



**NEW YORK CITY
SPECIAL RIGGERS ASSOCIATION**

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**Testimony from the NYC Special Riggers Association
To the New York City Council Civil Service and Labor Committee
On Introductions 1918, 1923 and 1926
May 5, 2020**

Speaker Johnson, Chair Miller and member of the Civil Service and Labor Committee, my name is Veronika Sikorski, and I am President of the New York City Special Riggers Association. The NYC Special Riggers Association was created in 2013 by a group of licensed, trained professionals with decades of experience in protecting New York City's skyline. It is not only our job to restore and maintain building facades, but to employ practices that protect the workers who perform these tasks and the millions of pedestrians who walk by our jobs sites every day. Our overall goal is to maintain the integrity of our industry by ensuring that proposed government policies and regulatory changes have a positive effect on our day-to-day operations.

The NYCSRA supports our workers and we do all we can to ensure they are safe and have the opportunities they need to support their families. We cannot support Introductions 1918, 1923 and 1926 because these bills will impose undue financial hardship and regulatory burdens on employers who are already struggling to maintain their businesses with no clear path to what the future holds.

We recently joined 32 other organizations in signing a letter to Speaker Johnson calling on the Council to "re-think the approach to the COVID-19 pandemic that is reflected in Intros. 1918, 1923 and 1926." We cannot support legislation that will further decimate businesses and lead to further job losses and business closures.

We are thankful that construction will be one of the first industries to return to the new normal as the State continues to seek ways to re-open our economy. As we continue working with elected leaders and decision-makers on ways to best pursue this return to work, we urge the City Council not to pass any legislation that will adversely affect the way we achieve these goals.

As employers, we value the women and men that perform the tasks required to maintain and restore our building facades. We will take every measure to protect our workers, but cannot afford to absorb any further unfunded mandates imposed by City government.

We urge you to work with us as we all continue to do what is necessary to keep our businesses open, our employees working and our building facades safe.

We thank you again for the opportunity to present this testimony and welcome the opportunity to continue working with you throughout the re-opening process and beyond.