

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, April 18, 2016
10:25 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILWOMAN MARIA D. QUINONES-SANCHEZ, CHAIR
COUNCILMAN ALLAN DOMB
COUNCILMAN WILLIAM K. GREENLEE
COUNCILMAN BOBBY HENON

BILL 160075 - An ordinance amending Title 4 of
The Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
Philadelphia Building Construction and
Occupancy Code," by amending Subcode "A" (The
Philadelphia Administrative Code)...

BILL 160130 - An ordinance amending Title 4 of
The Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
Philadelphia Building Construction and
Occupancy Code," by amending Subcode "B" (The
Philadelphia Building Code)...

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1
2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
3 morning. The Committee on Licenses and
4 Inspection will be called to order,
5 having established a quorum. To my far
6 left, Councilman Henon. To my immediate
7 left, Councilman Greenlee, and to my
8 right, Vice Chairman Allan Domb.

9 And we're going to start.
10 Would the Clerk read the title of the
11 bills.

12 THE CLERK: Bill No. 160075, an
13 ordinance amending Title 4 of The
14 Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
15 Philadelphia Building Construction and
16 Occupancy Code," by amending Subcode "A,"
17 providing for the posting and public
18 notice of the demolition of structures,
19 and making related changes, all under
20 certain terms and conditions.

21 Bill No. 160130, an ordinance
22 amending Title 4 of The Philadelphia
23 Code, entitled "The Philadelphia Building
24 Construction and Occupancy Code," by
25 amending Subcode "B," and thus amending

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 the PA Uniform Construction Code for
3 Philadelphia, to add sections requiring
4 contractors, design professionals and
5 developers to add additional
6 fire-resistant material to structures
7 containing truss construction and other
8 light frame construction, under certain
9 terms and conditions.

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
11 you.

12 In order to maximize the
13 Commissioner's time, let's do 160130
14 first and then we will do 160075.

15 You can begin.

16 MS. SWANSON: Good morning,
17 Chairwoman Sanchez and members of the
18 Committee on Licenses and Inspections.
19 My name is Rebecca Swanson and I am the
20 Planning Director for the Department of
21 Licenses and Inspections. Today I'm here
22 to provide testimony on Bill No. 160130,
23 which, if enacted, will amend The
24 Philadelphia Building Construction and
25 Occupancy Code and thus amending the

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code
3 for Philadelphia, to add certain
4 requirements for structures containing
5 light frame construction.

6 First, the Department would
7 like to thank the sponsors and Councilman
8 Henon for their work on this bill and the
9 Fire Department for their partnership
10 with us on this issue.

11 The use of lightweight
12 construction, including trusses,
13 I-joists, and engineered lumber, is quite
14 common in the building industry. In the
15 last 15 years, much new construction and
16 renovations have been built with these
17 materials. Lightweight construction is
18 sturdy and safe and meets all code
19 requirements. However, research has
20 shown that lightweight construction may
21 degrade more quickly than traditional
22 building materials when exposed to fire.
23 Thus, floor systems built with these
24 materials are more susceptible to
25 collapse during firefighting operations.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 There are two ways to prevent
3 this: requiring that structures built
4 with lightweight construction materials
5 have sprinkler systems or requiring that
6 builders protect lightweight construction
7 by covering the underside with
8 fire-resistant materials.

9 The existing codes contain
10 these requirements for residential
11 buildings. In 2010, the International
12 Building and Residential Codes and the
13 Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code
14 added a requirement that sprinkler
15 systems be included in all new
16 construction residential row homes and
17 townhomes, which make up the majority of
18 structures in Philadelphia. In addition,
19 a requirement was added that all new
20 construction detached and semi-detached
21 residential structures that do not
22 contain sprinkler systems must use
23 fire-resistant materials in conjunction
24 with lightweight construction. The
25 Department enforces these requirements

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 through our plan review and inspection
3 processes.

4 The International Building Code
5 and the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction
6 Code do not, however, require the same
7 level of fire-resistant protection of
8 lightweight construction in commercial
9 buildings. This bill will serve to
10 effectively close that gap by requiring
11 this type of protection in commercial
12 construction. Going forward, all
13 commercial construction, including
14 buildings under two stories, which are
15 the most likely to be built using
16 lightweight construction, in Philadelphia
17 will be required to use fire-resistant
18 materials in conjunction with lightweight
19 construction if the building is not
20 protected by a sprinkler system. As we
21 do with residential construction, we will
22 enforce these requirements through our
23 plan review and inspection processes and
24 are prepared to do so as soon as the bill
25 becomes law.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 We recognize that these
3 requirements do not apply to existing
4 buildings. However, the Department does
5 and will continue to partner with the
6 Fire Department to ensure that
7 firefighters get all necessary available
8 information, including construction type,
9 about a structure before or while en
10 route to a fire scene. We currently
11 share extensive property data with the
12 Fire Department, including whether a
13 building is considered unsafe or in
14 danger of collapse, whether there are
15 indicators of hazardous material storage,
16 whether there are outstanding code
17 violations, and whether there are active
18 construction permits, among other
19 information. Going forward, the
20 Department will also provide the Fire
21 Department with building permit data
22 dating back to 2006. This will allow the
23 Fire Department to determine whether a
24 building may contain lightweight
25 construction and prepare for that

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 potential hazard appropriately.

3 Thank you for the opportunity
4 to provide the Department's testimony on
5 Bill No. 160130. I will be happy to
6 answer any questions.

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
8 you.

9 We'll hear from the Fire
10 Commissioner.

11 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Good
12 morning, Councilwoman Quinones-Sanchez
13 and members of the Committee on Licenses
14 and Inspections. I am Derrick Sawyer,
15 Fire Commissioner of the Philadelphia
16 Fire Department. With me is Robert
17 Corrigan, Deputy Commissioner of
18 Technical Services of the Philadelphia
19 Fire Department. We are here today to
20 testify in support of Bill No. 160130
21 sponsored by Councilman Henon and
22 Squilla, which amends the following:

23 Title 4 of The Philadelphia
24 Code, entitled "The Philadelphia Building
25 Construction and Occupancy Code," by

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 amending Subcode "B" (The Philadelphia
3 Building Code), and thus amending the PA
4 Uniform Construction Code for
5 Philadelphia, to add sections requiring
6 contractors, design professionals and
7 developers to add additional
8 fire-resistant material to structures
9 containing truss construction and other
10 light frame construction, under certain
11 terms and conditions.

12 Lightweight, wood-frame
13 buildings burn extremely fast and hot.
14 If the fire breaks out of the containment
15 or room of origin, then it's off to the
16 races. As fire breaks containment and
17 vents to the outside of a structure, it
18 will spread upwardly very rapidly,
19 involving everything combustible in its
20 path. Fire venting from a window or door
21 will quickly burn into combustible truss
22 voids. Once fire has entered the void,
23 the roof decking will burn through and
24 the truss may collapse in less than five
25 minutes. The fire will also enter the

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 overhead and/or floor void from within
3 the area of origin. A post-flashover
4 fire will not be contained, and the fire
5 and super-heated gases will penetrate
6 through numerous pathways into
7 combustible void spaces.

