

CHARTER REVIEW

June 2005

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NEW YORK CITY charter REVISION COMMISSION

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



On June 9, the Charter Revision Commission voted 11-0 to release three preliminary recommendations for consideration and discussion by the public at a series of public hearings and meetings on June 15, 22, and 27. The recommendations were included in the Commission's PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REVISION, and was released to the public on June 10, 2005.

The Commission's approval and release to the public of its recommendations marks the beginning of a dynamic public conversation on the possible revision of the Charter. The PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REVISION will provide the public with sufficient context and the actual proposed draft Charter text in order to enable the public to provide feedback to the Commission on the report. The PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS as well as previously published newsletters, are available to the public for downloading from the Commission's website: www.nyc.gov/charter or by calling the Commission's office at 212-676-2060. Copies will also be made available at the Commission's upcoming meetings and hearings.

We have scheduled two additional public meetings on June 30 and July 5 to enable the Commission further to discuss the preliminary recommendations in light of the public testimony and to request changes to those recommendations, or suggest additional topics for Charter revision based on the testimony or other developments.

On behalf of the Commissioners, I look forward to our next public conversation.

Ester Fuchs, Ph.D.

Chair

THE COMMISSION'S UPCOMING FORUMS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

DATE/TIME	FORMAT	LOCATION
Wed., June 15, 6 p.m.	Public Hearing/ Public Meeting*	Henry Kaufman Management Center, New York University, Room 2-6044 West 4th Street (between Washington Square East and Greene Street in Lower Manhattan)
Wed., June 22, 6 p.m.	Public Hearing/ Public Meeting*	Brooklyn Law School, 7th Floor Moot Court Room, 250 Joralemon Street (between Court Street and Boerum Place in Brooklyn Heights)
Mon., June 27, 7 p.m.	Public Hearing/ Public Meeting*	NYC Economic Development Corp., 4th Floor Conference Room 110 William Street (between John Street and Fulton Street in Lower Manhattan)
Thurs., June 30, 7 p.m.	Public Meeting	Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, 1st Floor (between Broadway and Centre Street in Lower Manhattan)
Tues, July 5, 7 p.m.	Public Meeting	Milstein Hospital Building, New York Presbyterian Hospital (Baldwin Hall, 1st Floor), 177 Fort Washington Avenue (Corner of West 168th Street)

* Public Meeting Will Begin After Public Hearing Testimony Concludes.

Ester R. Fuchs, Chair
Dall Forsythe, Vice Chair
Stephen J. Fiala, Secretary

Robert Abrams
Curtis L. Archer
Lilliam Barrios-Paoli
Amalia V. Betanzos
David Chen
Anthony Crowell
Stanley E. Grayson
Mary McCormick
Stephanie Palmer
Jennifer Raab

About the Commssioners

Dr. Mary McCormick

is President of the Fund for the City of New York. She is a former Special Assistant to New York City's Deputy Mayor for Labor Relations and Personnel and a professor at Columbia University. She is a resident of Brooklyn.

Stephanie Palmer

is the Executive Director of the New York City Mission Society and is the former Executive Director of Human Services Council of New York City. She is a resident of Manhattan.

Jennifer J. Raab is the President of Hunter College. She is the former Chair of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. She is a resident of the Bronx.

This is the last installment in the series introducing the Commissioners. Please refer to March and May editions for biographical information on the other Commissioners.

CHARTER REVIEW

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

At its June 9, public meeting, the Commission approved release of three recommendations for Charter revision. These recommendations are to be presented to the public at a series of public meetings and hearings in June and July, as described in above. The recommendations, described briefly below, are described in more detail in PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHARTER REVISION, which is available to the public for downloading from the Commission's website:

www.nyc.gov/charter or by calling the Commission's office at 212-676-2060.

The Commission seeks public comment on whether the City should import permanently into the Charter certain key provisions of State law that would other-

wise expire and that have helped to ensure the City's fiscal stability for more than two decades. Ensuring the sound financial practices that are essential to the City's

tailored to the quasi-judicial work at the City's administrative tribunals, apply uniformly to all the City's administrative law judges and hearing officers.

The Commission seeks public comment on whether the creation of a commission on public reporting and data access, which would involve all stakeholders in the area of public management and accountability and work alongside with both executive and legislative branches, would benefit agency management as well as increase public

accountability. Such a discussion could also address the many advisory bodies that have been created as adjuncts to various City agencies over the years.

The Commission seeks public comment on...state provisions ensuring fiscal stability...uniform ethics...[and]...data access.

future financial stability is a matter of paramount concern and warrants revising the Charter to import these practices.

The Commission also seeks public comment on whether the City should require that a code of conduct or ethics,

JUNE 9 MEETING



MORE INFORMATION

The Commission web site contains information on the charter revision process. There are transcripts of public hearings, the Commission's preliminary report, and reports of previous charter Commissions. All may be downloaded. You can also send us email. The address is WWW.NYC.GOV/CHARTER. You can also reach the Commission by telephone: 212-676-2060 and by fax: 212-676-2069. Our postal address is: NYC Charter Revision Commission, 2 Lafayette Street 14th floor, New York, NY 10007.

Photos: Ed Swietnicki