

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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June 29, 2010  
Start: 4:09pm  
Recess: 5:02pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
DOMENIC M. RECCHIA, JR.  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Council Member Maria Del Carmen Arroyo
- Council Member Charles Barron
- Council Member Gale Brewer
- Council Member Fernando Cabrera
- Council Member Leroy G. Comrie, Jr.
- Council Member Eric Martin Dilan
- Council Member Julissa Ferreras
- Council Member Lewis A. Fidler
- Council Member Helen D. Foster
- Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick
- Council Member Sara M. Gonzalez
- Council Member Daniel J. Halloran III
- Council Member Vincent M. Ignizio
- Council Member Robert Jackson
- Council Member G. Oliver Koppell
- Council Member Karen Koslowitz
- Council Member Jessica S. Lappin

## A P P E A R A N C E S

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Darlene Mealy  
Council Member James S. Oddo  
Council Member Diana Reyna  
Council Member Joel Rivera  
Council Member James G. Van Bramer  
Council Member Albert Vann  
Council Member Mark S. Weprin  
Council Member Eric A. Ulrich

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

Preston Niblack  
Director of Finance  
New York City Council

Stuart Klein  
Deputy Director  
Office of Management and Budget

Kathleen Grimm  
Deputy Chancellor  
School Construction Authority

Emra Adev  
Representative  
E-Squared

Andy  
Unknown  
Unknown

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All the members of the Finance Committee will be receiving a packet with all the budget documents in there. The Finance staff will be giving them out. Okay, so every member will be rec--you know, Members of the Finance Committee, will be receiving their documents. [long pause] --and five, the resources of where revenues came from, which was handed out [pause, background noise]

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] The items that I'm handing out now, these are all the items that are in the packet.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, before we get started, and we also want to thank the Bloomberg Administration, under the leadership of Mark Page, and his assistant Stu Klein, who's here with us, we want to thank you for the wonderful job that you've done, in working with us. So, to all the Finance Members, inside your packet you should have the expense revenue contract budget, the executive capital budget, the community development planned, amendments to the five year plan for 2010 through 2014, the expense modification to close out FY'10, the revenue

1  
2 modification to close out FY'10, the certifying  
3 base percentages and the current percentages,  
4 adjusted base proportions, and the last thing is  
5 the documents which show the fixing the tax rate  
6 for Fiscal 2011. Everything should be in your  
7 packet. The different Intros that were handed out  
8 is Intro 23-2010, elevator inspection fees; intro  
9 210, probation service fees; okay, 911 emergency  
10 telephone system surcharge; and the Taxi and  
11 Limousine Commission inspection fees. [long  
12 pause, background noise] Testing, one, two.  
13 Karen. [pause] Okay, we ready.

14 FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] Yeah, just  
15 give me a second.

16 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Let's go.

17 [pause]

18 MALE VOICE: [off mic] Do we have a  
19 quorum?

20 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yep.

21 FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] Yes, more  
22 than a quorum. [laughs]

23 [pause]

24 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: [off mic] Quiet,  
25 please. Sit down.

1  
2 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Can I have  
3 everyone's attention? Kindly find your seat, Mr.  
4 Rodus, would you like to sit next to Mr. Niblack,  
5 please? [laughter, background noise] Okay.  
6 Okay, all Finance Committee Members, Mr. Jackson,  
7 welcome. [pause] Welcome to this meeting of the  
8 City Council Finance Committee, my name is Domenic  
9 M. Recchia, Jr., and I am the Chair of the Finance  
10 Committee. Today we will take those necessary  
11 actions to allow the full City Council to adopt  
12 the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. We will recommend an  
13 expense and capital budget, fix property tax  
14 rates, set the property class shares and take  
15 action on budget related Intros. Before we start,  
16 I'd like to take a second to thank our talented  
17 and hardworking Finance staff under the leadership  
18 of Finance Director Preston Niblack, and First  
19 Deputy Director Jeff Rodus. They deserve  
20 recognition [applause] for their round-the-clock  
21 work to make sure the budget runs smoothly. With  
22 that said, let's get down to the real business of  
23 today. I will provide a brief description of the  
24 items on our agenda today that require a vote.  
25 And Preston Niblack, our Director of Finance

1  
2 Division, will testify shortly thereafter to  
3 provide much more greater detail. And then at the  
4 end, if you have any questions that you would like  
5 to ask, we'll take some questions. The first item  
6 is the expense budget modification. The second  
7 item is the revenue modification, both the expense  
8 and revenue modifications to close out Fiscal Year  
9 2011. The third item is the amendment to the five  
10 year education capital plan. We have School  
11 Construction Authority here, who will answer  
12 questions. The fourth, fifth and sixth items are  
13 the property tax resolutions. The seventh item is  
14 the resolution approving the capital budget. The  
15 eighth item is the resolution approving the  
16 expense and contract budget. The ninth item is  
17 the resolution approving the 37<sup>th</sup> year of community  
18 developed program, and the 36<sup>th</sup> year of  
19 allocations. The tenth item is a transparency  
20 resolution which closes out Fiscal 2010. The  
21 eleventh item is Intro 2011 which would increase  
22 elevator inspection fees from \$65 to \$100. The  
23 twelfth item is Intro 210, which would impose a  
24 \$30 a month fee for individuals on probation for  
25 DUI or DWI convictions, and a fee between \$50 and

1  
2 \$500 for the investigation in child custody or  
3 visitation cases. The thirteenth item is  
4 proposed, is Intro 214-A, which would extend the  
5 enhanced 911 telephone surcharge that currently  
6 applies to land line telephones to apply to voice  
7 over internet protocol phones. And finally, we  
8 have proposed Intro 236-A, which would require a  
9 payment of \$50 for every reinspection that occurs  
10 as a result of Taxi and Limousine Commission  
11 licensed taxicabs failure to meet vehicle  
12 requirements established by the New York State  
13 Department of Motor Vehicles. The budget packet  
14 that members have in front of them contains all  
15 the items just mentioned, with the exclusion of  
16 the Intros which are on your desk, which were  
17 handed out by our wonderful staff. The budget  
18 packet also contains supporting document and  
19 schedules which are not voted on by the members.  
20 Preston Niblack will elaborate in more details on  
21 all these items we will be voting on today.  
22 Before I turn the microphone over to Preston  
23 Niblack, our Finance Director, I want to briefly  
24 speak about this year's budget process. This is  
25 my ninth year budget, it's my first as Chairman of



