



The Drawingboard

Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

February 2010

Volume 10, Number 2

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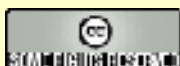
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President's Message

*By Chris Petallides, P.E.
President*

Just this week my wife Nicky was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. She is now undergoing a series of tests to determine the extent of the disease and to decide on the best treatment course to follow. To be by her side during these trying times, I have decided to shut down my professional practice and to give up other side activities, including the Queens Chapter presidency. Based on the Chapter bylaws, the 1st Vice President, **George Tavoulareas, PE**, is prepared to take over. I know George is up to the task and I trust that all of you will give him the love and support you have shown to me over the years in order to do a great job. Myself, I hope to be back with you as soon as I can; in the meantime, Nicky and I would appreciate your moral support and prayers.

With brotherly love,

Chris

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

On behalf of the Chapter, I wish Nicky Petallides a speedy and healthy recovery. I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Chris Petallides for his hard work and devotion to both the Chapter and to the profession. Chris has spent a lot of time promoting the engineering profession over the years and our prayers are with him and his family.

I would like to remind everyone that due to the snowstorm that did not occur several weeks ago, the MathCounts competition is rescheduled to February 27, 2010 at MS 74, Nathaniel Hawthorne School, located at 61-15 Oceania Street in Bayside, NY. We are in need of volunteers and if you would like to volunteer for this

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event, please contact Bob LoPinto at 516.816.3800. The final competition phase between the students will be held at 11:15am and I urge you to attend. Everyone is invited to attend the final competition phase which is similar to a spelling bee except there are math questions. NYC Comptroller John Liu is expected to give out the trophies to the winning teams.

The Professional Design Center of New York (PDC) and Scott Pavan of the NYC DOB held a lecture on the new Development Challenge process last month. The Chapter and many other groups and politicians were against this new process because it will delay construction and allow individuals to delay construction with frivolous petitions to the Buildings Dept. According to Scott, since its inception, there have been several challenges. The PDC lecture was well attended and I have attached some materials regarding this process.

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New York City Local Law 564 created the New York City Energy code. The City Energy code modifies portions of the NYC Plumbing, Building, Mechanical and Fuel Oil codes and is considered more stringent than the NY State Energy Code. A chapter lecture with Ms. Taylor, AIA, Chief Sustainability Officer for the NYC DOB is scheduled for

March 18, 2010. Ms Taylor will discuss the new energy code, required DOB filings associated with the new code, audits and compliance. This is a lecture you don't want to miss.

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The NYC Fire Dept. has also issued Technology Management Bulletin #10/2009 which requires all fire alarm plan submissions to be made at the Metro-Tech Center in Brooklyn. Submission of plans at the Borough offices will no longer be made. See the attached Bulletin for further details.

I look forward to seeing you at our Chapter meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Date: **Thursday February 25th , 2010 – 6:30 PM**

Presented by: CAPSYS Corporation

Topic: Modular Construction

Location: **422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York**

Meeting Minutes

General Meeting, January 28, 2010

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Petallides - Chapter President

Happy New Year- President Petallides welcomed all present and wished all members and their families “a happy and healthy new year 2010.

A moment’s silence was observed by all in memory of recently departed QC director, Tom Campagna, PE.

PDH Certificates- PDH certificates were made available at the meeting. Certificates can also be picked up at the next general meeting scheduled for February 25, 2010.

2010 QC Sponsors- Vice Presidents George Tavoulareas and John Sgouros have been working hard in lining up meeting sponsors who would present lectures carrying continuing education credits (PDH’s). Due to the economy, however, it has become increasingly more difficult to find sponsors who are willing to contribute money toward the cost of the dinner (traditionally offered free to the Chapter members). After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to “have a meeting charge of \$20 for NSPE members and \$30 for non-members” starting immediately.

2010 Agenda Books- 2010 Agenda Books were distributed to the members during the meeting. Members who have not received their agenda books can receive them at the next general meeting.

