



August 16, 2023

VIA EMAIL (Expediting@SPAssociatesLtd.com)

Architects Council of NYC, Inc.
14 East 38th Street, 11th Floor
New York, New York 10016
Attn: Mark Kaplan

**Re: Governmental Agency Procedures Committee
 Letter of Support for Architects Council of NYC, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Kaplan:

On behalf of the New York Zoning Advisory Council ("ZAC") be advised that our council endorses the idea of The United Architects & Engineers Foundation ("UAEF") and their NYC Building Regulations Training Program as described in the mission statement/proposal we received.

Please keep us informed as to how ZAC could work with the Architects Council of New York ("ACNY") and other professional organizations toward bringing this idea to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheldon Lobel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sheldon Lobel, Esq., President
Zoning Advisory Council

Zoning Advisory Council
370 Lexington Avenue, Suite 702
New York, New York 10017
516-551-7818 | www.zoningadvisory.nyc

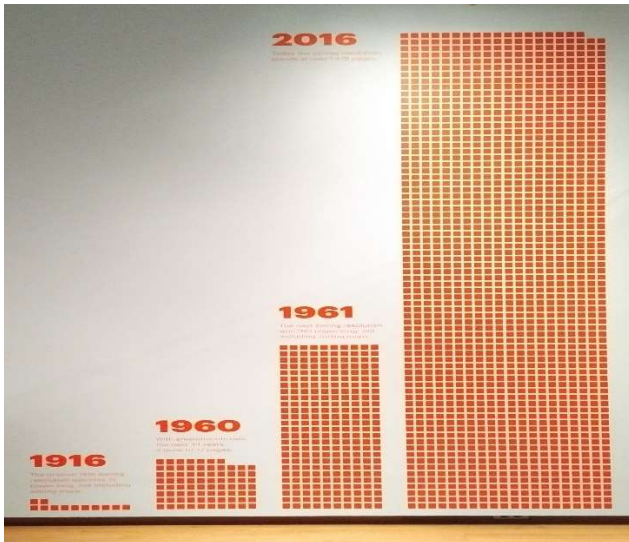
The United Architects & Engineers Foundation & NYC Building Regulations Training Program

Prepared 2/6/2023

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The United Architects & Engineers Foundation [UAEF]

The amount of regulations the practicing NYC construction design professional needs to be fully fluent in, has grown tremendously over the past 120 years.



A comparison of the number of pages of the NYC Zoning Resolution 1916 - 2016.
(Mastering the Metropolis Exhibit @ the Museum of the City of NY 2016-2017)

With this in mind, the Architects Council of New York [ACNY] is proposing to bring together the Professional Architectural and Engineering organizations in the City of New York to form a not-for-profit Foundation that provides academic & practical education in those building regulations under the jurisdiction of the NYC Dept of Buildings [DOB], (including but not limited to the NYC Construction Codes, the NYC Zoning Resolution, the NYC Energy Codes, the NYC Housing Maintenance Code and the NYS Multiple Dwelling Laws) that define the permissible characteristics of buildings and other spaces in the City of New York.

To date, while some classes are available from various schools on specific aspects of this topic or of a very general overview, there is presently no holistic and systematic program to acquire this vital knowledge other than on-the-job experience. Further, while both Architectural & Engineering education & licensing programs are extremely rigorous, the topic of building regulations receives only an introductory review at most schools.

This idea originated in the ACNY, which is composed of 5 member architectural organizations (AIABklyn; AIAQueens; AIABronx; AIASI; & Society of American Registered Architects [SARA]). The ACNY has secured the participation in this effort, of Code Resources International, LLC and its founder, former 1st Deputy Commissioner of the DOB, Ms. Fatma Amer, PE. The ACNY is presently exploring participation in UAEF by the American Council of Engineering Companies [ACEC], the Structural Engineers Association of New York [SEAONY] and other like-minded professional organizations.

The United Architects & Engineers Foundation [UAEF] is yet to be formed. The immediate objective is to build advocacy and government support for the concept of the Foundation & its proposed programs. With strong support, we will then tackle the development of a legal structure, funding, and operational details.

For further information regarding participating in the formation of the UAEF & its proposed programs, please contact:

Mark Kaplan, R.A.

Chairperson of the ACNY Governmental Agency Procedures Committee

Tel.: 212-431-8395 e-mail: Expediting@SPAssociatesLtd.com

The United Architects & Engineers Foundation & NYC Building Regulations Training Program

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NYC Building Regulations Training Program

The Foundation would develop and operate the NYC Building Regulations Training Program. By providing the City of New York with this new resource of New York State Registered and Licensed Building Design professionals, who are also knowledgeable in the Laws, Codes & Rules unique to the City of New York, the Foundation will work with and support the NYC Dept. of Buildings toward protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public in their occupancy & use of the built environment.

The NYC Building Regulations Training Program will be specifically designed to achieve the following:

- 1) Train both NYC Dept. of Buildings' technical staff and Professional Practitioners on the specifics of the Building Regulations in the City of New York. The training of these two groups together will help formulate a common understanding of the regulations that will minimize delays in the compliance review process. We also believe that a greater understanding by the professionals on both sides of the review process, of both the current regulations and the history of how they evolved, will enable a greater degree of compliance and oversight of these regulations in the protection of the public.
- 2) Train both NYC Dept. of Buildings' technical staff and Professional Practitioners in the industry standards and best practices for the preparation of an application to the NYC Dept. of Buildings for construction work in the City of New York. This standardization will enable more comprehensive application submissions and help to get projects reviewed more efficiently, without compromising oversight of building regulations in the protection of the public. Less time spent obtaining required governmental approvals, means getting projects on-line faster and in turn help generate increased tax revenue for the City of New York, as well as overall project cost savings for the owner.
- 3) Train both NYC Dept. of Buildings' technical staff and Professional Practitioners, in the industry standards and best practices of reviewing the construction applications submitted to the NYC Dept. of Buildings. We believe providing this training to both these groups will create an awareness of the processes and protocols the DOB Technical staff must follow, which in turn will enable the Professional Practitioner to make their applications easier to review. Knowledge of the process will facilitate the Professionals to do what they do best, solve problems. That is, provide the DOB with an ongoing feedback loop for what could be improved in the review process and the associated DOB NOW tools, to ease and speed the verification of code compliance.
- 4) Train selected NYC Dept. of Buildings' technical staff in the industry standards and best practices to evaluate, at a high-level, a sampling of application submissions to the NYC Dept. of Buildings, toward improving the process and ensuring that all applications are prepared with appropriate professional skill and care.
- 5) Be a resource and contributor to the continuous efforts by the City of New York in keeping its Building Regulations current.
- 6) Be a knowledgeable, reliable, non-partisan resource to the Mayor, City Council, Public Advocate and Comptroller regarding decisions related to the health, safety and welfare of the public in their occupancy & use of the built environment in the City of New York.

By developing a continuously offered NYC Building Regulations Training Program for the NYC Dept. of Buildings' technical staff, we are looking to mitigate the boom & bust cycles of governmental budgeting in this vital training. Further by including the Professional Practitioners in the same training, we seek to supplement the Professionals' knowledge and bring the truly collaborative culture of the building industry into the building regulations compliance review process, which we believe will benefit the planning and implementation of alterations & developments in the City of New York.