



Dear Speaker Adams,

Congratulations on your historic election as City Council Speaker. We look forward to working with you to improve the lives of New Yorkers.

The undersigned groups represent a large coalition of stakeholders that interact with the City Council regularly. **We write to ask that you convene a public hearing on possible reforms to the Rules of the Council in the coming weeks.**

The Rules Committee last held a public hearing on rules reform in February 2014. The needs of lawmakers, advocates, and the public have changed significantly over the last eight years. New technological solutions are now available.

For example, many Council Members have shown interest in improving transparency and coordination around legislative drafting services. Stakeholders from all across the political spectrum are eager to see the Council provide earlier public notice before legislative actions and Council meetings, including by revamping the Council's legislative portal and alert system. We believe Council Members should also consider new practices for public participation and accountability in light of the ongoing use of remote technology in government proceedings.

With more than two-thirds of Council Members new to the office, the beginning of this Council session provides an opportunity to turn New York City's legislative body more collaborative, efficient, transparent, and accountable. We were encouraged by your first speech, which highlighted the need for this diverse Council to work together for the good of the city. We believe an important vehicle to do so is the Rules of the Council.

We urge you to solicit feedback on Council Rules Reform through a public hearing before approving permanent rules for the 2022-2023 session.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum
Executive Director
Citizens Union

Susan Lerner
Executive Director
Common Cause NY

Diane Burrows
Lesley Sigall
Co-President
League of Women Voters
of the City of New York

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