

# The Drawingboard

January 2012 Volume 12, Number 1

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## President's Message

By George Tavoulareas, P.E. President gltpe@msn.com

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to wish you and your family a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

This past year has been a difficult one for many of our members with the sluggish economy. The year is behind us and as a professional organization we must look forward to the future and grow. We need to grow in membership and we need to make more of an impact on our profession and to society. Last year I had five goals for the Chapter. They were student outreach, increase in membership, website redesign, monitoring proposed governmental agency rules, and keeping the Chapter's finances in the black. As I reflect on the year that past, I am pleased to report the following:

under past Presient Sal Galetta's 1.Student Outreachleadership, we spoke to more than 60 engineering students at City College last year. We now have established a working relationship with CCNY faculty and we now have a NSPE Chapter at City College- the first chapter at City College. These students are our future and we will in the next several months expand our outreach to other schools and educate the students on the importance of being a PE.

**2.Increase in membership**- our membership has decreased over the last several years due to the bad economy. previously proposed to increase membership by ten percent (net) for 2011. Although we did bring in new members to our Chapter, we did not meet our target. Over the next several

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months, we will and MUST do more to increase membership. This past December several directors from our Chapter and I met with the other Chapter presidents and we discussed how we can increase membership. We have a plan and we will be working on the details over the next several months.

**3.Chapter Website**- Last year I appointed past president Brian Flynn, PE and Robert Weiner, PE to redesign the Chapter's website, <a href="http://www.nspequeens.org">http://www.nspequeens.org</a>. Our website has been updated but more work is needed. I call on all our members to e-mail us photos of projects they are working on so we can put it on our website.

**4.Governmental Regulations** - Last January I appointed VP John Sgouros, PE and past Chapter President Robert LoPinto, PE to monitor proposed rules and regulations that can affect our profession. I want to thank both John and Robert for their effort. We have been monitoring and reporting proposed rules to the membership. Last year I met with representatives of the NYC DEP, FDNY, DOB and discussed proposed rules and regulations that affect our profession. The state society monitors the proposed state regulations and protects the value of our license against those who seek to dilute it.

**5.Finances**- Our goal this year as it was last year is to keep the Chapter in black. I have been told by our treasurer, Jose Velasquez, PE that we ended the year in the black. We will continue to provide our members with services. Our monthly meetings through June 2012 are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month.

Every year past President Robert LoPinto organizes and runs the Chapter's MathCounts competition. This year's competition will be held on February 4, 2012 at JHS 189 in Flushing, NY. MATHCOUNTS is a national math competition that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory. Winners at the local level proceed to state competitions, where the top 4 Mathletes® and top coach earn the right to represent their state or territory at the level. At all levels, MATHCOUNTS challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence, and rewards them for their achievements. Scholorships are given out at the national competition.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST IN RUNNING THE COMPETITION**. Please call Robert LoPinto at 516-816-3800 and volunteer. The final round, similar to a spelling bee but with math questions must be seen. The Borough President of Queens has been invited to give out the trophies. You can read more by going to <a href="https://mathcounts.org/">https://mathcounts.org/</a>

Engineers Week is from February 19-25, 2012. I want everyone to tell a person who is not an Engineer what you do at the office and why Engineers play an important role in society. We need to make the public aware of our achievements and our role in society. The Chapter is currently planning a major activity in Manhattan on February 21, 2012. We will notify our members by e-mail when the program is finalized. You can read more about Engineers Week by going to <a href="http://www.eweek.org/Home.aspx">http://www.eweek.org/Home.aspx</a>

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2012 at 6:15 pm in Ft. Totten. I look forward to seeing you.

