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COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

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April 20, 2010

Matthew Goldstein, Chair
Charter Revision Commission
2 Lafayette Street, Room 1414
New York, NY 10007

Lorna Goodman, Executive Director
Charter Revision Commission
2 Lafayette Street, Room 1414
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman Goldstein and Ms. Goodman:

At its Full Board meeting on March 18, 2010, Community Board #2, Manhattan (CB#2, Man.) adopted the following resolution:

COMMUNITY BOARD RESOLUTION CHARTER REVISION

Community Board 2, Manhattan, calls upon the 2010 charter revision commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire charter, meaningfully engage the public in its process, ensure that any question(s) placed on the ballot is clearly and concisely written, and conduct an extensive public education campaign about the ballot questions that voters will be asked to consider on Election Day.

WHEREAS, The last major charter revision commission (commission) which comprehensively examined the function and operation of city government was over twenty years ago with the 1989 commission; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bloomberg's appointment of a commission presents the City with a unique opportunity to fully examine government operations and to discuss how best to improve our City; and

WHEREAS, In order for this commission to be successful, first and foremost it must meaningfully engage New Yorkers by conducting extensive outreach about the charter revision process to ensure they understand what it means and how they can participate; and

WHEREAS, Such outreach should use all available modes of communication – social networking media, civic, community and religious organizations, webcasting, video- and teleconferencing, and transcribing and posting all testimony and information about commission meetings and hearings online; and

WHEREAS, The commission should also conduct frequent public hearings in every corner of the City that encourage New Yorkers to provide their recommendations about their visions for New York and how to make government more responsive to their needs; and

WHEREAS, In addition to public hearings, the commission should also conduct open public meetings to allow it to observe the commission's deliberative process; and

WHEREAS, Once the commission completes its deliberative process and decides what Charter changes it would like to put before the voters, it should submit clear and concise ballot question(s) make it easy for voters to know what they are being asked to consider; and

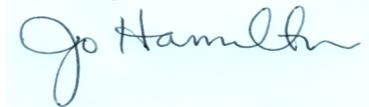
WHEREAS, Finally, the commission with the assistance of elected officials, members of the civic, community and religious community, and the media must then conduct an extensive public education campaign about what voters will see on the ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That CB#2, Man. calls upon the 2010 Charter Revision Commission to conduct a comprehensive review of the entire charter, meaningfully engage the public in its process, ensure that any question(s) placed on the ballot is clearly and concisely written, and conduct an extensive public education campaign about the ballot questions that voters will see on Election Day.

Vote: Unanimous, with 38 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Ms. Jo Hamilton, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan

JH/fa

cc: Hon. Jerrold L. Nadler, Congressman
Hon. Thomas K. Duane, NY State Senator
Hon. Daniel L. Squadron, NY State Senator
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Bill DeBlasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Man. Borough President
Hon. Christine C. Quinn, Council Speaker
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member
Sandy Myers, CB2 Liaison, Man. Borough President's office
Lolita Jackson, Manhattan Director, CAU