



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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[www.nyc.gov/mcb4](http://www.nyc.gov/mcb4)

**LOWELL D. KERN**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

October 21, 2021

Hon. Kathy Hochul  
Governor, New York  
633 Third Ave  
New York NY, 10017

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins  
Majority Leader, New York State Senate  
Capitol  
Albany NY, 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie  
Speaker, New York State Assembly  
Capitol  
Albany NY, 12248

**Re: Extension of Legislation S.50001/A.40001 – Local Government and Virtual Meetings**

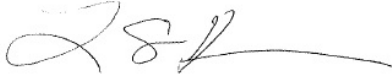
Dear Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, and Speaker Heastie,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to express our gratitude for your leadership in temporarily allowing local Governments to conduct and participate in virtual public meetings. Holding virtual public meetings reduces the risk of COVID-19 spread and assists people with disabilities in participating in their local government processes. MCB4, recognizing the multiple benefits of holding virtual meetings and current pending legislation to amend the Open Meetings Law (OML), strongly urges the Governor's office and Legislature to work together to secure the extension of the current suspension of OML until the aforementioned legislation is made law. Allowing the current law to expire on January 15, 2022 would upend and severely hamper MCB4's ability to conduct its business.

In addition, this past summer MCB4, like other governmental bodies, were given less than one days' notice that we would be required to return to in-person meetings. Community Boards were left scrambling to find safe meeting locations, PPE, and guidance. What guidance and support we were offered came days to weeks later. It is your collective responsibility to keep the public and local government bodies, such as our Board, appropriately informed of policies that would impact our ability to conduct board business. We request your offices hold a meeting with all 59 Community Boards in December to provide an update on the status of amending the Open Meetings Law.

The MCB4 Full Board, a duly noticed public meeting taking place on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, voted to support the committee's recommendation by a vote of 40 approvals, 3 denials, 0 abstentions, and 0 present not eligible to vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Kern', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lowell D. Kern

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senate  
Hon. Robert Jackson, NYS Senate  
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, NYS Assembly  
Hon. Richard Gottfried, NYS Assembly  
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, U.S. Representative  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, City Council  
Hon. Helen Rosenthal, City Council