Gorayeb & Associates Explains NYC Stop Work Orders and Their Role in Construction Injury Cases

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, September 10, 2026 / EINPresswire.com/ -- Gorayeb & Associates explains what a stop work order actually prohibits, why crews keep working on stopped sites anyway, and why that order is evidence for the injured worker, not against him.

Gorayeb & Associates, P.C.

The New York City Department of Buildings issued 6,639 stop work orders in Fiscal 2025, and orders in the opening months of Fiscal 2026 ran 20 percent ahead of the same period a year earlier, the city's Preliminary Mayor's Management Report shows. Gorayeb & Associates, P.C., the New York construction accident firm known as The People's Lawyers, is issuing this advisory because injured workers routinely assume an order posted at their site counts against them. In many cases it is the strongest piece of evidence they have.

The Department issues a stop work order when inspectors determine a site has unsafe work or conditions, and the notice goes up where the work is happening. A full order halts everything except remedial work authorized by the Commissioner. Partial orders halt particular work or work in a particular area. From that moment, the city's Administrative Code makes it a violation for anyone with knowledge of the order to allow, authorize, promote, or continue the covered work, carrying civil penalties of $6,000 for a first offense and $12,000 for each one after that.

Enforcement tells the rest of the story. Inspectors on the Department's Stop Work Order Patrol make surprise visits to halted sites and issue escalated penalties when they find crews still going. Across nearly 42,000 active construction sites, compliance comes down to whoever controls the schedule.

"An inspector walked that site, found it dangerous, and posted a red notice on the fence," said Christopher J. Gorayeb, founding partner of Gorayeb & Associates. "Then somebody sent men

back in anyway. I do not have to prove the site was unsafe. The city already put it in writing."

That writing answers the question that decides many construction cases: who knew. Liability under Section 200 of the New York Labor Law turns on whether an owner or contractor had notice of a dangerous condition, and nothing establishes notice more plainly than a government order displayed at the job, dated and signed. A fall or falling object injury on the same site can also bring the Scaffold Law into play, with protections that do not depend on the worker proving anyone was careless.

"Photograph that notice before somebody takes it down, and write down who told you to keep working," Gorayeb said. "Nobody should convince you the order makes you the lawbreaker. It binds the people running the job. Your rights do not stop because the work should have."

About Gorayeb & Associates, P.C.

Founded in 1986 by Christopher J. Gorayeb, Gorayeb & Associates, P.C. is a New York personal injury law firm concentrating in construction accident and occupational injury litigation. The firm has recovered more than $2 billion for more than 12,000 injured workers and their families. Known to the communities it serves as The People's Lawyers; the firm provides bilingual representation in English and Spanish throughout New York City and New York State. More information is available at www.gorayeb.com.

Sources

City of New York, Preliminary Fiscal 2026 Mayor's Management Report, Department of Buildings chapter
https://www.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2026/dob.pdf

New York City Department of Buildings, Stop Work Order (SWO)
https://www.nyc.gov/site/buildings/safety/swo.page

New York City Administrative Code, Sections 28-207.2 through 28-207.2.6, Stop Work Orders
https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/newyorkcity/latest/NYCadmin/0-0-0-135973

New York Labor Law Section 200, General Duty to Protect Health and Safety of Employees
https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/LAB/200

Gorayeb & Associates, P.C.
https://www.gorayeb.com/en/

Ryan McCormick
Goldman McCormick PR, INC
+1 516-639-0988

ry

This press release can be viewed online at: https://www.einpresswire.com/article/940980049

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.
© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.