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CRC Meeting

Moderated by Chair Carlo Scissura

Thursday, July 25, 2024

2:04 p.m.

Brooklyn Public Library Central Library

10 Grand Army Plaza

Brooklyn, NY, 11238

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A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Carlo Scissura, Chair

Hazel Dukes, Vice Chair

Diane Savino, Executive Director

Ken Ngai, Secretary

Edward Kiernan, General Counsel

Jackie Rowe-Adams, Commissioner

Gerald Seabrooks, Commissioner

Kyle Bragg, Commissioner

Lorraine Grillo, Commissioner

Christopher Lynch, Commissioner

Stephanie McGraw, Commissioner

Max Rose, Commissioner

Ruben Diaz, Jr., Commissioner

Reverend Herbert Daughtry, Sr., Commissioner

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. SCISSURA: Good afternoon,
everyone.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Good afternoon.

MR. SCISSURA: Good afternoon. It's --
first of all, welcome to the final meeting of the 2024
New York City Charter Review Commission. I am Carlo
Scissura, Chair of the Commission.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: Hold on, guys.
Are we ready?

MR. SCISSURA: We're ready.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: We're ready.

MR. SCISSURA: Sorry. We'll wait.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 1: I'm starting
literally in 15 seconds.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Oh, okay.
Hold on.

(Off the record.)

MR. SCISSURA: Okay. We'll do that
again.

Good afternoon, everybody.

MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Good afternoon.

MR. SCISSURA: Welcome to the final
meeting of the -- excuse my cough -- of the 2024 New
York City Charter Review Commission. My name is Carlo

1 Scissura. I've been thrilled and honored to serve as
2 the chair of this Commission and, I will state, my
3 third charter commission, which is exciting.

4 And let me thank all of you for joining
5 us today.

6 Before I introduce our commissioners to
7 say a few words, let me thank my dear friend Linda
8 Johnson, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Public
9 Library, for hosting us today. Yes. If you haven't
10 had a chance, you should walk around the building
11 after there's been some incredible renovations and it
12 looks phenomenal.

13 In just a moment, I'm going to ask each
14 of the commissioners to introduce themselves and say a
15 few words about their thoughts on the process, their
16 feelings on the report, the ballot proposals, and
17 anything else you'd like to add.

18 Let me start by sharing my thoughts on
19 the work of the Commission over the last few months
20 and on the proposed final product that we shared on
21 Tuesday and that we are going to consider today.

22 First of all, let me clarify because I
23 think there was some confusion. What was shared on
24 Tuesday was a proposed final report. It is not final
25 until the commissioners vote on it. So I know there

1 were some questions about that.

2 It has been, I think, an amazing
3 process, an amazing journey. As I've said, I've done
4 three of them, and each one has been different. Each
5 one has brought unique perspectives. Each one has
6 brought different cast, so to speak.

7 I can tell you this has been the most
8 diverse commission I have served on. And diversity,
9 not just in the way we look or who we pray to, but
10 diversity in our experiences. Diversity in how we
11 came to being civic leaders and community leaders,
12 diversity in where we come from, diversity in how we
13 think about the future of New York.

14 But I think in all of our diversity, we
15 share one common goal. And that is we want New York
16 City to thrive. We want New York City to be safe, and
17 we want it to be a fair and equitable place for all
18 people to be.

19 And that, to me, if you ask what is the
20 most striking part of this Commission, is just that.
21 And I am very honored that I got to lead such a
22 diverse group of thinkers, of people, of strategists,
23 and I think of New Yorkers.

24 And New York equals diversity. New
25 York equals talent. New York equals people with big

1 visions, big ideas, people who have gone through, as
2 we say, the spin cycle of life. And somehow we manage
3 to get up, dry off, and come back.

4 And so I want to take a moment to
5 applaud my fellow commissioners because you are all
6 amazing.

7 Let me now talk about the staff. You
8 know, this -- this group of individuals were given a
9 task a few months ago. And a daunting task. A task
10 of putting together a series of hearings and meetings,
11 of listening to the diverse voices that I just talked
12 about, and of coming together and pulling in a -- how
13 many pages is this?

14 A lot. Two hundred -- a lot of pages.
15 Right?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

17 MR. SCISSURA: A report that reflects
18 not just what we're going to vote on tonight. That
19 almost is the easy part of this. The harder part is
20 really identifying and memorializing all the things
21 that we heard, all the things that New Yorkers came to
22 us with.

23 And to me that is a big testament to
24 the talent and -- and the focus of the staff that has
25 been assembled. Yes, and they deserve a round

1 applause.

2 So our executive director, Diane
3 Savino. Thank you.

4 Our general counsel, Ed Kiernan.
5 You've been on my left for all of this.

6 Chief of Staff Robert -- where are you,
7 Robert? Robert Cataldo. You're here somewhere.

8 MS. MCGRAW: He's working as usual.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Senior Counsel Marc
10 Heinrich.

11 Communications Director Frank Dwyer. I
12 know Frank is back there.

13 Our counsel team: Sabrina Hassan, Ivy
14 Chiu, and James Bristow.

15 Our senior advisors Bonnie Tsang, Ryan
16 Merola, Michael Clarke, Krista Ashbery, Jonas Neri,
17 Pablo Ponce De Leon, and Alex Tymkiv.

18 I got to say -- is Ryan here?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 3: Not yet.

20 MR. SCISSURA: Not yet.

21 I've just got to say one thing about
22 Ryan. He was our intern on the first charter
23 commission that I did in 2010. So life has a good way
24 of coming around.

25 Special thanks to LeeAnn Wharton, Kary

1 Hudson, Chloe West, Jasmine Wright Greene, Eden Ayala,
2 and Hamza Suhail.

3 And last but not least, a special
4 thanks to the New York City Law Department for their
5 counsel throughout the process. In particular,
6 Spencer Fisher, Martha Alfaro, Benjamin Miller, Rachel
7 Kane, Ian Sinclair, and Ashley Iodice.

8 Let me now have the honor and the
9 privilege to ask each of the commissioners present to
10 introduce themselves and share any thoughts they may
11 have before we proceed with the vote.

12 I will say, when I was asked to do this
13 and I was told who my vice chair would be, I said,
14 "Finally, I get to work closely one-on-one with a lady
15 who I think epitomizes New York City national
16 leadership." If Dr. Hazel Dukes is with you, man, is
17 she with you.

18 MR. SCISSURA: But -- but if she is not
19 with you --

20 MS. MCGRAW: If she ain't with you --

21 MR. SCISSURA: Oh, boy. You better run
22 for cover. Our vice chair, Dr. Hazel.

23 DR. DUKES: Thank you so much, Mr.
24 Chairman. And I really echo your sentiment about the
25 diversity representing this charter commission

1 members. I have the pleasure of knowing many of them
2 and have worked with them in different capacities.

3 I am 92 years of age. And yesterday,
4 on CBS, when they interviewed me to talk about the
5 process of the Democratic Party -- I've served 15
6 years on the National Democratic Committee. I was
7 there when I nominated -- second the nomination of
8 Shirley Chisholm. So you know how excited I am about
9 what's taking place in America today.

10 But let me say about why I took time
11 out of my busy schedule and have spent evenings and
12 afternoons like today: Because I love New York City.
13 While I was not born here, I've been here most of my
14 life. My dad was a Pullman porter, and I arrived when
15 I was 11 years of age. So I do call it home. But I
16 never forget Montgomery, Alabama, where I was born.

17 And so let me say today, to those of
18 you, stopped from your sun and enjoying your summer
19 afternoon, this has been a part of my living to make
20 sure that all people, regardless of race, creed, or
21 color, or sexual orientation -- I have given 47 years
22 of my life fighting for the National Association for
23 the Advancement of Colored People who just celebrated
24 its 115th convention.

