

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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June 19, 2019  
Start: 1:21 p.m.  
Recess: 1:53 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Daniel Dromm  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Farah Louis  
Mark Gjonaj  
Adrienne E. Adams  
Helen K. Rosenthal  
Jimmy Van Bramer  
Steven Matteo  
Barry Grodenchik  
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

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2 [JOHN BIANDO] This is a microphone check.  
3 Today's date is June 19, 2019, Committee on Finance,  
4 being recorded by John Biando, City Hall Committee  
5 Room. [pause]

6 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: [[gavel]] OK, good  
7 afternoon, and welcome to today's Finance Committee  
8 hearing, where we will be adopting the 2020 Budget.  
9 I'm Council Member Daniel Dromm and I chair the  
10 committee. Let me introduce my colleagues. We have  
11 Council Member Farah Louis, and welcome to the  
12 committee. Thank you for joining us. Let's give her  
13 a welcoming round of applause [applause], Council  
14 Member Mark Gjonaj, Council Member Adrienne Adams,  
15 Council Member Helen Rosenthal, Council Member Jimmy  
16 Van Bramer, Minority Leader Steven Matteo, Council  
17 Member Barry Grodenchik, and Majority Leader Laurie  
18 Cumbo. Thank you again for being here. Today the  
19 council committee will take the necessary actions for  
20 the City Council to adopt the fiscal 2020 budget,  
21 which totals approximately 92.8 billion dollars. In  
22 all, this committee will vote on 11 budget-related  
23 items. In addition, we will also be voting on a  
24 fiscal 2019 transparency resolution, Intro 1607, to  
25 reduce the commercial motor vehicle tax for taxicab

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2 medallions and one Article 11 property tax exemption.  
3 But before we begin, I would like to take a moment to  
4 recognize everyone who helped us get to today's  
5 budget adoption. First and foremost, I want to thank  
6 Speaker Corey Johnson for his tireless commitment to  
7 advocate for a budget that represents the values of  
8 this council and this city. It is because of his  
9 leadership that we are passing a budget that is both  
10 equitable and supportive for everyone and safeguards  
11 the city's fiscal health. Today truly marks a  
12 victory for us all. I also want to thank the  
13 speaker's chief of staff, Jason Goldman, for all the  
14 work he did during this budget process on behalf of  
15 this institution and its members. Thank you to my  
16 fellow finance committee members for their  
17 partnership. In particular, Council Member Vanessa  
18 Gibson, who chairs the Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
19 and who has been with me every step of the way.  
20 Thank you also to Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo,  
21 Minority Leader Steven Matteo, Council Members Keith  
22 Powers, Helen Rosenthal, Francisco Moya, Barry  
23 Grodenchik, Rory Lancman, Jimmy Van Bramer, Adrienne  
24 Adams, Robert Cornegy, Mark Gjonaj, and Farah Louis.  
25 Together at the Executive Budget hearings we heard

1  
2 over 60 hours of testimony from agency heads on the  
3 operations and goals for the upcoming fiscal year and  
4 their ability to perform core services. We also  
5 heard from over 100 members of the public on the last  
6 day of the executive budget hearings on how the  
7 budget would affect them. We took what we learned at  
8 the budget hearings back to BNT and delegations then  
9 negotiated a budget that we can all be proud of. And  
10 of course we must thank the staff in the finance  
11 division. They are spectacular. I know that they  
12 have worked long hours, answered a lot of questions  
13 from members, and many reports and spreadsheets to  
14 prepare. But I want to assure that your dedication  
15 is recognized and very much appreciated. So thank  
16 you all of the financial analysts, economists, and  
17 administrative support staff who worked so hard. And  
18 special thanks to the finance division's leadership  
19 team who spearheaded the effort - Deputy Director  
20 Regina Pareda Ryan, Deputy Director Nathan Taut,  
21 Deputy Director Paul Simone, Deputy Director and  
22 Chief Economist Dr. Raymond Justin, Assistant  
23 Director Emra Edev, Supervising Economist Paul  
24 Stromm, Unit Head Isha Wright, Dohini Sampura, Cheema  
25 Obachari, Kulian Francisco, and John Russell, and

