

Civic Engagement Commission
Tuesday, June 06, 2023
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 a.m.

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» Hello, everybody!

»» Hello!

»» Hello, Abby!

»» Hello hello. Hope you're doing well as well. Donna.

Let's see, who is on the call.

»» Hi, everyone!

How are we doing on quorum, Abby?

»» Um, let's see, so far — including you there's 6 Commissioners, so we still have a little bit to go.

Let me see. I know a few folks are hopping on.

»» Okay, there should be 8 Commissioners right now. I can follow up on a couple of stragglers, but —

So, if we are at 8, I will go ahead and call this hearing to order.

»» Sarah Sayeed: So, good morning everyone. Welcome to the Civic Engagement Commission public hearing focused on methodology to run citywide participatory budgeting. And this meeting is also being live streamed as part of the open meeting guidelines. And I want to thank all the Commissioners and all the members of the public who are here

with us and also thank you to the staff members of the commission for helping us coordinate today's hearing and also to the staff from law and operations.

Departments or agencies who have guided us with respect to adherence to the citywide administrative procedures act. We are here today to develop a publicly vetted and publicly responsive methodology for participatory budgeting. And as we are talking today, I also want to especially thank members of the Civic Engagement Commissioner participatory budgeting Advisory Committee, which I think people know. In case people do not know if it's a Charter mandated advisory committee. And the members of that committee have been central to how it has shaped participatory budgeting program and I think one of the their key contributions has really been helping us formulate the guiding principles and values for this program.

Many of those individuals have had long-standing experience with the council's participatory budgeting program and while we are running a citywide program, that is distinctive from city council, their learnings have been important for us as we've been trying to build this program for the commission.

So, as we go into this hearing, I'm just going to go over the technical assistance information for everyone. For those who are new, Abby, did you want to share slides on this?

»» Sure thing. One second.

»» Abigail Walczak: Everyone may be aware for audio for Commissioners

audio is enabled during the meeting and we ask that you mute yourself when — if you're not speaking and do keep your video cameras on. And to all participants, we are muting everyone else on entry and the moderator will enable audio for participants during the public testimony period. And we will be calling on people in the order that they registered for public comments, prior to the meeting. And then during today's meeting, so, sorry let me just get rid of — emails. We will be calling people in order that they have registered and we will, if you haven't yet registered for the public comment or the public testimony, you can still do so during this meeting until noon. And you can sign up via chat if you don't have access to computer monitor you can text your name and affiliation to 9175879103 to offer a testimony. We will call on participants in the name that the order that we received your text or the name in the chat after the people who have previously signed up have been called upon. So, that number again for anyone on the phone is 9175879103.

And closed captioning can be enabled by going under more options, which is under the 3 dots on your screen. And you can close on captioning, sorry check on click on the option for closed captioning. This link that you see on the screen will also be in the chat box. If somebody can put it in the chat box, Abby, that would be helpful. You can click on that also for captioning. Is there a next slide on this, or is this it?

Okay. So, what we will do next is just go through the attendance.

And I'm going to call on people please just say if you're here. Murad Awewdeh, Eve Baron.

»» Present.

» Polly Brinner?

» Amy Breedlove?

»» Amy said she would be joining a little late. Natalie DeVito.

»» Present.

»» Mark Diller?

»» Good morning. I'm here.

»» Donna Gill?

»» I thought I saw Donna.

»» She is on.

»» Okay. I think she's here. Okay. Anthony Harmon. Jose Hernandez?

»» I'm here.

»» Lilliam Perez?

»» Morning, I'm here.

»» Oh, great. Hi Donna.

»» I'm here.

»» Okay, great.

» Wonderful. Annetta Seecherran.

»» Morning, present.

» Morning. Anastasia Somoza?

»» Mitchel Woo. For anyone who is not familiar with the rulemaking procedure, I just wanted to go over that quickly. Because I think

it is important for everyone to understand why we're doing this, why this is important.

A rule is a type of law that is proposed and adopted by a city agency it is very specific to the work of the agency. It defines how the agency will be implementing relevant laws when conducting its programs. And the rule is, applicable only to the agency. It is not relevant for other agencies. So, what makes a rule is actually that there's a specific process that agencies have to follow to create and amend the rules under what is called the city wide administrative procedure act. According to this act, to create a rule or changing a rule we are required to post that rule for public comment for a minimum of 30 days. Then hold a public hearing. This is different from a law that also goes through a public hearing process a law is typically initiated as a bill sponsored by legislator or group of legislator and voted on in city council and signed off by the Mayor at city level. City agencies distinct from legal changes make law changes will also make rules that impact the public in many different ways some of these rules we've talked about in other settings, like speed limit rules, garbage collection rules, noise rules these are all rules that impact the quality of life in our city. And because it is impacting residents, it is important for us to allow for this democratic process that facilitates members of the public to review the rules we're proposing and provide feedback before we finalize them.

And of course, without public process, public feedback process, we would be risking making rules and creating programs that aren't responsive to the public. So, rules are here to establish a common standard and they used to help agencies create programs that are understandable to the public and they are also enforceable.

So, to me, it is a little bit like might seem like a dry process, rulemaking process doesn't sound that exciting. (LAUGHTER).

Because I think we have a taboo about rules, maybe a cultural sort of like shunning rules in some ways but they are very, very important to okay work. And I think it is a really important opportunity for members of the public to come to meetings like this and say what they think about the work of the agency. So, as we move forward into the rule today for how we're going to carry out citywide participatory budgeting, we will go through of the rule for anyone again who is not familiar with it, and then we will open up to public testimony. Wendy Trull, senior strategy and programs officer and Ben Solotaire, advisory and participatory budgeting will provide the rule. Then will provide testimonies each person will be speaking up to 3 minutes and we will be running a timer to keep us on track.

After all the commenters finish that includes those who have signed up and anyone who wants to sign up until 12. We will allow the Commissioners to ask clarifying questions. And depending on time, and how many questions we'll have to see. We may need to restrict the number of questions, however we will be hearing from anyone from

the public who wants to speak today.

We will not be making comments or discussing the testimonies until all the testimonies have been received. And I'm going to also drop into the chat, for anyone who does not already have it, the proposed rule — chat. Here we go. Which we'll be going over.

So I'm now going to turn it over to Wendy and Benjamin to take us through the rule before we go into the testimonies.

Thank you.

»» Let me just go off the camera here.

»» I'll be sharing the screen in a sorry want me to share, feel free to unmute yourself.

»» All right. So you can see the text statement of basis now.

»» Yes, we can.

»» Wendy it's all yours.

»» Great, thank you Benjamin.

»» Wendy Trull: Good afternoon. Commissioners, members of public, I'm going to walk us through the statement of rules. Statement of basis and proposed rules. Sorry it's a little, clearly I need my reading glasses. I will have Benjamin walk through the more specifics of the rule itself.

