



MINUTES FOR THE JULY 11, 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 Fordham University in the Bronx, New York at 5:00 p.m. on July 11, 2024.

Commissioner Grillo, serving as Acting-Chair, presided at the meeting. The Acting-Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 5:18 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Chair Carlo Scissura¹
- Kyle Bragg
- Ken Ngai²
- Reverend Herbert Daughtry, Sr.
- Ruben Díaz Jr.
- Christopher B. Lynch³
- Stephanie McGraw
- Jackie Rowe-Adams

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.

¹ Attended via teleconference

² Attended via teleconference

³ Attended via teleconference

Francisco Moya, City Council Member for the 21st District, testified in support of the Charter Revision Commission's preliminary report recommendation to extend the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) authority to clean all city owned land.⁴

Jason Otaño, General Counsel to the City Council, testified on two recommendations in the Commission's preliminary report: requiring legislative Fiscal Impact Statements (FIS) to be produced earlier in the legislative process and the harmonization of the budget process with the Council's legislative power.

Joshua Goodman, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs and Experience for the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) testified in support of (1) expanding DSNY's jurisdiction to include enforcement of cleanliness related laws and provide cleaning authority over all city areas, including parks, (2) amending the Charter to enable the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement (OSVE) to enforce vendor regulations on parks and other areas uniformly, and (3) amending the Charter to require containerization of refuse to eliminate black bags and promote rodent resistant waste disposal.

Patricia Murphy, from the Preserve Harlem's Legacy Historic Preservation, testified on the need to repurpose historic buildings instead of demolishing them, stating that there needed to be more community engagement in both preserving historic structures and developing new ones.

Richard Lee, Director of the City Council Finance Division, testified to clarify the current fiscal impact statement (FIS) process, explaining that these statements are initially prepared by the administration and then reviewed by the Council.

Charles Callaway testified in support of creating an independent M/WBE agency to monitor and support M/WBE businesses.

⁴ Testified remotely

Curtis Silwa, Founder and CEO of the Guardian Angels, testified in support of repealing New York City's sanctuary city status and placing it on the ballot for referendum.⁵

Vanessa L. Gibson, President of the Borough of Bronx, testified in support of proposals to (1) amend the Charter to assign the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) responsibility for handling Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) cases involving community board members, due to insufficient resources at the borough president level, (2) update the Charter to ensure that community board members, who are not city employees, can access required training via DCAS's system, (3) to include borough boards in the notification process for the city's comprehensive waterfront plan, as currently mandated by Section 205 of the Charter for elected officials and community boards, and (4) to amend Section 85-D to allow a borough board measure to pass with a simple majority of affirmative votes, rather than requiring a majority of members present.

Karen Wharton, Democracy Coalition Coordinator of Citizen Action, testified in support of retaining ranked choice voting (RCV) in municipal elections.⁶

Francisco Navarro, Senior Policy Advisory in the Mayor's Office of Operations, testified in his personal capacity to propose (1) eliminating the office of the Public Advocate, (2) converting the position of City Comptroller from an elected to an appointed role, (3) instituting a ban on former elected officials serving as agency heads for at least two years after leaving office, and (4) creating a petition process that allows the public to bring referendums to the general election each year.⁷

⁵ Testified remotely

⁶ Testified remotely

⁷ Testified remotely

Sharlene Jackson Mendez, Vice President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance, testified in support of (1) repealing New York City’s sanctuary city status, and (2) requiring increased public input before legislation regarding public safety is passed.

Alejandro Madi-Cerrada urged the Commission to incorporate racial equity, diversity, and inclusion into any Charter amendments. He emphasized the need for increased resources for city agencies and programs to actively support the community and younger generations.

Roxanne Delgado testified in opposition to the “How Many Stops Act”. She further raised concerns about (1) greater oversight of community boards, (2) requiring financial qualifications for the position of Comptroller, and (3) revising the calculation of Area Median Income (AMI) in determining affordable housing.

Ms. [no first name provided] Hurley asked the Commission for information on funding for private schools.

John Felci reiterated his prior testimony to place New York City’s sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.⁸ He also urged the Commission to review New York’s right to shelter law.

Karl Beecher suggested regulating building addresses to be more visible.⁹

Bernadette Ferrara, President of the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance, testified in support of a proposal to include the requirement of voter IDs and in favor of placing New York City’s sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum, and the proposal to containerize refuse.¹⁰

After hearing from all those members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, the Acting-Chair closed the public hearing. A motion was made by Acting Chair Grillo to adjourn. The

⁸ Testified remotely

⁹ Testified remotely

¹⁰ Testified remotely

motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynch and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commissioners present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamza Suhail
New York City Charter Revision Commission