

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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October 30, 2017  
Start: 1:17 p.m.  
Recess: 1:39 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

B E F O R E:

MARK LEVINE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Darlene Mealy  
Fernando Cabrera  
James G. Van Bramer  
Andrew Cohen  
Alan N. Maisel  
Mark Treyger

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

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[sound check]  
[pause]  
[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: We're going to start our hearing today, the City Council's Parks Committee. I am pleased that we have been joined by three stalwart committee members, Council Member Andy Cohen from the Bronx, Council Member Alan Maisel from Brooklyn, and Council Member Mark Treyger from Brooklyn.

We are going to be considering today our semi-annual package of ceremonial street co-namings; we do this twice a year; we are considering 70 thoroughfares and public places today. A few notable co-namings include names after fallen first responders, like Police Officer Kelly Korchak and Firefighters Dennis Heedles and Roy Smith, who died as a result of 9/11 related illnesses. Other notables include New Yorkers who dedicated much of their lives through other acts of community service such as former Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, and Lorraine Montenegro, a long-time community activist in the Bronx, who tragically died

2 in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria while in Puerto  
3 Rico.

4 I will be voting in support of this  
5 legislation and urge all of my fellow committee  
6 members to do the same, and I would like to  
7 acknowledge that we've been joined by our colleague,  
8 Council Member Darlene Mealy from Brooklyn --  
9 welcome. [background comments] And I'm going to ask  
10 our Committee Clerk Billy Martin to call the roll  
11 call for the vote.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK: Roll call vote  
13 Committee on Parks and Recreation, Preconsidered  
14 Introduction. Chair Levine.

15 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK: Cohen.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: I vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Maisel.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER MAISEL: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: I vote aye.

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

5 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Alright and we'll  
6 keep the vote open; we're expecting one or two more  
7 colleagues to join us. Thank you all. [background  
8 comments] [pause] [background comment] I would like  
9 to acknowledge my colleague from Brooklyn, Mark  
10 Treyger, who has a comment.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you so  
12 much, Chair; I truly appreciate your leadership on  
13 this and also the very helpful staff that helped make  
14 this happen. I have a number of street renamings in  
15 my district that I just wanted just to note for the  
16 record.

17 The Association of the Caginazzi [sp?] at  
18 the America Way, which is an organization that is  
19 based in my community that originally is rooted in  
20 Italy and they have done fantastic work organizing  
21 fundraising campaigns to award scholarships to high  
22 school seniors for college; they provide support to  
23 charitable organizations including the Cystic  
24 Fibrosis Foundation and direct support to many  
25 families that are in need in my community and this is

1  
2 definitely a way to pay respect and homage to the  
3 great contributions of the Italian-American community  
4 in New York.

5           Also, another street renaming is after  
6 Pastor Aquiles [sp?], who was affectionately called  
7 the pastor of Coney Island; he was born in Mayaguez,  
8 Puerto Rico; he obtained a bachelor's degree and two  
9 doctorate degrees in divinity and the humanities. He  
10 was really a major fixture in our community; his  
11 church became a sanctuary to all of the Sandy  
12 survivors and people in need, and we lost him, you  
13 know really, a sad passing; he passed away due to  
14 cancer and he's deeply missed and loved in the Coney  
15 Island community.

16           I want to also note, finally, we're  
17 renaming a street in Coney Island after Rosea Weisch;  
18 [sp?] she was a pillar in the Coney Island community,  
19 born in North Carolina, graduated from Boston  
20 University; worked in Coney Island Hospital for a  
21 number of years. She started the first African-  
22 American senior club at the Surfside Gardens  
23 Community Center, which is a very inclusive  
24 organization; she was very active in houses of  
25 worship, and resident leader at Coney Island Houses

1 that forcefully advocated for improvements in our  
2 NYCHA apartments and communities. So again, I  
3 appreciate everyone's support in making this happen.  
4 Thank you, Chair.

5 [background comment]

6 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Okay, thank you  
7 Council Member Treyger. And Council Member Mealy,  
8 please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I just wanna take  
10 this opportunity to thank the 500 Block Association  
11 who put in a co-name for Jackie Robinson Way. Jackie  
12 Robinson played for the Brooklyn Dodgers and advanced  
13 the cause of professional African-American athletes.  
14 In 1955, he helped the Dodgers reach the pinnacle of  
15 major league baseball by winning the World Series.  
16 He retired in 1957 with a career batting average of  
17 .311, and in 1962 he became the first African-  
18 American to be introduced into the Baseball Hall of  
19 Fame. In 1972, the Dodgers retired his name and his  
20 uniform 42. In 1964 -- I wanna tell you when I was  
21 born -- he helped establish the African-American-  
22 owned Freedom Bank and he also served on the board of  
23 the NAACP until 1967. And I just want to thank my  
24 community for bringing this forward and I give really  
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2 props to 500 Block Association, who thought this was  
3 the proper and is the best thing to do. And thank  
4 you, Chair.

5 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: Thank you, Council  
6 Member Mealy. And again, we're going to leave the  
7 vote open as we await the arrival of our colleagues.  
8 Thank you.

9 [pause]

10 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation roll call,  
11 the Committee on Parks and Recreation, Preconsidered  
12 Introduction. Council Member Van Bramer.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote Committee on  
15 Parks is now 6 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative  
16 and no abstentions.

17 [background comments]

18 [pause]

19 [background comments]

20 CHAIRPERSON LEVINE: This concludes our  
21 hearing of the Committee on Parks and Recreation.

22 [gavel]

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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 November 16, 2017