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2 Senior Counsel Rebecca Chasson. And of course to the  
3 incomparable Latanya McKenny, who leads them all. We  
4 thank you very, very much. [applause] And thank you  
5 to Chuck Davis and Fran Galavekia and the  
6 appointments investigation team for vetting every  
7 organization receiving discretionary funding, and to  
8 the entire office of the General Counsel, who  
9 assisted us with our disclosures. And last, but not  
10 least, my staff, Robin Forst, Sebastian McGuire, Mic  
11 Malan, my chief of staff, Carolyn Tran, and everyone  
12 in my district office who kept everything running  
13 throughout this process. Now with everyone properly  
14 thanked let's adopt this budget. The fiscal 2020  
15 adopted includes many significant wins for the  
16 counsel and for the people of the City of New York.  
17 This year we entered into budget negotiations focused  
18 on securing a responsible, equitable budget for all  
19 New Yorkers. The council was determined that the  
20 final budget demonstrate a commitment to strengthen  
21 the city's reserves and improve the quality of life  
22 for all residents. I feel strongly that we have  
23 negotiated the budget that accomplishes these goals  
24 and incorporates initiatives that will benefit all  
25 New Yorkers. As a result of our tenacity and

1  
2 persistence throughout this negotiation process the  
3 council 2020 budget agreement includes, among other  
4 victories, a path for achieving pay parity for all  
5 early childhood education employees, both teachers  
6 and non-teachers alike with a commitment that  
7 whatever collective bargaining agreement is reached  
8 will be appropriately funded. A path towards pay  
9 parity for public defense and civil legal service  
10 providers with an agreement to build a four-year full  
11 implementation plan to reach pay parity by March  
12 2020. And support for human service providers by  
13 funding individual community-based organizations'  
14 request for documented indirect cost above the  
15 current 10% ceiling. These investments will make a  
16 real difference to the not-for-profit workers, many  
17 of whom are women of color, who provide the critical  
18 work and expertise that keep key services running.  
19 But these are not the only investments that we are  
20 making in the budget. For our youth the council  
21 successfully negotiated for 30 million dollars for  
22 285 new social workers, including 100 Bridging the  
23 Gap social workers, 100 social workers for middle  
24 schools, and 85 social workers who will focus on  
25 mental health issues funded by reallocation 10

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2 million dollars from Thrive NYC. 4000 additional  
3 COMPASS slots with 14.2 million dollars in baseline  
4 funding, bringing the total number of slots to  
5 51,000. Seven new Title 9 coordinators with \$857,000  
6 in baseline funding, and 1 million dollars for an  
7 inclusive LGBTQ curriculum. These are incredible  
8 wins for us all. This budget really contains  
9 something for everyone. Among the other of the  
10 council's priorities that will be included in the  
11 budget are 43 million dollars in the city's parks to  
12 support 50 new urban park rangers, 80 parks  
13 enforcement patrol officers, 150 maintenance workers  
14 and gardeners, forestry management, and the Green  
15 Thumb program. 33 million dollars in additional  
16 funding for the three library systems. 12.8 million  
17 to fund foster care initiatives. 16.6 million in  
18 funding for the New York Immigrant Family Unity  
19 Project. 11.7 million in baseline funding for senior  
20 meals. 26.7 million dollars for culture  
21 institutions. 8.6 million investment to fund  
22 additional trash pickups on corner litter baskets and  
23 40 million for census outreach advertising and  
24 community engagement to ensure that every person in  
25 New York City is accounted for in the 2020 census.

