

Charter Revision Commission

Thursday, July 23, 2026

5:14 p.m.

Landmarks Preservation Commission Public Hearing Room

253 Broadway, Second Floor

New York, NY 10007

Reported by: Abigail Rodriguez

JOB NO: 8329332

A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Patrick Gaspard, Chair

Emma Wolfe, Vice Chair

Susan Kang, Secretary

Marco Carrion, Commissioner

Henry Garrido, Commissioner

Kapil Longani, Commissioner

Ruth Messinger, Commissioner

Theodore Moore, Commissioner

Ana Oliveira, Commissioner

Dawn Pinnock, Commissioner

Carlina Rivera, Commissioner

Esther Rosario, Commissioner

Marc Shaw, Commissioner

Barika Williams, Commissioner

Kathryn Wylde, Commissioner

Ann Cheng, Executive Director

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. GASPARD: Welcome to the final public meeting of the 2026 Commission on Government Efficiency, a Charter Revision Commission. My name is Patrick Gaspard. I'm honored to serve as chair.

Since this commission was announced in May, we've undertaken a thorough review of the entire New York City Charter to build a 21st century government that New Yorkers deserve and need. Over the past two months, we've heard from New Yorkers across all five boroughs and all walks of life. We've endeavored to make our commission as accessible as possible, holding ten hearings, two in each borough.

We've updated the public along the way, releasing a preliminary report reflecting what we've heard and the potential reforms that we've been considering. We've regularly released written comments to the public and made recordings, transcripts, and summaries of our meetings available to all.

Joining me in this task are 14 extraordinary New Yorkers who are serving as my fellow commissioners. They are Vice Chair Emma Wolfe, Secretary Susan Kang, Marco Carrion, Henry Garrido, Kapil Longani, Ruth Messinger, Theodore Moore, Ana

1 Oliveira, Dawn Pinnock, Carlina Rivera, Esther
2 Rosario, Marc Shaw, Barika Williams, Kathryn Wylde. I
3 hope that they won't mind that I'll say right now that
4 in addition to serving as your commissioners over
5 these many weeks, we've really become good and dear
6 friends to one another.

7 After a complete review of the city
8 charter, consideration of the public testimony, and
9 research and conversations with experts from across
10 the city and across the country, we are here today to
11 vote on five potential questions to forward to our
12 fellow New Yorkers on the November ballot as our final
13 report.

14 Before we get to that, I want to start
15 by expressing my deepest appreciation to the dedicated
16 staff of this commission. The staff managed the
17 logistics of our public meetings and hearings,
18 welcoming the public, making it easy for people to
19 testify, handling complex technical setups and
20 challenges, preparing commissioners, and ensuring each
21 three-hour session ran as smoothly as possible.

22 They also did extraordinary background
23 work for each of the proposals included and for some
24 others that were not included, providing extensive
25 research on the history of each issue, helping

1 commissioners pursue specific interests in government
2 efficiency, and facilitating discussions with subject
3 matter experts and key city personnel.

4 The staff produced both a draft and
5 final report that are analytic, comprehensive, and
6 easy to digest, and that should be extremely useful to
7 the public, who will be asked to vote on many of the
8 commission's recommendations.

9 I especially want to thank our
10 remarkable executive director, Ann Cheng. As
11 executive director -- as executive director, Ann
12 definitely managed a complex enterprise with steady
13 judgment and curiosity, and we are grateful for her
14 leadership. Chief of staff Daniel Bonthius and
15 general counsel Clava Brodsky more than fulfilled
16 their remits with determination and know-how. We're
17 thankful for their service and the work that every
18 member -- staff member contributed to this commission.

19 I will tell you that there's not a
20 single member of the staff that wasn't really prompt
21 in responding to questions from this commission;
22 questions from elected officials. There were late
23 night calls, emails, text messages over weekends that
24 they immediately responded to and responded to
25 thoughtfully, with comprehension in a -- in a

1 comprehensive way to make sure that we were all
2 well-informed; and we're really grateful to them.

3 I also want to express my thanks to the
4 more than 1200 New Yorkers who attended hearings, more
5 than 250 of whom testified before our commission, and
6 hundreds more who submitted written comments. You
7 reflect the passion of New Yorkers who deserve and
8 need a government of the possible; one that can
9 urgently build infrastructure, promote small business
10 growth, and make the city more livable with accessible
11 childcare and affordable groceries. It's been an
12 honor to serve you over these past many months.

13 A quick note on our process. In a
14 minute, I'll open the floor for any comments from
15 members of this commission on the proposals before us.
16 I'll ask commissioners to keep their remarks to one to
17 two minutes, not more than that, and to take the time
18 to express any comments that they have about the
19 proposals so that when we get to those proposals, we
20 can have a very, very focused discussion on that part
21 of the agenda.

22 I'll also turn to our executive
23 director to give brief remarks. I will then ask our
24 ED to read each of the five ballot proposals before we
25 vote on those proposals and the final report. We'll

1 vote on each one individually, each one of us
2 individually, and then vote on the final report and
3 then on the final resolution.

4 There will be a motion on each ballot
5 question; and after the motion is seconded,
6 discussions can be held. After discussion, I will ask
7 for a -- a roll call vote on each ballot item. We
8 will then have a roll call vote for the final report.

9 Finally, I will call a roll call vote
10 on the resolution that delegates -- that delegates to
11 staff the responsibility for filing these materials
12 with the city clerk and taking whatever other
13 technical actions are needed to make certain that the
14 proposals appear on the ballot in November and that
15 voters are educated well in advance about the
16 proposals.

17 With that out of the way, I'd love to
18 share just a few of my own comments before moving
19 forward. We're ostensibly here today simply because
20 Mayor Mamdani empaneled the Commission on Government
21 Efficiency to modernize the city government. But
22 we're here today more fundamentally because of the
23 spirit of dynamism that fuels our city. New York
24 always feels as if it's on the cusp of something new.
25 The city and its residents are in a constant state of

1 reinvention; I'd say a kind of constant state of a
2 jazz improvisation.

3 Our library plazas become summer
4 concert venues. Roads are closed off for block
5 parties. The engine of New York's economy was once
6 its waterfront with its ships and its factories and
7 its oyster beds. Today, innovation powers the -- the
8 city via a web of interconnected inventors from
9 technology companies in the Flatiron District to small
10 businesses in Queens.

11 It is in this spirit of dynamism that
12 the mayor convened this commission, and it's in that
13 very same spirit that all of our commissioners
14 approached our work. COGE has undertaken a sincere
15 fulfillment of a vision that ensures that city
16 government is operating with the same level of focus
17 that every single working-class New Yorker operates
18 with when they're sitting at their kitchen tables
19 trying to figure out how to pay their bills.

20 That means we looked at the processes
21 we have, the procedures of city government, and we
22 were clear amongst ourselves here that unlike some
23 other commissions, efficiency was not the end goal.
24 Being able to deliver an affordable New York, that was
25 the end goal.

