



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Acting Director Khalil Zaied, Department of Public Works <i>Khalil Zaied</i>
<b>DATE</b>	April 11, 2024
<b>SUBJECT</b>	CCB 24-0502 Building, Fire & Related Codes – 2021 Edition

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

4/11/24

**Position: Support**

**BACKGROUND**

Periodically, the City reviews its building, property maintenance, mechanical, plumbing, and related codes and adopts revisions through an ordinance process. Revisions are necessary to keep these codes current and viable, by incorporating new standards, new materials, or new methods for compliance for the health and safety of our residents and businesses. Such changes may be the result of Baltimore's own experiences in administering the codes, or the result of changes proposed by national and international building officials and code administrators. The last comprehensive revisions to these codes were adopted through Ordinance 20-361, as amended by Ordinance 20-467 (adoption of International Green Construction Code, 2018 Edition), Ordinance 21-054 (Shed Exemption from permitting requirements in International Building Code), and Ordinance 23-252 (Cool Roofs).

Initially, the model for these codes had been the National Building Code issued by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc., or BOCA. Prior to 1993, there was no standard building code for the State of Maryland. Enactment of the Maryland Building Performance Standards Act of 1993 required the State to adopt the BOCA codes and to adopt the most recent editions of the codes within 24 months of their issue date. Jurisdictions were also required to use the BOCA as a model for its codes beginning in 1985. In 2000, the Maryland Building Performance Standards Act was amended by the General Assembly to recognize the replacement of the BOCA National Building Code with the International Building Code, and it is this code that the State of Maryland now requires jurisdictions to adopt. The Building, Fire and Related Codes include cross references to, and support for, other City codes. This inter-

correlation is important for maintaining clear, consistent, and searchable standards expected of property owners, tenants and landlords, developers and builders, businesses and trades.

### **SUMMARY OF POSITION**

City Council Bill 24-0502, if approved, will adopt the latest revisions to the International Codes applicable to Baltimore's Building, Fire, and Related Codes. Many of the changes are to adjust and update the references within the various codes. Some examples of the changes to the Codes that are of interest to this Department are the following:

- Applications for public assembly permits will require filing at least 45 days before the event and signed by a responsible person or official acting for the applicant.
- Clarification that decisions by the Code Official are subject to administrative and judicial review.
- Stipulation of when a Fire and Life Safety Design Evaluation is conducted for code compliance and submitted with a building permit application.
- Clarification that waste management and diversion of construction waste materials includes demolition debris.
- Requirement that bathroom facilities must be available at splash pad locations unless there is a written arrangement for use of a nearby bathroom, or the splash pad has a water recirculating design and health and safety information is posted.

The Department does not anticipate incurring any significant fiscal impacts resulting from the changes proposed to the Building, Fire and Related Codes.

The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 24-0502.