



December 19, 2019

Real Estate Board of New York  
James Whelan, REBNY President  
570 Lexington Avenue, FL 2  
New York, NY 10022

Rent Stabilization Association  
Joseph Strasburg, President  
123 William Street, 12th Floor  
New York, NY 10038

The Council of New York Cooperatives & Condominiums  
Mary Ann Rothman, Executive Director  
250 West 57th Street, Suite 730  
New York, NY 10107-0730

NAIOP NYC Chapter  
Rick Lechtman, Co-Chair of Government Affairs Committee  
Neil Tipograph, Co-Chair of Government Affairs Committee  
380 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1920  
New York, NY 10168

The NYC BID Association  
Jennifer Tausig, Co-Chair  
Robert Benfatto, Co-Chair  
PO Box 956  
Village Station  
New York, NY 10014

Re: Property Owner Snow Removal Requirements

Dear Representatives:

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer recently formed an Accessibility Task Force to tackle barriers to access for seniors and persons with disabilities. The Accessibility Task Force is composed of various stakeholders and advocates, including New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI).

In furtherance of the goals of the Accessibility Task Force, we are requesting that you contact your member property owners to remind them of their responsibilities pertaining to snow removal, as designated by Section 16-123 of the NYC Administrative Code. In short, property owners are expected to clear snow and ice off of sidewalks to create a four-foot-wide path for

pedestrians, including pedestrian walkways (curb cuts). Failure to comply with this NYC Administrative Code provision, including the specified timing requirements, can lead to fines. The fine for the initial summons can be up to \$150, and for every summons thereafter, between \$150 and \$350. Prompt snow removal is especially critical for seniors and individuals with mobility impairments.

For further information, please see the attached New York City Department of Sanitation's "NYC Snow Removal Fact Sheet." If you have questions, feel free to contact NYLPI or the Manhattan Borough President's Office.

Sincerely,

### **About the Manhattan Borough President's Office**

The responsibilities of the Manhattan Borough President's Office include advising the mayor on borough policy; allocating funds for capital improvements, programs, and services; appointing members to community boards and other advisory boards, reviewing and recommending decisions on land use; introducing legislation to the City Council; and serving as ambassador and advocate for Manhattan's interests among public, private, non-profit and international communities.

Ms. Brewer was elected to a second term as Borough President starting in 2017. She previously represented Manhattan's Upper West Side for 12 years in the City Council and for 12 years as Chief of Staff to Council Member Ruth Messinger; as NYC Deputy Public Advocate; Director of the City's Federal Office; and Executive Director of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

### **About NYLPI**

Founded more than 40 years ago by leaders of the bar, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest pursues equality and justice for New Yorkers. NYLPI works towards a New York where all people can thrive in their communities, with quality healthcare and housing, safe jobs, good schools, and healthy neighborhoods. In our vision, all New Yorkers live with dignity and independence, with the access and resources they need to succeed. NYLPI's community-driven approach powers its commitments to civil rights and to health, disability, immigrant, and environmental justice. NYLPI seeks lasting change through litigation, community organizing, policy advocacy, pro bono service, and education.

### **Members of the Borough President's Accessibility Task Force**

Jaclyn Okin Barhey, Disability Rights Attorney  
Marianne Bates, CUNY School of Professional Studies  
Barbara Bookman, CUNY Leads  
Michelle Caiola, Disability Rights Advocates  
Jaqi Cohen, NYPIRG Straphangers Campaign  
Marco Damiani, AHRC  
Susan Dooha, Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York  
Barbara Glassman, IncludeNYC

Arlene Goldsmith, New Alternatives for Children  
Karen Gourgey, Advocate  
Don Lash, Sinergia  
Ruth Lowenkron, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest  
Dennis Martinez, Harlem Independent Living Center  
Nancy Miller, Visions  
Edith Prentiss, Advocate  
John Raskin, Riders Alliance  
Bill Reed, Baruch CCVIP  
Jean Ryan, Disabled in Action  
Susan Scheer, Institute for Career Development  
Maura Sweeney, Lighthouse Guild  
Kim Sweet, Advocates for Children  
Dick Traum, Achilles International  
Martin Treet, Community Board 4  
Alex Truesdell, Adaptive Design Association  
James Weisman, United Spinal Association  
Colin Wright, TransitCenter