

On the *loss* of a City Buildings Commissioner

Queens Civic Congress Executive Vice President Patricia Dolan stated, "Commissioner Lancaster's failure to survive the challenges of the dysfunctional Buildings Department is no surprise. Unless the Mayor commits the financial and political resources necessary to make the Department do its job, the next commissioner also fail.

"Queens Civic Congress notes the resignation of the Mayor's Building Commissioner and uses this occasion to remind all that City Hall sets the tone," stated Zoning and Code Enforcement co-chairs Vice President Harbachan Singh and Joseph Amoroso. "The Mayor remains pro-development and, in many ways, how his administration responds reflects that priority. He says that it is intolerable that people on construction sites are dying, but how can he avoid responsibility? Look at the record: Did the Mayor really give the Buildings Department all the resources it needed, or did he fear that hiring and adequately paying enough inspectors and, thus, saddling contractors with too many fines, would send a chilling message to developers that NYC was not construction-friendly? What will happen when people die from fires in the wooden tenements his new Building Code now allows? How does the Mayor avoid the blame?

"Queens Civic Congress urges City Hall to look at the Commissioner's vacancy as an opportunity for reassessment and sound policies such as are reflecting in our CIVIC 2030 platform."

City's Buildings Chief Resigns as Outcry on Accidents Grows

By [DIANE CARDWELL](#) and [CHARLES V. BAGLI](#)

New York Times - Published: April 23, 2008

Facing pressure from City Hall and growing criticism for a spike in fatal construction accidents, Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster resigned on Tuesday, becoming the first commissioner to leave the Bloomberg administration under a cloud of public controversy.

Read entire article at <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/04/23/nyregion/23lancaster.html>

BLDGS. BOSS BOOTED AGENCY TAKING HEAT IN TRAGEDIES

By **DAVID SEIFMAN** and **HASANI GITTENS**

New York Post - April 23, 2008

Commissioner Patricia Lancaster was pushed out the door at the Department of Buildings yesterday, a day after Mayor Bloomberg ripped her agency for an embarrassing series of screw-ups.

Read entire article at:

http://www.nypost.com/seven/04232008/news/regionalnews/bldgs_boss_booted_107693.htm

NYC buildings commissioner resigns after mayor's criticism

By AMY WESTFELDT | Associated Press Writer
amNew York - April 23, 2008

NEW YORK - Even critics credited Patricia Lancaster for trying to reform New York City's inefficient, corruption-riddled Buildings Department.

During her six years as commissioner, she rewrote an outdated building code, created online databases for nearly 1 million city properties, stepped up inspections and wrote new safety rules.

But the reforms couldn't stop a spike in deadly construction accidents, which brought increasing complaints about Lancaster's agency. She resigned Tuesday under fire from irate residents and Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Read entire article at <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newyork/ny-bc-nybuildings0423apr23.0,1926164.story>

City Buildings Commissioner resigns following wave of accidents

BY KIRSTEN DANIS
DAILY NEWS CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF
Tuesday, April 23, 2008

The city's embattled buildings boss resigned Tuesday - effective immediately - after presiding over a series of deadly construction mishaps that a day before drew a rare public rebuke from Mayor Bloomberg.

Read entire article at:
http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2008/04/22/2008-04-22_city_buildings_commissioner_resigns_foll.html

Editorial: Rebuilding Buildings

Daily News - Tuesday, April 23, 2008

Mayor Bloomberg faces a big job in whipping the Buildings Department into shape following the resignation yesterday of Commissioner Patricia Lancaster.

Six years into his administration, and with less than two years to go, Bloomberg must move rapidly to complete an overhaul that has been too long in coming.

He can start by appointing a first-rate, knock-heads manager as department chief - and by giving the new boss the resources to create an operation that effectively combines public safety with expedited development.

Read entire editorial at:
http://www.nydailynews.com/opinions/2008/04/23/2008-04-23_clinton_battles_on-1.html?page=1