



**Testimony of Calvin Drayton
First Deputy Commissioner
New York City Emergency Management Department
Before the New York City Council Fire and Emergency Management Committee
October 15, 2018**

Good afternoon Chairperson Borelli and members of the Committee. I am Calvin Drayton, First Deputy Commissioner at New York City Emergency Management Department. I am pleased to be here to provide information on the agency's *Strategic Plan*, as well as discuss Intro 562.

The *NYC Emergency Management Strategic Plan 2017-2021* directs our growth and focus through 2021. It is designed to help align and ensure coordination across divisions, guide decision-making and resource allocation, and communicate the roles and responsibilities of the agency. A Strategic Planning Process Team was formed in August 2015 to design and drive the planning and implementation process that engaged all staff to analyze strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges to the agency. The information was then distilled into goals and objectives and released in October 2016. All members of our staff were actively engaged in building out the plan through various brown bags, surveys, forums, focus groups, and other activities, including the many revisions and edits that the plan went through before it was released. There are four goals in the *Strategic Plan*:

- Promote Coordination Responsibility and Strengthen Agency Identity – here we enhance our role in citywide coordination, mitigation, planning, response, and recovery.
- Reinforce the City's Capacity to Manage Emergencies Through Strategic Engagement – this goal continues to build out our partnerships – with local, state, and federal agencies – as well as with elected officials, nonprofits, and the private sector. This goal also includes continued planning and preparedness efforts for people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs.
- Develop Innovative Solutions to Support NYCEM's Expanding Responsibilities – we are growing fast, and here we focus on expanding our capabilities through improvements in technology, infrastructure, and staffing. This will enhance our scalability to respond to incidents while maintaining continuity of daily operations.
- Advance the Profession of Emergency Management – we are a premier emergency management agency in the country, and we strive to maintain and grow this through our cadre of professional staff, who represent us at nationwide conferences, who are asked to speak to international delegations, who consistently promote a culture of learning inside and outside the agency.

Woven throughout all of the four goals is our engagement with the people we serve. Each year there are thousands of interactions with our staff and those living and working in the City. Our focus on community engagement and community preparedness are one and the same – an informed constituency is a prepared constituency. We continue to push this message through our many programs, such as:

- *The Ready New York* and *Know Your Zone* campaigns, which encourages New Yorkers to know which hurricane evacuation zone they live in, and what that means for them;

- *Notify NYC*, the City's free emergency notification system, which has grown significantly, from 140,000 subscribers before Hurricane Sandy, to now almost 745,000 subscribers, with common notifications available in 13 languages, American Sign Language, and audio formats, and a mobile application that has seen more than 77,600 downloads in one year;
- The *Share Your Space Program*, which identifies spaces in communities that could potentially support the City's emergency recovery operations, or used for community outreach events.
- The *Community Emergency Planning in NYC* toolkit, an interactive workbook designed to guide communities through developing their own emergency plans. Not only does it provide the hazards these communities may face – from hurricanes to utility disruptions to steam pipe explosions – it also outlines the key response roles communities can play to protect their residents and organizations.
- Our continued push for strong community outreach and engagement activities grows, as you have likely seen us in your neighborhood at meetings, town halls, fairs, mobile offices hours, and other community events. In addition, we work closely with elected officials on outreach and engagement activities, and have just hosted a training for City Council members and their staff in cooperation with the Speaker's Office and Chairman Borelli.
- The *Credentialing Verification and Access Coordination Plan*, which provides guidance for emergency response organizations to access roads and restricted areas during declared travel bans. This plan improves coordination between law enforcement and responding government, non-profit, and private sector organizations during emergency incidents to ensure efficient flow of personnel, equipment, and critical commodities.

NYC Emergency Management is still a young agency by New York City standards, yet the critical role we play for those living and working in the City has never been more apparent. From coastal storms to building collapses to power outages, the complexity of our city combined with our diverse population creates a need for a strong, smart emergency management agency. To continue our success, we must plan accordingly. We are working diligently towards implementing the components of the four goals into our existing resources and planning procedures with the assistance of our entire agency – fostering inclusion and ensuring sure every voice is heard.

Let me speak now regarding Intro 562, which requires owners of specific occupancies located within a hurricane evacuation zone to post a notice in their buildings providing the hurricane evacuation zone number and the three closest hurricane evacuation centers. As you know, NYC Emergency Management is not an oversight agency, but we are always supportive of more information being provided to the public in any capacity. It is important to note that our prevailing guidance for those living in evacuation zones is to prepare ahead of time to stay with family or friends living outside the zones. Evacuation Centers are open for those without this option but we strongly push people to a more comfortable and sustainable option – family, friends, and familiarity.

Also we note that this legislation is similar to Local Law 98 of 2013, which requires the City to provide homeowners and building owners with information on how to prepare buildings for weather emergencies, natural disasters, and power outages. In compliance with Local Law 98 of 2013, information has been on our website, as well as HPD's website, since 2013 – updated as needed – and has been an excellent guide for building owners to use. We welcome the opportunity to meet with Council and other relevant city agencies involved to discuss how to best move forward to meet the goals of this legislation.

Thank you for joining us in our mission to support the preparedness for all New Yorkers and for your time today. I am happy to answer any questions.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Calvin Prayton (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 165 Cadman Plaza East

I represent: NYC Energy Council

Address: _____

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