

# NYSBOC BOARD OF DELEGATES

**DATE: September 10, 2015**

**LOCATION: Vernon, NY**

- \* President Ed Cusato called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM
- \* Pledge of Allegiance
- \* Moment of silence for deceased members
- \* A roll was called and the following were present:

	Name		Name		Name	
President	Cusato, Edward	X				
1st Vice President	Gilhooly, James	X				
2nd Vice President	Bailey, Jim	X				
Secretary	Gettel, BJ	X				
Treasurer	Scarson, Doug	X				
Historian	Schwartz, Mark	X				
Past President	Morganson, James	Ex				
Capital	Cordell, Robert		Ricotta, Sam	X	Theriahult, Rick	
	Griffith, Roger (A)	X	Kinizzo, Tom (A)	X		
Central	Cusato, Ed	X	Keeler, George	X	Williams, John	X
Columbia	Ferratto, Edward		Couse, Jerry		Vieni, Charles (A)	
	Koloski, Stan (A)					
Finger Lakes	Bailey, Jim	X	Rech, Terry	X	Morris, Pat	X
	Cichetti, Wayne (A)					
Mid Hudson	Thompson, Bruce		Corrao, Tom	X		
Mohawk Valley	Stine, Rich	X	Kernan, Ruth (A)		Kernan, Jim (a)	
Monroe	Bowers, Don	X	Drexler, Rob	X	Scarson, Doug	X
Nassau (BIANCO)	Bonnie, Robert	X	Haramis, Stephen	X	Malitino, Michael	X
	Falmigetti, Eric (A)	X		X		
			Gilhooly, James (A)			
Niagara	Bleichfeld, Rich		Eberhardt, Jim	X	Rank, Kevin	
	Metzger, Dave (A)	X				
Northern Adirondack	Randig, Ed		Angela Sirianni-Lucey (A)			
Ontario	Benedict, Al	X	Johnston, Robert (A)			
Rockland	Berrios, Ruben		Buckley, Thomas			
Southern Tier	Cross, Brent	X	Ezell, Kevin	X	Platt, Richard	
	Knickerbocker, Wm (A)	X				
St. Lawrence	Tuttle, Timothy					
Suffolk	Donnelly, Joseph	X	Frabrizio, Edward	X	Maher, Tom	X
Tri County	Mekulik, Don		Jaques, Eugene	X	Hunter, Steve	
	Smith, Joe (A)		Orr, John (A)	X		

Westchester	Blasi, Frank		Tarchine, Ralph		Testa, Michael	
	LaBarbera, Chuck					
WSTB	(A)		Monaco, John		Pacanowski, James	
Yates	Lyon, Bruce					
	Total Delegates	47				
NYS DOS	Addario, John	X	Nemeth-Weisser, Julie	X	Nichols, Dan	
NYS DOS	Piester, Ron	X	Bradshaw, Eric	X		
Log Editor	Eberhardt, Jim	X				
Past Pres	Casella, Dan	X	Copp, Wm. Scott	X	Flanigan, John	X
Past Pres	Gregory, William		Kiebel, Ron		McCabe, Dennis	
Past Pres	McDaniel, Steve	X	Jacobski, Wm		Cichon, Wayne	
ICC	Drexler, Rob	X	Harris, Dottie		Piester, Ron	X
	Morganson, James					

**Secretary's Report:** BJ Gettel

Motion to approve the minutes from June's Delegates meeting by Rich Bleichfeld, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Benedict.  
 Agreed and carried.

**Presidents Report:** Ed Cusato

Guests that were recognized:  
 Capital District 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dan Sherman  
 NYS Fire Marshalls Association President Dave Reins  
 Central Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jason Perkins

I did a lot of traveling this past year doing work with the Code Council and the Code Coalition. I have had the honor of attending numerous funerals throughout the state. I met with a lot of the chapters and what explained what we are doing to assist the local chapters. The funding is not there for the smaller chapters. We have made a lot of progress in the goals that we set out to do. Especially with the Code Development and Steve will talk about that later. We are continuing to do what we can for everyone.

