

# The Drawingboard

# Queens Chapter

New York State Society of Professional Engineers

April 2006 Volume 6, Number 4

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## President's Message

By Chris Petallides, P.E. President

We decided devote this month's to "Drawingboard" to the call of the Engineering and Architectural communities for the creation of a Deputy-Mayor position to monitor the City's infrastructure to be only by a licensed Professional Engineer or Registered Architect, through Resolution No. 0195-2006. This includes a call to all our members and friends to help promote the idea, which may be a nobrainer to us but may be quite foreign to everybody else. We are convinced that with



the proper involvement of our people we can convince those in power that the end result of such a move will be a win-win situation for all those connected with the effort that they would all want to jump on the bandwagon. Our thanks and gratitude go to Council Member Hiram Monseratte for introducing the resolution last month (Council Members Lelita James, Miguel Martinez, Annabel Palma and James Sanders are cosponsors) and to our own Past Chapter President, Sal Galletta, **P.E.** for his untiring and persistent efforts toward this end. Elsewhere in this issue are suggestions and instructions on how you can promote the idea with your own political friends and contacts. This may be our opportunity of a lifetime to help make a difference in the right direction. To paraphrase Chapter member Lou Comunelli, P.E., suggested "Adjutant's Call" we, as Engineers have the brains but some of us (too many) do not have the heart to provide leadership. How many times have you heard one of us say, "Somebody should do something"? Well, this may be the time to take a tiny step of faith and tangibly help our cause. The Resolution was referred to the Committee of Governmental Operations, which will now decide whether or not to schedule a full review. Following the review, the Committee will then, hopefully, recommend a vote by the full City Council. Again, you are urged to take the time to contact your area Council Member and share with him/her the merits of this step.

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To find your Council Member go to www.nyccouncil.info. More on this, at the general meeting, Thurs., April 27, 2006. As always, free dinner will be served, compliments of our sponsor. See you then!

## **Upcoming Meeting Information**

## Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday April 27, 2005 - 6:30 PM

This month's lecture is presented by:

#### Hoemann and Barnard

- The seminar is accredited by the AIA and Mr. Ken Schmitt will be the featured speaker.
- The seminar will cover the different types of masonry wall systems emphasizing cavity veneer walls.
- It will also cover the different types of wire reinforcement and anchor systems and all of the component parts of the wall.
- We will provide information and detailing on control and expansion joints and discuss the effects of moisture of masonry walls.
- Samples will be available and catalogs will be distributed.

Please invite your fellow professionals to participate.

#### Location:

422 Weaver Ave., Fort Totten, New York

## Infrastructure Proposal Update

by George Tavoulareas, PE

New York City Council Resolution No. 0195-2006 was introduced on March 22, 2006 by Council Member Monserrate. If passed, this resolution will challenge the Mayor to create a Deputy Mayor for Infrastructure for the City of New York by Executive Order. This position will help bring centralized control of our entire infrastructure as well as improve the coordination of the major construction projects in the City of New York.

The Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure according to this legislation will be either a Professional Engineer (PE) or a Registered Architect (RA) and will report directly to the Mayor.

### Nominating Committee

John Zurita, Chair P.E. (212) 788-8199

P.E. (212) 788-8199

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#### Please Note:

Members are advised that the Queens Chapter meeting on Thursday, March 23 will be held at our Fort Totten office. At the Fort Totten gate tell the guard you are a member of the P.E. Society and that your name is on the list that they keep there. Any nonmembers and guests not placed on the list will be denied entrance-If this happens the guest should ask the guard to call the phone number on the membership list. A board member will then come down to bring the guest in

#### Computer and Office Donations Needed

Is your firm or company updating its computer or other office equipment and planning to get rid of the older systems? If so, please consider donating such equipment to the Queens Chapter of the NYSSPE.

The Queens Chapter is seeking donations of computer and cffice equipment. For more information contact Chris Petallides, Queens Chapter President at 718-961-4342

Please call your Council Member by going to

www.nyccouncil.info/constituent/member\_list.cfm

and by calling **Mayor Bloomberg** at *311* and support the resolution.

If you are not a City resident, you can call the Mayor, Speaker of the City Council and the Chair of the Government Operations Committee.

For further information regarding the Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure please call Sal Galletta, P.E. at (718) 575-9197 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:nspe@aol.com">nspe@aol.com</a>.