DOB Industry Meetings – The Queens Borough Industry Meeting 2010 dates have been set by the DOB, for the 3rd Thursday of each month, as follows:

Jan. 21st, Feb. 18th, Mar. 18th, Apr. 15th, May 20th, Jun. 17th, Jul. 15th, Aug. 19th, Sept. 16th, Oct. 21st, Nov. 18th and Dec. 16th. All members of the Chapter are welcome.

DOB Law Suit – An appeal is currently being prepared by NYSSPE, to be filed ASAP, inasmuch as the precedence set by the NYC action to eliminate the licensure requirement from the job of DOB commissioner is now being copied by other jurisdictions in the State to the detriment of public safety.

DOB Illegal Practice & Plan (Rubber) Stamping – Unfortunately the illegal practice of engineering and/or architecture by unlicensed individuals (expeditors) and their rubber stampers is now running rampant in all 5 NYC boroughs while the DOB is doing nothing to curb this disturbing trend. It was decided by the Chapter to start reporting violators directly to the State Education Department (SED) for action.

Professional Design Center (PDC) Update- A PDC directors’ meeting was held 1/26/10, attended for the first time by current Queens AIA president, Ms. Laura Heim. Chairman Bob LoPinto, PE, reviewed the history and current position of the PDC mostly for Ms. Heim’s benefit. It was agreed to keep the PDC alive and functioning but no agreement was reached with the AIA president as to current PDC priorities. Future meetings between the two member Chapters, the NYSSPE & AIA to follow.

Mathcounts Competition- This year’s competition was originally scheduled to be held on Saturday,

February 6, 2010. Because of a snow emergency, however, chairman Bob Lo Pinto decided to postpone the event. A new date will be announced.



PROFESSIONAL DESIGN CENTER OF NEW YORK, INC
422 Weaver Ave
Fort Totten, Bayside, NY 11356

Queens Chapter NYS Society of Professional Engineers

2010

NSPE Lecture Series

1-10

Lecture

Date: Wednesday March 18, 2010
Time: 7:00PM to 9:00PM

At
422 Weaver Ave. Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens

2 Continuing Education Credits

Admission fee is \$40 for AIA & NYSSPE members; \$50 for non-members.
Please RSVP to : George Tavoulareas, 272 Clinton Road Garden City, NY 11530
by 3/12/2010

PRESENTED BY:

Ms. Deborah F. Taylor, AIA, Leed AP ,
Chief Sustainability Officer, NYC Dept. of Buildings

THE PROGRAM: The NYC Energy Conservation Code

New York City Local Law 564 created the City Energy code. The City Energy code modifies portions of the NYC Plumbing, Building, Mechanical and Fuel Oil codes and is considered more stringent than the NY State Code. Ms. Taylor will discuss the new energy code, DOB filings associated with the new code, audits and compliance.

Question and answer period to follow.

**Buffet dinner 6:15 pm-7:00pm included Contact George Tavoulareas, PE at
347-387-1649 for further information**

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Battalion Chief Thomas J. Pigott - Chief of Technology Management
Office of Technology Management
Bureau of Fire Prevention

9 METROTECH CENTER - BROOKLYN, NY 11201



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BULLETIN # 10/2009

Fire Alarm Plan submission at FDNY

All Fire Alarm Plan Examination will be conducted at FDNY HEADQUARTERS at 9 Metrotech Center, Brooklyn. The application filing procedure for FIRE ALARM PLAN SUBMISSION is outlined below:

