

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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December 17, 2020
Start: 9:06 AM
Recess: 9:15 AM

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: DANIEL DROMM, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Adrienne E. Adams
Alicka Ampry-Samuel
Diana Ayala
Robert E. Cornegy, Jr.
Laurie A. Cumbo
Darma V. Diaz
Vanessa L. Gibson
Mark Gjonaj
Barry S. Grodenchik
Karen Koslowitz
Farah N. Louis
Steven Matteo
Francisco P. Moya
Keith Powers
Helen K. Rosenthal
James G. Van Bramer

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

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SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Okay, PC recording done.

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Sergeant Polite can you do the Cloud recording?

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SERGEANT POLITE: Recording to the Cloud all

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set.

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SERGEANT PEREZ: Back-up recording is

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rolling. Thank you. Sergeant Bradley, you may begin

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with the opening statement.

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SERGEANT BRADLEY: (audio garbled/inaudible)

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SERGEANT PEREZ: Sergeant Bradley, could you

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please stand down? We're having issues with your

12

audio. I will make the opening statement. Good

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morning everybody and welcome to today's New York

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City Council's remote hearing on Finance. At this

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time can everybody just please turn on your videos.

16

Silence all electronic devices. Thank you so much

17

for your cooperation. Chairman, we are ready to

18

begin.

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CHAIR DROMM: Okay, thank you very much,

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Sergeant Perez. Good morning and welcome to today's

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Finance Committee meeting. I'm Council Member Daniel

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Dromm, and I'm Chair of the committee. We have been

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joined by Council Members Gibson, Cornegy,

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Koslowitz, Rosenthal, Van Bramer, Grodenchik, Adams,

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Ayala, Gjonaj, Moya, Powers, Louis, Diaz and Matteo.

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2 Today the Committee will be voting on five items: an
3 expense budget modification, a revenue budget
4 modification, and transparency resolution and two
5 Article XI Property Tax exemptions. Before the we
6 begin, I would like to give a very warm welcome to
7 our newest member of the Finance Committee Darma
8 Diaz. I speak to you on behalf of the committee in
9 stating that we look forward to working with you.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER DARMA DIAZ: Thank you.

11 CHAIR DROMM: You're very welcome and
12 welcome. Thank you. Now, let's start with the
13 budget modification. The Expense Budget
14 Modification represents movements of approximately
15 \$1.7 billion of funding between and with city
16 agencies reallocate appropriations in the city's
17 Expense Budget. The Revenue Budget Modification
18 recognizes \$616.7 million in new revenues in Fiscal
19 2021, which combined with an adjustment to the
20 General Reserve will be used to pre-pay \$632.2
21 million in Fiscal 2022 expenses. Next we have the
22 Transparency Resolution. the Transparency
23 Resolution sets forth the new designation and
24 changes in the designation of certain organizations
25 receiving local, aging, anti-poverty and new

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2 discretionary funding and funding pursuant to
3 funding pursuant to certain initiatives in the
4 budget. As with all transparency resolutions
5 Council Members will have to sign a disclosure form
6 indicating whether or not a conflict exists with
7 any of the groups on the attached list. If any
8 Council Member has a potential conflict of interest
9 with any of the organizations listed, he or she has
10 the opportunity to disclose the conflict at the
11 time of their vote. As a reminder, please disclose
12 any conflicts you may have with proposed
13 subcontractors used by organizations sponsored by
14 discretionary funding. These disclosures must be
15 made before the subcontractor can be approved.
16 Disclosure forms must be completed and submitted
17 prior to vote on the Transparency Resolution and
18 may be emailed to Charles Davis. Next, we have the
19 two Land Use items. The first is Scheuer House of
20 Brighton Beach in Council Member Deutsch's
21 district. This action would provide a partial 40-
22 year Article XI Property Tax Exemption to support
23 the preservation of 153 units of affordable rental
24 housing. The second is Ridgewood, Bushwick 203-K
25 in Council Member Reynoso and Diaz's districts.

