

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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May 1, 2018
Start: 10:08 a.m.
Recess: 10:33 a.m.

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

B E F O R E: FRANCISCO P. MOYA
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Costa G. Constantinides
Barry S. Grodenchik
Rory I. Lancman
Stephen T. Levin
Antonio Reynoso
Donovan J. Richards
Carlina Rivera
Ritchie J. Torres

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

2 [sound check] [pause] [background
3 comments] [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: We're ready. Alright.
5 Good morning, and welcome to the meeting of the
6 Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises. I am Council
7 Member Francisco Moya, Chair of the Subcommittee, and
8 today we are joined by Council Members Costa
9 Constantinides, Antonio Reynoso, Donovan Richards,
10 and Barry Grodenchik. Today, we have a very quick
11 agenda. LU 60 and the application to operate an
12 unenclosed sidewalk café at 1-50 50th Avenue in
13 Council Member Van Bramer's district in Queens was
14 withdrawn. So, we will not have a hearing on that
15 item. So, today we will be voting to approve LUs 61
16 and 62, the NYPD's 116th Precinct Application.
17 Approval for this application for site selection and
18 acquisition of a police precinct station house, and
19 zoning map change to map a C1-3 Commercial overlay in
20 an existing R3-2 district will allow for the
21 construction of a new long awaited 116th Police
22 Precinct on the exiting parking lot that is accessory
23 to the existing facility. The property is located at
24 242-20 North Conduit Avenue in Council Member
25 Richard's district in Queens, and I know that Council

2 Member Richards and the entire Southeast Queens
3 community have worked hard on this and for many
4 years. I want to congratulate him on this point once
5 Barry is done talking. [laughter] May-may I proceed
6 Council Member? Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [off mic] So, I
8 do want it quiet just based on this. (sic)

9 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: So, I want to give
10 Council Member Richards the opportunity to state his
11 remarks.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Yes, I am back.
13 You know, you're the last person I saw before I went
14 to bed just about, and now you're the first person I
15 see this morning. [laughter] This is not a good
16 thing.

17 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Yeah, I know. It's
18 weird.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [laughter]
20 That is-my wife is watching now with this.
21 [laughter]

22 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: So is my wife.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [laughter]
24 Well, good morning. First off, I want to thank you,
25 Chair Moya for your leadership in-in helping us get

1 this done. The current 105th Precinct encompasses
2 12.7 square miles with 354 miles of roadways
3 including seven major highways. This is more highway
4 miles than a trip to Boston or Washington, D.C. but
5 I'm happy to say today we are one step closer to
6 making the issue of a long-of long response times in
7 the distant police precincts—the distant police
8 presence a thing of the past for the residents for
9 Laurelton, Rosedale and Springfield Gardens with the
10 new 116th Precinct. This has always been about
11 public safety and equity. Our community should not
12 have to beg for this, and we just want the same
13 things every other neighborhood wants, to feel safe
14 in our homes, on our streets, and at our jobs.
15 Administration after administration have denied the
16 pleas of our community, but thankful to Mayor de
17 Blasio and Commissioner O'Neill, we are finally
18 delivering on a promise after 40 years that some
19 would not even entertain. The commitments for the
20 new 116th Precinct includes \$7 million for the
21 construction of Safe City its self-contained
22 education and administrative facility designed to
23 help school students learn about street and
24 pedestrian safety, and, of course, as we see
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1 congestion in our city and our roadways in need of a
2 lot of paving, I'm happy to announce the
3 Administration has also committed \$1.4 million for
4 street repaving desperately needed for the area
5 surrounding the new precinct as well, and a minimum
6 of 800 square feet of dedicated community facility
7 space, and agreement to meet quarterly with the
8 Community Advisory-Advisory Committee throughout the
9 design and the construction phase of this project.
10 Not only is this a victory for all of Eastern Queens,
11 but it is a very special victory for the advocates
12 who have been calling for this for nearly four
13 decades. I want to shout out Besta Bentham of
14 Community Board 13 as well for putting this in the
15 budget concerns every year for the past 40 years, and
16 this is a major victory for them as well. I'd like
17 to thank Mayor de Blasio, Commissioner O'Neill and
18 once again Zoning Chair Francisco Moya, DOT
19 Commissioner-Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia,
20 Phillip Heller, Nick Smith, and the Land Use
21 Committee team Raju, Amy and John and, of course, my
22 colleague who represents the little eastern-east for
23 me, Barry Grodenchik who really when we came in said
24 he wanted to prioritize this as well, and we worked
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2 hand-in-hand on this. So, I'm very grateful to
3 everybody. I want to thank my staff member Debony
4 Brown who really worked day in and day out on some of
5 the negotiations to get this done and we're finally
6 here. This is a big victory for our community. It
7 shows that persistence overcomes resistance on any
8 day. So, thank you, Mr. Chair, and I urge everybody
9 to vote aye.