- Documents shall be filed at DOB, obtain PW-1 job number for the plans. Submit plans *(one set in 24x36 size and the 2nd set formatted to 11x17 size)* with the DOB job number and applicable documents to FDNY through Window #8 on the First floor, 9 MetroTech Center (use Flatbush Ave entrance), Brooklyn.
- A \$210.00 review fee must be paid at the time of submission.
- The application must include the following:
 - Completed Fire Department TM-1 Application Form.
 - Two sets of plans as mentioned above.
 - Copy of DOB PW-1 application.
 - DOB schedule A (PW-1A) or copy of building certificate of occupancy.
 - Core/base building fire alarm system "Letter of Approval" for all additions and modifications applications.
- Applications may be submitted between the hours of 9:00 AM to 12 Noon and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at window #8.
- Status of your plan submission will be updated in the DOB Building Information System (BIS) after the examiner review.
- Approved/disapproved plans and documents will be returned to the applicant after the examiner review (use plan pick up window on the 1st Floor).
- Approved/disapproved plans and documents may be picked up from Monday through Thursday 9:30 AM to 12:00 Noon. Only applicants or expeditors with FDNY registration certificates may pickup the plans and documents.
- Approved plans (formatted in 11x17 size) will be scanned into the FDNY system before returning to the applicant.



Battalion Chief Thomas J. Pigott - Chief of Technology Management
Office of Technology Management
Bureau of Fire Prevention

9 METROTECH CENTER - BROOKLYN, NY 11201



TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BULLETIN # 10/2009

(Continued)

Fire Alarm Plan submission at FDNY

- A prior appointment is necessary to see a plan examiner. Appointments are available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM (1/2hr. appointment maximum).
Note: Applicant will be notified whether it is required to see a Plan Examiner. You may contact 718-999-2405 to make an appointment.
- Resubmissions shall be mailed in or submitted through the plan pick up window or window #8.
- No fee is required for resubmissions made within 6 months of original application.
- As-built plans must be submitted to FDNY after installation of the system. As-built plans and Letter of Approval will be scanned into the system and electronically submitted to DOB for sign off.

THE PROJECTED SCHEDULE FOR THE COMMENCING OF THE ABOVE

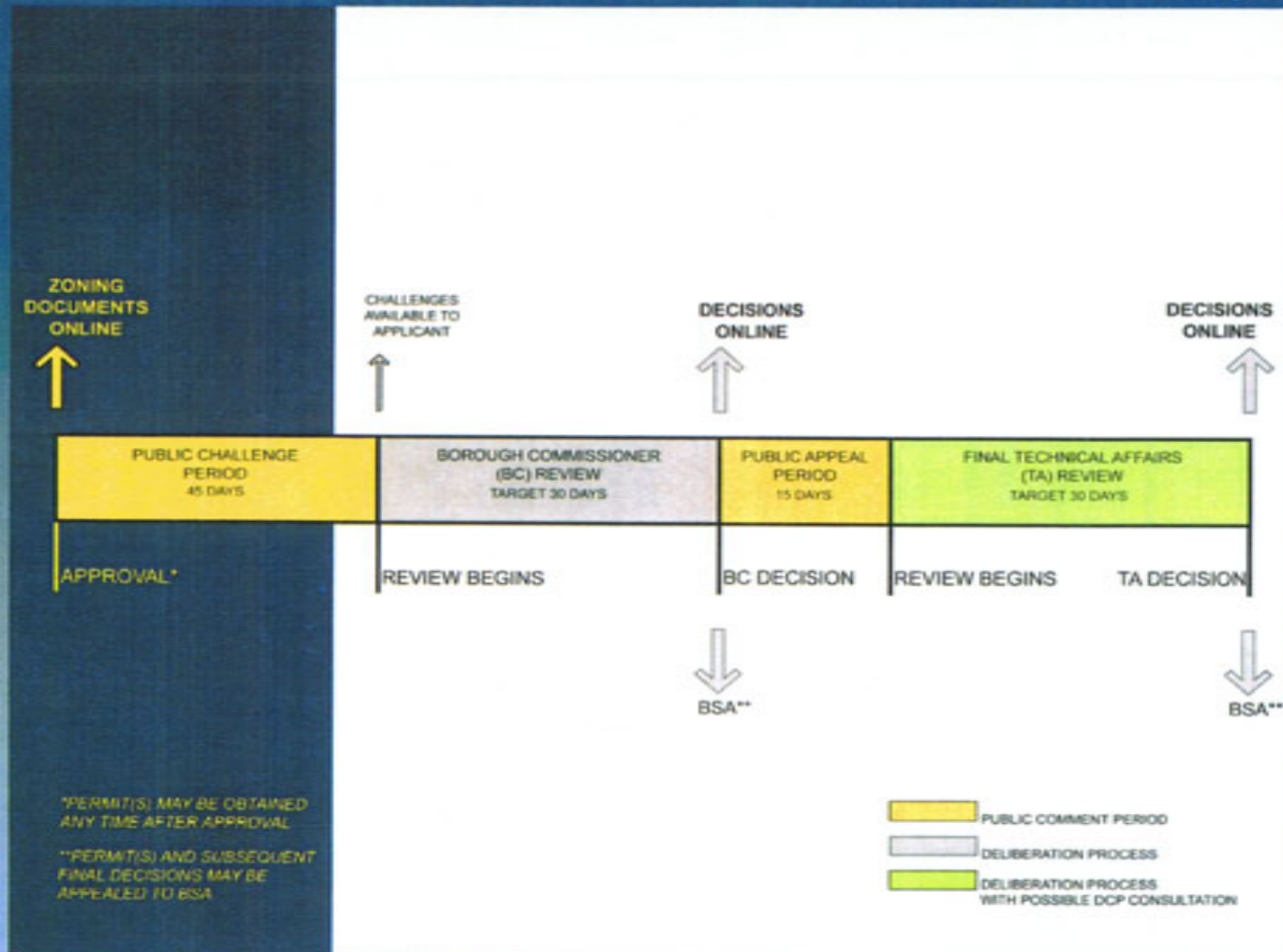
FIRE ALARM PLAN SUBMISSION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES IS :

