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**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

The proposed law addresses these concerns by expanding the posting requirement to include any entrance that is primarily used by pedestrians, and increasing the initial fine for non-compliance to \$250, and to \$50 a day after 30 days until resolution.

In addition to emergency personnel, this legislation will help mail carriers, cab drivers, Access-a-Ride, and other service workers who help us every day to do their jobs more quickly and efficiently. It will also assist many other residents and New York City visitors in finding the commercial establishments and other buildings they are looking for. The leadership at the Columbus Amsterdam Business Improvement District thinks that the lack of visible shop numbers is a real detriment to patrons, visitors and delivery people trying to locate area businesses. They purchased inexpensive legible adhesive stickers that also fit within the character of the BID's historic district and then distributed the street numbers amongst the shops that do not currently comply with the law.

On a final note, I would like to briefly address the enforcement powers behind the current and proposed expanded law. Due to its placement within the Borough President's section of the Administrative Code, I and my colleagues are responsible for enforcing the law – yet without the foot soldiers, so to speak, that each Borough President once had in the Bureau of Encroachments and Incumbrances. Suggested alternatives are the Department of Sanitation, Buildings, and Finance. I welcome further discussion on this topic with the Council and Administration to identify an agency that would educate building owners on the law and expand compliance and enforcement.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am honored to have introduced this common sense public safety and quality of life measure with my colleague Chair Williams, and I urge all City Council Members to vote in favor of Intro 179.



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**MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT GALE A. BREWER  
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 179-2014  
COMMITTEES ON HOUSING AND BUILDINGS  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

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My name is Gale A. Brewer and I am the Manhattan Borough President. Thank you Chair Williams for the opportunity to testify in support of the bill we introduced together, Intro 179-2014, to amend the administrative code of the city in relation to street numbers. For the record, I first introduced this commonsense bill in 2004 – and in each subsequent legislative session as it died an administrative death with inaction. I appreciate my colleague’s partnership on this bill and his scheduling a public hearing for its consideration.

As some of you may know, New York City’s Borough Presidents are charged with determining a building’s street number and for regulating the display of such numbers. The fines for non-compliance are currently so low (a \$25 fine after a 30-day notice period has elapsed, with a \$5 fine for each additional day of non-compliance) that building owners have virtually no reason to adhere to the current law. As a result, many of the City’s residential buildings, businesses, and other buildings choose to leave off their building number for a variety of reasons - some due to lack of awareness, others for perceived aesthetic, and perhaps even to establish an air of exclusivity.

In 2010, then-Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer released a report which found that nearly 40% of buildings studied along certain stretches of 13 busy corridors do not display their addresses. On 8th Ave., between 42nd and 59th Streets, 58.2% of 165 locations surveyed had no displayed address; on Greenwich Street, between Murray and Spring Streets, 48.7% of 119 locations.

A building number may seem like a little thing, but it makes a huge difference in the quality of life for so many people. The primary intent behind this bill is promoting public safety. First responders, such as the Police and Fire Departments, and Emergency Medical Services, as well as volunteer ambulance organizations such as Hatzoloh, may unnecessarily waste critical time locating buildings whose numbers are not posted, or waiting for a person calling in an emergency to locate an exact building address.

Eddie Lowenthal, co-Coordinator of West Side Hatzoloh, applauds this measure to have building addresses easily and clearly visible for emergency providers. He said that he and his fellow volunteers understand that any delay can feel like an eternity to those who call, “it can also, literally, mean a lifetime – theirs.” These responders encounter a variety of issues in identifying buildings. These challenges include buildings with vanity/multiple addresses and residential complexes like Lincoln Towers, Park West Village, and NYCHA developments with multiple entrances that are difficult to identify especially after nightfall.



**FOR THE RECORD**

September 26, 2016  
Fire Department City of New York (FDNY)  
Testimony before the City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings  
Chairman Council Member Jumaane D. Williams  
Re: Intro. 179 Re: Street Number Placement on Buildings

Good morning Chairperson Williams, councilmembers present, and colleagues.

I am here today on behalf of the New York City Fire Department to express support for Intro 179, which would require street numbers to be placed on every side of a building that contains an entrance primarily utilized for day-to-day pedestrian ingress or egress.

The men and women of the FDNY respond on a daily basis to an enormous variety of emergency calls, ranging from structural fires to gas leaks to medical emergencies, among many others. Last year, we responded to more emergency calls than ever before – more than 1.7 million total incidents. As a Department, our mission is to provide exceptional service to eight and a half million fellow New Yorkers as well as to the millions who visit our city each year. We can only complete that mission if we are able to respond quickly and accurately to the calls we receive.

