

UNIFORMED
FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK
FIRE OFFICERS
Local 854, INTERNATIONAL ASSN. OF FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO
ASSOCIATION
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Fellow Members of the NYSPFF Association,

This bill, A-6579, would require the New York City Fire Department to provide all Fire Officers (does not include Firefighters as is their wish) with at least 40 hours of field training and 40 hours of classroom instruction in the New York City Building and Fire Codes by July 2015.

The need to have Fire Officers trained in the laws we enforce is a matter of public safety. Fire Officers must have a sound basis of knowledge to facilitate a professional inspection of numerous types of structures and identify countless types of hazards, while teaching those we supervise how to identify threats we all confront on the fire ground.

The creation of a new NYC Fire Code and the new NYC Building Code effective July of 2008 -- over five years ago, along with City Halls proposal that yet another new post "Superstorm Sandy" fire code be established in NYC, makes the training of fire officers even more critical.

It is outrageous that this day in age a fire officer could be charged with and held responsible for the enforcement of buildings laws and fire codes, with little or no formal training.

Professional inspections will improve the safety of the public, reduce property damage, lower insurance premiums, reduce injuries and death to civilians and all those who serve in public safety, and prevent well intentioned but untrained fire officers from falling victim to disciplinary action for doing an inadequate job in a field they were never taught in.

New York City Fire Officers must be adequately trained in Building and Fire Codes to fulfill our oath of protecting the lives and property of the public, ensure the safety of those we supervise, and to look after the well being of our families and ourselves.

Respectfully,



Alexander Hagan
President