

Testimony

Local Law 40 of 2018 URP Noticing Requirements Report and Advisory Board Review Commission September 28, 2022

Good afternoon, members of the Report and Advisory Board Review Commission. I am Arielle Goldberg, Executive Director of Land Use and Resiliency Policy for the Office of Neighborhood Strategies at HPD. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss the challenges posed by the noticing requirements under Local Law 40 of 2018 for urban renewal plans (URP). We believe these noticing requirements to be duplicative measures given the existing ways this information is publicly available and the existing measures we take to conduct proper and thorough outreach when related to public review processes.

In accordance with Local Law 40 of 2018, HPD currently maintains and will continue to maintain a [webpage](#) that includes information regarding the urban renewal law, an explanatory urban renewal research guide, links to resources for conducting such research, and links to individual webpages featuring urban renewal plans and areas. The webpage includes an illustrative map that indicates by icon the approximate locations of all currently and formerly designated urban renewal areas in New York City and whether a plan is currently active.

As of September 2022, of the 53 active Urban Renewal Plans, only 18 have residential public sites that are still under city ownership and of those 18, 9 of them revert to underlying zoning restrictions listed in the Zoning Resolution. The remaining 9 sites are either in active or recent predevelopment review by Council through the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) or will be in the near future, or they are already fully developed with extensions in place.

In the rare case that we propose projects that are inconsistent with those restrictions, and we must amend an Urban Renewal Plan, we go through ULURP, where there is a comprehensive and extended public process to notify Council Members, Borough Presidents and Community Boards. In these cases, the noticing requirement for expiring URPs is duplicative and no longer provides relevant or useful information, given the publicly available urban renewal info page on HPD's website, which is kept up-to-date and can be easily shared out, and our required public engagement process during ULURP.

In addition, as a part of our procedures at HPD, we have a robust process for notifying and keeping open lines of communication with elected officials and other key stakeholders even outside of the ULURP or required processes.

We believe this noticing requirement is well-intentioned but ultimately no longer necessary for key stakeholders to stay informed on Urban Renewal Plans in their communities as it is duplicative. This information is and will continue to be available on our URP webpage and we have an established and robust process for engaging stakeholders should any changes to a Plan be proposed. We appreciate the opportunity to share our request with the Commission, and we welcome your partnership in creating a more efficient workforce through streamlining reporting and noticing requirements. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

