



MINUTES FOR THE JULY 9, 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 Staten Island University Hospital-North Campus in Staten Island, New York at 5:00 p.m. on July 9, 2024.

Secretary Ken Ngai, serving as Acting-Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 5:11 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Chair Carlo Scissura¹
- Ruben Díaz Jr.²
- Christopher B. Lynch³
- Max Rose
- 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.

Tom Hicks, Associate Executive Director of Staten Island University Hospital, welcomed the Commission to the hospital campus.

¹ Attended via teleconference

² Attended via teleconference

³ Attended via teleconference

James Clinton, on behalf of the Staten Island District Attorney (“D.A.”) Michael McMahon, testified on the need to have a more transparent criminal justice system. He expressed the D.A.’s support for obtaining the advice and consent of law enforcement prior to the passage of legislation concerning public safety.

James Moschella, General Counsel for the Detective Endowments Association, and Rick Simplicio, Vice President of the Detective Endowments Association, testified in support of the Charter Revision Commission’s preliminary report proposal for increased public input in public safety legislation. Mr. Moschella further proposed reforming the Civilian Complaint Board Review Board (CCRB), advocating to make the process fairer for officers being investigated and more transparent to the public.

Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the New York City Board of Elections, testified on the history of changes made to the election system, and future changes yet to be implemented. He expressed supported for deferring electoral reform until the effects of current changes to the election system can be fully evaluated.

Michael Arvanites, on behalf of Councilmember Kamilah Hanks, testified in support of (1) improving the payment process for non-profits, (2) granting Borough Commissioners a local funding revenue stream to enable local projects essential to their boroughs, (3) allowing all documentation for city services be submitted with an electronic signature, and (4) creating a new Office of Disaster Assistance to assist with smaller scale disasters.

Michael Trollo, on behalf of Concerned Citizens of Staten Island, testified in support of the proposal for more public input in legislation regarding public safety, further opining that increased public input should be required for other legislation as well.

George Tormo and Salvatore Montforte, members of Staten Island Strong, stated that the well-being of the elderly and veterans needed to be prioritized. They proposed enacting Staten Island Shore laws that would protect the elderly and veteran population from wrongful eviction from senior and assisted living facilities.

Agnes Van Dina, Vice President of the Oakwood Residents Civic Association, testified in support of (1) increased police presence in Staten Island; (2) funding the police; and (3) qualified immunity for police officers. She also proposed making community boards' land use advisements mandatory on the City Council.

Florence Petruzzelli testified on issues outside the purview of the Charter Revision Commission process. She was directed to the appropriate agency to raise her concerns.

Carla Mohan testified in opposition to New York City's sanctuary city status. She also voiced her concerns about public safety and the City of Yes.

John Felci testified in support of reviewing and amending New York City's sanctuary city status.

Bradley Tusk testified in support of a proposal to create a ballot initiative for a public hearing where the Mayor could decide whether to recommend the recall of state and local judges whose decisions did not align with the needs and views of the people.⁴

Audria Lamberton testified in support of proposals to (1) add a chapter to the Charter that specifically references the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its protections, (2) recognize American Sign Language (ASL) as a designated city language so that reading materials are required to be translated into ASL, and (3) create a New York City Commission that provides guidance, support, and ADA enforcement for individuals with hearing disabilities.⁵

⁴ Testified remotely

⁵ Testified remotely

Liz Andrie testified in support of repealing New York City’s sanctuary city status and placing it on the ballot for referendum. She further testified against New York City’s right to shelter law.

Frank Rapacciuolo, Chief of Staff for Council Minority Leader Joesph Borelli, testified in support of a proposal to repeal and roll back New York City’s sanctuary city status.

Frank Morano testified in support of a proposal to require all Charter Revision proposals be treated equally on the ballot by preventing mayoral-appointed Commissions from overriding voter ballot initiatives.⁶ Additionally, he proposed a recurring ballot question to form a Charter Revision Commission every twenty years. Mr. Morano also called for (1) independent, baseline budget increases for community boards, (2) eliminating signature requirements to run for office and replacing them with a filing fee, and (3) implementing ranked-choice voting in general elections.

Jasmine Robinson testified in support of placing New York City’s sanctuary city status on the ballot for referendum.⁷ She further supported the recommendations of the Commission outlined in the preliminary report.

Special Hagan testified on her concerns about the practical implementation of a new M/WBE agency and the citywide training initiative recently proposed by the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety.⁸

Edward Josey, President of the NAACP of Staten Island, testified on his concerns about the placement of shelters in underserved communities.⁹

⁶ Testified remotely

⁷ Testified remotely

⁸ Testified remotely

⁹ Testified remotely

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 Ngai to adjourn. The motion was thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hamza Suhail
New York City Charter Revision Commission