

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

April 23, 2025

Henry Garrido, Co-chair
New York City Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Arva Rice, Co-Chair
New York City Commission to Strengthen Local Democracy
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

RE: Elimination of Community Board Term Limits

Dear Chairs Garrido and Rice,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 16, 2025, the Board approved the following resolution by a vote of 27 in favor, 12 opposed, 3 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS as the result of a recent City Charter revision, the membership on Community Boards is term limited; and

WHEREAS long-serving Community Board members often have deep historical knowledge of zoning, development, and community issues that newcomers may lack; and

WHEREAS this expertise allows them to more effectively review complex land use proposals and advocate for the community; and

WHEREAS without term limits, Boards can maintain a stable leadership structure and avoid frequent turnover, which can disrupt the discussions of ongoing initiatives and stymie long-term planning; and

WHEREAS continuity ensures more effective relationships with city agencies, elected officials, and developers; and

WHEREAS experienced Board members, having built credibility and relationships over time, are often better equipped to challenge developers or city agencies when needed. Their knowledge of past battles and victories gives them a strategic advantage in dealing with ongoing concerns and long-term debates; and

WHEREAS because of resignations and other reasons, vacancies are normally filled by new, inexperienced members; and

WHEREAS rather than being term-limited, current members should be evaluated for re-appointment based on their contributions, attendance, community engagement, and knowledge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M recommends that the City Charter Revision Commission approve a ballot initiative to amend the New York City Charter to eliminate term limits for

members of Community Boards, thus keeping effective members and supporting good governance and representation.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Edward Hartzog and Sharon Weiner

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Edward Hartzog and Sharon Weiner
Co-Chairs, Voting Reform and Charter Revision Task Force

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