



**House Committee on Local Government
Hearing on Abandoned Property Legislation
Hearing Date – Tuesday, January 23, 2018**

**Written Testimony in Support of Abandoned Property Legislation
on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By Kiel Mangus, Assistant City Manager**

Good afternoon Chair Williams, Vice Chair Thimesch and honorable members of the House Committee on Local Government. My name is Kiel Mangus, and I am the Assistant City Manager for the City of Manhattan.

The City of Manhattan supports legislation addressing abandoned property. The City of Manhattan supports legislation allowing cities to provide an effective and efficient method for dealing with the procedural challenges that are often faced when dealing with abandoned properties in local communities. There are often non-responsive owners or other interest holders, ownership is in question, or the city is not able to get an owner or interest holder to take responsibility for property maintenance on a structure. We support the Legislature amending the arduous process of determining what is abandoned in order to better allow cities to deal with blighted and debilitating structures before they become unsafe and ultimately are torn down.

- The health and welfare of the general public in Manhattan is important. The City supports legislation that addresses reducing the time abandoned structures might pose a health and safety danger to others, as well as legislation that allows more flexibility to better deal with those properties and prevent blighted situations from occurring.
- The City supports legislation that allows cities to seek authority to rehabilitate abandoned housing. The City, or a non-profit organization, could rehabilitate the property for future use rather than the property ending up degrading further and needing to be demolished.
- Finally, the City supports legislation that helps protect property values in the Community. Abandoned, dilapidated housing can drag down property values of homes around them. The City supports the ability to address those issues so property values are better preserved.

For all the above reasons the City of Manhattan supports legislation addressing abandoned and blighted property. Thanks for your time and consideration.