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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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### LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE

February 9, 2022

The Community Board 2, Manhattan Land Use & Housing Committee held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 @ 6:30PM—Meeting Access via Video Conferencing.

**Land Use committee members present via Zoom:** Frederica Sigel (Chair), Eugene Yoo (Vice Chair), Anita Brandt, Michael Levine, Susan Wittenberg, Donna Raftery, Sean Sweeney (public member)

**Land Use committee members absent with notice:** David Gruber, Katy Bordonaro

**Land Use committee members absent without notice:** John Paul DeVerna

**CB2 members present via Zoom:** Jeannine Kiely (CB2 chair), Carter Booth, Shirley Secunda, William Benesh, Valerie De La Rosa, Coral Dawson

**Representatives of electeds:** Nicole Barth, CM Bottcher's office; Charlie Anderson, Community Affairs Dir., AM Deborah Glick's office

**Representatives of the Municipal Art Society:** Tom Devaney, MAS Senior Director of Land Use and Planning; Alia Soomro, MAS Menapace Fellow in Urban Land Use and Law; and Stephen Albonesi, MAS Senior Planner

Stephen Albonesi presented this recent MAS report:

**A Blueprint for Public Realm Leadership: An Implementation Guide for a Deputy Mayor for Placemaking and the Public Realm**

<https://www.mas.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/public-realm-leadership-2022-report.pdf>

In this latest report, MAS builds upon the initial call for a Director of the Public Realm contained in its 2019's *Bright Ideas* report and their previous policy brief outlining the structure of the office, *A Public Champion for the Public Realm*. This new document is a roadmap for the creation of a Deputy Mayor for Placemaking and the Public Realm, a position within New York City government dedicated to improving intergovernmental

coordination and oversight of public spaces and innovatively connecting people and the places they experience.

Alia Soomro presented this recent MAS report:

**Toward Comprehensive Planning: Moving Beyond Our Comfort Zone:  
Recommendations for New York City to advance a collaborative, community-based  
comprehensive planning framework**

<https://www.mas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/towards-comp-planning-2021-report.pdf>

This report examines how a comprehensive plan can be a vehicle for confronting and rectifying past inequities while combating the challenges we face today. This policy brief frames the debate by defining comprehensive planning, articulating why New York City needs to embrace comprehensive planning at this pivotal moment, providing an overview of lessons learned from other cities (e.g., London, Vancouver, Los Angeles, Chicago, etc.), and presenting recommendations the City must take to move New York City towards a comprehensive planning framework.

Of interest to the committee was the report's mention of the NYC Rezoning Commitments Tracker, established in 2016 and maintained by the Mayor's Office of Operations. The most recent rezoning on the Tracker occurred in 2019.

The presentations were followed by a Q&A. The committee took no action at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Frederica Sigel  
Chair, CB2 Land Use and Housing Committee