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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES NEW BUILDING CODE LEGISLATION

Recommendations by the World Trade Center Building Code Task Force adopted

City Hall, NY – Just weeks following hearings held by the Federal 9/11 Commission, the City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings, chaired by Council Member Madeline Provenzano, voted to make New York City high-rise buildings safer. By adopting 13 of 21 recommendations made by the World Trade Center Building Code Task Force, New York City is making good on some of the many lessons learned from the tragic events of September 11th.

The council committee on buildings held two previous hearings on the legislation, Int. 126-A, in February and April then voted the legislation out of the committee for vote by the council on June 7, 2004

“I am pleased we were able to work together to pass this landmark legislation. The resulting bill shows our commitment to the safety of our city and everyone who enters a New York City hi-rise office building,” said Council Member Provenzano, “This legislation will go a long way to ensuring the security of generations to come.”

Highlights of the bill are as follows:

- Building owners will now be required to install and maintain clearly visible and lit emergency exit markings and signage at exit doors and stairs
- Sprinklers will be mandatory in all new hi-rise buildings; existing hi-rises will have to be retrofitted within a 15-year time frame.
- Spray on fireproofing must be re-inspected whenever building renovations or alterations allow such inspection.
- The New York City Fire Commissioner will have the power to mandate owners of office buildings to develop emergency action plans for full building evacuation plans. The existing law calls for evacuation plans for fire events, this new legislation extends to plans for non-fire related events including Blackouts, Hazardous Materials incidents and Natural Disasters.

Int. 126-A was introduced by request of Mayor Bloomberg. The legislation will become effective 120 days after being signed into law.

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