



MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 26, 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 the NYC Department of Design and Construction in Queens, at 5:00 p.m. on June 26, 2024.

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

- Dr. Hazel N. Dukes
- Kyle Bragg
- Lorraine Grillo
- Christopher B. Lynch
- Stephanie McGraw
- Jackie Rowe-Adams

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Introductions of the commissioners present were made. Chair Scissura made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission report as published on June 24, 2024. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grillo, and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

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.

Robert Holden, Council Member for the 30th District, testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum. He further testified in support of the Charter Revision Commission's preliminary report recommendations of (1) requiring fiscal impact

statements whenever legislation is passed that creates an unfunded mandate; (2) more community engagement on legislation that concerns public safety; and (3) expanding the Department of Sanitation's jurisdiction to clean and enforce sanitation laws on all city-owned land. Council Member Holden opposed the "How Many Stops Act". Commissioner Bragg inquired if the City Council could repeal New York City's sanctuary city status by legislation.

Magalie D. Austin, the Executive Deputy Commissioner of the NYC Department of Design and Construction (DDC), testified in support of establishing a separate agency for M/WBE, stating that the compliance aspect in awarding contracts should be centralized.

Michael J. Garner, Chief Business and Diversity Officer of the NYC Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, testified in support of creating a centralized agency for M/WBE, and placing that proposal on the ballot for referendum. He stated that the creation of a centralized agency would allow contracts to be awarded in a more inclusive and cost-effective manner.

Maya Powell read out a written statement by Nantasha Williams, Council Member of District 27. Council Member Williams testified that the Equal Employment Practices Commission (EEPC) needed a budget and staff increase to fulfill their charter mandated functions.

Samuel Padilla, a M/WBE contractor, testified in support of the creation of a single centralized M/WBE agency. He stated that this would enhance efficiency and accountability and centralize data collection and analysis.

Rohan Dufriedas, a M/WBE contractor, testified in support of the creation of a single centralized M/WBE agency. He stated that the current system for awarding contracts was not efficient.

Everett Perry, a M/WBE contractor, testified in support of the creation of a single centralized M/WBE agency stating that doing so would help all businesses.

Victor Trombettas testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.

Joy Amanda testified in opposition of removing the surety bond requirement for elected officials. She further voiced her concerns about the lack of clarity as to what defines public safety legislation but agreed there needs to be more public engagement.

Alex Vega testified to (1) repeal New York City's sanctuary city status, and (2) hold a recall vote for all elected and appointed officials in New York City.

Claudine Thuilot testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.

Joi Schlapp testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.

Frank Morano testified in relation to his disagreement with the Preliminary Report of the Charter Revision Commission, stating that there was insufficient mention of electoral reform as a recommendation.¹ He further testified in support of the community board restructuring, requiring a filing fee for candidates to get onto the ballot, and placing non-partisan elections on the ballot for referendum.

Stephanie (no last name provided) testified in support of placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.²

Maria Danzilo testified in support of a proposal to require the Comptroller to hold an advanced degree in either finance or law and related experience as a prerequisite to assuming the

¹ Testified remotely

² Testified remotely

position.³ She further suggested tightening New York City's conflict of interest laws, so that the Comptroller has no say in who gets appointed to the Conflict of Interest Board. Lastly, she supported placing non-partisan elections on the ballot for referendum.

Special Hagan testified in support of proposals to (1) require commissioners at every agency receive performance evaluations that assess their adherence to M/WBE goals; (2) improve monitoring of the M/WBE program; and (3) enhance provisions for enforcing penalties on M/WBE contractors.⁴

Oneximo Feliz testified in support of (1) placing New York City's sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum, and (2) requiring the Comptroller to hold an advanced degree in finance or law.⁵

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 Bragg and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamza Suhail
New York City Charter Revision Commission

³ Testified remotely

⁴ Testified remotely

⁵ Testified remotely