



Minutes for the July 13th, 2026, Hearing of the Commission on Government Efficiency

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Commission on Government Efficiency was held at Queens Borough Hall at 120-55 Queens Boulevard in Queens at 5:00pm on July 13th 2026.

Chair Patrick Gaspard called the meeting to order at approximately 5:14pm. Also present were the following members of the Commission:

- Patrick Gaspard, Chair
- Emma Wolfe, Vice Chair
- Susan Kang, Secretary
- Marco A. Carrión
- Esther Rosario
- Marc Shaw
- Kapil Longani
- Henry Garrido
- Kathryn Wylde
- Theodore Moore
- Carline Rivera
- Barika Williams on Zoom
- Ruth Messinger on Zoom
- Absent: Dawn Pinnock and Ana Olivera

Henry Garrido motioned to approve the minutes from the Commission's July 6, 2026 and July 8, 2026 public hearings. Kapil Longani seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. The Chair opened the floor for testimony, limited to three minutes per speaker.

- Councilmember Lincoln Restler testified in opposition to letting DOB approve the NYC Building Code through rulemaking, removing oversight of DCAS real estate disposition, and the COGE Preliminary Report's proposals in the Rainy Day Fund. Councilmember Restler also testified in opposition to COGE taking up charter revisions for Major Transportation Projects, RABRC reform, and outdoor dining.

- Councilmember Frank Morano testified in favor of making COGE a two-year commission and letting Councilmembers appoint Community Board members, and in opposition to changes to the Major Transportation Projects law.
- Edgar Alfonseca testified in favor of expedited review for street safety infrastructure, including bike lanes.
- Naila Caicedo-Rosario testified in favor of a charter amendment requiring that restaurants who receive outdoor dining licenses pay workers a dignified wage.
- Geoffrey Brown testified in favor making the City Chief Information Security Officer a Commissioner-level role.
- Mae Francke of Transportation Alternatives testified in favor of expediting street safety infrastructure redesigns.
- Small Business Services Commissioner Kenny Minaya testified in favor of reducing costs and the time it takes to approve outdoor dining for restaurants.
- Councilmember Phil Wong testified in favor of speeding up technology procurement, in opposition to expanding the number of people authorized to approve DOB permits, and in favor of differentiating the amount of review for different kinds of building projects.
- Brendan Griffith of the Central Labor Council testified in favor of consulting unionized workers when creating policy, strengthening procurement and contract oversight, keeping Civil Service protections, and in opposition to Open Primaries.
- Kevin LaCherra testified in favor of expediting review of street safety redesigns.
- Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers testified in opposition to expedited review for street redesigns and land use review, sunsetting Council-mandated reports, letting the Department of Buildings amend the Building Code through rulemaking, expediting DCAS signing City office leases. The Councilmember also critiqued COGE's public input process.
- Eric McClure testified in favor of expediting public review of street safety redesigns.
- Steve Flack testified in favor of expediting public review of street safety redesigns.
- Xavier Pu-Folkes testified in favor of adopting a rule mandating that DOT not give outdoor dining licenses to restaurants that do not pay living wages.
- Laura Shepard testified in favor of expediting review of outdoor dining, making the City responsible for clearing snow on sidewalks, and expediting DDC projects.
- Misha Nonen testified in favor of expedited payment to nonprofits providing human services, and expediting service delivery through permitting reform.
- Michelle Yanche testified in favor of expedited payments for nonprofits providing human services, and in favor of allocating more resources to nonprofit providers of human services.
- Meryl LaBorde testified in favor of expediting review of street safety redesigns.
- Rex Tai testified in favor of funding a Department of Community Safety and expediting review of street safety infrastructure.

- Alex Morano testified in favor of expediting street safety redesigns.
- Karen Wharton testified in opposition to open primaries in favor of creating a task force to study election reform.
- Ryan Shanahan testified in favor of mandating that DOC take care of the people in its care and its workers.
- Sarah Catalinotto testified in favor of reforms to the Office of Pupil Transportation.
- Alex Camarda of Reinvent Albany testified in favor of open primaries and eliminating outdated reports through imposing a sunset provision.
- Nwamaka Ejebe, General Counsel for the City Council, testified on COGE procedural challenges, in opposition to DOB changing the building authority with rulemaking and reporting requirements, and in favor of imposing restrictions on deposits and withdrawals for the rainy day fund.
- Lee Drutman testified in opposition to open primaries.
- Briana Strong testified in favor of open primaries.
- Lourdes Blanco testified in favor of a program to improve street safety.
- Alvin Carter of Local 32BJ testified in opposition to eliminating public hearings for procurements.
- Councilmember Gale Brewer testified against changes to the RABRC process, outdoor dining process, major transportation process, and building code. The Councilmember testified in favor of procurement reform.
- Judy Wessler testified in favor of the Health Care Workers for Zohran proposals, including expanding health care to low-income communities.
- Michelle Jackson of the Human Services Council testified on procurement reform for human services nonprofits.
- Eric Huntley testified in favor of mandating that restaurants that receive outdoor dining permits pay their workers a fair wage.

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 at 8:10pm. The meeting was adjourned on motion by Henry Garrido, seconded by Kapil Longani, and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Solomon Medintz

Adopted:



**Susan Kang, Secretary
Commission on
Government Efficiency**