President's Message

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

Several weeks ago I attended a MCPC meeting with the other Borough Chapter Presidents. Past presidents Chris Petallides, PE and Brian Flynn, PE also attended the meeting. At the meeting we discussed ways to increase membership, ECB violations to professionals and the DOB expeditors. I will discuss these issues at our next general membership meeting which is this Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 6:30pm in Ft. Totten.

Rules Governing the City of New York


Several new proposed rules can be viewed at the above address:

1. Energy Code changes:

2. Energy Benchmarking:
   http://www.nyc.gov/html/nycrules/downloads/rules/Pdobcc02-14-11a.pdf this establishes the requirements for bldg owners to evaluate their energy use and report it to NYC

3. ADOPTED Rule on Insurance requirements:
Immediate Past Presidents

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<td>Brian Flynn</td>
<td>2006/2008</td>
<td>(718) 707-0416</td>
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<td>P.E.</td>
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4. City Council Intro 460 regarding changes to the noise code:

http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?
ID=828464&GUID=D0D704C1-C007-466A-910F-A057A576B0DF&Options=ID|Text|&Search=

Next Meeting

The next general membership meeting will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 6:30PM.

There is a $10 charge to attend the meeting if you’re an NSPE member and $40 if you are not a member.

Sponsor: ASSAABLOY Door Security Solutions

Learning Objectives: After completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1) Understand the importance of energy efficiency in door openings
2) Know the difference between Calculated and Operable R and U factors for optimal door opening energy efficiency
3) Identify doors and frames available and their effects with energy efficiency
4) Learn the available door controls, including door closers and revolving door options, which could improve opening energy efficiency.

Letter from the DEP Commissioner

From: Robert LiMandri
Subject: Amer Retirement
Date: Friday, March 18, 2011, 1:11 PM

Please join me in wishing First Deputy Commissioner Fatma M. Amer well as she retires from nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the Department of Buildings and New York City. With her vast knowledge of building regulations and unwavering commitment to public service, Fatma is a one-of-a-kind leader who has truly shaped the landscape of this great City, raised safety standards throughout the construction industry and left a mark on this Department that will last for generations to come. She has mentored hundreds of employees, and her willingness to teach, consult and listen has earned her the admiration of leaders throughout City government and the construction industry.

Her distinguished career with the Department first began in 1981 as a plan examiner in the Manhattan Borough Office, and she rose steadily through the ranks, elevated to the titles of Chief Plan Examiner, Deputy Borough Commissioner, Executive
Engineer and Deputy Commissioner. In October 2008, I was honored to appoint her First Deputy Commissioner.

Throughout her career, Fatma never shied away from new challenges. She led the enormous task of revising the NYC Construction Codes for the first time in 40 years, created a task force to streamline zoning decisions and helped steer the Department as we faced intense public scrutiny in recent years.

Her groundbreaking work has truly made this Department a better place, and she will be sorely missed.

I welcome you to join my senior staff and me as we wish her luck in her new endeavors. Details regarding her farewell celebration will be released shortly.

Effective April 15, Thomas Fariello, R.A., will be serving as Acting First Deputy Commissioner. Tom has 25 years of valuable experience in the construction and design field and became a licensed professional in 1993. In his career, he has served as a Senior Associate at the Rice Partnership in Manhasset, NY, and a Plan Examiner at the City’s School Construction Authority before joining the Department in 2003. Since then, he has served as a Deputy Borough Commissioner in Brooklyn and Borough Commissioner in the Bronx. He currently serves as Brooklyn Borough Commissioner.

In addition, Deputy Brooklyn Borough Commissioner John Gallagher, R.A., will serve as Acting Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, and Frank Marchiano, Director of Professional Certification and Audits Inspections, will serve as Deputy Borough Commissioner. John has nearly 40 years of experience as a licensed professional and joined the Department in 2003. Frank has more than 15 years of experience in the construction and design field and joined the Department in 2004. The Special Enforcement Program – Professional Certification Audits and Inspections Unit will now report directly to Queens Borough Commissioner Ira Gluckman.

Please join me in giving Tom, John and Frank all of our help and support.

Thank you.

Robert D. LiMandri
Commissioner
NYC Department of Buildings
280 Broadway | NY NY 10007 | 212.566.3103
rlimandri@buildings.nyc.gov
Do You Trust Engineers?

Web Link of the Month

Amazing Buildings

http://www.4sight-tech.com/ppt/Building.pdf
New York City is committed to providing New Yorkers with excellent customer service. This commitment extends to routine agency inspections, which are necessary to protect the public’s health and safety. The Business Owner’s Bill of Rights ensures that business owners are provided with prompt, efficient, and easily accessible service.

