




BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Michael Braverman, Housing Commissioner 

Date: April 2, 2020

Re: **City Council Bill 20-0505 Building, Fire, and Related Codes - 2020 Edition**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has reviewed City Council Ordinance 20-0505 for the purpose of adopting a revised Building, Fire, and Related Codes Article, comprising the Maryland Building Performance Standards (effective March 25, 2019), the International Building Code (2018 Edition), the National Electrical Code (2017 Edition), the International Fuel Gas Code (2018 Edition), the International Mechanical Code (2018 Edition), the International Plumbing Code (2018 Edition), the International Property Maintenance Code (2018 Edition), the International Fire Code (2018 Edition), the International Energy Conservation Code (2018 Edition), the International Residential Code for One- and Two Family Dwellings (2018 Edition), the International Green Conservation Code (2012 Edition), and the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (2018 Edition), all as supplemented, amended, or otherwise modified by this Ordinance; providing for the effect, construction, and effective date of these new standards and codes; conforming, correcting, and clarifying certain language; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the adoption of new building, fire, property maintenance, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and related codes for Baltimore City.

Every three years, Baltimore City is required to update its Building Fire and Related Codes pursuant to the directive of the General Assembly by and through the Department of Labor and Licensing (DLLR). On March 25, 2019, DLLR adopted the State's Maryland Building Performance Standards which incorporates the 2018 International Code Council (ICC) family of Codes with State amendments. Local jurisdictions have one year from the creation of the Maryland Building Performance Standard to adopt their own version of the ICC in conformance with State law. DHCD, incorporating the Maryland Building Performance Standard, edited the 2018 ICC codes for local adoption.

Pursuant to State law the City is seeking to adopt the 2020 Baltimore City Building Fire and Related Codes (BCBFRC). DHCD **supports** the passage of City Council Bill 20-0505.

MB:sm

cc: Mr. Blendy, Nicholas, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*