**Treasurers Report:** Douglas Scarson

Motion to approve the report by Bob Bonnie and approved.

## Committee Reports:

**Annual Business Meeting Conference:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Secretary,  
 BJ made a proposal to go to the Best Western Plus in Kingston. Room rate is \$126.50 per night with a continental breakfast. The meal package will be tacked on to your room rate. Meal package includes Wednesday dinner buffet \$40.00/person, lunch buffet Thursday is \$20.00/person and Thursday dinner buffet \$52.00/person. Meeting room/classroom is free. You have a choice on Wednesday night whether to take a boat ride up the Hudson River and the hotel would do the buffet on the boat or a beach party theme by the newly renovated pool area at the hotel.

The other question is do you want the ABM on September 7-9 or 14 -16. I do believe that one of the reasons that this year's attendance is so low is that we are right after the Labor Day weekend and the officials were not able to get away. Also the ICC Conference is in October 14 -16 in Kansas City, Missouri for next year.

John Orr: Are we going to vote?

Ed: No we are not. We just got this information right now.

Sam Ricotta: Check with WSTB and Fire Marshalls there could be conflict of meeting dates.

BJ: We can move it the week before or after. That just happened to be the dates that we choose.

Ed: This is something to take into consideration.

BJ: With such a poor turn out here today because of the holiday being on Monday, the officials were not able to attend.

Sam: We should check with those other organizations.

Ed: This is just one proposal from one chapter and if any other chapters from that region want to proposal for hosting, please do so.

Dan Casella: Weren't we supposed to do this in June?

Ed: She is just bringing this up. It is in Region I's territory.

Ed tabled this until so that any other chapter can submit a proposal.

**Ambassadors Report:** John Flanigan

*Members, who as individuals, can represent this organization. Qualifications include length of service, committee memberships, office holders and persons with extra experience in many disciplines (Building/Fire). It shall be the goal of any ambassador to develop relationships with other Chapters, State Organizations and elected officials. A list of all our associates should be established and a continual upgrade should be done as the Ambassadors reach out.*

Eastern States meetings have been up in Portsmouth, NH. I don t see too many changes. New Hampshire is running Eastern States. I will keep you informed. On the training part of it, we are getting more training through Ron's office. We are not seeing them because of all the training at home. The chapters are running big conferences. For the credits it is not worth the trip.

Ed Cusato: We went through the vote to drop out and we are still with Eastern States. I have had several calls and meetings with them. New York is unique here in that we have training here and will not participate in training. We will try to stay active. The next steps are how we encourage code development within these organizations. We are members of Region 6 and Eastern States has to understand that. I do not want to spread our people to thin.

Tom Kinnizzo: I attended and the conference was exceptional. I echo what John said. I am glad we are remaining as members. Education in New York is exceptional.

**Building Log:** Jim Eberhardt

*The “Log” will serve as the “Official” source of all NYSBOC news and publications. Beyond that, the “Log” committee will act as Press Secretary to the NYSBOC community. They will insure that any time the Organization is mentioned in a part of the State, the story will be repeated in print across the State. Individual stories will become State wide press releases to promote the goodwill done by NYSBOC Members.*

There is one Log that just came out and it is getting easier with the help from everyone. We are going out to the ICC Conference and will report back. Keep up the good work.

**Bylaws:** Jim Bailey & BJ Gettel

*Maintain and update the policy and procedures for the organization.*

**Proposed Amendment 2015 #3, AS CAP LETTERS; Proposed by Dan Casella**

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS Section 1. Annual Meeting.

(a) There shall be an annual meeting of the Corporation held between the first day of September and the first day of November.

