



Final Report Executive Summary

July 2024

On May 21, 2024, Mayor Eric Adams announced the 2024 Charter Revision Commission and appointed Carlo Scissura, as chair, and 12 other community leaders to serve on the Commission. The Mayor charged the Commission with reviewing the entire Charter to ensure that it works efficiently and is responsive to all New Yorkers. The Mayor also asked the Commission to examine, in particular, whether the Charter should be amended to promote public safety and fiscal responsibility.

Following a review of the entire Charter of the City of New York, public feedback, expert testimony, research, and investigation, the Commission has decided to present the following proposed amendments to the voters of the City of New York at the November 5, 2024 general election:

Clean Streets

In the first ballot question, the Commission proposes an amendment to expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) authority to keep the City clean.

Today, the Charter gives DSNY the power to clean some, but not all, City property. This incomplete grant of jurisdiction complicates City efforts to clean certain City properties, like center medians. The amendment would enable DSNY, at the Mayor's direction, to clean any City-owned property.

Likewise, in an effort to promote the containerization of trash and the resultant benefits for cleanliness and public health, DSNY has promulgated several rules that limit the amount of time that non-containerized garbage spends on City streets. The

Charter, however, does not expressly charge DSNY with the mandate to promote containerization. The amendment would clarify that DSNY has the authority to regulate the way refuse is set out for collection, including by requiring the use of containers.

Finally, despite the fact that the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement is housed within DSNY, the Charter does not expressly grant DSNY enforcement authority over vending that occurs on City property other than streets and sidewalks, such as in parks. The amendment would extend DSNY enforcement authority over street vendors to other types of City property, not just streets and sidewalks.

Fiscal Responsibility

In the second ballot question, the Commission proposes an amendment to improve how the City assesses the fiscal impact of proposed local laws and address certain outdated and inefficient budget deadlines.

First, to promote consideration of the cost of proposed laws, the Commission is proposing changes to the Charter section requiring Fiscal Impact Statements. At present, the City Council typically publishes Fiscal Impact Statements only when proposed legislation is on the eve of adoption. As a result, much of the public discussion around legislation—and much of the legislative work to craft a bill—occurs without the benefit of a Fiscal Impact Statement and the cost estimate that it contains. By requiring a Fiscal Impact Statement earlier in the legislative process, prior to a public hearing on a proposed local law, this amendment would encourage greater consideration of the fiscal repercussions of proposed laws. An updated Fiscal Impact Statement—before a proposed law is voted on by the full Council—would also be required in order to give legislators and the public a final assessment of the fiscal impact of proposed legislation. The proposed amendment would require that Fiscal Impact Statements for proposed local laws contain two estimates, one from

the Council and one from the Office of Management and Budget, to foster a more detailed and substantive examination of fiscal impacts. This proposal is informed by considerable testimony from experts and good government groups calling for changes to the Fiscal Impact Statement process.

This amendment would also update several budget-related deadlines in the Charter. To ensure that new mayoral administrations are afforded adequate time to compose a preliminary budget, the amendment would extend the deadline for the preliminary budget from January 16th to February 1st in years following a mayoral election. In those same years, the proposed amendment would alter related deadlines to accommodate the February 1st preliminary budget. Lastly, this amendment would extend the deadline for submission of the executive budget for the ensuing fiscal year from April 26th to May 1st to ensure the executive budget reflects valuable information about tax collections and revenues obtained at the April 15th tax deadline.

Public Safety

In the third ballot question, the Commission proposes an amendment to promote public input and deliberation in the consideration of local laws respecting public safety.

At present, the requirements for passage of legislation relating to public safety do not differ from the requirements for passage of legislation on other matters. The Commission heard substantial testimony from the public and stakeholders expressing concern that the present process for consideration of public-safety measures does not afford sufficient opportunities for input and review. Allowing for additional opportunities for public input in the Council's consideration of public safety legislation is intended to enable more careful deliberation and ensure that

affected communities across the City are heard when legislation touches upon this important area.

Specifically, the amendment would establish additional procedural requirements for the Council's consideration of proposed local laws respecting the public safety operations of three City agencies: the Police Department, the Department of Correction, and the Fire Department. Prior to a vote by the full Council on a covered public safety proposal, the Council would be required to give an additional notice to the public, the Mayor, and the commissioner of each affected agency at least 30 days in advance of a vote. During the period between the notice and the ultimate vote, the Mayor and affected agencies would be permitted to hold one or more additional public hearings on the proposal in order to solicit additional public input. These hearings could include, where appropriate, public hearings in the outer boroughs in order to facilitate input from impacted communities.

Capital Planning

In the fourth ballot question, the Commission proposes an amendment to improve the City's capital planning process by promoting transparency and ensuring the City collects critical information.

The City engages in regular capital planning to determine how to invest in its infrastructure. Drawing on a recommendation by Comptroller Brad Lander, this proposal would promote transparency by ensuring that the City publishes more information about the state of repair for facilities. It would also ensure that the Department of City Planning and the Office of Management and Budget consider City facility conditions and maintenance needs, together with other factors such as geographic distribution, impact on resiliency, and the criticality of an asset to an agency's function or mission, when developing the Ten-Year Capital Strategy.

MWBEs and Modernization

In the fifth and final ballot question, the Commission proposes an amendment to update several Charter provisions to improve City government operations.

To support Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), this amendment that would establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer (CBDO) in the Charter and provide that the CBDO will serve as the point of contact for MWBEs, evaluate the efficacy of the City’s policies to address disparities in procurement, and propose needed changes to City policy.

Next, the amendment would empower the Mayor to give the office that processes film permits—the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME)—the power to issue those permits.

Lastly, the amendment would combine two Charter-created boards that share the same mission: ensuring the effective functioning of the municipal archives.