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September 11, 2026

Ahmed Tigani
Commissioner
Department of Buildings
280 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Tigani:

Thank you for your August 27, 2026, response concerning the LED advertising sign on the Ameritania Hotel at 230 West 54th Street. I am writing to follow up, because your letter leaves my original concern unaddressed and contains statements that appear inconsistent with the Department's own records.

First, my May 11 letter concerned the intense light this sign projects into the apartments of adjacent residential buildings. The provision of the Zoning Resolution governing illuminated signs near residences is Section 32-64. Your response analyzes Sections 32-644 and 32-655, which govern sign size and height, matters no one has raised, and does not address Section 32-64 or illumination at all. I note that the Department's own Special Enforcement Team quoted Section 32-64 in its May 2024 audit at this same address.

Second, your letter states that a post-approval amendment remains under review. The Department's public records show that amendment, M00708436-P2, was approved on August 6, 2026, three weeks before your letter date. Please clarify.

Third, your letter states the sign does not exceed applicable standards, but identifies no standard, no inspection, and no measurement. Records the Department produced under FOIL on September 2, 2026, show the brightness reduction you describe as voluntary consists of an informal email exchange with the sign's operator, with no standard, no verification, and no enforcement mechanism, in which the Director of the Department's own Sign/Padlock Unit wrote that the sign was "still very bright" when he observed it after 10:00 PM.

I therefore ask you to answer two questions in writing. One: what is the Department's position on this sign's compliance with Section 32-64, and when did the Department last inspect the sign lit, at night, under that provision? Two: what specific standard, measured on what date and by whom, supports the statement that the sign does not exceed applicable standards?

I am asking for a response within 30 days. My constituents have lived with this condition for seven years, and they are entitled to answers grounded in the Department's records rather than assurances inconsistent with them.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer

Enclosure:

cc: David Achelis, President, West 50s Neighborhood Association, 211 West 56th Street, #22E, New York, NY 10019
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