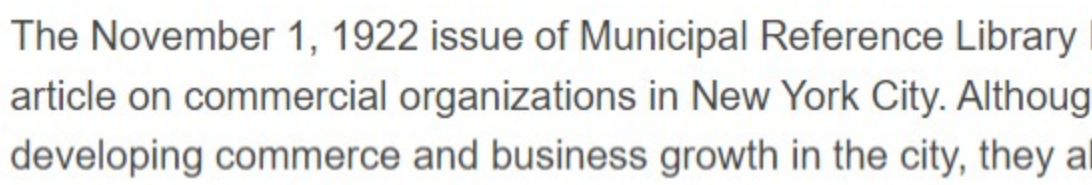



is a Newsday article from February 2004, presenting a timeline of the day in New York, February 8, 1964, with reader comments. The

in: The singer's Journal, by Henry
De Marsan. New York, H. de Marsan,
1868-71. p. 222)



active in working with lawmakers, officials, and the business

included the development of parks, improving traffic and noise conditions, enforcing laws against beggars and peddlers, and working with the Board of Estimate on zoning. That year the Fifth Avenue Association presented the first permanent traffic tower to Mayor John F. Hylan. It was located at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. More was to come, thanks to the Fifth Avenue Association's fund-raising efforts.



Information Services

On Election Day this year, New York City voters supported three ballot questions to amend the City's Charter and a Statewide Environmental Bond Act. Charters are frequently termed "the City's Constitution." The similarity is the

officials. The difference is that the City charter has frequently been amended in whole or in part. Prior to the consolidation of the greater City of New York in 1898, there were several cities, each with its own charter.

The New York State Municipal Law sets out three ways to amend city charters: initiative and referendum (which almost never occurs), legislative change, which frequently happens, and charter revision commissions (also quite frequent). Changes proposed by commissions must be voted upon by the electorate.

government issued a charter in 1657. The first English Governor of New York, Colonel Richard Nicoll, granted a charter to the residents of New York and established a mayor, board of aldermen and sheriff. A reprint in the Municipal Library of the charter issued by English Lieutenant Governor Dongan in 1686 references the predecessor governments and then grants "the mayor aldermen

privileges, franchises, rights, royalties, free-customs, jurisdictions, and immunities, which they by the name of the mayor and commonalty, or otherwise, have anciently had, held, used, or enjoyed."

The first Charter of the City of Brooklyn in the Municipal Library was passed by the State Legislature on April 17, 1854. It consolidated the town of Bushwick and the independent cities of Brooklyn and Williamsburgh (sic) into the one City of Brooklyn. After outlining the boundaries of the various wards, the charter stated that the legislative powers of the corporation were "vested in a mayor and a board of aldermen, who together shall form the common council."

by Michael Lorenzini, Operations Manager, Department of Information Services

Among the most stunning features of the magnificent Surrogate's Court/Hall of Records building are the brilliant blue and gold mosaic ceilings in the side entrance vestibules. In 1961, the exterior staircase to the eastern entrance was

lopped off when Centre Street was widened, and the vestibule fell into disuse. Around that time, there were plans to demolish the entire building as part of a "new" Civic Center proposal. Passage of the Landmarks Preservation law in 1966 saved the building from further insult, and in the 1970s the newly formed Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) moved its administrative staff into offices adjacent to this entrance. In the early 1980s, the agency moved all divisions into the building, with the Municipal Library (then called the Municipal Reference and Research Center) occupying the other side of the former Centre Street vestibule.

For years the vestibule was hidden behind a curtain. It is filled with equipment used for lobby events, such as a stage and folding chairs, as well as cleaning equipment and supplies. In 2016 we unearthed the original 1980s renovation

Created of junk and cleaned up, DORIS began using the vestibule space for special exhibits. The first exhibit was a display of material collected after the 9/11 attacks, for the 15th anniversary. Soon after, the space was again closed off during the 2017/18 restoration of the atrium skylight. In 2019 an exhibit on voting rights coincided with the 100th anniversary of New York State expanding voting rights to women. In early 2020 an exhibition opened about "[incredible](#)" girls confined in the New York State Training School for Girls. Soon after, the COVID pandemic mostly closed the building to the public, but in 2022, DORIS installed a new exhibit highlighting the history of the building, with reproductions of plans and historic photos. And one case is dedicated to the history of this little nook.

