

Robert V Ferrara

From: mitailg-bounces@MIT.EDU on behalf of Steve Baker <sbaker@baker-wohl.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 3:02 PM
To: MIT AILG
Subject: [mitailg] IMPORTANT - MIT FSILG Community notice about roof decks and large gatherings
Attachments: ATT00001.c

Friends and Fellow Stakeholders of the FSILG Community at MIT:

This email contains important information; please read the entire message.

But to put the take-away right up front, the AILG Board, in cooperation with the FSILG Office, requests your organization's immediate cooperation on the following two matters. The Board respectfully requests that each alumni group meet with its student members and impress upon them the importance of fully complying with these requests:

- **First, effective immediately, all use of roof decks should cease, pending resolution of the permitting and code compliance issues noted below. We request that roof decks not be used for any purpose, and especially not for social events.**
- **Second, also effective immediately, please limit the size of parties / events at your FSILG to no more than three times the legal occupancy listed on your Dormitory license (this includes members and guests). Until we can reach an agreement with the City on revised assembly occupancies, we need to be very careful about how many people are present in our facilities. If your current published occupant load (shown on your Certificate of Inspection) is smaller than three times the legal occupancy, you must comply with the figure shown on the certificate.**

As explained below, we have obtained a grace period in which to resolve these matters with the City, and we don't want another incident to occur that could put us all in jeopardy. Please do your part to help our entire community by making sure your organization complying with these temporary restrictions. The above requests apply to all FSILGs throughout the system, not just those in Boston.

As many of you will be aware, there have been two recent high-profile incidents involving parties at MIT fraternities in the Back Bay. As a result of these incidents, the Deputy Commissioner of Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) requested a meeting on Tuesday with MIT officials to discuss issues of mutual concern. Dean Henry Humphreys, Dean Marlena Love, and Director of Government Relations Sarah Gallup attended on behalf of MIT. AILG Building Safety Facilitator Tom Stohlman and I attended on behalf of the AILG and the entire FSILG community.

ISD has two primary concerns: the safety of FSILG roof decks and the number of people who may be present at large events (parties). With regard to roof decks, the Deputy Commissioner reported that ISD is undertaking a file review to determine whether the decks were legally constructed (whether a building permit was obtained prior to construction), and if so, whether they are safe and meet code criteria for use as places of assembly (i.e., a place that can be used for parties). With regard to the building occupant loads, he expressed the opinion that the current published assembly occupant loads at most if not all of the Boston FSILGs are disproportionate to their function as dormitories and should probably be reduced. Both of these are real concerns to ISD that they stated must be addressed and corrected soon.

It should be noted that the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that ISD's primary concern was for the safety of our students and their guests; we believe ISD has a genuine desire to allow our groups to continue to operate much as they have been doing, provided that ISD can be reasonably assured that our facilities are safe. ISD wants to work with MIT

and us to resolve these concerns in a mutually satisfactory way. Also note that ISD has agreed to give us time to work toward resolution of these issues; this is why the AILG Board requests your cooperation on the two items above.

We (the FSILG Office and AILG) are currently working to secure the services of an architect to assist each Boston FSILG to prepare the requested occupancy plans. There is some urgency to this: we have another meeting with ISD in 30 days, and we must demonstrate progress on this matter. If you have a copy of the assembly occupancy calculation for your house, please get a copy to Marlena Love or Scott Klemm.

Boston FSILGs with roof decks should expect to face significant scrutiny. I think it is safe to say that going forward, most or all decks are not going to be able to be used for parties or social gatherings, because they do not meet code requirements for assembly occupancy (including elevator access, two means of egress, emergency lighting, etc., etc.). If your facility has a roof deck, you need to demonstrate that 1) it was legally permitted and 2) that it met the code in effect at the time of its construction. If you cannot do this, you may be required to remove it.

Friends, we realize that this is a lot to deal with all at once, but it could have been much worse. We have asked the AILG Facilities Committee to help all of our organizations with the process, especially by supervising the architect's work in preparing the required plans.

Thank you,
Steve Baker ('84, Theta Xi)
AILG Chair

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