25 So I have always, as I said yesterday

1 on CBS, been about bringing people together,
2 regardless of what you believe in and what faith, we
3 all bleed red.

4 And I love America. So much
5 opportunities. And when I look back over my life and
6 look at the history, to see how far we come and how
7 far we have to go, where we can respect all people.

8 As Martin Luther King said, "If you the
9 street sweeper, be the best." That's all I've asked
10 people to do. I've never asked for anything more than
11 respect and love for one another.

12 So it's been my privilege, Mr.
13 Chairman, to work with you.

14 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you.

15 DR. DUKES: For the time that you've
16 given, and for three times of this. I don't think
17 I -- well, I won't be around for any more.

18 MR. SCISSURA: I don't know that I will
19 either.

20 MS. MCGRAW: No, you don't know.

21 DR. DUKES: But you have done a
22 marvelous job of keeping us together, keeping us
23 steady.

24 And to the staff, you have been
25 wonderful. In giving us information, keeping us on

1 the right track, I want to say thank you, too, for
2 that.

3 To all of you who have come today,
4 thank you for being a part of wanting to hear and
5 raise your voice. This is what democracy is all
6 about. Each man, and woman, and boy, and girl should
7 have a right to participate in their surroundings,
8 where they live, where they go to school. It's all in
9 our hands. So thank you for coming out today.

10 Thank you, my fellow colleagues, who
11 have been with us out in Staten Island, and places
12 that -- I know Diane come from there. So she knows
13 that I know all about Staten Island.

14 So thank you again. And to those of
15 you come out this afternoon, welcome.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. Thank you,
17 Vice Chair Dukes.

18 DR. DUKES: Thank you. Yes, yes.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Our secretary.

20 MR. NGAI: Good afternoon, everybody.
21 I just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone here
22 on the Commission: the chair, the executive director,
23 the vice chair.

24 It's been a -- a bit of a journey for
25 us. We traveled throughout all the boroughs. And the

1 important thing that -- what we were doing was
2 listening to the people. People had a lot to say.
3 And we listened, and listened carefully.

4 We developed these proposal amendments
5 that I think are logical, are fair. And I think
6 there's nothing better than to put it on the ballot in
7 November so that the people of the city can decide.
8 And for that, I just want to thank everyone, you know,
9 working diligently and very, very -- diligently, you
10 know.

11 So with that being said, I want to turn
12 it back over to the chair. And thank everybody.

13 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. Thank you,
14 Mr. Secretary.

15 Commissioner Bragg, this is our second
16 rodeo together, so I appreciate your service and your
17 friendship.

18 MR. BRAGG: Thank you, Chair.

19 I'm Kyle Bragg. Born not more than a
20 half mile from here, or maybe a mile, here in Crown
21 Heights. This is my second charter commission.
22 I've -- I had the privilege of serving with Carlo in
23 2018, I believe it was.

24 This has been an incredible journey.
25 First it's been incredible 'cause I got to work

1 with -- closely with people who, like myself, love the
2 city, and have been active in help making sure that
3 the city becomes better in their everyday life, and
4 their -- and their work, and their professions, and
5 just as citizens who want to make sure that the
6 government works for all of us.

7 Then coming and going through all the
8 boroughs -- which I don't normally get the opportunity
9 to travel all our boroughs. I did as a kid when I
10 used to barnstorm basketball throughout New York City.

11 But to go to Staten Island, to the
12 Bronx, to Manhattan, to Queens, come back here to
13 Brooklyn, and to hear from people who experience
14 government and experience the city in different ways,
15 based on the area in which you live, I think was very
16 enlightening and very important.

17 It's been said over and again, that
18 hearing from the citizens of this city about how
19 government -- how they engage government, how
20 government engage them, and how to make sure that
21 government works and operates to the best of its
22 abilities for everyone, makes this process so very
23 important. And for me, so very enriching.

24 So we also, I think, during this -- the
25 course of this -- of this Commission, we've heard a

1 lot about, you know, the timing of the Commission.
2 What's -- what's moving fast but shouldn't move so
3 fast. And it's not that -- we paid attention --
4 you'll see that in our final report. Because we do
5 understand that some things need more time and
6 consideration.

7 But I -- I would say upfront that what
8 we will -- what will be put forth today in this final
9 Commission report is something that has been thought
10 through very carefully. It's been put forth because
11 we've heard from our brothers and sisters in the city
12 about what's important to them and what's needed in
13 this moment.

14 So thank you for your time and
15 consideration. Again, I want to thank the entire
16 staff for their work. I want to thank my fellow
17 commissioners for their dedication, their commitment,
18 and being -- you know, taking a lot of -- a lot of
19 grief sometimes as volunteers to do what's right by
20 this city. Thank you.

21 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Commissioner.
22 Commissioner Lorraine Grillo.

23 MS. GRILLO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
24 appreciate it.

25 I'm not going to repeat everything

1 because you've heard from the top people that I can
2 think of. But I will say this. First of all,
3 I -- it's been an honor to serve with each and every
4 one of you. It's been a pleasure to get to know each
5 and every one of you.

6 And I will tell you -- to this audience
7 and to anyone who's listening -- these folks are truly
8 dedicated to the city of New York. There are a couple
9 of resolution proposals on the table that are
10 particularly important to me, but I'm not going to get
11 into them until we start to discuss them.

12 So I just want to say thanks and thanks
13 again to the staff. They're fabulous.

14 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Commissioner
15 Grillo.

16 Commissioner Lynch.

17 MR. LYNCH: Good afternoon. Good
18 afternoon, everyone.

19 DR. DUKES: Good afternoon.

20 MR. LYNCH: This is my borough,
21 Brooklyn. So I would like to say I appreciate
22 the -- given the opportunity being appointed to be one
23 of the commissioners on this board. And it was a
24 wonderful experience, as traveling throughout the five
25 boroughs and just hearing what regular citizens have

1 to say, and their opinions, and their concerns were
2 about in their communities and their boroughs.

3 A lot of issues that they come up, they
4 were pretty consistent. Some of them were new. But
5 given the opportunity to hear from the citizens, it
6 was a very -- it was a great experience just to hear
7 and be given the opportunity to hear firsthand.
8 Because as for myself, I would always say that no one
9 spoke to me. No one heard my voice, no one heard my
10 opinion.

11 So given the opportunity to sit here on
12 this Commission and to hear your opinions from
13 everyone, and to be able to present my vote on what we
14 have heard, what we have accumulated based on the
15 input that we've heard, I'm elated to be a part of
16 this procedure.

17 And once again, what I also like to
18 say, thank you to my fellow commissioners and being on
19 this Commission and working hard, diligently working
20 hard to travel through the five boroughs. Thank you
21 again and look forward to -- to serving on future
22 commissions.

23 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, sir.

24 Commissioner McGraw.

25 MS. MCGRAW: Yes. Hello. Good

1 afternoon, everyone.

2 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Good afternoon.

3 MS. MCGRAW: Yes, it -- it has been
4 such a pleasure and a joy. They said the joy's in the
5 journey, to be able to go around the five boroughs,
6 you know. And I like to thank God, of course. You
7 know, he gave us two ears and one mouth.

8 And on this journey and being one of
9 the commissioners, we were able to listen. Because
10 sometimes the greatest gift you can give to someone is
11 just to listen to them. And that's what we did. And
12 we heard the voices, we heard the people.

13 I'm a citizen. I was born here in
14 Brooklyn. I have served this great city of New York
15 for over 20 years. And to be on this journey with the
16 chair, co-chair, and to be with my sisters and my
17 brothers, to serve our people, to hear our people, is
18 such an honor and a pleasure.

19 And diversity is our strength. You
20 know, we are a city where there are over -- in every
21 part of the world, anywhere in the world, you can find
22 at least one or two of those nationalities in this
23 country. This is the richest country. The diversity
24 of the people. And to be here to hear the people.

