Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

July 23, 2024

Carlo Scissura, Chair
Charter Revision Commission
City Hall
New York, NY 10001

Re: Remove term limits for community board membership

Dear Chair Scissura,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause:

> **WHEREAS**, CB8M is concerned that the charter revision process this year is too rushed and has not provided sufficient opportunity for public input; and
> **WHEREAS**, New York City community boards play a vital role in providing community input to government decisions affecting New York City, its neighborhoods, and their residents and other stakeholders; and
> **WHEREAS**, in the course of their community board service, community board members often develop a great deal of practical experience and subject matter expertise relevant to dealing with elected officials and agencies and addressing the issues facing the community; and
> **WHEREAS**, community board term limits lead to the sudden loss to the community board of many years of relevant experience and substantial subject matter knowledge that is beneficial to the community boards' work; and
> **WHEREAS**, the need for community board members to be reappointed every two years provides a sufficient limit on the terms of members whose membership on the board would no longer be beneficial and is a better mechanism to limit terms than an arbitrary restriction on the number of consecutive terms that members can serve;
>
> **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M recommends that the Charter Revision Commission approve a ballot initiative to amend the New York City Charter to remove term limits for community board membership.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Russell Squire and Shari Weiner

Russell Squire and Shari Weiner
Charter Revision Task Force Co-Chairs

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District