Department of Consumer Affairs

40 years of ensuring a fair and vibrant marketplace

Jonathan Mintz
Commissioner

[redacted]
Staff Counsel
Legal Compliance and Fitness
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[redacted]

Re: License for erecting real estate signs

Dear Mr. [redacted]

You requested clarification as to whether your company, [redacted] Home Improvement, is required to have a Home Improvement Contractor ("HIC") license from the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs ("the Department") when its sole business within the city will be the erection and removal of "For Sale" signs for realtors. You indicate that the realtor is responsible for your fee. If your business will only be erecting and removing these signs, then you do not need an HIC license.

Section 20-386 (2) of the New York City Administrative Code ("Code") defines "Home Improvement" as the "...construction, repair, replacement, remodeling, alteration, conversion, rehabilitation, renovation, modernization, improvement or addition to any land or building...." Under this definition, the erection and removal of "For Sale" signs does not constitute "home improvement."

Your correspondence indicated that you may at some point seek to perform handyman work and small remodeling jobs in Nassau and Suffolk counties, and that you would apply for a license with those counties to perform such work. Please remember that if you wish to perform such work within the city of New York, you must apply for an HIC license with this Department.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]