25 Because freedom is about hearing --

1 listening to your voice, speaking your voice, and
2 being heard. So it has been an honor to be here as
3 one of the commissioners.

4 You know, real quick, remember when Ed
5 called and said, "Ms. McGraw."

6 I said, "Well, you can call me
7 Stephanie."

8 "I'm on my way. I got to swear you
9 in."

10 I'm like, "I got to be sworn in?"

11 It was such a big deal. All of my
12 staff, we were there -- right? -- at my office. I'm
13 being sworn in. But it is not only that, you know, we
14 understand that some of these positions, people are
15 sworn into duty.

16 But I've been ordained to do this work
17 for our people, for the people of New York. And it
18 has been a pleasure and honor -- honor -- pleasure and
19 an honor. And I'm so grateful to meet all these
20 amazing commissioners from different walks of life we
21 all have.

22 And that's what makes us so special,
23 our different walks of life. But we have all come
24 together on one accord, to make this city a better
25 city. Not just for me, but for all of us. So for

1 that, I'm very grateful and thankful to be of service
2 to New York City. Thank you.

3 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you very much.

4 By the way, I didn't know you were from
5 Brooklyn.

6 MS. MCGRAW: No. No, I was born in
7 Brooklyn.

8 MR. SCISSURA: I didn't know that.
9 Commissioner Rose.

10 MR. ROSE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 You know, it's really great to be here
12 at this library. This was the library I went to
13 growing up. Back in my day, Diane Savino, when you
14 had to research things directly from the book, was
15 Google. Right, Diane? Since I know you always turn
16 to me for guidance.

17 But look, it -- it has been an
18 incredible honor to be a part of this. Thank you all
19 for being here today. 'Cause this is all about
20 listening to the people.

21 I -- I would just say here that the
22 significance of what we're voting on today,
23 there -- there's, I think, a beautiful element of it
24 that's not final. Right? We're -- we're voting on
25 questions to be submitted to the people. And there --

1 there's no, I think, more eloquent expression of
2 democracy than that.

3 It's impossible to make everyone happy
4 whenever you're trying to act in areas of
5 significance. And to those, irrespective of where you
6 fall on any of the issues we're considering, we would
7 urge you to continue to stay extraordinarily engaged
8 over the coming months to make sure that the people's
9 voices continue to be heard, which is what we
10 principally care the most about.

11 So thank you all today. And again, to
12 my fellow Commissioners, it's been an extraordinary
13 honor.

14 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you very much,
15 Commissioner Rose.

16 Commissioner Rowe-Adams, I have to say,
17 if we were giving an award out for who kept -- I could
18 speak for me -- me energized at every meeting, it
19 would be Jackie Rowe-Adams. So thank you
20 for -- I -- I have to, I mean this. Thank you for
21 adding a breath of fresh air at every meeting. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. ROWE-ADAMS: Oh, thank you. Wow.
24 That was good.

25 So just -- you know, I almost -- I --

1 just -- just listening to my colleagues, I was getting
2 emotional because in this short time, we became a
3 family. And we became a family of the city and of the
4 community.

5 But I want to take the time and thank a
6 man that really care about the city, our very own
7 Mayor Eric Adams. Because he heard the voice of the
8 people.

9 And the people said, "We need some
10 hearings. We need to get a chance to let our voices
11 be heard. We need to get -- get -- give -- to give us
12 a chance that we could know what's going on in our
13 city."

14 And that's what he did. So thank you,
15 Mayor Eric Adams, for that.

16 I'm honored. I'm honored because I've
17 learned so much myself. You think you learned stuff.
18 But I've learned a lot being on this Commission. And
19 one of the things that I learned -- a lot of things
20 that I learned is people in their communities and in
21 their district's care.

22 If you think they don't care, you --
23 some of you at each borough should have been to some
24 of these hearings. I was impressed because they care
25 and they care about how they live. They care about

1 the sanitation, they care about education, they care
2 about public safety. And I learned that. And I'm
3 grateful.

4 So I want to thank my colleagues, all
5 the other commissioners. I mean, we did a daunting
6 job -- a daunting job. It -- some days, it was hard.
7 But we came up with solutions, and we came up with
8 things that's going on the ballot that I really know
9 that the community and the city would appreciate and
10 love.

11 So what are the things, just when they
12 go on a ballot, we have to spread the word and push
13 it, and make sure we get the things that we need. So
14 thank you everyone. And the staff was just
15 magnificent. The leadership -- Carlo, you've been
16 great.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you.

18 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: The co-chair, I mean,
19 fantastic. I love -- this is my mentor. And I want
20 to say, this has really been a reunion, like --
21 especially with Diane Savino.

22 You know, she was a senator, but she
23 also was a party leader. She was one of the leaders
24 of DC 37. And that's how I met her. And she was the,
25 as the kids could say, she was the bomb-dot-com

1 at -- at DC 37.

2 So it's been a honor and a pleasure to
3 be here. And all -- and the bishop. Everyone,
4 everyone.

5 So thank you, community, thank you,
6 city, for caring about what goes on in your city. And
7 you know, I always said, that's the song that Marvin
8 Gaye sang: "What's Going On?" And now, you know.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. SCISSURA: Was I right in my intro?

11 All right. Thank you very much.

12 Commissioner Seabrooks.

13 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes, thank you. Good
14 afternoon to all of you that are here today.

15 First, I want to thank God for just
16 allowing me to serve, and thank our great mayor of the
17 city of New York to get a chance to hear the concerns
18 of New Yorkers. And I think that this committee has
19 done a wonderful job.

20 I want to thank the chairman. I want
21 to thank, guess what, the staff. Because if anything
22 from this -- and especially my sister Jackie kept me
23 informed through trying times.

24 What I've learned is that people in
25 this city don't want to be bitter. They just want to

1 be better. And we want to serve to give people that
2 opportunity where their voice is heard. And they're
3 short of equality.

4 So thank this committee. Thank you.

5 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Commissioner.

6 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Thank you.

7 MR. SCISSURA: Commissioner Diaz, Jr.

8 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Boogie Down Bronx.

9 MR. DIAZ: That's right. Let me see
10 here.

11 Good -- good afternoon, everyone.
12 Greetings from the Boogie Down Bronx. It's good to be
13 here in BK.

14 I just want to say thank you, Mr.
15 Chairman, to -- to just reiterate all of the accolades
16 that have been given to Diane Savino and -- and all of
17 the staff, which is critical in getting us all of the
18 materials that we need to get us all of the -- the
19 testimonies that were given throughout over a dozen,
20 dozen and a half hearings throughout the city of New
21 York.

22 We were able to do so in a way where we
23 did a.m. meetings, and we did p.m. meetings. And we
24 went to every single borough. And everyone who wanted
25 to be heard was heard. And there were nights where

1 even when folks didn't sign up, Mr. Chairman, you or
2 whoever took your seat in your absence, still made
3 sure that whoever was either present or on the Zoom
4 was heard.

5 No one -- no one who wanted to speak,
6 no one who wanted to be heard on their testimony,
7 whether it was germane to the city charter or not, was
8 denied that audience by this Commission. That's
9 number -- I wanted to make that abundantly clear

10 To the -- the audience here, present --
11 physically present or out in -- in Zoom, or whoever's
12 going to hear this afterwards, any time that you have
13 to run an entity, whether it's your household, whether
14 it's a business, or wherever we work, you have to have
15 a set of rules or bylaws.

16 And this wonderful corporation, this
17 wonderful entity called New York City, its bylaws, its
18 rules, its Constitution is the New York City Charter.

19 And this process of us reviewing the
20 charter is something that every single individual who
21 did not get paid a nickel, who's up here took
22 extremely serious with a heavy weight and how we
23 review this charter. And so much was brought to us in
24 so many different areas in terms of budgeting, public
25 safety.

