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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Voting Reform and Charter Revision Task Force
Tuesday, July 15, 2025 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Ed Hartzog (Co-chair), Shari Weiner (Co-chair)

Board Members Unexcused: Michele Birnbaum, Barbara Rudder

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 9

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

1. **Discussion of the interim report of the Charter Revision Commission (Mayor's Commission) and the proposed amendments to the City Charter, available here.**

On July 1st, the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission issued their "Proposed Amendments (6) to the City Charter." A copy of the report can be found here.

They include: (1) "Fast Track for Affordable Housing", (2) "Expedited Land Use Review Procedure", (3) "Land Use Appeals Board", (4) "City Map", (5) "Even Year Elections", and (6) "Open Primaries with Top Two."

Save for the City Map, the Committee had already taken positions on all of the topics except the Land Use Appeals Board – which is where most of the discussion was focused.

The Land Use Appeals Board, as proposed, would be comprised of three members: the Mayor, the City Council Speaker, and the affected Borough President, or their representatives. They would have the ability to review any land application decision located within a single borough and not involving an urban renewal plan, filed pursuant to par. 8 of subdivision (a) of Sec. 197-c.

The applicant is allowed five days to appeal the City Council's decision to the Board, or the Board may act on its own to review the decision by an affirmative majority vote.

Upon the appeal, the Board has 15 days to hold a public meeting, with five days being prior to the notice, and to render a decision.

As the final language of the proposed amendment is still unknown, the Committee did not take a position on the proposed amendment.

The Committee moved on to old business at this point.

2. **Old Business**

No items of Old Business were discussed.

3. **New Business**

No items of New Business were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Sharon Weiner and Ed Hartzog, Co-Chairs