

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

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January 11, 2018  
Start: 11:42 a.m.  
Recess: 11:53 a.m.

HELD AT: Council Chambers - City Hall

B E F O R E: RORY I. LANCMAN  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS  
MARGARET S. CHIN  
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.  
RAFAEL L. ESPINAL, JR.  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
COREY D. JOHNSON  
KAREN KOSLOWITZ  
STEVEN MATTEO  
RITCHIE J. TORRES  
MARK TREYGER

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

2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: Good morning

4 everyone. Good morning and welcome to the first

5 meeting of the New York City Council Committee on

6 Rules, Privileges and Elections. I'm Council Member

7 Rory Lancman and I will be chairing this committee

8 hearing. Before we begin I would like to introduce

9 the other members of the committee joining us today;

10 we are honored to be joined by Speaker Corey Johnson

11 who is a member of this committee and if I'm not

12 mistaken that would make me the first person at a

13 committee hearing to formally welcome the Speaker,

14 Corey Johnson in attendance. The other members of the

15 Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections are

16 Minority Leader Steven Matteo from Staten Island,

17 Adrienne Adams from Queens, Margaret Chin from

18 Manhattan, Robert Cornegy from Brooklyn, Rafael

19 Espinal from Brooklyn, Vanessa Gibson from the Bronx,

20 Karen Koslowitz from Queens, Ritchie Torres from the

21 Bronx, and Mark Treyger from Brooklyn. I don't think

22 there are any other members who are not on the

23 committee with us today. I'd also like to acknowledge

24 the Rules Committee Council, Elizabeth Guzman who's

25 work in producing the reports that we're going to be

1  
2 voting on today has been indispensable. To, today the  
3 committee is considering proposed amendments to the  
4 rules of the council regarding officers, committee  
5 chairs and members and proposed appointments to the  
6 committees and subcommittees of the council of the  
7 city of New York. resolution Number One designates  
8 the titles and describes the extent... the extent,  
9 extent and amended committees and subcommittees. The  
10 resolution recommends that such committees and  
11 subcommittees bear the titles and descriptions as set  
12 forth in the papers before you. The committee will  
13 also commit... consider amendments to ex-officio  
14 officers and the scheduling of future committee  
15 meetings. These amendments are also set forth in  
16 Resolution One. In addition, the committee will  
17 consider approving Committee Chair appointments and  
18 membership assignment, designated officers of the  
19 council and the creation of new committees and  
20 subcommittees. These proposed committee changes are  
21 set forth as presented in the papers before you as  
22 well. I would like to say thank you to the leadership  
23 of the speaker and his team in putting together these  
24 amendments, appointments, and assignments and thank  
25 you to the Office of the General Council and

2 Legislative Division, Attorneys and staff. We'll now  
3 invite comments from members of the committee and of  
4 course we are happy to start with our Speaker,  
5 Speaker Corey Johnson.

6 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Thank you Chair  
7 Lancman, temporary though as it may be. I'm thrilled  
8 to be here today on our first official Council  
9 Hearing of the new year as we convene to discuss the  
10 leadership of this body. Over the last week I have  
11 been honored to meet with each and every one of my  
12 colleagues to discuss their vision for this council  
13 over the next four years. As we spoke as we have  
14 many, many times before in the last months to say  
15 nothing of the last four years about how to most  
16 effectively harness the authority of the city council  
17 to best serve New Yorkers one thing became abundantly  
18 clear, our members are strong, our members are  
19 diverse and our members are talented and collectively  
20 whether we grew up in public housing or raised by a  
21 single parent or immigrated from another country or  
22 left college early our backgrounds reflect the myriad  
23 of experiences of the 8.2 million people who call New  
24 York City home. And though we may come from different  
25 walks of life the common thread that binds us

