



August 21, 2012

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City Council  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

re: Proposed Int. No. 834-A on Climate Resilience

Dear Council Members Gennaro, Brewer, Fidler, Gonzalez, James, Koppell, Koslowitz, Lander, Levin, Palma, Rose, Wills, Rodriguez, Dromm, Lappin and Jackson:

On behalf of the AIA New York Chapter and our 4,500 architect and affiliate members, I would like to express our strong support for Proposed Int. No. 834-A. We agree that in order to prepare for and mitigate the expected impact of climate change on New York City's communities, vulnerable populations, public health, natural systems, critical infrastructure, buildings and the economy, and to help fulfill the goals of PlaNYC 2030, it is important to institutionalize and augment the New York City Panel on Climate Change and the New York City Climate Change Adaptation Task Force.

AIA New York is proud to be of assistance in these efforts, as we have been with the Department of City Planning with the Climate Resilience Study Advisory Group and with our joint "Freeboard" workshop. This charrette brought together architects, urban designers, city planners and landscape architects to start to address what changes in building design might be necessitated by rising sea levels and the storm surge conditions increasingly prevalent along the Eastern Seaboard. In addition, the AIANY Design for Risk and Reconstruction Committee has been regularly addressing methods of anticipating and responding to extreme conditions in New York City, and involving representatives of numerous city agencies.

Understanding where and how our buildings and neighborhoods are vulnerable and identifying specific adaptive strategies are important tasks that cannot wait for the next hurricane or extreme weather condition for action. Similarly, a discussion of types of surge barriers, both constructed and reinserted wetlands, can start to address a citywide problem that is difficult to analyze on a building-by-building basis.

The task force proposed by this Intro. would be chaired by the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning & Sustainability, and include representatives of the various municipal agencies and authorities having jurisdiction over or some significant relationship to our waterfront and neighborhoods at risk. These City departments include those concerned with buildings, design & construction, city planning, environmental protection, parks & recreation, sanitation, transportation, economic development & budget, emergency management, aging and health & mental hygiene. In addition, we note that the Mayor can appoint public representatives from organizations in various fields, including but not limited to health care, communications, energy and transportation. We respectfully suggest that this list explicitly be expanded to include the architectural and civil engineering professions.

We commend the City Council and the Mayor's Office for Long Term Planning and Sustainability on the intent to create a vehicle to focus timely attention on the risks to people and property occasioned by the expected impact of climate change.

Yours,

Joseph Aliotta, AIA  
President

Rick Bell, FAIA  
Executive Director

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**Appearance Card**

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor     in opposition

Date: 8/21/12

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Rick Bell    AIA New York

Address: 536 LaGuardia Pl., NYC

I represent: AIA New York

Address: 536 LaGuardia Pl., NYC

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