Region 1 – Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca , Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates

Region 2 – Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, Otsego, Schuylar, St. Lawrence, Steuben, Tioga, and Tompkins

Region 3 – Albany, Bronx, Clinton, Columbia, Dutchess, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Kings, Montgomery, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Rennselaer, Richmond, Rockland, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, Warren, Washington, and Westchester

(b) The location of the annual meeting shall be subject to the following conditions *FOR NON-ELECTION YEARS:*

1. In accordance with Article VI-Meetings, Section1, (a), member chapters wishing to host the annual meeting shall submit, in writing, their desire to act as host chapter. The chapter must include with its letter of intent, a listing of recommended meeting sites capable of accommodating the meeting. This must be received prior to the June meeting preceding the annual meeting.
2. The Board of Delegates shall select a host Chapter at the preceding Annual Meeting from among those submitted. Consideration shall be given to any acceptable submittal, from a chapter not previously selected.
3. In the event that no Chapter from a specific region elects to host the annual meeting, the Board of Delegates shall be empowered to select a site from within the region, and act as host with the executive board.
4. The duties and the responsibilities of the host chapters shall be established by the Board of Delegates Conference Committee and shall be made available to any Chapter, by the Secretary, upon request of the Chapter.

*(C) DURING ELECTION YEARS IT IS TO BE HELD SPECIFICALLY WITHIN A GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRALIZED REGION WITHIN THE COUNTIES OF ALBANY, DELAWARE, GREENE, SCHOHARIE, SULLIVAN AND ULSTER, STATE OF NEW YORK*

*(D) Written notice of the annual meeting shall be given to each member in good standing by the Secretary not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of such meeting.*

Motion by Bob Bonnie to accept as written and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric Falmigetti.

Discussion:

Jim Eberhardt: We should be centralizing the regular delegates meeting and moving the ABM around.

Sam Ricotta: The entire bylaws need to be revamped. Every time that someone gets a hair of joint, we do a bylaw change to accommodate. It wasn't that many years ago that we went from 5 regions to 3 thinking it would be easier to arrange meeting geographically across the state. That it is still not satisfactory to some individuals. This is going too basically of eliminating the persons from the far locations to have an opportunity to attend or run for office. I think we need to step back and look at the bylaws as a whole and revamp the entire system. They do not resemble what they were originally meant to be. This is what has been going on for the past several years. Personally the bylaws need to be upheld as written. There are people in this room that know what we have gone through. It was done that way for a reason. We need to stop putting our personal agendas ahead of the organization.

Bob Bonnie: There are reasons to make changes to the bylaws. We made changes to host the conference around the state and it created problems on the election year. We can setup a committee and redo the bylaws. I like getting around the state. I want to make sure everyone has a chance to vote.

Dan Casella: I concur with Mr. Bonnie by revamping the entire bylaws. It is what it is. Let the vote be your guide.

Steve McDaniel: With mixed feelings. Having it centralized is not what I wanted. It is more important to travel around. One of the smartest things that Sam discussed is having it at the Chapter meeting. We have seen a decline at the annual meeting year after year. Traveling it around was the best solution that we had.

Tom Kinnizzo: I would suggest that the membership consider that we may not have the best response from the membership. Maybe this is a vote that should be postponed.

Scott Copp: Make voting to every member whether here or not. The municipality dictates whether you can go or not. The ICC faced this and took a different approach. Look at what is available to what is out there and think outside the box. We are there and we can broadcast through a webinar.

Bob Bonnie: Just so that everyone understands we are not moving every meeting to a centralized area. This is on the cycle. We have discussed electronic voting before and ICC is doing it but with the election of officers that is done in person at their annual meeting.

Tom Kinnizzo: If the intent of the change is to maximize on the memberships input we are not in a county that is identified in the bylaw change.

John Orr: This is 2015 and the technology is out there. Maybe I mentioned it 2 meeting ago as we all are in different organizations and membership is down. Municipalities don't care about the meeting and selling 9 hours of training that is not going to work. If you are going to keep doing this you need to tie it into a conference. We have to look at different ways. It would be an easier sell.

