

# PARK STRATEGIES, LLC

New York, NY Albany, NY Long Island, NY

ALFONSE M. D'AMATO  
Chairman

April 28, 2020

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor  
State Of New York  
Executive Chamber  
The Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

RE: Construction's Role in Re-Opening New York

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the members of the Empire State Subcontractors Association/Northeastern Subcontractors Association, the Eastern Contractors Association, the Construction Contractors Association, the New York State Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, and the other construction contractor and sub-contractor clients of Park Strategies, LLC, I write to express our collective appreciation for your leadership throughout the COVID-19 crisis. We are also gratified that you have identified construction as a gateway industry to restoring New York's economy from the ravages of this insidious calamity.

The recovery phase of any disaster is as important as the response phase, and requires the same diligence, patience and awareness. We understand that this situation, coming under control at this time, could readily retreat back to the horrific numbers and situations that we saw just a few weeks ago if we are all not abundantly careful in approaching the recovery with sobriety and caution. That is why we endorse your notion of a regional re-start and for construction entities to "have a plan" prior to making re-entry into the economy.

We would request, however, that the metrics for determining when a county or region can come on line in the re-opening phases be based upon the incidence of exposure or re-exposure in commerce generally, or construction specifically, rather than basing it singularly upon the gross numbers of infections, hospitalizations or mortality within that county or region. Your initiatives on antibody testing and contact tracing both should make this feasible.

PARK STRATEGIES, LLC

**Park Strategies, LLC to Governor Cuomo**

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Construction, many components of which have been deemed essential to the State during these weeks, has already shown that it can make a plan and stick to it to prevent and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in the workplace. Indeed, given the strenuous focus on workplace safety in ordinary times, it was not hard for the construction industry to simply “up its game” to protect against an infectious disease. And the industry is ready to do it again, at your urging, and on a far greater scale by having a plan to protect workers, suppliers, project owners and anyone else who would have reason to be on a job site.

Simply put, for New York to fully recover from this economic catastrophe, all construction is and should be seen as essential, especially because it generates economic multipliers and can be performed safely.

Ideally, using as a guideline the MTA’s successful prevention and mitigation strategy, or adopting an amalgam of the various programs in place at various state construction agencies, such as the SUNY Construction Fund, which has allowed them to continue with essential construction throughout the crisis without exacerbating it, is the key to any successful re-entry plan. Frequent personal temperature and health status surveillance, monitored and limited close-contact work (i.e., work within 6’), mandated gloves and masks or other facial coverings throughout the work site for tasks or operations where social distancing may not be possible, as well as appointment of a safety monitor are all components of the MTA’s plan or go beyond it. Any exceptions to these requirements for cause relating to task or operation, would have to be considered and accepted in advance, with full documentation of same. Site safety/COVID protocols would be posted at the job site.

Construction intends to lead the way to the new normal for New York. We thank you for your confidence in us to do so responsibly and effectively.

Sincerely,

Alfonse M. D’Amato

50 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard  
Uniondale, New York 11553

CC: Hon. Melissa DeRosa  
Hon. Steven M. Cohen  
Hon. William J. Mulrow