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2 Throughout the negotiations we were not only focused  
3 on where spending could be most significantly have a  
4 positive impact on New Yorkers' lives and protect the  
5 social safety net, but we also made it a priority to  
6 ensure that the city be better prepared for any  
7 economic downturn that may come in the future, and  
8 our persistence paid off. The adopted budget will  
9 include an additional 250 million dollars for  
10 reserves. This meaningful balanced package of  
11 spending is a tribute to the council's commitment and  
12 dedication to the people of New York City. We should  
13 all be proud of what we have accomplished fiscal  
14 2020. Now before we move on I'd also like to  
15 acknowledge that none of this would have been  
16 possible without the administration's willing to work  
17 with us to get this budget done. For that I'd to  
18 thank the OMB director, Melanie Harzog, and her  
19 entire staff. Now with all of that good news laid  
20 out, let's discuss the items that the Finance  
21 Committee will vote on today. Finance Committee  
22 members should have a budget package that contains  
23 all budgeted related, budget-related legislation that  
24 must be voted on by the committee and again by the  
25 full council at the Stated Meeting. The packet also

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2 includes supporting schedules that are not voted on  
3 but filed with the committee as well as other non-  
4 budget-related items that are being voted. I want to  
5 strongly emphasize that Finance Committee members  
6 will be only, will only be given one budget package.  
7 So after you vote on the packet items you must bring  
8 your packet and all of its contents to the Stated  
9 Meeting to vote again. Council members who are not  
10 on the Finance Committee will be given their budget  
11 packet at the Stated Meeting. A description of all  
12 the items were emailed to you by the senior committee  
13 counsel, Rebecca Chasson, so I will simply list the  
14 items that are on the agenda today that require a  
15 vote. The first item is the resolution adopting the  
16 fiscal 2020 expense budget. The second item is the  
17 resolution adopting the fiscal 2020 contract budget.  
18 The third item is a Reso A for the fiscal 2020  
19 capital budget, approving the schedule of changes for  
20 the capital budget since the executive budget,  
21 including council discretionary allocations. The  
22 fourth item is Reso B for the fiscal 2020 capital  
23 budget, which is approval of the capital budget as  
24 amended by Reso A. The fifth item is the resolution  
25 to approve the new five-year education capital plan

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2 for fiscal 2020 to 2024. The sixth item is the  
3 resolution approving the 46th year of the Community  
4 Development Program and the 45th year at  
5 Reallocations. The seventh, eighth, and ninth items  
6 are the three property tax fixing resolutions for  
7 fiscal 2020. The tenth item is the resolution  
8 approving an expense budget modification fiscal 2019.  
9 The eleventh item is the resolution approving a  
10 revenue budget modification for fiscal 2019. The  
11 twelfth item is a transparency resolution. The  
12 thirteenth item is an LU items MHANY Dumont which  
13 will receive a partial 40-year Article 11 exemption  
14 to preserve 45 units in Council Member Espinal and  
15 Barron's districts in Brooklyn. The fourteenth item  
16 is Intro 1607 which would reduce the annual  
17 commercial motor vehicle tax owed by taxi medallions  
18 from \$1000 to \$400. The other documents in your  
19 packet which do not require a separate vote are a  
20 list of the terms and conditions adopted for fiscal  
21 2020, Schedule C and other supporting schedules, and  
22 the borough president proposed capital changes. As a  
23 reminder to members, Schedule C is a schedule of the  
24 expense in contract budgets and the appropriations  
25 for the organizations listed in Schedule C are in the

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2 expense and contract budgets. Council members will  
3 have to sign a disclosure form indicating whether or  
4 not a conflict exists with any of the groups listed  
5 in Schedule C or Reso A, which details the  
6 designations of capital discretionary funds. If any  
7 council member has a potential conflict of interest  
8 with any of the organizations included, he or she has  
9 the opportunity to disclose the conflict at the time  
10 of their vote. If you have not yet signed those  
11 disclosure forms staff in the general counsel's  
12 office are available to guide you through the  
13 process, so please see one of them before you vote.  
14 As a further reminder, please disclose any conflicts  
15 you may have with proposed subcontractors that are  
16 used by any of the organizations sponsored. These  
17 disclosures must be made before the subcontractor can  
18 be approved. Similarly, the transparency resolution  
19 sets forth new changes in the designation of certain  
20 organizations receiving local, aging, and youth  
21 discretionary funding as well as new changes in the  
22 designation of certain organizations receiving  
23 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the  
24 budget. Organizations appearing in the resolution  
25 that have not yet completed the prequalification

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2 process conducted by the Mayor's Office of Contract  
3 Services, the council, or another entity are  
4 identified in the attached charts with an asterisk.  
5 As with all transparency resolutions, council members  
6 will have to sign a disclosure form. As previously  
7 stated, staff from the general counsel's office is  
8 available to assist you with any questions or  
9 concerns regarding disclosure. Those are all of the  
10 items for today. We will take now, we will now take  
11 questions from any members if they have them. OK.  
12 Seeing none, I will now ask Billy Martin, the  
13 committee clerk, to call the roll.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: William Martin,  
15 committee clerk, roll call vote, Committee on  
16 Finance. All items are coupled. Chair Dromm.

