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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                    September 5, 2019
                    Start: 9:07 A.M.
                    Recess: 9:35 A.M.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Room
                14th Floor

B E F O R E: STEVE MATTEO
                  Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
                  Margaret Chin
                  Karen Koslowitz

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

2   Microphone check. Today's date is

3   September 5, 2019, Committee on Standards and Ethics

4   being recorded by John Biando, 14th Floor, Committee

5   Room.

6   CHAIRMAN MATTEO: Good morning everyone.

7   I am Steve Matteo, Chair of the Standards and Ethics

8   Committee. We're joined by my colleagues Karen

9   Koslowitz and Margaret Chin and our committee

10   counsel, Serena Longley [phonetic]. The Committee on

11   Standards and Ethics is meeting today regarding a

12   pending disciplinary matter opened pursuant to

13   Section 10.80 of the Council rules concerning Council

14   Member Andy King. We are also meeting to address

15   additional and unrelated Committee business. Because

16   it is necessary for the Committee to discuss

17   confidential personnel issues, I am making a motion

18   for the Committee to move into executive session

19   pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officer's Law.

20   Do I have a second?

21   COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I second.

22   CHAIRMAN MATTEO: I have a second from

23   Karen Koslowitz that we move into executive session.

24   All those in favor say aye.

25   COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye, aye

2   CHAIRMAN MATTEO: Aye. Noting that the

3 ayes have it, I am going to close this portion of the

4 meeting and reopen in executive session. Before we

5 proceed into executive session, I will note for the

6 public that the Committee may vote on certain items

7 of business during the session and as a result there

8 may be additional open session of the Committee later

9 today. [gavel]

10   [pause]

11   CHAIRMAN MATTEO: [gavel] Okay, good

12 morning again. Thank you for your patience. Again,

13 I'm Steve Matteo, chair of the Committee on Standards

14 and Ethics joined by Karen Koslowitz and Margaret

15 Chin and Serena Longley, our committee counsel. The

16 Committee is now returning to open session to make

17 public the outcome of today's votes. As laid out in

18 our public statement of August 21, after a wide range

19 investigation conducted by both the Council's Office

20 of the General Counsel and the special counsel

21 retained by the Committee to prosecute this

22 disciplinary proceeding, the Committee voted to issue

23 four charges against Council Member King. These

24 charges are related to alleged retaliation,

25 disorderly conduct, conflict of interest violations

2   and harassment. Since this Committee's last meeting

3   which took place on August 21, it has come to

4   attention that Council Member King has engaged in

5   additional retaliatory behavior against staff members

6   and additional conflict of interest violations. Upon

7   learning of this retaliatory conduct as well as

8   apparent additional conflicts of interest violations,

9   the Office of the General Counsel in conjunction with

10 the special counsel immediately investigated and

11 uncovered corroborating evidence. Based upon this

12 evidence, this Committee has voted today to issue

13 additional and superseding charges relating to this

14 retaliatory behavior. Pursuant to the rules of the

15 Council, this Committee will now hold a disciplinary

16 hearing on the charges issued on August 21 as well as

17 these superseding charges. At this time, the

18 disciplinary hearing is scheduled to begin on

19 September 13 at 10 a.m. Please note, however, that

20 the date and time of the proceeding may be

21 rescheduled at the discretion of the Chair of the

22 Committee. The hearing will be held in executive

23 session and Council Member King has a right to be

24 represented by counsel at the hearing. The Council

25 has hired Cary Cohen to serve as special counsel and

2 present the case against Council Member King to the

3 Committee. While the proceedings are confidential,

4 after the Committee deliberates on the charges, the

5 findings and recommendations of the Committee will be

6 made public.

7   In addition to these superseding charges

8 against Council Member King, the Committee voted

9 today on a pending matter pertaining to Council

10 Member Barry Grodenchik. On February 12, 2019, this

11 Committee voted to open a matter into allegations

12 that Council Member Grodenchik had violated the

13 Council's policy against harassment and

14 discrimination. After a full investigation and

15 substantiation of these allegations, this Committee

16 negotiated a settlement agreement with Council Member

17 Grodenchik. This agreement, as well as a related

18 public statement by the Council Member before the

19 Committee, took place on May 14, 2019. Now this

20 Committee has been informed that the Council Member

21 has successfully completed the remaining term of his

22 settlement agreement, a specialized multi-session

23 training on preventing sexual harassment. This

24 training was personally paid for by the Council

25 Member. Based upon this development, the Committee

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2   is satisfied that the Council Member has fully

3   complied with and completed the terms of this

4   settlement agreement and we voted today to formally

5   close his pending matter. This concludes our summary

6   of the Committee's votes during today's meeting and

7   I'm going to adjourn the meeting. Thank you. [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 _____ September 10, 2019 _____