

Thriving Communities Coalition

STATEMENT ON 2019 NYC CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION DECISION

The Thriving Communities Coalition - a group of community-based and policy-oriented nonprofits focused on equitable land use and planning processes - is extremely disappointed that the Charter Revision Commission has chosen to advance a slate of ballot proposals that will maintain the status quo when it comes to land use planning. New York City is one of the most segregated and unequal cities in the nation, and tackling the root of these issues by reforming the land use process that contributes to them was a leading reason why the City Council, the Public Advocate, and the Manhattan Borough President took the unprecedented step to form a non-mayoral Charter Revision Commission last year.

Over the past year, the members of the Thriving Communities Coalition, along with numerous allies, shared our perspectives on the urgent need for REAL reform to empower disenfranchised communities and fight deeply entrenched racial and socio-economic inequality. **As a Coalition, we fought for a planning process that accounts for historical divestments from communities of color and a budget that equitably distributes resources.** We will continue to push for a values-driven approach to land use because - from the racism that is woven into our City map to climate change that is threatening the resilience of our communities - it's clear that we have no choice but to keep up the fight.

While the status quo might work for developers and the powerful few, it does not work for most New Yorkers, and without meaningful changes, the processes we have now will only exacerbate inequality, segregation, and displacement. We are committed to continuing the fight for meaningful land use reform, in order to create a city where everyone has a chance to grow and thrive.