8 Since the late '50s and '60s,
9 structures built of wood and steel or any
10 combination of the two have utilized
11 lightweight building design and
12 lightweight structural building
13 components, such as gusset plates,
14 trusses, plywood, wood I-beams, oriented
15 strand board sheeting and other
16 engineered systems. Rarely are buildings
17 constructed of solid-sawn dimensional
18 lumber joists and decking as in the past.

19 In addition, as structures get
20 lighter in structural weight, they are
21 loaded with contents and furnishings that
22 burn hotter and quicker than ever before,
23 a deadly combination for building
24 occupants and firefighters.

25 What does this mean for

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 firefighters? We have no time. Once the
3 fire has flashed in the area of origin,
4 the area can no longer hold, absorb or
5 contain the heat. As fire enters
6 combustible lightweight voids, collapse
7 is imminent. Bill 160130 provides for
8 more protection of internal components of
9 lightweight truss construction in certain
10 circumstances and, therefore, will
11 provide some measure of increased safety
12 to occupants and members of the
13 Philadelphia Fire Department in the event
14 of a fire.

15 Thank you for the opportunity
16 to testify on this bill. I will respond
17 to any questions that you may have.

18 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The
19 Chair recognizes the bill sponsors for
20 some comments.

21 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair.

23 And good morning and thank you
24 for your testimony, both of you there. I
25 think this is a -- it's a little more

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 than commonsense legislation. This is, I
3 believe, the kind of legislation that
4 smart minds get together to protect the
5 interest of the citizens of Philadelphia,
6 not just the citizens of Philadelphia but
7 the first responders and the equipment
8 and real property in our city. So you
9 got a lot of people working together on
10 this, and I just want to say this is --
11 I'm proud to be working with such a group
12 and Code Unit in L&I on this. So I
13 personally want to thank you,
14 Commissioner. I want to thank Deputy
15 Commissioner Corrigan, Tony Snyder from
16 the Code Unit, Rebecca Swanson of course
17 from L&I, and Ralph DiPietro on crafting
18 this bill, as well as working with Mike
19 Bresnan with Local 22. I mean, it was a
20 true collaborative effort with our
21 co-sponsors. Mark Squilla and I really
22 kind of brought people together and
23 recognized this. And this is, I want to
24 make sure and clarify for the record,
25 this is new construction moving forward,

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 nothing that is in the past, but this
3 really helps identify -- and I believe
4 L&I is going to be sharing information
5 with the Fire Department for when fires
6 are being dispatched; is that correct?

7 MS. SWANSON: Yes. We already
8 do share a lot of information, and we're
9 going to add construction type to that
10 information so that the Fire Department
11 can see on their way if it's suspected to
12 be lightweight construction.

13 COUNCILMAN HENON: Well, that's
14 great. I mean, as far as fire systems,
15 you have annunciator panels that are in
16 the beginning of the building, in the
17 entranceways. So that also helps notify,
18 but having this shared information with
19 L&I I think is critical, and I just want
20 to say thank you for your cooperation,
21 and I think Philadelphia is going to be a
22 little bit safer for it, at a minimal
23 cost. So this isn't a major cost to any
24 kind of new construction moving forward.
25 The little change here will actually save

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 lives.

3 So thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Thank

5 you.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank

7 you.

8 The Chair recognizes Councilman

9 Domb.

10 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,

11 Madam Chairwoman.

12 And thank you for the testimony
13 today, and I'm in favor of the bill. I
14 just have a few questions, and I just
15 want to make a few comments on this.

16 If I was driving through Point
17 Breeze or Fishtown or Northern Liberties
18 or Francisville, is most of the
19 construction, the new houses that are
20 being built, would they be affected by
21 this bill?

22 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Yes, they
23 should. Their new buildings are
24 lightweight construction, and most
25 lightweight construction uses either

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 truss for floor truss or roof truss. So
3 they would be affected.

4 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. And
5 from a builder's perspective, would you
6 say this might add \$500 to a thousand
7 dollars in costs, or what's the magnitude
8 of the potential cost?

9 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: I'm not
10 sure of the cost. Maybe L&I can answer
11 that.

12 MS. SWANSON: So it's already
13 required of residential buildings in the
14 Building Code. The residential
15 buildings, anything new since 2010, have
16 to be sprinklered, and the code really
17 sees these as the same amount of
18 protection, either sprinklered or the
19 fire-resistant materials. So this bill
20 just kind of closes a loophole for new
21 commercial construction. And I don't
22 have an exact cost, but we don't believe
23 it's significant since builders are
24 already doing this for residential
25 structures.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: So let me ask
3 you the other question that might help
4 people buying the homes. Would this mean
5 that because this material is in place,
6 that their insurance premiums should be
7 less because the probability of a
8 potential fire would go down?

9 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Not for
10 protective coating. For residential
11 sprinklers, their insurance would go
12 down, but for the protective coating,
13 their insurance wouldn't go down. It
14 just means that these trusses wouldn't
15 fail as soon. So when you don't have any
16 protective coating and exposed to fires,
17 these truss construction can fail within
18 five minutes. So with the coating, it
19 gives you probably another, I'm not sure
20 how long, an hour of protection.

21 MS. SWANSON: Yeah. That's
22 what we heard.

23 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: About an
24 hour of protection. So now instead of
25 that structure collapsing, we have a

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 chance to get in, locate, confine, and
3 extinguish the fire and still be in a
4 safe area.

5 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Okay. Thank
6 you. I understand. Thanks.

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
8 other questions from the Committee?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
11 you. Commissioner, I missed you the
12 other day at the budget hearings, and I
13 just want to really thank you for all
14 your service as a Commissioner. From
15 this to the big commercial building stuff
16 that we're doing with the pilot with
17 Public Property, to Councilman Henon's
18 point, the level of collaboration is very
19 much welcomed, and we want to keep
20 residents safe but, more importantly, we
21 want to keep our firefighters safe. So I
22 really appreciate all your leadership in
23 that.

24 COMMISSIONER SAWYER: Thank you
25 very much.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
3 you.

4 Okay, Rebecca. Next one.

5 MS. SWANSON: Good morning,
6 Chairwoman Sanchez and members of the
7 Committee on Licenses and Inspections. I
8 am Rebecca Swanson. I am the Planning
9 Director for the Department of Licenses
10 and Inspections. I am here to provide
11 testimony on Bill No. 160075, which, if
12 enacted, will amend The Philadelphia
13 Administrative Code to provide new
14 requirements for the posting and public
15 notice of the demolition of structures.