1 We've had wonderful debates and
2 conversations about the balance or the imbalance of
3 power, from the mayor's office to the city council.
4 And so how do we protect that balance? And how do we
5 do it in a way where it's not -- there's not an
6 imbalance from one over the other?

7 That's the way that you govern the
8 city, and you do it in the right way. As a recovering
9 politician, as a former Bronx Borough president,
10 this -- this gave me the opportunity to revisit and to
11 read, believe it or not -- and it's on my -- on my
12 cell phone, on my Favorites -- the New York City
13 Charter.

14 I hadn't done so since I was at Borough
15 Hall, and I've been out of Borough Hall now two years.
16 And so what we see with the City Charter is that,
17 while it's magnificent, some of the things in there
18 are things that were written in a different time, in a
19 different era, with different people, different
20 complexion of people in a different zeitgeist or the
21 mood of the city.

22 And so this -- this exercise only gives
23 us but one -- but -- but a few things that we are
24 going to review and put on the ballot. The point is
25 that New Yorkers moving forward, the -- the Charter

1 Revision Commission is something that needs to
2 continue.

3 And, and not only the members of the
4 commissions who are selected by this mayor, or the
5 next mayor, and beyond, should hold it seriously. But
6 so should New Yorkers. We should all collectively
7 revisit and review, how is it that we can make the
8 charter stronger.

9 Especially with the -- the way that
10 times have changing, the way that technology is
11 changing, the way that the complexity of the city is
12 changing.

13 And so for me, I feel honored. Thank
14 you, Mr. Chairman, for -- and -- and I thank the mayor
15 for giving me the opportunity as a recovering
16 politician to come back and do something with so much
17 weight that allows me to give back, not only to my
18 borough, but to the city of New York. Thank you.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you very much.

20 I -- I should add, Ruben, you and I got
21 to know each other on my first commission, when you
22 were serving as borough president. So it's -- it's
23 really been an honor to have you on.

24 Okay. We are also joined by
25 Commissioner Reverend Daughtry. If you'd like to give

1 us a welcome, Commissioner.

2 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Welcome to
3 everybody.

4 MR. SCISSURA: So the purpose of
5 today's meeting is to discuss the ballot questions
6 that, if adopted today by the Commission, will be put
7 before the voters at the November 2024 general
8 election, as well as the proposed final report that
9 reflects the full body of the commissioners' work.

10 So the report, as I said earlier, is
11 very comprehensive. It not only talks about the
12 ballot proposals that we are going to vote on today,
13 but really gives a rundown of what happened in the
14 last two months. And I -- I urge you all to read it.

15 I also want to clarify again that,
16 after today, these proposals, if they are voted on
17 today, go to the public. The public will decide on
18 November 5th what changes happen. We don't decide it.
19 No one decides it. New York voters will decide it,
20 period. So any confusion, I hope that that is as
21 clear as can be.

22 This is true power to the people, true
23 voices to the New Yorkers. And you will all decide
24 what you want to do.

25 The proposed legislation, ballot

1 language, and proposed final report were all sent to
2 the Commissioners in advance of today's meeting for
3 their careful review. The proposed legislation,
4 ballot language, and proposed final report are now
5 available to the members of the public on the
6 Commission's website.

7 By law, this Commission reviewed the
8 entire city charter. And I think, as Ruben said
9 earlier, it is a lot that is in this charter.

10 The Commission set out to explore ways
11 to improve the way city government interacts with New
12 Yorkers, with the goal of improving quality of life,
13 adding transparency to ensure fiscal responsibility,
14 and ensuring that all voices are heard on critical
15 public safety measures.

16 We have done this through an extensive
17 and thoughtful process that included outreach to
18 communities throughout the five boroughs of New York
19 City.

20 Just to put it in perspective, we held
21 12 public hearings, including issue farms on
22 elections, public safety, and fiscal responsibility in
23 all five boroughs. Over 700 New Yorkers have attended
24 our hearings, and almost 250 have presented testimony
25 on a variety of topics, either in person or via Zoom.

1 And one of the differences from my last
2 two commissions was the availability of Zoom. And
3 that's been great.

4 So let me reiterate, 12 public
5 hearings, five boroughs, over 700 New Yorkers
6 attending, almost 250 presenting testimony. On top of
7 that, we have received over 2,000 emails, 2,000-plus,
8 submitting testimony for the Commission's
9 consideration. That is true advocacy on the part of
10 New Yorkers.

11 And let me thank the members of the
12 public and subject matter experts who came and
13 testified, who gave us their opinions, and who shared
14 some of their knowledge.

15 At our meeting on June 26th, the
16 Commission discussed several proposals related to
17 public safety, fiscal responsibility, government
18 contracting, and government modernization.

19 And we voted on a resolution directing
20 the staff of the Commission to prepare the final
21 report containing these proposals. The Commission
22 also discussed recommendations for future charter
23 revision commissions.

24 So what does that mean? We heard a
25 lot. We heard so many great ideas, so many critical

1 things that can help government in the future. But we
2 can't do it all. We just cannot do it all.

3 So in our report you will see a whole
4 section on issues and ideas that we believe require
5 and deserve future -- future consideration by the next
6 charter commissions. Those include election reform,
7 procurement process improvements, and genuine support
8 for community boards.

9 These proposals have been drafted,
10 including the ballot questions and abstracts. And the
11 report was prepared by the staff. Commissioners have
12 reviewed the draft proposals and the proposed final
13 report. And again, I say thank you to the staff. It
14 is a truly comprehensive report.

15 Let me now invite our executive
16 director Savino to read each of the five ballot
17 proposals before we vote on the ballot proposals in
18 the final report.

19 So the way we are going to do it is we
20 will vote on each proposal individually, and then we
21 will vote on the report and a final resolution. There
22 will be a motion on each ballot question. And after
23 the motion is seconded, discussions can be held. Now
24 discussions are not required, but commissioners have a
25 right to discuss.

1 Yeah, sorry. I think I was reading
2 your --

3 MS. SAVINO: No, no.

4 MR. SCISSURA: So I'm good.

5 Okay. After -- after the discussion, I
6 as the chair will ask for a roll call vote on each
7 ballot question. I think the roll call is critical so
8 that we can really get everybody's vote on the record.
9 After each of the votes on the five ballot questions,
10 we will then have a roll call vote on the final
11 report. Sounds like a lot, and it is.

12 Finally, I will call for a roll call
13 vote on the Commission resolution that delegates the
14 staff -- to staff the responsibility for filing these
15 materials with the city clerk and taking other
16 technical actions to make sure that proposals appear
17 on the ballot on November 5, 2024. And importantly,
18 that voters are educated about the proposal.

19 Diane Savino.

20 MS. SAVINO: Thank you. Thank you,
21 Chair.

22 So we're going to move forward with
23 ballot proposal number 1. The title is Cleaning
24 Public Property. This proposal would amend the city
25 charter to expand and clarify the Department of

1 Sanitation's power to clean streets and other city
2 property and require disposal of waste in containers.

3 Voting Yes will expand and clarify the
4 Department of Sanitation's powers to clean streets and
5 other city property, and require disposal of waste in
6 containers. Voting no leaves laws unchanged.

7 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. I will now
8 entertain a motion to vote on the first ballot
9 proposal. Do I have a motion?

10 MR. DIAZ: Mr. Chairman?

11 MR. SCISSURA: Yes, sir.

12 MR. DIAZ: Can I ask a question?

13 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Move the motion.

14 MR. SCISSURA: Let me do the motion,
15 and then we're going to open it for this.

16 So Jackie Rowe-Adams moves.

17 Do we have a second?

18 DR. DUKES: Second.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Second from our vice
20 chair.

21 Now we will go to discussion.

22 Let me call on Jackie Rowe-Adams first.

23 MS. ROWE-ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 I just want to make sure that we add a clarification
25 to the sanitation section about vendor enforcement and

1 cleaning of parks.