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2 This action would provide a full 40-year Article XI
3 Property Tax Exemption to support the preservation
4 of 83 units of affordable home ownership. Each
5 Council Member is supportive of the exemptions in
6 their districts. Hold on one moment. I'm just going
7 announce who else we have been joined by. We have
8 been joined by Council Member Ampry Samuel and our
9 Majority Leader Laurie Cumbo, and are there any
10 questions on any of the items in the agenda? Okay,
11 if not, I'm going to wish you all a very happy
12 holiday season, and ask Billy Martin, our Committee
13 Clerk to call the final, the final Finance
14 Committee roll. Billy.

15 WILLIAM MARTIN: Good morning. William
16 Martin Committee Clerk. Roll call vote Committee on
17 Finance. All items are coupled. Chair Dromm.

18 CHAIR DROMM: Aye.

19 WILLIAM MARTIN: Gibson.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: With my warmest
21 wishes for the happy holiday season, thank you
22 Chair Dromm as we close out the year for our last
23 Finance hearing. I appreciate working with you and
24 being a member of this committee. To all of my
25 colleagues, season's greetings to each and every

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one of you. We look forward to our continued work.
I want to welcome Council Member Donna Diaz as well
to the Women's Caucus as well. We're very happy to
have you with us.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: And I vote aye on
all of today's item agenda. Happy holidays
colleagues and friends.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Cornegy.

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye. Glad
that we made it through another one miraculously.
She's like, you know very...

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: One more, one more,
one more year. (pause)

WILLIAM MARTIN: Cumbo.

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: What Vanessa said and
I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: (background
comments)

WILLIAM MARTIN: You're muted, Council
Member.

CHAIR DROMM: Council Member Koslowitz, you
are muted.

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COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Also, what Council Member Gibson said and I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Rosenthal.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: I Feel like a broken record, but what Gibson said and I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: (pause)

WILLIAM MARTIN: Council Member, I believe you're mute, Council Member Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you, sir. Grodenchik.

COUNCIL MEMBER GRODENCHIK: With thanks to the men and women of the Department of Sanitation, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Parks clearing our streets and roadways today, and I'm going to go out and do my BID right now. I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you. Adams.

COUNCIL MEMBER ADAMS: Well, what Council Members Gibson and Grodenchik said. I vote aye. Happy Holidays everyone.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Ampry-Samuel

COUNCIL MEMBER AMPRY-SAMUEL: I wish everybody a safe and healthy holiday. I vote aye.

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WILLIAM MARTIN: Ayala.

COUNCIL MEMBER AYALA: (inaudible)

WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank you Council Member.
Gjonaj.

COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Building on all the
comments of my colleagues, I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: I see that Council Member
Ayala was signaling she votes aye. Moya.

COUNCIL MEMBER MOYA: I vote aye.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Powers.

COUNCIL MEMBER POWERS: I Vote aye and happy
holidays and I hope we will all see each other at
some point in 2021.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: I vote aye. Happy
holidays everyone. Welcome again Darma and thank
you for your leadership Danny Dromm.

WILLIAM MARTIN: Diaz. (bell)

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: I guess Diaz Darma. I
wasn't sure if it was Diaz Luis. I wish happy
holidays to...

WILLIAM MARTIN: It's just you.

COUNCIL MEMBER DIAZ: Okay because I got on
line with this. Thank you all again for the warm

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2 welcome. I look forward to many more conferences of
3 this nature. I also vote aye and Feliz Navidad for
4 anyone that's out in the audience that Feliz Navidad
5 is just a little closer. Thank you, my colleagues.
6 Again, that was a...

7 WILLIAM MARTIN: Matteo. Oh, excuse me.
8 Thank you. Council Member Matteo.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Merry Christmas to
10 everyone, Happy Holidays and I vote aye.

11 WILLIAM MARTIN: By a vote of 17 in the
12 affirmative, zero in the negative and no abstentions,
13 all items have been adopted by the committee. Thank
14 you.

15 CHAIR DROMM: Thank you very much and I guess
16 we can distinguish by saying Councilwoman Diaz.

17 (laughs) Very proudly councilwoman Diaz.

18 Congratulations to you also and thank you everybody,
19 happy holidays. This meeting is adjourned at
20 approximately 9:15 in the morning. Thank you.

21 (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 January 5, 2020