

August 31, 2026

Dear Speaker Menin and Members of the New York City Council:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the nomination of John Mangin to Chair the Board of Standards and Appeals. He is highly qualified for the role and is well-suited to fulfill the administrative duties of the office while helping address the city's housing crisis.

The Board of Standards and Appeals is responsible for reviewing applications for zoning variances, zoning appeals, and the project-based relief allowed for new affordable housing developments under the Charter revisions recently approved by voters. The BSA is not a policymaking body or one that acts with broad discretion; it is responsible for administering its responsibilities under parameters established by law. Yet it is vitally important that the BSA's review of affordable housing applications be technically sound, fair-minded, and timely. The appointment of a highly qualified leader to administer the new BSA procedures provides a bellwether of the City's commitment to sustained affordable housing production.

John Mangin's training as an attorney, expertise in land use and planning, and experience with the administration of applications for public approvals are precisely the type of background needed for the leader of the BSA. As a career public servant who early on recognized the severe affordability implications of our housing supply crisis, his appointment is particularly suited to the present moment, and his work has consistently displayed a commitment to the integrity and value of the institutions of government.

Our housing crisis is acute and growing – the vacancy rate was 1.4 percent, the lowest rate in 50 years, and nearly 500,000 households were severely rent burdened in 2023. To address the crisis, the city needs to increase housing supply and affordable housing. John Mangin's expertise will help BSA carry out its role in this context.

As the Council performs its advice and consent on Mangin's nomination, we strongly urge it to approve his appointment.

Sincerely,

Abundance New York

American Institute of Architects New York Chapter (AIANY)

Ascendant Neighborhood Development Corporation

Association for a Better New York

Brisa Builders Development LLC

Bronx Pro Group LLC

Catholic Community Relations Council

Citizens Housing & Planning Council

Community Service Society of New York

Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP

Dattner Architects

Enterprise Community Partners

ESKW/Architects

Fifth Avenue Committee

Gans & Company

Holland & Knight

Housing Rights Initiative

Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing

K2New Business Development

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP

LionFox

LiveOn NY

Mega Contracting

MDG

Milestone Development LLC

New Destiny Housing
New York Building Congress
New York Housing Conference
NY State Association for Affordable Housing (NYSFAFH)
NYC New Liberals
Open New York
Partners for Dignity and Rights
Phipps Houses
Regional Plan Association
RiseBoro
Shakespeare Gordon Studio
Sheldon Lobel, P.C.
Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation
Slate Property Group
Supportive Housing Network of NY
The Delaine Companies
UAI
UHAB
Urban Factors
VIP Community Services
West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing
Xenolith Partners