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January 2, 2020

Adam Parris
New York City Panel on Climate Change
Office of the Mayor
New York, NY

Dear Mr. Parris,

Illya Azaroff is a leader in advancing resilience within the architecture profession and in the communities he serves. He would be a valuable member of the New York City Panel on Climate Change. I've had the pleasure of working with Illya frequently on resilience initiatives, most recently as a member of the subject matter expert committee developing the Buildings Benchmark, part of the Community Resilience Benchmarks (CRBs) system being developed by the Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR). He brought valuable insight to this committee of diverse experts, representing the design disciplines well, but also recognizing the importance of a multi-faceted approach to community resilience. His recommendations are always well thought out and aimed at achieving action.

Deservingly, Illya is recognized within the resilience community for his ability to translate thinking to doing and then also teaching others. He was a key team member in designing and rebuilding a home at Breezy Point following Superstorm Sandy. The home is not just a more resilient structure for the homeowner, but a demonstration to the neighborhood and beyond that there are cost effective ways to reduce the risk from future hazard events (those known today and those that may threaten us in the future due to climate change).

In addition to this project, Illya contributed to the development of series of courses by American Institute of Architects (AIA) targeted at his architecture peers that highlights the latest resilience concepts including climate-resilient design. In addition to his leadership on resilience at the national level, Illya is also a leader locally, highlighting resilience opportunities for the New York City chapter of the AIA.

Without hesitation, I strongly endorse Illya's application for the panel. He brings knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm—traits necessities to address complicated issues like climate change.

Please let me know if you need any additional information to support Illya's nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan M. Colker".

Ryan M. Colker, J.D., CAE
Vice President, Innovation
Executive Director, Alliance for National & Community Resilience