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NOTICE OF COMMISSION MEETING ON MAY 17, 2010

The New York City Charter Revision Commission will hold an open public meeting and panel discussion on Monday, May 17th featuring former Charter Revision Commission chairs. The former chairs will offer their experiences, insights, and perspectives on the charter revision process. This meeting will be followed by a round of public discussions in the boroughs on various issues. As decided at the May 10th Commission meeting, topics will include the structure of city government, land use, term limits, voter participation, and public integrity. The panel discussion on May 17th will be streamed live via webcast through the Commission's website at www.nyc.gov/charter.

Scheduled to appear on May 17th:

- **The Honorable Richard Ravitch**, *Chair of the 1988 Commission*
- **Frederick A. O. Schwarz, Jr.**, *Chair of the 1989 Commission*
- **Randy M. Mastro**, *Chair of the 1999 and 2001 Commissions*
- **Ester R. Fuchs**, *Chair of the 2005 Commission*

- **PLACE:** Baruch College, Newman Vertical Campus Conference Center
55 Lexington Avenue (enter at 24th Street & Lexington Ave)
14th Floor, Room 14-220
MANHATTAN
- **TIME:** 6:00 PM
- **DIRECTIONS:** Baruch College is accessible by public transportation: Take the 6 train to the 23rd Street stop, or the N or R to the 23rd Street stop. The following bus lines also stop near Baruch: M1, M2, M3, M4, M32, M101 and M102.

While public comment will not be received at the May 17th meeting, comments to the Commission are welcome and can be submitted by mail, through the website by selecting "Contact the Commission" or by emailing the Commission at commission@charter.nyc.gov.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters for the hearing should contact the Charter Revision Commission through the Commission website at nyc.gov/charter by selecting "Contact the Commission" or by calling (212) 442-1500.

FORMER CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION CHAIR PANELISTS

The Honorable Richard Ravitch

Richard Ravitch is the Lieutenant Governor of the State of New York. He served as Chair of the 1986-1988 Charter Revision Commission, which looked at government ethics and transparency. It established the Campaign Finance Board, the Voter Assistance Commission, and the Voter Guide. Prior to his appointment as Lieutenant Governor in 2009, Ravitch was a partner in the law firm Ravitch, Rice & Co. and served as Chairman of the Commission on MTA Financing, which was formed by Governor David A. Paterson in 2008 to examine financing options for the MTA.

Ravitch began his career as an attorney for the Government Operations Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. In the early 1960s, he joined HRH Construction Corporation, developing affordable housing in New York, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and other locations. In 1975, Governor Hugh Carey appointed him to serve as Chairman of the New York State Urban Development Corporation, a financing and development agency with 30,000 housing units under construction.

In the mid-1970s, Ravitch played an instrumental role in resolving the City's fiscal crisis, where he negotiated long-term guaranty arrangements with the federal government and acted as an intermediary between the City and the leadership of the municipal unions and their pension funds in negotiating labor's contribution to the resolution.

From 1979 to 1983, Ravitch served as Chairman and CEO of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), where he led an overhaul of the Authority's operations. He developed a long-term capital plan and budget for a system-wide technological upgrading of equipment and infrastructure, and created a financing plan for transit improvements.

Following his MTA service, Ravitch led an effort to recapitalize The Bowery Savings Bank and subsequently served as its Chairman and CEO.

Ravitch was the first Chairman of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and in 1999, Congress named Ravitch Co-Chair of the Millennial Housing Commission, which examined the federal government's role in addressing the nation's increasing affordable housing challenges.

Ravitch is a graduate of Columbia College and received an LLB from Yale University School of Law.

Frederick A. O. ("Fritz") Schwarz, Jr.

Fritz Schwarz currently serves as Chief Counsel of the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law and as Senior Counsel at Cravath, Swaine & Moore. Schwarz served as Chair of the 1989 Charter Revision Commission, which extensively revised New York City's Charter after the United States Supreme Court ruled the City's existing government structure unconstitutional. The 1989 Charter amendments created the modern composition of New York City's government, which included redistributing the powers of the City's elected officials and making changes to the City's land use process, among other measures.

From 1975 to 1976, Schwarz was Chief Counsel to the Church Committee (the Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Activities with Respect to Intelligence Activities). From 1982 to 1986, he served as New York City Corporation Counsel under Mayor Edward I. Koch. From 2003 to 2008, he chaired the

New York City Campaign Finance Board. Prior to joining Cravath, Swaine, & Moore in 1963, Schwarz held a clerkship and worked for the government of Northern Nigeria as an Assistant Commissioner for Law Revision.

Schwarz is a graduate of Harvard University and received a J.D. *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Law Review. He is the author of two books, and numerous editorials and magazine articles.

Randy M. Mastro

Randy M. Mastro is currently a partner at Gibson Dunn, where he has litigated several high-profile cases in New York City. Mastro served as Chair of the 1999 and 2001 Charter Revision Commissions, which looked at agency creation and reclassification, the budget, and public safety issues.

From 1994 to 1998, Mastro served as New York City's Deputy Mayor for Operations under Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, where he oversaw all of the City's operating agencies, the budget, and served as the Mayor's chief liaison with elected officials. During his tenure, Mastro spearheaded the City's initiatives to remove organized crime from the Fulton Fish Market, the private carting industry, and the San Gennaro Festival. He also oversaw the successful turnaround of New York City's Off-Track Betting Corporation (OTB).

In the early 1990s, Mr. Mastro was a litigation partner in Gibson Dunn's New York office. In 1990, he served as Associate Counsel on the Independent Counsel investigation of HUD Secretary Samuel Pierce. In 1991, he was appointed Special Master and Monitor of the assets of a Saudi tycoon implicated in the BCCI scandal.

From 1985 to 1989, Mr. Mastro served as Assistant United States Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Civil Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Mastro graduated *cum laude* from Yale College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He has served as a law clerk and litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore.

Mastro has taught law at Fordham Law School, and has authored numerous articles and op-ed pieces.

Ester R. Fuchs

Ester R. Fuchs is Professor of Public Affairs and Political Science and Director of the Urban Policy Program at Columbia University. Fuchs served as Chair of the 2005 Charter Revision Commission, the first woman to serve in that capacity. The 2005 Charter amendments established an administrative judicial code of conduct and incorporated into the City Charter several fiscal requirements imposed on the City by New York State following the 1970s fiscal crisis.

Fuchs is currently on leave as a senior policy fellow at the Partnership for NYC. She served as Special Advisor to the Mayor for Governance and Strategic Planning under New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg from 2001 to 2005. As Special Advisor, she was responsible for developing and implementing reform initiatives for City agencies as well as advising on new, innovative and efficient ways to deliver public services. Fuchs was professor of political science at Barnard College, chair of the Urban Studies Program at Barnard and Columbia Colleges and founding director of the Columbia University Center for Urban Research and Policy.

She currently serves on the Mayor's Sustainability Advisory Board, the NYC Economic Opportunity Commission, the NYC Workforce Investment Board, the New York City Commission on Women's Issues, the Advisory Board for New York City's Out-of-School Time (OST) Initiative, the Citizens Union, the Fund for the City of NY, and several other not-for-profit boards.

Fuchs has been the recipient of numerous grants, including the Ford Foundation on Political Participation and the Civic Culture of Moslem Communities in NYC, the US Department of Justice on Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act, and the National Health and Human Service Employees Union AFL-CIO project on Political Participation in NYC and NYS.

The author of several publications on urban politics and policy, Fuchs is a frequent political commentator in print, broadcast, and new media. She received a B.A. from Queens College, CUNY, an M.A. from Brown University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Chicago.