If you wouldn't mind making it a little bigger, that would be super helpful. So bear with us we're going to basically read through, kind of summarize where we can. I know it's a little bit tedious. Some of you have already been through this exercise, but we think this

is important for us to walk through the document itself so you are all familiar with what is in this proposed rule.

So, November 2018, New York City voters approved ballot initiative proposed by the commission, that established New York City Civic Engagement Commission, it was codified in Chapter 76 of New York City chapter. 76 directs Civic engagement to implement the citywide participatory budgeting established under section 225-a of the chart are for all of you who want to see the actual language or refamiliarize yourself with the language that dictates the responsibility to implement the citywide participatory program. That is where you'll find in the Charter, chapter 76 section 225-a. The citywide participatory budgeting program promotes participation of residents identifying, expressing preferences among recommendations for local projects to be considered for inclusion in the executive budget. Also known as The People's Money the New York City's participatory budgeting allows all New Yorkers ages 11 and up regardless of citizenship status to vote on projects to address local community needs. Pursuant to Mayoral letter, dated March 28, the Mayor has delegated to the commission, the budget power under section 225-a. The process set forth will apply in future fiscal years unless selected after timely participatory budgeting process pursuant to sections 225-a and 3202 just to summarize that statement. That paragraph in the first section, what that is reflecting is, that initially in the Charter language, it is the Mayor who has the budget

power to ultimately select those projects that has now been delegated to the Civic Engagement Commission.

Secondly, this second paragraph, that talks about what happens in future fiscal years, for everyone's knowledge most of you are aware this is all expense funding, initially there was understanding there may be capital funding somewhere in the project. If there are capital projects we get that there is capital funding those projects will have to be specifically listed in the budget. So that is what that language is speaking to. That — well we have an allocation that is sitting in our budget that allows us to fund individual projects that does not have to be listed out in the budget capital. Projects would have to be listed out and included in the executive budget as all capital projects again must be specifically enumerated.

City residents will be able to vote for local projects in which the borough they live in 2023, cycle each will have following number of projects on borough ballot. Bronx ballot there will be 8 projects listed Brooklyn, 10 projects listed Queens 9 projects listed Manhattan, 8, Staten Island there will be 4 projects listed proposed rules set forth procedures and criteria for the citywide participatory budgeting program. Consistent with the commission's obligation to provide opportunities for public participation throughout the city and establish multiple methods of public participation. These rules provide for the solicitation of ideas for local projects from the public through various means including

convening borough committees. That is Charter 3202(a)(1)

(a)(a)(1)(d).

In furtherance of commission's goal of facilitating greater Civic engagement in historically underrepresented, local projects must address needs of certain communities funding allocated by Borough based on weighted average of borough population and percentage of the borough population below the city poverty measure. Consistent to with the Mayoral delegation to the commission, cost of any project may not exceed the amount determined by the Civic Engagement Commission, the aggregate cost of all projects may not exceed the total amount appropriated for local projects without the approval of office of management and budget which is to say we can not fund projects that are of greater value than the allocated amount we have in our budget and we also can only fund those projects again that we have funding for and also that we can complete.

With the funding that we have. Consistent with the Mayoral delegation letter, commission retains final authority to select which projects are funded in accordance with these rules, chapter 225-a, 3202(a)(1) making its final selection commission must give due consideration to which local projects receive the most votes in each Borough.

Clearly, going through this process, the intent is to ensure that that participatory process determines which projects go forward and are ultimately funded but Civic engagement does retain the authority

to make any changes if need be should there be some difference some change in our budget for unforeseen circumstances et cetera. That clause does allow for that. Proposed rule also repeals current chapter 2 which Title 73 which governs the minimum age requirement for participation of the citywide participatory budgeting program. The substance of the current chapter 2 — as many of you recall we held a public meeting and changed, went through the rulemaking process to change the voting age from 16 to 11. And that was approved and so this is incorporated that rule change is incorporated here as well.

I'm going to turn it over to Benjamin now to.

»» It would be great if you can put it off to the side for now — something like that.

»» Background noise.

»» Oh.

»» So I will turn it over to Benjamin to walk us through purpose and scope in definitions.

»» Sorry.

»» Ben Solotaire: Section 201 purpose of scope. These rules set knowledge to the procedures and criteria for the citywide participatory budgeting program authorized pursuant to sections 225-a and 3202 of the Charter such rules shall apply unless the executive and adopted budgets enumerate local projects that were selected after timely participatory budgeting — sections 225-a and

3202 of the Charter. Definition it's important part of any legal document 2-02 borough ballot that terms means ballot approved by the commission that lists and briefly described each local project in specific borough or if approve by the commission alternative specified to your area. Capital project. Has the meaning in such term is defined in section 210 of the Charter. City poverty measure. The term city poverty measure means the city wide poverty rate is calculated by the Mayor's office for economic opportunity or successor office or agency. Citywide participatory budgeting the term refers to the program established in section 225-a of the Charter. Commission, the term commission means New York City Civic engagement digital platform means online platform used by the commission to enable silty residents to submit comment and vote for local projects. Expense project. The term means project that may be funned with amounts appropriated in the expense budget and is not a capital project.

Local project, the term local project means project that is eligible to be placed on borough ballot and funded pursuant to sections 225-a and 3202 of the Charter and this chapter.

Project eligibility requirements. To be eligible for placement on a borough ballot local project must satisfy all of the following criteria. The project must be an expense project. B, the total cost of the project must not exceed the amount determined by the commission to be available for such project and must be sufficient to complete

such project.

C, the project must be completed within a single city fiscal year; and d, the project shall address the needs of immigrant communities, individuals with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, youth, students, seniors, veterans, groups or categories of residents that have been historically under rented or underserved by city Government or another community need identified through the idea generation process as set forth in section 2-05.

Section 2-04 target funding allocation. To the extent of practicable the commission will calculate target funding allocations for each borough which targets may be adjusted as necessary. B, target borough allocations will be calculated using weighted average of borough population and by the percentage of borough population below the poverty guidelines, section 2-05 idea generation, a, the commission will solicit ideas from the public for local projects to be funded pursuant to this chapter. Ideas may be submitted to the commission by individuals or organizations.

B, the commission may convene a borough committee for each borough comprised the residents who make recommendations for local projects to be placed on the borough ballot. Recommendations for such Borough committees have no binding effect on the commission.

C, the commission will conduct outreach to residents to inform them examples of local projects and options for voting for local projects

on the borough ballot in person and through the digital platform.

