

February 1, 1993

To All Licensed Plumbers:

One of my chief goals as Commissioner has been to make the Department of Buildings more user-friendly to the public and to the building trades that rely on our services.

With that in mind, effective February 8, 1993 in Queens, I am pleased to announce the implementation of our new computerized plumbing inspection appointment system that will enable the Department to significantly reduce the turnaround time for inspections. Our aim is to provide an inspection appointment within three (3) business days of a telephone request.

Besides accelerating the inspection process, the Department has streamlined the paperwork flow by combining the inspection request, the on-site inspection report and the gas card ("blue card") into one (1) computer-generated work order form. This three-part carbonless copy document clearly notes the area(s) of inspection and the inspection type, and the results. After noting the result -- observations, objections or approval -- on this form, the inspector gives the duplicate pink copy to the licensed plumber at the site and returns the other copies to the Department at the end of each day for data entry of the outcome into the computer. The plumber immediately can submit the inspection results to the property owner or proof of a successful gas test to the utility company. The utility companies have been advised of the new work order format and will be able to access our computer to confirm the result of an inspection.

Since inspection results are entered into the computer, they are easily accessed. Anyone can view the results of a particular plumbing inspection, free of charge, through the public access terminals located in each borough office, or for a fee, subscribers of BIS remote access can view this information at their offices.

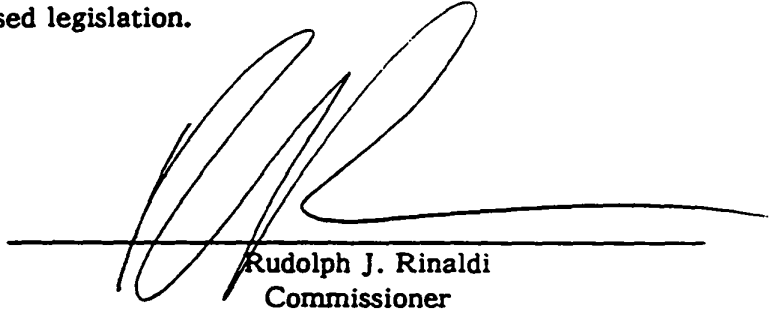
In addition to improving our plumbing inspection process, we also have two legislative measures before the City Council to make other parts of the City process easier and less costly for you and the public. First, we have proposed a bill (Intro. 819/91) that would raise the cap on Plumbing Repair Applications (PRAs) from \$7,500 to \$20,000 so that many more jobs can be filed by plumbers themselves and the simplified mail-in procedures can be utilized instead of requiring trips to our local offices.

Second, we have proposed a bill (Intro. 391/92) that would delete the mandatory Department inspection requirement for some types of minor plumbing work. Of course, a

licensed plumber still will be required to file and perform this work. Local Law 73/88 made a similar change to the electrical inspection requirements and the electrical industry has been very happy with it.

Enclosed is a copy of the New York Construction News article of 12/14/92 regarding the Department's recent sting operation to catch unlicensed plumbers and electricians that I believe will interest you. This enforcement action culminated in guilty pleas by three unlicensed plumbers and Criminal Court summonses to 14 other unlicensed individuals.

With your cooperation, the new plumbing appointment system will be a great success and will be expanded to other boroughs. I hope that the Department can count on your interest and support of our proposed legislation.



Rudolph J. Rinaldi
Commissioner

Enclosure