

December 23, 2023

*From NYC DOB  
via Mark Kaplan*

Good afternoon, Code Committee members and stakeholders.

As 2023 draws to a close and the festive spirit fills the air, the Code Development team would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to you, our amazing partners and collaborators.

This year has included triumphs and challenges, but your willingness to be present – and patient – for us at DOB has been a great source of encouragement. We’ve got a long road ahead of us, but your dedication and insights will continue to inspire the work we’re doing in Technical Affairs and Code Development to improve construction codes, the Department, and ultimately our city. Thank you for joining us in this work.

I would also like to provide an update on our various projects:

### **Adams 90-Day Commission**

The Mayor and Commissioner wanted to take a bold approach to reforming the Department of Buildings, both our regulations and our processes. Given our experience working with volunteer stakeholders and committees, the staff of Code Development and Technical Affairs were tasked with organizing those meetings, and shepherding hundreds of recommendations through the review process. These efforts were marked with the Deputy Commissioner Gus Sirakis’ presentation on November 21st, announcing the implementation schedule to the full Commission body.

### **Existing Building Code (EBC)**

The bulk of our text has been reviewed by the Law Department and compiled into our draft bill. We’re also working with our consultant team in drafting a code commentary! This is an important milestone as we transition to a new regulatory scheme for alterations in existing buildings. The commentary text will help users understand both the new triggers and the specific technical requirements. With this important document, we hope to provide benefits of greater transparency and consistency for RDPs, permit-holders, and owners. We are looking forward to the legislation being introduced at Council in the first half of 2024.

## **Electrical Code (EC)**

Our bill has cleared the legal review process at the Law Department and was shared with Council staff. As the city's administration works toward reducing carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, we're confident that our proposed code will help facilitate the transition toward an electrified future. We hope to brief the Council on the many improvements in the text and look forward to a Council Introduction in early 2024. With that said, please feel free to express your support for the electrical code to the City Council.

## **Waterfront Code (WFC)**

Like the EBC, our work on this new code for waterfront construction has been a long time in the making. Never before has the city been able to regulate construction on its 520 miles of waterfront with a code drafted for the purpose. Working with our consultant team, we have modified our workplan to regain some of the time lost during the covid contract pause. As the text is drafted, it is being reviewed internally by DOB, then by the assigned committee. Since our large kickoff meeting, we have been able to engage both the Administrative & Maintenance Requirements Committee; and the Use, Occupancy, Egress & Accessibility Committee. We hope to bring more chapters forward for committee review in the first half of 2024.

## **Construction Code Revision**

Our periodic revisions to the construction codes have always been a large undertaking. This cycle is no different, in that regard. It is especially ambitious that we have embarked on another revision with these other ongoing code projects. Acknowledging the recent vintage of our 2022 code, we have taken the opportunity to revise our approach to construction code revision. During our large kickoff meeting over the summer, we explained our new proposal-driven process model. Shortly after, we invited our committee members to submit their proposals for code changes. Since that submission window closed at the end of September, DOB staff have been hard at work processing the 719 items we received and preparing their committee review documents. We have already begun work with three of our committees: Plumbing, Elevators & Conveyors, and Construction & Demolition Safety. More committees will commence in January.

As we celebrate holidays with our loved ones, we carry the warmth of our shared achievements and the joy of working alongside amazing people like you. May your holidays be filled with laughter, delicious food, and precious moments.

Here's to a healthy, happy holiday season and a productive New Year!

With utmost sincerity and appreciation,

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