1 In a few minutes, you'll hear the
2 ballot proposals as we read them and vote on them.
3 Before we go through each one, I want to mention that
4 COGE recommended and the administration agreed to a
5 number of internal reforms that pair with the ballot
6 measures to maximize improvements to New Yorkers.
7 Vice Chair Emma Wolfe will preview those now.

8 Emma?

9 MS. WOLFE: Thank you so much, Chair.

10 I really appreciate the chance to talk
11 about these reforms, which as a former deputy mayor
12 are certainly near and dear in my heart. But I know
13 that I speak for all the commissioners when I say
14 this.

15 First together with other components of
16 city government, COGE sought to find innovations in
17 the City's procurement methods. I'm pleased to
18 recognize that in addition to the procurement ballot
19 question that you'll hear about, the City is committed
20 to reforming its procurement process in several
21 concrete ways. First, working with the City Council,
22 the City will begin moving nonprofit council
23 discretionary awards from procurements to grants,
24 cutting the procurement process by nearly half.

25 The City also agreed to begin

1 restructuring their nonprofit procurements, about
2 which we heard from nonprofits who are owed millions
3 of dollars by the City whose staff and workers are
4 essentially City workers themselves, to competitively
5 procure umbrella agreements with qualified nonprofits
6 to create pools of qualified pre-vetted nonprofit
7 providers eligible to receive future project-specific
8 task orders. Once umbrella agreements are
9 established, the structure will cut a 13-month
10 procurement process by timeline down to six months.

11 The commission also explored ways to
12 streamline the City's internal processes for capital
13 project delivery and hiring. Pleased to share that
14 the city has committed to begin implementation of OMB
15 service standards for the first time for review of
16 hirings and promotions as well as review of capital
17 project initiation applications. These concrete
18 timelines will mean faster, more dependable results
19 for city agencies, improving their ability to
20 efficiently deliver.

21 Finally, due to strong public
22 enthusiasm, the commitment of COGE commissioners, and
23 the Mamdani administration's interest in continuing to
24 become more efficient, COGE will, after the November
25 election, transition from a charter revision

1 commission to an advisory body.

2 COGE was formed as a charter revision
3 commission, meaning that, at present, the primary tool
4 available to both commissioners and the public has
5 been the city charter. However, as we know, the
6 charter is intentionally limited in scope and is
7 focused on matters of fundamental governance. To
8 maintain momentum and continue advancing the work
9 identified through COGE, this new advisory board will
10 continue to engage city workers and the public alike
11 to advise the mayor on government efficiency.

12 Thank you so much, Chair.

13 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so much, Emma,
14 for summarizing those points and more importantly
15 being the force to -- behind ensuring that they
16 happen.

17 I'll also -- I hope you won't mind --
18 give a little bit of credit to fellow commissioner
19 Ruth Messinger on the final point of the continuation
20 of the important work of this commission.

21 I'd like to -- wow. I just got a
22 little emotional thinking about you all. I just
23 really want to express my eternal gratitude to every
24 single one of you. You are incredibly thoughtful. I
25 was impressed with your questions, your input, and

1 your commitment. We've -- we've braved rainstorms.
2 We -- we, you know, were all here through conflicts
3 with the Knicks playoffs and World Cup and all of the
4 great things.

5 And each of you, to a person, extended
6 a tremendous amount of grace to all the New Yorkers
7 who came before this commission, whether they were
8 a -- a city commissioner; a city council member; a
9 subject matter expert; or a really hardworking woman
10 who came to our hearing with her child and told us
11 that she lives without permanent shelter now, and she
12 helped us understand the bureaucracy that she has to
13 brave just to be able to have a safe space for her and
14 her child. And all of you, just remarkable in every
15 single one of those engagements.

16 For those of you who have not yet -- of
17 the general public who've not yet been able to
18 purchase tickets to go see The Odyssey in IMAX, just
19 watch these commission hearings, and you'll see the --
20 the incredible -- an incredible adventure full of
21 passion and that, you know, promoted the hearts of all
22 New Yorkers.

23 I'd like to open up the floor to any
24 comments from my fellow commissioners.

25 First, our vice chairman Wolfe.

1 MS. WOLFE: Thank you so much.

2 I will be very brief 'cause I -- I just
3 got to speak about the reforms that are happening
4 outside the charter that will continue to happen,
5 which I'm incredibly excited about. And credit due to
6 our fellow commissioners, as Patrick said.

7 I just want to say it was a true honor.
8 I got to sit next to the chair at every hearing. And
9 then they -- they very kindly mixed us up at every
10 hearing, so I got to know a lot of my fellow
11 commissioners either again or -- or for the first
12 time. It was a real treat.

13 But I have to say the most inspiring
14 thing was being able to sit for hours in every borough
15 and listen to folks as they came in and took time out
16 of their lives to come in and testify about things
17 that they may have been expert in because they were
18 working for the City for decades upon decades and were
19 subject matter experts; or things that they were
20 expert in because they were users of the experience,
21 because they were clients of the City, because they
22 had experienced the challenges of navigating the
23 bureaucracy themselves.

24 I can't say enough how excited I am to
25 continue the work, and I'll happily pass it on to the

1 next person.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. GASPARD: Our secretary, Susan
4 Kang.

5 MS. KANG: I'll also be brief. And
6 I -- I also want to reiterate that it's been an honor
7 to serve with other commissioners and also to be able
8 to hear the testimony from regular New Yorkers. That
9 was probably the most -- the most useful for me.

10 Very quickly, I want to say that it's
11 very -- it's not sort of lost on me, the importance of
12 this moment, when so many of us are here to try to
13 make government work better for people, faster, more
14 efficient, in a moment when our federal government saw
15 that as a task to destroy basic social services and
16 other things as non-ideological as -- as research
17 funding and put that also under the mantle of
18 government efficiency.

19 So what we're doing in New York is
20 not -- is nothing less to me than a radical stance
21 towards democracy and meeting the needs of people. So
22 we are -- we're not engaged in an ideologic project
23 here, but we are engaged in a radical one; and it's
24 been very -- an honor to be part of that project.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Susan.

2 Ruth Messinger?

3 MS. MESSINGER: Thank you,

4 Mr. Chairman.

5 I want to just say, first of all, that
6 I'm very pleased with the issues that we were able to
7 spotlight and that we were able to move to a future
8 ballot question. It is true on some of these that I
9 personally believe there's more work to be done in the
10 future, which is why I think the whole process that
11 we've been engaged in and will engage in is important.

12 I'm delighted -- I thank the vice chair
13 for speaking to this directly, but I'm delighted that
14 there were a lot of other issues that surfaced that
15 don't have to do directly with the charter, but that
16 we have found a way to describe and bring to further
17 public attention so that they can be acted on in some
18 way in the -- under -- in the Mamdani administration.

