



MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 23, 2025 HEARING OF THE NEW YORK CITY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Charter Revision Commission was held at New York Law School, 185 West Broadway, New York, New York at 5 p.m. on April 23, 2025.

Chair Richard Buery presided at the meeting. The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 5:21 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Sharon Greenberger, Vice Chair
- Leila Bozorg, Secretary
- Anita Laremont
- Diane Savino
- Valerie White
- Anthony Richardson
- Carl Weisbrod
- Shams DeBaron
- Kathryn Wylde

- Julie Samuels
- Lisette Nieves

The Chair provided introductions and an overview of the Charter Revision Commission's role and explained ways for the public to provide testimony in-person or virtually at public hearings and by submitting written testimony online.

The minutes from the meetings of the Commission held March 4, 2025 and April 9, 2025 were adopted by a unanimous vote. The Chair then welcomed the public to provide testimony.

- Council Member Amanda Farías, City Council Majority Leader, testified in support of the City Council's role in the land use review process and in support of streamlining the processes outside of ULURP (Uniform Land Use Review Procedure), greater community education and engagement, allowing council members to serve a third term, and examining the distribution of development across neighborhoods.
- Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers, City Council Majority Whip, testified in support of the City Council's role and expanded community involvement in the land use review process and the importance of addressing infrastructure needs before adding additional density.

- Council Member Alexa Avilés testified in support of the City Council’s role in land use, comprehensive planning, and enforcement mechanisms for the City Charter’s fair share provisions.
- Council Member Gail Brewer testified in favor of City Council review of major concessions, requiring Department of City Planning (DCP) to brief Community Boards (CB) before they take action on a ULURP application, greater land use training for CB members, a New York City land bank, City Council approval of landmark demolitions, replacing revocable consent with a permit, even year elections, and against Community Board term limits.
- Jessica Katz testified about her experience with ULURP and equity issues of member deference, and in support of exempting housing from certain land use reviews and longer City Council term limits.
- Howard Slatkin, Executive Director of Citizens Housing and Planning Council, testified in support of allowing the City Planning Commission (CPC) to override the Council with a super-majority vote on ULURP applications and a Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) waiver for affordable housing.

- Britny McKenzie, of Fair Housing Justice Center, testified about housing discrimination and in support of fair housing, comprehensive planning, and housing for people with disabilities.
- Keri Butler, Interim President of Municipal Art Society, testified about changes to ULURP and suggested the creation of an appeals panel, and against faster processes for certain uses and disposing city-owned property.
- Sara Penenberg, of Local 32BJ, testified in support of preserving public involvement in the ULURP process.
- Annie Levers, on behalf of Brad Lander, testified in support of strengthening fair share rules, expediting rezoning, comprehensive planning, a citizen's assembly, and a 10-year capital strategy integrated with land use planning.
- DeRay Mckesson, of Campaign Zero, testified about the authority of the New York's Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) over police discipline and compared it to other jurisdictions.
- Cassandra Ippaso, of Campaign Zero, testified in favor of expanding the size of the CCRB and the number of non-mayoral appointees, limiting interim chairs to 60-days, and providing it with greater power.

- Abdul Nasser Rad, of Campaign Zero, testified on how the CCRB is limited in its ability to hold the police accountable.
- Hassan Naveed, of Campaign Zero, testified in favor of granting the CCRB final disciplinary authority.
- Benjamin Kallos, former city councilmember, testified in support of proposals for increasing the housing supply and community planning.
- Brendan Cheney, Director of Policy and Operations for New York Housing Conference, testified in support of a BSA fast track and various reforms to ULURP.
- Moses Gates, Vice President of Housing at Regional Plan Association, testified in favor of improved land use processes, including an appeals process.
- Dena Tasse-Winter, of Village Preservation, testified against reducing public oversight over land use processes to protect historic resources, neighborhood character, and existing affordable housing.
- Annemarie Gray, Executive Director of Open New York, testified in favor of a fast track for certain types of housing.
- Michelle de la Uz, Executive Director of Fifth Avenue Committee, testified in favor of comprehensive planning, exempting 100% affordable housing on city-owned land from ULURP, merging CB and

BP review, and citizen oversight task forces for city-sponsored rezoning.

- Benjy Ross, a member of the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee to the MTA, testified in support of expanding zoning for accessibility around transit stops, comprehensive planning, streamlined reviews for projects that meet citywide goals, and ending parking minimums citywide.
- Karl-Henry Cesar, a member of Brooklyn CB14, testified against merging reviews by the CB and BP during ULURP.
- Gabriel Turzo, a member of Manhattan CB6, testified in support of CB involvement in ULURP.
- Simeon Bankoff, of Campaign for a Livable City, testified in support of requiring unit replacement of demolished units, demolition fees, community land banking, and additional tenant protections.
- Roberta Gratz, of Campaign for a Livable City, testified on the loss of affordable housing and in support of requiring on-site replacement in cases of demolition
- Kimberly Cruz testified on protecting resident health and privacy.
- Tara Duvivier, of Pratt Center for Community Development, testified on comprehensive planning and community input in ULURP.

- Christie Peale, CEO of the Center for New York City Neighborhoods, testified in favor of infrastructure investment, comprehensive planning, affordable homeownership programs, streamlining ULURP for affordable housing and a stronger fair housing framework.
- Lo van der Valk, of Carnegie Hill Neighbors, expressed his concern about the loss of community input in the land use decision-making process.
- Ken A. testified in support of streamlining the process for building housing, “builder’s remedy,” and changes to the approval process for the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- Maria Danzilo, Executive Director of One City Rising, testified in support of open primaries.
- Frampton Tolbert, Executive Director of Historic Districts Council, testified in favor of adaptive reuse and against diminishing public participation in the land use process.
- Melanie Wesslock, of One City Rising, testified in support of open primaries.
- Michael Lewyn testified in support of fast-tracking housing in areas lacking affordable housing.

After hearing from all members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, the Chair closed the public hearing portion of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Brodheim and Eric Ouyang
New York City Charter Revision Commission