

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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April 2, 2009
Start: 12:58 pm
Recess: 1:13 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Maria Baez
- Council Member Gale A. Brewer
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Bill de Blasio
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member James F. Gennaro
- Council Member Alan J. Gerson
- Council Member Eric N. Gioia
- Council Member Vincent Ignizio
- Council Member Robert Jackson
- Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
- Council Member James S. Oddo
- Council Member Diana Reyna
- Council Member Joel Rivera
- Council Member Helen Sears
- Council Member Albert Vann
- Council Member David Yassky

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

Noran Camp
Administrative Services Division

Joyce Singerman
Chief Fiscal Officer
Administrative Services Division
City Council

Ed O'Malley
Administrative Services Division
City Council

Tim Mulligan
Office of Management and Budget

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2 [START TAPE 1002]

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3 [Gavel Banging]

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4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Quiet please.

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5 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Good afternoon.

5

6 Welcome to today's Finance Committee Hearing. My

6

7 name is David Weprin and I chair the Committee.

7

8 Today we have a number of items on our agenda.

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9 First we have legislation related

9

10 to the dates of the Executive Budget for Fiscal

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11 Year 2010. Proposed Intro 955A is legislation

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12 that we sometimes consider at the start of an

12

13 Executive Budget cycle, a local law that would

13

14 extend the dates related to the Executive Budget

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15 process. The Administration has asked us to

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16 extend the date for submission of the Fiscal Year

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17 2010 Executive Budget and the Ten Year Capital

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18 Plan from April 26th to May 1st. This necessitates

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19 additional time for the Council to conclude its

19

20 Executive Budget Hearings which will now conclude

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21 no later than June 2nd rather than May 25th.

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22 Additionally this legislation would

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23 extend the other charter mandated dates relating

23

24 to Executive Budget actions taken by other

24

25 officials such as the Independent Budget Office

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1
2 and the Borough Presidents. This legislation
3 however does not change the target budget adoption
4 date, the date for the Mayor's submission of a
5 revenue estimate, or the date for fixing the tax
6 rates which are all set at June 5th. So June 5th is
7 our goal.

8 Secondly the Council will be voting
9 on two resolutions relating to the City Council's
10 Annual Operating Budget. Under the City Charter
11 the Council has until March 10th to submit to the
12 Mayor its own Operating Budget for the next Fiscal
13 Year. This date was extended to April 2nd by
14 legislation passed by this Committee on January
15 6th.

16 Today's vote on the operating
17 Budget will be the Council's first Fiscal 2010
18 budget action. This year the Council's budget
19 totals \$50,535,741. Last year the Council cut a
20 historic 4.3% from its own budget and this year
21 the Council's reducing its budget again by over
22 \$1.7 million or 3.3%.

23 \$751,000 in reductions will come
24 from the Council's Personal Services budget and
25 additional reductions of more than \$970,000 will

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2 come from the Council's Other than Personal
3 Services budget. The Council's budget reductions
4 will impact central staff operations. Council
5 Members' offices and staff will not be affected.
6 And I know a lot of members are anxious to hear
7 that.

8 Since the Fiscal 2009 budget was
9 adopted in June, the Office of Management and
10 Budget has twice asked agency head to submit
11 programs to eliminate the gap, also known as PEGs.
12 In the first round in September, OMB sought PEG
13 submissions equal to 5% of Agency City tax levy
14 budget for Fiscal 2010 with a further 7% sought in
15 December.

16 In these difficult financial times
17 we cannot credibly look New Yorkers in the eye and
18 explain why programs they care about are getting
19 less money this year if we are not prepared to do
20 the same ourselves and do more with less. So I am
21 proud of the Council's effort to tighten its bet
22 at the same time New Yorkers are being asked to
23 tighten their belts.

24 Next we have three Land Use items.
25 In order to keep their annual operating costs low,

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2 thereby allowing affordable rents, the following
3 Land Use items are seeking property tax
4 exemptions. The first is new construction located
5 in Council Member Robert Jackson's District. The
6 Urba-graph [phonetic] Apartments will be a newly
7 constructed building consisting of 64 units of
8 rental housing for elderly people with low income.
9 The next Land Use item, Face-SNY is housing--

10 [Pause]

11 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: FaceS-NY, I've
12 been corrected, is a housing development fund
13 located in Council Member Miguel Martinez'
14 District. FaceS-NY will convert a three story
15 building to a transitional housing facility for
16 newly released formerly incarcerated individual
17 with families including people with AIDS.

