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Thank you Chair Scissura and members of the Charter Revision Commission for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Public engagement and transparency should be hallmarks of our democracy - to provide our City with the necessary tools for effective and responsive governance. A Charter Revision Commission is a significant constitutional process that should provide legitimate ways to improve the City Charter through a deliberate and intentional process that factors in the will of the public who we all collectively serve. The Mayor's Charter Revision Commission in its current implementation has rushed to develop proposals to change the City's constitution to prevent the full democratic process from taking place. As a co-equal legislative body that provides oversight of agencies, and a vital check to Executive appointments - including agency commissioners - the City Council must remain engaged in this process to prevent such a drastic overhaul of our City's constitution.

The Mayor's Charter Commission attempts to hastily fast-track this process by not allowing its full-term into 2025 to allow for public consideration on proposals that should be further fleshed out. At worst, this Charter Commission denies voters the opportunity to exercise their right to vote on an existing proposal to expand advice-and-consent, which would otherwise be on the 2024 November Election ballot. This would potentially undermine our democratic process, at the expense of thoughtful public engagement. This is a blatant attempt to undermine and speed up the process, at the expense of thoughtful public engagement.

As policymakers, we know that engaging New Yorkers on consequential policy issues is not always an easy task, but it is necessary to maintain transparency in government. This requires outreach to receive feedback that takes thoughtful planning, careful cooperation, and most importantly time. In this process, there has simply not been enough time to engage with all stakeholders to ensure the needs of New Yorkers will be met. Furthermore, by proceeding with this Commission, the Administration will attempt to undermine the Council as an authority to check its power. If the Administration continues down this path with the Charter Revision Commission, it will set a perilous undemocratic precedent that will undercut the checks-and-balances of our city government for future generations.

I join with my Council Colleagues to ensure that New Yorkers receive the adequate engagement in what should be a public process.