

FROM	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building	
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL 15-0546	

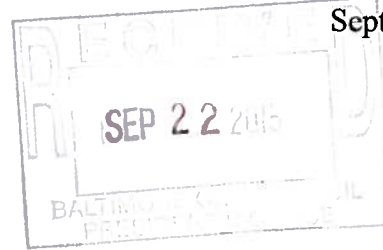


TO

DATE:

September 21, 2015

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 15-0546 introduced by the Council President on behalf of the Administration (Department of Housing and Community Development).

The purpose of the Bill is to adopt a revised Building, Fire, and Related Codes Article, comprising the Maryland Building Performance Standards (effective January 1, 2015), the International Building Code (2015 Edition), the National Electrical Code (2014 Edition), the International Fuel Gas Code (2015 Edition), the International Mechanical Code (2015 Edition), the International Plumbing Code (2015 Edition), the International Property Maintenance Code (2015 Edition), the International Fire Code (2015 Edition), the International Energy Conservation Code (2015 Edition), the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings (2015 Edition), the International Green Conservation Code (2012 Edition), and the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (2015 Edition), all as supplemented, amended, or otherwise modified by this Ordinance; provide for the effect, construction, and effective date of these new standards and codes; correct obsolete agency references; conform, correct, and clarify certain language; and generally relating to the adoption of new building, fire, property maintenance, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and related codes for Baltimore City.

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 citizens. 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 revisions to these codes were adopted through Ordinance 13-93.

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

Fav w/Amend

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. City Council Bill 15-0546, if approved, will adopt the latest revisions to the International Codes for Baltimore's Building, Fire, and Related Codes.

The Building, Fire and Related Codes include cross references to, and support for, other City codes. This inter-correlation is important for keeping clear the standards expected of property owners, tenants and landlords, developers and builders, businesses and trades. For example:

- Only a master or journeyman plumber may connect backflow prevention devices to the City's potable water supply, to protect the City's water supply from contamination (§ 608.1.1, International Plumbing Code).
- Property drainage requirements are found throughout these codes, making clear that surface or roof drainage cannot be discharged from private property across sidewalks, but must be piped to a storm drain, street or alley, or an approved water course.
- Abatement of lead paint hazards must be done in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Department of Public Works' requirements governing discharges into the City's stormwater system (§ 301.4, International Property Maintenance Code).
- Requirements for the installation and operation of grease interceptors are detailed, which support the educational and enforcement efforts of the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program of Public Works (§§ 802.1.7.1 and 1003.3, International Plumbing Code).

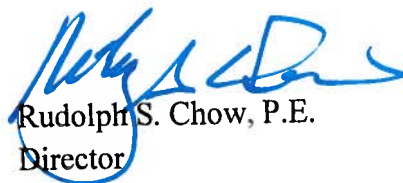
Since the introduction of this legislation to update the Building, Fire and Related Codes, the Mayor announced that the pilot municipal trash can program tested in the neighborhoods of Belair-Edison and Greater Mondawmin will be expanded citywide. Every residence receiving curbside collection of mixed refuse will have a City-owned municipal can delivered and assigned to its address. Distribution of the cans is anticipated to begin after the first of the year. Currently, receptacles are limited to a 32 gallon capacity because sanitation crews must manually lift these cans to empty the refuse. Under the citywide municipal can program, however, sanitation trucks will be

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fitted with a mechanism that mechanically lifts and empties the municipal cans, making the volume restriction of 32 gallons unnecessary. The Department of Public Works is therefore recommending that § 306.6.1.1 of the Exterior Sanitary Maintenance section of the International Property Maintenance Code be amended to distinguish between municipal trash cans and manually emptied trash cans (found on page 186 of the legislation). A copy of the proposed amendment is attached.

The Department of Public Works supports passage of City Council Bill 15-0546 as proposed to be amended.

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.
Director

Attachment

RSC/MMC:ela