

**Testimony of Dan Steinberg, Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations Before the
Committee on Government Operations
April 5, 2022**

Good morning, Chair Ung and members of the Committee on Governmental Operations. My name is Dan Steinberg. I am Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations and serve as the Chair of the Report and Advisory Board Review Commission (RABRC). I am joined here today by Fiona Peach, the Assistant Director of the project manager unit in the Mayor's Office of Operations who has spearheaded the work of RABRC.

Before I address the items in front of us today, allow me to provide an overview on the work done by the Mayor's Office of Operations and RABRC.

The Mayor's Office of Operations was created in 1977 by Executive Order. The office plans, coordinates, and directs governmental operations and holds City agencies and offices accountable. Operations has since grown into a project and performance management, research, and customer service engine that works to make New York City a fairer and more equitable place for all its residents.

The City relies on Operations to strengthen efficiency and coordination within government. To serve this purpose, Operations provides City agencies and offices with research and analysis, project and performance management, and advisory support. Some of these projects that Operations provides support on include key mayoral initiatives like the City's Vaccine Command Center, OneNYC, Vision Zero, and IDNYC. The office also publishes the Mayor's Management Report, the only publication of its kind in the country to track agency performance year-over-year.

RABRC, meanwhile, was created in 2010 when voters approved a Charter Review Commission proposal to review and assess the continued usefulness of reporting requirements and advisory boards established by the City Charter, Administrative Code, and unconsolidated provisions of local law.

The commission is chaired by the Director of the Mayor's Office of Operations, and voting members consist of representatives from the City Council, Law Department, the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (now under the Office of Technology and Innovation), and OMB.

RABRC seeks to identify and eliminate outdated, duplicative, and unnecessary reporting and advisory board requirements – with the goal of enhancing government efficiency and productivity.

In weighing whether to grant a report waiver, RABRC considers four primary criteria that are outlined in the Charter.

- Utility: Does the report provide useful information for evaluating activities or results of City programs? Does it provide useful information for assessing effective management of City resources?
- Redundancy: Does the information exist elsewhere? Is it wholly or partially duplicative of another required report?
- Relevance: Our world constantly changes. Is a particular report still necessary?
- Benefit: Is the information in a report worth the cost of production?

At its public meeting on December 10, 2021, RABRC voted to waive six reports.

1. Assessment of city facilities regarding certain clean on-site power generation technologies
2. High Pedestrian Crash Location Report
3. New York City Sports Commission Report
4. 911 Operational Time Analysis Report
5. Annual Youth Services Report
6. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Report

According to the City Charter, the City Council has the authority to approve or disapprove these waiver recommendations. In the Preconsidered Resolution before this Committee today, the Council intends to approve four of these recommendations and disapprove two of them. The two waiver recommendations the Council is disapproving, that is, the two reports that they intend to *maintain*, are the 911 Operational Time Analysis Report and the Annual Youth Services Report.

The RABRC members from the Administration stand by their votes as to the merits of the waiver recommendations, but also recognize and respect Council's authority to disapprove the recommendations. Operations agrees with Council that the information required to be in these reports is important for both policy makers and the public, and is fully committed to making government data accessible.

The Mayor's Office of Operations and RABRC remain committed to enhancing government efficiency by eliminating redundant government reports while ensuring public access to government data. The next round of RABRC report review has already begun, and we look forward to working with each of you to identify reports that can be eliminated in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.