We urge all our members to fill out the attached letter and mail it to their councilman.







#### **Hotline for Members**

Are you an NSPE member with a question about engineering ethics, licensure, or law? If so, call 888-285-NSPE (6773) or e-mail legal@nspe.org. Please provide your 9-digit NSPE member number.

#### Chapter Seeks Donations to PDC Library

The Queens Chapter is still seeking donations of books for the Professional Design Center Library

President Queens Chapter Petallides would like all to know that the Professional Design Center Library is still in need of Books, Magazines and other materials. The Queens Chapter is asking all members to donate any reference material, such as textbooks, catalogs and product literature that they can.

## 2006 Chapter Meeting Schedule

#### Mark Your Calendar

For your convenience the Queens County Chapter NYSSPE meeting schedule is provided below.

Directors' meetings and general meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month except November and December meetings which will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month due to holidays. So mark your calendar. The schedule is as follows:

<u>Directors' Meeting</u> (6:30 PM)	Membership Meeting (6:30PM)
April 13, 2006	April 27, 2006
May 11, 2006	May 25, 2006
June 8, 2006	June 22, 206
July 13, 2006	July 27, 2006
August 10, 2006	August 24, 2006



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# Sample Letter to Public Official

# DRAFT LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL MEMBER (or other local politician)

Date:
Re: City Council Resolution No. 0195-200 Creating an Office to control City's Infrastructure
Dear:
I am writing to you to advise you of an exceptional Resolution introduced by Council Member Hiram Monserrate. It represents a declaration of the intent to place the management of the City's Infrastructure under the direction and guidance of Licensed Professionals who have the appropriate qualifications to perform this duty.
Resolution No. 0195-2006 has the support of every major Engineering and Architectural Society in the City of New York. Its passage will show the Public that tangible steps are being taken to enhance their health and safety by seeking the establishment of a comprehensive and committed system of vision and control over their environment.
Therefore, I urge you to (use your influence to encourage other City Council Members) sign the attached Sponsorship sheet, and thus lend your support to others who understand that such a system is needed to adequately serve our citizens.
Sincerely,

## Text of Resolution 195 - Mayor's Office of Infrastructure

Res. No. 195

Resolution urging the Mayor to issue an executive order creating an office to oversee all development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure of the City of New York.

#### By Council Member Monserrate

Whereas, New York City has a vast and complex public and private infrastructure that includes bridges, tunnels, roads, buildings, structures and systems that, despite their age, are the envy of the world; and Whereas, Public infrastructure affects the safety and security of businesses, workplaces, schools, places of worship, hospitals, cultural institutions, property, homes, and the daily quality of life of all New Yorkers; and Whereas, Public infrastructure also affects millions of visitors to the city annually; and

Whereas, A substantial portion of the city's annual budget is dedicated to the upkeep of existing and the development of new public and private infrastructure; and

Whereas, There is currently no requirement that the Mayor appoint a single, expert individual to oversee and be accountable for the centralized and integrated development, operation, and maintenance of the city's infrastructure; and

Whereas, The lack of comprehensive, centralized expert asset management results in an infrastructure system that is not as efficient and as cost-effective as it can be; and

Whereas, The Mayor can substantially improve asset management of the public and private infrastructure by issuing an executive order that creates a permanent office to be filled by either a Licensed Professional Engineer or a Registered Architect who will be appointed by the Mayor and charged with oversight of all public and private infrastructure; and

Whereas, Such an office shall be empowered and required to: (1) advise the Mayor and the Council in formulating the capital program for the city; (2) set overall policies for the maintenance, rehabilitation and construction of the city infrastructure; (3) oversee and control all infrastructure operations; establish and enforce rules for the construction, maintenance and restoration of public areas used by private utilities; (4) represent the Mayor in dealings with federal and state agencies, other regional governments, and private entities on all infrastructure-related matters; (5) interact with government and private regional planning agencies; (6) establish uniform standards for procuring engineering and architectural services on the basis of qualifications; (7) ensure the use of such standards by all city agencies; and (8) coordinate with state and federal agencies in procuring funds for city infrastructure projects; and

Whereas, The creation of this office will increase accountability and improve the development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York urges the Mayor to issue an executive order creating an office to oversee all development, operation, and maintenance of the public and private infrastructure of the City of New York.

DJ LS # 499

## **Order Form**

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