2 Parks, NYPD, and other agencies will
3 continue to perform their critical responsibilities
4 here. Sanitation will help enforce vending in the
5 parks. But Parks will continue to have responsibility
6 over vending in parks and the cleaning of parks.
7 Nothing about this change is intended to impact Parks'
8 staffing levels.

9 And that is so important to me 'cause I
10 am a Park -- former "parky."

11 MR. SCISSURA: Oh, right.

12 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: So no. So we will
13 not -- it is not intended to impact park's staffing
14 levels. So I just want to make that clear.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you for that
16 clarification.

17 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

18 MR. DIAZ: Commissioner Diaz.

19 MR. DIAZ: Just on that note, that's --
20 I just want to make sure that -- we've had a lot of
21 discussions over this, but the people sitting here or
22 the people listening now may not.

23 I just -- I just think that it merits
24 just saying why this is this -- why do we take this
25 up? What -- what is the issue that we are trying to

1 resolve? And that's it. Just -- I just think it
2 should be put out there.

3 'Cause Jackie Rowe-Adams says it's not
4 intended to do this or that with Parks. But, you
5 know, so -- so I just think people need a little bit
6 of clarity why we want to do this. I -- and I'm not
7 saying that because I'm oppose it.

8 I'm just saying -- 'cause we all want
9 cleaner streets and we want -- we all want -- but just
10 what's the issue? What, what is resolving it, and why
11 do we need to have this clarification for sanitation
12 in the city charter?

13 MS. SAVINO: Thank you Commissioner
14 Diaz.

15 For those of you who have been able to
16 take a look at the report, you'll see that, along with
17 the ballot question, there's also an abstract which
18 gives a history of the Department of Sanitation and
19 its responsible -- and how it's responsible for the
20 cleanliness of New York streets and disposable waste.

21 The current city charter though, grants
22 DSNY -- the DSNY commissioner the power to adopt
23 regulations relating to the use of sidewalks for
24 disposable refuse and to issue violations for failure
25 to comply with some regulations punishable by fine,

1 imprisonment, or civil penalty.

2 The charter currently does not
3 expressly set forth any requirement for
4 containerization. Which, as you know, the city right
5 now is actively engaged in moving to containerization
6 of waste in an effort to, if nothing else, rid this
7 city of rats.

8 There are other issues that have come
9 up over -- there -- there are sections of city
10 property that we refer to as no man's lands. No
11 agency is responsible for cleaning them. They
12 are -- sometimes they are highway medians. They are
13 these little triangles of property that no city
14 agency -- it -- can -- can clean.

15 And Sanitation is not actually allowed
16 to clean. It is the one agency that has the charter
17 mandate to clean. But in these properties, they're
18 not allowed to. So this charter cleanup, no pun
19 intended, will grant the mayor --

20 MR. SCISSURA: That was good, by the
21 way.

22 MS. SAVINO: -- the ability to
23 designate the department citation to perform
24 cleanliness services in those sections --

25 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: But --

1 MS. SAVINO: -- to do vending
2 enforcement in the parks. Right now, PEP officers,
3 as -- as Commissioner Rowe-Adams talked about, will
4 continue to do that. The Sanitation will have
5 concurrent authority to additionally do that, the same
6 way the NYPD does issue some street mandate.

7 MR. DIAZ: Thank you for that. And
8 the -- the reason why -- is 'cause if you understand
9 the history of the city, while we all complain now
10 about whether or not things are dirty or not, we have
11 a history of -- of uncleanliness dating back over 100,
12 150 years.

13 And the city tries, and -- and people
14 complain, and -- and elected officials throughout all
15 that time at -- you know, try to do constituent
16 services. And sometimes the public may say, "Well,
17 number 1, you're not doing anything about it. Or
18 number 2, why do we need this as an option?"

19 You know, "Isn't it, like, duh -- isn't
20 it, you know, sort of apparent that we can do this?"

21 Quite often the public may not know
22 that there are things that hinder an agency from doing
23 the public good. And so this -- this ballot question
24 once and for all puts clarity to that as to whose
25 jurisdiction is over what so that elected officials

1 and city agencies can do what the public deserves.
2 That's why.

3 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. Thank you.
4 Is there any additional discussion?
5 Okay. I will now call the question,
6 and you can answer yes or no. Correct? Simple.

7 Vice Chair Dukes?

8 DR. DUKES: Yes.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Secretary?

10 MR. NGAI: Yes.

11 MR. SCISSURA: I'm just going to call
12 your last names, by the way. Going to be a
13 little -- Bragg.

14 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

16 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz.

18 MR. DIAZ: Si.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo.

20 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

21 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

22 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

23 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

24 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

25 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

1 MR. ROSE: Yes. Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

3 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

5 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

6 And I vote Yes.

7 The question passes unanimously. Thank
8 you.

9 And it is a count of twelve in favor,
10 zero opposed, zero abstention. The proposal to put
11 forth a ballot proposal relating to cleaning public
12 property has passed.

13 We will now vote on ballot proposal
14 number 2. And first hear the ballot and the proposal
15 read by our executive director.

16 MS. SAVINO: Thank you Commissioner.

17 So ballot proposal number 2, title,
18 Additional Estimates of the Cost of Proposed Laws and
19 Updates to Budget Deadlines. This proposal would
20 amend the city charter to require fiscal analysis from
21 the council before hearings and votes on laws. It
22 would authorize fiscal analysis from the mayor and
23 update budget deadlines.

24 Voting yes for amending the city
25 charter to require additional fiscal analysis prior to

1 hearings, and vote on local laws, and update budget
2 deadlines. Voting no leaves these laws unchanged.

3 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you.

4 I will now entertain a motion to vote
5 on the second ballot proposal. Do I have a motion?

6 Commissioner Grillo? Thank you.

7 May I have a second?

8 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes, second.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Commissioner Adams.
10 Do we have any discussion?

11 And I just want to clarify, today is
12 a -- it is not a public hearing. Our last public
13 hearing was on Monday. Today is a meeting of the
14 commissioners that is done publicly. We cannot do
15 anything not publicly.

16 MS. MCGRAW: I have a discussion.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Yes, Commissioner
18 McGraw.

19 MS. MCGRAW: Yeah. One of the concerns
20 that I'd like to see, the amazing work that we have
21 done here and and gave up our time to put all of this
22 on the ballot. How do we educate the public about
23 what we're putting on there, and where do they go?

24 Because a lot of times, I'll put the
25 rank -- rank choice voting for -- right? That was

1 something that was -- that was proposed by a charter
2 commission. Correct? Yeah?

3 MR. SCISSURA: Many years -- yeah,
4 several years ago.

5 MS. MCGRAW: Yeah? Okay. Many years
6 ago. Right? So this is great.

7 And all the work that we have done, all
8 of us, our commitment, our time to put this
9 information on, how do we now really go hard and
10 inform the public?

11 Because for many years, and I'm just
12 going to be transparent, I never even turned over to
13 ballot. The -- the -- you know, when you go to vote.
14 Right? So that, that's something I just want to bring
15 up for discussion.

16 MR. SCISSURA: I appreciate it, and
17 it's something worth discussing further in the future.
18 And I think one of the -- one of the tasks that we
19 will vote on is to give direction to educate the
20 public on what is going on.

21 MS. MCGRAW: Yeah, perfect.

22 MR. SCISSURA: Is there any other
23 discussion on the second ballot question motion?

24 Okay. I will call the question.

25 Dukes?

1 DR. DUKES: Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Ngia?

3 MR. NGAI: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?

5 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

6 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

7 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

8 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?

9 MR. DIAZ: Si.

10 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?