A key component of responding quickly and accurately to calls is the ability of responding members - whether in a fire apparatus or an emergency medical services vehicle, and often times it is more than one - to arrive on site and be able to determine the proper location of the emergency. We believe that Intro 179 will improve our ability to make such determinations in a timely manner. Given the nature of many New York City buildings, sometimes the "front" of a building may mean different things to different people. By requiring buildings to post visible street numbers on any side that contains any entrance primarily utilized for day-to-day pedestrian ingress and egress, this requirement would create more ways for responding FDNY members to determine the correct location and respond to the emergency. We think that this can only aid us in our quest to reach the public that we serve as efficiently as possible.

This bill, if enacted, would make it easier for the men and women of the FDNY to serve the people of New York. For this reason, I urge that you support Intro 179.

- Testimony of Deputy Chief John A. Sarrocco, Bureau of Operations

construction of a new development which as I recall contemplated a depth of approximately 1,200 feet. We realized at that point that we could not responsibly allow parties to be drilling blindly with regard to our tunnels. A mistake could result in a major impact to the water system.

The current law requires notification to DEP whenever someone proposes to drill in the City to a depth greater than 100 feet. Since some of our critical water supply infrastructure is at a depth between 50 and 100 feet, DEP needs this change in order to protect all of the City's water supply tunnels, regardless of depth.

Again, the bill requires notification to DEP 30 business days prior to commencing any drilling or excavation deeper than 50 feet, and directs DEP, within 10 business days of receiving such notification, to determine whether the drilling or excavation is in close proximity to critical infrastructure such that a permit is necessary to drill or excavate. DEP is aware of the concern that another permit requirement beyond that required by the Department of Transportation for work in the public right of way as well as the 30-day lead time will delay projects. DEP believes that a project that necessitates drilling or excavation at depths greater than 50 feet would likely involve planning and design far in advance of 30 days prior to initiation of such work. It is therefore most unlikely that a 30-day notification would delay construction. DEP welcomes examples of projects that might suffer delay as a result of the new law so that this concern can be openly addressed.

Again, Mr. Chair I want to thank you and Council Member Chin for sponsoring this necessary legislation. We look forward to working with the Council and stakeholders to pass a bill that protects the infrastructure that is critical to the life of the City. I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony today and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Testimony of James J. Roberts, P.E.**  
**Deputy Commissioner, Water and Sewer Operations**  
**New York City Department of Environmental Protection**  
**before the**  
**New York City Council Committee on Housing and Buildings**  
**concerning**  
**Intro. 1120 – In relation to notification of proposed excavation or drilling**  
**250 Broadway**  
**September 26, 2016**

Good morning, Chairman Williams and Members and staff of the Committee. I am James J. Roberts, P.E., Deputy Commissioner of Water and Sewer Operations at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). I am joined today by Eric Landau, Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Affairs and Communications. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Introduction 1120, which addresses notification to DEP of proposed excavation or drilling.

Simply stated, the bill before you today is intended to help ensure the integrity of some of the most critical infrastructure in the City of New York. It will effect a simple change in New York City's Administrative Code and Building Code in order to ensure the protection of our water supply tunnels—the life blood of the City. The bill requires notification to DEP 30 business days prior to commencing any drilling or excavation deeper than 50 feet, and directs DEP, within 10 business days of receiving such notification, to determine whether the drilling or excavation is in close proximity to critical infrastructure such that a permit is necessary to drill or excavate. I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Council Member Chin for your sponsorship of this legislation.

It is important to understand the historical context in which our tunnel systems were constructed. Very early on in the history of the City it was decided to create deep tunnels and aqueducts that could carry water across the various boroughs and geographies without disrupting the world above, and at the same time providing a level of protection to the system because of their depths. In some cases we do have infrastructure that is within 50 vertical feet of the surface. We are sometimes asked, "Why now?" Well, in most cases our tunnels, which can be as deep as 1,200 feet, have never been a concern because frankly nobody else was working in that underground world. Two issues were brought to our attention over the past several years that became the driver for this bill. First was the contemplation and planning of the Trans-Hudson Tunnel (ARC), and second was the advent of technologies that made the utilization of technologies such as geothermal wells for heating and cooling possible. These wells can at times be driven over a thousand feet deep. When we were approached about the ARC tunnel we quickly saw that City Tunnel No. 1, which is approximately 200 feet below the surface in the midtown area, would potentially be at risk of damage related to the proposed new subway tunnels. This was a bit of a wake-up call as we, for the first time in my 31-year career, needed to be mindful that others may contemplate exploring depths that heretofore had been reserved only for us. The second was a proposal to install geothermal wells for the



**Testimony of Felice Farber, Director of External Affairs  
The General Contractors Association of New York  
NYC Council Committee on Housing and Buildings  
Hearing on Intro 1120  
September 26, 2016**

Thank you Chairman Williams and members of the Housing and Buildings Committee, I am Felice Farber, Director of External Affairs for the General Contractors Association of New York (GCA). We appreciate for the opportunity to comment on Intro 1120.

