

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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January 28, 2009  
Start: 11:27 am  
Recess: 11:38 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
MELINDA R. KATZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Joel Rivera  
Tony Avella  
Maria Baez  
Charles Barron  
Leroy G. Comrie Jr.  
Simcha Felder  
Robert Jackson  
John C. Liu  
Miguel Martinez  
Helen Sears  
Sara M. Gonzalez  
Maria del Carmen Arroyo

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Inez E. Dickens  
Daniel R. Garodnick  
Jessica S. Lappin  
Rosie Mendez  
Vincent Ignizio  
James S. Oddo

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2 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Meeting of the  
3 full committee on Land Use is open. First of all,  
4 let me thank everyone for their patience. This  
5 will be very quick so that we can all go about the  
6 business of the day. Preconsidered Land Use  
7 Morris Sanders Studio and Apartment, it is the  
8 landmarking in Council Member Lappin's district.  
9 LU957 is the NYPD vehicle storage facility, which  
10 is in Council Member Sanders' district. It is a  
11 site selection. LU958 is the Randall's Island  
12 Connector, which is in Council Member Arroyo and  
13 Council Member Mark-Viverito's districts, site  
14 selection and acquisition. We want to bring up  
15 all of the comments that Council Member Arroyo and  
16 Mark-Viverito made at the subcommittee and  
17 acknowledge that there is an agreement with the  
18 city. Do we want to talk about it again? So we  
19 are going to call roll. Is Council Member Dickens  
20 in the building? We already went through the  
21 agenda.

22 [Pause]

23 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: I thank everyone  
24 for their patience. The leadership team has now  
25 come up the Speaker's Office. Can we call the

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roll?

WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
Committee Clerk, roll calling the Committee on  
Land Use.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: I'm sorry. I  
apologize. Guys, let's have some decorum in the  
room. I am opening it up for discussion. I  
apologize. Council Member Avella?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you.  
I just want to make a couple of comments about  
957, which is the NYPD vehicle storage facility,  
which is actually suggested to be moved from my  
district to the Rockaways. I know there was  
already some negative votes in the subcommittee.  
I'm going to be voting no as well. It's  
interesting that I didn't find out until today  
that this was coming up. In my opinion, it really  
goes to the heart of this administration moving  
negative facilities from one district to another.  
The city spend a huge amount of money  
rehabilitating this tow pound in my district. It  
is actually a decent facility now. But what they  
want to do is move it to somebody else and then  
stick something else in my district, which is the

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2 police academy. Now originally I had supported  
3 the police academy but the police are not talking  
4 to the community, the community board or myself or  
5 any of the other elected officials. So it's this  
6 shell game. Let's continually move these  
7 facilities along from one district to the next.  
8 So actually in this respect I understand the  
9 Rockaway's sentiments and I'm going to vote no.

10 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Any other  
11 discussion? Call the roll.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member  
13 Katz?

14 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: I vote aye on  
15 all.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Avella?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I vote aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Baez?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote no  
24 on 957 and aye on all the rest.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie?

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: No on 957,  
3 aye on all the rest.

4 WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote yes  
6 on 957 and yes on all the rest.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: Liu?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

9 WILLIAM MARTIN: Martinez?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Yes on  
11 all.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Sears?

13 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Yes.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gonzalez?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: Yes - -.

16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Arroyo?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dickens?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Garodnick?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Madame  
22 Chair, a moment to explain my vote?

23 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Yes.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank  
25 you. Sorry I missed the opportunity during the

1  
2 comments period. I just wanted to note that  
3 obviously there is some discussion about where a  
4 facility and under what circumstances. The police  
5 academy today is in Council Member Mendez's  
6 district and she and I share a border right there.  
7 The police academy for along time has been a  
8 tremendous addition to our neighborhood. It has  
9 spurred economic activity and has been something  
10 which has been recognized and given security and  
11 safety to the residents Stuyvesant Town and Peter  
12 Cooper Village and the Gramercy area that Council  
13 Member Mendez represents. So it is a real loss to  
14 our neighborhood. One point I wanted to make  
15 today, and it's not really specific to the  
16 application, but this is a school building that is  
17 now going to be vacant at some point. It's an  
18 obvious choice for the Department of Education to  
19 locate a school in that building. I have made  
20 this point directly to the chancellor and our  
21 working group with all of the East Side elected  
22 officials. We repeatedly make this point. I  
23 wanted to make it here today. It's an important  
24 one and the space is ready to go. Thank you. I  
25 vote aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Lappin?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: We'll be discussing that application in the subcommittee soon. We can have a very vigorous discussion and debate about that. I vote aye on all.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Mendez?

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Thank you. I want to be associated with the comments of my colleague Dan Garodnick. This is something we've been working with in our community. There is big overcrowding issue in our school district that we share. This location while physically in my district is across the street from Dan's and it is something that the community and Dan and I would like to see as a school building. So I vote aye on all.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes. Thank you very much. I vote a soft no on 20095215HK and aye on all others.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: I vote yes on all.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Oddo?



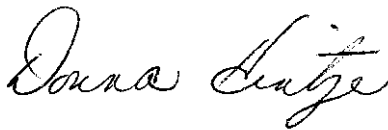
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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes on all  
3 with the exception of Preconsidered LU20095215, I  
4 vote no.

5 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 19 in  
6 the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
7 abstentions, LU958 is adopted. By a vote of 16 in  
8 the affirmative, 3 in the negative and no  
9 abstentions, LU957 is adopted. By a vote of 17 in  
10 the affirmative, 2 in the negative and no  
11 abstentions, Preconsidered LU20095215HKM is  
12 adopted. Council Members, please sign all  
13 committee reports. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you  
15 everyone for your patience today. Congratulations  
16 to all involved for the applications, especially  
17 to Maria del Carmen Arroyo and Melissa Mark-  
18 Viverito. We are adjourned.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Donna Hintze 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 February 9, 2009\_\_\_\_\_