

Testimony on Intro 1816-A
New York City Council hearing
Committee on Housing and Buildings
February 26, 2020

Good afternoon, my name is Eric Adams and I am Brooklyn's borough president, representing more than 2.6 million residents who call Brooklyn home. I want to thank Council Member Robert Cornegy, Jr., chair of the City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings, for convening this hearing on Intro 1816-A, regarding the New York City Energy Conservation Code (NYCECC).

Buildings consume the vast majority of energy in our city, more than 70 percent. They also account for a large share of CO₂ emissions (about 39 percent). This is not a new problem, but neither is it a problem that lacks a solution. We have, as a city, embraced "80 by 50," aiming to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050. We also know that the challenge grows more urgent every day. Scientists worldwide have spoken about the dangers of climate change and the need for us to bring our collective powers to bear in order to

stop the bleeding and reverse the damage already done. This is why I support the passage of Intro 1816-A. It is also why I cannot understand why we would leave a valuable tool on the table.

Passive house design is an internationally-recognized standard that directly impacts the energy efficiency of buildings while simultaneously reducing tenant utility costs and improving comfort for residents. The Renewable and Sustainable Energy Taskforce (ReSET) initiated by my office sent a letter encouraging the State to include passive house design as an alternative compliance vehicle back in 2016. The Brooklyn Borough Board passed a resolution in support of adding passive house to the code in 2017. My office has also encouraged passive house design in our Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) recommendations. In short, Brooklyn is all in on passive house design.

I am calling for Section R408 Passive House to be included, as taken from the NYStretch Energy Code. As it is an accepted industry standard, it has the potential to shift the industry into the high performance building sector.

Passive house is a critical tool for the building industry to achieve greenhouse gas emission goals established by the City of New York. Without reinstating Section R408 Passive House into the Code, the City would diminish its obligation to administer and govern the high performance building industry as envisioned in the Climate Mobilization Act. Passive house should be an alternative compliance pathway for commercial buildings as they have significant square footage.

New York City has an opportunity to lead. We cannot count on the support of the Federal government when it comes to fighting climate change. We must take our own stand and use every resource available to say that we care about the future of our city.

I want to thank the committee for allowing me to testify on this very important issue.

Thank you for your time and attention.