17 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: Before I say my vote,  
18 I want to thank assistant counsel, Noah Brick and  
19 Stephanie Ruiz, who sat by my side throughout all the  
20 executive budget hearings. I believe they're here.  
21 Thank you, Noah, and thank you, Stephanie, over here.  
22 I vote aye.

23 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gibson.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Pass.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Cornegy.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: With

congratulations to the finance chair, the speaker,  
the entire finance staff, I proudly vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Cumbo.

MAJORITY LEADER CUMBO: I just want to  
congratulate everybody here and I want to thank Chair  
Dromm, Chair Gibson, and the entire finance team, and  
everybody that made today possible, and I just want  
to say this is such a meaningful budget for me as a  
new mom. It was so exciting to see the progress that  
we made for our daycare workers and pay parity. As  
a mom I got to see firsthand how so many dynamic  
women, particularly women of color, educate children  
between the ages of zero and three, in such a  
nurturing, loving, and educational environment. So I  
was very proud to see that, so proud to see the work  
that we're doing with our libraries as we go for  
story time and to see how many parents come there for  
educational opportunities and reading time, to see  
one day he will grow up and have a guidance counselor  
in his school, the increase of 33 million dollar to  
culturals where we and so many other families go to  
for educational upliftment. This is really an  
exciting budget, um, for parents and families who

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2 want to raise their children, um, with all the  
3 educational opportunities that the City of New York  
4 has to offer and to the entire finance division I  
5 thank you for your tireless work and effort and all  
6 my colleagues and to Latonya McKinney, it's so  
7 inspiring to see a woman and an African American  
8 woman in this position. While we all know her and  
9 inside baseball she is certainly someone that I wish  
10 that the entire city and nation could see a woman of  
11 this caliber of, of this experience leading a body at  
12 this level. So we thank all of you for all of your  
13 work. I proudly vote aye, and I will just say I'm  
14 disclosing on the record of the council proceedings  
15 that the New York City Department of Education is  
16 funded in the budget we are adopting and my sister is  
17 employed by the Done. I proudly vote aye, and thank  
18 you.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Rosenthal.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: With gratitude  
21 to everyone already named for their hard work and for  
22 being patient with me, especially Chair Dromm, and  
23 the speaker and Jason and Latonya and everyone on the  
24 budget negotiating team I proudly vote aye on all.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: First, I just  
3 want to say thank you to everyone who had a hand in  
4 this budget. As the chair of Cultural Affairs and  
5 Libraries I could not be happier with this budget  
6 that reflects record levels of increases in funding  
7 and baseline funding for libraries and over 30  
8 million dollars for culturals. This is a very, very  
9 exciting budget and that doesn't even get to capital,  
10 our cultural council initiatives increased  
11 dramatically. It's a very, very good budget so thank  
12 you to everyone involved, and I am disclosing on the  
13 record that Breaking Ground is funded in the budget  
14 we are adopting and I am very proud of my sister who  
15 works with homeless individuals in the city and is  
16 associated with this entity. With that I vote aye.  
17 Thank you.

