



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New York State Society of Professional Engineers files suit against the City of New York, Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner of Buildings Robert LiMandri for violation of the NYS Education Law

Troy, NY---- The New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) has commenced a lawsuit in the New York State Supreme Court (New York County) seeking a Declaratory Judgment to void a recently enacted local law (Intro 755-A – 2008) which is in conflict with State law. The local law purports to permit the practice of professional engineering and architecture by a NYC Commissioner of Buildings despite the fact that the Commissioner is not licensed to practice either professional engineering or architecture as required by New York State Education Law. The lawsuit also seeks the removal of Commissioner LiMandri due to lack of licensure.

Although the City Charter was amended in an attempt to remove the licensure requirement for the Buildings Commissioner, the functions and duties of the Commissioner fall within the definition of the practice of professional engineering, as defined by the NYS Education Law. Specific duties of the Commissioner include the authority to permit substitutions of the Building Code and related lawful requirements on an ad hoc basis, as well as authority to examine and alter plans for the construction or alteration of any building or structure.

New York is the most complex and densely populated city in the United States. The protection of all residents, commuters (including construction workers), as well as tourists and other visitors is of paramount importance to the Engineering Society. Licensed design professionals are uniquely qualified to provide leadership and expertise to the Department of Buildings due to rigorous education, examination and experience requirements prescribed by the NYS Education Law. Additionally, regulations governing New York design professionals include specific provisions relative to their obligation to uphold the health, safety and welfare of the public; as well as maintaining strict standards of professional conduct and moral character.

For information about the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. (NYSSPE), contact Executive Director Kelly Norris at the RPI Technology Park, 385 Jordan Road, Troy, NY 12180. The association's phone number is (518) 283-7490 and the Web site is www.nysspe.org.

The New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Inc. is a statewide professional organization with 23 local chapters and more than 2,300 members. NYSSPE works to promote and protect the interests of professional engineers.