Section 206 ballot selection criteria commission will select from among the proposals, submitted. In making its selection the commission will consider the following factors the number of people served by the local project. The geographic distribution of local projects extent to which a local project fulfills unmet need or gap in service or augment existing programming and d, the extent to which a local project serves one or more of the groups identified in subdigs (d) of section 2-03.

Section 2-07, voting process, a, any resident of city of New York 11 years of age or older eligible to vote for local projects subject to the following restrictions for the protection of children. 1, children under the age of 13 may not register account on digital platform. 2, children ages 13 through 17 may not register at on digital platform unless they receive parental or guardian consent to register such account this, does not apply to a child who is legally emancipated adult. BB, the following voting procedures may apply. 1 a resident may cast votes only for local projects located within their borough of residence, 2, resident may cast only one borough ballot. 3, a resident may vote for multiple local projects on the borough ballot.

C, borough ballot may be cast online view a digital platform or in person. Finally section 2-08 final selection process. The commission will tabulate total number of votes cast for each local project. The

commission retains the times authority to select which local projects that were placed on the borough ballots receive funding from the commission. 1, in making such selection, the commission must consider which local projects received the largest number of votes in each borough and the factors identified in section 2-06.

2, for a local project that requires the use of city personnel or property or the substantial participation or cooperation of one or more city agencies, the commission shall obtain the concurrence of affected agency or agencies before making a final determination to select such local project. For a local project that relates to an area of expertise in city agency the commission will inform such agency of such project's selection. C, the aggregate cost of all local projects selected by the commission for funding shall not exceed the total amounts appropriated for local projects. That is the entire rule.

We'll leave this up for now, we're heading it back to Sarah I believe. »» Sarah Sayeed: Thank you so much for walking us through that. So, it is pretty thorough in terms of laying out how this expense process will run for citywide participatory budgeting. So, I'm now going to open up the floor to individuals who would like to provide public testimony. And I do have a list of people who have signed up before, who emailed us and as I mentioned, if you haven't already emailed us and still would like to testify, you can do so until 12:00 by either dropping your name into the chat, or texting 9175879103.

So, the first person to submit their name was Joan Alexander Bakiridden. I will invite Joan to offer the testimony, Abby, are you keeping track of time.

»» Yeah I can put a 3 minute timer for each speaker.

» Okay. Thank you. And Joan, I think it's fine to stop the screen share for now Benjamin. This way we could focus on the person who is speaking. And then when we're, when we need to discuss it we can go back to it if needed. So, Joan, are you hear?

»» I am.

» Oh, wonderful good morning the floor is yours.

»» Thank you so much; thank you so much protocol being established I say good morning to all I'm Joan Alexander, a member of the Civic Engagement Commission participatory budgeting advisory committee. Immigrant now citizen Vice President of the board for the participatory budgeting project, community member, and proud participant in the participatory budgeting process. I've been involved in participatory budgeting since PBP or participatory budgeting project brought the process here in 2010. My city council district was the first of 4 to do the inaugural reality ration where we leveraged the capital funding for community improvement Civic Engagement Commission has done great work alongside its participatory budgeting advisory committee task force for racial inclusion and equity. And in community to develop the process as it was utilized in its inaugural citywide roll out this year where we

focused on projects that will utilize expense funding. It is important to note the work and dedication of the people in rolling out this process. As we focus on the rules, I ask that we keep the people centered on how was it rate this process. It is leveraged the input of all people, sorry — regardless of where they are in their life. From immigrant to citizen, to the form early incarcerated to active adults and youth considering your voice whether you lived, worked or went to school in a community. This process is inherently inclusive where the people decide how the people's money was spent and which projects were prioritized using specific criteria that centers equity. Imagine a process, that activates the unheard and under serves. One that was so intriguing to youth, that they organized for school-based projects brought out their families to vote and then advocated for the voting age to decrease in the second cycle to 16. And now the age has decreased further to require that you are 11 years or older to vote through a course of support from the people. The rules indicate that the commission will make the ultimate decision on which projects are funded. I caution, that we do not re—role of perm people in determining the needs of their community this will result in disenfranchising the community members we are seeking to amplify, finally I ask funding is provided to guarantee the success of the citywide participatory budgeting process. On its face ,5 million dollars seems like a lot. But to add quitely fund projects, perform outreach, host events to engage the community and deploy

effective get out to vote process to amplify the process, sorry the projects, that the people require for sustainable future, the Civic Engagement Commission will require increased access to the people's budget. I recommend that we use the data from this inaugural process as a bench mark apply a moon shot then arrive at a reasonable figure. In summation, this process is a people's process, which if properly funded and engaged with, will result in communities that are more civically engaged and ultimately equitably sustainable. Thank you.

»» Thank you.

» Thank you so much, Joan. That was great. And next I have on my list.

»» Not sure Abigail shawl wants to read the comment. Doesn't look like it, I can go back to the statement once we've gone through people who are here.

»» Sure.

»» Farzana is the next person on the list, are you here?

»» Oh, —

»» We can't hear you.

»» You're muted.

»» Ink I think you need to unmute.

»» Can you hear me now.

»» Yes.

»» Thank you the floor is yours.

»» Okay. Hi everyone I just wanted to give a little experience of myself throughout out the process. I am one of the borough community members for Queens, for the people's money participatory budgeting process it has been a great process project vetting and development. All the way to the current voting process. We have 9 projects that are on the ballot from Queens, last week end I had the pleasure to join the CEC team at the Queens market to help with the in-person voting for our Queens Barrow residents I was also, 2023, Queens, delegate it was a also great to watch our young Queens residents who came to cast the votes in hopes to have their votes heard. I am hopeful for better, safer and equitable Queensboro. Thank you.

»» Thank you so much, Farzana. Next on the list I have Daniel Reynolds, I'm not sure I'm saying the name correctly. Is Daniel here?

»» I don't think I'm seeing — okay.

»» I also have a statement from Wanda Evette, I will read that afterwards, Chad Royer, are you here?

And then did anyone else sign up in the chat or text you Abby?

»» Let me double-check. There was one other person who I think provided also a written commentary in our inbox.

»» Jacqueline?

»» Jacqueline? No, I don't think she is here she asked if she could be read. Which I have —

»» Okay. So, let's just make sure that no one signed up before we move into the reading of testimonies.

» Yes, we can do that. Then we'll just see after we've read them whether there is any other incoming before noon. So, why don't, I will start with Abigail then you can read Wanda's and Jacqueline's, is that okay?

»» Yes.

» So Abigail Shaw wrote in I participated as a Brooklyn assembly committee member in early 2023 for the people's money. The experience was very empowering and enlightening. Can everyone mute?