1  
2 this Committee, and since I was appointed earlier  
3 this year, I've come to appreciate the tremendous  
4 amount of work and dedication made by both the  
5 City Council and the Mayor to balance the City  
6 priorities. I'm very proud that the Council and  
7 the Mayor were able to work together to maintain  
8 core services and pass a balanced budget during  
9 these tough economic times. This was not an easy  
10 process, we had to make tough choices and  
11 compromise on levels that were extremely  
12 difficult. Many services have been reduced and  
13 some programs have even been eliminated. But make  
14 no mistake, while this budget definitely reflects  
15 the strange economy of the country, this state and  
16 our great City, I honestly believe it also  
17 reflects smart choices that were made through a  
18 thoughtful and deliberate process. In this  
19 budget, the Council made good on many promises we  
20 have made in the last few years to preserve  
21 essential core services. The Council has restored  
22 funding for all public schools, restored funding  
23 to the Fire Department to prevent the closure of  
24 25 companies, restored funding to the libraries to  
25 help maintain citywide library service at an

1  
2 average of five days per week, and kept current  
3 staffing levels for child welfare workers at the  
4 Administration of Children's Services. We were  
5 able to accomplish all of this while assuming the  
6 State Budget will reduce tax revenue to the City  
7 by \$1.3 billion, and without raising taxes. This  
8 budget was particularly difficult because the  
9 Council was charged with the responsibility of  
10 being compassionate, while at the same time making  
11 tough decisions. I am pleased to say that under  
12 the leadership of Speaker Quinn, the City Council  
13 accepted the responsibility and executed it to the  
14 best of our ability. I'm proud to be a member of  
15 this body, and I'm proud to be the Chair of this  
16 wonderful Finance Committee. I'd like to thank  
17 Speaker Quinn and my colleagues for giving me this  
18 amazing opportunity, and I will now recognize our  
19 Budget Director, Preston Niblack.

20 [applause]

21 PRESTON NIBLACK: Thank you, Mr.  
22 Chairman. So, today I thought I'd start just by  
23 reviewing the two budget modifications for FY'10  
24 and you also have a transparency resolution there  
25 that closes out this year's Schedule C, and

1 changes to it. Let me start with the MN4, the  
2 Expense Budget Modification. There are a number  
3 of items that provided savings this year, that  
4 were used to fund other new expenses, and that  
5 were also incorporated into the roll that will  
6 fund expenditures in the next year, 2011. There  
7 are a few items that I'll just highlight. First,  
8 in the Department of Education, there was a  
9 significant midyear cut to the Department of  
10 Education. There was also, at the end of the  
11 year, some new needs that were identified and, and  
12 those were met with those savings. There was also  
13 a labor reserve in the DOE budget that was  
14 intended to provide teacher salary increases, and  
15 members of the UFT, I should say, and members of  
16 the CSA. That will now be rolled into FY'11 to  
17 help support spending in FY'11. In the broader  
18 labor reserve, for the City, for non-DOE  
19 employees, there was also roughly \$247 million  
20 that was taken down there. And there was also a  
21 reserve for pensions of \$250 million that was  
22 reversed for this year, and rolled into next year.  
23 So there were a number of other savings that were  
24 about \$350 million altogether. There were several  
25

1  
2 new needs that occurred during the last part of  
3 this year that were met, including the additional  
4 cost for shelter in the Department of Homeless  
5 Services, funding of the, of a timing switch,  
6 essentially the recognition of Medicaid revenues,  
7 a settlement with DEP sewage treatment workers.  
8 And finally the balance of about \$387 million was  
9 put into the general reserve, bringing that up to  
10 about \$464 million, that's part of the roll. So,  
11 you have in front of you sort of a summary of all  
12 the changes provided by OMB, and we can answer any  
13 specific questions that you might have about them.  
14 Let me turn to the revenue modification, MN5. The  
15 revenue modification essentially recognizes new  
16 revenues that have been realized during the year,  
17 and uses them to prepay certain expenses for the  
18 coming year, which we refer to generally as the  
19 surplus roll. Briefly, taxes came in stronger  
20 this year than we had anticipated, to the tune  
21 altogether of a little over \$2 billion. We had  
22 some additional miscellaneous revenues that came  
23 in of about \$300 million; we also had a onetime  
24 payment out of the Battery Park City Authority  
25 surplus revenues, surplus reserves, that were of

1  
2 \$134 million. And that was, those items were  
3 coupled with the general reserve, which was drawn  
4 down, and a recognition of about \$800 million in  
5 payables from previous years that were written  
6 off. Altogether, that brings the FY'10 surplus to  
7 \$3.6 billion, which is up about \$300 million from  
8 the Executive Budget estimate. So that, all of  
9 that funding will be used in FY'11 to support  
10 FY'11 expenditures. And the mechanism will be  
11 prepay expenditures to the library systems of  
12 about \$164 million, prepayments to the MTA of \$219  
13 million, and a balance of about \$3.3 billion for  
14 debt service. So that is, in essence is the, the  
15 two mods that will close out this fiscal year, and  
16 most importantly will provide funding in FY'11 for  
17 spending in FY'11. I'll stop and see if you have  
18 any questions.

19 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, does  
20 any Council Member have any questions? On the  
21 revenue modification, the expense modification,  
22 the transparency resolution? Without seeing any  
23 questions--Yes, I recognize Gale Brewer from  
24 Manhattan.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you

1  
2 very much, and thank you, Preston Niblack. So,  
3 these two mods, just to help me summarize, and for  
4 the public also, the--what, which moneys in these,  
5 if any, roll over to '11, or is that not part of  
6 these mods? So I'm clear, I'm sorry.