President Cusato called for a vote:  
All in favor by raising your hands: 21  
All against by raising your hands: 21

**According to the bylaws you must have ¾ approval therefore the bylaw change is voted down.**

**Article X Section 2 Amendments reads as follows:**

**Section 2. Amendments.**

These By-Laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the Corporation, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the voting members present, provided that a quorum is present.

**Codes Coalition:** Gene Jaques & John Williams

*Comprised of NYS Fire Districts, NYS Fire Marshalls, NYSBOC, FASNY, & NYS Association of Fire Chiefs*

Gene Jaques: They had their annual call and the following people are the recommendations for the ICC Officers:

President: Alex Olszowy, III  
Vice President: Dwayne Garriss  
Sect/Treas: Jay Elbettar  
Section A: Tom Stuart  
Section B: Tom Bakken  
Section D: Jerry Mallory  
At-Large: Bill Bryant  
At-Large: Brenda Thompson

These nominations go to the nominating committee. We will advise everyone in California. Please do not make deals with any candidate or states. That is the job of the coalition.

Gene: Rob Drexler would be next. He has a full year left.

**Code Development:** Steve McDaniel & Kevin Ezell

*2015 is the time to expand NYSBOC's role in Code Development. To that end, I ask that we keep the existing subcommittee structure in place. That group will establish a format to continue dialog about relevant Code issues. Must have direct access and the ability to monitor the latest in BSC & ICC Code Development discussions.*

Steve McDaniel: We have been very busy. In the current Code A cycle. A report was issued in 2 forms, condensed and full version. They are on the website. When I landed in Memphis, there were a lot of people that wanted to know where NYSBOC stands on some of the changes. So it did travel across the country and back. It does have an impact. After Memphis we submitted another report that was smaller. We submitted 3 public comments for Long Beach. We will have the report prior to the Long Beach hearings and will issue the report.

It is extremely critical that we have every NYSBC member that we have vote as an ICC Members. Some of the code changes from the last cycle were passed or defeated by one vote. Make sure everyone is a voting member back at your local chapters. I am going to Long Beach and speak on behalf of NYSBOC. Ed stated that Steve does have NYSBOC's support.

I can't thank Scott Copp enough for providing us with the conference calling system for free. We can't keep letting Ty-Lin do it. We need to look into this and be on top of our game and getting our own system.

Moving forward the Group B changes with Fire Code or Residential Code. If you have problems with the way they are currently written, send me an email so that I can discuss this with you. They are due by January 11, 2016. It is not a long way away.

I know we are going to have discussions later today on Code Coalitions, Code Council, Region 6 & 7, and Eastern States. I will hopefully report back in December.

Terry Reich: Steve talks a lot about we and Steve does most of the work. His face should be on the committee reports.

Ed Cusato: My biggest goal this year was to push that Code Development process through and be recognized not only in Long Beach but at the code hearings. I think we were successful. They know us and the people behind. It is these gentleman and ladies that they have done all of the work and need to be thanked. We need to start acknowledging those municipalities that allow these officials for using their people. Thank you very, very much.

Scott we thank you for letting us use your system. We have the funds and the budget for code development encompasses a whole lot of things.

Eugene Jaques: The ICC Code is going to be our code. So the changes that we make, is our code. If you don't like that part of the code then let Steve know.

Ed: Step up and make a difference. If there is something that you are not crazy about, then step up. We all need to step up. Don't wait for someone else.

**Education Committee:** Mark Schwarz, Jim Gilhooly & Sam Ricotta

*As a priority overseeing the Continuing Education Credits and ensuring new opportunities to improve course material, availability, and advancing recognition of the value of in-service credit hours. Coordinating educational opportunities, with architects, engineers and industry.*

Mark: Thanked everyone for the well wishes. I appreciated it. I defer to DOS.

**Emergency Management/CEDAR Team:** Dan Casella - Chairman, Eric Bradshaw – Vice Chairman & Liason

*Promote & complete the true implementation of the CEDAR program and continue to develop partnerships within the Emergency response structure. Serve and an advisory position to DCEA policy making for the betterment of the organization.*

Dan Casella: I want to give accolades to Eric, Ron, and Julie for getting this on the road. We have accomplished our task. I encourage everyone to get signed up.

