

## **MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

**TITLE: A LOCAL LAW** to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to establishing resiliency planning as a responsibility of the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability.

**SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:** The proposed legislation establishes resiliency planning—as initiated by the report released in June 2013, “A Stronger, More Resilient New York”—as a responsibility of the Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability. To ensure accountability and to measure progress, the legislation incorporates resiliency measures and indicators pertaining to critical infrastructure, the built environment, coastal protection and communities into forthcoming progress reports and updates of the long-term sustainability plan.

Additionally, the proposed legislation creates a Director of Resiliency to operate within the Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability to oversee implementation of resiliency measures under the Director of the Office. Finally, seats that represent engineering, coastal protection and critical infrastructure will be added to the sustainability advisory board.

### **REASONS FOR SUPPORT:**

Recent events, including Superstorm Sandy of 2012, demonstrated that the City has significant vulnerabilities as a coastal city. Sandy devastated both coastal and back-bay communities, damaged city infrastructure, and severely disrupted services such as healthcare, utilities and fuel supply. Furthermore, this risk will only increase due to the effects of climate change that include rising sea levels and more frequent and intense heavy downpours.

While mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change have been fundamental objectives of the Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability since the release of PlaNYC in 2007, the City is now prepared to take additional steps to protect itself from the threats brought about by climate change. These steps were outlined in “A Stronger, More Resilient New York”, which was developed in close partnership with the Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability as well as members of the Sustainability Advisory Board and the New York City Panel on Climate Change.

By incorporating resiliency into the responsibilities of the Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, the City will build upon the foundation established in PlaNYC to ensure that resiliency planning is informed by clear metrics and transparent reporting; rigorous policy analysis; the best available science; and extensive stakeholder involvement.

Accordingly, the Mayor urges the earliest possible favorable consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrick A. Wehle