7           PRESTON NIBLACK: Right, no, the--  
8 the revenue mod essentially is the mechanism by  
9 which surplus funds are recognized and rolled.

10           COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: That's the  
11 surplus roll, you call.

12           PRESTON NIBLACK: Right. And that,  
13 that totals this year \$3.6 billion.

14           COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

15           PRESTON NIBLACK: And as I said, it  
16 comes from three principal sources, additional tax  
17 and nontax revenues, of about two-point--roughly  
18 \$2.4 billion.

19           COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And then  
20 the Battery Park.

21           PRESTON NIBLACK: And that includes  
22 the Battery Park number.

23           COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

24           PRESTON NIBLACK: The reduction in  
25 the general reserve and recognition of prior,

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write-off of prior year payables.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. But

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that--

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PRESTON NIBLACK: Altogether that

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totals \$3.6 billion, which is rolled into FY'11

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for FY'11 spending.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: And it was

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\$300 more than '09, is what you're saying?

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PRESTON NIBLACK: No, it was \$300

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more than we anticipated in the, in the Mayor's

12

Executive Budget.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Got it,

14

okay. Thank you.

15

PRESTON NIBLACK: Yep.

16

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Stu Klein

17

from OMB is here. I would ask Mr. Klein if you

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could please come on up and have a seat at the

19

front--you were behind, you were hiding behind

20

Thomas Jefferson over there? Okay. Stu, you can

21

sit next to Darlene Mealy or Preston Niblack.

22

Either, either choice, wherever you want, it's

23

your choice. This is--Stu, your former college

24

mate has a question for you, Mr. Lew Fidler. I

25

recognize Lew Fidler from Brooklyn.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: It's not  
3 about your lousy baseball team.

4 STUART KLEIN: Oh!

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: It's  
6 actually, Stu, of course good to see you, I hope  
7 you're feeling well and don't mind sitting next to  
8 Preston after all these budget negotiations.

9 STUART KLEIN: It's a pleasure.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I asked you  
11 about this, I think the last couple of time we've  
12 had an end-of-year revenue mod, and I'm looking at  
13 this and quite frankly I'm confused. So, maybe  
14 you can clear it up for me. In this revenue mod,  
15 are we recognizing an increase or a decrease in  
16 anticipated fine revenue?

17 STUART KLEIN: An increase or a  
18 decrease from--?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Fine  
20 revenue.

21 STUART KLEIN: You have the detail  
22 here? I believe there's a decrease in fine  
23 revenue. But I'll get it for you.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You believe  
25 there's a decrease in fine revenue. Well, that's



1  
2 the way I'm reading the document, too. But one of  
3 the lines kind of jumps off the page, it's almost  
4 like--it would be so outlandish for the average  
5 New Yorker to believe that I have to ask about it.  
6 And you're showing a decrease in parking violation  
7 revenue anticipated of \$78 million and change.

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Councilman  
9 Fidler, that was a Dan Holleran question.

10 [laughter]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLERAN: Thanks,  
12 Lew.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I mean, is  
14 that, is that even remotely correct understanding  
15 of that number?

16 STUART KLEIN: I believe so.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: The City of  
18 New York expected to get \$78 million more in  
19 parking tickets. Can you explain--

20 STUART KLEIN: I--

21 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: --the, the  
22 dramatic difference in that number? I mean, and  
23 it is dramatic. I mean, it's bigger than any  
24 other number in the fine revenue page by like a  
25 factor of six.

1  
2                   STUART KLEIN: Mmhm. We can get  
3 you more detail, but I believe this was the "block  
4 the box" program, which was put into last year's  
5 budget. And it did not prove to be anywhere's  
6 nearly as lucrative as was planned when we put it  
7 in the budget.

8                   COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aha.

9                   STUART KLEIN: This was a new  
10 program.

11                  COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I see. So,  
12 that's factored, folded into this number. Can you  
13 tell me, and I know this is a tough question, I'm  
14 not trying to stump you, but I'm really trying to  
15 understand whether or not we collected more fine  
16 revenue during this past fiscal year, than the  
17 year before, and if so, how much?

18                  STUART KLEIN: If you give me a  
19 minute, I'll let you know.

20                  CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Does any  
21 other Members have any questions besides Council  
22 Member Fidler? Gale Brewer, I understand you have  
23 another follow up question? Okay, you will be  
24 next.

25                  COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'm waiting

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for my answer. I just assumed you know these things off the top of your heads, too, I'm sorry.

STUART KLEIN: I just want to make certain.

[pause]

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I get so few pleasures in life, you know?

PRESTON NIBLACK: Just know that I also have a copy of the revenue plan, but since you asked Mr. Klein. [laughter]

STUART KLEIN: No, I'd be glad to -

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Well, we can have a little competition here, which one of you can come up with the answer first.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, we have a long night, we have many--

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I wasn't trying to delay the proceedings here, I thought we had a, you know, we have - -

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We have many things to vote on, so let's--

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I, I, you know.

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2                   STUART KLEIN:  There's about  
3 [pause] in Fiscal Year 2008, '9, it was \$802  
4 million; in Fiscal Year '10 it was \$841; in Fiscal  
5 Year '11, it was \$846 million, and that's after  
6 taking out the "block the box."

7                   COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:  So, all  
8 right, so, then, then my eyes do in fact deceive  
9 me, we are continuing to collect more fine revenue  
10 every year, it's just that, you know, we got, you  
11 know, piggy eyes here and thought we were going to  
12 get a lot more from the "block the box" program.

13                   STUART KLEIN:  Yes.

14                   COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:  So fine  
15 revenue is in fact up about \$40 million.

16                   STUART KLEIN:  Something like that.

17                   COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER:  Thank you,  
18 Stu.

19                   STUART KLEIN:  You're welcome.

20                   CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA:  Recognize  
21 Gale Brewer from Manhattan.