11 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

12 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

13 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

14 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

15 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

17 MR. ROSE: Yes.

18 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

19 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

20 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

21 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

22 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

24 MR. SCISSURA: Twelve in favor, zero

25 opposed, zero abstentions to put forth a ballot

1 proposal relating to additional estimates of the cost
2 of proposed laws and updates to budget deadlines has
3 passed.

4 I would say this. I urge anyone who
5 has questions on this to read the report section on
6 this. It is a very technical item that is not as
7 profound as it sounds. And that's why I say, read the
8 wording, and you will see exactly what it says.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- I
10 did -- after you read it --

11 DR. DUKES: Mr. Chairman, I would like
12 to say that we did have experts --

13 MR. SCISSURA: Oh, absolutely.

14 DR. DUKES: -- to come in from city
15 agencies. And the controller of the City of New York
16 came in. And they -- we listened and we heard that
17 report. It is complex.

18 MR. SCISSURA: Correct.

19 DR. DUKES: As Ms. McGraw said. But
20 you have to read this. And this is what we spent our
21 sun, not at the beach.

22 MR. SCISSURA: Exactly. And we
23 list -- and we -- and we list all of the folks who
24 came in to testify.

25 DR. DUKES: Right.

1 MR. SCISSURA: We will now vote on
2 ballot proposal number 3, and hear the ballot and the
3 proposal read by our executive director.

4 MS. SAVINO: Thank you, Commissioner.

5 Ballot proposal number 3, the title is
6 More Input on Public Safety Legislation. This
7 proposal would require additional procedure -- this
8 proposal would require additional public notice and
9 time before the city council votes on laws respecting
10 the public safety operations of the police,
11 correction, and fire departments.

12 Voting yes will require additional
13 notice and time for the council votes on laws
14 respecting public safety operations of the police,
15 correction, or fire department. Voting no leaves laws
16 unchanged.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you.

18 So let me just speak for a minute about
19 this. Since the proposed final report and the ballot
20 proposals were released on Tuesday, we've heard many
21 comments from the public and others regarding this
22 specific proposal.

23 Taking into consideration the responses
24 we have received, I have directed the staff to draft
25 an amended proposal that would limit the requirements

1 placed on the city council by retaining the mayor's
2 and commissioner's ability to hold public hearings on
3 critical public safety legislation, as is permitted
4 currently by state law.

5 The revised charter language amendment
6 and ballot question or abstract were shared with the
7 commissioners at the beginning of this meeting. I
8 would like -- and by the way, it is on -- it's on the
9 website now, and you could read the updated proposal.

10 I would like to make a motion to
11 substitute the new charter language and abstract, and
12 to have them considered for a vote in place of those
13 contained in the proposed final report.

14 Is there a second to my motion?

15 DR. DUKES: Second.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Is there any discussion
17 on the motion?

18 Commissioner Diaz?

19 MR. DIAZ: Yeah. Mr. Chairman, are you
20 saying that the -- the -- your amendment version comes
21 as a result -- a result of you listening to city
22 council members coming before this commission?

23 MR. SCISSURA: We listened to a lot of
24 people, including members of the city council.

25 MR. DIAZ: And you took that into --

1 MR. SCISSURA: Including -- including
2 other folks that we spoke to and --

3 MR. DIAZ: And -- and the amendment --
4 I'm sorry sir. But the amendment specifically speaks
5 to some of the concerns of the community and the city
6 council?

7 MR. SCISSURA: I believe it does.

8 MR. DIAZ: In the favor of those
9 concerns?

10 MR. SCISSURA: I think we took it to
11 their concerns, and we made some changes.

12 MR. DIAZ: Okay. Thank you. Thank
13 you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- can say
15 what those changes are --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 2: You can read
17 them.

18 MR. SCISSURA: So they -- they are in
19 the report.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- you
21 can't -- don't know what --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: Well, we don't
23 know -- we don't know any --

24 MR. SCISSURA: Okay. So let me
25 reiterate, these changes are in the report that is

1 public. It is on the website.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- before two
3 days ago. Can you just tell us what --

4 MR. SCISSURA: Yes.

5 MS. SAVINO: Who is this?

6 MR. SCISSURA: Do we have it here?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: But you're not
8 voting on what she just read. Right? Is that what
9 you're saying?

10 MS. SAVINO: No, what -- what I read
11 was the ballot question. That will not change.

12 MR. DIAZ: It's not updated. That's
13 not updated.

14 MS. SAVINO: Right. We'll -- the --
15 the ballot question. Right. What I read will not
16 change. What will change is, if you had looked at the
17 final report, the final proposed report that was
18 online, that proposal has changed --

19 MR. DIAZ: Thank you. That --

20 MS. SAVINO: -- to reflect.

21 Can we just finish the -- let me just
22 finish the point

23 That proposal has changed to reflect
24 the information that we received, and we've made some
25 changes. So, can I --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Are you sure
2 the --

3 MS. SAVINO: Excuse me.

4 MR. SCISSURA: And we are going to read
5 it now.

6 MS. SAVINO: We're -- we're not taking
7 questions from the audience. But we're going to read
8 it out to you.

9 DR. DUKES: Who is that? Who is it?

10 MS. SAVINO: This amendment will
11 establish additional procedural requirements before
12 the council votes on proposed local laws respecting
13 the public safety operations of three city agencies,
14 the police department, the department of correction,
15 or fire department.

16 Prior to a vote by the full council or
17 a covered -- on a covered public safety proposal, the
18 council would be required to give an additional notice
19 to the public, the mayor, and the commissioner of each
20 effected agency at least 30 days in advance of such
21 vote.

22 The mayor and affected agencies could
23 use the period between such notice and such vote to
24 hold one or more additional public hearings on the
25 proposal in order to solicit additional public input.

1 The mayor could waive the additional procedures
2 imposed by this amendment.

3 That is a marked difference from the
4 earlier proposal, which had up to almost 90 days. It
5 first would've triggered a 45-day notice for the
6 intent of the introduction of the bill. And then
7 another 45 day notice. We have struck that first
8 notice.

9 Nothing changes, whatever the council
10 does now, the introduction of bills stays the same.
11 It would only be for the notice of the vote would
12 trigger a 30-day notice to the mayor --

13 DR. DUKES: That's right.

14 MS. SAVINO: -- and -- and the
15 agencies, and allow for a public hearing. So that is
16 a substantial change from what you had seen earlier on
17 the proposed -- on the -- on the proposed direct
18 report.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Executive
20 Director Savino.

21 Max Rose, you had a question?

22 MR. ROSE: Yeah. I think it's just
23 important to clarify something. So I'll just ask the
24 question. Is there anything in this that restricts
25 the ability of the city council to enact public

1 safety-related legislation? Or does it just --

2 MR. SCISSURA: Absolutely not.

3 MR. ROSE: It -- it just pauses it
4 briefly, or --

5 MR. SCISSURA: No, it -- all it does is
6 say when the council is going to propose this
7 legislation, it adds a 30-day period where there can
8 be hearings.

9 MR. ROSE: So it delays -- for all
10 intents and purposes, it delays legislation by 30 days
11 to further inform the --

12 MR. SCISSURA: Well, I -- I would
13 respectfully disagree with the word delay. I would
14 say it adds a 30-day window for a public hearing to
15 happen.

16 MR. ROSE: Right. And -- but it
17 doesn't restrict the underlying legislation?

18 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: No. No.

19 MR. SCISSURA: No, nothing.

20 So all we are doing is saying there
21 should be a notice with 30 days --

22 MS. MCGRAW: For hearings.

23 MR. SCISSURA: -- to potentially have a
24 hearing.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: From the

1 agency, or from the city council?

2 MS. SAVINO: Again, this is not a --

3 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: No questions --

4 MR. SCISSURA: It's -- it's all in the
5 report that is publicly. Yes.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: I can't read.

