



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

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President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.
President*



Welcome back from what we hope was an enjoyable summer; now it's time to roll up our sleeves and clean up the mess created recently by our enemies and pseudo-friends alike.

Unfortunately, some circles appear to take advantage of any opportunity, including the summer recess, to undermine our profession, yet again, leaving all of us shocked and frustrated. Of course I am referring to recent tragic events which led to the passage of Intro 755A by the NY City Council (at the prodding of our Mayor) to eliminate the existing State Education Law requirement that the NYC Buildings' Commissioner be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) or a Registered Architect (RA). At a time when NYC is experiencing an increasing number of construction-related accidents and deaths, our illustrious politicians found it acceptable to turn the construction industry over to lay people, without regard to the public health, safety and welfare.

Two weeks ago, however, our State Society's Executive Board voted to bring a law suit against NY City to force it to restore the State Education Law requirement that the Buildings' Commissioner be a licensed professional. For this, we want to commend all those Engineers and Architects who found the time and had the guts to stand up and voice their frustration against the blatant disregard of the law by our local politicians.

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President's Message Continued

We believe that the public, who knows nothing of what's going on behind their back but deserve better, will approve and be gratified with our stand, when the word gets out.

To this end, you are urged to contribute generously to the NYC PE & RA Legal Fund presently being set up. It makes no sense to complain, moan and groan how we are mistreated, as professionals, and do nothing to correct the problem. This is our opportunity to "put up" or for ever... keep our mouths shut.

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Our membership is presently at an all time low and... no wonder. This and other events should have been anticipated and eliminated before they became real problems. This tragic event, therefore, may be an opportunity for our Professional Societies to demonstrate to their members and would be members alike that they are not just toothless tigers.

We would like to urge all of you to come to our first-of-the-season General Meeting, Thurs., September 25 '08, 6:30PM at Fort Totten and to bring a friend.

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Please take note that the Department of Buildings' (DOB) monthly Industry Meeting has now been postponed to Tues., September 30, '08, 2:30PM at DOB Queens.

We would like to congratulate our Drawingboard editor, Anthony DiRuggiero and his lovely wife Adriana on the birth of their son John Mathew. Mom and Dad are doing fine!

Nominating Committee

Brian Flynn, P.E.

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Upcoming Meeting Information

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Date: ***Thursday September 25th, 2008 – 6:30 PM***

Sponsor: [Quiet Solutions / Parksite Inc.](#)

Description: Fundamentals of Architectural Acoustics and Noise Control (AIA/CES Approved)

Topics:

- The occupant/user needs for sound insulation in buildings.
- The basics of noise control (including frequency, level, modes of transmission).
- Good versus poor building designs for noise control.

Location:

[*422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York*](#)

Legislative Update

*By George Tavoulareas, P.E.
1st Vice President*

Downgrading the Qualifications of the DOB Commissioner-Intro 755A

On August 14, 2008 the NYC Council rammed through and approved Intro 755a which downgraded the qualifications of the New York City Building Commissioner. The council, lead by **Speaker Quinn** allowed ONLY two hours of hearing time before it was voted on and passed by the Council. Although engineers and architects mobilized and fought this bill, we were unsuccessful in stopping this bill from becoming law. The bill was signed into law by **Mayor Bloomberg** on September 3, 2008 and Mike Bloomberg then appointed **Bob LiMandri** a non licensed professional as the Commissioner of Buildings.

Intro 755A, allows the mayor of the City of New York to appoint a Commissioner of Buildings and the Commissioner of Buildings under this law **DOES NOT** have to have any qualifications and can be a non licensed professional (non PE or non RA).

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At press time the NYC council website link that shows how your council member voted on the issue is not working.

If you want to read the full text of the new law you can go to the following website:

<http://webdocs.nyccouncil.info/textfiles/Int%200755-2008.htm?CFID=1721808&CFTOKEN=80511247>

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