DECEMBER 1, 2009

Signed,

Thomas Jensen
Chief of Fire Prevention

Public Challenge Process

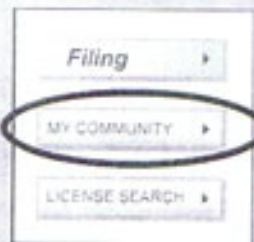
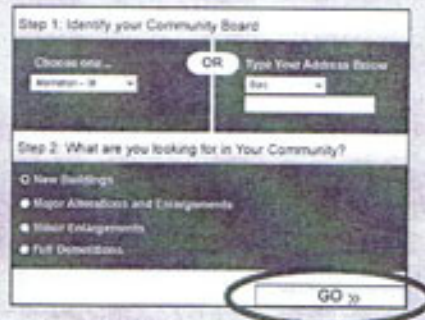


DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE PROCESS

The Buildings Department is giving New Yorkers a stronger voice in their neighborhoods' development. Now people can learn about proposed buildings and enlargements early in the construction process.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Use the "My Community" feature on the Buildings Department's website to learn about new developments in your neighborhood. Visit nyc.gov/buildings.

Click on "My Community" to search for New Buildings or Major Alterations by Community Board or specific address.

Know What's Happening in Your Neighborhood

The Development Challenge Process requires architects and engineers to submit diagrams of their proposed buildings and enlargements. This lets neighbors see the size and scale of any development online - before the first shovel hits the ground.

Have a Stronger Voice

The public may challenge Department zoning approvals through a formal challenge process, and Buildings' responses to those challenges will be posted online for the first time.

Open "New Building" Jobs in Community Board: Manhattan - 08
Signed-off jobs are not included in this search. Please refer to §1605 for signed-off jobs.

Click on a column header to sort by that field.