18 WILLIAM MARTIN: Grodenchik.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: Thank you,  
20 Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you first of all for  
21 always being on time at every hearing and that's  
22 greatly appreciated by us who travel a long distance.  
23 I see Ms. Adams shaking her head in agreement,  
24 nodding her head. Um, I am disclosing on the record  
25 of the council proceedings that Queens College, which

1  
2 is a division of the City University of New York, is  
3 funded in this budget we're adopting. My son, David,  
4 is a student at Queens College, um, I'm also a card-  
5 carrying member of the Queensborough Public Library  
6 and I'm a graduate of PS-201 Queens and I'm still  
7 using that diploma. So that's all on the record now.  
8 [laughter] Um, I also want to thank, Matteo, did you  
9 graduate? That's the question. Ah, I also want to  
10 thank the staff of finance who, as always, has done a  
11 tremendous job and is always available to answer my  
12 questions, because I have a lot of them. I want to  
13 thank you, all of you, from the speaker on down for  
14 funding the Queens County Farm Museum here again.  
15 We're going to build that visitor's center for all of  
16 you who are listening out in eastern Queens. This  
17 was a great budget for parks also. I helped to lead  
18 that charge, and I'm really excited. This is a  
19 historic day for the parks system in New York City.  
20 It's probably the one thing that everybody is really,  
21 really happy to use. Not everybody is always  
22 thrilled to go to school everyday, but everybody  
23 really loves their park. So thank you. With that,  
24 Mr. Chairman, I am proud to vote yes.

25 WILLIAM MARTIN: Adams.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. Chair. All of our hats are off to you. It  
4 has been my esteemed honor and pleasure to serve for  
5 the second year with you leading this amazing Finance  
6 Committee, our fantastic finance division. For the  
7 City Council there is no measure for the work that  
8 you all do, lead by our amazing Latonya McKinney. My  
9 thanks to you. My thanks also to my colleague,  
10 Vanessa Gibson, for chairing the Subcommittee on  
11 Capital Budget, amazing work that you've done. And  
12 to our speaker, Corey Johnson, who leads this amazing  
13 body of council members, we have seen historic  
14 landmarks and milestones take place since his  
15 leadership and to him I am very, very grateful as  
16 well. This has been an amazing time for women's  
17 issues and women in particular, so I am very proud to  
18 vote aye on all of the items and let's adopt this  
19 budget.

20 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gjonaj.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you, Chair.  
22 I just want to reiterate some of the committees that  
23 were made about you. It's incredible to see this  
24 first hand, two years in a row, your stellar  
25 performance and duration for all of these hearings.

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2 To my fellow colleagues for all of their input and  
3 what they've done, to our speaker, but most of all, I  
4 can't reiterate the praises that the staff deserve  
5 for the long nights, the long days, they truly are  
6 what makes this institution such a great place and  
7 allows us to make a difference for all New Yorkers.  
8 This budget is an incredible budget. I'm glad that I  
9 was brought in as the lefty on the ninth inning just  
10 over a month ago. I was made a part of this  
11 committee and I hope that my contributions have been,  
12 I hope my contributions are accepted for what they  
13 are and that is to make sure that we do the right  
14 thing by New Yorkers and to make sure that we spend,  
15 and that we're good stewards of tax dollars. This  
16 budget has some incredible and wonderful things in  
17 it, some things that I'm not so sure about, but with  
18 that in mind I want to first make a disclosure. It  
19 says I am disclosing on the record of the City  
20 Council proceedings that PS-175 is funded in the  
21 budget we're adopting and my wife is associated with  
22 this entity. And that CUNY is funded in the budget  
23 we're adopting and my sons are and may be students of  
24 CUNY. And thirdly that the Bronx Parent Housing  
25 Network is funded in this budget we're adopting and

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2 my brother may or may not be associated with this  
3 entity. And this is all again to the best of my  
4 knowledge and recollection. [laughter] Now with that  
5 being said I vote aye on all except for Reso numbers  
6 962, 963, 973, and the accompanying resolution M174.  
7 And the reason for that is in my council district  
8 single-family home owners have the highest effective  
9 tax rate than any other district in the city. The  
10 highest in the entire city. And I can't vote to put  
11 a further burden on home owners, all New Yorkers, who  
12 are already overburdened by real estate taxes. Thank  
13 you again.