22                   COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER:  I just want  
23 to get a clarification 'cause I know people are  
24 interested in the Health Trust Fund, and how much  
25 is in it.  And how it will be allocated.

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2           STUART KLEIN: There, there's about  
3 \$2.5 billion in the Fund. This year, in addition  
4 to our normal PAYGO contribution, which is about,  
5 between a billion-and-a-half and a billion-six.

6           CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Could you  
7 speak into the microphone?

8           STUART KLEIN: Sure. In addition  
9 to our normal retiree healthcare contribution,  
10 we're using about \$400 million out of the Fund.  
11 This was money that was budgeted back a few years  
12 ago, when the stock market really took a dive.  
13 And we used it to offset some of our pension  
14 losses. Over the three years, there's about a  
15 billion dollars that's being used from the fund.

16           CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. All  
17 right, seeing no further questions, call the roll,  
18 please. We're voting on the transparency  
19 resolution, the expense mod and the revenue mod.  
20 Call the roll, please.

21           CLERK: William Martin, Committee  
22 Clerk, roll call on the Committee on Finance.  
23 Council Member Recchia.

24           CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I'm  
25 encouraging all my members to vote aye. Aye.

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CLERK: Rivera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Because of your encouragement, I vote aye.

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CLERK: Reyna. [pause] Brewer.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye, and will thank, I assume, the many people later on, when we speak from the floor. But there are many people to thank for this budget.

7

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CLERK: Comrie.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I want to congratulate Chairman Recchia on his stewardship as Finance Chair, and has truly taken us in a very positive direction during a different, difficult time. I want to thank the entire Finance staff. I'm not going to wait till the, till the meeting, I'm going to say thank yous now. This was a very difficult budget. I want to thank the, my Queens Delegation members for not being afraid to speak and be passionate about the issues and concerns, and I want to thank all of the people that, that expressed their personal convictions and passions to me during this difficult budget. I want to thank Speaker Quinn and all of the, all of her legislative team, Chuck Meara, Chief of Staff, and

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2 Ramon Martinez, and all of the people that worked  
3 on this budget. And especially again the Finance  
4 Staff. Without their detailed breakdown and their  
5 investigative capabilities, I think that our  
6 budget would've been much different. And it was  
7 truly a yeoman effort on behalf of the Finance  
8 staff to make sure that we understood all of the  
9 options that were available to us, all of the  
10 details that we needed to deal with, and all of  
11 the things that we were most passionate about, how  
12 we could fix them in a proper manner. I'm--I am  
13 pleased to say that I am voting on this budget  
14 despite the fact that it's not, we're in a  
15 difficult fiscal time, we are getting our budget  
16 done on time. Vote aye.

17 CLERK: Fidler.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I'll, I'll  
19 save my thank yous for the floor, where it makes  
20 better TV. I was going to vote, I was going to  
21 vote yes, but since my friend the Finance Chairman  
22 asked me to vote "aye," I'll vote aye.

23 CLERK: Foster.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye on all.  
25 Thank you.

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CLERK: Jackson.

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye on

all.

CLERK: Koppell.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

Aye.

CLERK: Vann.

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

CLERK: Mealy.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye. I want

to thank Domenic Recchia, our leader, from

Brooklyn, a great job with the Finance and all the

whole Finance staff. And our budget negotiation

for Brooklyn, thank you so much. And I vote aye.

CLERK: Ferreras.

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote

aye.

CLERK: Cabrera.

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

CLERK: Koslowitz.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

CLERK: Van Bramer.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

CLERK: Ignizio.



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2 COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

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CLERK: Oddo.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

5

CLERK: Reyna.

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[pause, background noise]

7

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: I received a

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commitment from Finance that there would be

9

modifications to certain mistakes that were done

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in the Capital Budget, and so I hope that, that I

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can be, that can be honored throughout the process

12

of the year, concerning NYCHA security cameras for

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Borincan [phonetic] Houses as my number one

14

priority. While we're dealing with shootings and

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drug dealing, at these particular developments,

16

it's important we secure the cameras necessary in

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order to provide the safety that was my number one

18

priority. I vote aye on this project.

19

CLERK: By a vote of 17 in the

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affirmative, zero in the negative and no

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abstentions, all items are adopted.

22

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, we will

23

address Council Member Diana Reyna's request and

24

we will see what we could do to help you out.

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Next we're going to have School Construction

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Authority, if the School Construction Authority,  
if you could please come on up and have a seat  
right here in the front row. We will be dealing--

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] And the  
DOE is here.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: --and the  
DOE. So, we're going to do--

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] The  
amendments to the five year--

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: The  
Amendments to the Five Year Capital Plan and  
Community Development Plan.

FEMALE VOICE: And the Executive  
Capital.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: And the  
Executive Capital Budget. [pause, background  
noise] All right, one thing at a time, we're  
doing this. I can't deal with--[pause, background  
noise] Okay. This is for the Amendment to the  
Five Year Plan, the Community Development Plan,  
the Executive Capital Budget Plan. We have the  
School Construction Authority, we have Deputy  
Chancellor Kathleen Grimm here, welcome. Ms.  
Grillo, welcome. Do you have a prepared

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2 statement? Or would you like to--?

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KATHLEEN GRIMM: No. Basically, as you know, the plan has not changed since we testified last month, so--

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7

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Could I please have all my colleagues' attention, please? Go ahead.

9

10

KATHLEEN GRIMM: We're delighted to be here to answer any questions you might have.

11

12

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right, does anybody have any questions on the Five Year Capital Plan. If you could just talk a little bit about the, about the MOU that was just signed.

15

16

17

KATHLEEN GRIMM: Yes--

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Just so my colleagues can understand that.

18

19

20

KATHLEEN GRIMM: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: - - want to explain that.

