



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is committed to providing a quality education for all students within a safe environment and, every autumn when parents send their children off to college, they deservedly expect that all precautions will be taken to ensure their safety from the dangers of fires on school campuses and other forms of student housing; and

Whereas, recent student housing fires in other states have tragically taken the lives of young people, whereby since January 2000, at least 90 people – including students, parents and children – have died in student housing fires; and

Whereas, more than 75 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies, which house a majority of the college students, and a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disconnected by the young occupants; and

Whereas, automatic fire alarm systems provide the necessary early warning to occupants and fire departments so that appropriate steps for evacuation and combating the fire can be taken as quickly as possible; automatic fire sprinkler systems also are an effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, and have proven to be a valuable means of protecting the lives of a buildings' occupants; and

Whereas, New York State is national leader in campus fire safety and maintains a rigorous inspection schedule of all statewide private and public colleges and universities and, through this program, thousands of fire code violations on New York's campuses have been identified and corrected, and thousands of students and residence hall personnel have been provided with fire safety training; and

Whereas, many students are living in off-campus housing occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarms, and administrators and municipalities across the state are strongly encouraged to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing; and

Whereas, by focusing attention on this safety issue, we can continue to promote fire-safe living environments through fire safety education and the enforcement of codes applying to fire safety on schools campuses and all educational institutions, and it is fitting that in September – as many students arrive for the new school year – we send them a reminder that fire safety must be a concern and a priority throughout their school career and entire lifetime;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2007 as

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

in the Empire State, and urge all New Yorkers to protect themselves from the dangers of fire.



Richard Baum

Secretary to the Governor

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State

at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-seventh

day of August in the year two thousand seven.

Governor