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
Mariette 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