



## MINUTES FOR THE JULY 8, 2024 HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Charter Revision Commission 2024 was held at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Manhattan, New York at 5:00 p.m. on July 8, 2024.

The Vice Chair, Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, presided at the meeting. The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 5:04 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Chair Carlo Scissura <sup>1</sup>
- Ken Ngai <sup>2</sup>
- Kyle Bragg
- Ruben Díaz Jr.
- Lorraine Grillo
- Christopher B. Lynch
- Stephanie McGraw
- Max Rose
- Jackie Rowe-Adams

The Vice Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Vice Chair Dukes made a motion to adopt the minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup>, June 17<sup>th</sup>, June 20<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, June 26<sup>th</sup>, and June 27<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Attended via teleconference

<sup>2</sup> Attended via teleconference

meetings of the Commission. Commissioner Bragg seconded the motion, which was thereafter adopted unanimously by all the Commission members present. Introductions of the commissioners present were made.

The Commission held a public hearing during which it heard testimony from the public concerning any comments, proposals, and recommendations for possible revisions to the New York City Charter.

Cordell Cleare, New York State Senator for District 30, testified in support of creating a centralized M/WBE agency, affordable housing and proposed restricting open ended land acquisition by private universities to increase available affordable housing units. Cleare recommended creating a Neighborhood Area Median Income to resolve the current disparities with Area Median Income (AMI) when calculating eligibility for affordable housing.

Inez E. Dickens, New York State Assemblywoman for the 70<sup>th</sup> District, testified in support of an independent M/WBE agency and stated that the award of contracts had to be more inclusive.

Jordan J.G. Wright, New York State Assemblyman-Elect for the 70<sup>th</sup> District, testified in support of centralizing the M/WBE agency. He stated M/WBEs needed stronger protection and more affirmative action programs.

Michael J. Garner, Chief Business and Diversity Officer for the City of New York, reiterated his testimony in support of creating a centralized M/WBE agency. He stated that doing so would hold agencies accountable, streamline payment processing, and award contracts in a cost effective and inclusive manner.

Pauline Ann Toole, Commissioner for the Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) testified in support of consolidating the Department of Records and Information Services, and the Archival Review Board into a nine-person board. She described the history and

functions of the two boards and explained consolidation would increase efficiency and accountability.

Andrew Rein, President of the Citizens Budget Commission, testified in support of improving fiscal stability. He proposed (1) requiring the production fiscal impact statements earlier in the legislative process, (2) ensuring that the City's rainy-day fund is grown and used for the proper purposes, (3) limiting debt service to 15% of the City's tax revenue, and (4) conducting a resident survey every five years to ensure that the people are informed of the City budget.

Amaury Dujardin, Public Policy Manager at Citizens Union testified in opposition to (1) the proposal to require more public input in public safety bills, and (2) the proposal to require fiscal impact statements be produced earlier.

Keith L.T. Wright, County Leader of the Democratic Party of Manhattan testified in opposition to non-partisan elections. He further stated that more citywide elections should be conducted through ranked choice voting (RCV) to assess whether it increases voter turnout.

Garry Anthony Johnson, Chair of Economic Development for the NAACP, testified in support of centralizing the M/WBE agency.

Keaton Morris, an M/WBE contractor, testified in support of centralizing the M/WBE agency.

Jimmy Pan testified in support of bolstering accountability bodies in the Charter and stated that the Commission should use the preamble of the Charter as a rubric for evaluating proposals.

Adrienne Felton supported centralizing the M/WBE agency and recommended audits of older M/WBE contracts. She further recommended revising the affordable housing lottery housing program.

Marilyn Galfin, the Founder of Voices for Shelter Animals, proposed creating a new agency for animal welfare and removing animal welfare jurisdiction from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Gale A. Brewer, City Council Member for District 6, in support of increasing funding for oversight agencies and requiring a breakdown of the budget units of appropriation for different agencies. Council Member Brewer further testified in support of requiring the advice and consent by the City Council of certain mayoral appointments.