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2 together is our deep, unwavering commitment to public  
3 service to New Yorkers and to our city. The  
4 committees, subcommittees and task force positions  
5 we're voting on today will help us hone in on some of  
6 the most pressing issues facing our city today. From  
7 a new Committee that will keep the plan to close  
8 Rikers Island on track, to our new subcommittee  
9 dedicated to our hospitals, to a task force dedicated  
10 to monitoring the progress of the proposed Brooklyn  
11 Queens connector. These leadership positions will  
12 help bolster this city, this city council's role as  
13 New York City's watchdog and will help us best hone  
14 in on legislation that will make this city more  
15 responsive to the critical needs of everyone who  
16 lives here and every neighborhood across all five  
17 boroughs. I'm inspired and excited to work with all  
18 my colleagues in their new roles and I look forward  
19 to our continued work together to make New York City  
20 stronger and more effective for all. I also want to  
21 say hopefully and I know the press is here and I'm  
22 sure there are other Council Members that are in the  
23 room, I think when you look at this piece of paper  
24 with the committee assignments and with the chairs  
25 and with the task force and we're still going through

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2 leadership in the budget negotiating team, I have  
3 really worked hard to be as inclusive as possible to  
4 every single member, I've tried to be creative, I've  
5 tried to be strategic, I've tried to be thoughtful in  
6 identifying new areas that folks could work on,  
7 issues and committees that were not created in the  
8 past because as I said at the Charter Meeting and as  
9 I said to my colleagues leading up to the charter  
10 meeting I want everyone to be able to do work here at  
11 City Hall that they're interested in and will impact  
12 the city and that will help their districts and so  
13 not everyone of course got exactly what they wanted  
14 but I was as flexible as humanly possible to try to  
15 make everyone happy and to be able to work on things  
16 that would interest them. I think you'll see that in  
17 this document and you will see that when we talk  
18 about leadership and we talk about the budget  
19 negotiating team and we talk about other  
20 opportunities. This is a council where every single  
21 member is going to be respected whether you supported  
22 me or not you are going to be respected. If you look  
23 at this document... someone's going to kick me for  
24 saying this but it's true, there was no  
25 vindictiveness, there wasn't, none, zero. I tried to

1  
2 help as many people as possible and I look forward to  
3 continuing to do that, we did this in a week which  
4 was very hard to compile this in a week in meeting  
5 with members, putting it all into a matrix,  
6 continuing to have conversations, this may... this  
7 document may not be perfect, it may need to be  
8 adjusted at some point, I hope it doesn't have to be  
9 but it may have to be because I want to continue to  
10 respect every single member and to ensure that they  
11 can work on issues that matter to them and that are  
12 going to help their communities. Thank you very much  
13 Chair Lancman.

14 CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: Thank you Mr.  
15 Speaker, are there any other members of the committee  
16 who would like to say something, have some urgent  
17 need to say something? No... [cross-talk]

18 MALE SPEAKER JOHNSON TWO: Stigmatizing  
19 speaking...

20 CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: Look at that,  
21 seeing no further comments we will now take the roll  
22 call on the items being considered, we are coupling  
23 the vote on Resolution One regarding the committee  
24 and subcommittee designations, ex-officio members and  
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2 meetings together with the message addressing  
3 committee assignments. Let's call the roll.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,  
5 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on Rules,  
6 Privileges and the Elections, items are coupled,  
7 Chair Lancman?

8 CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Chin?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [off-mic] Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cornegy?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Aye.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Espinal?

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ESPINAL: Aye.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gibson?

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: I'd like to  
17 congratulate our Speaker Corey Johnson and certainly  
18 appreciate all of the effort that the staff undertook  
19 to come together with all of these committees and  
20 committee assignments and I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Koslowitz?

22 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: [off-mic] I'm  
23 working... I vote aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Torres?  
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: [off-mic] I  
3 proudly vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Treyger?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Adams?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: I vote aye.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: [off-mic] Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Speaker Johnson?

11 SPEAKER JOHNSON: I also want to thank  
12 Ramon Marinez, Ramon and I were here all weekend,  
13 Saturday and Sunday from the early morning until late  
14 at night and the last few days and I want to thank  
15 Ruthie from Legislative Documents for spending the  
16 whole weekend working with us as well, this was a... we  
17 worked very, very hard on this over the last week and  
18 Ramon did a tremendous amount of work and spoke to  
19 all 50 other members and I really want to thank him  
20 for helping me in this first week on the job, thank  
21 god he is staying.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of 11  
23 in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
24 abstentions both items are adopted by the committee.

2 CHAIRPERSON LANCMAN: With that and with  
3 the ceremonial, ceremonial passing of the gavel to  
4 Council Member Koslowitz, the Committee on Rules,  
5 Privileges and Elections is now adjourned.

6 [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

January 13, 2018