



Minutes for the June 10th, 2026 Hearing of the Commission on Government Efficiency

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Commission on Government Efficiency (COGE) was held at Fordham University, at 457 E Fordham Rd, Bronx at 5pm on June 10th, 2026.

Chair Gaspard called the meeting to order at approximately 5:22pm. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Emma Wolfe, Vice Chair
- Susan Kang, Secretary
- Kathryn Wylde
- Henry Garrido
- Carlina Rivera
- Kapil Longani
- Ruth Messinger
- Theodore Moore
- Ana Olivera
- Esther Rosario
- Dawn Pinnock
- Marc V. Shaw (virtual)

Chair Patrick Gaspard introduced the Commission and the focus of the meeting.

The Chair opened the floor for testimony, limited to three minutes per speaker.

- Aneydy Paniagua of Bronx Business Outreach Center testified on the importance of independent providers in the childcare ecosystem.

- Maurelhena Walles of Founder and CEO of Equity Design testified about expediting payment for non-profits.
- Dr. Constance Barnes, Bronx Community Board 8 Economic Development Committee Chair, testified on the challenges of getting certified as an M/WBE.
- Patrick Hall of Elan Flowers testified on the challenges of owning a small business, the difficulty of grouping small businesses together, the importance of consulting small businesses when constructing regulations, and in favor of including a small business impact statement on all City legislation.
- Daniel R. Garcia of Salsa Caterers & Special Events testified on the challenges of operating industrial businesses in New York City, including slow payment from City agencies and funding threats to the Industrial Business Service Provider Program.
- Andrew Rigie of New York City Hospitality Alliance testified in favor removing revocable consent requirement from the outdoor dining program and the challenges of the Outdoor Dining program.
- Michelle Minaya testified on the challenges of 2-K independent providers in securing ACS or HRA funding, and the overall lack of financing for 2-K.
- Jessica Haller testified in favor of open primaries.
- Yadhira Rodriguez testified on the challenges of permitting fees for construction.
- Yoxagna Canaan testified on the challenges M/WBEs have securing funding.
- Madison Weissenberger testified regarding sex trafficking.
- Charles Dilone testified on the challenges industrial businesses face.
- Amadou Diallo testified on the funding needs of M/WBEs.
- Pedro Suarez testified on how quality of life issues impact small businesses and the need for streamlined permitting.
- Jerry Hyppolite testified on the importance of strengthening coordination across agencies and modernizing procurement .
- Gregory Hernandez testified on the importance of regulating.
- Belkis Lora testified on the lack of parking for businesses.
- Sarah Wilson testified on the foster system and challenges of reunification.
- Marcus Khan testified on the importance of long-term solutions for pressing needs, including Community Land Trusts.
- Mimi Turner testified in favor of funding local development corporations.
- Lamar A. Whyte testified on the importance of digital solutions connecting people to resources, and improve service delivery through charter revision.
- Jenessa Jules testified on the challenges of outdated City websites and of opening a small business.
- Mamadou Saliou Diallo testified on the challenges of securing investment for Guinean small businesses.

- Sadio Bah testified on the challenges of slow and duplicative permitting processes and slow HPD inspections.
- Ancesa Waheed testified in favor of expanding micro-purchasing for small businesses.
- Damaris Zoumanigui testified on the challenges small businesses face receiving loans.
- Mamadou Diallo testified on the challenges immigrant small businesses have getting started.
- Glenny Payano testified on the challenges mothers have securing small business locations outside of their home and challenges relating to HRA applications.
- Mariame Diallo testified in favor of streamlining permitting for hair-braiding salons, the challenges immigrant owners face getting capital, and on high costs for small business operations.
- Pascal Ouedraogo testified on the challenges of getting a contractor license and the fines for parking contractors face.
- Sarah Espillat testified on the challenges M/WBEs face getting contracts.
- Jessica Lopez testified on the challenges voucher holders have getting housing due to slow processing time.
- Mayerlyn Suarez testified on the challenges small businesses face knowing what inspectors are looking for.


Chair Gaspard invited online attendees to submit written public comment. After hearing from members of the public, Chair Gaspard announced the date and time of the next hearing and closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Ruth Messinger, seconded by Ana Olivera, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Solomon Medintz
New York City Commission on Government Efficiency

Adopted:

Susan Kang, Secretary



NYC Commission on
Government Efficiency (COGE)