

COMMUNITY BOARD 7 COMMITTEE Report

**Joint Committee Meeting with Sanitation/Environment, Land Use/Landmarks
Committee, and Transportation Committees
2023-06-14 6:30pm**

1. Presentation by the Department of City Planning on the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality

- Julius “Jukie” Tsai and Emily Bachman from the Department of City Planning presented on the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Plan
- Plan is part of larger effort to meet city and state climate goals
- The plan is a proposed Zoning Text Amendment, which includes 17 specific proposed zoning changes (full details available at <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/plans-studies/city-of-yes/carbon-neutrality/042423-slides.pdf>)
- Board and Committee members shared questions, concerns, and other feedback about points including:
 - The decision to propose these changes under an Environmental Assessment (EA), not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Possibility of allowing rooftop greenhouses in residential areas
 - Stress on the electrical grid related to increased electrification of boilers, appliances, and automobiles under proposed plan
 - Car share cap restrictions
 - Concerns about the safety of batteries for electrical storage
 - Siting of new electrical infrastructure such as substations
 - Locations of electric car charging stations
 - Impacts of zoning changes on historic districts and landmarked properties
 - Status of electrification of city fleet vehicles
 - Sourcing materials and recycling batteries and non-electrical infrastructure
 - Discussion of last mile trucking/facilities not being included in his text amendment
 - Traffic safety implications of increased weight of electric cars and trucks
 - Lack of plans to address truck volume
 - Likelihood of continued reliance on oil and gas-powered peaker power plants due to increased electrification and related health and pollution issues
 - Additional costs related to developing property and affordable housing due to new green infrastructure requirements
 - Questions about whether growing commercial crops such as cannabis would be permitted in rooftop gardens
 - Racial equity reporting requirements under the proposed plan

- Equity of electrical infrastructure and ensuring that electrical strains like brownouts do not fall disproportionately on economically vulnerable communities like Sunset Park
- Security concerns about vulnerability of electrical grid and lack of redundant infrastructure under proposed plan

1) Names of the committee members present

Land Use/Landmarks

- Joan Botti, John Fontillas, Diana Gonzalez, Antoinette Martinez, Gabino Morales, Damaris Santiago, Katherine Walsh, Julio Peña III

Sanitation/Environment

- Diana Gonzalez, Joan Botti, Mary Jo Eyster, Gabino Morales, Samuel Sierra, Julio Peña III

Transportation

- Katherine Walsh, John DeLooper, Joan Botti, Jerry Chan, Roberto A. Martinez, Diana Gonzalez, Gabino Morales, Julio Peña III, Sam Sierra, Cynthia Vandenbosch

2) Corrections and amendments to previous meeting minutes (if any)

- None

3) Additions to the current agenda

- None

4) Motions taken or rejected (if any)

- Diana Gonzalez made a motion to send a letter to DCP requesting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and including comments about shortcomings of the proposed Zoning Amendment from this meeting. The motion was seconded by Antoinette Martinez.
- Katherine Walsh proposed a friendly amendment that the letter include a conditional yes statement on the Zoning Text Amendment and include discussion of conditions such as peaker plant issues related to this plan.
- Gonzalez accepted the friendly amendment, which was seconded by Julio Peña.
- A Roll Call vote was held on a motion to:
 - Send a letter to the Department of City Planning indicating that the Board votes yes with conditions on the proposed Zoning Text Amendment changes, requests an EIS be completed, and takes into account issues raised during this meeting such as peaker plants.
- The motion passed with 18 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 0 abstentions.

5) Actions taken or agreed to be taken

- If the resolution passes at Wednesday's full Board meeting, a letter will be drafted and sent to DCP.

6) Next steps

- Resolution will be presented to full Board at the upcoming June 21 meeting.
- CPC Vote on Zoning Text Amendment is scheduled for September 13, 2023.

7) Old Business

- None

8) Any new business items

- None

9) Next meeting date and time, if scheduled

- Full Board meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on June 21, 2023.

10) Time of adjournment

- **8:39 pm**

Appendix: Resources related to Meeting

- YouTube recording of Committee Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/live/b-owyZH2Zis>
- City Of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Annotated Zoning Text Amendment <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/plans-studies/city-of-yes/carbon-neutrality/carbon-neutrality-annotated-zoning-text.pdf>
- City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Presentation Slides <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/planning/download/pdf/plans-studies/city-of-yes/carbon-neutrality/042423-slides.pdf>
- City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Application Status <https://zap.planning.nyc.gov/projects/2022Y0438>
- City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality Home Page <https://www.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/city-of-yes/city-of-yes-carbon-neutrality.page>
- Recording of April 24th, 2023: City Planning Commission Review Session + Special Public Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10-8NynzIRY>
- Press release on Legislation (S.8518A /A.6165A) to Help Remove Barriers to the Installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislation-advance-new-yorks-transition-clean-transportation>
- NYC Accelerator Energy Upgrades: <https://accelerator.nyc/>