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Commissioner

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By Electronic Transmission

Re: Continued collaboration between New York City and Copenhagen

To the Technical and Environmental Committee:

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) would like to express our strong support and interest in the continued collaboration between our agency and the City of Copenhagen. In 2015, DEP entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation with Copenhagen to exchange information and knowledge on the development and management of solutions to address climate challenges, such as sea level rise and cloudbursts. Lykke Leonardsen, who has been critical to our collaboration, initiated the partnership. Although the terms of the Memorandum expired on September 25, 2018, we intend to extend our work together.

To leverage our collaboration, in 2016 DEP hired Copenhagen-based Ramboll to develop a Cloudburst Resiliency Planning study to test Copenhagen solutions in New York City. With extensive support from Lykke, we engaged New York City agencies to understand how we can learn from Copenhagen's Cloudburst Management Plan. Our discussions with Lykke regarding implementation and maintenance of cloudburst projects in Copenhagen enhanced broad understanding and acceptance of similar solutions in New York.

Despite the relatively small size of Copenhagen compared to New York, we can apply Copenhagen solutions here, and New York solutions can be beneficial to Copenhagen. For example, as part of our partnership Lykke initiated a workshop to understand how New York's lessons learned from Superstorm Sandy might help Copenhagen prepare for coastal flooding due to sea level rise.

In 2017, prior to a visit to Copenhagen we shared the results of our first two years of the partnership with our Deputy Mayor. Just a few weeks later, Hurricane Harvey struck Houston, Texas, resulting in major flooding. Familiar with the collaboration with Copenhagen, the Deputy Mayor asked what would happen if a similar storm hit New York City, which has since prompted a study on a similar scale to Copenhagen's Cloudburst Management Plan.

Our collaboration has been so successful that DEP is currently designing two cloudburst pilot projects that we will construct in the coming years. We have learned through our partnership that we do not have to wait for a disaster to

implement climate solutions. In September 2018, the New York Times recognized the value of this approach, featuring our partnership in an article called, "City Soaks Up Lessons From Copenhagen on Coping With Intense Rainstorms."

In closing, we would like to reiterate our support for the collaboration with Lykke Leonardsen and the City of Copenhagen. This partnership has been critical to advance climate resiliency in New York City and demonstrates the potential to apply Copenhagen solutions beyond Copenhagen. We hope to continue and build upon the success of our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Licata". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Angela Licata
Deputy Commissioner
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