

# **Lisa Urban**

## **Environmental Control Board Nominee Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections**

Good morning, Chair Powers, Speaker Adams, and the Members of the Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections. My name is Lisa Urban, and I am pleased to introduce myself as a candidate for the general public position on the Environmental Control Board. I have been a Manhattan resident since 1986 when I moved to the city after graduating from Stony Brook University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. While living here, I attended Fordham Law school at night, all while working full time as a paralegal alongside my sister in her landlord-tenant law practice. In January of 1991, I was admitted to the New York State bar, marking the beginning of my legal career.

Throughout my years as an attorney, I have primarily focused on transactional law, representing both buyers and sellers of residential and commercial real estate. Until a few years ago, I was employed at landlord-tenant law firms, which provided a valuable opportunity for knowledge sharing among my colleagues. Although I transitioned away from litigation years ago, I continued to assist clients who owned residential and commercial properties, frequently addressing issues related to ECB and building department violations and fines. This experience intersects with my transactional practice, where I regularly conduct due diligence to navigate DOB and ECB-related issues. I have dealt with client concerns involving sanitation disputes, fire safety standards, hazardous substances, and properties located in landmark or historical districts on behalf of my clients. My professional journey has enabled me to accumulate a thorough understanding of the regulations and statutes that pertain to property ownership within the city, encompassing everything from quality of life violations to sanitation and environmental regulations and the ability to navigate the department of building websites.

Apart from my legal career, my husband and I raised our family in Manhattan. Both of our daughters attended NYC public schools, where I actively participated in their school parent associations. Additionally, for a number of years, I had the privilege of serving on the District 2 community education council, providing me with valuable insights into local governance and

collaborative decision-making. We continue to live in Murray Hill and are currently constituents of Councilwoman Carlina Rivera.

While the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily paused community activities, I am eager and ready to reengage once more and contribute my skills and legal expertise to the ECB board. With my background in real estate law and my understanding of urban regulations, I see the public member position on the ECB board as an ideal opportunity to make a civic contribution. By serving on the ECB board, I aim to leverage my legal experience and dedication to improve our community. I am eager to collaborate with fellow board members to address a wide range of issues, including air and water pollution, noise pollution, street cleanliness, and more. Together, we can make informed decisions in an impartial manner where both sides, the city agencies and the individual respondent, receive an unbiased and fair hearing. I look forward to joining a tribunal that is established on a foundation of neutrality and whose goal is the independent and fair adjudication of violations concerning environmental matters in the City of New York.

In conclusion, my long-term residency, legal background, and previous community engagement experiences have uniquely prepared me for this position. I am deeply committed to making a positive impact on our city through my contributions as the general public member on the Environmental Control Board. Thank you for your consideration.