16 First, the Department would
17 like to thank the Council President for
18 sponsoring this bill.

19 The Department has strict
20 regulations that demolition contractors
21 must follow before, during, and after the
22 demolition of a building. Specific to
23 this bill, there are extensive notice
24 requirements that must be followed prior
25 to a demolition, both by the demolition

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 contractor and by the Department.
3 Currently, the Department is required to,
4 within ten days of the issuance of a
5 demolition permit, post a notice of
6 demolition on the building to be
7 demolished and distribute an
8 informational bulletin indicating the
9 pending demolition of the property to
10 near neighbors. The informational
11 bulletin must be distributed to the front
12 doors of all properties located within
13 the safety zone area surrounding the
14 subject building, including, but not
15 limited to, the three nearest properties
16 on each side, the seven nearest
17 properties across the street, and the
18 seven nearest properties to the rear.
19 The bulletin contains information about
20 what neighbors can expect during the
21 demolition as well as what their rights
22 are.

23 Currently, demolition cannot
24 begin for at least 21 days after the date
25 of the issuance of the demolition permit,

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 a timeframe that was established in order
3 to provide neighbors with plenty of time,
4 a minimum of 11 days, to review the
5 posted demolition notice and distributed
6 bulletin.

7 This bill would slightly amend
8 the terms of the notice requirement in
9 both the timing of the posted notice and
10 the party responsible for posting the
11 notice. At the time of submittal of a
12 demolition permit application, rather
13 than at the time of permit issuance, the
14 demolition contractor will receive from
15 the Department a notice of demolition to
16 be posted on the subject building. The
17 contractor, rather than the Department,
18 must post the notice on the building
19 within ten days of the application
20 submittal. The notice must remain in
21 place until the demolition, which cannot
22 begin for at least 21 days after the
23 submittal of the permit application. At
24 the same time, the Department will be
25 responsible for distributing the

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 informational bulletin to the same set of
3 properties as were required to receive
4 the bulletin previously.

5 The bill does not shorten
6 notice requirements or provide neighbors
7 with any less time to receive notice of
8 an upcoming demolition, nor does it
9 change the content of the notice or of
10 the informational brochure. In fact, in
11 almost all cases, neighbors will be
12 afforded more notice. Under the changes
13 proposed in this bill, structures will be
14 posted for a minimum of 11 days, which is
15 the same as required now, but in most
16 cases, the posting period will last well
17 beyond this. This is due to tying the
18 posting date to the date of permit
19 application rather than to the date of
20 permit issuance. The Department's
21 standard review time for a non-emergency
22 demolition permit is 20 business days,
23 meaning that approximately 28 calendar
24 days elapse between permit application
25 and permit issuance. Many demolition

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 permits require additional submissions
3 and review, which can significantly
4 extend this timeframe. Therefore, the
5 reality is that nearly zero
6 demolitions -- it's actually less than 4
7 percent -- will start less than 21 days
8 from the time of permit application,
9 meaning that the posting will remain up
10 for longer than it did under the previous
11 requirements.

12 The Department will closely
13 monitor demolition contractors'
14 compliance with the new requirements to
15 ensure that notice is always posted for a
16 sufficient period of time. In addition,
17 the Department is making revisions to its
18 informational bulletin and other
19 documents to provide even more details
20 about what neighbors can expect during a
21 nearby demolition.

22 The bill does not change the
23 Building Code requirements that
24 demolition contractors are required to
25 protect adjacent structures during

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 demolitions and that they must provide a
3 minimum of ten days written notice to
4 adjacent property owners if this
5 protection requires access to the
6 adjoining property.

7 Thank you for the opportunity
8 to provide the Department's testimony on
9 Bill No. 160075. I will be happy to
10 answer any questions at this time.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
12 questions from the Committee?

13 Seeing none -- Councilman
14 Henon.

15 COUNCILMAN HENON: My apology.

16 How many licensed demolition
17 contractors do we have in the City of
18 Philadelphia?

19 MS. SWANSON: Approximately 20.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: And were
21 they consulted regarding this
22 legislation, and how would they be
23 informed of the new requirements?

24 MS. SWANSON: I don't know if
25 they were consulted, but they will be

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 informed at the time of application
3 submission. When they come in for --
4 almost all demolition permits are
5 submitted in person because of the
6 extensive requirements. They will be
7 handed the notice when they come in and
8 will be instructed on what to do then.

9 The Department is in very close
10 contact with the demolition contractors,
11 because there are so few of them and
12 because many of them are also on the
13 master demolition list and do City
14 demolitions. So they're all kind of on a
15 first-name basis with our Emergency
16 Services Unit.

17 COUNCILMAN HENON: And why make
18 the near neighborhood notification
19 process optional instead of will
20 reserve -- the Department reserves the
21 right?

22 MS. SWANSON: It won't be
23 optional. I mean, we're still going to
24 do it. I'm not sure why the language
25 said reserve the right, but we're not

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 going to change our position on that at
3 all. We will be distributing the
4 informational bulletin to all of those
5 neighbors.

6 COUNCILMAN HENON: And under
7 what circumstances would a demolition
8 permit be denied?

9 MS. SWANSON: They are rarely
10 denied, but they are not issued, pending
11 the submission of additional information.
12 Again, the vast majority -- they come in,
13 they submit everything. Whether the
14 plans examiner needs to see some changes
15 or just needs updated information, demo
16 permit applications more so than any
17 other permit are a really back and forth
18 process between the plans examiner and
19 the applicant.

20 COUNCILMAN HENON: So the 21
21 days is the required time for submittal
22 of all the information for the plans
23 review?

24 MS. SWANSON: Yes. We looked
25 at it and 96 percent of demolition

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 permits are issued beyond 21 days from
3 the time of application.

4 COUNCILMAN HENON: All right.

5 But the notification is only good for 21
6 days, right?

7 MS. SWANSON: And that doesn't
8 change. It's always been 21 days, but
9 now it's 21 days from application as
10 opposed to 21 days from issuance. And
11 from what we've heard from the industry
12 is that this is helpful to them, because
13 demolitions are required to start within
14 45 days of permit issuance. So if they
15 had to get the permit, post for 21 days
16 and then begin, it gives them only about
17 a three-week window to begin. By having
18 the posting run from the time of
19 application, it gives them a little more
20 time to prepare to begin the demolition
21 after permit issuance.

22 COUNCILMAN HENON: So it's
23 still within the 45 days?

24 MS. SWANSON: Yes.

25 COUNCILMAN HENON: So within

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 that 21-day posting period, what rights
3 do the neighbors have in the immediate
4 area if they feel that somebody is either
5 not in compliant or they want to appeal
6 the process, or does that help them
7 actually?

8 MS. SWANSON: I don't believe
9 there is standing to appeal a demolition
10 permit, but it does allow them to have
11 notice it's going to happen, and if they
12 would like, the contact information for
13 the contractor is on those postings. So
14 if they feel the need to reach out to the
15 contractor, ask any questions about what
16 the next steps are and how it will affect
17 their property, that is very much
18 encouraged. They're also welcomed to
19 reach out to the Department. All of that
20 information will be contained on that
21 informational brochure that they will
22 receive from the Department.