19 I was extremely impressed with my
20 fellow commissioners, some of whom I did not know
21 previously, with our shared determination to help
22 improve the efficiency of city government. I want to
23 thank the chair and the vice chair particularly, and
24 just say that I think we have the most amazing staff
25 that I have been privileged to work with over many,

1 many, many years in and out of government.

2 I have something for the commissioners
3 at the end of the hearing today. But leaving that
4 aside, I was also and finally totally delighted with a
5 large number of citizens who came forward to speak
6 with us about the issues and about the bureaucratic
7 challenges that were most on their minds. They were
8 eloquent in describing some of the ways in which
9 government does not help, and it's good for us to be
10 able to address that. I think that we -- the orders
11 like this and with high government responsiveness in
12 this administration, we have a great future ahead of
13 us.

14 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Ruth.
15 Theodore Moore?

16 MR. MOORE: Thank you.

17 This has really been the beginning of
18 an amazing summer here in -- in New York City.
19 Obviously, Knicks in five. Liberty won the
20 Commissioner's Cup. World Cup fever have been
21 happening around the city. Jay-Z at Yankee Stadium.
22 Ariana Grande at the Barclay Center. We had orange
23 skies and dirty rain; ninety-plus degree weather in
24 downtown Brooklyn; torrential downpour in Long Island
25 City. It has truly been in a summer here in New York

1 City.

2 And with all of that happening on top
3 of folks having to work every day to pay for the
4 increasing prices of bread, milk, Pampers, and
5 gasoline, electricity, folks took the time to come out
6 and testify at our hearings, which has been absolutely
7 amazing. Folks took the time to -- to write testimony
8 and submit it online, which shows exactly how truly
9 important the work that we are attempting to do here
10 is.

11 Because anytime a New Yorker takes
12 their time to take the focus off of their everyday
13 life, to think about the bigger picture, means that
14 the work is truly, truly meaningful and it matters.
15 And it matters so much more to me because of the
16 people that are sitting in parts at these tables.

17 So I want to thank you all for the
18 experience and -- and hope that folks realize how
19 truly hard and dedicated we worked on this. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so much,
22 Commissioner. I have to say that Swifties like Mayor
23 Mamdani will be disappointed that in your recitation
24 of the extraordinary things that happened, you did not
25 mention a particular wedding.

1 MR. MOORE: I -- I wasn't invited.

2 MR. GASPARD: Thank you.

3 Ana Oliveira?

4 MS. OLIVEIRA: Thank you so much.

5 And thank you so much for our chair,
6 vice chair, secretary, the incredible staff, and
7 evidently my dear commissioner fellows, and the New
8 Yorkers who came out.

9 I -- at the beginning of this, I
10 thought that, as Susan said a minute ago, when we
11 invite New Yorkers to speak, when we invite people to
12 talk about their hopes, when we invite people to talk
13 about the challenges, there's an enormous
14 responsibility to follow through and an enormous
15 responsibility also in the times that we are because
16 the practice of democracy and restoring confidence in
17 government is so critically important. And I am here
18 today at our final meeting feeling that I had this
19 incredible privilege to be with everyone here that
20 feels the same way and has delivered in the same way.

21 In terms of the content of our work, I
22 think that we created an opportunity to see in a very
23 short period of time, a myriad but actually a
24 consistent set of opportunities and challenges that
25 we're more than ready to address. And that, like you,

1 I have perfect confidence that this administration is
2 embarking in putting the wheels in motion and really
3 showing us that it's totally possible to have
4 government that is responsive and that is effective.
5 The one thing does not end their cares about people.
6 Right?

7 So efficiencies don't have to betray
8 our values; don't have to betray considerations. In
9 fact, they can affirm that. I'm particularly,
10 particularly heartened by the work that has been
11 proposed around how the City relates to its critical
12 partners, small businesses and not-for-profit
13 organizations. So everything is important, but there
14 are so many recommendations that really will
15 facilitate that vibrancy that you were speaking about,
16 our chair, that's so vital in New York.

17 And once again, you know, everything is
18 local. Right? It isn't, but it is. So once again, I
19 think that New York would not only for us grapple and
20 move ahead, but also show to others that that's
21 possible for them to do.

22 So thank you so much. Thank you to the
23 mayor. Thank you to everyone for the opportunity to
24 be part of this.

25 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Ana.

1 Marc Shaw?

2 MR. SHAW: So -- so, you know, I'll --
3 I'll be as quick as I can on a technical subject that
4 most people are not going to want to waste their time
5 thinking about.

6 But one of -- one of the charter
7 amendments we're proposing here is the creation of a
8 rainy day fund for the City of New York's finances.
9 And for those of us that are budget nerds in New York,
10 you know, we take very seriously, ever since the
11 fiscal crisis in 1975, that New York City has to find
12 a way to balance its budget every year. It has
13 successfully done that the last half century now,
14 which is very impressive.

15 But one of the missing things was the
16 lack of a rainy day fund in the City of New York.
17 There were a lot of technical reasons why it didn't
18 exist and it couldn't exist, having to do with state
19 law, the Financial Control Board, the city charter.
20 So, you know, an effort was started a couple years ago
21 to reform the city charter to allow the creation of --
22 of a rainy day fund.

23 What we're recommending here is taking
24 the next step of structuring a rainy day fund that
25 will have as a goal putting aside up to 12 percent of

1 city tax revenues to deal with the downside. And, you
2 know, just to put that in perspective real quickly,
3 you know, we're more like states than cities very
4 often. And, you know, states, I think 49 of them have
5 rainy day funds. They range from 2 percent to 26
6 percent of -- of revenues to deal with bad times.

7 We settled on, after discussions with
8 the Comptroller's Office, our goal of 12 percent. And
9 to me, the 12 percent is both a rational number and a
10 number that reflects the fact that unlike state
11 governments where a lot of their -- they have much
12 higher revenue volatility because of the kind of taxes
13 they have, City of New York's largest tax base is
14 still the real property tax, and it provides the base
15 during bad times and good times.

16 So setting -- setting a goal of 12
17 percent I think is something that will enormously help
18 the future budgeteers that have to balance the budget
19 of the City of New York. So I just wanted to
20 congratulate everybody for proposing this idea.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. GASPARD: Indeed. Thank -- thank
23 you, Marc.

24 Dawn Pinnock?

25 MS. PINNOCK: Thank you.

1 I want to begin by expressing my deep
2 gratitude to Mayor Mamdani for the opportunity to
3 serve and for bringing us all together. Certainly, I
4 have to thank Chair Gaspard, Vice Chair Wolfe for
5 their steady leadership. And to my fellow
6 commissioners, I want to thank you for your
7 brilliance, your wit, your humor, and partnership.

8 I also have to thank the COGE team led
9 by Ann Cheng. She's been phenomenal. And the COGE
10 team, you know, their work has really made ours
11 possible. And certainly have to thank all the New
12 Yorkers who engage with us and share their
13 experiences, their insights to shape our work.

