

**Alida Camp**  
Chair

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

December 21, 2018

Gail Benjamin  
Chair  
Charter Revision Commission 2019  
250 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Benjamin,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 18, 2018, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 32 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

**Whereas** Community Board 8 Manhattan has a number of topics that it asks the Charter Commission of 2019 to consider in determining which Charter provisions merit revision;

**Whereas** the Charter Review Commission of 2019 asked Community Boards to comment on the City Charter;

**Whereas** CB8M is concerned about the balance of power in New York City and the land use process;

**Whereas** CB8M is concerned about the lack of deference given to Community Board decisions;

**Therefore be it resolved** that Community Board 8 Manhattan asks that the Charter Commission consider the following recommendations for modifications of and revisions to the NYC Charter:

That Community Boards be transitioned from being advisory in nature to having actual power in City decision-making, including developing and implementing land use decisions.

That Community Boards have access to urban planners with a degree in urban planning, architecture, real estate development, public policy or similar discipline, and that such urban planner have no ties to either the City administration or the real estate industry.

That New York City adopt a long-term plan that shall be examined, and modified where necessary, on a regular, determined basis and that any such plan be ratified by the City Council with public input.

That the Charter Commission codify the process for future charter revisions to allow for two years, a sufficient time for review of, suggested revisions for, and public input into the process, and allow advocacy in favor of and opposed to specific charter revision proposals.

That the Charter Commission examine the power balance between the Mayor, Borough Presidents, and City Council for certain commissions and departments, such as the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Board of Standards and Appeals, and Department of City Planning. Appointments to these Commissions and Board should be made by the Public Advocate, Council, and Borough Presidents, as well as by the Mayor.

That the Charter Commission review the charges and missions of all City Departments, including stakeholder identification.

That transparency into the RFP process be increased and that Community Boards participate in RFP development.

That the Charter Commission review budget protocols, including mandates to integrate Community Board priorities into budget decisions.

That the Charter Commission review contract bidding protocols to mandate competitive bidding and require transparency, among other issues.

That payment to city vendors on a timely basis be mandated.

That the Civic Engagement Commission and community board term limits be re-examined.

That regulatory changes to departments that reduce the input of Borough Presidents be prohibited.

With respect to land use, that the ULURP process be expanded and strengthened, including requirements that all development must go before community boards, all sales of air rights and that all City development, changes to the zoning text, and changes to deed restrictions each be subject to ULURP review.

That communities have a broader role in land use planning and decision-making.

That where any Community Board has disapproved an application, a supermajority of the City Planning Commission be required to approve the application,

That the reasons for the use of a Mayoral Zoning Override be codified and limited further.

That the Community Board, City Council, and Borough President for the relevant district agree on land use decisions.

That loopholes in the Zoning Resolution be closed.

That the Charter include provision for a City agency to supervise, regulate and respond to matters relating to street vendors. The agency would include representatives from all other City agencies that have specific responsibilities with various aspects of street vending and the ability to establish vendor enforcement officers.

That the Commercial Rent Tax be eliminated.

That regulations and taxes throughout New York City be uniform.

That the Commission review and define the mandate for the office of the Public Advocate.

That the Charter require City agencies to provide responses within a specified time frame to Community Board resolutions and recommendations.

Sincerely,

  
Alida Camp  
Chair

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District