23 COUNCILMAN HENON: Okay.
24 Great. Thank you.

25 I have no further questions.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
3 you.

4 And just for the record, I know
5 industry folks have been reaching out
6 about the extending of the data,
7 demolition date, because some of the
8 projects for funding purposes require
9 more time, but that's another issue for
10 another time.

11 I think one of the great things
12 about all these new demolition
13 requirements is that the Department has
14 been as proactive as they can be, and the
15 industry is paying attention and we
16 continue to have conversations about
17 maximizing safety plans, notification. I
18 think there's an agreement with all of
19 the good actors that we'll work through
20 all of these new processes.

21 MS. SWANSON: Yes.

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
23 you.

24 MS. SWANSON: Thank you.

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: So that

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 ends the public hearing of the Department
3 of License and Inspection.

4 We will now go into our public
5 meeting, and I am going to recognize Vice
6 Chairman Domb for a motion on the
7 amendment.

8 MR. ALI: Excuse me, Madam
9 Chair. Is there a point for citizens to
10 testify?

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Oh, I'm
12 sorry. I did not -- I have to go back
13 into the hearing. I'm sorry.

14 I'm going to go back into the
15 hearing. I didn't ask if anybody else
16 was here to testify. I didn't have
17 anybody else on the list.

18 Okay. Did you register in with
19 our folks?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: No.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: That's
22 all right. Come on up.

23 (Witness approached witness
24 table.)

25 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: We're

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 back in our public hearing to take public
3 testimony.

4 Please say your name for the
5 record and the bill you're testifying on.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Good
7 morning. My name is John T. Williams and
8 I'm here to talk about Bill 160130. It's
9 my understanding it deals with fire and
10 safety and things like that.

11 I've been a resident of the
12 Francisville neighborhood for the past 40
13 years, and there's an Asian family that
14 has a business at 1603 Parrish. There's
15 a developer that's building a building at
16 824 North 16th Street, right across from
17 the fire station there. What they did
18 was -- and I have known the Asian family
19 all my years. We actually grew up
20 together. Has told them that they had no
21 right to the, I guess, the alleyway,
22 breezeway, and they built right up to
23 their back door. They made them brick it
24 up. I've taken pictures and everything.

25 I just got back in town. I do

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 a lot of traveling. I just got all
3 through with TobyMac. I've worked with
4 R. Kelly, Mary J. Blige. I'm getting
5 ready to go back out on the road Thursday
6 with Anthony Hamilton and Fantasia, but
7 I'm trying to get something done before I
8 go back out on the road, because I'll be
9 gone for seven weeks.

10 This is a very, very serious
11 situation. There's no way for them to
12 get out at all. I've called L&I.
13 They're giving me the run-around. I'm
14 not trying to be a pain in the butt. I'm
15 not trying to cause any problems.
16 However, if there was a fire in the front
17 of this building -- I've spoken to
18 Captain Joyner, who was the former
19 Captain of the fire station right there.
20 He said, You know one thing, John, if
21 there was a fire in the front of this
22 building, everybody would probably die in
23 this building. Because there's no way
24 out the back. They're completely blocked
25 in, from the basement to the third floor.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Madam

3 Chair, if I may.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Yes.

5 Councilman Greenlee.

6 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Point of
7 information.

8 Sir, what you're talking about
9 doesn't directly affect this bill, but
10 I'm familiar with that area. We're
11 literally in that area, and Mr. Young and
12 I, Mr. Young from Council President
13 Clarke, why don't we talk after the
14 hearing and we'll talk about that,
15 because that really doesn't -- this bill
16 isn't really affecting that, but I
17 understand what you're saying. I'm real
18 familiar with the area.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: This is a
20 serious matter.

21 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: So let's
22 talk after the hearing.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

24 COUNCILMAN GREENLEE: Thank
25 you.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.

2 Thank you, Madam Chair.

3 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
4 you for coming forward and testifying.

5 So this ends the hearing. We
6 go back into our meeting, and the Chair
7 recognizes Councilman Domb for a motion
8 on the amendment to Bill 160075.

9 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
10 Madam Chairwoman. I move that the
11 amendment to Bill No. 160075 be adopted.

12 (Duly seconded.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
14 those in favor?

15 (Aye.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
17 opposition?

18 (No response.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
20 none, the Chair recognizes -- the
21 amendment has been adopted.

22 The Chair recognizes Councilman
23 Domb for a motion on the amended bill.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
25 Madam Chairwoman. I move that Bill No.

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 160075, as amended, be reported from this
3 Committee with a favorable recommendation
4 and further move that the rules of
5 Council be suspended to permit first
6 reading of this bill at the next session
7 of Council.

8 (Duly seconded.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
10 favor?

11 (Aye.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
13 opposition?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
16 none, Bill 160075, as amended, will be
17 moved out of this Committee with a
18 favorable recommendation and, further,
19 rules suspension to allow first reading
20 at our next session.

21 The Chair recognizes Councilman
22 Domb for Bill 160130.

23 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
24 Madam Chairwoman. I move that Bill No.
25 160130 be reported from this Committee

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 35

1 4/18/16 - L&I - BILL 160075, etc.
2 with a favorable recommendation and
3 further move that the rules of Council be
4 suspended to permit first reading of this
5 bill at the next session of Council.

6 (Duly seconded.)

7 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All in
8 favor?

9 (Aye.)

10 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
11 opposition?

12 (No response.)

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
14 none, Bill 160130 will be moved out of
15 this Committee with a favorable
16 recommendation and, further, rules
17 suspension to allow first reading at our
18 next public session.

19 Thank you. This concludes our
20 public meeting.

21 (Committee on Licenses and
22 Inspections concluded at 10:55 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
proceedings, evidence and objections are
contained fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me upon the
foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
correct transcript of same.

MICHELE L. MURPHY
RPR-Notary Public

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direct control and/or supervision of the
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Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 1

