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

July 23, 2024

Carlo Scissura, Chair  
Charter Revision Commission  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10001

**Re: Office of Public Advocate**

Dear Chair Scissura,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 23 in favor, 9 opposed, 6 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS**, CB8M is concerned that the charter revision process this year is too rushed and has not provided sufficient opportunity for public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of and need for the New York City Public Advocate is too vague; and

**WHEREAS**, all New York City elected officials should be advocates for the public, such that a separate city-wide office to perform such a role is unnecessary; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of the Public Advocate emerged from particular political circumstances rather than a generalized necessity for that office; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of the Public Advocate as successor to the Mayor of New York City should the Mayor leave office before the end of their term can be adequately filled by the New York City Comptroller, which is also a city-wide elected office; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution relates solely to the need for the office of Public Advocate and is not intended to cast aspersions on any past, present, or future holders of the office;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that CB8M recommends that the Charter Revision Commission approve a ballot initiative to amend the New York City Charter to abolish the office of Public Advocate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the same ballot initiative should designate the Comptroller as the successor to the Mayor should the latter leave office before the end of their term, subject to the same requirement pertaining at present that a special election to replace the Mayor be held within ninety days of the vacancy of that office.

Please advise our office of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason*

Valerie S. Mason  
Chair

*Russell Squire and Shari Weiner*

Russell Squire and Shari Weiner  
Charter Revision Task Force Co-Chairs

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