



OFFICE OF THE BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**New York City Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform
Brooklyn Borough Hall—Courtroom
October 15, 2018
6:00 PM**

My name is Ryan Lynch, and I am the policy director for Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. On behalf of Brooklyn Borough President, Eric L. Adams, I welcome everyone to Brooklyn Borough Hall.

This is a hearing that is long overdue.

New York City's property tax system is an unnecessary labyrinth of confusion that hinders and hurts all it touches; homeowners and renters alike.

In a borough that is home to some of the most expensive real estate in the City, the way property taxes are assessed is unfair, lacking in transparency, and overly burdensome, particularly in communities of color which often see higher effective property tax rates than their more affluent counterparts.

Homeowners have been suffering under this unfair assessment system for too long, one that places different property tax burdens on similarly

valued properties across the five boroughs', and renters often bear the burden of this unequal system as the cost is passed on through increasing rents across New York City. This Commission must develop a system that is fair for both homeowners and tenants as well as transparent as it considers their recommendations moving forward.

As this process continues, the Commission must do better in engaging a broader swath of the population especially as our office has received concerns about the outreach process for this and other hearings.

According to the United States Census, the 2012-2016 owner-occupied housing unit rates were approximately 30 percent. In a borough of 2.6 million people and 1.04 million housing units, the fact that we can barely fill a room capable of holding 200 people is appalling.

This conversation must broaden the outreach effort to not only include homeowners and their associations, but also engagement of tenant advocacy organizations. Public hearings are supposed to be predicated on the fact that public input is valued. However, the notification process must give residents time to prepare meaningful testimony.

The borough president is eager to hear the testimony tonight and urges the commission to further engage homeowners and tenants as this process continues.