

NEW YORK CITY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTION

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RULES
TO PERMIT ADDITIONAL TIME TO RENEW
CERTAIN LICENSES THAT EXPIRES
DURING 2020 AND 2021

Virtual Public Hearing

August 4, 2022

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Samuel Williams,
Licensed Contractor

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1 MR. SAMUEL WILLIAMS: Thank you.

2 MR. CHARLIE DRIVER: Hi, Samuel. Can you
3 hear me?

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I can hear you.

5 MR. DRIVER: Okay, great. So, you're the
6 only one here so far. It's 11:03. So, I will kick
7 off this hearing. So, my name is Charlie. I'm part
8 of staff here at DCWP. If you could just mute
9 yourself for a sec. I have to do a little spiel first
10 here.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Sure.

12 MR. DRIVER: So, good morning. My name is
13 Charlie Driver. I've been designated as the hearing
14 officer for the public hearing of the Department of
15 Consumer and Worker Protection on the proposed rules
16 to permit additional time to renew certain licenses
17 that expire during the -- during 2020 and 2021, and
18 were subject to license term extensions created by
19 emergency executive orders. This hearing is being
20 held by Zoom call. It is now 11:04 a.m. on Thursday,
21 August 4, 2022. And I'm hereby convening the public
22 hearing on this proposed rule. The proposed rule was
23 published in the city record on July 5, 2022. The
24 publish notice and rules are available online on the
25 New York City rules website, as well as on the

1 department's website. The department has proposed
2 these rules pursuant to the authority vested in the
3 Commissioner of the Department of Consumer and Order
4 Protection by Sections 10432203C and 2203F of New York
5 City Charter, in Sections 20-104A and 20-104B of the
6 New York State Administrative Code. This hearing
7 affords the public the opportunity to comment on all
8 aspects of the rules the department has proposed. The
9 department will carefully review all testimony and
10 written comments received at this hearing, and will
11 give due weight and consideration to proposals and
12 recommendations that are submitted for the record at
13 this hearing. So, before we get started, just want to
14 lay out that each witness will have a maximum of three
15 minutes to provide their oral testimony. Anyone can
16 also provide written testimony of any length to us. I
17 will drop my e-mail in the chat and I can also say it
18 out loud as necessary. Additionally, please just stay
19 muted while the department is speaking. Currently, we
20 have one, one person present. Samuel, are you looking
21 to offer testimony at today's hearing or just
22 listening?

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I like to offer
24 testimony.

25 MR. DRIVER: Okay, I'm going to start a

1 timer when you speak, when you begin speaking. Again,
2 you have three minutes. I'll -- if it takes a little
3 over three minutes, that's fine. But anything
4 excessive, I will have to stop you. So, whenever
5 you're ready.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay, I'm ready. So, in --
7 first of all, I'm Samuel Williams. I've been a
8 licensed contractor with -- through the Department of
9 Consumer Affairs, New York City. For several years, I
10 started my business in 2005, as East Acre Properties
11 LLC. I maintained that business throughout the years
12 as a licensed contractor, with insurance and with
13 bonding, always in good standing, never any
14 complaints. Sometime during 2021, if I'm not
15 mistaken, it'd be 2020 -- but 2021 I believe it was, I
16 submitted my renewal application. I didn't hear
17 anything back for several months. I reached out to
18 the agency, the New York City Department Consumer and
19 Worker Protection. Very difficult to get through to
20 them. Eventually, I got through and someone told me
21 that there was no application, or my license is not --
22 my application for renewal is not on file. They
23 informed me that I would have to start all over. I
24 explained that this is mailed in. Can you take a
25 little look? So, we went through the whole process

1 with several people. I explained -- I was told that
2 there's nothing they could do. I'd have to reapply.
3 So, in reapplying, I looked online at the website. It
4 said that persons whose licenses have been expired
5 within the past five years do not have to take a -- an
6 exam to renew the licenses. When I pointed that out
7 to the representatives, they told me that that was
8 outdated information. And then, I will have to take
9 the exam all over again. I did apply with the
10 application process, the bonding insurance, and
11 fingerprinting. And mind you, the insurance has
12 always been maintained, the bonding renews, as well as
13 the license application. So, I had to be
14 fingerprinted. I did the process. And that's the
15 point when I objected to having to come in and take an
16 exam, because I've been licensed all these years with
17 no complaints. And the website for the city says
18 that, you know, there's a five-year term there. I
19 became a licensed real estate agent at 18. My notary
20 commission at 18. I joined the police department, as
21 a police officer at 22 years old, moved to the ranks
22 of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and deputy inspector,
23 retired as a deputy inspector in 2005. Maintaining
24 these licenses and credentials and moving forward in
25 preparation for retirement, was, was a mission and an

1 aim, and to be in good standing which I did. It, it
2 is a hardship. It is unreasonable. It is a -- it
3 adversely affects me and my family, my livelihood, to
4 have to sit for an exam that I took several, many
5 years ago when I first became licensed. The other
6 issues that affect us in life along with the whole
7 COVID period and PTSD from my 25 years of working, and
8 all of the other things that go along with that, it
9 just adds to this hardship, and it seems unreasonable.
10 So, I want to point that out. And I think that
11 persons in my situation have similar situations, you
12 know, I believe in the rule of law, I believe in order
13 and process and procedures and so forth. This just
14 seems to be unreasonable, considering my good track
15 record. Never one complaint about anything concerning
16 my, my being licensed as a contractor to New York
17 City. So, that's what I want to put a record. And I
18 want someone to consider persons in my position, me
19 and persons in my position where someone positions.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. DRIVER: Great, thank you so much for
22 sharing that. I'd also encourage you if you can to
23 submit that in writing. Feel free to submit that with
24 any documentation. You may also have the e-mail for
25 that is --

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

2 MR. DRIVER: -- rulecomments@dca, or sorry,
3 rulecomments@dcwp.nyc.gov. It also appears in the, in
4 the notice of hearing. It should appear in an e-mail
5 you received.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

7 MR. DRIVER: And we're taking comments for
8 this rule until midnight tonight.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

10 MR. DRIVER: Thank you for, thank you for
11 sharing the testimony. At this point, there's no one
12 else who's on the call looking to offer testimony.
13 And so, we're just -- I'm going to keep the call open
14 and we'll allow people to speak if and when they
15 arrive. Otherwise, this call will wrap up at noon.

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CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Ryan Manaloto, certify that the foregoing transcript of Public Hearing of the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection on the Proposed Rule to Permit Additional Time to Renew Certain Licenses that Expires During 2020 and 2021 on August 4, 2022 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: August 24, 2022

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