



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.ManhattanCB4.org

J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

May 4, 2007

Christopher M. Santulli, P.E.
Borough Commissioner, Manhattan Borough Office
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway, 3rd floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Santulli:

We are writing on behalf of the Sheffield Tenants Association, located at 322 West 57th Street to request a complete Building's Department Project Audit. The Sheffield, a 50 story, mixed-use building is currently undergoing extensive renovations as part of its conversion from rental to condominium. Approximately 120 units remain occupied during the renovations.

Representatives of the Sheffield Tenant Association appeared at Community Board #4's Housing Health and Human Services committee meeting and detailed a number of serious concerns relating to the lack of safety procedures during the renovation and that permits issued by DOB were based on false information. The conditions these tenants are forced to endure is truly appalling. In particular, CB4 is concerned that areas determined by DEP to contain asbestos were gutted without proper asbestos abatement and notification procedures, --posing a serious health hazard to those living and working in the building and in the immediate neighborhood. The permit applications further omit that asbestos is even present, and represent that the building is commercial, vacant, etc.

Community Board #4 recently learned that the Department of Buildings has agreed to conduct a partial or random audit of the premises and permits issued. While we appreciate this step, we join with our elected officials in supporting the Tenant Association's request that the Project be examined in its entirety. The inconsistencies in the permit applications, and complete disregard for safety measures pose serious hazards for those who live and work in the building and the immediate area.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

Sarah Desmond
Chair
Housing, Health and Human Services

Cc: Sheffield Tenants Association