Valerie S. Mason Chair

Will Brightbill District Manager



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The City of New York Community Board 8 Manhattan

May 23, 2025

Richard R. Buery Jr., Chair New York City Charter Revision Commission City Hall New York, NY 10007

<u>RE: The ULURP Community Board 60 Day Review and other Review Clocks Should Not Start In July and</u> <u>August But Should Pause or Not Start Until September</u>

Dear Chair Buery Jr.,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 21, 2025, the Board approved the following resolution by a vote of 24 in favor, 13 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS as Community Boards do not meet in July and August, if the review period starts in July or August it undermines public participation because boards are inactive and many community members are away; and

WHEREAS initiating a review during July and August would be equivalent to sidelining the boards entirely from the process; and

WHEREAS ULURP is designed to ensure transparency and public input. Starting the review clock when the public and boards are not active defeats its purpose, and it creates an impression that the process is being rushed or can be conducted in bad faith; and

WHEREAS developers or city agencies could potentially exploit the summer break to minimize scrutiny by timing submissions for July or August. Furthermore, this creates an inequity, especially in communities with fewer resources to monitor or challenge projects during the off-season; and

WHEREAS the City Planning Commission and other bodies have historically recognized holidays and summer recesses as valid reasons for pausing clocks, or extending deadlines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CB8M recommends that the City Charter Revision Commission recommend that the ULURP 60 Community Board review and any other review clock should not start in July or August but pause or not start until September.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason Chair

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