**AS A BUSINESS OWNER, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:**

1. Courteous and professional treatment by our employees
2. Inspectors who are polite, professionally dressed, and properly identified
3. Information about how long inspections will take and the cost of all related fees
4. Knowledgeable inspectors who enforce agency rules uniformly
5. Receive information about agency rules from inspectors or other employees
6. Contest a violation through a hearing, trial or other relevant process
7. Request a review of inspection results or re-inspection as soon as possible
8. Receive explanation from inspectors (if requested) on violation details and instructions for viewing inspection results
9. Access information in languages other than English
10. Comment, anonymously and without fear of retribution, on the performance or conduct of our employees

If you feel that the service you received is inconsistent with the above, please use the City’s online feedback tool, located at www.nyc.gov/customersurvey. All comments and information submitted through the feedback tool will be kept strictly confidential and used solely to enhance business customer service.
Cas Holloway
Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 10, 2011
No. 18

DEP Launches New Online Permitting Process for Plumbers
Electronic Process Means Easier Submissions, Quicker Approvals, and Improved Tracking Of Water and Sewer Permits; Fulfills Customer Service Initiative in DEP’s Strategic Plan

Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway today announced the launch of a new online permitting tool for plumbers doing water and sewer repairs and replacements on private property. Previously, plumbers would have to go to at least one DEP facility to obtain a permit to perform work on water and sewer service lines of private homes and businesses. The new online process will allow licensed master plumbers to submit and obtain permits online, streamlining their work and saving them multiple visits to city agency offices. Not only will the new system simplify customer interactions with DEP for plumbers who seek permits on behalf of homeowners, developers, and business owners, it will also allow plumbers to track their permitting history with DEP and better manage their active work. In 2010, DEP issued about 6,000 permits for repairs and replacements. Plumbers interested in taking advantage of the new online system can access it at www.nyc.gov/dep.

“Making it easier to do business in New York City is a key goal of NYC Simplicity,” said Deputy Mayor for Operations Stephen Goldsmith. “By streamlining the regulatory requirements for licensed plumbers, DEP has made an important contribution to our citywide reform efforts.”

“Improving business interactions with the city and simplifying the permitting process are top priorities for Mayor Bloomberg,” said Commissioner Holloway. “Now, plumbers can save the time and hassle of coming to a DEP office—or paying someone to come for them—and more time helping the city to grow and thrive. Online permitting will eliminate substantial transaction costs for plumbers, homeowners, and developers, and improve DEP’s ability to oversee the permitting process by increasing our ability to track work going on throughout the city. Like the recently announced Leak Notification Program, this is an example of using technology to improve customer service—a major component of our strategic plan.”

“We are excited as the Department rolls out their electronic filing initiative and optimistically await its evolution to many other permit activities affecting our membership and their interaction with the Department,” said Janene Meyerowitz, Executive Director of the Master Plumbers Council. “The membership of our Association appreciates the efforts of the Department to streamline the permit process, and look forward to additional enhancements. We also take this opportunity to emphasize our Associations’ commitment to continuing our participation with the Department, sharing our expertise, assisting with training programs, and other cooperative programs with the same common goals of protecting the water supply system of the City of New York.”

“The Plumbing Foundation is pleased that the DEP is moving forward with the process of
allowing licensed master plumbers to obtain permits online (if only for limited services at this time) with its Water and Sewer Online Permitting System,” said Terence O’Brien, Deputy Director of The Plumbing Foundation City of New York. “We think that utilizing technology benefits both the DEP and all the New York City licensed master plumbers. We applaud DEP for its forward thinking and look forward to our continued strong relationship with the agency.”

DEP issues approximately 76,000 total permits, certifications and registrations each year, including ones for plumbing, boilers, asbestos work and demolition. To improve interactions with the professional communities like plumbers, engineers, construction companies, and developers that rely on DEP for their work, DEP is restructuring and improving customer service by simplifying permitting, clarifying requirements and regulations, and increasing outreach. In 2010, of the more than 16,000 water and sewer system permits that DEP issued, about 6,000 of them are for repairs and replacements. The majority of the rest of the permits were for new service line connections. Property owners in New York City are responsible for maintaining their own water service and sewer service lines, which run from inside the property to the water main or city sewer in the street.

Only master plumbers licensed by the New York City Department of Buildings are permitted to perform sub-surface work and repair service lines. The four online applications in the Water and Sewer Permitting System are In-kind Repair of Water Service Line Connections, In-kind Repair of Sewer Service Line Connections, In-kind Relay of Water Service Line Connections, and In-kind Relay of Sewer Service Line Connections. To use the system, licensed master plumbers must first register in person with DEP. Registration includes completing an authentication form that is sealed by the licensed master plumber and signed by a Notary Public, and requires having an email account.

The Water and Sewer Permitting System enables applicants to submit electronic permit applications and receive electronic permits. Permit applications submitted via the new permitting system will result in a work permit that can be downloaded and printed. Applicants are also able to monitor and manage their permit applications conveniently after logging onto the website. The system also provides instantaneous notice by e-mail to applicants about the status of the permit application, that it has been filed, and that the review has been completed by DEP.