If you're not already muted. Thank you. It was a sin sear pleasure in reviewing projects submitted to help solve the needs of our borough. The structure and guidance from the Civic Engagement Commission staff, was better than I expected. Staff were energized and passionate about their roles. And motivated our borough assembly committee. The various lived experiences that my committee members and I brought helped to bring many of the social problems to life and emphasize how projects proposed might be able to fill the gaps in Brooklyn. The structure that the Civic Engagement Commission brought to this process, in such an effective way, encourages me to be more active in civic opportunities into New York City. Beyond just voting as has been the extent for me.

So that was Abigail Shaw then Benjamin if you can read the others?

»» You're muted —

» Sorry. So, Jacqueline Bisario. Good morning all writing this letter as Brooklyn assembly committee it was an amazing experience as U.S.

citizen it was empowering to have our voice heard I continue to participate in the process along with Benjamin and CEC staff from the Civic Engagement Commission. Please if you need to reach out to me, my contact information is below. Jacqueline Bisario, from Wanda Elenes. Good day I won't be able to comment live I'm still recovering from surgery I wanted express my gratitude for being selected. Being part of Bronx assembly committee and hope the projects that can benefit people with disabilities are put more in the forefront because they aren't only in the Bronx. It is a nationwide situation. They are in dire need of more services, than the very few participants that made it, projects that made it to the Bronx ballot. We must remember, — would help others would help ourselves and have happier lives. Hope this can help. Hanks again for giving me this opportunity. Wishing you a good day. Tentatively, Wanda Elenes.

»» Thanks, Benjamin. Did Daniel Reynolds join or Chad?

Okay. Just another check on whether anyone wanted to comment via the chat or texting? Don't see any names in the chat.

Abby, any texts?

»» No.

»» Okay. So, what we're going to do now, is move into the discussion on the rule. So, to do this segment, we have to close the public hearing portion. And open the public meeting for the Commissioners to deliberate and vote on the rule.

I just want to make sure we are still in quorum. (Counting) do we have 7 and Lilliam Perez is here, do we have 8.

»» I'm here, yep.

» Okay. Okay, perfect. We're more than quorum. Amazing, that's wonderful.

So, okay. So, what do Commissioners have thoughts or comments or questions related to the testimonies?

»» Sorry procedurally did you need a motion before we did this? Or are we okay.

» I think we're okay, I think we do the discussion and then do the motion. That's how I recall we did it before. If you would like to comment as a Commissioner, please just drop your name into the chat and I will call on you in the order that your name is in there. So, I know Murad Awewdeh you were speaking to go ahead.

»» Yeah, I just want to echo something that Joan said in her testimony of the final selection in the process. Just making sure that I don't know if we have to add a line here, but just making sure that we aren't giving anything as a commission to undermine the will of the votes. That each project gets. So, that it remains true as participatory as possible.

» Sarah Sayeed: Thank you for that, Murad, anyone have — any response to that or want to discuss that point further? Were you proposing more language be added or with were you asking for.

»» Murad Awewdeh : no, I don't think it is necessary at this point

from the language that has been proposed unless someone has a better idea of how to ensure, but I think the way it is written with the commission tabulating the final votes, for each project and then obviously, making sure that the project with the most votes wins the funding. I think there's nothing that I can see there that can strengthen the language at the moment unless we end up giving something down the road that does not align with the votes and then circling back unless someone else has an idea of how to address that.

»» Amy?

»» Yeah, that's a good point I think the only thing I can see is.

»» Amy Breedlove: If the commission finds out that there was some foul play in the voting that the commission might then strike down the winning proposal for whatever reason, but that would be the only reason I would see that would warrant such a override of the people's vote.

»» Thanks Amy. Anyone else want to comment on that particular point?

»» Yeah, if I could.

»» Yes? Mark.

»» Mark Diller: Thanks, reading from the text, of section 208, it calls on the commission to tabulate the votes, and it gives the commission final authority to select the projects, but it seems very clear that the concern that Murad is raising should control unless there is some other reason I didn't think about what Amy just

suggested having to do with some sort of impropriety in the voting I suppose that would make some sense I would always think that would govern but the rules also lay out that there are considerations about whether or not the agency can do what it is that the funding is being allocated to do. And whether the money is sufficient to do it. But those seem — in interpreting regulatory language generally speaking if you express a few items then you're excluding other things. So, basically, the winning number of votes wins unless there's some enumerated problem that doesn't allow that to happen. Therefore I'm confident that the concern that Murad is raising will govern the final selection unless there is enumerated reason why it wouldn't. We've already agreed on those, so I think we're safe. Although I share Murad's concern and value in making sure that the winning votes really do win.

»» Thank you for that.

»» Sarah Sayeed: How about okay, Eve you were asking about the online, go ahead —

»» Eve Baron: Yeah I was asking about the online comment, also I wanted to bring another point into this particular discussion.

»» Yes, please, go ahead.

»» Also looking at section 2-08,b2, the same statement about city agencies, the commission securing the concurrence of the affected agencies before making a final determination. There's a couple of things about that that I think relate to what Murad was saying number

one, we're making a determination potentially that is outside of the realm of just a straightforward tally. So, there's an issue there. And then, I just wonder about that, the idea of obtaining concurrence, are agencies required to concur with us? Is there an instance where they would actually refuse to concur, or have try to shape the project in some way that makes it more compliant with their own ways of practice. So I think within the paragraph in number 2 there's a couple of things that are a little bit vague. Then the other point was I was just wondering how we're handling the comments that came in online.

»» Sarah Sayeed: On the second issue I can go ahead and read those. Thank you for flagging that. And I wanted to before we have ourselves respond to the staff and staff respond to your question, I wondered if other Commissioners had anything they wanted to add to what Eve said about that section 2-08 and agencies concurrence, yeah, Mark.

»» Mark Diller: In previous iterations of this rulemaking process we added a clause that said in effect, uh-oh my battery is low, we add a clause that said the amount of money the agency receives, must be sufficient in order to complete the project. So, so, we've eliminated one source of agency refusal to concur. Which is that they would be concerned they would have to spend their own money in addition to ours to complete the project. So then the only reason why that clause would obtain is if the agency has a value judgment that is different than ours. And again I think that if we have solved

the financial problem, and the rules says that in effect I sort of interpret that as best efforts that the commission will use its best efforts to get the agency to concur, then the will of the people who have voted should control under that situation as well. I think that there is just a little bit of wiggle room just in case that is usually appropriate in regulatory language. So I'm not as concerned I'm not concerned that an agency will overrule the people on this.

»» Sara I can add something.

»» Please.

»» Ben Solotaire: Unlike capital projects we don't go to them for any approval or funding, we have set amount of money to do a project we rely on the organizations that are applying to stay in that funding we don't have anymore fund to go give them anyway. This is what they have to do. We do not internally we do not want to approve projects that require head counts to agencies or have any direct impact on agencies we don't allow the projects to move forward as a commission. Nor do we allow any major policy changes that are suggested like, how teachers should teach because those are purviews of agencies. So, in our selection, in our review process, with our committee, assembly committees and before we move projects of those types. We let agencies know that.