14 So as a former civil servant and
15 current nonprofit leader, I am so proud of the slate
16 of proposals we've put forward. If implemented, they
17 stand to improve the lives and livelihood of people
18 who literally keep this city moving and thriving, like
19 our small business owners and vendors attempting to
20 navigate interagency policies, our nonprofits who are
21 seeking on-time contract registration and on-time
22 payments, our developers who want to build more
23 affordable housing because we need it, and our current
24 and prospective municipal workforce operate under
25 resource constraints and regulatory requirements that

1 are just too onerous to manage effectively.

2 So despite our limited time, I'm really
3 proud with the ground that we've covered and am
4 heartened to know that this work will continue through
5 the work of an advisory board. So it has been a
6 privilege and an absolute blast.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so very much,
9 Dawn.

10 Henry? Henry Garrido?

11 MR. GARRIDO: Yeah. Thank you,
12 Mr. Chair.

13 I want to start by thanking all of you
14 as fellow commissioners. I've learned so much from
15 you. I continue to learn every day. This has been
16 quite a process.

17 And most importantly, I want to thank
18 New Yorkers who came out and expressed their views,
19 their ideas, their recommendations. Once again, I
20 think we're able to prove that New York is maybe
21 critical but not cynical; and their optimism mixed
22 with frustration was something that inspired me to
23 look at some of the things that I -- you know, I
24 thought were difficult but possible. And so I am --
25 I'm proud of the fact that we're proposing a -- a

1 series of recommendations to voters that it's aimed to
2 make their lives easier.

3 I think one of the things that I
4 highlight, and -- and I want to thank the
5 commissioners for doing that. And something I said on
6 the opening stage on this particular room was the fact
7 that we were doing that without abandoning labor
8 standards. So sometimes efficiency is confused with
9 that as we saw at the federal level.

10 You know, there was no chainsaw here.
11 There was actually a hammer to construct. That --
12 there was an idea that we were here to construct and
13 not deconstruct. And we were willing to look at
14 bureaucracies and processes and things to build on
15 that.

16 And like Marc, I want to highlight one
17 area of the five proposals, and that's the reform on
18 procurement, which is often seen as something that is
19 too bureaucratic and too hard to handle and often seen
20 as a way of removing labor standards, as I mentioned.
21 And the fact that we were able to balance the idea of
22 proposing reforming procurement, speeding up process
23 for nonprofits and others to be able to get access to
24 those contracts that are so necessary to continue to
25 do the work of the city without necessarily abandoning

1 the principles and the values that we have all
2 believed in, I think I'm very proud of that.

3 And I want to thank Ann in particular
4 and -- and the staff of the commission for the great
5 work that they did. This was an open, transparent
6 process. The communication was excellent. The
7 participation, interactions with commissioners was
8 something that should be continued and replicate.

9 And also thank the -- you know, the
10 commissioners for the idea of continuing the work
11 because I think this is a great start. I think the
12 ballot questions were, you know, all very important;
13 but I think there's more work to be done. And I want
14 to thank those who continue to support that.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Henry.

17 Kapil Longani?

18 MR. LONGANI: Thank you so much, Chair.

19 Thanks for your eloquent words, Henry.

20 I agree with everything you said.

21 I -- I want to thank the mayor first
22 and foremost for this opportunity. It is truly an
23 honor to serve alongside my fellow commissioners. I,
24 of course, want to thank our brilliant chair, vice
25 chair, secretary, and all these terrific commissioners

1 for their work. And of course, the COGE staff; in
2 particular, our wonderful executive director, Ann
3 Cheng, who's not only a personal friend, but a truly
4 brilliant force. So thrilled that I could work with
5 her on this project.

6 But most importantly, I want to thank
7 my fellow New Yorkers, as I think everyone's
8 expressed, who came out in force. I've had the
9 pleasure of living in many cities around the world,
10 but I think no city has the combined intellect and
11 passion that we have in this incredible city. I
12 learned so much from listening to our fellow New
13 Yorkers, and I leave this commission incredibly
14 inspired.

15 From my perspective, the proposal in
16 COGE's final report are a thoughtful first step in
17 ensuring that we are making the city more affordable;
18 livable; and yes, efficient. It's one thing to say
19 that city government should be more efficient. It's
20 another thing to actually take concrete steps to make
21 that a reality.

22 And I think that's what these proposals
23 attempt to do. They reflect an attempt to deal with
24 outdated and unnecessary or redundant requirements in
25 the city charter on issues like speeding up permits

1 and contracts, an issue that I dealt with often in
2 City Hall. And it's really terrific. And I think
3 it's going to -- if these proposals pass, they really
4 will make a difference in the lives of our fellow New
5 Yorkers.

6 And it's great, as some of my
7 commissioners have mentioned, that this work isn't
8 going to end when COGE adjourns today. We have a
9 mayor who's deeply committed to ensuring that this
10 city addresses obstacles to affordability and
11 inefficiencies, and I'm really excited to see that
12 work continue. And thank you again for the
13 opportunity to serve.

14 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so much, Kapil.
15 Marco Carrion?

16 MR. CARRION: Thank you.

17 You know, what made this commission
18 particularly meaningful to me is I've had the
19 opportunity to see government from so many different
20 perspectives. And those experiences have taught me
21 that when government works well, opportunities expand,
22 services reach people faster, and communities thrive.
23 But when it doesn't, it's often working people,
24 working families, small businesses, and community
25 organizations that feel the impact first; and I

1 believe everyone who was involved in this process
2 understood that.

3 So I want to thank my fellow
4 commissioners; our staff; especially the New Yorkers
5 who participated in this process: the thousands of
6 New Yorkers who attended hearings, the hundreds who
7 testified, and so many more who submitted testimony.
8 Sharing your experiences made our work better and
9 stronger.

10 So as we conclude this chapter of the
11 process, my hope is that the civic engagement doesn't
12 end there. I encourage New Yorkers to learn about
13 these proposals, participate in the public
14 conversation, and most importantly, vote.

15 Government works best when people stay
16 involved; not just during elections, but in everyday
17 work of shaping your community, our city, and our
18 democracy. The future of this city is not something
19 that happens to us. It's something that we build
20 together. So keep pushing.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Marco.

23 Carlina Rivera?

24 MS. RIVERA: Thank you, Chair, Vice
25 Chair Wolfe, Secretary Kang.

1 It continues to be an honor to serve my
2 hometown alongside my fellow commissioners. What we
3 have been able to accomplish is an important step
4 towards comprehensive reform for our city. We have
5 deliberated carefully to reach this point with these
6 revisions, and we are grateful to the commission staff
7 who made it possible for us to meet families where
8 they're at. We listened to hours of testimony from
9 New Yorkers across the five boroughs, and there is no
10 doubt we have more work to do.

11 I'm especially grateful that an
12 advisory board will come together to do just this,
13 meeting regularly and supported by staff and the
14 resources of City Hall to continue the thoughtful work
15 of this independent body.