10 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Congratulations again
11 to you Council Member for your hard work. We know
12 that you've been working on this for a long time, and
13 this is going to be something very, very good for
14 your community. So, congratulations on that. As I
15 mentioned, early the sidewalk café has been
16 withdrawn. So, we will also be voting on a motion to
17 file LU 16 in Council Member Van Bramer's district.
18 So, with that, I move for a vote to approve LUs 61,
19 62 and a motion to file LU 60. Counsel, please call
20 the roll.

21 LEGAL COUNSEL: Moya.

22 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Aye.

23 LEGAL COUNSEL: Constantinides.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: With
3 congratulations to both Council Member Richards and
4 Grodenchik and Chair Moya, I vote aye.

5 LEGAL COUNSEL: Reynoso.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye.

7 LEGAL COUNSEL: Richards.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I forgot to
9 thank Julie Lubin. Thank you. I vote aye.

10 [laughter]

11 LEGAL COUNSEL: Grodenchik.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Permission to
13 explain my vote, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Permission denied.

15 [laughter]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Oh, man, that
17 is cold. [laughter]

18 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: I'm joking. I'm
19 joking.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: [laughs] That
21 would be a first.

22 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Please—please proceed.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: I—I—I thank
24 you for your tardy permission. [laughter] First,
25 let me add my voice to Councilman Richards'. This

2 has been, as I said last night at the rollout of the
3 Community Policing and the 105 Precinct, this has
4 been a dream for 40 years. I was 18 when people
5 starting talking about this, and my colleague here
6 was not born yet, but because of people like Besta
7 Bentham, and tremendous civic leadership all the way
8 up and down Eastern Queens south of the Grand Central
9 Parkway all the way down to Meadowmere. We're
10 getting this done today, and we take a closer step.
11 So, I want to thank my colleague. He led the parade
12 here. I'd love to show you—someday I've got to show
13 you the emails I got back from the civic leadership.
14 Jaws were dropping all over Eastern Queens that
15 morning. So, thank you, Donovan for your outstanding
16 efforts here. I want to thank the Mayor and the
17 Police Commissioner as well. It took 40 years of
18 mayors and police commissioners before this desperate
19 need was realized. It's very hard to up and down
20 eastern Queens when the Cross Island Parkway and the
21 Laurelton Parkways are jammed. So, thank you for
22 your efforts and for seeing the need. I want to
23 thank all the civic leaders over the generations who
24 advocated for this, the leadership going back for a
25 long time. I want to thank Richard Hallenbeck (sp?)

2 for coming to testify at the hearing that we had last
3 week, and it's really a great victory. So, with
4 that, Mr. Chairman, I will vote aye on all. Thank
5 you.

6 LEGAL COUNSEL: By a vote of 5 in the
7 affirmative, zero negative and zero abstentions, the
8 motions to approve LU 61 and 62 and to file 60 are
9 recommended to the Full Land Use Committee
10 [background comments, pause]

11 CHAIRPERSON MOYA: Thank you. We're
12 going to leave the rolls open for another ten
13 minutes, and just want to thank all the Land Use
14 Staff for their hard work on this project. Thank
15 you. [pause] Adjourned. [background comments] [gavel]
16 The meeting is adjourned.

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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 May 31, 2018