

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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November 19, 2008
Start: 11:33am
Recess: 11:42am

HELD AT: Committee Room
City Hall

B E F O R E:
DAVID I. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Joel Rivera
Diana Reyna
Maria Baez
Gale A. Brewer
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Bill de Blasio
Lewis A. Fidler
James F. Gennaro
Alan J. Gerson
Eric N. Gioia
G. Oliver Koppell
Helen Sears
Peter F. Vallone, Jr.

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Albert Vann
David Yassky
Vincent J. Gentile
Vincent Ignizio
James S. Oddo

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

Jeremy Waldrup
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Small Business Services

Tanisha Turnbull
Counsel
Finance Committee

Preston Niblack
Director
Finance Division

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2 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Good morning
3 and welcome to today's Finance Committee Hearing.
4 My name is David Weprin. I chair the Committee.
5 Today the Finance Committee will vote on two
6 items. Let me introduce my colleagues that are
7 here right now. We have Staten Island in the
8 house, Council Member Vincent Ignizio from Staten
9 Island; our Council Minority Leader, Jim Oddo,
10 from Staten Island; Council Member Vincent
11 Gentile, from Brooklyn; Council Member Lou Fidler,
12 from Brooklyn; Council Member Albert Vann, from
13 Brooklyn; Council Member, our Majority Leader,
14 Joel Rivera, from the Bronx; Council Member Leroy
15 Comrie, from Queens; Council Member Helen Sears,
16 from Queens; Council Member Alan Gerson, from
17 Manhattan; and Council Member Oliver Koppell, from
18 the Bronx. The first item on our agenda is a
19 resolution setting the date and time for the
20 initial hearing of the establishment of the Hudson
21 Square Bid in Manhattan. Proposed Resolution 1680
22 will start the lawmaking process for the creation
23 of the Hudson Square Bid. The Resolution sets
24 December 9th as the date this Committee will
25 consider the Local Law to establish the bid. On

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2 such day we will hear all those who may be
3 affected by the establishment of the bid, and then
4 we will adjourn until the statutory 30-day
5 objection period has run before we actually vote
6 on the local law. This bid is in Speaker
7 Christine Quinn's district, and she supports the
8 creation of this bid. Also, in an effort to make
9 the budget process more transparent, this
10 Committee will vote on a resolution approving
11 certain changes in the designation of
12 organizations receiving funding in the Fiscal 2009
13 expense budget. Specifically, the resolution
14 before us today sets forth new designations and or
15 changes in the designation of certain
16 organizations receiving local aging and youth
17 discretionary funding, as well as new designations
18 and or changes in the designations of certain
19 organizations to receive funding pursuant to
20 certain initiatives in the Fiscal 2009 expense
21 budget. Council Members should have the list of
22 these new designations and changes, which is
23 attached to the Resolution. Additionally, as with
24 all transparency resolutions, Council Members will
25 have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether

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2 or not a conflict exists with any of the groups on
3 the attached list. If any Council Member has a
4 potential conflict of interest with any of the
5 organizations listed, he or she might want to
6 disclose the conflict at the time of their vote.
7 The Finance Division Director, Preston Niblack, is
8 available to answer any questions you may have
9 regarding this Resolution, and Noran Camp, from
10 the General Counsel's Office, is also available to
11 answer any questions you may have regarding the
12 conflict of interest disclosure form. We will now
13 hear from Assistant Commissioner Jeremy Waldrup,
14 from the Department of Small Business Services on
15 the proposed bid. We've been joined by Council
16 Member Peter Vallone, Jr., from Queens, and
17 Council Member David Yassky, from Brooklyn.

18 JEREMY WALDRUP: Good morning, Mr.
19 Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee. I
20 am Jeremy Waldrup. I'm Assistant Commissioner at
21 the Department of Small Business Services. SBS
22 supports the City Council Resolution setting the
23 date, time and place for the public hearing
24 concerning the establishment of the Hudson Square
25 Business Improvement District in the Borough of

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2 Manhattan. The Hudson Square Bid Steering
3 Committee has completed successfully the outreach
4 and planning work consistent with SBS program
5 rules. In addition, SBS has reviewed the
6 boundaries of the proposed Hudson Square Bid and
7 found the boundaries to be acceptable. The
8 proposed bid is generally bounded by West Houston
9 Street to the north, Avenue of the Americas to the
10 east, Canal Street to the South and Greenwich
11 Street to the west. SBS will arrange for the
12 publication of the summary of the City Council
13 Resolution at least once in the City record.
14 Hudson Square Bid Steering Committee will arrange
15 for the mailing of the summary of the resolution
16 as required by law. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Any questions
18 for Mr. Waldrup? Okay. Any questions on the
19 transparency resolution? Seeing none, Counsel has
20 been directed to get back those members that just
21 left so we can vote. I think they're coming in.

22 [Pause]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Can I have
24 a question?

25 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Yes. Council

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2 Member Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: We were making a change in the transparency resolution regarding the allocation of money to beacons. I'm just curious where in these documents that is.

TANISHA TURNBULL: I'll show him now.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Our Counsel, Tanisha Turnbull, will show you where.

PRESTON NIBLACK: I'll answer for the record, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Yes. Mr. Niblack?

PRESTON NIBLACK: On the first page of the Finance Division Report, on the bottom paragraph that begins: Also this resolution sets forth a new purpose of funds for the Beacon opening fees program. And that continues on to the next page.

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member Fidler, do you see that?

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Just give me a second, as long as we're waiting for voters to come back.

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[Pause]

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member

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Vann.

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[Pause]

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member

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Gioia, you make the quorum, so if you could come

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in we could get a vote.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Did the

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faith-based initiative make this resolution? I

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know it was a close call.

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PRESTON NIBLACK: Council Member, I

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believe when we looked at the faith base

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initiative yesterday we realized that the numbers

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didn't quite add up and we yanked it at the last

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minute. We will check in with the sponsoring

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organizations to reconcile the difference, and

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then we'll do it at the December 9th.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: So it did not

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make it today.

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PRESTON NIBLACK: It did not make

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it in this one.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Council Member

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Fidler, you okay?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, I see
3 it. Thanks.

4 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. We're
5 going to couple the two items and call the roll.

6 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
7 Weprin.

8 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye on both.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote Aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Fidler.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gerson.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gioia.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Koppell.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Sears.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vallone.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER VALLONE: Aye on

25 all.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Yassky.

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 11 in

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the affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, both items are adopted. Members,

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please sign the Committee Reports. Thank you.

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COUNCIL MEMBER WEPRIN: Okay. I'm

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going to keep the roll open for a half-hour, which

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will bring us to about ten after 12:00. Other

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than that, we're adjourned. Please sign the

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Committee Reports.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Reyna.

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COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote Aye.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Baez.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member de

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Blasio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER DE BLASIO: Aye on

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all.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Ignizio.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Aye.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Gentile.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: Aye on

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all.

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[Pause]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member

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Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote Aye.

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[END TAPE 1002]

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[START TAPE 1003]

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WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,

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Committee Clerk, Committee on Finance. Council

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Member Gennaro.

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COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote on the

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Committee on Finance now stands at 19 in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative and zero

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abstentions. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: The Finance

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Committee on November 19th, 2008 is now adjourned.

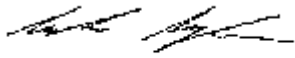
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Erika Swyler, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature  _____

Date December 9, 2008 _____