



## **NEWS RELEASE**

May 5, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **New York State Society of Professional Engineers opposes Mayor Bloomberg's request to remove design professional requirement for Department of Building Commissioner in light of 13 construction-related deaths this year**

Troy, NY---- The members of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers (NYSSPE) voice adamant opposition to the Mayor's proposal to amend the City Charter by removing the requirement that the Commissioner of the Department of Buildings possess a Professional Engineer or Registered Architect license. The existing licensure requirement for this position is intended to provide the utmost in safety to New York City residents, commuters and visitors. New York is the most complex and densely populated city in the United States. Licensed design professionals are uniquely qualified to provide leadership to the Department of Buildings due to rigorous education, examination and experience requirements prescribed by law. Additionally, regulations governing New York design professionals include specific provisions relative to their obligation to uphold public safety; as well as maintaining strict standards of professional conduct and moral character.

NYSSPE President, Robert P. Stelianou, PE stated, "In a time when the residents of New York have seen 13 construction related deaths in the past 4 months, it makes no sense to downgrade the requirements of New York's top building official. Having the Department of Buildings led by anyone other than a licensed design professional jeopardizes public safety in a manner equivalent to having the Department of Health led by anyone other than a medical doctor. There is a breadth and depth of knowledge required by the Commissioner that can only be successfully executed by a licensed professional."

"Additionally", stated Kelly K. Norris, NYSSPE Executive Director "the duties of a truly effective Commissioner clearly constitute the practice of professional engineering and architecture and even

include the authority to suspend the building code. The residents of New York need a Commissioner that can act and report at the highest level possible.”

*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](http://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. Representing all engineering disciplines and five practice divisions (construction, education, government, industry, and private practice), NYSSPE works to promote and protect the professional interests of all engineers.*

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