FILE DATE	JOB #	ADDRESS	BLOCK	LOT	ZONING APPROVAL	STATUS (What's the?)
09/18/2009	100000000	22 AVENUE A	854	2	PENDING	APPLICATION ASSIGNED TO PLAN EXAMINER
06/06/2009	067000000	51 EAST 5TH STREET	4048	3	PENDING	PLAN EXAMINATION - DISAPPROVED
06/06/2009	100000000	520 BROOME STREET	489	41	GRANTED - 06/17/09	PLAN EXAMINATION APPROVED
06/16/2009	053000000	34 WEST 14TH STREET	8708	32	GRANTED - 06/17/09	ALL PERMITS ISSUED - NOT SIGNED OFF
06/16/2009	070000000	24 4TH STREET	8687	7	PENDING - 06/25/09	NOT ALL PERMITS ISSUED
07/04/2009	050000000	303 7TH STREET	1063	8	GRANTED - 06/09/09	PLAN EXAMINATION - DISAPPROVED
06/06/2009	100000000	100 AVENUE C	8543	22	GRANTED - 10/06/09	PLAN EXAMINATION - PARTIAL APPROVAL

The zoning approval status is indicated as "Pending," "Granted," or "Amended." To see zoning information for an application, click "Granted" or "Amended." To see more information, click the job number (step 4 below).

NYC Department of Buildings
B-SCAN Zoning Document Folder

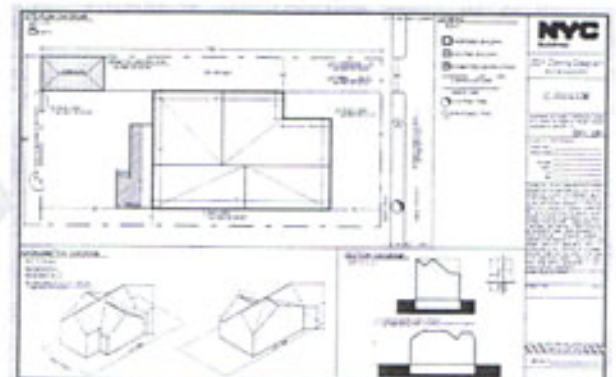
Challenge Period Status: Challenge Results

For more information on Zoning Diagrams and the Challenge Process click here

Premises: 520 BROOME STREET MANHATTAN
BIN: 100000000 Block: 489 Lot: 41

Job No: 100000000
Job Type: NB - NEW BUILDING

ZONING DOCUMENT NAME	Form ID	Doc No.	DATE SCANNED	SCAN CODE
City of New York Zoning Diagram (ZONING)	No.	2105/06/08 14:01:39	SC060210001	
City of New York Zoning Diagram (ZONING)	No.	2005/06/08 14:01:49	SC060210002	



Zoning Diagram

All zoning documents for an application are available in the Zoning Document folder. To see the Zoning Diagram, click the link.

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE PROCESS

For more information on the new Zoning Diagram and Development Challenge Process, visit the Buildings Department's website at nyc.gov/buildings.

Send the completed Zoning Challenge and Appeal form to the Department's Customer Service staff:

Fax: (212) 566 - 3030

Mail: 280 Broadway
Call Center - 5th Floor
New York, NY 10007

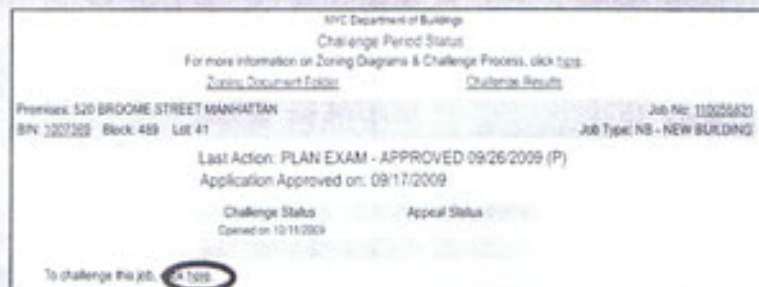
e-mail: publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov

HAVE A STRONGER VOICE

You can now voice your concerns to the Department by submitting a challenge through our formal Development Challenge Process.