A	33:11,21	31:5,8,24	Bresnan	cases 21:11	2:16,23,24	22:14	contents
a.m 1:7 35:22	amends 8:22	33:6	12:19	21:16	3:2,25 4:2	compliant	10:21
absorb 11:4	amount 15:17	basement	brick 30:23	cause 31:15	4:18 5:13	27:5	continue 7:5
access 23:5	and/or 10:2	31:25	brochure	certain 2:20	6:4,6 7:16	components	28:16
accurately	36:23	basis 24:15	21:10 27:21	3:8 4:3 9:10	8:24,25 9:3	10:13 11:8	contractor
36:5	annunciator	beginning	brought	11:9	9:4 12:12	concluded	19:2 20:14
active 7:17	13:15	13:16	12:22	CERTIFIC...	12:16 15:14	35:22	20:17 27:13
actors 28:19	answer 8:6	believe 12:3	budget 17:12	36:2	15:16 18:13	concludes	27:15
add 3:3,5 4:3	15:10 23:10	13:3 15:22	builder's 15:5	certification	22:23	35:19	contractors
9:5,7 13:9	Anthony 31:6	27:8	builders 5:6	36:20	codes 5:9,12	conditions	3:4 9:6
15:6	anybody	beyond 21:17	15:23	CERTIFY	collaboration	2:20 3:9	18:20 22:24
added 5:14	29:15,17	26:2	building 1:14	36:3	17:18	9:11	23:17 24:10
5:19	apology	big 17:15	1:17,18	certifying	collaborative	confine 17:2	contractors'
addition 5:18	23:15	bill 1:13,16	2:15,23	36:24	12:20	conjunction	22:13
10:19 22:16	appeal 27:5,9	2:12,21 3:1	3:24 4:14	Chair 1:10	collapse 4:25	5:23 6:18	control 36:23
additional	applicant	3:22 4:1,8	4:22 5:12	11:19,22	7:14 9:24	considered	conversations
3:5 9:7 22:2	25:19	5:1 6:1,9,24	6:4,19 7:13	14:8 29:9	11:6	7:13	28:16
25:11	application	7:1 8:1,5,20	7:21,24	32:3 33:2,6	collapsing	constructed	cooperation
adjacent	20:12,19,23	9:1 10:1	8:24 9:3	33:20,22	16:25	10:17	13:20
22:25 23:4	21:19,24	11:1,7,16	10:11,12,23	34:21	combination	construction	correct 13:6
adjoining	22:8 24:2	11:19 12:1	13:16 15:14	Chairman	10:10,23	1:14,17	36:8
23:6	26:3,9,19	12:18 13:1	17:15 18:22	2:8 29:6	combustible	2:15,24 3:2	Corrigan
Administra...	applications	14:1,13,21	19:6,14	Chairwoman	9:19,21	3:7,8,24 4:2	8:17 12:15
1:15 18:13	25:16	15:1,19	20:16,18	3:17 14:11	10:7 11:6	4:5,12,15	cost 13:23,23
adopted	apply 7:3	16:1 17:1	22:23 30:15	18:6 33:10	come 24:3,7	4:17,20 5:4	15:8,10,22
33:11,21	36:21	18:1,11,18	30:15 31:17	33:25 34:24	25:12 29:22	5:6,13,16	costs 15:7
affect 27:16	appreciate	18:23 19:1	31:22,23	chance 17:2	coming 33:4	5:20,24 6:5	Council 1:2
32:9	17:22	20:1,7 21:1	buildings	change 13:25	comments	6:8,12,13	18:17 32:12
afforded	approached	21:5,13	5:11 6:9,14	21:9 22:22	11:20 14:15	6:16,19,21	34:5,7 35:3
21:12	29:23	22:1,22	7:4 9:13	25:2 26:8	commercial	7:8,18,25	35:5
agreement	appropriat...	23:1,9 24:1	10:16 14:23	changes 2:19	6:8,11,13	8:25 9:4,9	Councilman
28:18	8:2	25:1 26:1	15:13,15	21:12 25:14	15:21 17:15	9:10 11:9	1:10,11,11
ALI 29:8	approximat...	27:1 28:1	built 4:16,23	circumstan...	Commissio...	12:25 13:9	2:6,7 4:7
Allan 1:10	21:23 23:19	29:1 30:1,5	5:3 6:15	11:10 25:7	8:10,11,15	13:12,24	8:21 11:21
2:8	April 1:7	30:8 31:1	10:9 14:20	citizens 12:5	8:17 12:14	14:19,24,25	13:13 14:8
alleyway	area 10:3	32:1,9,15	30:22	12:6 29:9	12:15 14:4	15:21 16:17	14:10 15:4
30:21	11:3,4 17:4	33:1,8,11	bulletin 19:8	city 1:2,6	14:22 15:9	consulted	16:2 17:5
allow 7:22	19:13 27:4	33:23,25	19:11,19	12:8 23:17	16:9,23	23:21,25	17:17 23:13
27:10 34:19	32:10,11,18	34:1,6,16	20:6 21:2,4	24:13	17:11,14,24	contact 24:10	23:15,20
35:17	Asian 30:13	34:22,24	22:18 25:4	clarify 12:24	Commissio...	27:12	24:17 25:6
amend 3:23	30:18	35:1,5,14	burn 9:13,21	Clarke 32:13	3:13	contain 5:9	25:20 26:4
18:12 20:7	attention	bills 2:11	9:23 10:22	Clerk 2:10,12	Committee	5:22 7:24	26:22,25
amended	28:15	bit 13:22	business	close 6:10	1:3 2:3 3:18	11:5	27:23 32:2
33:23 34:2	available 7:7	Blige 31:4	21:22 30:14	24:9	8:13 17:8	contained	32:5,6,21
34:16	Aye 33:15	blocked	butt 31:14	closely 22:12	18:7 23:12	10:4 27:20	32:24 33:7
amending	34:11 35:9	31:24	buying 16:4	closes 15:20	34:3,17,25	36:5	33:9,22,24
1:13,15,16	B	board 10:15	C	co-sponsors	35:15,21	containing	34:21,23
1:18 2:13	B 1:18 2:25	BOBBY 1:11	calendar	12:21	common 4:14	3:7 4:4 9:9	Councilwo...
2:16,22,25	9:2	breaks 9:14	21:23	coating 16:10	commonsens...	containment	1:10 2:2
2:25 3:25	back 7:22	9:16	called 2:4	16:12,16,18	12:2	9:14,16	3:10 8:7,12
9:2,3	25:17 29:12	Breeze 14:17	31:12	code 1:14,15	completely	contains	11:18 14:6
amendment	29:14 30:2	breezeway	Captain	1:15,17,18	31:24	19:19	17:7,10
29:7 33:8	30:23,25	30:22	31:18,19	1:18 2:14	compliance	content 21:9	18:2 23:11