(AUDIO INTERRUPTED) We can't hear you Benjamin, unless it is just me.

»» No, he cut out. You're still on mute.

»» That's weird. Wonder what happened.

»» Now you're back.

»» Sorry. Where did I get lost?

»» Did you —

»» I think you were saying — agencies were not, we're asking organizations to implement the projects not agencies, I can't remember —

»» Yeah, sorry. Yes, we don't require any funding from them we don't allow organizations to need more funding. Regardless, our review criteria we don't allow projects to move forward to require personnel to be added to an agency. Nor do we require allow — policy change in agency. So, something like how teachers teach or, how one might deal with people who are in house. We don't allow those projects to move forward. Other than that we sought tactical advice — other than letting agencies know possibly some projects are on the ballot, we don't have had no conflict or no input from them on some of the particular topics projects.

»» Anyone else have a discussion points on that particular topic of agency?

»» Yeah I wanted to also note that I think, in the first year, we have engaged agencies on these projects in several ways. One is through the, we have an intergov committee we asked agency representatives particularly for agencies that are working with

populations that Charter charges us to work with. They are part of our intergov committee then in addition, in evaluating the applications of implementing organizations, we set up an evaluation process that allowed for agency colleagues to participate in reviewing those applications. And then, I think going forward once the winning projects are identified, we definitely will be sharing that out, with agency colleagues so that they are aware of how this process has worked at the Neighborhood level and how the work that is being done is dovetailing with their work. And we want them to stay aware and engage in this process it's that we're not definitely at this point not burdening them on the implementation side. But we definitely want them to stay engaged and including on the evaluations that we'll need to happen, on these projects because as a commission, we do want to show that projects have been successfully implemented. So, we're in the process of determining those criteria of how we're going to monitor and evaluate winning projects. So, agencies will also be; that process as well. Thank you for the discussion about that. Then before I read the comments that were submitted online, I know Natalie you also wanted to speak so I will turn it over to you now.

»» Natalie DeVito: Thank you. You can hear me, yes? This is just like an audio check since we've had other problems.

» Yes, I can hear you.

»» Okay, so, what I wanted to say is, when I heard Murad's concern,

I started thinking of like potential scenarios where this could go wrong and I feel that the guardrails are clarified for me having heard from Benjamin. Specifically, if I can just throw out a weird example it's like if the people decided that everybody should dye themselves green and we determined that the money actually was there for that, how do we override the will have the people. People shouldn't be necessarily turning themselves green, which then seems to me, to be covered in the clarifying language about the mission of the Civic Engagement Commission. So, we still need to implement things that are in keeping with our mission. So, I feel like those guardrails exist in the existing language.

»» Thank you Natalie.

Do other Commissioners have points of discussion? Okay. Since I'm not hearing from anyone. I will turn next to the comments that were submitted online, I can read the first one, I don't know if — why don't we just do round robin, Abby can you read Christopher Dauling and Benjamin you can do Antonio Bendez.

»» I'm sorry what are we —

»» I don't know if I'm shared —

»» No you are shared because Eve put the link into the chat or the comments that were put online. So we want to give a voice to those comments that were submitted through the rules website. So, I'm really grateful to you, Eve for reminding us about this piece, thank you so much. So, I'm just going to start with the comment and everyone

can follow along because if you are on a computer you can click on the link. So, January L submitted a comment that reads as in section 205, the parameters of the borough committee should be fleshed out more. While section 3202 sets forth the kinds of people who should be considered for the committee, I would be more fair and transparent establishing a rule how those members will be chosen, how many there will be, for example, at least 5 members, how long a member's term on the committee will be, et cetera. Similar to language in section 3201 for the commission membership. In addition that section says the commission will conduct outreach to the public, but doesn't say how it will conduct outreach. The ways in which the commission will conduct outreach should be set forth in the rule. Section 208 says the commission retains the final authority to select the local projects. There should be a legal standard in the rule for determining the local projects so that decisions are not arbitrary and capricious and subject to the political whims given that member is of the commission are appointed by politicians. Thereby under cutting whole point of participatory budgeting for example, the rule could say, that the commission must select the local project or projects that it has determined are in the best interest of the people of the borough after considering number of votes and factors into dash 06. Would you Commissioners like to say anything about that particular comment?

»» Mark?

»» Mark Diller: Thanks. As a global response I'm grateful for the

attention to detail, but concerned that rulemaking needs to be flexible and that prescribing the very granular detail that is offered in these comments, could have a very deleterious effect on the operation of PB. For example, if I understood the comments correctly there was a request that there be a specified number of committee members for each selection committee. What happens if we don't get enough volunteers to do it. I would be my understanding of rulemaking is that if there aren't a sufficient number of people that are selected for that committee then the committee is not properly constituted and therefore couldn't fulfill its role. I would be loathe to hamstring the process by a failure by one person of that kind of a thing. With respect to now I'm going back to Murad's point earlier, the suggestion that we have a legal standard that imposes a best interests of the borough selection criterion that could in effect supercede the, could supercede the winning vote total. Also, well that is in — that imposes a subjective judgment of a group, I'm not even sure who the group is, that could override the popular vote. And that is not my understanding 69 purpose of the process.

With respect to the element that I heard about incorporating into the rule, how to conduct outreach, again rules are need flexibility, and the commission needs flexibility in terms of employing tools, tools change as we've seen in the last 10 years, the tools that work today are not those that we would have selected 10 years ago. And my hope is that we don't keep rewriting these rules every year,

therefore we need to give and trust that the commission will use the most appropriate tools to reach the most needed audience. So, equity says that we adapt I've spoken too much, anyway I share the concerns that are raised there, but I think that the flexibility if you will, legal — serve purposes of the project so I would be loathe to change them. Thanks.

»» Thanks Mark, Natalie, do you still have your hand up or is this a new hand for this particular discussion?

»» Yeah, no, that's from previously. I'm sorry I'm going to, I will do the cancel button whatever that is, thank you.

» Okay.

»» You're all set. Thank you.

» Thank you. Any other Commissioners on that particular comment? What I wanted to note —

»» Sara, I have my hand up.

»» Oh, Donna wonderful yes I was going to say I noted you put something in the chat.

»» Donna Veronica Gill. Listening to that, we need to delineate and have a more of a legal standing on the process. I think that the comments were showing that we may or may not have decided or people are thinking and then people are thinking that the process may be in some way flawed because we most of us are appointed by politicians. I think in order to get to where the public or our communities are very comfortable and understand that they are the ones that have

chosen the project, they are the ones that are ultimately making the decisions even though the commission is making the decisions, I think they need to feel a little bit more comfortable with the process.

