

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR

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April 7, 2010  
Start: 10:00am  
Recess: 10:09am

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
JAMES SANDERS, JR.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Council Member Michael C. Nelson  
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook  
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich

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

Richard Yates  
Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Labor Relations

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: [off mic] I  
3 cannot start without you. Your first Marine Corps  
4 statement by your leave means that with your  
5 permission, but is only given to the senior  
6 person, and thank you for that. Alright. You  
7 ready? You think we should do this? Okay, I want  
8 you to do this. [laughter, background noise,  
9 gavel] This hearing will now come to order. Good  
10 morning, everyone. Thank you for coming to the  
11 hearing. My name is Council Member James Sanders,  
12 Jr., and I'm the Chair of the Committee on Civil  
13 Service and Labor. Today we're hearing Proposed  
14 Intro 24-A for the first time. This bill captures  
15 an agreement between the Bloomberg Administration  
16 and the UFT, the United Federation of Teachers, it  
17 changes the vesting of health benefits for UFT  
18 retirees from ten to 15 years, but only applies to  
19 newly hired teachers. The parties' agreement  
20 requires a change in the City law to be effective.  
21 The bill does not change the vesting of health  
22 insurance benefits for any other City retirees,  
23 which remains at ten years for most City retirees.  
24 [laughs] Here's where I always mess up, my  
25 friends. Before I proceed, I would like to thank

1  
2 the Committee staff: Matthew - - [laughs] well at  
3 least I'm being consistent. That's alright,  
4 that's alright. I just wanted to show  
5 consistency. Matthew Carlin, our counsel;  
6 Shauneequa Owusu, I can do that, our policy  
7 analyst, I was looking at the next one; Casay Iha  
8 Coben [phonetic], our financial analyst; and Kim  
9 Tai [phonetic], our press officer. To get things  
10 started, we will hear from the Administration,  
11 from the Office of Labor Relations, Deputy  
12 Commissioner Richard Yates. To be consistent, I  
13 should've messed up your name, too, sir.

14 RICHARD YATES: [off mic] It's hard  
15 to do .

16 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: [laughs] But  
17 I can do it, if no one can do this, these things,  
18 I can. Good to see you, good morning.

19 RICHARD YATES: [off mic] Good  
20 morning. Okay.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Oh, yes.

22 RICHARD YATES: - -

23 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Right before  
24 you start, I must of course say that we've been  
25 joined of course by my colleague in government who

1  
2 holds up the other part of the Rockaway Peninsula,  
3 Eric Ulrich, a Council Member who is doing a great  
4 job in his part of Queens, as I try to do in mine.  
5 When you're ready, sir, you can begin and you can  
6 introduce the gentleman with you.

7 RICHARD YATES: Good morning. This  
8 is Matthew Campisi on my right, an Assistant  
9 Commissioner from the Office of Labor Relations.  
10 Good morning, Chairman Sanders, Members of the  
11 Civil Service Labor Committee, I'm Richard Yates,  
12 the Deputy Commissioner at the Office of Labor  
13 Relations. I'm here to testify in support of the  
14 UFT health insurance bill currently before this  
15 Committee. Intro 24-A amends Section 12-126 of  
16 the Administrative Code and increases to ten to 15  
17 the number of years of credited service that a  
18 newly hired UFT represented employee will need to  
19 work before they will be eligible to receive  
20 retiree health insurance and welfare fund  
21 benefits. The bill was necessary to enact a  
22 portion of a previously negotiated agreement  
23 between the City and the UFT, which was entered  
24 into on June 22, 200. As part of this agreement,  
25 the UFT agreed to provide savings to the City

1 through changes to their existing pension, tax  
2 deferred annuity, and health insurance coverage,  
3 and the savings associated with these changes were  
4 applied to fund certain benefits for UFT  
5 represented employees. While the pension and tax  
6 deferred annuity changes have recently been  
7 achieved through State legislation, the health  
8 insurance portion of the agreement requires City  
9 Council action in order to amend Section 12-126 of  
10 the administrative code. It's important to note  
11 again, this was a voluntary agreement, negotiated  
12 at the bargaining table between the City and UFT.  
13 And that this legislation is necessary in order to  
14 implement what was agreed to by the parties. It's  
15 also important to note that under the terms of the  
16 agreement, if this proposed bill is not enacted,  
17 the parties would be required to reopen  
18 negotiations to find alternative sources of  
19 funding. Neither party wishes that to happen.  
20 Instead, both would urge that the proposed bill be  
21 enacted as soon as possible, since it was  
22 negotiated and the result of a collective  
23 bargaining process. I thank you for your time.  
24

25 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Thank you,

1  
2 sir. I do want to draw your attention that the  
3 UFT has submitted testimony in favor of this bill.  
4 I also want to say that we have been joined by  
5 Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, of  
6 Manhattan. And I was to see if my colleagues have  
7 any questions. And since I have no questions, and  
8 this is the first hearing, I'm going to thank you  
9 for your time, thank you very much for coming in.

10 RICHARD YATES: You're welcome.

11 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: And thank  
12 everyone for showing up. If there's nothing else  
13 that we need to say here, then we'll do just that.  
14 This hearing is now closed.

15 [gavel]

16 [background noise]

17 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: --I want to  
18 leave this hearing open for a few minutes. Do I  
19 want to put that on the record.

20 FEMALE VOICE: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: I want to,  
22 this hearing will be open for another 40 minutes,  
23 so that people who are in other Committees can  
24 come in and participate.

25 [background noise]

2 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Oh, yeah,  
3 here, Larry, let me acknowledge. I want to  
4 acknowledge that we have been joined by Council  
5 Member Larry Seabrook of The Bronx.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Thank you  
7 very much, Mr. Chair.

8 [background noise]

9 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: I also want  
10 to say that my colleague from Brooklyn--

11 MALE VOICE: Is it recording?

12 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: --Council  
13 Member Michael Nelson is here.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: Thank you,  
15 and I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

16 CHAIRPERSON SANDERS: Thank you,  
17 sir.

18 [background noise]

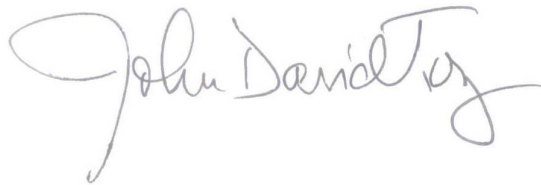
19 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: And we're  
20 adjourned.

21



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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date April 23, 2010