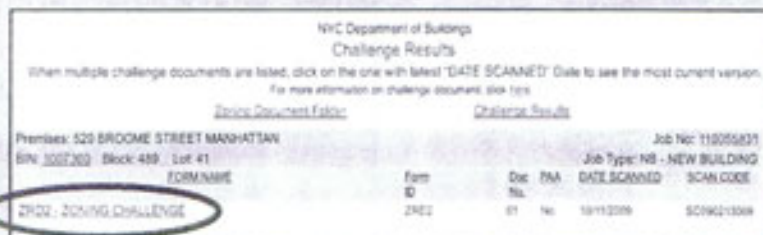
4 To see if the application's challenge period is open, click the "Challenge Period Status" link. To read decisions made on challenges, click the "Challenge Results" link.



5 When the status is open, you may submit a zoning challenge by using the "Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form."



Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form




Department Response

6 To see the Department's responses to any challenge, click the "Zoning Challenge" link.

New Development Challenge Process – Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the new Development Challenge process?**
The Department has formalized a new 45-day formal development challenge process. This gives the public a greater voice in the development process and provides developers further clarity about when and how a project can move forward. This Development Challenge process applies to zoning approvals on all new buildings (NBs) and building enlargements that affect the exterior envelope of an existing building. The new measures go into effect July 13, 2009.
2. **What jobs will fall under this new process?**
The new challenge process will apply to the public's challenges to construction work that affects a building's bulk – all New Buildings (NBs) and enlargements that affect the exterior envelope of an existing building.
3. **Why does this new challenge process apply to New Buildings & enlargements?**
These construction projects raise the most community interest because they often increase a building's size and can increase a block's population density.
4. **What content in these job filings can be challenged within this new process?**
Any items related to zoning can be challenged.
5. **Does this change affect previously submitted applications?**
This new challenge process (and the Zoning Diagram [ZD1] requirement that supports it) will not apply where the application for a NB or enlargement is ready for initial plan review and the appropriate fees were paid before July 13, 2009. When looking on the Buildings Department website, this process will not apply to any job that's reached the status of "A/P Entire" on July 13, 2009, the Rule's effective date. Go to the Department's website for more information on the different [statuses of job filings](#).
6. **What is a Zoning Diagram (ZD1)?**
Architects and Engineers filing applications for new buildings and enlargements that affect the exterior envelope of an existing building must submit the new [Zoning Diagram \(ZD1\)](#). The Zoning Diagram will detail critical information that the public will use to question whether a project complies with zoning requirements. The Zoning Diagrams will include the drawn-to-scale size of the project and show where the building will sit in relation to the street. The Zoning Diagrams will also include information on dwelling units, parking, and a floor-by-floor breakdown of the building's use, zoning floor area, and floor area ratio (FAR). Please read the [ZD1 Guide](#) for more information, available at nyc.gov/buildings.
7. **What is a zoning approval?**
A zoning approval is the Department's decision that the proposed NB or enlargement application complies with zoning. Zoning approvals may also include DOB determinations on complex zoning issues. Once approved, the Zoning Diagram and relevant determinations are scanned and posted to the Department's website.
8. **Were there any changes since the rule was initially published?**
The initial challenge period will be extended to 45 days, lengthened from the original 30 days. The revision also clarifies that the rule only applies to zoning challenges on New Buildings (NBs) or Alteration Enlargements affecting the exterior envelope of an existing building. Also, the effective date was moved to July 13, 2009.
9. **Why was the initial challenge period extended to 45 days?**
The Department extended the challenge period to 45 days to ensure public participation in the new challenge process. This time accommodates the schedules of all Community Board committees and other local groups so they can review and discuss a challenge before submitting it to the Department.