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 2

28:2,22,25 29:11,21,25 32:4 33:3 33:13,16,19 34:9,12,15 35:7,10,13 course 12:16 covering 5:7 crafting 12:17 critical 13:19 currently 7:10 19:3 19:23	28:7,12 demolitions 22:6 23:2 24:14 26:13 denied 25:8 25:10 Department 3:20 4:6,9 5:25 7:4,6 7:12,20,21 7:23 8:16 8:19 11:13 13:5,10 18:9,16,19 19:2,3 20:15,17,24 22:12,17 24:9,20 27:19,22 28:13 29:2 Departmen... 8:4 21:20 23:8 Deputy 8:17 12:14 Derrick 8:14 design 3:4 9:6 10:11 detached 5:20 details 22:19 determine 7:23 developer 30:15 developers 3:5 9:7 die 31:22 dimensional 10:17 DiPietro 12:17 direct 36:23 directly 32:9 Director 3:20 18:9 dispatched 13:6 distribute 19:7 distributed 19:11 20:5 distributing	20:25 25:3 documents 22:19 doing 15:24 17:16 dollars 15:7 Domb 1:10 2:8 14:9,10 15:4 16:2 17:5 29:6 33:7,9,23 33:24 34:22 34:23 door 9:20 30:23 doors 19:12 driving 14:16 due 21:17 Duly 33:12 34:8 35:6	2:5 20:2 event 11:13 everybody 31:22 evidence 36:4 exact 15:22 examiner 25:14,18 Excuse 29:8 existing 5:9 7:3 expect 19:20 22:20 exposed 4:22 16:16 extend 22:4 extending 28:6 extensive 7:11 18:23 24:6 extinguish 17:3 extremely 9:13	31:16,19,21 fire-resistant 3:6 5:8,23 6:7,17 9:8 15:19 firefighters 7:7 10:24 11:2 17:21 firefighting 4:25 fires 13:5 16:16 first 3:14 4:6 12:7 18:16 34:5,19 35:4,17 first-name 24:15 Fishtown 14:17 five 9:24 16:18 flashed 11:3 floor 4:23 10:2 15:2 31:25 folks 28:5 29:19 follow 18:21 followed 18:24 following 8:22 foregoing 36:7,20 former 31:18 forth 25:17 forward 6:12 7:19 12:25 13:24 33:4 frame 3:8 4:5 9:10 Francisville 14:18 30:12 front 19:11 31:16,21 fully 36:5 funding 28:8 furnishings 10:21 further 27:25 34:4,18 35:3,16	G gap 6:10 gases 10:5 getting 31:4 gives 16:19 26:16,19 giving 31:13 go 16:8,11,13 29:4,12,14 31:5,8 33:6 going 2:9 6:12 7:19 13:4,9,21 24:23 25:2 27:11 29:5 29:14 good 2:2 3:16 8:11 11:23 18:5 26:5 28:19 30:6 great 13:14 27:24 28:11 Greenlee 1:11 2:7 32:2,5,6 32:21,24 grew 30:19 group 12:11 guess 30:21 gusset 10:13	helpful 26:12 helps 13:3,17 Henon 1:11 2:6 4:8 8:21 11:21 13:13 23:14,15,20 24:17 25:6 25:20 26:4 26:22,25 27:23 Henon's 17:17 hold 11:4 homes 5:16 16:4 hot 9:13 hotter 10:22 hour 16:20 16:24 houses 14:19	19:8,10 21:2,10 22:18 25:4 27:21 informed 23:23 24:2 inspection 2:4 6:2,23 29:3 Inspections 1:3 3:18,21 8:14 18:7 18:10 35:22 instructed 24:8 insurance 16:6,11,13 interest 12:5 internal 11:8 International 5:11 6:4 involving 9:19 issuance 19:4 19:25 20:13 21:20,25 26:10,14,21 issue 4:10 28:9 issued 25:10 26:2
D D 1:10 danger 7:14 data 7:11,21 28:6 date 19:24 21:18,18,19 28:7 dating 7:22 day 17:12 days 19:4,24 20:4,19,22 21:14,22,24 22:7 23:3 25:21 26:2 26:6,8,9,10 26:14,15,23 deadly 10:23 deals 30:9 decking 9:23 10:18 degrade 4:21 demo 25:15 demolished 19:7 demolition 2:18 18:15 18:20,22,25 18:25 19:5 19:6,9,21 19:23,25 20:5,12,14 20:15,21 21:8,22,25 22:13,21,24 23:16 24:4 24:10,13 25:7,25 26:20 27:9	D D 1:10 danger 7:14 data 7:11,21 28:6 date 19:24 21:18,18,19 28:7 dating 7:22 day 17:12 days 19:4,24 20:4,19,22 21:14,22,24 22:7 23:3 25:21 26:2 26:6,8,9,10 26:14,15,23 deadly 10:23 deals 30:9 decking 9:23 10:18 degrade 4:21 demo 25:15 demolished 19:7 demolition 2:18 18:15 18:20,22,25 18:25 19:5 19:6,9,21 19:23,25 20:5,12,14 20:15,21 21:8,22,25 22:13,21,24 23:16 24:4 24:10,13 25:7,25 26:20 27:9	E effectively 6:10 effort 12:20 either 14:25 15:18 27:4 elapse 21:24 Emergency 24:15 en 7:9 enacted 3:23 18:12 encouraged 27:18 ends 29:2 33:5 enforce 6:22 enforces 5:25 engineered 4:13 10:16 ensure 7:6 22:15 enter 9:25 entered 9:22 enters 11:5 entitled 1:14 1:17 2:14 2:23 8:24 entranceways 13:17 equipment 12:7 established	F fact 21:10 fail 16:15,17 familiar 32:10,18 family 30:13 30:18 Fantasia 31:6 far 2:5 13:14 fast 9:13 favor 14:13 33:14 34:10 35:8 favorable 34:3,18 35:2,15 feel 27:4,14 fire 4:9,22 7:6 7:10,12,20 7:23 8:9,15 8:16,19 9:14,16,20 9:22,25 10:4,4 11:3 11:5,13,14 13:5,10,14 16:8 17:3 30:9,17	H Hall 1:6 Hamilton 31:6 handed 24:7 happen 27:11 happy 8:5 23:9 hazard 8:2 hazardous 7:15 hear 8:9 heard 16:22 26:11 hearing 29:2 29:13,15 30:2 32:14 32:22 33:5 hearings 17:12 heat 11:5 help 16:3 27:6	I I-beams 10:14 I-joists 4:13 identify 13:3 immediate 2:6 27:3 imminent 11:7 importantly 17:20 included 5:15 including 4:12 6:13 7:8,12 19:14 increased 11:11 indicating 19:8 indicators 7:15 industry 4:14 26:11 28:5 28:15 information 7:8,19 13:4 13:8,10,18 19:19 25:11 25:15,22 27:12,20 32:7 information...	J J 31:4 John 30:7 31:20 joists 10:18 Joyner 31:18	K K 1:11 keep 17:19,21 Kelly 31:4 kind 12:3,22 13:24 15:20 24:14 know 23:24 28:4 31:20 known 30:18
						L L 36:14 L&I 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1	

