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November 20, 2025

Re: CECM-SAPO Proposed Extension of Street Fair Moratorium for Calendar Year 2026

As State Senator for the 47th Senate District, I write to oppose the proposed extension of the street fair moratorium as it pertains to community-driven, non-commercial events. Since 2016, CECM has simply renewed the moratorium on an annual basis, without consideration of changed conditions or allowing for case-by-case review of new permit applications. While I understand CECM's deference to the NYPD's concerns regarding police resources, I do not believe simply freezing the status quo is the answer. Rather, CECM should promulgate a rule that allows for the permitting of events that are driven by, and serve, the communities that make New York City the greatest city in the world.

Specifically, I urge CECM to adopt a rule that allows for the permitting of new community-driven, non-commercial street fairs. The existing rule takes a "one size fits all" approach to "street events" and I understand that CECM broadly construes community events to be "street fairs" as "activity on a public street, street curb lane, or sidewalk where the activity will interfere with or obstruct the regular use of the location by pedestrian or vehicular traffic." However, not all events are created equal.

The Longest Table — an annual community event held in my district — is just the sort of initiative that CECM should account for in its rulemaking. The Longest Table is a citywide initiative encouraging neighbors to share meals on their blocks to build connection and community. Over the past four years, 15+ The Longest Table events have brought neighbors together across New York City across three boroughs. These gatherings are volunteer-organized by neighbors who set up tables, cook, and welcome each other working at times with local community organizations. Unlike large-scale commercial street fairs which aim to make a profit at the expense of city resources, events like The Longest Table celebrate what makes our City great and bring

neighborhoods together by (literally) bringing neighbors to the table across cultures and generations. And unlike other events, these events require minimal City resources.

I thus urge CECM to consider promulgating a rule that allows for the permitting of new non-commercial community street fairs on a case-by-case basis in lieu of an extension of a long-standing moratorium. In doing so, CECM should consider the significant community benefits of smaller and resident-led gatherings that give our streets to the people of this City and allow them to come together, at little cost to the City. In these trying times, I hope that CECM can recognize the need to allow for innovative solutions like The Longest Table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman-Sigal". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal
New York State Senator, District 47