



MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 13, 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 New York Law School in Manhattan, at 5:00 p.m. on June 13, 2024.

The Chair, Carlo Scissura, presided at the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 5:15 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Dr. Hazel N. Dukes
- Ken Ngai¹
- Kyle Bragg
- Christopher B. Lynch
- Stephanie McGraw
- Max Rose
- Jackie Rowe-Adams

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Introductions of the commissioners present were made. The Chair announced upcoming hearings in the Bronx on June 17, 2024 and in Brooklyn on June 20, 2024.

The Commission held a public forum during which it heard testimony from experts as well as members of the public concerning any comments, proposals, and recommendations for possible revisions to the New York City Charter regarding fiscal responsibility and other topics members

¹ Attended via teleconference.

of the public wished to raise. Throughout the hearing, the Commissioners asked periodically for details and clarification on the testimony provided.

Kathy Wylde, President of the Partnership for NYC, commented on fiscally responsible practices that could alleviate the housing affordability crisis.

NYS Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick commented on the nature of the charter commission process and the housing crisis, which she views as the City's biggest issue.

James Bristow of the Office of Management and Budget and Matt Penfold of the Department of Finance described the respective roles of their agencies in promoting fiscal management and responsibility.

Louisa Chafee, Director of the Independent Budget Office shared ideas to improve fiscal responsibility with improved transparency and time limits on emergency contracts.

Richard (Bo) Dietl argued that City Council was impeding effective policing, and the Commission should give power back to the Mayor.

Andrew Rein of the Citizens Budget Commission made recommendations for fiscal integrity regarding the Rainy Day Fund, the Retiree Health Benefits Trust, local legislation, budgeting accuracy, debt service costs, performance management, and resident feedback. On the same panel, Edmund McMahon of the Empire Center for Public Policy made recommendations regarding local legislation, the Mayor's financial plan and prohibitions on the use of long-term borrowing.

Mitchell Moss, the Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at New York University, made recommendations regarding prudent spending.

City Comptroller Brad Lander spoke about proposals previously submitted to the Commission in writing regarding Rainy Day fund policy, a City savings program, debt affordability, infrastructure and capital planning, and late payment of vendors.

City Council Member Gale Brewer appeared via Zoom to thank the Commission and say that she would testify at a later date.

Barbara Blair of the Garment District Alliance commented via Zoom regarding the fair share laws.

Erica Vladimir commented on the CCRB's budget, an independent investigatory body for harassment claims against elected and appointed officials, and succession of the Mayor.

Jeanne Victor of the Equal Employment Practices Commission suggested proposals regarding the fiscal independence of EEPC, additional enforcement measures for the EEPC, and EEPC's jurisdiction.

Howard Slatkin of the Citizens Housing & Planning Council testified regarding an idea to make the housing budget go further.

David Schwartz of the NY Association of Wholesalers and Distributors commented about the illegal trafficking and sale of untaxed cigarettes.

Layla Law-Gisiko of City Club of New York proposed that registered lobbyists be prohibited from appointments to task forces, working groups and boards of the City.

Ben Tucker of YAFFED testified about improvement to the quality of education at failing Yeshivas.

Goran Svorcan proposed the banning of private parks.

Tiffany Fulton of Silent Voices United, Inc. and C3 testified about youth services.

Frank Morano testified via Zoom about non-partisan elections and the absence of a partisan label on the ballot.

Andrea Gordillo on behalf of CB3 testified about formalizing support for community boards and funding for urban planners to support ULURP responsibilities and condemned the 60-day limitation on shelter stays for families of public school students; she advocated for waiving such rule for asylum-seeker families.

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 McGraw and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commission members present.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina Hassan
Deputy General Counsel
New York City Charter Revision Commission