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 3

11:1 12:1 12:12,17 13:1,4,19 14:1 15:1 15:10 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1,12 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 language 24:24 late 10:8 law 6:25 leadership 17:22 left 2:6,7 legislation 12:2,3 23:22 let's 3:13 32:21 level 6:7 17:18 Liberties 14:17 License 29:3 licensed 23:16 Licenses 1:3 2:3 3:18,21 8:13 18:7,9 35:21 light 3:8 4:5 9:10 lighter 10:20 lightweight 4:11,17,20 5:4,6,24 6:8 6:16,18 7:24 9:12 10:11,12 11:6,9 13:12 14:24 14:25 limited 19:15 list 24:13 29:17	literally 32:11 little 11:25 13:22,25 26:19 lives 14:2 loaded 10:21 Local 12:19 locate 17:2 located 19:12 long 16:20 longer 11:4 22:10 looked 25:24 loophole 15:20 lot 12:9 13:8 31:2 lumber 4:13 10:18 M Madam 11:22 14:11 29:8 32:2 33:2,10,25 34:24 magnitude 15:7 major 13:23 majority 5:17 25:12 making 2:19 22:17 MARIA 1:10 Mark 12:21 Mary 31:4 master 24:13 material 3:6 7:15 9:8 16:5 materials 4:17,22,24 5:4,8,23 6:18 15:19 matter 32:20 36:7 maximize 3:12 maximizing 28:17 mean 10:25 12:19 13:14 16:4 24:23	meaning 21:23 22:9 means 16:14 36:22 measure 11:11 meeting 29:5 33:6 35:20 meets 4:18 members 3:17 8:13 11:12 18:6 MICHELE 36:14 Mike 12:18 minds 12:4 minimal 13:22 minimum 20:4 21:14 23:3 minutes 9:25 16:18 missed 17:11 Monday 1:7 monitor 22:13 morning 2:3 3:16 8:12 11:23 18:5 30:7 motion 29:6 33:7,23 move 33:10 33:25 34:4 34:24 35:3 moved 34:17 35:14 moving 12:25 13:24 MURPHY 36:14 N name 3:19 30:4,7 near 19:10 24:18 nearby 22:21 nearest 19:15 19:16,18 nearly 22:5 necessary 7:7 need 27:14	needs 25:14 25:15 neighborho... 24:18 30:12 neighbors 19:10,20 20:3 21:6 21:11 22:20 25:5 27:3 new 4:15 5:15 5:19 12:25 13:24 14:19 14:23 15:15 15:20 18:13 22:14 23:23 28:12,20 non-emerge... 21:21 North 30:16 Northern 14:17 notes 36:6 notice 2:18 18:15,23 19:5 20:5,8 20:9,11,15 20:18,20 21:6,7,9,12 22:15 23:3 24:7 27:11 notification 24:18 26:5 28:17 notify 13:17 numerous 10:6 O objections 36:4 Occupancy 1:15,18 2:16,24 3:25 8:25 occupants 10:24 11:12 Oh 29:11 Okay 15:4 17:5 18:4 27:23 29:18 32:23 Once 9:22 11:2 operations	4:25 opportunity 8:3 11:15 23:7 opposed 26:10 opposition 33:17 34:13 35:11 optional 24:19,23 order 2:4 3:12 20:2 ordinance 1:13,16 2:13,21 oriented 10:14 origin 9:15 10:3 11:3 outside 9:17 outstanding 7:16 10:2 owners 23:4 P PA 3:2 9:3 pain 31:14 panels 13:15 Parrish 30:14 partner 7:5 partnership 4:9 party 20:10 path 9:20 pathways 10:6 paying 28:15 pending 19:9 25:10 penetrate 10:5 Pennsylvania 1:6 4:2 5:13 6:5 people 12:9 12:22 16:4 percent 22:7 25:25 period 21:16 22:16 27:2 permit 7:21	19:5,25 20:12,13,23 21:18,20,22 21:24,25 22:8 25:8 25:16,17 26:14,15,21 27:10 34:5 35:4 permits 7:18 22:2 24:4 26:2 person 24:5 personally 12:13 perspective 15:5 Philadelphia 1:2,6,14,14 1:15,17,17 1:18 2:14 2:15,22,23 3:3,24 4:3 5:18 6:16 8:15,18,23 8:24 9:2,5 11:13 12:5 12:6 13:21 18:12 23:18 pictures 30:24 pilot 17:16 place 16:5 20:21 plan 6:2,23 Planning 3:20 18:8 plans 25:14 25:18,22 28:17 plates 10:13 Please 30:4 plenty 20:3 plywood 10:14 point 14:16 17:18 29:9 32:6 position 25:2 post 19:5 20:18 26:15 post-flasho... 10:3	posted 20:5,9 20:16 21:14 22:15 posting 2:17 18:14 20:10 21:16,18 22:9 26:18 27:2 postings 27:13 potential 8:2 15:8 16:8 premiums 16:6 prepare 7:25 26:20 prepared 6:24 PRESENT 1:9 President 18:17 32:12 prevent 5:2 previous 22:10 previously 21:4 prior 18:24 proactive 28:14 probability 16:7 probably 16:19 31:22 problems 31:15 proceedings 36:4 process 24:19 25:18 27:6 processes 6:3 6:23 28:20 professionals 3:4 9:6 projects 28:8 properties 19:12,15,17 19:18 21:3 property 7:11 12:8 17:17 19:9 23:4,6 27:17 proposed	21:13 protect 5:6 12:4 22:25 protected 6:20 protection 6:7,11 11:8 15:18 16:20 16:24 23:5 protective 16:10,12,16 proud 12:11 provide 3:22 7:20 8:4 11:11 18:10 18:13 20:3 21:6 22:19 23:2,8 provides 11:7 providing 2:17 public 2:17 17:17 18:14 29:2,4 30:2 30:2 35:18 35:20 36:15 purposes 28:8 Q question 16:3 questions 8:6 11:17 14:14 17:8 23:10 23:12 27:15 27:25 quicker 10:22 quickly 4:21 9:21 Quinones-S... 1:10 8:12 quite 4:13 quorum 2:5 R R 31:4 races 9:16 Ralph 12:17 rapidly 9:18 rarely 10:16 25:9 reach 27:14 27:19 reaching 28:5
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 4

