

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of Estimates. (cont'd)

"We are of the opinion, from an engineering standpoint, that the phrase 'substantial alterations' means alterations to a building that change the foundations, add to the area of the building, or change, structurally, the load-bearing walls. We also believe that the dollar-value of any alteration project is not a criterion in defining the phrase 'substantial alterations', as set forth in the City Charter."

We are also advised by the Director of School Facilities that they have in their office a registered architect, a graduate civil engineer, a graduate mechanical engineer, and a graduate electrical engineer, all of whom are capable of supervision of construction. We are also advised that both of the contracts above mentioned do not involve the change of foundations, any structural change to load-bearing walls, any additions to the area of the buildings, and are, therefore, construed by the engineers to be minor alterations.

We feel that, inasmuch as Section 68 refers to "substantial alterations" only making it necessary to have supervision by the Bureau of Building Construction, and inasmuch as the Board of School Commissioners has authority to make all plans and specifications for school buildings, and to maintain and repair all school buildings, it was the intent to allow them to supervise contracts involving minor alterations.

In accordance therewith, we feel it is in order to pass upon the recommendation of the Director of School Facilities in regard to both of the contracts above mentioned.

Very truly yours,

/s/ THOMAS N. BIDDISON
City Solicitor

/s/ EDWIN HARLAN
Deputy City Solicitor

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