October 29, 1975

Hon. John T. O'Hagan, Commissioner
Fire Department
110 Church St.
New York, N. Y. 10007

Dear Commissioner O'Hagan:

Fire Department Permits for Board of Education
School Laboratories and Chemical Storage Rooms

This will confirm the agreement made at the meeting of October 10, 1975, at which chemical laboratories and storage spaces in public schools were discussed by representatives of the Fire Department, Building Department, and the Board of Education.

The items of agreement are as follows:

a. School buildings erected prior to the 1959 Building Code meet the requirements of the applicable Building Code for school laboratories and rooms used for storage of chemicals, if:

(1) A Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for the building, or

(2) School use has been indicated by an approved application filed with the Department of Buildings.

b. School laboratories and rooms used for storage of chemicals are considered as accessory uses to the school and classroom use. The school and classroom use may have included laboratory use where not specifically noted on the Certificate of Occupancy or the approved application.
It was agreed at the meeting that for Board of Education school buildings constructed under the new 1940 Building Code and containing laboratories and chemical storage rooms, the Fire Department will accept a current Certificate of Occupancy with a supporting affidavit from a professional engineer or registered architect in the employ of the Board of Education indicating that the specific rooms used for laboratory or chemical storage rooms are shown on the approved plans filed with the Department of Buildings as laboratory or chemical storage rooms.

Sincerely yours,

Jeremiah T. Walsh, P.E.
Fire Commissioner

CC: Dep. Comm. Jenkins
Asst. Comm. Parascandola
Messrs. Burke, Minkin,
Kupfer, Linker
Borough Superintendents

Chief Ifshin, Fire Dept
Hugh McLaren, Board of Education