



**DRAFT Minutes of the December 27, 2021, Meeting of the  
New York City Racial Justice Commission**

A duly noticed meeting of the New York City Racial Justice Commission was conducted online with an Internet livestream for remote public viewing at 8:00 a.m. on December 27, 2021.

The Chair, Jennifer Jones Austin, was present and presided. Also present were the following Commissioners:

K. Bain

Ana M. Bermúdez

Lurie Daniel Favors

Fred Davie

Vice Chair Henry Garrido

Darrick Hamilton

Chris Kui

Yesenia Mata

J. Phillip Thompson

Jo-Ann Yoo

The Chair acknowledged the presence of a quorum (Chair Jones Austin and Commissioners Bain, Bermudez, Daniel Favors, Davie, Garrido, Hamilton, Kui, Mata, Thompson and Yoo) to conduct the meeting and called the meeting to order at 8:08



a.m. The Chair made introductory remarks and invited each Commissioner to briefly introduce themselves.

Chair Jones Austin gave an overview of the work the Commission undertook since its creation. Chair Jones Austin gave an overview of the votes and resolution approved at the Commission's December 9, 2021, meeting that resulted in the final report that Commissioners have now had the opportunity to review and propose revisions to. Chair Jones Austin laid out the voting process for each of the proposals, the final report, and a motion directing staff to take all technical measures to have these proposals filed to be placed on the ballot in November 2022.

Executive Director Anusha Venkataraman read out the proposed abstract for ballot question one relating to a Charter preamble.

A motion to approve the proposal was made by Commissioner Davie and seconded by Vice Chair Garrido. There was no discussion on the first proposal. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the proposal—ballot proposal number one relating to a Charter preamble—was unanimously approved at 8:46 a.m.

Executive Director Anusha Venkataraman read out the proposed abstract for ballot question two relating to the creation of an Office of Racial Equity and a Commission for Racial Equity.

Vice Chair Garrido made a motion to approve the proposal and Commissioner Bermudez seconded the motion. Commissioners discussed the proposal. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the proposal—ballot proposal number two relating to the creation of an Office of Racial Equity and a Commission on Racial Equity—was unanimously approved at 8:58 a.m.



Executive Director Anusha Venkataraman read out the proposed abstract for ballot question three relating to the creation of a True Cost of Living measure.

A motion to approve the proposal was made by Vice Chair Garrido and seconded by Commissioner Bermudez. There was no discussion on the proposal. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions the proposal—ballot proposal number three relating to the creation of a True Cost of Living measure—was unanimously approved at 9:01 a.m.

A motion to accept and approve the Final Report containing the proposals voted on, including ballot questions, abstracts and Charter amendment text, and also including a Roadmap for Racial Justice was made by Commissioner Daniel Favors, and seconded by Commissioner Kui. There was no discussion on the motion. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the motion was approved unanimously at 9:03 a.m.

Commissioner Yoo made a motion to approve a resolution that directs the staff to take the appropriate actions to deliver the materials to the City Clerk in order for the ballot questions to be placed before the voters, and to take whatever action they deem necessary to educate the public about the ballot questions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davie. Commissioners were sent this resolution in advance and had a chance to review it. There was no discussion on the motion. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the motion was approved unanimously at 9:05 a.m.

General Counsel Melanie Ash reviewed the process for the signature of documents. Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Chair Jones Austin, Vice Chair Garrido and Executive Director Venkataraman will physically sign the Resolution, and all Commissioners will be asked to E-Sign an Endorsement of the Vote that will be inserted into final report as an appendix.

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the December 9, 2021, meeting of the Commission. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by



Commissioner Garrido and seconded by Commissioner Davie, and subsequently adopted unanimously by Commissioners at approximately 9:13 a.m.

General Counsel Ash provided an overview of the rules applicable to all Commissioners until Election Day. Staff will remain available to provide additional guidance should Commissioners have any questions.

Executive Director Venkataraman provided an overview of what to expect going forward until Election Day on November 8, 2022, including the public educational campaign.

Vice Chair Garrido made a motion to amend the Resolution passed at the April 15, 2021, Commission meeting delegating authority to Executive Director Venkataraman to conduct the day-to-day business of the Commission to extend this delegation to the current Deputy Executive Director Harold Miller and any future Executive Director who is appointed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davie. The proposed amendment was distributed to Commissioners in advance. There was no discussion on the motion. Vote was taken by roll call. By a vote of 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, the motion was approved unanimously at 9:33 a.m.

The Chair invited Commissioners and members of the public to join the Commission on December 28, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. at Foley Square to deliver the Commission's submissions to the City Clerk.

The Chair made closing remarks. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Vice Chair Garrido and seconded by Commissioner Thompson. The motion was subsequently approved unanimously by Commissioners at approximately 9:39 a.m.



A transcription of the entire Commission Meeting will be prepared and uploaded to <https://racialjustice.cityofnewyork.us/events/>.