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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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June 4, 2010

Matthew Goldstein, *Chair*
Charter Revision Commission
2 Lafayette Street, Room 1414
New York, NY 10007

Lorna Goodman, *Executive Director*
Charter Revision Commission
2 Lafayette Street, Room 1414
New York, NY 10007

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Goldstein, Ms. Goodman and Mayor Bloomberg:

At its Full Board meeting on May 20, 2010, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

Community Board #2, Manhattan Resolution Calling on the New York City Charter Revision Commission To Forgo Placing Proposals on the 2010 Ballot

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of New York has convened a Charter Revision Commission to review “the entire City Charter” and propose “changes that will improve the lives of New Yorkers”; and

WHEREAS, Charter Revision presents a significant opportunity to engage New Yorkers in a substantive conversation about their government; and

WHEREAS, history has shown that the most inclusive and reform-minded commissions, such as the 1989 Ravitch/Schwarz Commission appointed by Mayor Koch, “require significant time for public debate and vetting of ideas”; and

WHEREAS, proposing initiatives for the November 2010 ballot would unnecessarily limit the Commission’s timeframe for conducting a thorough analysis and considering public input; and

WHEREAS, waiting to propose initiatives until 2011 or 2012 would likely have little effect on voter turnout. As evidenced by the vote totals for the 2002 and 2003 Charter amendments, where 24,000 more votes were cast in the 2003 “off-year” election, voter turnout depends upon the degree to which the public has been engaged;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB#2, Man. calls on the City Charter Commission to forgo placing any proposals on the 2010 ballot and instead first engage in a comprehensive public debate about City government before considering any proposals.

Vote: Unanimous, with 40 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Ms. Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/fa

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Bill DeBlasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Sandy Myers, CB2 Liaison, Man. Borough President’s office
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU