

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ZONING AND FRANCHISES

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June 29, 2010
Start: 2:46pm
Recess: 5:54pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MARK S. WEPRIN
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
Council Member Eric Martin Dilan
Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
Council Member Robert Jackson
Council Member Jessica S. Lappin
Council Member Stephen T. Levin
Council Member Diana Reyna
Council Member Joel Rivera
Council Member Larry B. Seabrook
Council Member James Vacca
Council Member Albert Vann

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

N/A

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Could I have everyone's attention, please? A little quiet in the chamber? [background noise] Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. This is the continuation of the recessed Zoning and Franchises Subcommittee, that meeting was held in hearing on June 21st, on the Domino Sugar issue, in Brooklyn.

Land Use No. 130, 131, 132 and 133. My name is Mark Weprin, I am the Chair of the Committee, and

I'm joined by the following Members of the

Committee, Joel Rivera, Al Vann, Leroy Comrie,

Larry Seabrook, Bob Jackson, Diana Reyna and

visiting us Sara Gonzalez on the Committee, and

Vincent Ignizio, who is here. [pause] Since we

last met, there have been some modifications to

the plan, in response to our very long hearing.

Some of the issues that were raised by the

community, and by some of the other advocates in

the area, as well as discussion with the

proponents of the project, and the following are

the modifications that are being included in this

plan. Number one, to restore the height to the

commercial building on Site A, that was originally

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2 in the building. Two, the two 40 story buildings
3 on Sites B and C are going to be reduced to 34
4 stories. Three, there will be a dedicated shuttle
5 bus service between the, to the Marcy Avenue
6 subway station. Four, any change in the use of
7 the space presently programmed as community
8 facility, shall constitute a major modification
9 and shall have to go through the ULURP process
10 again. And five, a community advisory board will
11 be created. Any comments or questions from
12 Members of the Committee? [pause] Okay, the--Mr.
13 Comrie would like to make a comment.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to
15 congratulate all of the parties that were involved
16 in putting this together. I want to congratulate
17 Council Member Levin, and all of the work that he
18 did, all of the people that were involved in this
19 project. This is a significant project, that will
20 change the face of that community. I want to
21 congratulate the Land Use staff, Gail Benjamin,
22 and all of the people, and our great Subcommittee
23 Chair who helped make sure that this was
24 shepherded through properly, Mark Weprin.
25 Clearly, as we move to ensure that we have more

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2 people within our City, and we have more people
3 desiring to come into our City, that we allow
4 this, the process to make that happen, a process
5 that's inclusive of all the voices that Council
6 Member Weprin ran an excellent Subcommittee
7 Hearing, allowing all voices to be heard, and all
8 sides. And I want to just thank all of the people
9 that participated and came to the Subcommittee
10 hearings, also. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you,
12 Chairman Comrie, right back at ya, on the thanks,
13 and also want to thank all the staff for all their
14 hard work. And Council Member Reyna would like to
15 make a statement.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: On behalf of
17 our community of Green Point Williamsburg,
18 representing these communities, this is part of a
19 2005 FUCA, which was the follow up correct action,
20 that we worked hard to rezone, concerning the
21 Domino Sugar Plant, which at one point had
22 employed from our communities, well over 6,000
23 workers. And I'm happy to say that this
24 particular land is going to be reinvigorated. I
25 believed in this project, my community believed in

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2 this project, and we are happy to see that this
3 has reached a level of satisfaction. I want to
4 thank Council Member Levin for his extraordinary
5 work, and the work of the staff at the Land Use
6 Committee, as well as you, Chair Weprin, and Chair
7 Comrie. Thank you so much. And our Speaker,
8 Speaker Quinn.

9 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you,
10 Council Member Reyna. Anybody else? I see we're
11 joined by Council Member Steve Levin who
12 represents the district, and he'd like to get in
13 on the fun and make a quick statement. [pause]
14 Is that on? Is that mic on?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I think it
16 is, yeah. So, I'd like to thank Speaker Quinn,
17 Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Mayor Bloomberg, Council
18 Member Domenic Recchia, Land Use Chair Leroy
19 Comrie, Subcommittee Chair Mark Weprin, Gale
20 Benjamin, and the entire Land Use staff, Carol
21 Shine, Amy Levitan, everyone that worked on this
22 project for all their tireless work. Since I
23 began working on the new Domino Project almost
24 four years ago, as Chief of Staff with Assembly
25 Lopez, the goal has always been to bring the

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2 maximum number of affordable housing units to the
3 Williamsburg community. I'm pleased to say that
4 we have come to an agreement with the developer,
5 to continue to provide 660 units of affordable
6 housing while reducing the height of the larger
7 two towers, which would have blocked the
8 waterfront. In addition to providing the
9 community with affordable housing, the developer
10 and the Administration, the Bloomberg
11 Administration, have also agreed to work with the
12 community to mitigate infrastructure, traffic and
13 transit impacts caused by increased development in
14 recent years, and the Administration has pledged
15 to work with the neighborhood to bring a cultural
16 and community center for local arts organizations,
17 and to provide the community with better open
18 space options. I look forward to entering into
19 good faith negotiations with both CPCR and the
20 Administration, on a continuing basis to ensure
21 that Williamsburg continues to thrive. Thank you
22 very much, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Thank you,
24 Councilman Levin. I don't know if they told you
25 about part of the budget bill has you paying rent

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2 for all the time you spent at City Hall this week,
3 in order to fill the gap. So, hope you're okay
4 with that.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: They already
6 told me, yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Okay. We are
8 joined by Council Member Garodnick, just in time
9 for me to say that I'm going to recommend an aye
10 vote, and the Council will call the roll.

11 COUNSEL: Carol Shine, Counsel to
12 the Subcommittee. Chair Weprin.

13 CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Aye.

14 COUNSEL: Council Member Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

16 COUNSEL: Council Member Reyna.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I vote aye.

18 COUNSEL: Council Member Comrie.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

20 COUNSEL: Council Member Jackson.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

22 COUNSEL: Council Member Seabrook.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER SEABROOK: Aye.

24 COUNSEL: Council Member Vann.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Garodnick.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Thank
you, aye.

COUNSEL: Council Member Ignizio.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Thank you,
aye.

COUNSEL: By a vote of nine in the
affirmative, none in the negative and no
abstentions, the aforementioned items are approved
as modified and referred to the, to the full
Committee.

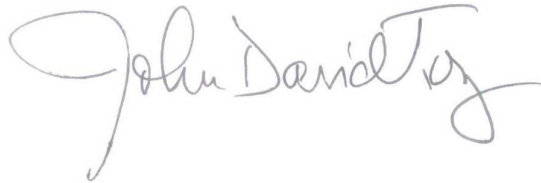
CHAIRPERSON WEPRIN: Terrific.
Thank you very much. The Subcommittee is now
adjourned.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Please stay
in place, the Land Use Committee will be starting
in one minute.

[pause]

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 black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature_____

Date July 12, 2010