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Honorable Nancy Rogo Trainer, FAIA
Chairperson, 2021 AIA Fellows Committee

RE: Application of Illya Azaroff to AIA Fellows

Dear Ms. Trainer:

I write with unqualified support of Illya Azaroff's application to the Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. Illya's unabashed passion for resilient design is matched by his public service in New York City and beyond. I deeply value his vision, thought leadership, and selfless commitment to collaboration. He inspires myself, my colleagues across city agencies, and other design professionals to approach our significant climate-related challenges with creativity and innovation.

Since 2012, when Hurricane Sandy compelled New York City to grapple with the reality of climate change, Illya led conversations that convened designers, community stakeholders, and government representatives regarding the challenges of resilient design. In addition, he volunteered to produce a series of technical advisories on rebuilding, to advise the Department of City Planning on the production of *Retrofitting Buildings for Flood Risk*, and to serve on the flood mapping technical advisory team together with our partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Finally, Illya created a new precedent for balancing climate mitigation and climate adaptation with his design of the *Hurricane Strong House* in Breezy Point, Queens as part of New York City's Build It Back program.

Illya's post-Sandy legacy continues to bear fruit in the city's climate adaptation policies. For example, Illya participated in the formulation of New York City's *Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines*, which was just re-released in its fourth edition. Illya also serves as an advisor to the New York City Panel on Climate Change in their "rapid response" series of discussions regarding COVID-19.

Neighborhoods across New York City, from the multifamily campuses of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to the small bungalows of the Rockaways, New York City is more resilient because of Illya. Please do call me at 917-586-0542 should you or any committee member wish to further discuss Illya's contributions to advancing resilient design in New York City.

Sincerely,



Eric H. Wilson, Deputy Director, Land Use & Buildings
New York City Mayor's Office of Resiliency