



MANHATTAN BOROUGH BOARD RESOLUTION

OPPOSING NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL INTRO. 0501-2026

WHEREAS, Community Boards are among the most direct forms of civic participation in New York City government and play a vital role in representing the interests of local communities on matters including land use, transportation, housing, public safety, parks, sanitation, economic development, and municipal services; and

WHEREAS, Community Boards rely upon District Managers to provide professional administration, operational continuity, and institutional knowledge necessary to effectively carry out their responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, District Managers are experienced, nonpartisan public servants whose effectiveness depends upon professional expertise, institutional knowledge, and continuity rather than political cycles; and

WHEREAS, District Managers oversee the day-to-day operations of Community Board offices, coordinate with City agencies, support Board Members and committees, respond to constituent concerns, manage staff, and help ensure continuity across changing administrations, elected officials, and Board membership; and

WHEREAS, many of the issues addressed by Community Boards – including major infrastructure projects, rezonings, housing developments, capital improvements, and long-term planning initiatives – span many years and often require substantial historical knowledge and continuity to effectively monitor and advocate on behalf of local communities; and

WHEREAS, Intro. 0501-2026 would impose fixed four-year terms on Community Board District Managers regardless of performance and would grant Borough Presidents the unilateral authority to remove District Managers at will; and

WHEREAS, imposing fixed terms on District Managers risks creating the perception that these professional administrative positions are political appointments rather than merit-based public service positions; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Borough Board believes that employment decisions concerning District Managers should continue to be based upon merit, qualifications, performance, and the needs of the community rather than fixed employment terms or arbitrary employment periods; and

WHEREAS, requiring the routine turnover of District Managers risks the loss of valuable institutional knowledge, professional expertise, and longstanding working relationships with residents, stakeholders, City agencies, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation diminishes the stability and independence of Community Boards by creating uncertainty regarding the tenure of their chief administrative officers; and

WHEREAS, Community Boards already possess the authority and have implemented procedures necessary to remove under-performing district managers and hire district managers, consistent with and subject to the existing and applicable NYC Tasks & Standards provided by DCAS; and

WHEREAS, these concerns are compounded by existing term limits for Community Board Members, which already result in the regular turnover of experienced volunteers and the loss of institutional knowledge at the Board level; and

WHEREAS, no compelling justification has been presented demonstrating that mandatory fixed four-year terms for District Managers would improve the effectiveness, accountability, or responsiveness of Community Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manhattan Borough Board opposes New York City Council Intro. 0501-2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manhattan Borough Board respectfully urges the New York City Council to reject Intro. 0501-2026 and instead pursue policies that strengthen the effectiveness, independence, institutional capacity, and long-term stability of New York City's Community Boards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the New York City Council, the Chair of the Committee on Governmental Operations, State and Federal Legislation, the sponsor of Intro. 0501-2026, the Mayor of the City of New York, and all Manhattan elected officials.

Adopted by the Manhattan Borough Board as Resolution #2 of 2026 on the 16th day of July, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brad Hoylman-Sigal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal

Manhattan Borough President

Chair of the Manhattan Borough Board