14 WILLIAM MARTIN: Matteo.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Thank you. I  
16 don't know how I follow may or may not but I'll try.  
17 [laughter] I want to start off by thanking Chair  
18 Dromm. It's obvious to everyone in this room we  
19 don't always agree, but you have been a very good  
20 partner to myself and to my constituents through this  
21 budget process and I appreciate the bipartisanship  
22 and focusing on what we do agree on. I think that's  
23 what government is all about, and I thank you for  
24 that, for your leadership. I thank the finance team,  
25 led by Latonya, and I've worked with some of you as a

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2 staffer, certainly worked with all of you since I've  
3 been elected and, um, you are all top-notch and you  
4 treat everyone's priorities as your own priority and  
5 I think we are all eternally grateful for your  
6 knowledge and your hard work, so thank you to our  
7 extraordinary finance team. I am also voting no on  
8 the tax preconsidered resolutions. I don't think  
9 it's a surprise to anyone, and I know the [inaudible]  
10 may not be, um, reflect the numbers that will  
11 ultimately go in effect, but nonetheless they will  
12 increase property taxes for Class 1 properties as is  
13 now. I certainly look forward to the findings of the  
14 Property Tax Commission that we empaneled and I hope  
15 my colleagues will continue to fight with me for  
16 property tax relief. With that said, and I certainly  
17 don't agree with everything in this budget, I don't  
18 think that's a surprise to everyone, I am pleased  
19 that we were able to increase our reserves and  
20 grateful to Speaker Johnson for working with me to  
21 fund many projects and initiatives that benefit my  
22 constituents in Staten Island as a whole, so I'm  
23 voting no on Preconsidered Resolutions 962, 963, 973,  
24 and M174, and aye on the rest. I am also disclosing  
25 that my daughter attends CSI, that's in the budget.

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2 One of my sons attends Susan Wagner High School,  
3 which we are funding. Another one of my sons attends  
4 PS-30, which we are funding. My sons and my daughter  
5 are in Summer Youth Employment Program and UAU, and  
6 that's in the budget. My brother works at Rumsey,  
7 which we are fund.

8 WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: Thank you. I'm  
10 proudly voting aye and I want to thank our chair,  
11 Danny Dromm, who works tirelessly and puts in more  
12 hours than anybody can really imagine, making sure  
13 that we get to a budget that is fair and that groups  
14 are heard, and that organizations' priorities are  
15 attended to and met. This budget with its historic  
16 investment in libraries and cultural institutions and  
17 parks I know will make many New Yorkers proud and  
18 will provide many new opportunities for New Yorkers  
19 in places where they need it, places like libraries  
20 where any New Yorker can go and take out a book or  
21 learn or spend time in that space. I want to really,  
22 really thank the chair for days of his life, hours,  
23 weeks, that he will never get back, but it means that  
24 this budget has done well and I thank our  
25 subcommittee chair for capital, Vanessa Gibson, and

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2 our tireless leader, Latonya McKinney, as well. They  
3 put in just so much more work than I think anybody  
4 can ever imagine and we're really lucky to have  
5 everybody, this whole team in the finance division.  
6 I'm proudly aye, and I'm disclosing Mount Sinai is  
7 funded in this budget we are adopting. My mother is  
8 associated with Mount Sinai. And with that being  
9 said I proudly vote aye. Thank you.

10 WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Good afternoon. I  
12 just want to thank you, Chairman, for your warm  
13 welcome and for your leadership and for all you do.  
14 Also, thank you Council Member Gibson for your  
15 leadership and the finance team that always does an  
16 amazing job with the budget every year. I'm very  
17 happy with this budget that we have and look forward  
18 to continue to working with all of you. I would like  
19 to disclose on record that my sister works at York  
20 Colleague. I have another sister that goes, that  
21 attend Medgar Ever College. My mom works at  
22 Brookdale. Another sister works at Coney Island  
23 Hospital and my brother works for the MTA. We're all  
24 over New York City. [laughter]

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2 UNIDENTIFIED: We funded your whole  
3 family. [laughter]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: The whole family.  
5 Um, so I vote aye on all, except for Resos 962, 963,  
6 and 973, mainly because our district, the 45th  
7 Council District, has a lot of one-family, two-family  
8 home owners and the tax burden has been a major issue  
9 for them, and I know that it will continue to be so.  
10 That's the reason I'm voting no. But I vote aye on  
11 everything else. Thank you.

