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Proposed Amendments to the Landmarks Preservation Commission Rules

March 27, 2018

The New York Building Congress is a membership coalition composed of more than 550 constituent organizations in the design, construction and real estate industry, employing over 300,000 tradespeople and professionals in the New York region. We would like to submit our support of the proposed amendments to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) rules.

We applaud LPC on the proposed amendments as they will streamline the process for all stakeholders and create more transparency by authorizing LPC staff to approve a variety of work-types that are consistently approved by the Commission. The proposed amendments will lessen the burden on the Commission's limited staff and volunteers and allow the LPC to devote more energy to evaluate which buildings warrant landmark designations.

The proposed amendments are practical and necessary. For example, extending the number of days a temporary sign may be installed from 60 to 180 days will reduce unnecessary paperwork and time devoted by all parties in preparing and reviewing these extensions. Other amendments such as barrier-free access will clarify the types of access ramps and modification that may be approved at staff level.

As more properties are designed and come under the jurisdiction of LPC, it is imperative that LPC systematize regularly approved modifications and work-types to reduce the number of applications that receive a costly, time-consuming public review.

The Building Congress supports and welcomes the proposed amendments which will greatly reduce the burden placed on applicants and introduce much-needed efficiency to the agency.

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