

February 28, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Donald P. Bliss

RE: Appointment of Irving Owens to the Partnership for Safer Buildings

Last June, Jim Burns approached the Board with a program idea for his Catastrophic Fire Prevention Task Force, which has manifested into the Partnership for Safer Buildings (the Partnership). The Partnership brought together experts from the fire service, industry, standards organizations and major fire engineering schools to examine the adequacy of the nation's building codes.

In light of the tragic event in Rhode Island, I would like to nominate Irving Owens to serve on the Partnership and chair its Liaison Subcommittee. This subcommittee is charged with, among other things, sharing the findings of the Partnership with the codes organizations and the general public. I feel that Irving will be able to contribute a great deal to Partnership's work and will provide invaluable insight as to how to avoid this type of disaster in the future.

cc: Irving Owens