### LECTURE INFORMATION

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday Jan. 26, 2012 at 6:15pm

Admission is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members

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## NYC RULES PAGE

Proposed Rules Governing the City of New York can be viewed at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycrules/html/proposed/proposed.shtml

The following NYC laws were passed by the city council:

- 2. The use of reclaimed asphalt <a href="http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?">http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?</a>
  <a href="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID|Text|&Search="mailto:ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&GUID=217C6599-53CD-43A0-AEFE-3077C798715D&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Options=ID=908230&Option
- 3. Filtering soot from air in buildings <a href="http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?">http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?</a>
  <a href="mailto:ID=917825&GUID=12B56F7E-7566-4460-B849-4BF9D01FFC25&Options=ID|Text|">ID=917825&GUID=12B56F7E-7566-4460-B849-4BF9D01FFC25&Options=ID|Text|</a>
  &Search=
- 4. Carbon Monoxide meters <a href="http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?">http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?</a>
  <a href="mailto:ID=1018559&GUID=54E695B8-0B50-4205-A9D6-ECC5731D9BB5&Options=ID|Text|&Search">http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?</a>
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The following NYC Rules update includes (1) all City agency proposed rules that remain open for written public comment; (2) adopted rules that took effect during the previous week; and (3) adopted rules soon taking effect.

#### Proposed Rules Open for Written Public Comment

- \*\*Amendment of Hoisting Machine Operator Rules (DOB)—Written comments must be submitted by February 3.
- \*\*Disposal of Sewage (DOHMH)—Written comments must be submitted by January 31.
- \*\*Radiation Control (DOHMH)—Written comments must be submitted by January 31.
- Ballfield Rules (DPR)—Written comments must be submitted by January 26.
- Water Supply Safety Standards (DOHMH)—Written comments must be submitted by January 25.
- ECB's Fire Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Written comments must be submitted by January 18.
- Safety Code Governing Elevators Without Machine Rooms (DOB)—Written comments must be submitted by January 11.
- Issuance of Revocable Land Use Permits for the Occupation or Use of City Property (DEP) —Written comments must be submitted by January 13.
- ECB's Building Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Written comments must be submitted by December 28.
- Issuance of Revocable Land Use Permits for the Occupation or Use of City Property (DEP) —Written comments must be submitted by January 13.

#### Adopted Rules That Took Effect During the Previous Week

- ECB's Water Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Rule took effect December 25.
- ECB's Building Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Rule took effect December 25.
- ECB's Department of Transportation Penalty Schedule (OATH/ECB)—Rule took effect December 25.

#### Adopted Rules Soon Taking Effect

- \*\*Parking Violations (DOF)—Rule takes effect January 29.
- Dispatch of Accessible Taxicabs (TLC)—Rule takes effect January 22.
- Deaths and Disposals of Human Remains (DOHMH)—Rule takes effect January 20.
- Food Preparation and Food Establishments (DOHMH)—Rule takes effect January 20.
- General Permit Provisions (DOHMH)—Rule takes effect January 20.

### **DEP Stormwater Guidelines**

As many of you are aware, DEP's stormwater performance standard was published on January 4, 2012. Additional information can be found <a href="here">here</a> on DEP's website.

At the same time, DEP published the <u>Guidelines for the Design and Construction of Stormwater Management Systems</u>. Both the rule and companion guidelines were the result of an extensive collaborative effort and your invaluable input. These guidelines will be continually updated to reflect any future changes to stormwater rules and the latest technologies and best practices. These guidelines will also include a system calculator to assist developers and licensed professionals in determining space requirements for the most appropriate system when DEP's stormwater performance standard takes effect in July 2012.

### **Mathcounts**

The QUEENS MATHCOUNTS Competition will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 at 8:30 A.M. at JHS 189, Flushing, Queens. VOLUNTEERS are needed for the competition. The Competition will feature around 10 teams of 6th thru 8th graders competing in written and oral tests.

#### **REGISTRATION:**

Registration will begin no sooner than 8:15 AM. All schools are scheduled to arrive before 8:45 AM to register their students.

#### JHS 189 LOCATION:

JHS 189 is located in Flushing. The Address is 144-80 Barclay Avenue. The Main Entrance is located on 147th Street, between Sanford Avenue and Barclay Avenue. 147th Street is One Way North, from Sanford to Barclay Avenues. There is also a school yard that is used for parking. It is located on Sanford Avenue, West of 147th Street. There is a Curb at the entry gates, so you can drive in. There is an entrance from the parking lot to the school.

JHS 189 is in Flushing, North of the Long Island Expressway, South of Northern Blvd, East of Main Street and West of 150th Street. .