7 MR. BRAGG: In regards to this -- in
8 regards to this proposal: Any proposal that helps to
9 give more discourse an opportunity to be heard from
10 citizens of this city on -- on proposed legislation is
11 good work. And it's important that the -- that the
12 citizens of the city have opportunity to express their
13 concerns about legislation.

14 MR. ROSE: Got you.

15 MR. BRAGG: And if this -- if this
16 proposal promotes more discourse, more conversation,
17 more opportunity for citizens to express their
18 opinions -- because, as I said in my opening
19 statement, government -- citizens of city, engage
20 government differently depending on which community
21 you live in and -- and the -- and the work of -- of
22 the government or the agencies that -- that you engage
23 with.

24 And so I think having the opportunity
25 to allow citizens to express their -- their concerns,

1 or their -- or their approval, or their -- or their
2 opinions about -- about proposed legislation is a good
3 thing. It can't be a bad thing to -- to create
4 greater discourse. Thank you.

5 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. Yeah.

6 Commissioner Daughtry.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- except the
8 fact that an agency can also lobby for this -- lost in
9 the --

10 MR. SCISSURA: Commissioner Daughtry.

11 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes. I'm -- I'm --
12 thank you. I'm still unclear.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: -- will get
14 what they want.

15 MS. SAVINO: Do we know who this person
16 is?

17 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Are we saying that
18 the public, plus the commission, the council have
19 reviewed the changes, and what we are presenting is
20 the final -- is the substance of their input or having
21 had opportunity to discuss it? And they agree with
22 what we are presenting as the final document to be
23 presented to the public?

24 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. So I'm going
25 to clarify it one more time just so that everyone

1 ensures that -- at least that the Commission
2 understands. And it is in the proposed draft report,
3 final report. And it is online.

4 So once there is a -- a desire by the
5 council to have legislation, there is a 30-day notice
6 that is given. During that 30-day notice, there could
7 be hearings, or the mayor and others may choose not
8 to. And then the council will vote on their proposal
9 as they always do.

10 There is no change to anything. It is
11 not limiting the council. It is not making any
12 changes, other than adding a 30-day opportunity for
13 people's voices to be heard.

14 Is there any other discussion?

15 DR. DUKES: No.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Okay. I will now call
17 the question.

18 Dukes?

19 DR. DUKES: Yes.

20 MR. SCISSURA: Ngai?

21 MR. NGAI: Yes.

22 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?

23 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

24 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

25 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

1 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?

2 MR. DIAZ: Si.

3 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?

4 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

5 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

6 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

7 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

8 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

10 MR. ROSE: Yes.

11 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

12 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

13 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

14 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

15 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes.

16 By a count of twelve in favor, zero
17 opposed, and zero abstentions, the proposal to put
18 forth a ballot proposal relating to more input on
19 public safety legislation has passed.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

21 MR. SCISSURA: We will now vote on
22 ballot proposal number 4, and hear the ballot and
23 proposal read by our executive director.

24 MS. SAVINO: Thank you. Ballot
25 proposal number 4, titled Capital Planning. This

1 proposal would amend the city charter to require more
2 detail in the annual assessment of city facilities,
3 mandate that facility needs inform capital planning,
4 and update capital planning deadlines.

5 Voting yes would require more detail
6 when assessing maintenance needs of city facilities,
7 mandate that facility needs informed capital planning,
8 and update capital planning deadlines. Voting no
9 leaves laws unchanged.

10 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. So let me
11 just give a little clarification on this question
12 because there seems to have been some confusion. The
13 additional information collected here would be for all
14 city facilities, as we say in the capital planning
15 abstract on page 102 of the draft final report.

16 The City for the statement of needs
17 will collect "information related to maintenance needs
18 like the condition, function, and estimated useful
19 life of all City facilities to the extent
20 practicable."

21 So what does this do? It will make the
22 statement of needs a more comprehensive document
23 covering many more facilities than it currently does.

24 Why did we do it? Why is this
25 important? So we chose to modify the statement of

1 needs to be more inclusive of all city facilities.
2 These changes give the public information about all
3 public facilities to show how funding decisions are
4 made.

5 By contrast, if the change had been
6 made in the 10-year capital strategy, it would only
7 have been information on funded projects, and not on
8 the entire city pipeline. And I think that is
9 important for the public.

10 So I will now entertain a motion to
11 vote on the fourth ballot proposal. Do I have a
12 motion?

13 MR. SEABROOKS: Motion.

14 MS. GRILLO: Second.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Seabrooks.

17 May I have a second?

18 MS. GRILLO: Second.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Commissioner Grillo,
20 thank you.

21 MR. ROSE: -- have one last --

22 MR. SCISSURA: Yeah, we're going to
23 have a discussion now.

24 MR. ROSE: Who -- who was in support of
25 this, who brought this to -- that might have already

1 been mentioned, but --

2 MR. SCISSURA: Well, there was one of
3 the controller's action items. Right?

4 MR. ROSE: Right. So this was -- this
5 was a priority of Brad Landers?

6 MR. SCISSURA: It was one of them.

7 MR. ROSE: Okay.

8 MR. SCISSURA: A piece of it. And then
9 it made sense.

10 MR. ROSE: Great.

11 MR. SCISSURA: Okay. I will now call
12 the question.

13 Dukes?

14 DR. DUKES: Yes.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Ngai?

16 MR. NGAI: Yes.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?

18 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

20 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

21 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?

22 MR. DIAZ: Si.

23 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?

24 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

25 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

1 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

3 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

5 MR. ROSE: Yes.

6 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

7 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

8 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

9 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

10 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes.

11 By a count of twelve in favor, zero
12 opposed, zero abstentions, the proposal to put forth a
13 ballot proposal relating to capital planning has
14 passed.

15 We will now vote on ballot proposal
16 number 5, and hear the ballot and the proposal grant
17 by our executive director.

18 MS. SAVINO: Thank you. Ballot
19 proposal number 5, titled Minority and Women-Owned
20 Business Enterprise, Film Permits, and Archive Review
21 Boards. This proposal would amend the city charter to
22 establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer, the
23 CBDO; authorize the mayor to designate that the office
24 had issues film permits; and combine archive boards.

25 Voting yes would establish the CBDO to

1 support MWBEs, authorize the mayor to designate the
2 office that issues film permits, and combine -- and
3 combine two boards. Voting no will leave the laws
4 unchanged.

5 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. I will now
6 entertain a motion to vote on the fifth ballot
7 proposal. Do I have a motion?

8 MR. BRAGG: Motion.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg.
10 Do I have a second?

11 MS. GRILLO: Second.

12 MR. SCISSURA: Is there any discussion
13 on this?

14 I will -- I will just say that I am
15 very excited, particularly about the Chief Diversity
16 Officer becoming a real part of the charter and to
17 really assist firms across the city.

18 Is there any other discussion on this?

19 Yes, Commissioner Bragg.

20 MR. BRAGG: I -- I would just say that
21 the -- might -- you know, make a motion to accept this
22 proposal, that this is a necessary first step. That
23 there must be more work done to create equity amongst
24 MWBEs in this city. And it gives someone the
25 authority to make sure that that happens.

1 But is -- we did not have enough time
2 to address that in this Commission, but I think this
3 is a very good preliminary step into moving in that
4 direction. Thank you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: But you tried
6 to get -- off the ballot? Is that why you let --

7 MR. SCISSURA: I will now -- is there
8 any other discussion --

9 MS. MCGRAW: Yeah, I just wanted to
10 say --

11 MR. SCISSURA: I will now call the
12 question

13 Dukes?

14 DR. DUKES: Yes.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Oh, I'm sorry. Did you
16 have a question?

17 MS. MCGRAW: No, not a question.
18 Throughout this whole experience, you know, we heard a
19 lot of testimony about making sure that we have a fair
20 and just city and that there is diversity. So I'm
21 excited to hear that we are having these discussions
22 because there was a lot of testimony --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: -- and
24 where -- the hearings --

25 MS. MCGRAW: -- a lot of testimony in

1 creating this for our city. So I'm excited.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you. We have had,
3 I think two-plus hearings on MWBE, on a Chief
4 Diversity Officer, and on all of that. And we had
5 three.