18 The last Land Use item we have
19 Evangelium [phonetic] Vita Housing Development
20 Fund Corporation located in Council Member Helen
21 Diane Foster's District. The Evangelium HDFC will
22 maintain the 4 story, 13 bedroom building disposed
23 by the City and use it to provide shelter for
24 homeless, single, pregnant women.

25 Our last piece of legislation

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2 relates to the adopted Fiscal 2009 Executive
3 Budget. In an effort to make the budget process
4 more transparent this Committee will vote on a
5 Preconsidered Resolution approving certain changes
6 in the designation of organizations receiving
7 funding in the Fiscal 2009 Expense Budget,
8 specifically: the Resolution before us today sets
9 forth new designations and/or changes in the
10 designation of certain organizations receiving
11 local, ageing, and youth discretionary funding as
12 well as new designations and/or changes in the
13 designation of certain organizations to receive
14 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the
15 Fiscal 2009 Expense Budget.

16 Council Members should have the
17 list of these new designations and changes which
18 is attached to the Resolution. For clarification
19 purposes it is to be noted that organizations
20 appearing in the Resolution that have not yet
21 completed the prequalification process conducted
22 by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services or by
23 the Council are identified in the attached charts
24 with an asterisk.

25 Additionally as with all

1
2 Transparently Resolutions, Council Members will
3 have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether
4 or not a conflict exists with any of the groups on
5 the attached list. If any Council Member has a
6 potential conflict of interest with any of the
7 organizations listed, he or she might want to
8 disclose their conflict at the time of their vote
9 as well.

10 Members of Council Finance are
11 available to answer any questions you may have
12 regarding the transparency Resolution. And Noran
13 Camp is available to answer any questions you may
14 have regarding the conflict of interest disclosure
15 form. Joyce Singerman and Ed O'Malley of the
16 Council Administrative Services Division are here
17 to provide greater detail and answer any questions
18 you may have regarding the Resolutions on the
19 Operating Budget. And Tim Mulligan from the
20 Mayor's Office of Management and Budget is also
21 here to answer any questions you may have on the
22 Executive Budget extender.

23 I'd like to take a minute of
24 personal privilege to mention that Joyce Singerman
25 will be retiring from the City Council after 15

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2 years of service--

3 [Audience responding negatively]

4 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: And she has done
5 an outstanding job. She has been our Chief Fiscal
6 Officer here in the Council for the last 13 years.
7 And we wish Joyce well but we will certainly miss
8 her.

9 [Applause]

10 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: I think a
11 proclamation will follow.

12 [Pause]

13 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Mr. Mulligan. Do
14 we take Mulligan in first? Who do we take first?

15 [Off mic]: Yeah we'll take
16 Mulligan and than--

17 [Pause]

18 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Yeah. Mr.
19 Mulligan. You have a statement or you just want
20 to be available if anybody has any questions?
21 Anybody have any questions for Mr. Mulligan?
22 Going once, going twice. You're relieved.

23 Joyce Singerman and Ed O'Malley.

24 [Pause]

25 MS. JOYCE SINGERMAN: Good Chairman

1
2 Weprin and members of the Finance Committee. I'm
3 Joyce Singerman, Fiscal Officer, Administrative
4 Services Division of the City Council. We're
5 before you today with the Council's proposed
6 Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budget. In light of
7 our economic decline, this budget is \$50,535,741,
8 a decrease of \$1,274,591 from our Fiscal Year 2009
9 budget, an overall decrease of 3.3%.

10 Council Member's budgets will
11 remain at \$227,336; \$317,336 for Committee Chairs.
12 I'm sorry, \$277,336. A PS reduction of \$751,123
13 will be realized out of central staff by assessing
14 current and future vacancies. We have reduced our
15 OTPS budget by \$973,468. Saving will be achieved
16 by continued efficient and aggressive bidding of
17 contracts for printing and supplies.

18 We will review and look to reduce
19 central staff services for such things as cable
20 service, Blackberries, cell phones, online
21 subscription services, library books, among
22 others. We will also continue to expand
23 modifications in our purchasing practices to
24 attempt to further reduce spending.

25 If you have any questions we'd be

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2 happy to answer them at this time.

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CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Mr. O'Malley, you
have any...? Any question for Ms. Singerman or Mr.
O'Malley?

