



Legislation Text

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Int. No. 1114

By Council Members Barron, Van Bramer, the Public Advocate (Mr. Williams), Rosenthal and Kallos

A Local Law in relation to creating a task force to examine the monuments, statues, public art, and historical markers on city-owned property

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. a. There shall be a task force to conduct a study of the monuments, statues, public art, and historical markers on city-owned property.

b. The task force shall consist of the following members:

1. The commissioner of cultural affairs or such commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair of the task force;

2. The commissioner of parks and recreation or such commissioner's designee;

3. The executive director of the landmarks preservation commission or such director's designee;

4. The commissioner of transportation or such commissioner's designee;

5. The commissioner of city planning or such commissioner's designee; and

6. Five members appointed by the mayor representing each of the five boroughs, respectively, provided that each member shall have relevant expertise in one or more of the following disciplines: history, art and antiquities, public art and public space, preservation, cultural heritage, diversity and inclusion, and education.

c. The task force shall conduct a comprehensive review of monuments, statues, public art and historical markers on city-owned property, prioritizing those that are subject to sustained negative public reaction or may be viewed as inconsistent with the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. The task force shall also:

1. Explore ideas for new permanent monuments and temporary artwork about history;

2. Make recommendations for how the city could establish a mechanism for community-generated monuments and markers; and

3. Host or co-host historical discussions, public programs and other educational initiatives related to the complex and nuanced histories of the city's monuments and historical markers.

d. The task force shall meet no less than once a quarter.

e. No later than 12 months after the effective date of this local law, the task force shall submit a report that contains its findings and conclusions, and any recommendations for policy or legislation, to the mayor and the speaker of the council.

f. The task force shall dissolve upon submission of its report as required by subdivision e of this section.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

AW
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