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THE COUNCIL
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JENNIFER GUTIÉRREZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 34th DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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July 12 2024

I am writing to express my deep disappointment and frustration with Mayor Adams' Charter Revision Commission and the seeming disregard for the democratic will of the people. This Commission, in its rush to push through changes, has blatantly undermined the core principles of representative democracy and good governance that New Yorkers hold dear.

The Mayor's Charter Revision Commission has operated with a disturbing sense of urgency, giving the public less than two months to engage with a process that should be thorough, transparent, and inclusive. This rushed timeline starkly contrasts with the measured, thoughtful approach of previous Commissions, which took several months to ensure meaningful public participation and expert analysis.

Mayor Adams often speaks of transparency and community engagement, but anyone who has lived in New York City for more than a year knows that this is not achieved through poorly marketed, minimal feedback sessions. Genuine community feedback requires robust outreach efforts, similar to what we saw during the census or the redistricting process. In fact, we do more outreach for individual pieces of legislation than we have seen for this entire Charter Revision process.

By truncating the review process, the Mayor's Commission appears intent on denying New Yorkers the right to know exactly what they are voting for and be part of a meaningful process to amend one of the most important documents that govern this City. This maneuver is not only undemocratic but also raises serious questions about the motivations behind this haste.

The actions of the Mayor's Commission reflect a troubling disregard for the checks and balances that protect our city's governance. By pushing through these changes without proper public input, the Commission is effectively eroding the democratic safeguards designed to prevent the concentration of power and ensure accountability.

In conclusion, I urge the Mayor's Commission to extend its timeline into next year, allowing for a comprehensive review and genuine public engagement. Do not rob our communities of their voice in this crucial decision. The future of our city's governance depends on a process that is transparent, inclusive, and respectful of democratic principles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Gutiérrez".

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Council Member, District 34