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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

March 26, 2020

Hon. Andrew Cuomo
Governor
State of New York
New York State Capitol
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to urge you to change your Executive Order such that all construction is not considered essential work. While admittedly there are infrastructure projects that need to continue, in Manhattan much construction is for the purpose of constructing luxury housing or other non-essential buildings.

I am concerned about this for several reasons. First, I believe the safety of construction workers is at risk if they continue to travel to work and to work in sites and engage in work that necessarily puts them in close contact with others. Second, as our residents are required to stay at home and work from home, excessive noise and often dust, are great impediments to their well being and productivity.

I recognize that active construction sites would need to be secured before construction work ceases. This is common practice, as sites are often secured when a Stop Work Order is issued or when weather conditions necessitate this.

I also recognize that construction workers cannot work from home, and that we are all loathe to deprive any additional people of income. I wonder if the State can employ workers to assist with the myriad of tasks, construction and other, associated with handling our current crisis.

But for the health, safety and well being of all, I urge you to consider construction projects non-essential, except in rare circumstances as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President