16 The proposals before us include the
17 removal of bureaucracies that have ended progress for
18 affordable housing, small business survival, and
19 public safety. As housing to me is our great need, I
20 am thankful that the hardworking staff of the
21 Department of Buildings will now have a centralized
22 place to streamline approvals and permitting for
23 important infrastructure. We want quality projects
24 built with high standards, period.

25 And we're pleased that the -- the

1 diverse groups dependent on a more efficient
2 procurement system feel heard as they deliver for our
3 neighbors. These ballot measures add the transparency
4 and consistent consistency needed to do good work
5 quickly. It's clear as always been that legislative
6 and administrative action is welcomed and necessary.

7 I look forward to working with the
8 mayor's office, the council, and stakeholders to use
9 all tools at our disposal to push forward on our
10 collective commitment to public excellence.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, Carlina.
13 Esther Rosario?

14 MS. ROSARIO: All right. I'll try not
15 to be redundant in my remarks here in the spirit of
16 efficiency.

17 But I just want to say thank you to the
18 chair, the vice chair, the secretary, and all my
19 fellow commissioners here, and the commission staff
20 for your grace with a new kid here and your
21 willingness to answer all my random questions
22 throughout this process, and to the mayor for his
23 vision and the clarion call that we are seeking to
24 build a city that works better for working people.

25 I want to thank the working New

1 Yorkers, union members and not union yet, who took
2 time to testify before this commission. Your voices
3 reminded us that behind every recommendation, every
4 permit, every public project are real people whose
5 livelihoods, safety, and wellbeing are affected by the
6 decisions we make. Keep making your voices heard. It
7 matters and we're listening.

8 It allowed this commission to think of
9 government efficiency in those proposals in a lens
10 beyond speed and redundancies; but how they impact
11 workers who build, maintain, and operate the city and
12 ensure that they have the tools to deliver for working
13 people.

14 Thank you again to my commissioners for
15 your commitment to building a -- a city government
16 that is more effective, more accountable, and better
17 serves everyone who calls the city home. And I look
18 forward to continuing to build on this work in the
19 future.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. GASPARD: Thank you. Thank you so
22 much, Esther.

23 Barika Williams?

24 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm going to try also
25 not to repeat for our folks -- our folks at the end of

1 the alphabet, but I want to thank Mayor Mamdani for
2 the opportunity to serve on the commission. Thank
3 you, of course, to Chair Gaspard and all of the fellow
4 commissioners. It's actually been so interesting. I
5 think one thing that folks didn't know is we moved
6 around seats, so we actually got to interact with each
7 other a lot over the time.

8 Thank you so much to the staff,
9 including Executive Director Ann Cheng. I want to
10 thank Daniel and Clava and Carrie and lots of other
11 people behind the scenes who were there to answer all
12 the questions and solve all the problems.

13 I -- not to repeat what others have
14 said, but one of the greatest privileges of this
15 process for a fellow newbie is hearing from all of
16 these New Yorkers. Right? And it makes you realize
17 that oftentimes I've been in numerous different
18 countless public testimonies and community board
19 meetings; but it does make you realize that that's
20 often around a topic, around a site, around a project.

21 And it's a really different opportunity
22 to invite New Yorkers to come in and talk about
23 whatever their issue is, whether they're a tenant or a
24 small business owner; the mom navigating shelter; the
25 business owner who said, "I'm not going to let

1 language be a barrier for me coming and sharing my
2 experience;" and the students who showed up. And some
3 people who folks don't even realize were there in the
4 audience multiple times all the way up to Staten
5 Island with us, who were just like, "I'm here to
6 listen and learn." It was utterly amazing.

7 I think one thing that became clear for
8 me in this process is a clearer understanding of what
9 we meant by efficiency, and that really came from
10 those New Yorkers: that efficiency should never come
11 at the expense of community voice or meaningful public
12 engagement; that engagement actually makes government
13 better; and that what efficiency is is about removing
14 the unnecessary barriers, not removing the people, so
15 that government can be responsive, understandable,
16 compassionate, and create dignity for New Yorkers in
17 how we're serving them.

18 One of the hardest parts of this
19 process, which other people have said so I won't go
20 too far on this, is all of the things that we heard
21 from people that we couldn't address, that weren't a
22 part of the charter, that we didn't necessarily have
23 time to completely get to, that lied with the state or
24 with agencies.

25 But one thing that people didn't

1 necessarily pick up on is the number of times that New
2 Yorkers were New Yorkers and that we saw people meet
3 up with each other in the audience to say, "I think I
4 know a way to solve the thing that you're running
5 into." And that happened time and time again where
6 New Yorkers said, "I -- I have a solution," or, "I
7 encountered this." And that was an amazing part of
8 this experience.

9 So I hope coming out of this process
10 that everybody really understands what I think we've
11 all expressed here, that today is the beginning of
12 thinking about how we do efficiency and not the
13 ending; and that efficiency isn't about making
14 government do less. It's about how we can create the
15 space for government to serve better.

16 And so I thank all of my fellow
17 commissioners for creating that opportunity and doing
18 this hard work with me and having me be a part of it.

19 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so much,
20 Barika.

21 Commissioner Kathy Wylde?

22 MS. WYLDE: So last, and I will second
23 all the thanks and go right to sort of the points I
24 want to make. Number one, that these reforms that
25 we're recommending, the resolutions are important, but

1 they are incremental. And I think as Barika said,
2 there was frustration as we discovered how many
3 obstacles there are that could not be addressed
4 through the charter or through the administration.

5 And I just made -- want to make two
6 points that I think -- and -- and I thank
7 Commissioner -- Chairman Gaspard and those -- Ann and
8 others who worked on putting in place this permanent
9 advisory board idea, ongoing advisory board, because
10 it's going to take a lot of work to make city
11 government more efficient in all the ways we've
12 learned about.

13 The two things that stuck out to me as
14 frustrations: number one, so much of the mechanics of
15 New York City, whether it is procurement or civil
16 service or withdrawals from the rainy day fund, are
17 dictated by state law and regulation.

18 I think in Governor Hochul, we have a
19 good partner to tackle this; but it's going to take a
20 very comprehensive effort to do that. This is all in
21 the minutiae, in the details, and it's going to take a
22 lot of work and convincing. So I think we have to
23 focus on that, and I think we learned -- we all
24 learned more than we wanted to know about how much the
25 city is a creature of state government.

1 Number two, we need a huge investment
2 in technology if the city is going to have the same
3 efficiency that we see in the business community. I
4 think we have -- in the leadership the mayor has
5 appointed, with Lisa Gelobter, I think we have a -- a
6 great leader who can undertake this; but it's going to
7 take resources.

8 It's going to take figuring out how she
9 can hire people with the expertise that is necessary
10 to do this, and it's going to take overcoming some of
11 the turf issues associated with the many different
12 legacy systems we have in different agencies that are
13 not up to par and that have to be coordinated,
14 consolidated if our city agencies are going to talk to
15 each other. And so I think those are the two things
16 that we relay that I'd like to see us focus on on a
17 ongoing basis.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so much, Kathy.

