

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: Need for an Urban Planner

Dear Chairs Garrido and Rice,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on April 16, 2025, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS Community Boards are asked to review land use applications, including zoning changes and new development plans through their role in the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP), thus playing a vital role in shaping local development; and

WHEREAS Community Boards would benefit from the expertise of a professional urban planner; and

WHEREAS Community Boards do not have the budget to engage their own urban planner;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M recommends that the Charter Revision Commission approve a ballot initiative to amend the New York City Charter to require that each Borough President retain the services of an urban planner whose services can be utilized by that borough's Community Boards, which would benefit from the expertise of an urban planner on development and other projects.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Edward Hartzog and Sharon Weiner

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