read 2:10	21:3,15	27:2	5:20	sprinklered	10:5	3:22 8:4	Tony 12:15
reading 34:6	22:24 25:21	road 31:5,8	serious 31:10	15:16,18	supervision	11:24 14:12	town 30:25
34:19 35:4	26:13	Robert 8:16	32:20	sprinklers	36:23	18:11 23:8	townhomes
35:17	requirement	roof 9:23 15:2	serve 6:9	16:11	support 8:20	30:3	5:17
ready 31:5	5:14,19	room 1:6 9:15	service 17:14	Squilla 8:22	sure 12:24	thank 3:10	traditional
real 12:8	20:8	route 7:10	Services 8:18	12:21	15:10 16:19	4:7 8:3,7	4:21
32:17	requirements	row 5:16	24:16	standard	24:24	11:15,21,23	transcript
reality 22:5	4:4,19 5:10	RPR-Notary	session 34:6	21:21	surrounding	12:13,14	36:8,21
really 12:21	5:25 6:22	36:15	34:20 35:5	standing 27:9	19:13	13:20 14:3	traveling
13:3 15:16	7:3 18:14	rules 34:4,19	35:18	start 2:9 22:7	susceptible	14:4,6,10	31:2
17:13,22	18:24 21:6	35:3,16	set 21:2	26:13	4:24	14:12 17:5	true 12:20
25:17 32:15	22:11,14,23	run 26:18	seven 19:16	station 30:17	suspected	17:10,13,24	36:7
32:16	23:23 24:6	run-around	19:18 31:9	31:19	13:11	18:2,17	truss 3:7 9:9
rear 19:18	28:13	31:13	share 7:11	steel 10:9	suspended	23:7 27:24	9:21,24
Rebecca 3:19	requires 23:5		13:8	stenographic	34:5 35:4	28:2,22,24	11:9 15:2,2
12:16 18:4	requiring 3:3	S	shared 13:18	36:6	suspension	32:24 33:2	15:2 16:17
18:8	5:3,5 6:10	safe 4:18 17:4	sharing 13:4	steps 27:16	34:19 35:17	33:3,9,24	trusses 4:12
receive 20:14	9:5	17:20,21	sheeting	storage 7:15	Swanson 3:16	34:23 35:19	10:14 16:14
21:3,7	research 4:19	safer 13:22	10:15	stories 6:14	3:19 12:16	Thanks 17:6	trying 31:7
27:22	reserve 24:20	safety 11:11	shorten 21:5	strand 10:15	13:7 15:12	thing 31:20	31:14,15
recognize 7:2	24:25	19:13 28:17	shown 4:20	street 19:17	16:21 18:5	things 28:11	two 5:2 6:14
29:5	reserves	30:10	side 19:16	30:16	18:8 23:19	30:10	10:10
recognized	24:20	Sanchez 2:2	significant	strict 18:19	23:24 24:22	think 11:25	tying 21:17
12:23	resident	3:10,17 8:7	15:23	structural	25:9,24	13:19,21	type 6:11 7:8
recognizes	30:11	11:18 14:6	significantly	10:12,20	26:7,24	28:11,18	13:9
11:19 14:8	residential	17:7,10	22:3	structure 7:9	27:8 28:21	third 31:25	U
33:7,20,22	5:10,12,16	18:2,6	Sir 32:8	9:17 16:25	28:24	thousand	15:6
34:21	5:21 6:21	23:11 28:2	situation	structures	system 6:20	15:6	underside 5:7
recommend...	15:13,14,24	28:22,25	31:11	2:18 3:6 4:4	systems 4:23	three 19:15	understand
34:3,18	16:10	29:11,21,25	slightly 20:7	5:3,18,21	5:5,15,22	three-week	17:6 32:17
35:2,16	residents	32:4 33:3	smart 12:4	9:8 10:9,19	10:16 13:14	26:17	understand...
record 12:24	17:20	33:13,16,19	Snyder 12:15	15:25 18:15		Thursday	30:9
28:4 30:5	respond	34:9,12,15	solid-sawn	21:13 22:25	T	31:5	Uniform 3:2
regarding	11:16	35:7,10,13	10:17	stuff 17:15	T 30:7	time 3:13	4:2 5:13 6:5
23:21	responders	save 13:25	somebody	sturdy 4:18	table 29:24	11:2 20:3	9:4
register 29:18	12:7	Sawyer 8:11	27:4	Subcode 1:15	take 30:2	20:11,13,24	Unit 12:12,16
regulations	response 17:9	8:14 14:4	soon 6:24	1:18 2:16	taken 30:24	21:7,21	24:16
18:20	33:18 34:14	14:22 15:9	16:15	2:25 9:2	36:6	22:8,16	unsafe 7:13
related 2:19	35:12	16:9,23	sorry 29:12	subject 19:14	talk 30:8	23:10 24:2	upcoming
remain 20:20	responsible	17:24	29:13	20:16	32:13,14,22	25:21 26:3	21:8
22:9	20:10,25	saying 32:17	spaces 10:7	submission	talking 32:8	26:18,20	updated
renovations	review 6:2,23	scene 7:10	Specific 18:22	24:3 25:11	Technical	28:9,10	25:15
4:16	20:4 21:21	seconded	spoken 31:17	submissions	8:18	timeframe	upwardly
reported 34:2	22:3 25:23	33:12 34:8	sponsored	22:2	ten 19:4	20:2 22:4	9:18
34:25	revisions	35:6	8:21	submit 25:13	20:19 23:3	timing 20:9	use 4:11 5:22
reporter	22:17	sections 3:3	sponsoring	submittal	terms 2:20	title 1:13,16	6:17
36:24	right 2:8	9:5	18:18	20:11,20,23	3:9 9:11	2:10,13,22	uses 14:25
reproduction	24:21,25	25:14	sponsors 4:7	25:21	20:8	8:23	utilized 10:10
36:21	29:22 30:16	Seeing 23:13	spread 9:18	submitted	testify 8:20	TobyMac	V
require 6:6	30:21,22	33:19 34:15	sprinkler 5:5	24:5	11:16 29:10	31:3	vast 25:12
22:2 28:8	31:19	35:13	5:14,22	sufficient	29:16	today 3:21	venting 9:20
required 6:17	rights 19:21	sees 15:17	6:20	22:16	30:5 33:4	8:19 14:13	vents 9:17
15:13 19:3		semi-detac...		super-heated	testimony	told 30:20	Vice 2:8 29:5

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
April 18, 2016

Page 5

violations 7:17 void 9:22 10:2,7 voids 9:22 11:6 W want 12:10 12:13,14,23 13:19 14:15 17:13,19,21 27:5 way 13:11 31:11,23 ways 5:2 we'll 8:9 28:19 32:14 we're 2:9 13:8 17:16 24:23 24:25 29:25 32:10 we've 26:11 weeks 31:9 weight 10:20 welcomed 17:19 27:18 WILLIAM 1:11 Williams 29:20 30:6 30:7 32:19 32:23 window 9:20 26:17 witness 29:23 29:23 wood 10:9,14 wood-frame 9:12 work 4:8 28:19 worked 31:3 working 12:9 12:11,18 wouldn't 16:13,14 written 23:3 X Y Yeah 16:21 years 4:15	30:13,19 Young 32:11 32:12 Z zero 22:5 zone 19:13 0 1 10:25 1:7 10:55 35:22 11 20:4 21:14 15 4:15 160075 1:13 2:12 3:1,14 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1,8,11 34:1,2,16 35:1 160130 1:16 2:21 3:13 3:22 8:5,20 11:7 30:8 34:22,25 35:14 1603 30:14 16th 30:16 18 1:7 2 20 21:22 23:19 2006 7:22 2010 5:11 15:15 2016 1:7 21 19:24 20:22 22:7 25:20 26:2	26:5,8,9,10 26:15 21-day 27:2 22 12:19 28 21:23 3 4 4 1:13,16 2:13,22 8:23 22:6 4/18/16 3:1 4:1 5:1 6:1 7:1 8:1 9:1 10:1 11:1 12:1 13:1 14:1 15:1 16:1 17:1 18:1 19:1 20:1 21:1 22:1 23:1 24:1 25:1 26:1 27:1 28:1 29:1 30:1 31:1 32:1 33:1 34:1 35:1 40 30:12 400 1:6 45 26:14,23 5 500 15:6 50s 10:8 6 60s 10:8 7 8 824 30:16 9 96 25:25					
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