20 At this time, I'd like to invite our
21 executive director, Ann Cheng, to the podium to share
22 her reflections.

23 MS. CHENG: Thank you so much, Chair,
24 for the opportunity to speak.

25 After years of butting up against the

1 constraints imposed on public servants just trying to
2 do a good job and being told the reason is that the
3 charter says you can't, being part of trying to change
4 the charter was an incredible thrill.

5 When Clava first gave me my 800-page
6 hard copy of the charter, she told me that lawyers
7 refer to the New York City Charter as a "short-form
8 document." Not knowing her especially well at the
9 time I said, "Oh." But to myself, I thought, let's
10 make it a little bit shorter.

11 I believe that what we're doing in
12 these five ballot proposals is meaningful progress
13 towards a government that, freed of a bit of its
14 baggage and steered by this incredible group of
15 commissioners, will be better able to keep pace with
16 New Yorkers.

17 I met a stakeholder a few weeks ago,
18 and she had a suggestion for some language to add to
19 the charter. I didn't think the charter was the right
20 place for it. And she pushed back saying, "But if you
21 don't require it in the charter, you'll just have to
22 do it yourselves; and that will be a gargantuan
23 chore."

24 And I have two thoughts. One, putting
25 something in the charter wouldn't make us not have to

1 do it. There's actually no avoiding the work, and --
2 and charter amendments don't make things manifest upon
3 enactment anyways. But the other thing I -- the other
4 thought I had was the government work that I know and
5 love is very much a gargantuan chore, and I'm honored
6 to have the chance to do it.

7 There are a number of people here who I
8 would characterize as the people on Earth with whom I
9 would most like to be doing gargantuan chores. I am
10 incredibly grateful to the fearless Clava Brodsky, the
11 brains behind this labor of love, and someone who
12 taught me things even when she didn't have to, which
13 is my favorite feature in a colleague. I am grateful
14 to Daniel Bonthius, whose optimism is coupled with a
15 competence so impressive that he is actually able to
16 make his optimistic predictions come true.

17 Thank you so much to the additional
18 team members on the legal and policy team, the
19 external affairs team, the IT team, the ops team, each
20 of whom contributed immensely to the work that you see
21 here today. And my baby, who I didn't see that much
22 over the last few months, but is really excited to see
23 me now.

24 I also want to thank members of this
25 commission, especially Chair Gaspard, who's just an

1 incredible leader to see in action; our vice chair,
2 Emma Wolfe, about whom I'll say more in just a moment;
3 and our secretary, Susan Kang, who really approached
4 every conversation with a -- a humility and curiosity
5 that I'm going to try to emulate.

6 I have to say a special sentence about
7 Emma Wolfe. When I worked for Emma many years ago, I
8 tried so hard to just absorb by proximity the
9 incredible political prowess that she showed in
10 everything she did. I failed at that.

11 But it was a true pleasure to share a
12 work project with you again, Emma. And I thank you
13 for pushing me, for supporting me, and for being a
14 role model in this work.

15 Thank you, Chair Gaspard, for the
16 opportunity to give these remarks.

17 MR. GASPARD: Thank you so very much,
18 Ann. We've all said much -- much about you. I did
19 not know that your -- that that was your baby that we
20 were hearing from. That beautiful cry is the
21 tuning -- it's the tuning fork of the universe. So
22 we're really, really happy that your child is here.

23 MS. CHENG: Yes. And my older
24 children, who are also great.

25 MR. GASPARD: Awesome. Thank you.

1 Thank you so much, Ann.

2 Before we proceed with the details of
3 our recommendations, I'd like to ask for a motion to
4 approve the minutes from our July 13th Queens hearing.
5 Is there a motion?

6 MR. GARRIDO: So moved.

7 MR. GASPARD: Thank you. All those in
8 favor, say aye.

9 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

10 MR. GASPARD: Any opposed?

11 Abstentions? Fantastic. The minutes are adopted.

12 With that, let's get into some of this
13 business. In front of each commissioner is a list of
14 valid questions along with associated abstracts and
15 legislative texts.

16 I'll now call on Ann to read Proposal
17 Number 1.

18 MS. CHENG: "Question 1, proposed
19 charter amendment: speed up process for granting a
20 revocable consent to use public space. Simplify
21 process to use public space for uses such as ramps,
22 planters, and cafes by removing mandatory hearings and
23 Council disapproval of sidewalk cafes while
24 maintaining community and Council input.

25 "'Yes' speeds up process to use public

1 space while maintaining community input. 'No'
2 maintains a longer process with mandatory public
3 hearing to use public space and Council review of
4 sidewalk cafes."

5 MR. GASPARD: Thank you.

6 Is there a motion to approve the first
7 ballot proposal?

8 MS. OLIVEIRA: So moved.

9 MR. GASPARD: Is there a second?

10 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

11 MR. GASPARD: Any discussion on the
12 motion? Great. I'll now call the question.

13 Vice Chair Wolfe?

14 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

15 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?

16 MR. CARRION: Yes.

17 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

18 MS. KANG: Yes.

19 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?

20 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.

21 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?

22 MR. LONGANI: Yes.

23 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?

24 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.

25 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?

1 MR. MOORE: Yes.

2 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?

3 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

4 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

5 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?

6 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

7 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner -- oh, I'm
8 sorry. There were two yeses when I said --

9 MS. RIVERA: I thought you said Rivera,
10 but you said Oliveira.

11 MS. WOLFE: She thought you said
12 Rivera.

13 MR. GASPARD: I said Oliveira. Okay.
14 So I just want to make sure it was recorded --

15 Commissioner Pinnock?

16 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

17 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?

18 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

19 MR. GASPARD: An enthusiastic yes.
20 Commissioner Rosario?

21 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.

22 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?

23 MR. SHAW: Yes.

24 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

1 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?

2 MS. WYLDE: Yes.

3 MR. GASPARD: I am also a yes.

4 By account of fifteen in favor, zero
5 opposed, and zero abstentions, the proposal put forth
6 to streamline the process for using public space is
7 approved.

8 Ann, if you would, please read the
9 second ballot proposal.

10 MS. CHENG: "Question 2, proposed
11 charter amendment: reduce City contractor paperwork;
12 require regular meetings of Procurement Policy Board.
13 Reduce paperwork for City contractors by authorizing
14 Procurement Policy Board to simplify contractor
15 questionnaire. Require quarterly meetings of the
16 Procurement Policy Board. Remove mandatory hearing
17 for required client services report.

18 "'Yes' amends Procurement Policy Board
19 authority, including to simplify contractor
20 questionnaire; authorizes Mayor to delegate certain
21 contract approvals. 'No' leaves laws unchanged with
22 the Mayor and Comptroller maintaining longer
23 questionnaire."

24 MR. GASPARD: Thank you.

25 Can I have a motion to approve the

1 second ballot?

