



THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker

BRIEFING PAPER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Joel Rivera, Chairperson

June 12, 2013

Topic: *New York City Planning Commission – (Queens Borough President's nominee for re-appointment upon advice and consent of the Council)*

- **Irwin G. Cantor [Pre-considered M]**

Section 192 of the *New York City Charter* ("Charter") states that there shall be a thirteen-member CPC, with seven appointments made by the Mayor (including the Chair), one by the Public Advocate, and one by each Borough President [*Charter* §192(a)]. All members, except the Chair, are subject to the advice and consent of the Council [*Charter* §192(a)]. Further, the *Charter* states that members are to be chosen for their independence, integrity, and civic commitment [*Charter* §192(a)].

The *Charter* provides that CPC members serve for staggered five-year terms, except for the Chair, who as Director of the Department of City Planning (*Charter* §191), serves at the pleasure of the Mayor [*Charter* §192(a)]. For purposes of Chapter 68 (Conflicts of Interest) of the *Charter*, CPC members, other than the Chair, shall not be considered regular employees of the City [*Charter* §192(b)]. There is no limitation on the number of terms that a CPC member may serve [*Charter* §192(a)]. CPC members are prohibited from holding any other City office while they serve on CPC [*Charter* §192(b)]. The Chair receives an annual salary of \$205,180. The member who is designated as Vice-Chair receives an

annual salary of \$62,271. The other members receive an annual salary of \$54,150.

CPC is responsible for:

- undertaking long-range planning for the City's orderly growth, improvement and future development, including appropriate resources for housing, business, industry, recreation and culture [*Charter* §192(d)];
- assisting the Mayor and other officials in developing the ten-year capital strategy, the four-year capital program and the annual *Statement of Needs* [*Charter* §192(f)];
- overseeing and coordinating environmental reviews under the *City Environmental Quality Review* ("CEQR"), as mandated by state law (*Environmental Conservation Law* – Article 8) [*Charter* §192(e)];
- preparing a zoning and planning report at least once every four years, which includes a review of the *Zoning Resolution*, with any recommendations for changes and proposals for implementing planning policies [*Charter* §192(f)]; and
- approving or disapproving the acquisition by the City of office space [*Charter* §195].

CPC has also promulgated rules:

- establishing minimum standards for certifying *Uniform Land Use and Review Procedure* ("ULURP") applications and specific time periods for pre-certification review [*Charter* §197-c (i)];
- creating capital site selection criteria [*Charter* §218 (a)];
- setting minimum standards for the form and content of plans for the development of the City and boroughs [*Charter* §197-a (b)]; and
- defining "major concessions [*Charter* §374 (b)]."

Mr. Cantor is scheduled to appear before the Committee on Rules, Privileges, and Elections on June 12, 2013. Upon re-appointment by the Queens Borough President with the advice and consent of the Council, Mr. Cantor, a resident of Queens will be eligible to serve a five-year term that begins on July 1, 2013 and expires on June 30, 2018. Copies of Mr. Cantor's résumé and report/resolution are annexed to this briefing paper.

Attachments

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