June 8, 2011

Dear Design Professionals and Members of the Construction Industry,

Commissioner Robert LiMandri and Acting First Deputy Commissioner Thomas Fariello, RA, invite technical experts in areas of sustainability to apply to serve for a new term on the Commissioner’s Buildings Sustainability Board. Terms are for a minimum period of one year, but Board members may be reappointed. It is the Commissioner’s intention that there be both continuity and fresh contribution each year.

In 2009, Commissioner LiMandri initiated the Buildings Sustainability Board through Executive Order #8/09, with a charge “to provide technical expertise, advice and recommendations to the Commissioner regarding sustainable technologies appropriate for New York City but not clearly and fully addressed by the New York City Construction and Electrical Codes. Such advice shall include but not be limited to safety parameters and limitations, qualifications of associated personnel, procedural requirements and design and inspection criteria.” The Board is advisory, and determinations are reserved to the Commissioner.

The Board’s recommendations are formulated within the parameters of Section 28-113 of the Administrative Code. Section 28-113 requires alternative materials be approved by the Commissioner. While the Department promotes more renewable power sources, energy and water conservation in buildings and sustainable technologies, we are also mandated by the Charter to protect the public safety in this densely occupied and high-rise city. The Board reviews issues for which the Department requires outside expertise and provides formal recommendations as to their proper resolution.

To date, the Board has advised on a number of technologies, and its work has resulted in buildings bulletins regarding water recycling and wind turbines. Other proposals it has reviewed have included waste to energy systems and demand control systems.

Applications for the term from September 2011 through August 2012 should consist of a letter of interest on the applicant’s letterhead, setting forth what contributions you believe you can make to the Board, and a résumé of professional experience and accomplishments. Applicants who are preliminarily selected will undergo a required background check performed by the Department of Investigation prior to notification of their appointments in August.

Please provide your application no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 30, 2011, to Alan Price, PE, Director of the Office of Technical Certification and Research, at alprice@buildings.nyc.gov.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thomas J. Fariello, RA
Acting First Deputy Commissioner
Chair, Buildings Sustainability Board