2 MR. GARRIDO: So moved.

3 MR. GASPARD: Second?

4 MS. WOLFE: Second.

5 MR. GASPARD: I'll now -- I will now
6 call the question.

7 Vice Chairman?

8 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

9 MR. GASPARD: Vice Chair Wolfe?

10 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

11 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

12 MS. KANG: Yes.

13 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?

14 MR. CARRION: Yes.

15 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?

16 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.

17 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?

18 MR. LONGANI: Yes.

19 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?

20 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.

21 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?

22 MR. MOORE: Yes.

23 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?

24 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

25 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?

1 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

2 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?

3 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

4 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?

5 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.

6 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?

7 MR. SHAW: Yes.

8 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

10 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?

11 MS. WYLDE: Yes.

12 MR. GASPARD: And I'm also a yes.

13 By a count of fifteen in favor, zero
14 opposed, and zero abstentions, the proposal put forth
15 to reform the contracting process to improve
16 procurement is approved.

17 Ann, if you would please read the third
18 proposal.

19 MS. CHENG: "Proposed charter
20 amendment: speed up street safety projects,
21 disposition of unused City property, office leasing.
22 Simplify review of street safety projects to reduce
23 construction timelines. Fast track disposition of
24 unused City property with approval from City Planning
25 Commission. Expedite leasing offices used for City

1 workforce.

2 "'Yes' simplifies street project
3 approval, City property disposition, and office
4 leasing. 'No' maintains intra-agency consultation for
5 road projects, Council approval for City property
6 dispositions, and Council disapproval of office
7 leases."

8 MR. GASPARD: Thank you.

9 Can I please have the motion to approve
10 the third ballot proposal?

11 MR. GARRIDO: So moved.

12 MR. GASPARD: A second?

13 MS. WOLFE: Second.

14 MR. GASPARD: Let's call this question.
15 Vice Chair Wolfe?

16 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

17 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

18 MS. KANG: Yes.

19 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?

20 MR. CARRION: Yes.

21 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?

22 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.

23 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?

24 MR. LONGANI: Yes.

25 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?

1 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.

2 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?

3 MR. MOORE: Yes.

4 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?

5 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

6 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?

7 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

8 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?

9 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

10 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?

11 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.

12 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?

13 MR. SHAW: Yes.

14 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

16 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?

17 MS. WYLDE: Yes.

18 MR. GASPARD: And I am also a yes.

19 By a count of fifteen in favor, zero
20 against, and zero abstentions, the proposal put forth
21 to fast track street safety infrastructure,
22 acquisition of office space, and activation of City
23 land has passed.

24 Ann, please read the fourth proposal.

25 MS. CHENG: "Question 4, proposed

1 charter amendment: simplify building permitting and
2 move waterfront permitting to Department of Buildings.
3 Create centralized construction permits hub to
4 simplify permitting. Move waterfront permitting from
5 Department of Small Business Services to Department of
6 Buildings. Allow construction approval by additional
7 Department of Buildings officials.

8 "'Yes' simplifies permitting by
9 authorizing a centralized permitting hub, moving
10 waterfront permitting to the Department of Buildings,
11 and allowing additional Department of Buildings
12 officials to issue approvals. 'No' leaves laws
13 unchanged."

14 MR. GASPARD: Thank you, ANN.
15 A motion to approve the fourth
16 proposal?

17 MR. GARRIDO: So moved.

18 MR. GASPARD: A second?

19 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

20 MR. GASPARD: Let us call this
21 question.

22 Vice Chair Wolfe?

23 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

24 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

25 MS. KANG: Yes.

1 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?
2 MR. CARRION: Yes.
3 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?
4 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.
5 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?
6 MR. LONGANI: Yes.
7 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?
8 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.
9 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?
10 MR. MOORE: Yes.
11 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?
12 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.
13 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?
14 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.
15 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?
16 MS. RIVERA: Yes.
17 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?
18 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.
19 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?
20 MR. SHAW: Yes.
21 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?
22 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.
23 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?
24 MS. WYLDE: Yes.
25 MR. GASPARD: And I am also recorded as

1 a yes, which takes our count to fifteen in favor of,
2 zero against, zero abstention. The proposal for the
3 fourth to simplify building permits is approved.

4 Ann, if you would please read the final
5 ballot proposal.

6 MS. CHENG: "Question 5, proposed
7 charter amendment: set contribution targets for rainy
8 day fund to promote sufficient budgetary reserves.
9 Set target amount of money to hold in reserve funds,
10 including rainy day fund, to address unexpected
11 financial hardships in future years, and require
12 development of methodology to calculate contributions.

13 "'Yes' requires Mayor to develop
14 methodology for calculating deposits to the rainy day
15 fund with deposits subject to approval in the City
16 budget. 'No' leaves laws unchanged with no reserves
17 target."

18 MR. GASPARD: Thank you.

19 Motion to approve the proposal?

20 MS. WOLFE: So moved.

21 MR. GASPARD: A second?

22 MR. GARRIDO: Second.

23 MR. GASPARD: Vice Chair Wolfe?

24 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

25 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

1 MS. KANG: Yes.

2 MR. CARRION: Commissioner Carrion?

3 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

4 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?

5 MR. GARRIDO: Si.

6 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?

7 MR. LONGANI: Yes.

8 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?

9 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.

10 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?

11 MR. MOORE: Yes.

12 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?

13 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

14 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?

15 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

16 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?

17 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

18 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?

19 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.

20 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?

21 MR. SHAW: Yes.

22 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?

23 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

24 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?

25 MS. WYLDE: Yes.

1 MR. GASPARD: I -- I am also a yes.
2 And I have now learned that Henry Garrido was
3 apparently that kid in school.

4 So by a count of fifteen in favor, zero
5 opposed, and zero abstentions, the proposal put forth
6 to set contribution goals for the rainy day fund is
7 approved.

8 I'm now going to ask for a motion to
9 accept and adopt a final report --

10 MR. GARRIDO: So moved.

11 MR. GASPARD: -- as amended by the
12 proposals approved at today's meeting. Ballot
13 questions, abstracts, and texts and memos to the New
14 York City Charter are attached as appendices to the
15 final report.

16 The report also includes an
17 introduction with background on the commission and
18 processes, recommendations for future charter revision
19 commissions, and an appendix covering the accompanying
20 commitments made by Mayor Mamdani to augment the
21 amendments approved by this commission.

22 Is there a motion to adopt the
23 reporting?

24 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

25 MR. GASPARD: A second?

1 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

2 MR. GASPARD: Is there any discussion
3 on the motion? I'll now call the question.

4 Vice Chair Wolfe?

5 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

6 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

7 MS. KANG: Yes.

8 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?

9 MR. CARRION: Yes.

10 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?

11 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.

12 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?

13 MR. LONGANI: Yes.

14 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?

15 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.

16 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?

17 MR. MOORE: Yes.

18 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?

19 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.

20 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?

21 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.

22 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?

23 MS. RIVERA: Yes.

24 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?

25 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.

1 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?

2 MR. SHAW: Yes.

3 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.

