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October 2, 2023

Chair Dan Garodnick
City Planning Commission
120 Broadway, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10271

Re: Support for City of Yes for Economic Opportunity

Dear Chair Garodnick,

The New York Building Congress represents over 500 constituent organizations and over 250,000 skilled tradespeople and professionals dedicated to the growth and prosperity of our city. We strongly express our support for the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity, a commonsense initiative that holds the potential to reshape the landscape of small businesses and commercial corridors in New York City.

The pandemic challenged the resilience of our small businesses, and tested the strength of our economic foundation. Having more flexibility in zoning for local businesses to best use their existing space is precisely the rational response our city needs to not only recover, but thrive.

One of the standout features of the City of Yes policy is its commitment to allow small businesses to repurpose available space. We support eliminating antiquated rules that dictate how a business' own space can be used, where certain businesses can be located, and simplifying regulations that contribute to storefront vacancies. This initiative fosters a more adaptive and dynamic environment for our local entrepreneurs, simplifies and streamlines zoning regulations, and makes it easier for businesses to find and utilize space to flourish, contributing to a more dynamic and inviting environment for all New Yorkers.

These changes also pave the way for companies to grow responsibly and encourage vibrant commercial streets by establishing consistent streetscape rules that contribute to lively, active commercial areas.

In closing, we urge you to support the City of Yes for Economic Opportunity policy, as it is a strategic maneuver that will firmly cement New York City's position as a beacon of opportunity and innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carlo Scissura', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Carlo A. Scissura, Esq.
President & CEO
New York Building Congress