#### **SCHEDULE**:

It is estimated that the competition and awards ceremony will end by 1:00 PM. There will be a short break after the Team competition-before the Countdown round wscompetition. We will provide some refreshments. You can bring refreshments of your own - BUT limit the amount to a small size, as we have limited space.

If there are any questions, call Bob LoPinto, PE during the day at 516-791-2300. He can also be reached on his Cell Phone at 516-816-3800.



NYC Buildings Department 280 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

Robert D. LiMandri, Commissioner



#### **BUILDINGS BULLETIN 2011-024**

**Technical** 

Supersedes: None

James P. Colgate, RA, Esq Jones P. Colgate, RA, Esq Assistant Commissioner for Technical Affairs and Code Development

Issuance Date: November 30, 2011

This document restates the requirements that the owner hires the special inspection agencies, and Purpose:

the obligation of the special inspection agency to avoid conflicts of interest.

**Related Code** 1702.1 1RCNY 101-06 AC 28-115 BC

Section(s): AC 28-116.2.3 BC 1704.1

**Subject(s):** Special inspections, special inspectors; Special inspections, reports; Special inspectors, hiring

of; Special inspections, special inspection agency, conflict of interest

#### **Hiring of Special Inspection Agencies**

Section AC 28-116.2.3 requires where an application is made for construction of the types of work listed in BC Chapter 17 and elsewhere in the NYC Construction Codes, that work shall be subject to special inspection during the progress of the work by agencies approved by the Department to perform such special inspections. Special Inspection is defined in section BC 1702.1 as the "Inspection of selected materials, equipment, installation, fabrication, erection or placement of components and connections, to ensure compliance with approved construction documents and referenced standards as required by this chapter or elsewhere in this code or its referenced standards." Agencies approved to perform special inspections, known as a Special Inspection Agencies ("SIA"), are required to employ special inspectors qualified to perform such inspections in compliance with section AC 28-115 and 1 RCNY 101-06.

Section BC 1704.1 requires that SIA's be retained by the owner of the premises and section BC 1704.1.2 requires that SIA's report to the owner uncorrected discrepancies between approved construction documents and the work performed. Therefore, an entity that is solely the contractor and not an owner cannot retain an SIA, and it is the owner at a minimum that must receive reports from an SIA in accordance with these provisions.

Further, in accordance with 1 RCNY 101-06(b)(2), "A special inspector and/or a special inspection agency shall not engage in any activities that may conflict with their objective judgment and integrity, including but not limited to having a financial and/or other interest in the construction, installation, manufacture or maintenance of structures or components that they inspect." Therefore if an arrangement whereby an SIA is retained by a contractor who is not also an owner, it is a violation of 1 RCNY 101-06(b)(2) as it would present a conflict of interest for the SIA who must objectively observe the progress of work and report information about the work to the owner. In such cases the SIA and contractor would be subject to enforcement action by the Department.

Many registered design professionals who are hired by the owner as the applicants of record on construction applications also perform special inspections as SIA's. Being an SIA who is also the applicant of record for a

Buildings Bulletin 2011-024 Page 1 of 2 construction project does not by itself present a conflict of interest for the SIA performing special inspections on that same construction project. The registered design professional acting as an SIA on a project where they are also the applicant of record would still be required to comply with the requirements of 1 RCNY 101-06(b)(2) requiring the SIA to avoid activities that may conflict with their objective judgment, such as having a financial arrangement with the contractor performing the work being inspected.

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# **SERVICE UPDATE**

## **New Determination Request Process**

We are modernizing the way we process requests for Construction Codes and Zoning Resolution determinations. Beginning January 3, 2012, you may electronically submit determination requests to the applicable borough office or the NYC Development Hub. We will continue to accept hardcopy requests, and other than offering this new electronic service, there is no change to the determination process.