21

22

23

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KATHLEEN GRIMM: As, as you know, in the last Capital Plan, we had an MOU which we extended to cover the first year of this second plan for this Administration. And over the year, we took the time to work very closely with Council

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staff to work out an M--a new MOU, which was signed today. And in it, it was signed by the Chancellor and the Speaker, of course, and the Mayor. We agreed to a couple of things, mostly more transparency, more information on the web. For example, we will put on the web better explanations of sites that we have looked at and found not to be appropriate siting locations for a school, and we'll give the full explanation of that. We're also going to put on the web and of course we'll share with the Council Members information, in terms of an inventory and the use of various rooms in our school buildings, about which there has been a lot of conversation this year. We also agree, as we did in their prior MOU, to meet several times a year with the borough delegations. And to accept from the borough delegations any lists they might have of sites if they want us to explore in their boroughs, and of course we'll report back.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Does any Member have any question on the Five Year Capital Plan for School Construction Authority? Yes, I recognize Gale Brewer from Manhattan.

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COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Does that include also as part of the MOU, 'cause we haven't seen it, when you have schools with many different, or buildings with many different schools, and you get an allocation that is toward the building, does it include how that building works with the different principals and divides up the allocation? Something that gives a campus wide information, regarding how that money's being spent?

KATHLEEN GRIMM: No, it, it doesn't, it really only addresses sort of the issues that we look at in terms of capital construction. Certainly that's--

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: So not renovation, more construction, is what you're saying.

KATHLEEN GRIMM: Yes. And what you're talking about we'll be happy to talk to you about that more, are situations where we have co-locations of schools, and we have building councils, and we have a footprint that our space planners look at, and we have to allocate space along with the principals.

1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, so  
3 it's more towards the old, the new buildings.

4 KATHLEEN GRIMM: Correct.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay.

6 Thank you, thank you, Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: I also want  
8 to recognize Ross Holden, the General Counsel.  
9 Welcome. Without recognizing any more questions,  
10 on the School Construction Five Year Capital Plan,  
11 okay, since there are no further questions before  
12 we call the roll, I would just like, we're voting  
13 on the Capital Amendment, the Community  
14 Development Plan and the Executive Capital Budget.  
15 If any Member has any conflict, please make the  
16 disclosure on the record, before you vote. Okay?  
17 So if you have any conflicts with Department of  
18 Ed, you must disclose on the record. Okay? I  
19 just want to thank the Department of Education for  
20 working with us on the MOU, we look forward to  
21 working with you in the future. It's something  
22 that's been long in the making, and a lot of  
23 Council Members now will see what projects are.

24 FEMALE VOICE: Good. [laughter]

25 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Without

1  
2 always have to be wondering what's happening. And  
3 it's going to take a lot of work and School  
4 Construction Authority is very, be very, very  
5 helpful. [background noise] Oh, okay, we're  
6 going to call the roll, we're voting on Capital  
7 Amendment, the Community Development Plan and the  
8 Executive Capital Budget Plan. Call the roll,  
9 please.

10 CLERK: Recchia.

11 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Before I  
12 vote, I'd like to disclose that there is money in  
13 this budget that will be giving to public schools  
14 that my children attend, and that I want to make  
15 it on the record that there, these schools will be  
16 getting money, and I disclose that on the record,  
17 and I also would encourage all my colleagues to  
18 vote aye or yes. Okay, so I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Rivera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Reyna.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic] I  
23 vote aye.

24 CLERK: Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye,

1  
2 but don't forget about Riverside South and Beacon  
3 High School.

4 CLERK: Comrie.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I vote aye,  
6 and since my children attend public schools, I  
7 have to use the same disclosure that Domenic  
8 Recchia used that, since the City is funding  
9 capital school, school, capital school budgets, my  
10 children are in public schools that will be  
11 funded. Aye on all.

12 CLERK: Fidler.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Well, I'm  
14 not sure if I need to disclose this, but my wife  
15 is a licensed substitute teacher for the New York  
16 City Public School System, I don't believe she  
17 worked last year, but obviously if that's a  
18 conflict, then I disclose it, and I vote aye.

19 CLERK: Foster.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye. I  
21 don't believe I have a conflict, but I have a  
22 stepdaughter that goes to public school.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: [laughs]

24 CLERK: Jackson.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I have to



1  
2 disclose that I have 1.1 million children that I  
3 look after, and with that I vote aye.

4 CLERK: Koppell.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

6 Aye.

7 CLERK: Vann.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: First, I want  
9 to inquire Mr. Jackson what he eats for breakfast.

10 [laughter] Secondly, I wish to disclose that  
11 there are two, two of my children, daughters, are  
12 employed at Medgar Evers College, as is one son-  
13 in-law. Secondly, I serve on the Board of Black  
14 Leadership Commission on AIDS. After that  
15 disclosure, I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Mealy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Ferreras.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote  
20 aye.

21 CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

23 CLERK: Koslowitz.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote  
25 aye.

1

CLERK: Van Bramer.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

3

CLERK: Ignizio.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, I'd

5

like to vote aye, but I would like to report to

6

the Committee that, with all everybody's help,

7

Public School 37 in Richmond County was, won the

8

\$20,000 for America's favorite school, so thank

9

you everybody for that. [applause] And I vote

10

aye.

11

CLERK: Oddo.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

13

CLERK: By a vote of 17 in the

14

affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,

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all items are adopted.

16

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Deputy

17

Chancellor, just before you leave, I just want to

18

thank you and the Chancellor. But there's one

19

issue that is of great concern to this Council, it

20

doesn't have to do with construction. And that is

21

with the layoff of school aids and SAPIS workers.

22

This is something that we would like to have a

23

discussion with you, because, you know, I know

24

every principal has the opportunity to do their

25

1  
2 own budget, but it seems across the City so many  
3 hundreds of school aids are being laid off, and  
4 our schools need them, and we really feel for  
5 these people in our communities. So we'd like to  
6 have a conversation with that after this budget,  
7 to see what could be done.

8 KATHLEEN GRIMM: We'd be more than  
9 happy to do that, I just would remind the  
10 Committee that of course the SAPIS workers are  
11 dependent on State funding that has been cut.

