February 12, 2019

Hon. Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Re: Commissioner of Buildings

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New York (ACEC New York) represents close to 300 consulting engineering and affiliate firms throughout New York State, with a concentrated presence in New York City. Our members plan and design the structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, civil, environmental, fire protection and technology systems for the City’s buildings and infrastructure. Currently, close to 150 ACEC New York members are volunteering thousands of hours on updating the Construction Codes, the Energy Code and the Electrical Code.

The Commissioner of the Buildings Department is charged with interpreting as well as enforcing the City’s building codes and zoning regulations, and numerous state laws concerning the construction and alteration of buildings in New York City. As such, the Commissioner is required to exercise judgement on highly technical matters that require specific training and experience. ACEC New York strongly believes that the Commissioner of Buildings should continue to be a licensed design professional.

It is incredibly difficult to secure and maintain a professional license in engineering and architecture. Licensure means that you are held to the highest professional ethical standards, must adhere to ethical and public safety standards appropriate to the profession and complete on-going professional education. It is critically appropriate for an agency that is responsible for overseeing the work of thousands of professional engineers and architects in New York to have at its helm a leader who is also a licensed professional.

We would be happy to assist the City in any way possible as you develop the new leadership team. If there is any outreach we can do to our membership, please let us know. I can be reached at 518.452.8611 or jay@acecny.org.

Sincerely,

Jay Simson, President & CEO

C: Laura Anglin, Deputy Mayor for Operations