10. How will I know that the challenge process has started?

The initial challenge period begins when the Zoning Diagram is posted on the Department's website. Members of the public can view the Zoning Diagram and the status of a job by clicking the "My Community" feature on the Department's website at nyc.gov/buildings.

Additionally, once a permit is issued, builders will be required to post the permit at the location within three days so the public is aware of the proposed development.

11. How can I find out about new jobs that are part of the new challenge process?

Jobs that are subject to the new process can be found using the Department's "My Community" website feature. All jobs marked with a zoning approval as "Granted" or "Amended" will be subject to the new challenge process.

12. Can a Zoning Diagram be amended?

Yes, applicants may amend their job and submit a new Zoning Diagram.

13. Will the challenge process start over if the zoning is amended?

When a submitted amendment changes the scope of the NB or enlargement application, its approval and Zoning Diagram posting will restart the 45-day challenge process. If the amendment is submitted solely to resolve objections issued resulting from a public challenge, the approval and posting of the Zoning Diagram will be subject to a 15-day appeal period.

14. How will I know if a zoning is amended?

Jobs with amended zoning will be marked with a zoning approval as "Amended" on the "My Community" results page.

15. How do I submit a challenge under the new process?

Zoning-related challenges must be submitted on the Department's [Zoning Challenge and Appeal Form](#), which you can find at nyc.gov/buildings. Send them to the Department's Customer Service either by fax at (212) 566-3030, by email to publicchallenge@buildings.nyc.gov or by mail to 280 Broadway, 5th floor, New York NY 10007.

16. Will challenges under the new process be made public?

Zoning-related challenges that are part of the new process will be posted on the Department's website after the Department's review and decision.

17. What response can I expect to my challenge?

The Department will post its decision with the related challenge on the Department's website at nyc.gov/buildings after the review is complete.

18. Can I appeal the decision made in response to a challenge?

If the Borough Commissioner determines that a challenge is invalid, the public will be given 15 additional calendar days to appeal to the Department's First Deputy Commissioner. Once the First Deputy Commissioner issues a determination, the decision may be appealed to the Board of Standards and Appeals.

19. What if challenge comes in late?

The Department has the authority to review any challenge at any time in order to ensure compliance with all codes, rules, and regulations.

20. Will full plans be available online?

No. The Department has begun a pilot program of scanning plans upon plan approval. These plans will be made available, upon request, at the borough office.

21. Will zoning determinations that are issued be posted online? Will they be searchable?

Yes. All applicable approved determinations will be scanned and posted online. The Department will post a spreadsheet online of jobs that have zoning determinations with applicable Zoning Resolution sections.

Questions? Email: OperationsRedesign@buildings.nyc.gov

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E-mail: miles@firecodeservices.com

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OF

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November 20, 2008

Dear Colleague,

The Queens Chapter – NYSSPE is soliciting contributions from Engineers and Architects in the NY area to help fund a lawsuit by the NY State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) against the City of New York. As you probably already know, the NY City Council recently passed a law changing the City Charter, at the insistence of Mayor Bloomberg, which removed the licensure requirement from the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings. The new law now states that the Buildings Commissioner need not be licensed. Presently, an unlicensed lay person is Buildings Commissioner.

The Queens Chapter is leading the fight in the NY Metropolitan area AGAINST the Mayor's irresponsible actions which endanger the public's health, safety and welfare while undermining and diminishing both the Engineering and Architectural professions.

The Queens Chapter leadership is asking all Engineers and Architects to contribute to a legal fund which will support the NYSSPE legal suit against the City of New York. Please make whatever contribution is within your means.

It's about time we stand up for our Profession and the people of New York!

Suggested contributions:

\$1,000 _____ \$ 750 _____ \$ 500 _____ \$ 250 _____ \$ 100 _____ Other _____

Please make checks payable to: "Queens Chapter – NYSSPE" Memo: "Legal Fund"

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