  
4 Homeowner Exemption otherwise know as the SCHE and  
5 DHE. Both SCHE and DHE, which are learned—which we  
6 learned yesterday—at yesterday’s hearing will now be  
7 rebranded as the New York City Tax Breaks for  
8 Homeowners Program, a property tax exemption that  
9 operates by exempting a percentage of property’s  
10 assessed value from the taxation. Currently, seniors  
11 and people’s with disabilities are eligible to  
12 receive the tax exemption if the combined income of  
13 all property owners is less than \$37,400 a year.  
14 This threshold has not been increased since it was  
15 set in 2006 even as property taxes and inflation have  
16 continued to rise. Pursuant to a state signed bill  
17 into law at the end of July, the City Council is now  
18 voting on a Local Law to increase the income  
19 eligibility threshold to \$58,400 thereby providing  
20 benefits to thousands more seniors and people with  
21 disabilities. Do any members have any questions  
22 concerning either of these bills? And we’ve been  
23 joined by Council Member Miller. Seeing no  
24 questions, I will now ask Bill Martin, Committee  
25 Clerk, to call the roll.

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2 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk,  
3 roll call vote Committee on Finance. The items are  
4 coupled. Chair Ferreras-Copeland.

5 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I vote  
6 aye.

7 CLERK: Rodriguez.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

9 CLERK: Gibson.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

11 CLERK: Cornegy.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

13 CLERK: Levine.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVINE: Aye.

15 CLERK: Miller.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: Aye.

17 CLERK: Rosenthal.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye.

19 CLERK: By a vote of 7 in the  
20 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
21 both items have been adopted by the committee.

22 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank  
23 you. We will keep the roll open for an additional  
24 ten minutes. So, staff, if your members are making  
25 their way here, please be sure to have them be here

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2 within the next ten minutes so they can be counted  
3 for today. Thank you so much. [pause]

4 CLERK: The final vote in the Committee  
5 on Finance. Both items have now been adopted by the  
6 committee 7 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and  
7 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 August 17, 2017