MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

TITLE: A LOCAL LAW to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to waiving fees associated with applications, permits and inspections for the demolition, alteration, rebuilding or repair of certain buildings and systems damaged by the severe storm that occurred on October 29 and 30, 2012, commonly referred to as "Hurricane Sandy".

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS: This bill would add a new section 28-112.10 to the administrative code to give the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings the authority to waive fees associated with applications, permits and inspections for work on certain buildings and systems that suffered severe damage or were completely destroyed as a result of storm that occurred on October 29 and 30, 2012, commonly referred to as "Hurricane Sandy." The Commissioner would be authorized to waive such fees in connection with demolition, alteration or reconstruction of buildings with significant structural damage or that have been completely demolished and/or washed away, as noted in post storm inspections. These fees would be waived for jobs where an application for construction document approval or, where construction documents are not required, an application for permit is submitted before October 31, 2014. In other buildings, fees would be waived only for work on storm damaged electrical and plumbing systems upon certification by a licensed master plumber, licensed master fire suppression piping contractor, or licensed master electrician that the proposed work is related to storm damage. The cutoff date for these fee waivers would be before January 31, 2013.

REASONS FOR SUPPORT: As a part of ongoing recovery and assistance operations and to encourage repair and reconstruction efforts, the Mayor has issued emergency executive orders to waive application and permit fees that would otherwise be applicable for applications, permits and inspections related to work on buildings with significant structural damage in need of demolition, alterations or reconstruction. In addition, the orders have waived fees for work on storm damaged electrical and plumbing systems in buildings. This local law will assist in the recovery effort by giving the Commissioner of Buildings the authority to continue waiving such fees when Mayoral emergency executive orders are no longer issued.

Accordingly, the Mayor urges the earliest possible favorable consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted, Patrick A. Wehle