



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

June 12, 2025

Hon. Lincoln Restler
Chair
City Council Committee on Governmental Operations,
State & Federal Legislation
250 Broadway, 1883
New York, NY 10007

Re: Int 1065 - By Council Member Williams - A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the terms of employment for district managers.

Dear Chair Restler,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its June 4, 2025 meeting voted, by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 Present Not Eligible to vote, its opposition to Int. No. 1065 Regarding Terms of Employment for District Managers.

Int. 1065 would impose fixed four-year terms on Community Board district managers, with provisions for reappointment and removal by the Community Board or Borough President.¹ This proposed legislation amends the current law, under which district managers serve Community Boards as standard at-will employees, without the limitations of term appointments.

District managers are not political appointees: they are experienced, nonpartisan civil servants with an intimate, working knowledge of their communities and City government. Codifying fixed terms for these positions introduces an implication of

¹ In relevant part, the Int. 1065 adds the following language: "A district manager shall serve a term of four years, except that the first such term shall run from the effective date of the local law that added this sentence until December 31 of the fourth full calendar year thereafter. A community board may reappoint the same person as district manager for successive terms, and the community board or borough president with jurisdiction over a community district may remove that district's district manager before the expiration of such term. A member of a community board shall be eligible for appointment to the position of district manager provided that such member does not participate in any manner in the selection of the district manager by the board and resigns as a member of any board prior to or upon assuming the duties of district manager"

political rotation, which runs counter to the very nature of roles built on institutional memory and deep expertise — not political cycles.

Furthermore, the language of Int. 1065 risks creating the false impression that district managers cannot be removed until the end of a set term, despite the bill's allowance for removal. This creates ambiguity as to our current understanding that district managers are at-will employees subject to ongoing evaluation based on performance and not arbitrary timelines.

Most troublingly, this bill comes at a time when civil servants across the country are under increasing attack and as the Federal Government attempts to undermine the foundations of effective and ethical governance. The integrity of our city's governance depends on maintaining a clear distinction between political appointments and the professional civil service. Let us not muddy the waters with this legislation.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait

Chair

Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Sitting Council Members of the Committee on Governmental Operations,
 Hon. Gale A. Brewer, City Council
 Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council
 Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
 Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, State Senate
 Hon. Tony Simone, State Assembly