The process as it stands, works for us, but it's not working as this individual was saying. It doesn't seem like it will work for our communities. So, I think we may need to just let communities know that it is their work that we're just organizing. We're just organizers, not the actual makers of this policy of how to spend the money. So I think that level of comfortability is actually what is not addressed in this rulemaking. If you get what I mean.

»» Thanks Donna. Amy? I see your hand up.

»» You're still on mute.

»» Amy Breedlove: Sorry about that, thank you Donna. I think we did hear from those that participated in the process and who gave comment today, really expressed how the process is inclusive and they did trust in the process and that they felt it worked other than Joan's comment about fear of override, which we have discussed and I think feel comfortable with. I would assume that the comments made by this particular individual, seems very legal-minded so, I think it is less about being comfortable as a community member as just a process-oriented in making sure that we have a process delineated that is inclusive to that level and I think Mark addressed that from a legal standpoint. So, I feel comfortable with the process set forward Thursday far and with the commission's staff that have

explained how it works.

»» Okay, thanks for that. I think that there is room for us also to keep these concerns in mind. I'm so aware of how we are really in infancy stage, just very, very beginning this process. And trying to figure out as you all know, there hasn't been, it is really exciting, we're running a process that has never happened before in terms of expense funding, you know is kind of the driving force here. And also just running a process that is citywide and inclusive in trying to figure out ways to get different people involved. So, there is a lot of room for us to learn and a lot of room for us to make mistakes (LAUGHTER).

Which I think the two go together. Right. Because mistakes are really opportunities to learn. And by spelling out things in too much detail at the beginning I think that we would as Mark mentioned just lose the flexibility to learn and make mistakes and from how we're trying to implement this process. So, I agree with everyone who has spoken so far about how we address this particular concern. I think that we hold on to it and continue to see how this process works and see how we can amend rules later as well. —

»» Chair may I add one more thing.

»» Amy Breedlove: I think the outreach piece is an interesting piece I think that this commission is doing outreach to different communities and really investigating how to reach specific populations. And I think that that is something that is important

to A learn, but also to report back to the city itself on ways in which we've been successful and found out how to outreach to different populations. I think would be helpful to the entire city Government.

» Sarah Sayeed: Thanks for that note, I think that you're right, we will learn a lot about our outreach strategies so, we'll make part of a discussion of a public meetings to talk about how we did outreach and what we learned from that process for sure. How we can build on that. Are there any other Commissioners who would like to speak on this particular comment? I think we're determining we're not making any changes to the rule based on that particular comment. So, Abby, would you like to read the next one from Christopher Dauling?

»» Sure. Let me know, so everybody can hear me. So, Christopher wrote, I believe we are on the right track in discretionary ending helps communities thrive in their own space and bring them together.

However, I do have some reservations on the communications strategies used. As a community member, and organizational leader, I only heard about this after all the ideas had been submitted. I also only hear about the voting on social media and nowhere else. The website is confusing and even the web announcements are too busy and not direct enough on a different note, I believe a borough-wide application is too broad, there is no way that even a million dollars will impact even a small percent of the population and we are too diverse by Neighborhoods that the impact will have meaning. Also, the time of one year to organize and spend the money is way too short. Real

programming can take a year — of more to come to fruition. This should be a multi-year project. Thank you.

» Thanks Abby. Turning to Commissioners for discussion on that.

»» I feel it is some valuable feedback but I don't see any need to change anything that we're looking at today.

» Thanks Amy. Mark then Natalie.

»» Mark Diller: I agree with Amy. The points about outreach and website so forth are valuable feedback that can be incorporated by the staff going forward to the extent that there are better alternative it's is useful to mention that. The only thing useful to get to the heart of the rules that are under discussion today is, the point about how much money is available and how long the projects have to come to fruition. As I understand it, the enabling statutes pretty much impose that on us. Therefore you can't write a rule that rewrites the enabling statute therefore I think there is nothing — I don't think it is not permissible to adapt the rule in the way that is being proposed. So, I think that we're on safe ground and in fact the only available ground by the rules that we have before us. Thanks.

» Sarah Sayeed: Sorry, may I ask you to clarify what you mean by enabling statute?

»» 3202. The stat—rules — the city rulemaking procedure is to implement the overall purpose of a statute. You can't create a rule that doesn't have an only — legal obligation that in some way supports the rule. So, for example, you can't have, we couldn't adopt

a rule that says that we're going to take the million dollars, put it into non-sequentially numbers 5s and 10s and give it out at times square because that is contrary to the spirit of the rule. The rule, I'm sorry contrary to the spirit of the statute. If the statute says we have a year for which the projects to be created implemented then that is what we have to do. If the statute says, the amount of money we have to spend is based on O and B and Mayor's aloe case so forth then that is what we have to spend. It would be great to write a rule that says we can write our own budget but that is not permissible under my understanding of the city administrative procedures act.

» Thanks for that, Natalie?

»» Natalie DeVito: I pressed my button to unmute. Thank you again. Mark, for always contributing. Great input. I have literally just lost my train of thought I'm sorry can we circle back?

»» Will do. —

»» Oh, wait I've got it thank you so much for indulging me.

»» I appreciate the concern about outreach, I appreciate that a million dollars isn't enough money a year isn't enough time. I do appreciate those things I bet that those are challenges that the commission faces all the time. So what I am hearing is we will do our best. We can only do our best with the budget that we've got. We can only grow outreach this individual lamented, it seems perhaps accurately they had not heard about the vote until sort of either at the end or when it was done. So, that's a note for us to take.

But our budget is our budget and our abilities are our abilities and time grows messages so this individual now actually knows where to look and knows that we exist. And that happens with time anyway. So, again, thank you for the concern about not enough money and not enough time. We share it, we will just do our best. And I don't feel that any rule amendment adjustment or change will be called for at this time. Thank you.

» Sarah Sayeed: One note I wanted to make on the multi-year project. If projects are successful, I think that it is important for us to think about how we sustain them. Right. Because that is one of the drawbacks of expense funding is like a one shot deal. So, I'm not sure if I actually asked this on TB, I'm not sure if folks saw I was on page 11 promoting participatory budgeting program. But one thing that we could build into next year's process is if you have a successful project, you're welcome to propose that that be put on the ballot Again. Right. And that you create a process people get to see the results of what you've been able to do and decide whether or not they want to see that project continue.

So that is one way for us to ensure that, then during monitoring and evaluation process, we're also looking into ways for the organizations to think about sustainability. And potential other sources of funding if for example, they decide they want to continue it or that it's on the ballot, not selected again to really explore with organizations this question of sustainability. So I think that's

really important for us to be thinking about. Amy, did you have a comment?

