

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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April 29, 2019

Start: 3:30 p.m.

Recess: 4:15 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl.

B E F O R E: STEVEN MATTEO
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Margaret S. Chin
Vanessa L. Gibson
Karen Koslowitz
Stephen T. Levin

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

1 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS

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2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Good afternoon
4 everyone. Thank you for your patience. I'm Steve
5 Matteo. I'm Chair of the Standards and Ethics
6 Committee. I'm joined by my colleagues Vanessa
7 Gibson and Margaret Chin. The Committee on Standards
8 and Ethics is meeting today regarding a pending
9 disciplinary matter opened pursuant to Section 10.80
10 of the Council Rules concerning Council Member Barry
11 Grodenchik as well as other committee business.
12 Because it is necessary for the committee to discuss
13 confidential personnel issues, I am making a motion
14 for the Committee to move into Executive Session
15 pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. Do
16 I have a second?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Second.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Seconded by Margaret
19 Chin. All those in favor say aye.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Aye.

22 CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Noting that the ayes
23 have it I'm going to close this portion of the
24 meeting and reopen in Executive Session. Before we
25 proceed into Executive Session, I will note for the

public that this committee may vote on certain items of business during the session, and as a result, there may be an additional open session of the committee later today. Thank you. [gavel]
[Executive Session/pause] [gavel]

CHAIRPERSON MATTEO: Alright, welcome back everyone. Thank you for your patience. So, the Committee on Standards and Ethics opened a meeting earlier today regarding the pending disciplinary matter initiated pursuant to Section 10.80 of the Council Rules concerning Council Member Barry Grodenchik. Because it was necessary for the committee to those confidential personnel issues in conjunction with the pending disciplinary matter, the committee voted to move into Executive Session pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. We are now returning to open session to make public the outcome of today's vote regarding the pending disciplinary matter, and I am joined by Council Members Gibson and Chin. Based up a thorough and wide ranging investigation conducted by both the Council's Office of the General Counsel and the Special Council retained by the Committee to prosecute this disciplinary proceeding, the committee

voted today to issue two charges against Council Member Grodenchik. The charges state that from 2017 until early 2019 the Council Member engaged in certain conduct that was based upon the complainant's gender that cause the complainant to be discriminated against and harassed in the workplace. The charged conduct is found by the committee to have occurred was standards of violation of Council Policy and Council Rule 10.80. The committee will hold a disciplinary hearing on these charges on May 13, 2019 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The hearing will be held in executive session, and Council Member Grodenchik has a right to be represented by counsel at the hearing. The Council has hired Carey Cohen to serve as special counsel and present the case against Council Member Grodenchik to the committee. While the proceedings are confidential, after the committee deliberates on the charges, the findings and recommendations of the committee will be made public. In addition to this action concerning Council Member Grodenchik, the Committee reviewed a Report of Preliminary Inquiry concerning allegations of misconduct by Council Member Andy King. The allegations against Council Member King include engaging in sexual harassment,

permitting an associated person/spouse to perform Council business, creating a work environment where his spouse was permitted to engage in harassment of the Council employee. Allegations the Council Member King created an environment wherein an employees' office with supervisory responsibilities repeatedly threatened by those (sic) in the office and at work functions, and on at least one occasion the employee committed an act of violence against a subordinate employee. Finally, there are allegations of numerous instances of misuse of city resources. Despite many attempts to interview Council Member King about these allegations, he has refused to cooperate with the investigation, and only made himself available for five minutes to discuss a separate, but related investigation and to one of his staff members. In light of the committee's review of a preliminary investigation into the allegations against Council Member King and Council Member King's refusal to cooperate with the committee, the committee voted to commence these proceedings against Council Member Andy King. The next steps are for the Special Counsel to review the committee's report, conduct further investigation as necessary, and make a

1 COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND ETHICS 7

2 recommendation of charges, if any, to this committee.

3 This concludes our summary of the committee's votes

4 during today's meeting. This meeting is now

5 adjourned. Thank you all for coming. [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 May 24, 2019