



MPC Testimony on Intro. No. 2261

The following was the introduction read at the hearing on June 14, 2021.

Introduction:

Good morning Chair Cornegy and members of the committee. My name is George Bassolino, and I represent the Master Plumbers Council Code Committees. Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak today.

This final package of Technical Codes represents the collective work of a very diverse group of people who served on this Committee. The revision process was a monumental effort only made possible by the effective leadership and guidance of the dedicated professionals of the Department. The entire process was extremely transparent and consensus based and worked so well that the MPC did not have any objections or recommend changes for the Gas Code.

The MPC was privileged for the first time to participate on the Administrative Advisory Committee. Its purpose is to consider Code sections related to items such as the laws governing permit issuance and licensee regulation. Unfortunately, Advisory Committees are not required to achieve consensus. We thank the Department for taking the time to help us better understand the intricacies of the process and for listening to our concerns about what we consider to be some very important issues.

Our written testimony will present you with recommendations to address some proposed changes. For the most part, they request simple clarifications and are in strict accordance of the intent of the Codes. That includes incorporation of current scientific and knowledge, work experience and techniques all in the interest of public safety. It also requires a due regard for building construction and maintenance costs. Our proposals adhere to this intent and also will provide NYC residents with the lowest possible cost for compliance.

Licensed plumbing is as important to public safety as oxygen is to the human body. It reduces the risks that include water contamination, cross connections and scalding. Faulty repairs can lead to leaks that create mold and fungus. Licensed Master Plumbers have the proper qualifications, knowledge and most importantly the legal permission to do this work. Sadly, we are already too familiar with what happens when unlicensed and unqualified persons undertake gas work.

We thank the Chairmen and the committee for all of their time and efforts helping to keep NYC residents safe. It took a few extra years to get here but this revision is finally ready for your review. This Code, with some minor revisions, along with the ten gas safety bills you passed will continue to provide NYC residents with the very best processes to keep them safe.

Have a great day.

George Bassolino

Representative of the Master Plumbers Council Code Committees