**Events, Association & Conferences:** John Flanigan

*Combine the Association of Towns, Conference of Mayors, and Eastern State reports as time sensitive presentations. Only active subjects will be discussed as they relate to the Delegates Meeting calendar.*

See Ambassador Report

**ICC:** Dottie Harris, Ron Piester, Rob Drexler, & James Morganson

Rob Drexler: It's all about the ABM right now. I have the first part of a 286 page agenda to prepare for. We have already been told there is a second attachment coming. It is time to get busy.

A couple of interesting things that you should be attending:

Sat and Sunday meetings: The Fire Service and Building Official Membership Council.

The 1st Annual Ron Burton Golf Tournament will be happening. All the profits go to the scholarship funds.

Sunday: Region VI meeting is Sunday. Need everyone to attend this meeting.

Monday AM: Conference opens up and goes to 11:45 AM

Monday PM: Chapter President meeting at 1:30 to 3:30. This year it is geared towards leadership. ICC recognizes this. We are trying to develop programs for the mid-range code official seeing how most of the leaders are retiring soon. This way you will be prepared to take the helm.

Tuesday: Awards Luncheon. Joe Finnegan has won this year's Fire Code Official of the Year. He has 40 years in the fire service and has been very supportive of the codes. Let's all be in the room to support him.

cdpAccess: Public Comment period opens up from September 30<sup>th</sup> thru the Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Participate and learn the process. We plan on posting the results on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. Oct 19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> begins the on-line government voting process. Please make sure that you are registered to vote and more importantly vote.

The ICC will be sending out a notice for Committee Work. Get involved and participate. Dan Nichols sits on the Codes and Standards Committee. Last year we had 21 people from New York. Really consider on the work for next year. All the committees are mostly telephone conferencing.

Last but not least: Conference Calling was mentioned. The State Fire Marshalls and the Coalition use a service called Clarity Conference Calling.

Doug: We have 2 companies that we have contracts with.

Rob: We had a call last week that had 21 people on it and lasted over 2 hours and the bill was about \$32.00

Doug: Thank you.

Rob: This is a terrific venue and we will have a good time. Let's be united and have a great time.

**Legislative/Technical Committee:** Bob Cordell & Dottie Harris  
No Report

**Membership & Recruitment Committee:** BJ Gettel

*As a goal, can we get at least one person from each Chapter to promote NYSBOC. Help coordinate an effort to first account for and service our existing members while actively seeking new members. Be*



*responsible for the gathering of membership information and membership dues from each Chapter yearly.*

No Report

**NYS Office of Planning & Development, Building Standards and Codes: Ron Piester**

Ron Piester: Brief overview of what happened at the last code council meeting, we don't need to discuss the merits or technical discussion that happened. We finally can adopt the 2015 I-Codes. We are in the process to complete the rule making documents and then go into public comment period. We are hoping to have the rule making document complete and ready to go by the end of this year. We will then have a public comment period and a series of hearings. You can always submit written comments to this office. It gives you time to think about what you want to say. The comment period is not a smoke screen. Continue to advocate. The goal is to bring this rule back to the Code Council, review what was submitted and vote for adoption for sometime in the first quarter of 2016. If you have any questions about the process or technical comment of the code, please contact me.

As Gene has mentioned, you will be getting a copy of the 2015 I-Codes as the next set of books with a supplement. Hopefully minor changes but the lawyers have to have their input. There is currently 1.4 million dollars in the State Budget set aside for the purchase of code books. One thing to keep in mind is the way to get your code books is the way you submit information in your annual report to the DOS. This will help populate the data base that the ICC will distribute code books to you.

We have a few appointments to the Code Council. Tim DeRuyscher is the new Professional Engineer, Ted Banta, Town of Cario has been appointed to represent the Towns and Barbara Rice, Legislator - Franklin County is the County representative.