6 Thank you, Ryan. By the way, I
7 mentioned that you were our intern on my first
8 charter.

9 We have heard testimony from MWBE
10 firms, from leadership on MWBE, from Michael Garner,
11 and from others. This is, as someone who in my
12 professional career works with MWBE firms every day,
13 as did Commissioner Grillo and others, this is a
14 significant step forward, as Kyle Bragg said, to
15 ensuring the fairness and the competition for firms
16 that are MWBE.

17 And I think it is all of our hope that
18 we will continue and that the City in the future will
19 create a true agency to coordinate it all. But this
20 is an important step forward.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 5: -- and on the
22 polite [ph] --

23 MR. SCISSURA: I will now call the
24 question.

25 Dukes?

1 DR. DUKES: Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Ngai?

3 MR. NGAI: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?

5 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

6 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

7 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

8 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?

9 MR. DIAZ: Si.

10 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?

11 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

12 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

13 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

14 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

15 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

17 MR. ROSE: Yes.

18 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

19 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

20 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

21 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

22 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes with a
23 capital Y, capital E, and capital S.

24 By a count of twelve in favor, zero
25 opposed, zero abstentions, the proposal to put forth a

1 ballot proposal relating to minority and women-owned
2 business enterprises, MWBEs; film permits; and archive
3 review boards has passed.

4 I'm now going to ask for -- and by the
5 way, thank you, commissioners. 'cause these -- these
6 are important questions that continue to move the city
7 forward.

8 And, and I just want to stress again,
9 for those of you that have not, please read the
10 section on future ideas. Because there is so much
11 more work to be done, and it is our hope that future
12 commissions will look at all of this.

13 I'm now going to ask for a motion to
14 accept and approve the final report as amended with
15 the amendments that were presented at today's meeting,
16 which contains the five proposals already voted on,
17 summaries of the proposals, ballot questions, and
18 abstracts, and the text amendments to the New York
19 City Charter.

20 The report also includes an
21 introduction with backgrounds on the Commission and
22 its members, on the process, and as I said, as well as
23 important recommendations for future charter revision
24 commissions.

25 May I have a motion to approve the

1 final report?

2 MR. SEABROOKS: Motion.

3 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you, Seabrooks.
4 May I have a second?

5 MR. BRAGG: Second.

6 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg, thank you.
7 Is there any discussion on this?
8 I will now call the question.

9 Dukes?

10 DR. DUKES: Yes.

11 MR. SCISSURA: Ngai?

12 MR. NGAI: Yes.

13 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?

14 MR. BRAGG: Yes.

15 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?

16 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?

18 MR. DIAZ: Si.

19 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?

20 MS. GRILLO: Yes.

21 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?

22 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

23 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?

24 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.

25 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?

1 MR. ROSE: Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

3 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

5 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

6 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes, as well.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

8 MR. SCISSURA: By a count of twelve in
9 favor, zero opposed, and zero abstentions, the final
10 report has been approved.

11 I will now seek a motion to approve a
12 resolution that directs the staff to take the
13 appropriate actions to deliver materials to the city
14 clerk in order for the ballot questions to be placed
15 before the voters and to take whatever action they
16 deem necessary to educate the public about the ballot
17 questions.

18 Commissioner McGraw, in terms of your
19 question, it is important that the public understand
20 what these questions are. Commissioners were sent
21 this resolution in advance and have had the chance to
22 review it.

23 Is there a motion to approve the
24 resolution?

25 DR. DUKES: Motion.

1 MR. SCISSURA: Commissioner Dukes.
2 MS. MCGRAW: Second.
3 MR. SCISSURA: Second, Commissioner
4 McGraw.
5 Is there any discussion on this?
6 I will now call the question.
7 Dukes?
8 DR. DUKES: Yes.
9 MR. SCISSURA: Ngai?
10 MR. NGAI: Yes.
11 MR. SCISSURA: Bragg?
12 MR. BRAGG: Yes.
13 MR. SCISSURA: Daughtry?
14 REVEREND DAUGHTRY: Yes.
15 MR. SCISSURA: Diaz?
16 MR. DIAZ: Si.
17 MR. SCISSURA: Grillo?
18 MS. GRILLO: Yes.
19 MR. SCISSURA: Lynch?
20 MR. LYNCH: Yes.
21 MR. SCISSURA: McGraw?
22 MS. MCGRAW: Yes.
23 MR. SCISSURA: Rose?
24 MR. ROSE: Yes.
25 MR. SCISSURA: Rowe-Adams?

1 MR. ROWE-ADAMS: Yes.

2 MR. SCISSURA: Seabrooks?

3 MR. SEABROOKS: Yes.

4 MR. SCISSURA: And I vote yes.

5 By a count of twelve in favor, zero
6 opposed, and zero abstentions, the resolution has been
7 approved.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

9 MR. SCISSURA: Now before we wrap up, I
10 would like to make a motion to approve the minutes for
11 our meeting held on July 22, 2024, in Queens, which we
12 shared with all of you earlier this week.

13 May I have a -- and I made that motion.

14 Is there a second?

15 MS. GRILLO: Second.

16 MR. SCISSURA: Second. Who's second?

17 MS. GRILLO: Lorraine.

18 MR. SCISSURA: Lorraine Grillo.

19 I'm going to call a voice vote. All in
20 favor signify by saying aye.

21 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MR. SCISSURA: Aye.

23 Any opposed, any abstentions?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

25 MR. SCISSURA: The motion passes twelve

1 to zero.

2 Not sure why anybody would boo minutes,
3 but why not?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

5 MR. SCISSURA: I would also like
6 to -- I would also like to ask the Commission for
7 unanimous consent to approve the meeting -- the
8 minutes of this meeting after they have been
9 distributed to you and that you have had an
10 opportunity to offer any correction or comments.

11 I will direct the staff to share the
12 minutes by email, and you will have the opportunity to
13 make any edits. After two weeks, we will incorporate
14 any revisions, and I will approve the minutes.

15 All in favor?

16 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

17 MR. SCISSURA: Any opposed, any
18 abstentions?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Boo.

20 MR. SCISSURA: Thank you very much. I
21 want to, again, thank all of the commissioners and the
22 staff for their time and dedication.

23 I will reiterate it is up to the public
24 on November 5th to vote.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: You didn't

1 tell us about any -- I don't know --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: We will vote
3 no down the ballot. Don't worry, baby. We got this.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 6: Thank you.

5 MR. SCISSURA: Great. I look forward
6 to working with you, and share the work of the
7 Commission, and to educate the public about what we
8 have voted on and what will appear on the ballot.

9 I thank -- I thank the over 2,000 New
10 Yorkers who submitted testimony. I thank the over 700
11 New Yorkers who came to meetings -- meetings that have
12 been on websites, social media, public notices since
13 May. And I thank everyone again for their commitment.

14 I would like to ask for a motion to
15 adjourn today's meeting.

16 DR. DUKES: Motion.

17 MS. MCGRAW: -- to adjourn.

18 MR. SCISSURA: Second from Commissioner
19 McGraw.

20 All in favor?

21 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

22 MR. SCISSURA: Any abstentions, any
23 no's?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER 4: Yes.

25 MR. SCISSURA: Have a wonderful day.

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The motion passes.
Have a wonderful rest of the summer.
(Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
3:20 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER

I, THEA POPKO, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



THEA POPKO
Notary Public in and for the
State of New York

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, LAURA K. MILLER, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



LAURA K. MILLER

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