12 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gibson.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
14 explain my vote? Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good  
15 afternoon colleagues, and it's really an honor to be  
16 here and I want to join collectively with the finance  
17 team and with all of my colleagues in just saluting  
18 you, Chair Danny Dromm, for your outstanding  
19 leadership. It's been an honor and a privilege  
20 working side by side with you as your colleague and  
21 your partner in this process. The amount of hours  
22 and the labor of love that have been invested in this  
23 budget process is truly a reflection of what this  
24 council speaks for, and I could not be more proud.  
25 It's my second year serving as chair of the

1  
2 Subcommittee on Capital in my sixth budget here and  
3 we could not have done all of this great work without  
4 your leadership, so I thank you for that, for the  
5 hours that you have invested. It's been an honor  
6 joining with you during both the preliminary budget  
7 as well as executive budget and co-chairing many of  
8 the hearings, as well as the last day of the hearings  
9 when we heard testimony from over 200 New Yorkers and  
10 we stayed until the very end, and that really speaks  
11 volunteers, Chair, to your commitment, so I want to  
12 thank you. I want to thank the entire council and  
13 all my colleagues for their support. I want to thank  
14 our own Olivia Pope, Latonya McKinney, thank you for  
15 being our phenomenal director, for being an  
16 incredible leader, for being patient with many of us  
17 and the entire finance division. Certainly I want to  
18 recognize the staff that worked closely with me,  
19 Nathan Toll has been my right hand, Rebecca Chasson  
20 has been my left hand. Noah Brick and Stephanie Ruiz  
21 have been both my left and right hand, and Isha  
22 Wright and Regina Pareda Ryan and Cheema Obichair and  
23 Oheny Sampora and all of the finance division, thank  
24 you, thank you, thank you. I do want to take an  
25 opportunity to recognize another member of our

1  
2 finance division. This is her last budget and she  
3 formerly worked as my budget director and I could not  
4 be more proud of her. If I have a question at  
5 midnight she is responding to me, and that is one of  
6 our senior analysts, Caitlin O'Hagan. Thank you,  
7 Caitlin! [applause] I definitely wanted to put you on  
8 the spot and say thank you for all the work you've  
9 done and we wish you great success in your new  
10 chapter continuing your higher education, and really,  
11 the finance division, you deserve so much credit. We  
12 could never feed you enough to show you how much we  
13 love and appreciate you. Um, the investments we've  
14 made in this budget in cultural, in the arts, in all  
15 of our libraries, our social workers, which is  
16 historic, saving Weeksville Heritage Center, all of  
17 the things we've done to protect children, families,  
18 older New Yorkers, you all have been so consistent,  
19 and we never gave up. And I want to thank the  
20 administration, Office of Management and Budget, our  
21 director, Melanie Harzog, for working with us, and  
22 certainly the team at OMB, and certainly on a  
23 personal note I have to thank my staff. There's no  
24 way I could do this without my team, my chief of  
25 staff, Wendy Diegos, and completing his first year as

1  
2 my budget director, Justin Cortez. [applause] I  
3 thank you so much, and with that I vote aye on all  
4 and look forward to passing the budget later on  
5 today. Thank you again and thank you to our speaker,  
6 Corey Johnson. I vote aye on all.

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: I vote 12 in the  
8 affirmative, zero in the negative, and no  
9 abstentions. All items are adopted on today's  
10 finance agenda with the exception of Resolutions 962,  
11 Resolution 963, and M174, with Resolution 973, are  
12 adopted by a vote of 9 in the affirmative, 3 in the  
13 negative, and no abstentions.

14 CHAIRPERSON DROMM: OK, thank you very  
15 much, and this has been a wonderful, wonderful  
16 experience. Thank you, Billy, also for always being  
17 here for us and I just want to remind members to make  
18 sure that you bring your envelope with you to the  
19 Stated, you need to have that with you when you come  
20 into the Stated Meeting. And with that, and the  
21 Stated is at 3 o'clock, so we will see you all there.  
22 Thank you, and with that this meeting is adjourned.  
23 [gavel]

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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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 June 23, 2019