

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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November 16, 2009

Start: 10:44 am

Recess: 10:50 am

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Council Member Tony Avella
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Elizabeth Crowley
Council Member Inez Dickens
Council Member Simcha Felder
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Eric N. Gioia
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Jessica Lappin
Council Member John C. Liu

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Rosie Mendez
Council Member Annabel Palma
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member Helen Sears
Council Member Albert Vann

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2 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Let's just--do
3 this. And we can all, I think--you have
4 Transportation here, right, John?

5 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: John, are you
7 here next? Transportation? Okay, we're going to
8 Land Use, then Transportation is going to be held
9 in the chambers right afterwards. The only item
10 on the agenda is a site selection for the New
11 York, for the Police Academy, for the New York
12 City Police Department. Landmarks just voted it
13 out, it is a motion to approve. Any discussion?
14 Council Member Avella.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I'm going
16 to try and not repeat the comments I just made in
17 the subcommittee, but I wanted to add--

18 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: --Avella.
19 [gavel] Can we have some order in the chamber,
20 please, this is an important issue, one that's
21 been negotiated and discussed for a very long
22 time. It is in Council Member Avella's district.
23 Council Member Avella.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Despite the
25 fact that there have been some minor

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2 modifications, and I understand that some issues
3 where the Academy, some of the facilities are
4 being relocated from have improved, I still feel
5 this application should be turned down. And I
6 just want to mention one thing, in today's Post,
7 for an example, couple years ago we approved, and
8 I supported, having the Police Department relocate
9 some facilities from Creedmoor in Queens to
10 College Point, where the Police Academy is going.
11 And the Police Department made a commitment that
12 they would not be parking on local streets, that
13 they had enough parking spaces to fit the people
14 who were going to use this new facility. Well, lo
15 and behold, they've only been there two months and
16 it's already a disaster for the local community.
17 And I feel with 5,000 people coming with the
18 Police Academy, this is going to be a huge problem
19 for College Point, Whitestone and Mitchell-Linden.
20 And unfortunately, the Administration has done
21 very little to address these traffic problems.
22 And, you know, I would ask the Committee to vote
23 against it, I know you're not going to do that,
24 but for the record, this is going to be a huge
25 quality of life issue for my district and beyond.

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you.

Council Member Garodnick?

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to make one comment on the subject of the site that is the current site of the Police Academy, which is very close to my district, and Council Member Mendez and I chair a border in that neighborhood, and also very close to where I live. We have raised this issue on the subject of the future of that building and the need for public school space on the east side of Manhattan. We are struggling and we need to find any opportunities that we can find. And I'm very pleased that Council Member will endeavor to ensure that this will be space that will be appropriate for public school use down the line, because we need and it's important and so I just wanted to add that, add that point, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Any other discussion or comment on the application? Please take the roll.

CLERK: William Martin, Committee

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2 Clerk, roll call on the Committee on Land Use.
3 Council Member Katz.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER KATZ: I vote aye
5 and I congratulate everyone on the discussions
6 with the Administration, with the Police
7 Department, and with the community on this
8 application.

9 CLERK: Rivera.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Avella.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: [off mic]
13 No.

14 CLERK: Comrie.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

16 CLERK: Jackson.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Madam
18 Chair, may I be excused to explain my vote.

19 CLERK: Yes.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Thank you.
21 While I vote yes on the application, I think
22 clearly the representative of that district
23 concerning the concerns that he raised about
24 parking should be looked into in order try, to try
25 to resolve the situation for the residents in that

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2 particular area. I do understand the current
3 location where the Police Academy is, I pass by it
4 quite often, and I think it's clearly in need for
5 a new Police Academy, and I appreciate the fact
6 that the current site may be turned into an
7 educational complex, which is sorely needed in
8 that district. So, I support the application
9 wholly. But the issue and concern that Tony
10 Avella as a Council Member raised concerning the
11 parking situation must be looked into on behalf of
12 the community. I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Liu.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

15 CLERK: Seabrook.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: I vote
17 aye.

18 CLERK: Sears.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER SEARS: Aye.

20 CLERK: Vann.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

22 CLERK: Gonzalez.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GONZALEZ: [off mic]
24 Aye.

25 CLERK: Palma.

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COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Arroyo.

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Dickens.

COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

CLERK: Lappin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Permission
to explain my vote.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: I want to
vote aye on this matter, but I also wanted to
state on the record that I have still major
concerns about the parking situation out in
Queens, and the fact that during the first phase
only 900 parking spaces will be made available to
everyone using this facility, with 2,100 spaces to
become available only in the second phase. So,

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2 that I do believe that Council Member Avella's
3 concerns are very valid. And I also want to thank
4 everyone for assisting me in putting in place a
5 Community Advisory Committee to look into the
6 future use of this space as an educational
7 facility. Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you.

9 CLERK: Crowley.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: I vote
11 aye.

12 CLERK: Ignizio.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [off mic]
14 Yes.

15 CLERK: Gioia.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Yes.

17 CLERK: Felder.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: [off mic]
19 Yes.

20 CLERK: By a vote of 19 in the
21 affirmative, one in the negative, no abstentions,
22 item is adopted. Members please sign the
23 Committee report.

24 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Alright, we're
25 going to close the meeting of the Land Use

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Committee. We're not expecting anyone else from

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the Committee. Transportation, I believe, is next

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in the room. Meeting adjourned.

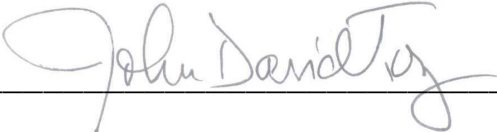
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[gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG 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 November 24, 2009