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Construction
Building Trades Employers' Association

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CITY'S LEADING CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, BUILDING TRADES ENACT NEW SITE SAFETY GUIDELINES

*--Historic Accord Between Labor and Management Announced at
BTEA Safety Conference; OSHA Releases New Data Showing that
86% of All NYC Fatalities Occur on Sites Employing Non-Union
Labor--*

NEW YORK, NY, – November 21, 2006 – For the first time in history, New York City's top contractors and the Building and Construction Trades have enacted self-imposed site safety guidelines which will further protect workers and the public on what already are the safest construction sites in the city. The labor-management accord was announced today at the Building Trade Employers' Association's (BTEA) annual safety conference held at the Hilton New York.

Entitled the *Build Safe NYC Project*, the guidelines were developed by the 1,200 contractors who make-up the BTEA, as well as the 56 affiliates of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York (copy of *Build Safe NYC* attached).

"This historic accord between labor and management will go a long way toward making the safest sites in New York even safer for both workers and the public alike," said Louis J. Coletti, president and CEO of the BTEA and a member of the

Mayor's Scaffold Worker Safety Task Force. "It also exemplifies how both labor and management continue to work closely together on common industry goals."

Originally proposed at the 2005 BTEA safety conference by the CEOs of Turner Construction, Bovis Lend Lease, Tishman Construction Corp., Skanska USA Building, StructureTone, Inc., and Plaza Construction Corp., the *Build Safe NYC Project* underwent an extensive year-long review period with comment included from construction managers and public officials.

Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA said, "While it is not always the case, in many of the recent accidents, simply following the existing rules and regulations would have made an enormous difference - quite possibly even saving lives. We must continue to increase vigilance throughout the construction industry to ensure safe sites and practices in and around all of New York City's 950,000 buildings and construction sites."

Richard Mendelson, area director for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, offered a construction industry "Report Card" at the conference along with Commissioner Lancaster. During the discussion, OSHA released new data showing that 86% of all fatalities occur on sites employing non-union labor.

"For too long, building in New York has been a Tale of Two Cities," said Coletti. "On one hand there are unionized contractors who follow the rules and invest millions of dollars of their own money in worker safety programs. But on the other hand, there are non-union contractors who blatantly disregard city laws, abuse immigrant workers and ignore public and worker safety. Swift and severe penalties should be imposed on those who break the rules and put the safety of workers and the public at risk."

The Building Trades Employers' Association (BTEA) is the largest and most diverse contractor association in New York, representing 1,200 construction company members of the Building Trades and 25 contractor associations.