

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 17-0017

CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



DATE: February 13, 2017

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin
Room 400 – City Hall

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 17-0017 introduced by the Council President at the request of the Administration (DHCD).

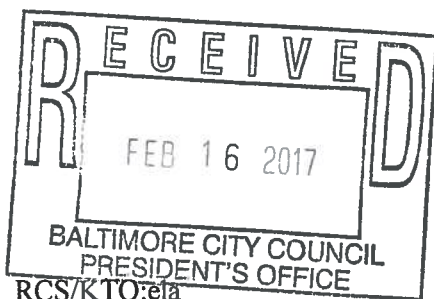
The purpose of this Bill is to expressly continue the regulation of solar photovoltaic power systems for all 1- and 2-family dwellings; and expressly reinstating the application of certain regulations governing driveways and other paved surfaces for all 1- and 2-family dwellings.

The City's 2015 Edition of the Building, Fire and Related Codes (BFR) is in part comprised of the International Building Code (IBC), International Fire Code (IFC), and International Residential Code (IRC), among various other International Codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). City Council Bill 17-0017, if adopted, would amend two sections of the City's BFR Codes.

The first proposed change would accommodate recent changes made by the ICC to the IRC on solar photovoltaic power systems. The current version of the City's Code incorporates both the IRC § 324.7 and the IFC § 605.11, which each describe the same requirements for solar photovoltaic power systems. Recently, the ICC posted an "Errata" that, among other things, "deleted" IRC § 324.7, in its entirety, from the ICC's 2015 Edition of the IRC, in order to avoid the redundancy with the IFC. However, the change did not repeal the language that exempts Group R-3 buildings that are designed and constructed in accordance with the IRC, thereby inadvertently removing the requirement for R-3 buildings to abide to the IFC. City Council Bill 17-0017 would repeal the exception language, ensuring that the requirements of the IFC regarding photovoltaic power systems also apply to all Group R-3 buildings.

Various local building code provisions not addressed by the IRC but applicable to 1- and 2-family dwellings are included in the City's BFR Codes. The second change proposed by City Council Bill 17-0017 would correct an oversight that had omitted the local building code provisions for parking lots, driveways, and other paved surfaces, applicable to 1- and 2-family dwellings. The legislation would expressly incorporate those relevant portions regarding driveway entrances, surface paving, parking areas, and surface drainage into the BFR Codes.

Based on these findings, the Department of Public Works supports the passage of City Council Bill 17-0017.



Sincerely,


Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director