Use the following email addresses to submit your request electronically:

NYC Development Hub: <a href="mailto:nycdevelopmenthub@buildings.nyc.gov">nycdevelopmenthub@buildings.nyc.gov</a>
Bronx: <a href="mailto:BXDeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov">BXDeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov</a>
BKDeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov

MNDeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov

QNDeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov

Staten Island: <a href="mailto:slighter:slighter-state-state-slighter-state-state-slighter-state-slighter-

Determination requests denied by the borough office may be submitted to the Department of Buildings' Technical Affairs Office at <a href="mailto:TADeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov">TADeterminations@buildings.nyc.gov</a>.

#### **Electronic Responses**

For electronic determination requests, once we complete our review we will respond by emailing our decision. Borough commissioners, deputy borough commissioners and/or other authorized borough staff may render determination decisions on behalf of the borough office. We will provide the requestor with a digital copy of the final Department-stamped and signed determination package.

#### **Administrative Review**

As with the current ZRD1/CCD1 determination process, the Department performs an administrative review before the technical review. Applicants may be asked to resubmit their requests if certain conditions, including but not limited to the following, are found during the administrative review:

- Illegible copy;
- Request reason not applicable for a ZRD1/CCD1;
- Oversized drawings: or
- Objection sheet missing, if applicable.

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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor Robert D. LiMandri, Commissioner OperationsRedesign@buildings.nyc.gov nyc.gov/buildings



# SERVICE UPDATE

#### **Requirements for Electronic Submission**

- Send requests as a **single**, **flattened PDF attachment**, including the completed, signed and sealed three-page ZRD1/CCD1 form plus any supporting documentation, such as signed and sealed construction plan sheets (no larger than 11" x 17") and a copy of the objection sheet (if applicable) highlighting the objection to be addressed. The Department requires that only one objection be submitted per determination request.
- PDF documents must be flattened prior to submission. To flatten, print the document to an Adobe PDF printer after the design professional's seal and signature has been affixed. Do not "create or save as PDF". When done correctly, the document should have no selectable objects or layers. If the document is not flattened properly, the applicant must re-submit the document before it will be reviewed.
- Drawings and supporting documentation included in the PDF submission should be no finer than 600 dpi to allow for a manageable file size for email attachment.
- PDF files should adhere to the following naming conventions:
  - Determinations: Job Number\_Objection Number\_Address.pdf (Example: For a Determination request where the Job # is 123456789, the objection number is 1, and the address is 1 Arthur Avenue, the PDF file should be named: 123456789\_1\_1 Arthur Ave.PDF)
  - Pre-Determinations (where no job number or objection number exists):
     Pred\_Address (Example: For a Pre-Determination request where the address is
     1 Arthur Avenue, the PDF file should be named: Pred\_1 Arthur Ave.pdf)
- Email subjects to the designated determination email accounts should adhere to the following naming conventions:
  - **Determinations:** Job Number, Objection Number, Address (Example: For a Determination request where the Job # is 123456789, the objection number is 1, and the address is 1 Arthur Avenue, the email subject should be: 123456789, 1, 1 Arthur Ave)
  - Pre-Determinations (where no job number or objection number exists):
     Pred, Address (Example: For a Pre-Determination request where the address is
     1 Arthur Avenue, the email subject should be: Pred, 1 Arthur Ave)
- For both email subjects and PDF file names, include hyphens in street numbers as applicable (Example: 12-34 Second Street). Please also use street abbreviations to minimize the length of file names (Example: Ave vs. Avenue, etc.)

#### **Digital Signatures and Seals**

Signatures and NYS Professional Engineer and Registered Architect seals may be submitted to DOB electronically by methods such as scanning a hand-affixed seal and/or signature and by placing a digital copy of the seal and/or signature on an electronic document. The electronic seal and signature must also comply with the applicable NYS Education Department appearance and other requirements. Learn more at the NYS Education Department Office of the Professions at <a href="http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/arch/archguide-a1.htm">http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/arch/archguide-a1.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pels/peguide3-seals.htm">http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/pels/peguide3-seals.htm</a>.

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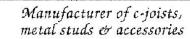
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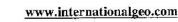
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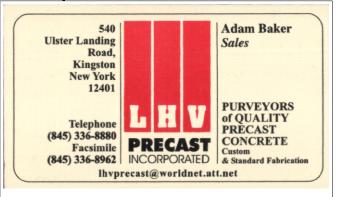
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