

**TESTIMONY OF  
RICHARD T. ANDERSON, PRESIDENT  
NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS  
BEFORE THE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS**



**PUBLIC HEARING ON  
INTRO 1003**

**APRIL 30, 2013**

GOOD AFTERNOON, CHAIRMAN DILAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS RICHARD ANDERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW YORK BUILDING CONGRESS.

THE BUILDING CONGRESS IS PLEASED TO SUPPORT INTRO 1003, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE CONSTRUCTION FENCES TO DISPLAY A DETAILED CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION PANEL, A SINGLE WORK PERMIT, AND USE OF A UNIFORM GREEN COLOR ON ALL FENCES AND SIDEWALK SHEDS.

IMPORTANTLY, INTRO 1003 WOULD ALSO PERMIT THE LIMITED DISPLAY OF SIGNAGE BELONGING TO CONTRACTORS AND PROGRAMS ENCOURAGING QUALITY CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT. THE BUILDING CONGRESS APPLAUDS THIS EFFORT – ONE OF SEVERAL UNDERTAKEN BY THE BLOOMBERG ADMINISTRATION TO ENCOURAGE MORE ATTRACTIVE WORKSITES AND REDUCE THEIR NEGATIVE IMPACTS.

THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE FOR NEW YORK CITY, WHERE CONSTRUCTION IS, IN EFFECT, A PERMANENT PART OF OUR LANDSCAPE. ONE NEIGHBORHOOD OR ANOTHER IS CONTINUALLY UNDERGOING CONSTRUCTION, HIDDEN BEHIND FENCES AND SHEDS. THIS UBIQUITY MAKES FOCUSING ON CONSTRUCTION SITE AESTHETICS AND IMPACTS AS IMPORTANT AS FOCUSING ON THE CHARACTER OF PERMANENT STRUCTURES.

THIS BILL WILL ALSO ENCOURAGE AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM RUN BY OUR CHARITABLE ARM, THE NEW YORK BUILDING FOUNDATION, CALLED CONSTRUCTION FOR A LIVABLE CITY. CLC IS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM WHICH ASKS CONTRACTORS AND BUILDING OWNERS TO IMPLEMENT A CHECKLIST OF QUALITY CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES THAT INCLUDES MAINTAINING FENCING, BUT ALSO GOES WELL BEYOND THIS.

THE CLC CHECKLIST ENCOURAGES PARTICIPANTS TO IMPROVE ALL ASPECTS OF THE WORKSITE, INCLUDING MANAGEMENT OF AIR AND NOISE IMPACTS, SITE RUNOFF, THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF FENCING, SHEDS AND BRACING, OVERALL SITE CLEANLINESS, THE USE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT, COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT.

IN SHORT, THE BUILDING FOUNDATION ASKS PARTICIPANTS TO ATTAIN A HIGHER STANDARD OF CARE AND CLEANLINESS AT CONSTRUCTION SITES. IF IMPLEMENTED FAITHFULLY, THE CLC CHECKLIST CAN IMPROVE CONSTRUCTION SITE QUALITY WELL BEYOND REQUIREMENTS SET OUT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. WHAT'S MORE, THE CHECKLIST REQUIRES OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC, SO NUISANCE ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED MORE QUICKLY, HOPEFULLY REDUCING THE NECESSITY FOR AN OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM CITY.

INTRO 1003 WISELY RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROGRAMS LIKE CLC. IT ALLOWS SIGNS BEARING THE LOGO OF A "BEST CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES" PROGRAM TO BE DISPLAYED ON A CONSTRUCTION SHED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR CLC IS CRUCIAL. BECAUSE THE EFFORT AND COST OF IMPLEMENTING THE CHECKLIST MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT TO THE PUBLIC, THERE MUST BE A CLEAR INCENTIVE TO ENCOURAGE CONTRACTORS AND OWNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN CLC.

WE BELIEVE THE BEST INCENTIVE IS TO ALLOW PARTICIPANTS TO DISPLAY THEIR AFFILIATION WITH CONSTRUCTION FOR A LIVABLE CITY WITH A CLEARLY VISIBLE CLC BANNER AT THE

WORKSITE. THE CLC LOGO BECOMES A DIRECT WAY TO GET PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE IS LIVING UP TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF UPKEEP AND MANAGEMENT.

ALLOWING THE DISPLAY OF THE CLC LOGO WILL ENCOURAGE EXPANSION OF THE CLC PROGRAM. ONCE WELL ESTABLISHED, CONSTRUCTION FOR A LIVABLE CITY COULD BE TRANSFORMATIVE. IN THE SAME WAY LEED HAS ELEVATED BUILDING TO HIGHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING STANDARDS, CLC CAN BECOME A CITYWIDE STANDARD FOR CLEAN, CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES, DEMANDED BY OWNERS AND THE PUBLIC.

BUT THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT, AND THE BUILDING CONGRESS CANNOT DO IT ALONE. THAT IS WHY THE CITY'S ENDORSEMENT IS SO MEANINGFUL.

WE DO RECOMMEND ONE CLARIFICATION. WE ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT GRANT A BLANKET PERMISSION FOR POSTING THE LOGO OF THE BEST CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROGRAM. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO DISPLAY THE CLC LOGO AT EACH INDIVIDUAL SITE.

IN SUM, THE GOALS OF INTRO 1003 ARE IMPORTANT. THE BILL ENCOURAGES IMPROVED FENCES AND SHEDS, BETTER INFORMATION ABOUT CONSTRUCTION WORK FOR THE PUBLIC AND SUPPORTS VOLUNTARY INDUSTRY EFFORTS LIKE CONSTRUCTION FOR A LIVABLE CITY TO ADOPT BEST PRACTICES FOR CONSTRUCTION SITE MANAGEMENT.

WE THANK THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR ENGAGING THE INDUSTRY ON THIS ISSUE, AND PROMOTING LEGISLATION THAT WILL IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE IN NEW YORK. MR. CHAIRMAN, WE THANK YOU FOR SPONSORSHIP OF THIS BILL AND URGE ITS TIMELY ADOPTION BY THE COMMITTEE AND THE FULL CITY COUNCIL.