The new system will save plumbers the cost of travelling to and from the borough offices and reduce the time waiting for approvals. Previously, a plumber had to visit the Records/Permitting Borough office in the borough which the work was to be completed to get the application for the work approved by DEP. If approved, the plumber then went to the Customer Service Borough office, which is co-located in the same building only in the Bronx and in Brooklyn. After a review of account information and accuracy, a permit was printed and given to the plumber. A plumber doing work around the city needed to make multiple trips to different boroughs and to two different DEP offices within each borough. Additionally, if a plumber needed another copy of the permit, it required returning to the borough office to get a duplicate printed out. The new online permitting eliminates the multiple trips to different boroughs and to different DEP offices to get the permit, and to get any copies, if needed. Plumbers will still have the option to visit borough offices if they choose not to use the online application.

The new process is one of the goals outlined in Strategy 2011-2014, a far-reaching strategic plan that lays out 100 distinct initiatives to make DEP the safest, most efficient, cost-
DEP manages the city’s water supply, providing more than 1 billion gallons of water each day to more than nine million residents, including eight million in New York City and residents of Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester counties. New York City’s water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, and comprises 19 reservoirs, and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,400 miles of sewer lines take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. Approximately 1,000 DEP employees live and work in the watershed communities. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/dep or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nycwater.

Contact: Farrell Sklerov / Angel Román (718) 595-6600
Schedule of Events

Monday, April 25
Build Safe / Live Safe: An Inside Look at NYC Construction Trends
9:00am to 1:00pm
NYU Rosenthal Pavilion
60 Washington Square South
New York, NY

Program Topics
Preventing Accidents in NYC
Safety Innovations at NYC's Largest Projects
New Concrete Requirements
Safe Demolition Operations
Safe Scaffold Operations
Community Partnerships

Lunch will be served at this event

Registration is required for this event. To register, please visit the link below:
www.ovationtix.com/trs/pe/8914055

Tuesday, April 26
Construction Site Visit
TBA

Wednesday, April 27
Tenants & Homeowners Night:
Annual Boiler Inspections & Resolving ECB Violations
5:00pm to 7:00pm
280 Broadway, 3rd Floor Conference Room
New York, NY

Thursday, April 28
Worker Memorial Mass
2:45pm
Friday, April 29

Professional Seminar: Urban Construction Challenges  
1:00pm to 2:00pm  
280 Broadway, 6th Floor Training Room  
New York, NY

Professional Seminar: Benchmarking & Sustainability in NYC  
2:15pm to 3:15pm  
280 Broadway, 6th Floor Training Room  
New York, NY

Professional Seminar: Safety Design in High-Rise Construction  
3:30pm to 4:30pm  
280 Broadway, 6th Floor Training Room  
New York, NY

AIA credit is available for all three seminars.  

Registration is required to attend the seminars. To register, please send an email with your name & the title of the seminar you want to attend to:  
safetyweek@buildings.nyc.gov
Be An Engineer!

Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo

Sunday, April 3rd, 2011
White Plains High School
550 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605

11:00 am – 4:00 pm
FREE ADMISSION!

LEARN about career opportunities in the engineering field and about career opportunities in fields from bridge and building design to the world of nanotechnology and biochemical. Learn about college curriculum offerings, admission requirements and financial aid information.

MEET representatives of some of the region’s leading learning institutions including Rutgers, Cornell, Columbia, Penn State, Villanova, RPI and SUNY.

DISCOVER displays of interactive exhibits focusing on engineering and higher learning opportunities to help you meet the challenges of today’s economic uncertainties.

Don’t miss this opportunity to take control of your educational future, visit this year’s Engineering EXPO . . . Learn . . . Meet . . . Discover! You can be an engineer!

For more information visit

BeAnEngineer.org

Or, find us on facebook at www.facebook.com/engineeringexpo

The Foundation for Engineering Education
Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo - P.O. Box 332 West Nyack, 10994

Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo is a project of The Foundation for Engineering Education, Inc. (FEE). FEE is a NYS Chartered 501(c)(3) corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. A copy of the latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from The Foundation for Engineering Education, Inc., 6 Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12205 or from the New York State Attorney General’s Charities Bureau, Attn: FOIL Officer, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271

The Foundation for Engineering Education

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The NY Daily News is proud to partner with the Queens Borough President, the Queens Chamber of Commerce and the Queens Economic Development Corporation to present the official guide to QUEENS WEEK.

Queens Week is a collection of events throughout the borough, starting with the QEDC's Taste of Queens on May 10th and ending with the Queens Chamber's Trade show on May 24th, that highlight and celebrate the diversity and energy that makes Queens great.

We are looking to the business leaders of Queens for their support in this section as we give Queens the recognition it so rightly deserves.
for a foodie’s delight. Visitors enjoy sampling food and drinks from Queen’s renowned international establishments.

- **May 11– May 23**
  Queens Cultural and Entertainment Activities and Attractions.

- **May 24**
  Queens Chamber of Commerce Trade Show
  Closing event: Entrepreneurs and small business owners will benefit from the counseling, workshops, training sessions, and networking opportunities.

**Mechanical requirements and closing dates**

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**Reservations Close:** Friday, April 22, 2011  
**Materials Due:** Tuesday, May 3, 2011

**Don’t miss this great opportunity.**
For more information, contact:
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Phone: **212-210-1929**  
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Sources: Scarborough Research, New York Market, R2

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