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Monroe Professional Engineers Society

A Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers

657 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607

Dedicated to Professionalism in Engineering in the Interest of Public Safety and Welfare

2017-18 Officers: President **David Roberts, PE**, President-elect **Chris Kamar, PE**, Vice-President **Arthur Reardon, PE**, Secretary **Martin Gordon, PE**, Treasurer **Michael Ritchie, P.E.**, Membership Chair **Arthur Reardon, PE**

Parking Garage Legislation Update

In February of 2017, we reported on bill #A9614A requiring inspections of parking garages and ramps for structural integrity, which passed the state legislature, but was vetoed by the governor because it did not address the ‘special circumstances in NY City.’ The bill was drafted in response to several parking garage collapses, with recent occurrences in or near Binghamton, NY. Although the bill was vetoed, NYSSPE remains committed to ensuring public safety in our parking garages and ramps and has worked to find other ways to promote regular inspection of these structures by qualified individuals.

In order to move forward with a plan to ensure these regular inspections occur, rather going through the legislature again, NYSSPE has begun working with the Building Code Council in order to introduce new regulation into the building codes which would require these inspections. This topic is discussed by NYSSPE Legislative & Legal Counsel, Mark C. Kriss, Esq. and Executive Director, Anthony Fasano, P.E., LEED AP, ACC in the October 2017 NYSSPE Legislative Update on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DC9DAyqDNQ0>).

Mr. Kriss points out the fact that state regulations have the same weight and force of law, while not requiring approval through the legislative process. He further indicated that the implementation of a regulatory code would be better aligned with the general outlook of the governor’s office on this matter. A draft proposal has been submitted to the Department of State, Office of Planning & Development that closely embodies the original legislation proposed in bill #A9614A. The proposal includes a minimum cycle of three years to look for any deterioration of parking garage and ramp structures, with the inspection being conducted by a professional engineer or someone under their direct supervision.

NYSSPE and its local chapters are dedicated to promoting public safety through the ethical practice of engineering by qualified professionals. We support the efforts to reform the building codes to include the requirements proposed for parking garage and ramp inspections and urge the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council to adopt the proposal submitted. If you are interested in finding out more about state building codes or want to contact the Building Code Council, more information can be found on their website at: https://www.dos.ny.gov/dcea/code_council.html. Along with our counterparts at the state level, the Monroe PE Society will continue to monitor the status of this proposal and keep our engineering community up to date.

As always, we encourage active membership in the Monroe Professional Engineers Society. We are constantly striving to improve your membership but we always need more help. If you are interested in becoming an active member or have any questions, please email me at dcreoberts@gmail.com or contact MPES through our website at www.monroepes.org/contactus/.

David C. Roberts, P.E., President, MPES