



MINUTES FOR THE MAY 19, 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 Medgar Evers College, 1650 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York at 5 p.m. on May 19, 2025.

Vice Chair Sharon Greenberger presided at the meeting as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 p.m. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Leila Bozorg, Secretary
- Anthony Richardson
- Carl Weisbrod
- Grace Bonilla
- Julie Samuels
- Valerie White
- Diane Savino
- Kathryn Wylde
- Dr. Lisette Nieves

- Shams DaBaron¹

The Acting 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 Acting Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum. Commissioner Weisbrod made a motion to approve minutes from the meeting of the Commission held May 14, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner White, and thereafter adopted unanimously by all Commissioners present.

The Acting Chair welcomed members of the public and elected officials to provide testimony to the Commission.

Assembly Member Robert Carroll testified in support of election reform consisting of open primaries with RCV followed by a top two general election.

John Avlon, Chairman of Citizens Union, testified in support of open primaries.

Randy Peers, an independent voter, testified in support of open primaries.

Council Member Lincoln Restler, testified to the importance of targeting issues that can only be addressed through the charter and cautioned against increasing mayoral power.

Tong Galaxy testified in support of the creation of an agency dedicated to crisis management and foresight and the establishment of a citywide data and software system

¹ Attended via teleconference

inventory.

Winsome Pendergrass testified against an open or jungle primary system.

Alice Rydel, an independent voter, testified in favor of open primaries.

Christine Helm testified in support of open primaries.

Kaitlyn Schuster, a representative of SEIU Local 32BJ, testified in support of reforming Charter land use procedures for modest projects in low-density areas, near transit, and in areas that fail to produce housing in line with the fair housing framework, but cautioned against exempting 100% affordable projects from ULURP regardless of size.

Sarah Penenberg, a representative of SEIU Local 32BJ, testified in support of reforms to promote timely payment to non-profit vendors.

Yvonne Lee testified in support of open primaries.

Mary Fridley testified in support of open primaries.

Jasmine Marie testified about the need for reforms for the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Sarah Prinsloo testified in support of a system that allows independent voters to participate in primaries.

Sophia Cohen testified in support of open primaries.

Melissa Fisher testified in support of open primaries.

Gwen Lowenheim testified in support of open primaries.

Sheryl Williams testified in support of open primaries.

Vanessa Rudin testified in support of open primaries or ranked choice voting in the general election.

Dr. Jessie Fields testified in support of open primaries.

Council Member Pierina Ana Sanchez testified in support of changes to the land use process to provide “teeth” to the Fair Housing Framework, while underscoring the importance of the community and City Council in land use decisions.

David Belmont testified in support of open primaries.

Yvonne Murray testified in support of open primaries.

Barbara Blair, President of the Garment District Alliance, testified in support to changes to the City’s fair share framework.

Benny Rosenberger, a community board member, testified that community board decisions should be more than advisory and that decisions impacting local homeowners should be subject to those homeowners.

Karen Wharton testified against jungle primaries.

Suwen Cheong, a community board member, testified in support of comprehensive planning, maintaining community board review timeframes, and against builders’ remedy like proposals.

Jessica Rosenfeld testified in support of changes to land use and open primaries.

Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause NY, testified against an open-primary system citing concerns with how ballots would be laid out with regards to fusion voting and concerns with voter education.

Secretary Leila Bozorg assumed the role of Acting Chair at 7:37pm.

Vishnu Reddy testified in support of election reforms, housing and land use reforms, and against reforms to facilitate curbside EV charging.

Sean Scott testified in support of ambitious housing proposals and suggested height limits be substituted for floor area ratio in the regulation of buildings.

Sherease Torain testified in support of reforms to prevent deed fraud, equity theft, and gentrification.

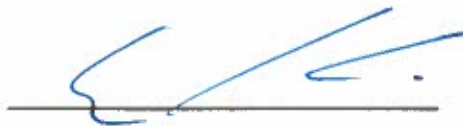
After hearing from all members of the public in attendance who wished to speak, the Acting Chair closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by the Acting Chair at 7:49p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Brodheim
New York City Charter Revision Commission

Adopted:



**Edward Kiernan, Special Counsel
New York City Charter Revision Commission**

May 28, 2025