



MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 27, 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 in Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn, at 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2024.

The Chair, Carlo Scissura, presided at the meeting. The Secretary called the meeting to order at approximately 5:10 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Ken Ngai ¹
- Kyle Bragg²
- Reverend Herbert Daughtry, Sr.
- Christopher B. Lynch
- Jackie Rowe-Adams

Introductions of the commissioners present were made.

The Commission held a public forum during which it heard testimony from the public concerning any comments, proposals, and recommendations for possible revisions to the New York City Charter.

Michael J. Garner, Chief Business and Diversity Officer of the NYC Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises reiterated his previous testimony about the importance of an independent centralized M/WBE agency. He stated that this would result in cost savings and the inclusive award of contracts. Commissioner Rowe-Adams inquired about the number of M/WBE companies in New York. Mr. Garner replied that there were 11,500 certified

¹ Attended virtually

² Attended virtually

companies but only 1,600 had won contracts at the prime level or were working at the subcontractor level. Commissioner Lynch also inquired about the hierarchy in the proposed M/WBE office.

Robert Holbrook, Executive Director of Get Stuff Built for the Office of the Mayor of NYC, testified in support of transferring waterfront permitting authority to the Department of Buildings, on the importance of maintaining the city's waterfront, and stated that there needed to be an efficient system for contractors to obtain all permits necessary from a single agency, as opposed to going to different agencies to obtain permits.

Ana Diaz, an M/WBE contractor, testified on her personal experience about the importance M/WBE mentorship programs and stated an independent centralized M/WBE agency can further those goals.

Barbara Blair, President of the Garment District Alliance, testified on establishing a framework of principles for fair share stating that there was a lack of centralized oversight for fair share criteria. She proposed revising the Charter to (1) require that non-profits contracted to perform city services be included and counted as a city facility; and (2) require an agency proposing a potential sighting to submit a neighborhood impact report which would demonstrate that the facilities serve the needs of the immediate geographic region, except where that need was created by the unfair over concentration of similar existing facilities by the city and state.

Daniel Golliher, Founder of Maximum New York, testified in support of a change to the title of comptroller to “Chief Financial Officer,” stating that it would help voter education and literacy.

Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Chair of the Kings County Democratic Committee, testified in support of establishing an independent centralized agency for the M/WBE and stated the

importance of having mentorship programs in every agency to increase minority and women workers in the construction field. Commissioner Rowe-Adams inquired about the outreach being done for M/WBE contractors. Chair Rodneyse stated that there was a newsletter and several forums to advocate for legislation pertaining to M/WBEs.

Kwame Amoaku, Deputy Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), testified in favor of a proposal to amend the Charter to give MOME direct authority to issue film permits. He stated that the current system was inefficient and conflicted with administrative regulations.

Karl-Henry Cezar testified on the Charter Revision Commission's timeframe, questioning whether there was enough opportunity to solicit public engagement and whether the City had the resources to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Jarryd Rauch testified in support of increasing the Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) authority to enforce sanitation laws on all city-owned land. He stated that DSNY's authority had to be clearly defined in the Charter.

Andrea Biro testified in support of a proposal to remove the Sheriff's office from the Department of Finance. She further testified in opposition to removing the surety bond requirement and stated that elected officials should pay their own surety bonds that the public could claim against in the event of misconduct.

Mona Davids, on behalf of the School Safety Coalition, testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.³

³ Testified remotely

Minister Irene Estrada-Rukaj testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum, and stated that police policy should only be dictated by the Mayor and the Police Commissioner, with no input from the City Council.⁴

Melkis Antigua raised concerns about issues in NYCHA apartments not being resolved.⁵ Chair Scissura referred him to the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs.

David Turner testified in favor of not putting forth anything on this year's ballot due to the short timeframe of the Charter Revision Commission.

Frank Morano testified in support of a proposal to require half of a community board's members be directly appointed by the council member and half by the borough president. He also proposed elections for a portion of community board members with defined terms in the future. He also proposed that if community boards reject a land use application that the City Planning Commission still intends to pursue, the land use application must be approved by two-thirds vote.⁶

Jay Sorid testified in support of proposals to (1) extend the deadline to submit public testimony by 30 days after community boards came back from recess; (2) hold elections for community board members instead of appointing them; (3) establish a of veto in the ULURP process; and (4) include state facilities in calculating fair share.⁷

Special Hagan testified her concerns about the fiscal outcome of centralizing the M/WBE agency and concerns about the growth of the mentorship program from its inception.⁸

Heba Khalil, Executive Director of Emgage Action's New York Chapter, testified in support of ranked choice voting and delaying electoral reform until further research is done on its

⁴ Testified remotely

⁵ Testified through a Spanish interpreter.

⁶ Testified remotely

⁷ Testified remotely

⁸ Testified remotely

effects.⁹ She stated that ranked choice voting helps with diversity, eliminates the need for runoff elections, and aligns with democratic values.

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 Commissioner Rowe-Adams and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamza Suhail
New York City Charter Revision Commission

⁹ Testified remotely