12 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes, I know.

13 KATHLEEN GRIMM: As you know.

14 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, we know  
15 that. Thank you very much, Deputy Chancellor.  
16 Okay. The next, we are going to do the Expense  
17 Revenue Contract Budget. [pause, background  
18 noise] Okay. On the Expense Revenue Contract  
19 Budget, does any Member have any question?  
20 Without seeing any questions, call the roll  
21 please.

22 CLERK: Recchia.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Rivera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

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2

CLERK: Reyna. [pause] Brewer.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

4

CLERK: Comrie.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

6

CLERK: Fidler.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: [off mic]

8

Yes.

9

CLERK: Foster.

10

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes.

11

CLERK: Jackson.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

13

CLERK: Koppell.

14

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: What?

15

[laughter] The, the expense--you have to speak

16

into the mic to get on the record. Right up--

17

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: I would

18

like an explanation of what this budget includes,

19

to know whether I have to indicate a conflict.

20

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, this,

21

do you want to address that?

22

MALE VOICE: We're, excuse me,

23

we're voting on the Expense Budget for the year

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which includes two res--two resolutions, Reso, I'm

25

sorry, Schedule A, which is the Expense Budget;

1  
2 Reso B, which is the contract budget; and Schedule  
3 C, which is not part of the vote, is a supporting  
4 schedule, which has been, as you know, available  
5 online for the last roughly 20 hours.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: Mr.  
7 Chairman, as in the past, I just, I suspect that--  
8 I haven't seen this item, but I suspect that the  
9 American Ballet Theater may be receiving moneys in  
10 our allocations. My sister is an employee of the  
11 American Ballet Theater. That's the only conflict  
12 that I'm aware of, and I wish to disclose it. I  
13 vote aye.

14 CLERK: Vann.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: I vote aye.

16 CLERK: Mealy.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: I vote aye.

18 CLERK: Ferreras.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: I vote  
20 aye.

21 CLERK: Cabrera.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: I vote  
23 aye.

24 CLERK: Koslowitz.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: I vote

1

2 aye.

3

CLERK: Van Bramer.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

5

CLERK: Ignizio.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes.

7

CLERK: Oddo.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I'm not sure,

9

I'm not sure if this the appropriate time, I'm not

10

even sure if I'm supposed to disclose it, but if I

11

survive this long in the fall, I'll be teaching a

12

class at the College of Staten Island, a political

13

science class, so some of you may be my guest

14

lecturers. I'm not sure if that's a conflict, but

15

if it is, everyone knows about it, I vote yes.

16

CLERK: By a vote of 17 in the

17

affirmative--excuse me.

18

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We

19

just have to go back and before, okay, I, number

20

one, have a conflict, I'd like to recognize on the

21

record, that there is money being given, expense

22

money given to public schools in New York City and

23

other schools, and my children's schools are

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included, I would like to make that disclosure to

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my children's schools. I recognize Lew Fidler,

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2 then Gale Brewer.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Actually, Mr. Chairman, I would like to disclose a number of things, which are all contained on the form that I have filed. Is that sufficient for the record, Counsel? All right, and so rather than go through, I think seven different items for me and Members of my staff, I'll rely on the written disclosure.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, Gale Brewer.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you. I teach at Hunter College, that's the disclosure, and my husband's a part-time lecturer at New York Historical Society. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Recognize Council, Majority Leader, Council Member Leroy Comrie.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Again, my children attend public schools and so therefore-- and my wife also works at, for CUNY at York College--and so therefore I have to note that for the record.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Any

1

2 more disclosures by any Finance Members? Al Vann?

3

4 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Yeah, since  
5 we're all confessing that is, yeah, I have seven  
6 grandchildren that are all in public schools--

6

7 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: God bless.  
[laughter]

8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: --at this  
10 time, and I don't know if any money's going to  
11 those schools, but I want the world to know I got  
12 seven grandchildren now in public schools. Their  
13 parents went to public schools, my daughters went  
14 to public schools. I'm committed to the public  
15 schools, and I want everyone--no, no. [laughter]  
I just wanted--

16

17

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right, Al  
Vann!

18

19

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Just  
disclose.

20

21

22

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Did we  
call the roll? We're all finished with calling  
the roll?

23

24

25

MALE VOICE: I'd just like to add  
that when we're done, I may be needing some of the  
mental health services that are being funded in



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this budget.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Billy,  
we did--

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Suicide,  
heal--suicide line.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay,  
announce the vote, please.

CLERK: Vote on the Expense Revenue  
is 17 in the affirmative, zero in the negative,  
and no abstentions. Item is adopted.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. We're  
moving right along. The next thing we'll be  
voting on is the certifying the base percentages,  
the current percentages. The adjusted base  
proportion and fixing the tax rate for Fiscal  
2011. All right, do we have any questions?  
Where's Nadine from our Finance staff? And E-  
square [phonetic]. You want to come on up, the  
both of you? Does any Council Member have any  
questions? Chuck's putting on his jacket, this  
must be serious, Chuck. [laughs] Not, no  
questions? Without no questions, call the roll.  
Gale Brewer always has a question. Recognize Gale  
Brewer from Manhattan.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you.

3

I guess I want to understand just quickly one more

4

time, the number two, we've got one, two, three

5

and four, I think we've all memorized the tax

6

categories.

7

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: The classes,

8

the different classes.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Correct.

10

And my question is, to be sure for the renters in

11

our district, there will not be any impact. If I

12

could just understand that one more time.

13

EMRA ADEV: The, the impact will be

14

that the, the rates will change from, from this,

15

from this current fiscal year, fiscal '10 to

16

fiscal '11. What won't, won't have any impact is

17

we had, back on the, I believe it was the, the

18

ninth, we voted to ask the State Legislature to

19

pass a 2.5 percent cap bill, which, changing the,

20

the class share cap has no impact on, on the bill.