5 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?

6 MS. WYLDE: Yes.

7 MR. GASPARD: And with my yes, we are
8 at a count of fifteen in favor, zero against, zero
9 abstentions. The final report has been adopted.

10 Finally, I now seek a motion to approve
11 a resolution that directs this extraordinary staff to
12 take the appropriate action to deliver material to the
13 city clerk in order for the ballot questions to be
14 placed before the voters and to take whatever actions
15 they deem necessary to educate the public about the
16 valid questions. Commissioners were sent this
17 resolution in advance and have had a chance to review.

18 A motion to adopt?

19 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.

20 MR. GASPARD: Second?

21 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

22 MR. GASPARD: Vice Chair Wolfe?

23 MS. WOLFE: Yes.

24 MR. GASPARD: Secretary Kang?

25 MS. KANG: Yes.

1 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Carrion?
2 MR. CARRION: Yes.
3 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Garrido?
4 MR. GARRIDO: Yes.
5 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Longani?
6 MR. LONGANI: Yes.
7 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Messinger?
8 MS. MESSINGER: Yes.
9 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Moore?
10 MR. MOORE: Yes.
11 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Oliveira?
12 MS. OLIVEIRA: Yes.
13 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Pinnock?
14 MS. PINNOCK: Yes.
15 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rivera?
16 MS. RIVERA: Yes.
17 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Rosario?
18 MS. ROSARIO: Yes.
19 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Shaw?
20 MR. SHAW: Yes.
21 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Williams?
22 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes.
23 MR. GASPARD: Commissioner Wylde?
24 MS. WYLDE: Yes.
25 MR. GASPARD: And with my yes, we are

1 at fifteen in favor, zero opposed, zero abstentions.
2 The resolution has been adopted.

3 I'd like to also -- I'd -- I'd also
4 like to ask the commission for unanimous consent to
5 approve the minutes of this meeting after they have
6 been distributed to all of you and have an opportunity
7 to offer any of your comments and your questions.

8 I'll direct the staff to share the
9 minutes by email and will give you all the opportunity
10 therefore to make any edits. After two weeks, we will
11 incorporate any revisions into a final document; and I
12 will approve the minutes with your consent.

13 Is there a motion?

14 MS. WOLFE: So moved.

15 MR. GASPARD: Second?

16 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

17 MR. GARRIDO: Point of order. How can
18 you ask to approve --

19 MR. GASPARD: A discussion --

20 MR. GARRIDO: Sorry.

21 MR. GASPARD: I'm sorry. No. Go
22 ahead.

23 MR. GARRIDO: Can you ask us to approve
24 minutes we haven't seen?

25 MR. GASPARD: I'm not asking you to

1 approve minutes that you have not seen. I'm actually
2 asking you to improve the -- this -- this process,
3 which will incorporate -- which will give us the --
4 the opportunity to send you additional materials
5 that -- that take up the collective questions and
6 concerns and edits. It gives us the permission to
7 then incorporate those revisions and to then send you
8 the final version.

9 So every step of the way, you will have
10 an opportunity to check and reset the course if
11 there's a misalignment.

12 MR. GARRIDO: Can I -- let me just ask
13 the question.

14 MR. GASPARD: Yes, please.

15 MR. GARRIDO: Maybe it's the language.
16 It says "I'd like to ask the commission for unanimous
17 consent to approve the minutes of this meeting."
18 And --

19 MR. GASPARD: After they've been
20 distributed to you, and you have an opportunity to
21 offer any corrections or comments.

22 MR. GARRIDO: Right. So I guess this
23 is a technical question to say should we not wait for
24 the minutes to be distributed and a motion to do it
25 after we've had an opportunity to see what these

1 minutes?

2 MS. MESSINGER: It has to be done in a
3 public hearing.

4 MR. GASPARD: It has to -- that's --

5 MS. MESSINGER: We're not meeting
6 again.

7 MR. GASPARD: Thank -- thank you,
8 Commissioner Messinger.

9 MR. GARRIDO: What was that?

10 MR. GASPARD: It has to be done at a
11 public hearing.

12 MS. MESSINGER: It has to be done at a
13 public hearing.

14 MR. GASPARD: So we would -- we
15 would --

16 MS. MESSINGER: This is the process for
17 doing it because this is our last public hearing.

18 MR. GASPARD: Does the -- is there --
19 are there any amendments that you would -- that you
20 would request?

21 MR. GARRIDO: I will be abstaining from
22 the vote.

23 MR. GASPARD: But -- but perhaps we can
24 slightly alter the language here so that I -- what --
25 what I'm seeking is instead approval for the process

1 that's described.

2 MR. GARRIDO: I have no problem with
3 the process, and I'm very proud of the work that this
4 commission has done. But in my entire life, I've made
5 it a case of not approving anything I do not read or
6 see. So either we are in a position to do that, to
7 meet later, or I will be abstaining.

8 MR. GASPARD: That's -- that's fair,
9 Commissioner.

10 Is there any other discussion on this
11 motion? Okay.

12 Is there a motion?

13 MS. WOLFE: Humbly, yes.

14 MR. GASPARD: And a second? And a
15 second?

16 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

17 MR. GASPARD: All those in favor,
18 please say aye.

19 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

20 MR. GASPARD: Can I actually see a -- a
21 show of hands now that we recognize that we will have
22 at least one abstention? Can I have a show of hands
23 for everyone who is in favor? All those opposed? And
24 any abstentions?

25 So by that show of hands, I counted,

1 with -- with mine, four in approval and one
2 abstention -- I'm sorry. Fourteen in approval and one
3 abstention. Fantastic.

4 Now, with all of those approvals and
5 with our unanimous consent on all items, with the
6 exception of the very last one where we have one
7 abstention, that is bringing us to the end of this
8 hearing and the end of this part of our fellowship.

9 I'd like to move for a motion to
10 adjourn. But as I do so, I -- I just want to briefly
11 reflect to somebody else's words on the ever -- on the
12 ongoing process to make whole our city and to make
13 sure that we're including everyone in this journey of
14 prosperity that is New York.

15 So I'll quote the greatest urban mayor
16 that we've ever had in America, Fiorella La Guardia,
17 who said, "I shall not rest until my native city is
18 first not only in population, but also in wholesome
19 housing; not only in commerce, but also in public
20 health; until it is not only out of debt, but
21 abounding in happiness."

22 So as we adjourn this meeting and work
23 towards an abounding happiness and a more broadly
24 shared prosperity in the city, I'd like to ask if
25 there is a motion to adjourn.

1 MS. WOLFE: So moved.

2 MR. GASPARD: Is there a second?

3 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Second.

4 MR. GASPARD: All in favor?

5 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

6 MR. GASPARD: Thank you. We are

7 adjourned.

8 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at

9 6:13 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, ABAGAIL RODRIGUEZ, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



ABAGAIL RODRIGUEZ

Notary Public in and for the
State of New York

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, RACHEL HUFF, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



RACHEL HUFF

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