We also had changes in agencies to the Code Council. The Dept of Health is no longer on the Code Council. Instead the Housing Energy Renewal (HER) will be the representative. We still have a vacant position for a city with a population over 100,000 and then one person for people representing disabilities. We are seeking to fill these positions.

Brent Cross: Transition Period?

Ron Piester: There will be a transition period, a minimum of 90 day period. The Council may choose to extend that time period but it has to be a minimum of 90 days for the Uniform Code only. The Energy Code update does not have that flexibility because of a statutory allowance.

Jim Eberhardt: Are the public comment hearings including the addendums for NY?

Ron Piester: Of course. Hopefully for future adoptions we would be able to move more quickly.

Jim Gilhooly: Can you give us a possible transition of education and the time frame?

Ron Piester: John Addario will discuss this.

Ed Cusato: Public Comment period to start when?

Ron Piester: Next Code Council meeting is scheduled for November and we would not be in public comment before then. The goal is to be in public comment by the end of the year.

John Flanigan: I highly recommend that you go out to the public hearings and discuss what you want.

John Addario: A quick overview. There will be 9 hours of advance in-service for the code enforcement official. It will cover the uniform code, commercial and residential energy code with an exam at the end. For building safety inspectors we are looking at 3 hours with an exam. It has to be coordinated with the code adoption.

Steve McDaniel: The 3 hours Building Safety Inspector, is that something that outside trainers can do for their departments?

John Addario: That has not been decided yet.

Brent Cross: Is there a deadline for that?

John Addario: No, we knew there was going to be a transition period.

Tom Kinnizzo: Training methods going to be the same as before?

Jim Gilhooly: It is time to investigate venues that can hold large classes.

John Addario: We would still have to go around. We would offer it for conferences. We are developing it for on-line but need some time. We are exploring it.

Ron Piester: I have been one of the people pushing hardest in the office is to give code officials flexibility to take on line classes. The viability for the 9 hour course on line is stressful. It is a significant undertaking. Realistically, I do not believe it will happen. There have been a lot of discussions on this, pieces maybe able to be done but not the whole thing.

Tom Kinnizzo: Pre-requisites still included? Does everyone understand what that means?

John Addario: The pre-requisite is available on line and available to take if you haven't taken it already. It has been offered at many of the conferences.

John Orr: 9 Hours –is that set in stone? That puts us into a day and a half class.

John Addario: Yes.

Julie: I argued that point with him.

John Addario: With the amount of changes, 6 hours is not enough.

Ron Piester: Training credits through cdpAccess. Last week ICC notified us that the ability us to monitor for the NYS Code Officials to participate in cdpAccess is now live. We are not looking at the way you voted, just that you participated. There will be a way for you to register if you want us to give you credit hours for using cdpAccess. Understand, we are monitoring the extent that you are participating. We will have all the details of how many credits that you will get and there is also an instruction sheet on what you need to do to login on each screen so that you will qualify for CEU's. We are excited as well as ICC. New York was the first state in the nation to do this and we hope that others will follow.

**Scholarship Committee:** Tom Corrao – Chairman, Doug Scarson – Vice Chairman, & Wayne Cichon

Tom Corrao: We issued \$7000

Doug: \$7000 to 15 students. The largest amount we have issued in 2 years. Good mix among all the chapters. We received 4 Thank You cards.

Ed Cusato: Please forward them to me. Thank you.

**Ways & Means:** Doug Scarson – Chairman, George Keeler, & Don Bowers

*Any and all expenditures brought up on the floor to the Board of Delegates not covered within the guidelines of the budget.*

Good And Welfare: Made a donation in memory of Lew Ford to a scholarship fund. I felt that was a good thing. I received a letter of thank you from the academy and his family.

**Website Management:** Jim Bailey & BJ Gettel

*Promoting, informing, and updating code enforcement officials through a means of the internet.*

No Report

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Motion to nominate the following people to Honorary status by Tom Corrao and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Copp:

Joseph Donnelly – Suffolk Chapter

Edward Fabrizio – Suffolk Chapter

Fred Lang – Suffolk Chapter

Richard Lyman – Suffolk Chapter

Richard Palazzotto – Suffolk Chapter

Glen Gary Sneyd – Mid Hudson Chapter

Agreed and Carried.