»» Yeah I think that is where the buy in of the agencies is also important. And we should look at ways in which we could have the agencies take over successful projects as well as the organizations, but this would be a nice hand off to some of the city agencies. Mark?

»» If I can piggy back on that completely agree with Amy and add that every community board has a district needs statement and a statement of budget priorities. And to Amy's point, a successful PB project, becomes the perfect ground to say to a community board, not only should we do this project, but we've now proven that it works.

»» Thank you for that Mark. Annetta?

»» Annetta Seecherran: Just one quick comment on this topic. I wonder if we should also be thinking about capacity building support and training for project leaders. So, like early in the process. So that they think about sustainability in the next steps in the future. Because if these — I think we're all aligned I'm hearing in that the comments, that ultimately if these projects are successful, then they are needed in the community for at least the foreseeable future. Right? So, how do we support them in ensuring that they remain.

»» Thanks for that, that is really important. We're kind of developing the monitoring and evaluation process right now. So I think your note that we start early to think about sustainability is a really good note and we'll make sure Benjamin when we're talking

about that, we can integrate that piece for sure.

»» For sure.

» Natalie do you still have your hand up or was that from —

»» My hand's up.

»» Oh, perfect.

»» Thank you.

»» Thanks sorry about that.

»» Appreciate the lively discussion but I would like to move it for a vote?

»» Well, I think we're still obligated to read the last one so —

»» Okay, go for it.

»» So Benjamin do you want to read the last one and see.

»» Sure. I don't think there will be a lot of disagreement about this from Antonio Mendez. I was a borough assembly committee member representing borough of Manhattan portfolios submitted I cannot suppress enough the importance of collaborative process within our city Government not to mention the learning experience for all involved as back members. I fully support the rules proposed and feel it is essential for the working participation and success of our city and its inhabitants there is no better way for all New Yorkers to have a stake in the success of our environment.

» Okay. I think we can stop screen sharing. Well now Murad, you can have the floor to (LAUGHTER).

Guessing from the discussion there is no edits to the rule, right?

We've all agreed that there is no more no edits so, Murad?

»» I move to I make a motion to approve this rule.

»» Second.

»» All in favor?

»» Aye.

»» Any opposed?

»» Aye.

»» Aye.

»» Thank you. You know what last time, we were chatting about this voting process. The staff was. And we were saying that it can get a little confusing. So if it's okay I will just go through the names so that we just have your vote as a yes or no by name rather than just doing the aye and nay because for clarity I think that is better is that better for everyone.

»» Good idea.

»» I will just call your name, roll call. Murad Avevdeh?

»» Yes.

» Eve Baron?

»» Yes.

» — is not here, Amy Breedlove.

»» Yes.

»» Natalie DeVito?

»» Aye.

» Mark Diller.

»» Aye.

» Thank you. Donna Veronica Gill?

»» Yes.

» Anthony Harmon? Jose Hernandez.

»» Yes.

» William Perez? Not sure if William is still with us. Annetta Seecherran?

»» Yes.

» Anastasia Somoza?

»» Mitch Woo.

»» Aye.

» Terrific. So, we are now going to move forward with this proposed rule. So, thank you so much to everybody for engaging in that really great discussion. We are almost at the end of the meeting in the sense that like we didn't have, we were going to focus on this topic but I wanted to the topic of the PB rule. I wanted to make sure that we gave you the Commissioners the quick update on where things are right now with what we're trying to get to happen between now and the end of June. And also really to ask for your help because starting, well today but starting before and really the next 21 days we need to be very, very focused on promoting the PB vote. Voter engagement the primary and our poll side language assistance program. And everyone knows that the PB vote is already under way and we've engaged a lot of organizations and community partners we're doing a lot of work

on the ground to reach out to communities and gain participation. We still definitely want you to stay engaged in this process, so, we are — I'm putting the link into the chat for the vote for PB voting and really encourage you to promote that with as many people as possible. To vote digitally in particular, I know everyone here has an extensive mailing list I'm sure you have lots of friends and colleagues in the city. So, really the staff did a relational organizing kind of workshop amongst ourselves so I I would encourage you to think about who in your network may not have voted yet and to really try to promote that link.

And then for awareness, we are trying to, we are going to high traffic events as a commission and Darshanie, artist and resident, if you recall the people's bus, we now have a new version of the people's bus for those again who may not be aware, the bus is now transformed into we're calling the tender people's money monster. Tippy. And we were in Bronx week and Queens night market and we're going to also be in Staten Island this weekend. Museum mile next week. And also, celebrate Brooklyn next week I will drop those events into the chat as well would love you to share that out, with your community members and also join us for those events. We would love to see you and in the article, you should be able to see what tippy looks like. The people's money monster this is our — we're trying to be imaginative how we're captivating people's money, Darshanie had this idea how to create a monster, a muppet or a puppet of some kind.

And we've had really great experiences with this bus in the field. So far a lot of young people really gravitating towards it and people can also still walk inside the bus and take a tour of the artwork inside. So, yeah, join us and bring young people out to these events as well. Next thing I wanted to let you all know about, is that we are going to be moving forward on doing education for the primary and Kathleen Daniel chief democracy officer as you recall we heard from Kathleen before and really running that program and she is unable to be here today because she has to prep for a meeting with City Hall. However, she did want me to share some of the plans with you. So, that you are aware so I'm going to do that very quickly by actually sharing my screen. So, you know what's coming up on that side of things. So, let me share my screen.

See if that's the right one. No. Let me see if this is right. Can folks see the screen?

»» Yes.

» Okay. Thank you. So, for democracy NYC the focus is really on thinking about how participation is compared to voting registration as we all know, there are lots of people who are registered voters in New York City. Who are not participating, and it's about a quarter of registered voters that are participating. And so, Kathleen, is leading the charge by focusing on stopping trying to stop this drop from voter registration to voter activation. How can we kind of increase the number of enrolled voters who actually participate. So,

some of the stats on that are, here on this screen. In the last, in 2013, 23% participated of eligible voters 2017 ,12%, 2021, which was the first choice voting primary 27% participated. We don't know what this primary will look like, but these are just the numbers that kind of are the baseline for us to keep in mind.

And just here, a dramatic drop in voter turnout in elections. And we have this unique opportunity now with the second round of ranked choice voting to continue to educate voters and improve participation so you're not looking at my — wait, how do I move this somewhere.

