

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony to the New York City Council

Housing & Buildings Committee

Wednesday, May 30, 2007 **

: Proposed Intro 561-A - To Amend The Administrative Code Of The City Of New York, In Relation To An Alternative Enforcement Program By The Department Of Housing Preservation And Development For Violations Of The Housing Maintenance Code And Multiple Dwelling Law.

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Member, CB 12M Housing & Human Service Committee

with disabilities and low-income renters live in buildings teetering on the edge. By being proactive rather than reactive, Intro 561 would maintain the housing stock by nipping problems in the bud before they're emergencies. Many of us manage in apartments that no one would ever consider accessible but without a massive infusion of extremely low-cost accessible housing being developed, most of us accommodate the inaccessibilities as we have no where else to live.

At the May 4th CB 12 M's Housing & Human Service Committee meeting Intro 561 was discussed. We agreed that Intro 561 is of vital importance to our community, Washington Heights & Inwood. We believe the Alternative Enforcement Program seems to be a good proactive program that we should support. "We will consider writing a resolution, if needed and testifying at the City Council if and when an additional hearing on this Intro is scheduled. Neither CM Robert Jackson nor CM Inez Dickens is a sponsor. It was agreed that they both should be contacted to ask them to sign on as well as contacting adjacent Community Boards to solicit their support."

We wrote no Resolution, as I was told there had already been a hearing and 561 would eventually make its way to a Stated Meeting. I contacted both CM Robert Jackson, who represents part of CB 12M and Inez Dickens, whose represents an adjacent community for which Intro 561 is equally important. I was very glad to see CM Jackson has signed on. I was surprised to see Intro 561 listed on this week's City Council calendar.

Therefore, I hope you will accept this testimony in support of 561 for both the disability community and the Washington Heights & Inwood community.