



## Legislation Text

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Int. No. 2246

By Council Members Brannan, Yeger, Kallos, Rosenthal, Perkins, Louis, Koslowitz, Riley, Levine, Moya, Ampry-Samuel, Gjonaj and Dinowitz

A Local Law in relation to the establishment of a task force to study options and make recommendations for converting vacant commercial office space into affordable housing

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For purposes of this local law, the following terms have the following meanings:

City. The term “city” means the city of New York.

Task force. The term “task force” means the Office-to-Affordable-Housing Task Force established by this local law.

§ 2. Task force established. There is hereby established a task force to be known as the Office-to-Affordable-Housing Task Force.

§ 3. Duties. The task force shall study options for converting vacant commercial office space in the city to affordable housing units, and shall make recommendations for legislation and policy in furtherance of that objective. Those recommendations shall take into account potential effects on the health and welfare of persons in the city, the projected costs of implementing any recommended programs, anticipated effects on stakeholders, and any other considerations the task force determines relevant.

§ 4. Membership. a. The task force shall be composed of the following members to be appointed within 60 days of the effective date of this local law:

1. The commissioner of the department of housing preservation and development, or such commissioner’s designee, who shall serve as chair.

2. The commissioner of the department of buildings, or such commissioner's designee.
  3. One representative of an organization that advocates for the production, preservation or rehabilitation of affordable housing for low-income households, appointed by the mayor.
  4. One representative with expertise in affordable housing policy from the academic or nonprofit community, appointed by the mayor.
  5. One representative from the community of affordable housing developers, appointed by the mayor.
  6. One residential architect, appointed by the mayor.
  7. One structural engineer, appointed by the mayor.
  8. One representative of an organization that provides supportive housing services to low-income residents, including housing counseling, financial management or legal representation, appointed by the mayor.
  9. One representative of an organization that represents owners of apartment buildings and office buildings, appointed by the mayor.
  10. The speaker of the council, or the speaker's designee.
  11. The public advocate, or the public advocate's designee.
- b. The chair may invite officers and representatives of relevant federal, state and local agencies and authorities to participate in the work of the task force.
- c. Each member of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the officer who appointed the member. In the event of a vacancy on the task force, a successor shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term. All members of the task force shall serve without compensation.

§ 5. Meetings. a. The chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force no later than 30 days after the last member has been appointed, except that where not all members of the task force have been appointed within the time specified in section four, the chair shall convene the first meeting of the task force within 10

days of the appointment of a quorum.

b. The task force may invite experts and stakeholders to attend its meetings and to provide testimony and information relevant to its duties.

c. The task force shall meet no less than once each month to carry out the duties described in section three.

d. The meeting requirement of subdivision c shall be suspended when the task force submits its report as required by section six.

§ 6. Report. a. No later than 270 days after the effective date of this local law, the task force shall submit a report to the mayor, the speaker of the council and the public advocate setting forth its recommendations regarding the following:

1. The feasibility of converting vacant commercial office space to affordable housing units, including units with multiple bedrooms, and whether such conversions would help address the city's affordable housing crisis;

2. The types of office buildings that could most feasibly be converted to affordable housing, and standards and criteria for selecting office buildings to convert to affordable housing;

3. Plans for how office conversions to affordable housing units could be implemented, any costs to the city and property owners associated with such plans and proposals for how to fund such costs; and

4. Any legislative, regulatory, policy or zoning changes necessary to support the conversion of commercial office buildings to affordable housing units, including units with multiple bedrooms.

b. The report shall include a summary of information the task force considered in formulating its recommendations.

c. The commissioner of housing preservation and development shall publish the task force's report electronically on the website of the department of housing preservation and development no later than 10 days after its submission to the mayor, the speaker of the council and the public advocate.

§ 7. Agency support. Each agency affected by this local law shall provide appropriate staff and resources to support the work of such agency related to the task force.

§ 8. Termination. The task force shall terminate 60 days after the date on which it submits its report, as required by section six.

§ 9. Effective date. This local law takes effect immediately.

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