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**Testimony by State Senator Daniel Squadron at the New York City Board of Standards
and Appeals Public Hearing Regarding Calendar No. 125-11-A
December 6, 2011**

My name is Daniel Squadron and I represent the 25th Senate District in the New York State Senate. My district includes Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Vinegar Hill, DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus in Brooklyn, and the neighborhoods of Tribeca, Battery Park City, the Lower East Side, Chinatown, the Financial District, Little Italy, SoHo and the East Village in Manhattan. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify today.

Appeal number '125-11-A' challenges the Department of Buildings' (DOB) decision to deny the reinstatement of permits that allowed an enlargement to the existing residential building at 514-516 East 6th Street.

Over three years ago in November 2008, the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) ruled that vertical extensions of this kind violate the NYS Multiple Dwelling Law (MDL). As such, the permits on vertical extensions were refused. The proposed reinstatement of the permits would set a troubling precedent that says if enough time has elapsed, decisions taken to protect tenants can be overturned.

I have long been opposed to extensions of this nature when they violate the law. Whether you are in school or at a job, or you own a building, you must follow the rules.

Tenants deserve to know that their homes will be protected -- and that those regulations will be enforced by DOB. I urge the BSA to deny this appeal and send a message that the requirement for building owners to comply with the law does not have an expiration date.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify today.