

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION
Minutes of Commission Meeting
(Subject to revision and approval by the Commission)
Tuesday, July 21st, 2026, at 11:00 AM,
Spector Hall (Ground Floor)
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007

Members in attendance:

Sarah Sayeed, Chair/Executive Director
Eve Baron, Commissioner
Edwin Maxwell, Commissioner
Aicha Cisse, Commissioner
Frank Perez, Commissioner
Mitchel Wu, Commissioner
Donna Veronica Gill, Commissioner
DeNora Getachew, Commissioner

Commissioners Joshua Ocampo, Natalie DeVito, Amy Breedlove, and Samirah Zeerah participated in the meeting via WebEx Video Conference. Commissioner Natalie DeVito and Amy Breedlove counted towards quorum, while Commissioners Joshua Ocampo and Samirah Zeerah's attendance did not.

Business Conducted & Agenda Items Discussed

- I. Attendance: Roll call confirmed quorum.
- II. Introduction of New Commissioner and Chief of Staff: Chair Dr. Sayeed announced Commissioner Murad Awawdeh's resignation, effective July 10, 2026, and thanked him for his service. Chair Dr. Sayeed welcomed Commissioner Samirah Zeerah, the newly appointed City Council designee, and introduced Joi Rae, the Commission's new Chief of Staff.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Prior meeting minutes from April 30th, 2026 were unanimously approved by voice vote of those present.
- IV. Program Updates:

- a. Participatory Budgeting (The People’s Money)
 - i. Participatory Budgeting—Design by Community: NYC Opportunity’s Service Design Studio and Cambio Labs fellows presented updates on the Harlem youth entrepreneurship program.
 - b. Voter Language Assistance
 - c. Community Boards
 - d. Better Public Meeting Research: The National Civic League presented preliminary findings from the Better Public Meetings New York project.
- V. Public Comment: One public comment was recorded regarding language access, civic education, and outreach to immigrant communities.
- VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.