The GCA represents the city's unionized heavy civil and public works contractors who have built the very foundations of New York City for more than 100 years. Our members construct and rehabilitate New York's roads, bridges, parks, schools, transit systems, building foundations, and water infrastructure – including the water tunnels.

The GCA supports efforts to protect New York City's essential infrastructure. However, we believe the bill as written is vague and leaves many critical terms undefined. Before action is taken on this bill, we urge the Council and the Administration to work with the GCA and other stakeholders to clarify this bill.

Changing the Depth for Notification to 50 Feet City-Wide is Too Expensive

The City's Building Code currently requires DEP to be notified when excavating or drilling to a depth greater than 100 feet. If DEP determines that the drilling or excavating is within 500 feet of the centerline of the water tunnel then an approval and permit must be obtained from DEP.

While it is rare for drilling or excavating to exceed 100 feet, it is not uncommon for a building foundation in New York City to require excavating or drilling to a depth of 50 feet or more. New York City's water tunnels are located at a depth on the order of 500 feet. Changing the depth from 100 feet to 50 feet would require notification to DEP for many of the foundations in New York City and could overwhelm DEP and delay the process for obtaining a building excavation permit.

If there are areas in New York City where the water tunnel is shallower than 100 feet, then the bill should be clarified and limited to require notification to DEP and approval when drilling or excavating to a depth of 50 feet or greater in those specified parts of the city.

### “Close Proximity and Critical Infrastructure” Must be Defined

The bill further adds a new section to the Administrative Code that authorizes DEP by rule to require notification, approval and a permit when drilling or excavating to a depth greater than 50 feet in “close proximity” to “critical infrastructure.” The GCA opposes these additions to the Administrative Code as the terms “close proximity” and “critical infrastructure” are undefined and too broad in their reach.

By leaving terms that are so vague and open-ended to be defined in the rule-making process, an agency would have carte-blanche to expand the notice requirements to virtually all infrastructure.

The types of infrastructure covered by this legislation and the distance from drilling or excavating at which DEP approval and a permit is required must be spelled out in the legislation and not left to the rulemaking process.

Such an expansion of the law must be publicly debated and considered as part of the legislative process so that every owner, developer and contractor knows what the expectations are and the city agencies know what to enforce.

### DEP Approval Should be Part of DOB Permit Process

The current Building Code requires notification to DEP and approval and a permit as part of the building excavation permit process.

The new section 24-367 of the Administrative Code requires notification to DEP 30 days before digging or excavating to a depth greater than 50’ feet and requires DEP to determine if a permit is required within 10 days of receiving the notification. The newly added notification period takes place too late in the construction process.

Finding out that the water tunnel runs through or nearby a project site is not similar to the call-before-you-dig mark-out of utility infrastructure. This information must be ascertained as early in the plan review process as possible and should remain part of the DOB excavation permit approval process.

The location of the water tunnel through or near a job site could necessitate alterations to the foundation design, including type of piles used, pile length, location to be drilled, and drilling methods. Supportive excavation procedures could be impacted as well. A water tunnel is not equivalent to the type of utility infrastructure marked out in a call-before-you-dig process. Its location cannot be moved.

Accordingly the time period for notification to DEP should be deleted and the notification and approval or permit process should be included in the DOB excavation permit approval process so that there is sufficient opportunity to design an alternative foundation plan or excavation method.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. We look forward to working with the Council and the Administration on a bill that protects New York City's infrastructure – infrastructure that was built by GCA members.



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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/26/2016

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rick Muller

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: DEP

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 0179 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 2016 Sep-26 Mon.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John R. Beattie

Address: 2647 Broadway #6N

I represent: SELF-FRUSTRATED NYC RESIDENT 😊

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 179-2014 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Manhattan Borough President, Gale A. Brewer

Address: 1centric street

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1120 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/26/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JAMES ROBERTS NYC DEP

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC DEP

Address: 59-17 Junction Blvd

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1120 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eric Lardou, Deputy Commissioner

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NYC DEP

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1120 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 9/26/16

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Felice Farber

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: General Contractors Association

Address: 600 E 42nd NY NY

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms