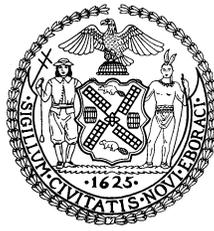


**Alida Camp**  
Chair

**Will Brightbill**  
District Manager



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Charter Revision Task Force Meeting**  
Monday, December 10, 2018, 6:30 PM  
Community Board 8 Office  
505 Park Avenue, Suite 620

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee chair to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.*

**Minutes**

*Present:*

Michele Birnbaum, Barbara Chocky, Billy Freeland, Alida Camp, Tricia Shimamura, Ed Hartzog, Peter Patch, Anthony Cohn, and Russell Squire

**Resolutions for Approval:**

Item 1 – Unanimous

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

**Item 1: Discussion of topics for the 2019 Charter Commission to consider.**

The Charter Revision Task Force met to discuss the 2019 Charter Review Commission and what CB8M's role should be in formulating and making recommendations to the Commission. The Task Force shared several ideas, and ultimately concluded that the best next step would be to submit a resolution to Gail Benjamin, the Chair of the Commission. Among the ideas discussed for inclusion in the resolution included:

- Giving community boards more binding power—rather than advisory power—in City decision-making, particularly for land use and development decision-making.
- Ensuring that community boards have access to unbiased urban planners.
- Advocating for the City to adopt a long-term infrastructure and development plan.
- Codifying the process for future charter revisions to guarantee that sufficient time is allotted for the process.
- Examining the balance of power between the Mayor, the City Council, and the Borough Presidents on various commissions and in various departments, such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Department of City Planning.
- Increasing the transparency of the RFP process and allowing community boards to participate in RFP development.
- Demanding more timely payments to City vendors.
- Re-examining the Civic Engagement Commission and community board term limits.
- Closing loopholes in the Zoning Resolution.
- Eliminating the commercial rent tax and requiring uniformity of taxes and regulations throughout the city.
- Reviewing and defining the mandate of the Office of the Public Advocate.
- Requiring that City agencies provide responses to community board resolutions and recommendations within a specified time frame.

The following resolution was put forward by the Task Force:

**WHEREAS** Community Board 8 Manhattan has a number of topics that it asks the Charter Commission to consider in determining which Charter provisions merit revision;

**WHEREAS** the Charter Review Commission of 2019 asked community boards to comment on the City Charter;

**WHEREAS** CB8 is concerned about the balance of power in New York City and the land use process;

**WHEREAS** CB8 is concerned about the lack of deference given to Community Board decisions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8 Manhattan asks that the Charter Commission consider the following recommendations for modifications of and revisions to the NYC Charter:

That community boards be transitioned from being advisory in nature to having actual power in City decision-making, including developing and implementing land use decisions.

That Community Boards have access to urban planners with a degree in urban planning, architecture, real estate development, public policy or similar discipline, and that such urban planner have no ties to either the City administration or the real estate industry.

That New York City adopt a long-term plan that shall be examined, and modified where necessary, on a regular, determined basis and that any such Plan be ratified by the City Council with public input.

That the Charter Commission codify the process for future charter revisions allow for two years, a sufficient time for review of, suggested revisions for, and public input into the process, and allowing advocacy in favor of and opposed to specific charter revision proposals.

That the Charter Commission examine the power balance between the Mayor, Borough Presidents, and City Council for certain commissions and departments, such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Board of Standards and Appeals, and Department of City Planning. Appointments to these Commissions and Board should be made by the Public Advocate, Council, and Borough Presidents, as well as by the Mayor.

That the Charter Commission review the charges and missions of all City Departments, including stakeholder identification.

That transparency into the RFP process be increased and that Community Boards participate in RFP development.

That the Charter Commission review budget protocols, including mandates to integrate CB priorities into budget decisions.

That the Charter Commission review contract bidding protocols to mandate competitive bidding and require transparency, among other issues.

That payment to City vendors on a timely basis be mandated.

That the Civic Engagement Commission and community board term limits be re-examined.

That regulatory changes to departments that reduce the input of Borough Presidents be prohibited.

With respect to land use, that the ULURP process be expanded and strengthened, including requirements that all development must go before community boards, that all sales of air rights and all City

development, changes to the zoning text, and changes to deed restrictions each be subject to ULURP review.

That communities have a broader role in land use planning and decision-making.

That where any community board has disapproved an application a supermajority of the City Planning Commission be required to approve the application,

That the reasons for the use of a Mayoral Zoning Override be codified and limited further.

That the community board, City Council, and Borough President for the relevant district agree on land use decisions.

That loopholes in the Zoning Resolution be closed.

That the Charter include provision for a City agency to supervise, regulate and deal with questions relating to street vendors. The agency would include representatives from all other City agencies that have specific responsibilities with various aspects of street vendors and the ability to establish vendor enforcement officers.

With respect to taxes, that the commercial rent tax be eliminated.

That regulations and taxes throughout New York City be uniform.

That the Commission review and define the mandate for the office of the Public Advocate.

That the Charter require City agencies to provide responses within a specified time frame to Community Board resolutions and recommendations.

Approved: 9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions, and 0 Not Voting for Cause.

Yes: Birnbaum, Chocky, Freeland, Camp, Shimamura, Hartzog, Patch, Cohn, and Squire

No: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Alida Camp and Billy Freeland, Co-Chairs