21

But this, there's, these are State formulas that

22

there's nothing we can do to kind of change the

23

impact it'll have on, on class II properties.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, so

25

there--the answer to your question, my question,

1  
2 is that there's minimal, if any, impact. Is that  
3 correct? Or am I under--

4 EMRA ADEV: Correct.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: --for  
6 renters in the City of New York.

7 EMRA ADEV: Correct.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: In  
9 buildings where there are rental units.

10 EMRA ADEV: Correct.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: All right.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Emory, could  
14 you just state your full name, for the record,  
15 can't be known as E-squared. Go ahead.

16 EMRA ADEV: Yeah. My name is Emra  
17 Adev [phonetic].

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay. Any  
19 other, without any other further questions.  
20 Without recognizing any further questions, please  
21 call the roll.

22 CLERK: Recchia.

23 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye.

24 CLERK: Rivera.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

1

CLERK: Reyna.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

3

Aye.

4

CLERK: Brewer.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

6

CLERK: Comrie.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

8

CLERK: Fidler.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Aye.

10

CLERK: Foster.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

12

CLERK: Jackson.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

14

CLERK: Koppell.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

16

Aye.

17

CLERK: Vann.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

19

CLERK: Mealy.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

21

CLERK: Ferreras.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

23

CLERK: Cabrera.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

25

1

CLERK: Koslowitz.

2

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

3

CLERK: Van Bramer.

4

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

5

CLERK: Ignizio.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No.

7

CLERK: Oddo.

8

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: No.

9

CLERK: By a vote of 15 in the

10

affirmative, two in the negative and no

11

abstentions, item is adopted.

12

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. At the

13

end, all the Finance Members have to sign all the

14

documents from the votings. If you vote no, you

15

do not have to sign that bill.

16

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] There's a

17

quick description of the - -

18

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

19

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] --of the

20

911 bill.

21

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Now,

22

we're going to vote on the 911 emergency telephone

23

system surcharge bill, Proposed Intro 214A-2010.

24

All right?

25

1

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] No, this--

2

3

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: This bill

4

would extend the enhanced 911 tele--

5

MALE VOICE: - - Liz Fine,

6

Elizabeth Fine, please.

7

[pause

8

FEMALE VOICE: He called Elizabeth

9

Fine, Liz Fine.

10

[pause, background noise]

11

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay.

12

[laughter] I thought he wanted Liz Fine to

13

testify. [laughs] Okay. We're doing the 911

14

surcharge. This bill would extend the enhanced

15

911 telephone surcharge that currently applies to

16

wired line telephones to also apply to voice over

17

internet protocol phones, operated within New York

18

City, and billed in New York City. Revenue is

19

guaran--generated, would be approximately \$3.106

20

million. Does anyone have any questions on this?

21

Without seeing any questions, please call the

22

roll.

23

CLERK: Council Member Recchia.

24

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye.

25

CLERK: Rivera.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: Aye.

3

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Lew, do you

4

want to--

5

[pause, background noise]

6

CLERK: Brewer.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: I vote aye.

8

I think that the VOIP, charging VOIP for VOIP is a

9

good idea. I'm not sure that it's much of a

10

revenue enhancer, because a hard line, landline

11

phones are going away, and some people are getting

12

VOIP, not a lot. Most people are just going to

13

cell. But it's a good concept, and I think people

14

who have VOIP should pay the tax. I vote aye.

15

CLERK: Comrie.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

17

CLERK: Fidler.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: With

19

apologies to my fellow Skype users, I vote aye.

20

CLERK: Foster.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Aye.

22

CLERK: Jackson. [pause] Koppell.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

24

Aye.

25

CLERK: Vann.

1

2

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: [off mic]

3

Aye.

4

CLERK: Mealy.

5

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

6

CLERK: Ferreras.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

8

CLERK: Cabrera.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: Aye.

10

CLERK: Koslowitz.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

12

CLERK: Van Bramer.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

14

CLERK: Ignizio.

15

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No.

16

CLERK: Oddo.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Yes.

18

CLERK: Reyna.

19

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: Aye.

20

CLERK: Jackson.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

22

CLERK: By a vote of 16 in the

23

affirmative, one in the negative and no

24

abstentions, Introduction 214A is adopted.

25

[pause, background noise]



1

2

FEMALE VOICE: Are we going to couple these three?

3

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yeah.

4

FEMALE VOICE: Okay, then we're done.

5

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Billy, you adding it up? [background noise] 16-1.

6

Okay. It passes. Now we're going to do, we're

7

going to couple the elevator inspection fees, the

8

probation service fees, and the Taxi and Limousine

9

Commission inspection fees. Does anyone have any

10

questions on these three bills? Then without

11

seeing any questions, call the roll, please. I

12

encourage all my colleagues in Finance to vote

13

aye.

14

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Wait, Mr.

15

Chairman?

16

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yes.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: I do, I do

18

have a question, sir.

19

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Who, who's

20

that? Yes, Mr. Ignizio.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yes, thank

22

you, I have a question regarding the probation

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2

service fees, as they, as they impact the

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inspection on homes, and with regards to the

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custody, that of who can answer that. Do we have

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somebody?

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Where's Andy?

7

Andy Gr--

8

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] Also have

9

four departmental - - , and Michael Ognavini

10

[phonetic] is available, too.

11

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All right.

12

FEMALE VOICE: We have somebody

13

from--

14

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Andy, we have

15

a question from Council Member Vinnie Ignizio.

16

FEMALE VOICE: [off mic] We also

17

have some folks from--

18

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: What? All

19

right, can you please repeat the question for our,

20

for Andy? Yeah, sit up next to Preston. Yes?

21

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Sure.

22

I'll start with the generic of, Can you explain

23

the genesis of the custody inspection fee and how

24

we got to where this bill is today?

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ANDY: This bill is something that

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the State Legislature has, in the past, given us the authority to do, the City, the authority to do, pass on probation fees to certain individuals. And this is the first time that the City has decided, as a way to generate some revenue, to charge these probation fees to two different classes of individuals. On one hand, people who are on probation for DWI or DWI offenses, and also in Family Court, individuals who are involved in custody issues. In both instances, it's based on, there's a fee schedule, but it also has the ability to waive the fees for those who cannot afford to pay them.