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[Pause]

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[Background noise]

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CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: I'd just like to
state that it's been a pleasure having Joyce
Singerman with us. We hope she'll come back and
visit regularly. And she's done an outstanding
job these last 14 years and I think we should give
her another round of applause.

14

[Applause]

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MS. SINGERMAN: And I'd like to
take a moment to thank Speaker Quinn, Chairman
Weprin, the members of this Committee, your
colleagues and former colleagues for the 15
wonderful years I've had at the Council,
culminating my 35-year public service career.

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While I'll be leaving the Council
shortly, I will always be grateful for the
opportunity of working for all of you. I will
look back on these years with many fond memories
of times I have worked with you and with your

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2 staff. I have seen the Council do enormous good
3 for the City, many times unrecognized for this
4 work, but I'm proud to have been a part of it.
5 Thank you.

6 [Applause]

7 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Thank you. We're
8 now going to couple all the items, the three Land
9 Use items, the Preconsidered Transparency
10 Resolution, and the Operating Budget, and the
11 Budget extender. Call the roll.

12 MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
13 Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call on the
14 Committee on Finance. Council Member Weprin.

15 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: Aye on all.
16 Please fill out the conflict form, by the way.

17 MR. MARTIN: Rivera.

18 MAJORITY LEADER RIVERA: I vote
19 aye.

20 MR. MARTIN: Reyna.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Pass.

22 MR. MARTIN: Baez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye.

24 MR. MARTIN: Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye, much

1
2 thanks to Joyce Sugarman and I am, Singleman, very
3 concerned, want to make sure that as we go forward
4 with this budget that we congratulate the
5 technology services of the City Council and hope
6 that there is no funding cut, because they have
7 challenging jobs and very needing--need
8 desperately to have more support. Thank you.

9 MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye and I
11 want to congratulate and wish Joyce Singerman God
12 Speed and many blessings as she starts her next
13 career 'cause she's much too young to retire from
14 us even though she started when she was 15, I
15 don't know how she did it. But congratulations
16 Joyce and God Bless. Aye on all.

17 MR. MARTIN: deBlasio.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER deBLASIO: Aye on
19 all.

20 MR. MARTIN: Fidler.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye on all.

22 [Pause]

23 MR. MARTIN: Gennaro.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GENNARO: Yes.

25 [Pause]

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MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

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COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote any
on all. And congratulations Joyce, we love you.

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MR. MARTIN: Koppell.

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[Pause]

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [No

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response]

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MR. MARTIN: Sears.

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COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: [Off mic]

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MR. MARTIN: Vann.

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COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah,

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congratulations Joyce, enjoy life. I vote aye on
all.

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[Pause]

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MR. MARTIN: By a vote of 11 in the
affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,
all items are adopted. Council Members please
sign the Committee reports. Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: I'm going to keep
the roll open for a half hour. Other than that
we're adjourned.

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[Gavel Banging]

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[Pause]

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[Background noise]

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2 CHAIRMAN WEPRIN: You've got to
3 call Koppell again I think. Well anyway--

4 MR. MARTIN: [Interposing] Koppell.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Aye.

6 MR. MARTIN: Ignizio.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

8 MR. MARTIN: Oddo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

10 [Pause]

11 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Reyna.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [Cracking
13 microphone] So much for being discreet. I vote
14 aye.

15 [Pause]

16 MR. MARTIN: The vote on Finance
17 now stands at 15 in the affirmative, 9 in the
18 negative and no abstentions.

19 [Pause]

20 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Gerson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GERSON: Aye on all.

22 [Pause]

23 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Gioia.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.

25 I vote yes.

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[Pause]

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MR. MARTIN: Yassky.

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COUNCIL MEMBER YASSKY: Aye.

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MR. MARTIN: The vote now stands at

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18 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no

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abstentions.

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[Pause]

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MR. MARTIN: The final vote on the

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Committee on Land Use is now 18--excuse..

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correction. Final Vote on the Committee on

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Finance is now 18 in the affirmative, 9 in the

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negative and no abstentions. Thank you.

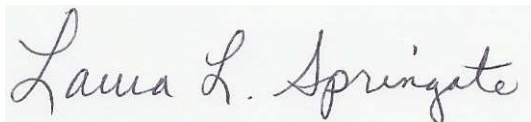
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[END TAPE 1002]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature Laura L. Springate

Date April 16, 2009