

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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April 1, 2009
Start: 10:00 am
Recess: 10:11 am

HELD AT: 250 Broadway, 16th Fl.
Hearing Room

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Maria Baez
Charles Barron
Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Inez E. Dickens
Simcha Felder
Daniel R. Garodnick
Eric N. Gioia
Vincent Ignizio
Robert Jackson
John C. Liu
Miguel Martinez
Annabel Palma

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joel Rivera
Larry B. Seabrook
Helen Sears
Albert Vann

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CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Hi everyone.

Good morning. This will be a very, very quick meeting. Just so everyone knows before we leave, 1:00 is a joint meeting with Economic Development on Coney Island. Where is it? That's a very good question. It's in the chambers. We hope that it will still be there; roof and all, and we're working towards that goal. It's at 1:00. Let's get through the agenda quick. We have five related applications in Council Member Barron's district to facilitate the construction of a mixed used development. It's called Gateway Estates II. Your district?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes, Madame Chair.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Are you supporting it?

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm thinking about it. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: LU 1009 is an amendment to an urban renewal plan. LU 1010 is an amendment to the zoning map. LU 1011 is a special permit. We also have a ULURP UDAP at 1012 and 1013 is an amendment to the city map, LU 1016,

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2 P.S. 109 in Council Member Viverito's district to
3 facilitate the rehabilitation of an existing five-
4 story building for 74 residential units, a UDAP
5 the Garvey, Council Member Vann's district for 78
6 units and commercial space. LU 1027 in Council
7 Member Vann's district is a ULURP and UDAP for 96
8 units and commercial space. LU 1028 is a ULURP
9 UDAP as well in Council Member Mendez's district
10 at the Lower East Side Girl's Club for the
11 development of a 12-story mixed used building, 78
12 residential units. LU 1032 is in Speaker Quinn's
13 district, the landmarking of 275 Madison Avenue
14 building. LU 1033 and LU 1034 are related. It is
15 NYPL George Bruce Branch. It is the landmarking
16 in Council Member Jackson's district. One is the
17 NYPL George Bruce Branch and the other is 125th
18 Street Branch in Council Member Viverito's
19 district. LU 1035 is in Council Member Ignizio's
20 district. It's the landmarking of the Elsworth
21 House. LU 1036 is Council Member Recchia's
22 district. It's the landmarking of the Hubbard
23 House. LU 1037 is 405-427 West 53rd Street
24 Garage, special permit to facilitate a parking
25 garage and that is in Speaker Quinn's district.

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2 Also in Speaker Quinn's district is the amendment
3 to the zoning text for the Eastern Rail Yard's
4 text amendment. We have UDAPs 938 and 940,
5 Council Member Ulrich's district and Council
6 Member Dickens' district. Any discussion?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Council Member
9 Barron?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Madame
11 Chair, I just want to thank this committee for the
12 support for the Gateway II project. It's one of
13 the largest projects in our district. We're
14 talking about 2,220 units and like 80-90%
15 affordability. Some would say all affordability;
16 because we do have those that make \$60,000 or
17 \$70,000 or \$80,000 in our community. Some are
18 single family, some are two-family, some are
19 condos, and co-ops. The overwhelming majority is
20 65% below and below of the AMI, which really fits
21 our community well. We're going to have three
22 parks built in there as well, a new school, a
23 supermarket, a day care center and some space for
24 the community to have a community center. So this
25 is one of our historic affordability projects in

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2 the city. And I'm just so honored Inez Dickens
3 has been dethroned as the champion of
4 affordability. This is displacement of the champ,
5 so I'm just glad that I could do that. That's the
6 only thing I have problems with Madame Chair that
7 I'm displacing Inez and I have problems with that.

8 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Inez can never
9 be displaced.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you
11 very much and I thank you for your support.

12 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: My pleasure.
13 Anyone else have anything for discussion? Two
14 announcements before we call the roll. Just so
15 everyone here knows, about three or four years ago
16 we did billboard legislation in limiting the
17 arterial billboards that go up by the LIE and the
18 Grand Central and may of our arterials in our
19 districts. We were sued on that. The judge ruled
20 yesterday that this committee and this Council and
21 the city do have a right to limit the billboards
22 on the arterials. So that was about three or four
23 years ago. We should have a little bit of
24 decorum. Just a little bit, just a touch, not
25 much. Is there any other discussion on the agenda

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2 today? I want to also welcome Council Member
3 Elizabeth Crowley to the committee. We welcome
4 her. Again, today, 1:00, we have a joint hearing
5 for Coney Island with Economic Development.
6 Tomorrow we have Zoning at 9:45, Landmarks at 9:30
7 and Land Use at 10:00. Just so everybody knows.

8 MALE VOICE: Where?

9 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: In this room.

10 MALE VOICE: Why?

11 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Any other
12 discussion? Okay, call the roll.

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,
14 Committee Clerk, roll call on the Committee on
15 Land Use. Council Member Katz?

16 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Aye on all.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye
19 on all.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Avella?

21 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye on all.

22 WILLIAM MARTIN: Baez?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BAEZ: Aye on all.

24 WILLIAM MARTIN: Barron?

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Aye on all.

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN: Comrie?

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3 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye on all.

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4 WILLIAM MARTIN: Jackson?

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5 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote aye

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6 on all with the exception of what's your Land Use

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7 number Barron?

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8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: It's not

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9 listed.

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10 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Okay, I

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11 vote aye on all. I'm sorry.

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12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Liu.

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13 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

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14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Sears?

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15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

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16 WILLIAM MARTIN: Vann?

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17 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye on all.

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18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Palma?

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19 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.

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20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Dickens?

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21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: I

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22 emphatically vote aye on all with the

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23 acknowledgement that Council Member Barron finally

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24 has acknowledged that I was the champion of

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25 affordable housing.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Crowley?

COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye on
all.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Ignizio?

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Arroyo?

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Aye on all.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Felder?

COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Yes.

WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 17 in
the affirmative, zero in the negative and no
abstentions, all items have been adopted. Council
Members please sign the committee reports. Thank
you.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Before we go I
would like to acknowledge we did a moment of
silence for Jerry Crispino last week. He was a
former Council Member. But so everybody knows, he
was also the first chair of the Land Use Committee
after we took over the authority from the Board of
Estimates. We do acknowledge his passing and
thank him for his great work on this committee.

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2 Thank you. The joint Economic Committee is at
3 1:00. Tomorrow morning we have subcommittees so
4 we can finalize some business. Thank you. We'll
5 leave the vote open for ten minutes. Thank you.

6 [Pause]

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
8 Martinez?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ: Aye.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now
11 stands at 18 in the affirmative.

12 [Pause]

13 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
14 Seabrook?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye on
16 all.

17 WILLIAM MARTIN: The vote now
18 currently stands at 19 in the affirmative, zero in
19 the negative and no abstentions.

20 [Pause]

21 WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member
22 Gioia?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.
24 I vote yes.

25 [Pause]

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2 WILLIAM MARTIN: The final vote on
3 the Committee on Land Use now stands at 20 in the
4 affirmative, zero in the negative and no
5 abstentions.

6 [Pause]

7 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: I'd like to
8 reopen the meeting of the Land Use Committee for
9 April 1st. Council Member Mendez, how do you
10 vote?

11 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I vote aye
12 on all.


13 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you very
14 much. The meeting is closed. What's the vote?

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Final vote on the
16 Committee on Land Use is 21 in the affirmative,
17 zero in the negative and no abstentions.

18 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you.

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 September 17, 2009