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: And the, the fee schedule was set up by, by us? Is there, is there directives from the State which allows for, "Here's what you can charge" from where to where? And what is that fee schedule based on? Is it income? Is it, is it, you know, how do we get to that number?

ANDY: The fee schedule, I believe, was established by the City, in the local law that you have before you.

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, it's

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5:00 o'clock.

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ANDY: And, the fee is \$30 per month while someone is on probation for DWI or DUI, and then there's a range that people would pay who are in Family Court for custody cases, that ranges I think from about \$50 to \$500. So, it's a sliding scale, it'd be an average of about \$300, per payer, and again some people will not pay if they are in fact indigent and have an inability to do so.

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COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: All right, okay, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, I guess my concern, if you will, was the fact that we are coupling two very different issues here. An issue of allowing or mandating that those that are on probation for a DWI, or DUI, be combined with the fee structure for those that are seeking proper custody for their kids in a Family Court setting. I don't believe these bills ought have been put together. I don't believe these fees ought have been put together, and therefore I have serious concerns with allocating a fee onto those that may be, may have difficulty or maybe have issues in Family Court as it is, and now to turn around and

1  
2 say, "Well, you should pay for the overall  
3 inspection from the City, to determine where the  
4 best placement for a child is," I personally have  
5 issue with that, and it concerns me greatly. I  
6 may consider abstaining on the, on the bill  
7 altogether if it can't be decoupled.

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We--We  
9 recognize your, your concerns, but at this later  
10 hour, we wish that you would've informed us, prior  
11 to today, and we would've been, the staff would've  
12 been delighted to work with you and see what we  
13 could've done to address your concerns. In the  
14 future, we ask if you have concerns like this, to  
15 please contact us ahead of time. Okay, call the  
16 roll, please. Any--

17 CLERK: Council Member Recchia.

18 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Aye.

19 CLERK: Rivera.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

21 CLERK: Reyna.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNA: [off mic]

23 Aye.

24 CLERK: Brewer.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Aye.

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CLERK: Comrie.

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COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

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CLERK: Fidler.

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COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes.

5

CLERK: Foster.

6

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, and

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for the record, I need to disclo--can I do that

8

now?

9

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Yeah,

10

disclose it.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER FOSTER: Yes, for

12

the record, I need to disclose that we are funding

13

or giving money to SCAN New York, and my husband

14

works for SCAN.

15

CLERK: Jackson.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: Aye.

17

CLERK: Koppell.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER KOPPELL: [off mic]

19

Aye.

20

CLERK: Vann.

21

COUNCIL MEMBER VANN: Aye.

22

CLERK: Mealy.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

24

CLERK: Ferreras.

25

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COUNCIL MEMBER FERRERAS: Aye.

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3

CLERK: Cabrera.

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COUNCIL MEMBER CABRERA: [off mic]

5

Aye.

6

CLERK: Koslowitz.

7

COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ: Aye.

8

CLERK: Van Bramer.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

10

CLERK: Ignizio.

11

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: For the

12

reasons previously mentioned, I abstain on this

13

bill, and the coupling of these two issues. Thank

14

you. [pause] So, yes, yes on the two and--Oh,

15

I'm sorry, I, I should be somewhat more clear in--

16

FEMALE VOICE: Pull it together,

17

Ignizio.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Yeah,

19

yeah, we'll, we'll pull it together here.

20

[laughs]

21

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Vinnie, just

22

say aye on all.

23

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: [laughs]

24

MALE VOICE: No.

25

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: No, no on

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2

236A, and abstain on the, on the 210 and no on

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Intro 23. And with that, I hope I go ahead of

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Charles in voting no.

5

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay. Billy,

6

do you have the final tally? While he's tallying

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up the last vote--

8

CLERK: Oddo.

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Hey, hey.

10

What--

11

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Oh.

12

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: --what? Just

13

because we didn't vote the right way, is this--

14

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Jimmy, no.

15

Are you kidding me?

16

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: I tell ya. I

17

never got this abuse with David Weprin!

18

[laughter]

19

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Oh!

20

COUNCIL MEMBER IGNIZIO: Long live

21

the king!

22

COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Long live the

23

king! - -

24

CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: We recognize,

25

we recognize our wonderful minority leader.



1  
2 COUNCIL MEMBER ODDO: Learned  
3 gentleman from Staten Island. I will ab--I'm  
4 getting heckled here by--I, I will abstain on  
5 2010, and associate myself with the comments of my  
6 learned colleague, Council Member Ignizio, and  
7 vote yes on the other two items.

8 CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: Okay, while  
9 we're tallying that up, I just want to make two  
10 announcements. Those members who were not on  
11 Finance will now receive their packets. So, okay?  
12 And there was an additional terms and conditions  
13 that are not in--included in the printed version  
14 in the packets. It is a terms and condition  
15 dealing with the study on funding capital  
16 projects, that was handed out. Billy, do we have  
17 a total on that last vote?

18 CLERK: Yep. Final vote on the  
19 Committee on Finance, Introduction 210A is adopted  
20 by a vote of 15 in the affirmative, zero in the  
21 negative and two abstentions. Introduction 23 and  
22 236A are adopted by a vote of 17 in the  
23 affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
24 abstentions. Council Members, please sign all  
25 Committee reports. Thank you.

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CHAIRPERSON RECCHIA: All Council

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Members who voted aye, please sign all papers

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report. This concludes the Finance Hearing.

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[gavel]

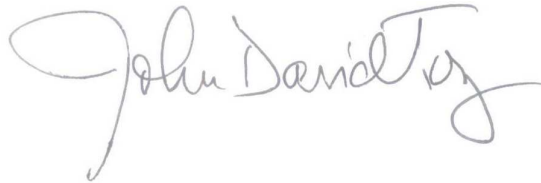
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[pause until end]

7

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 July 15, 2010