



MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 5, 2024 HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

A duly noticed meeting of the 2024 New York City Charter Revision Commission was held at Queens Borough Hall in Queens, New York at 10:00 a.m. on June 5, 2024.

The Chair, Carlo Scissura, presided at the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01 a.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Dr. Hazel N. Dukes¹
- Ken Ngai²
- Kyle Bragg
- Reverend Herbert Daughtry, Sr.
- Ruben Díaz Jr.
- Lorraine Grillo
- Stephanie McGraw
- Max Rose³
- Jackie Rowe-Adams
- Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz⁴

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Introductions of the commissioners present were made.

¹ Attended via teleconference

² Attended via teleconference

³ Attended via teleconference

⁴ Attended via teleconference

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.

Irak Cehonski, Director of Budget of the Queens Borough President's Office, urged the Commission to review the borough budget allocation formula under Section 102 of the Charter to ensure more equitable funding to Queens—the fastest growing borough.

Danielle Brecker, a member of Community Board 2 Queens, testified on the need for Community Boards to have the ability to enter binding agreements with developers seeking community board approval. Breckler noted that community boards currently lack the ability to effectively require developers to include affordable housing and other community amenities in proposed developments.

Yiatin Chu testified (1) in opposition to the current mandate for City Council advice and consent on various mayoral appointments; (2) in support of open primaries because the current closed system effectively dilutes the Asian electorate vote, many of whom are unaffiliated with a political party; and (3) in opposition to portions of Department of City Planning's proposed City of Yes initiative, which fails to adequately address local community concerns.

Lauretta Humphrey testified on the need for additional funds to support infrastructure needs, especially current issues associated with the rising water table in Queens. She also opposes current tax moratoriums for private developers.

Frank Morano testified in favor of non-partisan elections, asking that they be presented to the public for referendum.⁵ He argued New York City has historically held non-partisan elections

⁵ Testified remotely

and comparable jurisdictions in California and Chicago have successfully held non-partisan elections.

Kimberley Comes testified in support of additional funding for infrastructure concerns, specifically to address flooding concerns in Far Rockaway.

Sherif (no last name provided) testified in support of the proposal for open primaries because current unaffiliated voters like himself lack an effective voice in the current electoral system. He also testified on the need for infrastructure spending amid frustration with current traffic and parking concerns in Queens.⁶

After hearing from all those members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, the Chair closed the public hearing portion of the meeting. A motion was made by Chair Scissura to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Grillo and Rowe-Adams and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commissioners present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivy Chiu
Special Counsel
New York City Charter Revision Commission

⁶ Testified remotely