Okay. And then, go to the next one. Okay, this is a first time in 20 years that we have an election where citywide positions are not part of the municipal primary. It is also the second ever citywide RCV primary in addition to the ranked choice voting primary there are also primaries for district attorney in Bronx and Queens primaries for judges, the civil court in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens and primaries for party roles including state committee and judicial delegate. These are reasons in which there is no ranked choice voting. Challenges many are just not aware that there's an election, the primary election is happening. And some crowds, primaries only have two candidates, and there's a space for write-in. Which might be confusing for our RCV voters educated voters and then on the same ballot people will see both RCV and traditional voting. And then there are 21 council members who have a primary in this election. And also, this is a redistricting year. And that is also

confusing to voters so there are a myriad of both challenges and opportunities in terms of education that democracy NYC program is contending with. Of all, there are many districts having RCV primaries however given our resources we're really focused on a few of them in terms of our own efforts as a commission as a democracy NYC program. These, these are listed here Bronx district 13, Brooklyn 41, Brooklyn 43, Manhattan 9 and Queens 23. These are areas in which we will be engaging in different days of action to educate voters.

And there will be a multi-lingual, multi-media grassroots campaign focused on those five areas and we will be looking at both, well several things an ad campaign out of home social print digital ads also edge nick, radio, printed posters hangers everyone knows we're working with partners in the 33 Neighborhoods that were designated by the task force for racial inclusion, equity as hard hit by COVID. Those organizations will have voter education deliverables or do have voter education deliverables so that a group that is going to be doing get out to vote on the primary.

Then we are adding additional CVO partners to work in very focused way on the get out to vote activities we'll be doing canvassing, we're working with CUNY students to help us get out the vote and holding some additional multi-lingual events and June is civics month as part of the NYC service spread love campaign. We'll be working to build, spread love for those who don't know, an NYC service initiative to increase volunteerism in New York City it will be spread out over

several months so we're partnering with them to increase the number of volunteers who are engaging with our initiatives. And there will be citywide days of action that include text, text banking, phone calls and community canvassing. And we have set forth some metrics for success these are initial estimates we're dealing with a lot of very it's a very condensed timeline however, we want to be ambitious in the goals we're setting we're hoping that we can meet some of these goals with engaging a large number of volunteers. Giving out commitment cards that say I am going to vote that people can sign and give to us and then be knocking on doors. And hoping for an increase in voter turnout.

And there is an ad campaign here are some of the ads we're placing we are going to be issuing a press release today. There will be an ethic media roundtable next week. We'll be looking out for media opportunities and the ads will be running from June 8 to June 27. Tomorrow there is actually a city council hearing on voter engagement that NYC Kathleen will be testifying in. I wanted to let people know about that. And then, days of action beginning this week actually. There will be a trainer boot camp. If you want to attend you're welcome to attend that. Text banking we'll be working with houses of worship. Phone banking, we'll have a teach-in day that is organized for community members to plug into. If you can't do it on that day, if you're a community partner, you can choose another day to host a teach-in. Again community canvassing and there will be a social day

of action on June 27 which is the day of the primary.

So, there's a lot that we are working on to try to — did I stop sharing? Did it go away or — what's happening right now on your end?

»» It stopped sharing.

» Okay, perfect. Those are some of the activities that we are going to be doing in the next couple of weeks it's a lot. So, we welcome your support on any number of these activities anyway you can get involved we are grateful for that. So, Amy, you have your hand up?

»» Yeah, I'm one who really likes metrics but I'm a little concerned about 2% increase in voter turnout. Because this primary is so different from the last primary. The last primary had the Mayor and all of the major positions, we've talked about if in this commission, where the primaries in New York City in some ways act like a general election. So, I have some concern about a 2% sort of overall increase. I would rather see looking at targeted areas, where we're really focusing and getting increase in those areas. Because I don't think you're going to make 2% overall.

» Sarah Sayeed: Sorry, I didn't know if I was on mute. Okay, I think that is helpful feedback I think we can be a little bit more specific on where we might see that increase and then also the thing to keep in mind is that, the work that the commission is doing in the space is a very small fraction of the other work that is happening through campaign finance board and also board of elections and a lot of community partners. So, given that this is the second round of ranked

choice voting I hope that we'll see an increase in participation and we may not. In either case, I think that for me, whatever increase or decrease we see that is collectively, I want to be very careful in saying whatever rate of participation we see, is really not we're not saying that it is because of what the commission did or didn't do. It is just I think it's an aspirational goal to try to reverse this kind of downsidings of participation. I think you're right that we need to be more specific on that piece, and like what we're doing around set goals that are reflective of our particular work.

»» Because I will tell you like in a couple of council districts here, there's no council member primary. They are going uncontested and they'll just be some judges up for election. So those will, those are not ranked choice. So, those will draw very little voter participation. Especially going up against the last one. That is my point.

»» Yeah. Thank you. I hear you totally agree with you.

Anyone else?

»» I just want to echo comparing 23 to the previous —
(AUDIO INTERRUPTED).

»» I think you got cut out for a bit.

»» Representative of you know, the turnout.

»» Sorry, I didn't get your full comment. Could you repeat it, sorry.

»» I don't know can you hear me.

»» Yeah I can hear you now it just cut out at a point you were speaking.

»» I was just saying comparing this election cycle to the previous one is not going to be really representative of like a full cycle. Like my ballot is — going to have district attorney.

» Yeah, and as we mentioned this is like the last one that we're comparing to was — as we said, this is the first time where you have the situation where there's a citywide positions are not up. I think everyone's right on the cautions that you are raising. And we will want to look at, we'll want to know how many people have participated and try to understand that in relation to the context and history. But it is so tricky because every election just, hard to find patterns that are differences in like the nature of races that are being contested and it's a really interesting space with a lot of nuance that we've got to figure out. So — thank you for those thoughts. Anyone else? The fair comparison is to 2019. Mark, do you want to elaborate?

»» Mark Diller: The last election which in which there was only basically judges and a handful of — no citywide, no statewide and no Federal elections were up that year. That's the fair comparison.

» Okay. Thank you for that.

»» Thanks for that, Mark.

»» But I do want to throw in because of the redistricting we do have like in Brooklyn, I think it is 43, where you have 5 people competing for that new council member seat. So, that's I think an area where it would be great to really look at resources there and measure how

we increased voter participation in that specific district.

» Sarah Sayeed: Yeah, Kathleen has been really intentional about the choices that are being made in terms of where we're going to be showing up as a commission and as democracy NYC. That is definitely one of the places where we'll be. Okay. Anyone else have any other feedback or comments? Okay. If not, then I would love to entertain a motion to adjourn.

»» So moved.

»» Do I hear a second?

»» Second.

»» Second.

» All in favor?

»» Aye.

» Anyone opposed? Okay. There is no opposition to ending the public meeting. So, the motion is carried and we are now adjourned and we look forward to seeing you all in the next meeting. And I want to thank members of the public again who are with us today, and also all the people for your active participation and thoughtfulness and really engaging the testimonies that we received. So thank you again, everyone. And we'll talk again soon and I look forward to seeing you all at some of the events that we mentioned. Take care!

»» Thank you very much!

»» Bye!