Scott Copp: There will be an announcement that NYSERDA has instituted a program 3<sup>rd</sup> party plan review for free coming out soon.

Jim Bailey: Acknowledge that 2 chapters, Capital District and Finger Lakes, have sponsored 2 holes at the ICC Golf Outing this year.

Jim Eberhardt: Do we have a consensus is going to Long Beach?

Ed: right now we do not but BJ will send out an announcement shortly as to who is going.

John Flanigan: You are 2 weeks away.

Ed: We will get an idea today. Bring it back to your chapters. Will try to access that information and get that out as soon as we can. Anyone going to long beach please let me know.

At this time we are going to have a Special Presentation from the Center for Technology by Meghan Cook, Program Director, David Werthmuller, Director of Technology & Services, and Meghan Sutherland, Program Associate.

## Combating Urban Blight through a Regional Information Sharing Pilot Project

### Issue Overview

Blighted and vacant properties represent a persistent and costly problem for New York State governments. Code enforcement is the cornerstone of identifying the beginning signs of property decline but it's a program that relies heavily on the collection, sharing, and use of information. The absence of appropriate technologies, policies, and practices to support such information management is a significant barrier to the ability to combat vacant and blighted properties. As a result, some property owners have capitalized on this inability to share data and continue to avoid scrutiny or penalty for multiple derelict properties. Enabling cities to build capabilities to share information would shine a new light on chronic violators and allow them to proactively prevent the spread of blight. Through the innovative and collaborative leveraging of information and technology, this project will empower governments to effectively combat the crushing tide of distressed properties.

### Project Summary

With funding from the New York State Department of State's Shared Municipal Services Incentive Grant Program, the four cities of Schenectady, Troy, Amsterdam, and Gloversville have partnered with the Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany, to develop a shared regional code enforcement information resource.

Both city and local departments rely on code enforcement information to effectively provide mission critical services. Recognizing the interdependencies among regional municipalities and public service organizations in pursuit of public safety goals, this shared system will address the need for a coordinated and collaborative tool that can assist municipalities in addressing common challenges such as problem landlords, facilitate the identification of opportunities to address shared problems, inform city and private sector decision making, and improve service delivery, health, safety, and economic development.

The cities participating in this effort will collectively determine what data is most critical to share across governments and then leverage existing and new technologies to create the most appropriate platform to share code enforcement related data. This pilot project will provide the foundation to address a number of recurring issues, such as landlord violations that plague government at all levels. The objectives of this project are to:

- Build technical and organizational code enforcement capabilities within each of the 4 cities (Gloversville, Amsterdam, Schenectady, and Troy) so each can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their own code enforcement environment.
- Develop the technical, data, and policy foundation of a shared code enforcement information resource, enabling municipalities to potentially participate in a future statewide network.
- Encourage increased uniformity in process and definition within the 4 cities to enable

regional information sharing.

- Establish a culture (and community) of knowledge sharing among the 4 cities (and others in the future) so that NYS can work together to fight the blight

This regional information sharing project aims to develop a new information sharing model between jurisdictions; build capability and infrastructure within the cities; promote regional knowledge sharing around best practices; and opens doors to the use of new analytical problem solving tools and techniques for long term strategy development.

For more information on this project, please contact Meghan Cook, Program Director, at [mcook@ctg.albanv.edu](mailto:mcook@ctg.albanv.edu).

Motion to Adjourn by Scott Copp and 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Orr. Agreed and carried.

**Next Meeting Date & Location:**

December 4, 2015: Victor Hampton Inn and Suites, Victor, NY

March 4, 2016:

June 3, 2016:

September 7-9 or 14-16, 2016: Annual ABM

ICC Conference is Oct 14- 16, 2016: Kansas City, Missouri

December 2, 2016: