



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Hearing on House Bill 2314  
Hearing Date – February 22, 2019**

**Written Testimony in support of HB 2314 on behalf of the City of Manhattan  
By the Honorable Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan**

Good afternoon Chair Tarwater, Vice Chair Corbet and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development. My name is Michael L. Dodson, Mayor of Manhattan.

**The City of Manhattan supports HB 2314**, providing cities a more effective and efficient method of dealing with the procedural challenges that are often encountered with abandoned properties. Often with non-responsive owners or other interest holders, ownership is in question or cities are unable to get an owner or interest holder to take responsibility for property maintenance on abandoned structures. The bill helps amend 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.

- It is the City of Manhattan's mission to protect public safety, promote public health, and preserve the built environment. This legislation would reduce the extended time an abandoned structure might pose a health and safety danger to others. HB 2314 allows cities more flexibility to better deal with those abandoned structures and prevent dangerous situations from occurring.
- Cities should have the ability to seek authority and rehabilitate abandoned and blighted housing. A City, or a non-profit organization, could rehabilitate a property for future use rather than the property continuing to degrade and ultimately having to be demolished.
- HB 2314 helps protect property values in the Community. Abandoned, dilapidated housing can significantly impact nearby homes and entire neighborhoods. The City supports the ability to address these issues so property values are better preserved.

In summary, the City of Manhattan supports HB 2314, and asks the Committee support consideration of this legislation and advance this bill to the full House. Thank you for your time and consideration.