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MAYOR'S OFFICE OF OPERATIONS

HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
PROPOSED INT. NO. 264-A
AUGUST 14, 2008

Good morning Council Member Gennaro and members of the City Council Committee on Environmental Protection. I am Ariella Maron, Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, the office that managed the creation and now the implementation of PlaNYC, the City's long-term sustainability plan. PlaNYC is a 127-initiative plan to help achieve ten sustainability goals that include ensuring clean, reliable energy to all New Yorkers, improving air quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030.

I am here today to provide the Administration's support for proposed Int. No 264-A, which would make it unlawful for commercial businesses over 4000 square feet, or smaller, chain stores, to keep their doors open when running their air conditioners. This bill is consistent with the goals of PlaNYC as it seeks to reduce energy consumption and summer peak load demand, thereby helping to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate the rise of citywide energy prices, and enhance the reliability of our electrical infrastructure. At the same time, the provisions of the bill allow for practical and fair application by focusing only on situations where it is unnecessary to hold open doors.

Right now, energy is the number one issue in America as fuel prices continue to soar and its growing impact on global climate change becomes more evident nationwide. We are feeling the impacts of these trends here in New York City. Annually, New Yorkers collectively spent over \$13.4 billion on energy, including the electricity that lights our buildings and powers our air conditioners, the fuel used for heating and hot water, and the maintenance and operations of our energy delivery infrastructure. Without intervention, rising fuel costs and increasing consumption patterns will significantly increase these costs. In addition to rising costs, we are already feeling the impacts of global climate change locally, as well. And while we have begun

a process to adapt to existing climate related changes, we need to aggressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate future impacts. Since energy used in buildings is responsible for roughly 80 percent of New York City global-warming emissions, as well as for more than 40 percent of the locally generated air pollution that scientists link to asthma and other illnesses, reducing energy consumption in buildings is critical.

In PlaNYC, we have laid out a plan to reduce energy consumption citywide. In July, the Administration released its plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City government operations by 30 percent by 2017, focusing largely on building energy efficiency. For the private sector, PlaNYC's initiatives to make buildings, and their users, more energy efficient include a series of regulatory and legislative changes and consumer education, including our GreenNYC campaign.

In addition to promoting energy efficiency, measures to manage electrical power usage during the hottest days of the year, when air conditioners are running on high and our power usage is at its peak, are critical to ensure reliable energy and mitigate increasing energy prices. During peak hours, our electric grid is strained and our oldest and least efficient plants must run to meet the city's demand. Compared to newer plants, the older power plants require 30-60 percent more fuel, which along with their out-dated technologies, makes them more expensive to run. For example, to produce one megawatt of electricity from a newer, more efficient power plant, it costs \$74, while from the city's oldest plants, which were designed in the 1960s and 1970s and run on oil, it costs over \$250—over three times as much—to produce the same amount of electricity. And since electricity prices are determined in a market where the cost to run the most expensive power plant needed to meet demand on a given day sets the price, greater reliance on these costly power plants impacts energy costs for all New Yorkers. These older plants also release 140 percent more CO₂ and several times more air pollutants than newer plants.

Once again, the Administration supports Proposed Int. No. 264-A in order to enhance the reliability of our energy infrastructure, mitigate rising electricity costs, improve air quality, and help meet Mayor Bloomberg's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30percent by 2030. On behalf of the Mayor, I would like to thank Council Member Gennaro and other members of the City Council for your leadership on this issue.

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Appearance Card

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 in favor in opposition

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Name: ED FALACK

Address: 19 W. 34th St NY NY

I represent: DR. JAY'S STORES

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Appearance Card

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Name: ERIC GOLDSTEIN

Address: 40 West 20 St

I represent: NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

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