

BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 22, 1975

TO: Borough Superintendents

FROM: Thomas V. Burke, P.E., Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Mechanical Demolition

With the proliferation of fires in vacant structures due to arson it is necessary that demolition be expedited.

At meetings held August 19 and August 21, 1975 with members of Buildings, Development and the Mayors Arson Strike Force, certain ground rules were agreed upon which will govern the issuance of approvals for mechanical demolition as follows:

When mechanical demolition is approved sidewalk sheds shall not be required. The Department of Development is assuming all responsibility for requiring the contractor to obtain all necessary Highway Department approvals for the street or sidewalk closing, the erection of sidewalk fences as may be required and placement of cranes in the street. Department of Development is also assuming responsibility that all fences on sidewalk and fences delineating the safety zone shall be erected as far out as is physically possible from the structure to be demolished.

The Department of Buildings will treat approvals for mechanical demolition of structures under H.D.A. contracts as emergency orders and will therefore not require on site inspections for cranes performing the work. (C26-1909.4(a)2.

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- 2 -

Mechanical means approval may be granted:

(a) where there is a clear and vacant space between the building to be demolished and any occupied structure, of at least 1/3 of the height of the building to be demolished.

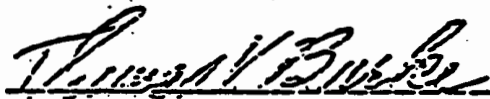
(b) where building to be demolished has independent walls and has a clear space on one side as in (a) above and abuts another vacant building on the other side.

(c) where any adjoining open space is used as a parking lot, playground, etc., consent of the owner shall be required and the owner must agree to keep the space closed off and not in use for the period of demolition.

(d) structure does not exceed 80 feet in height.

The issuance of mechanical demolition permits shall otherwise be in compliance with Article 19 and Directive 10-1973.

All requirements of Article 19 other than the use of mechanical demolition as approved herein shall be complied with.


Thomas V. Burke, P.E.
Director of Operations

Executive Staff

1093