Adam Roberts, Policy Director for the Community Housing Improvement Program testified in support of a proposal to require fiscal impact statements include an analysis of financial impacts outside of governmental operations.

Everett Perry, an M/WBE contractor, testified in support of centralizing the M/WBE agency.

Michael Sisitzky, Assistant Policy Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, testified against the proposal to require more public input for public safety bills, stating there was currently sufficient opportunity for public input.

Kai Rosenthal, Co-President for the League of Women Voters, testified in support of ranked choice voting and opposes reforming ranked choice voting until its impact is assessed through more election cycles.

Ibrahim Xavier Johnson testified in support of greater public input in the legislative process. He further testified in support of giving greater authority to community boards.

Miles Grant testified in support of a proposal to allow policy decisions be made by sortition, a process in which a random jury selection of public citizens are made into a decision-making body.

Greg Baggett testified in support of amending community board term limits. He proposed making board members into honorary members after a certain number of years, that would not have voting power in general board meetings.

Marsha Taylor testified in support of more M/WBE programs and requiring more accountability from oversight agencies.

Alpheaus Marcus testified in support of a proposal to require greater accountability from the NYPD. He recommended (1) a time limit for NYPD disciplinary hearings to expedite the process, and (2) rules of accountability for officers who ran the disciplinary hearings.

Julius Tajiddin testified on (1) strengthening community boards by mandating public members to serve, (2) notifying community boards of any construction in their district, (3) monitoring the sales of senior homes to ensure no foul play, and (4) spelling out the duties of whoever has police powers. Lastly, Mr. Tajiddin supported the proposal to expand DSNY's authority to all city-owned land and testified against removing any requirements for public hearings in the legislative process.

June Moses testified in support of greater recognition of the population living 40% below of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Sylvia Hunter testified in support of greater outreach to the senior population and youth by the Commission. Ms. Hunter also supported reforming the city's lottery system for affordable housing.

Marie Gentine testified against Local Law 18 of 2022, which requires short term rental hosts register with the Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement before renting out homes.

Chinnor Campbell testified in support of limiting the NYPD's power and the How Many Stops Act. He testified against additional public input in public safety legislation and also voiced his concerns about the time frame of the Charter Revision Commission.

John Dillard testified to express his interest in greater political activism.

Kaya Royal, and M/WBE vendor, testified in support of payment reform for M/WBE vendors.

Marlene Taylor, a primary medical care provider, testified on the need for greater resources to address mental illnesses in local neighborhoods.

Audria Lamberton testified in support of a proposal to require the Charter to formally recognize American Sign Language (ASL) as a "designated city language" and to provide essential governmental services in ASL.<sup>3</sup>

Miles (no last name provided) testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.<sup>4</sup>

The Williams (no other name provided) testified in support of (1) placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum, and (2) the "How Many Stops Act".<sup>5</sup>

Christopher Leon Johnson testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status and the "How Many Stops Act" on the ballot for referendum.<sup>6</sup> He further recommended requiring a ban on lobbyists from serving on community boards.

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<sup>3</sup> Testified remotely

<sup>4</sup> Testified remotely

<sup>5</sup> Testified remotely

<sup>6</sup> Testified remotely

Susan Hatley, representing the Civil Rights Union of Vocal New York commented on the Commission's outreach efforts.<sup>7</sup> She further stated that the preliminary report recommendations undermined the City Council's role.

Dolina Duzant, Co-Founder of the Malcom X Beatification Group, testified on (1) revising the current vendor licensing program to promote inclusivity, (2) restructuring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to respond to changes in communities, and (3) allowing rent stabilization rates in commercial property.<sup>8</sup>

After hearing from all those members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, the Vice Chair closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Vice Chair Dukes to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynch and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamza Suhail  
New York City Charter Revision Commission

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<sup>7</sup> Testified remotely

<sup>8</sup> Testified remotely