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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Voting Reform Task Force**
*Tuesday, October 8, 2024 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom*

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Gayle Baron, Michelle Birnbaum, Ed Hartzog, Sahar Husain, Rita Popper, Sharon Weiner

Absent: Barbara Rudder

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 7

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

1. Presentation - voting rights for the 2024 Election --- "How, Where and When to Vote in New York City and beyond, in the upcoming November 5, 2024 General Election."

Ed Hartzog, a member of CB8M and an election attorney, reviewed the options for voting in person, absentee, or mailed in ballot.

Ed provided the important dates to know:

Oct. 26: Voter registration deadline, mail ballot request (online or by mail), and early voting begins

Nov. 3: Early voting ends

Nov. 4: Absentee ballot request deadline (in-person at the Board of Elections office)

Nov. 5: Election Day 6:00 am - 9:00 pm, the last date to postmark your absentee ballot or drop it off at the poll site.

2. Ballot Initiatives for your consideration - Charter Revisions in New York City; the ERA in New York State.

Shari Weiner provided information on the six proposals on the ballot. These proposals were determined after the City Charter Change Commission had held 12 hearings across the five boroughs and it received testimony from members of the public and public officials.

Proposal 1. NYS's Equal Rights Amendment. It adds certain protections to the State Bill of Rights in the NYS Constitution. Ballot Proposal 1 is on the ballot this year because the New York State Legislature passed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) in two consecutive legislative sessions. Now it is up to New Yorkers to directly vote on whether to amend the State Constitution.

Proposal 2. Cleaning Public Property. This proposal would amend the City Charter to expand and clarify the Department of Sanitation's power to clean streets and other city property and require disposal of waste in containers.

Proposal 3. Additional Estimates of Cost of Proposed Laws and Updates to Budget Deadlines. This proposal would amend the City Charter to require fiscal analysis from the Council before hearings and votes on laws,

authorize fiscal analysis from the mayor, and update budget deadlines.

Proposal 4. More Notice and Time Before Votes on Public Safety Legislation. This proposal would require additional public notice and time before the City Council votes on laws respecting the public safety operations of the Police Department, Fire Department, and Department of Correction.

Proposal 5. Capital Planning. This proposal would amend the City Charter to require more detail in the annual assessment of city facilities, mandate that facility needs inform capital planning, and update capital planning deadlines.

Proposal 6. Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs), Film Permits, and Archive Review Boards. This proposal would amend the City Charter to establish the Chief Business Diversity Officer (CBDO), authorize the mayor to designate the office that issues film permits and archive boards.

Shari pointed out that these proposals are on the back of the ballot, so you need to remember to turn the ballot over and remember TO VOTE.

3. Old Business
4. New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Shari Weiner, Chair