

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Zoning, Development, and Housing Committee
Tuesday January 27, 2026 - 6:30 PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom

Minutes

Board Members Present: Michael Anderson*, Bill Angelos, Elizabeth Ashby*, P. Gayle Baron*, Michele Birnbaum*, Anthony Cohn*, DJ Falkson*, Craig Lader*, Edward Hartzog*, Dylan Kennedy^, Valerie Mason*, John McClement*, Sharon Pope-Marshall*, Margaret Price*, Elizabeth Rose*, Marco Tamayo*, Adam Wald*, and Sharon Weiner*.

**Zoning, Development, and Housing Committee member*
^Public member

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 87

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

1. “City of Yes for Housing Opportunity” and its Consequences for Community District 8

George Janes gave a presentation entitled [City of Yes in CD8: One Year Later](#). He described ways in which the recent legislation has affected new buildings in the district, in particular 800 Fifth Avenue, 985 Fifth Avenue, and 655 Madison Avenue. All three present slightly different issues but all manifest problems arising out of the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity legislation.

Mr. Janes went on to note discrepancies between the final adopted version of the revised Zoning Resolution and the subsequently published text; errors that have not yet been fully corrected and which may have a bearing on projects in the future.

The question and answer period after the presentation further clarified some of the points made by Mr. Janes, and brought up other, related issues.

2. Developments at the Department of City Planning

A second topic, introduced by Mr. Janes and Board Chair Valerie Mason, examined the dismantling of the Department of City Planning Central Design Department. In late December, the outgoing Chair, Dan Garodnik, disbanded the design group and spread their duties and responsibilities to each of the Borough Offices. No explanation was offered for this, although it would appear that this decentralized approach to planning would hamper any effort to establish any sort of master plan for the city in the coming administration. As of the meeting, the Mayor’s Office has announced no new Chair of the City Planning Commission.

3. Old Business

There was no old business.

4. New Business

A New Business item was mentioned relating to damage to St. Monica’s RC Church caused by the construction of the new building next door at the blockfront on First Avenue between 79th and 80th Streets. The general agreement was that this was not strictly in the purview of the Committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Elizabeth Ashby, Anthony Cohn, and Ed Hartzog, Co-Chairs