

Committee on Licenses and Inspections
June 11, 2019

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COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 11, 2019
1:16 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

BILLS 181006, 190133, 190455, and 190459

- - -

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1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Good
3 afternoon, everyone. The Committee on
4 Licenses and Inspections will now come to
5 order, having established quorum. To my
6 right, Vice Chairman Allan Domb. To my
7 left, Councilman Greenlee, and to his
8 left, Councilman Henon.

9 Will the Clerk read the title
10 of the first bill, Bill No. 181006.

11 THE CLERK: Bill 181006, an
12 ordinance amending Title 4 of The
13 Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
14 Philadelphia Building Construction and
15 Occupancy Code," by adopting the 2018
16 edition of the "International Fire Code"
17 as published by the International Code
18 Council, with previously adopted
19 amendments thereto, all under certain
20 terms and conditions.

21 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
22 you.

23 We have Commissioner Perri,
24 Craig Murphy, and Richard Bailey from the
25 Fire Department. If all of you can come

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 forward, the three of you.

3 If there's anyone else here to
4 testify on this bill will be next.

5 (Witnesses approached witness
6 table.)

7 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good
8 afternoon, Chairperson Maria
9 Quinones-Sanchez and members of the
10 Licenses and Inspections Committee. My
11 name is David Perri and I am the
12 Commissioner of the Department of
13 Licenses and Inspections. Today I'm here
14 to provide testimony on Bill No. 181006,
15 which, if enacted, will amend Title 4 of
16 The Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
17 Philadelphia Building Construction and
18 Occupancy Code," by adopting the 2018
19 edition of the "International Fire Code"
20 as published by the International Code
21 Council, with previously adopted
22 amendments.

23 As the City's enforcement
24 agency, the Department of Licenses and
25 Inspections is dedicated to ensuring the

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 consistent safety of its citizens through
3 the efficient implementation and
4 enforcement of the City's building,
5 maintenance, and safety codes. Adopting
6 modern codes is critical to ensure that
7 structures within the City are
8 constructed and maintained to the highest
9 standards.

10 Within the last year,
11 legislation has been enacted which
12 allowed the Department to adopt several
13 editions of the 2018 International Codes,
14 along with previously adopted local
15 amendments. Most notably, the Department
16 is currently enforcing the 2018
17 International Building Code series,
18 including the 2018 International Energy
19 Conservation Code. Prior to this update,
20 the Department was enforcing the 2009
21 edition of these codes. The adoption of
22 these updated codes is essential in
23 providing life safety and building
24 sustainability measures in both new and
25 existing structures.

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2 At this time, the Department is
3 still enforcing the Philadelphia Fire
4 Code which is based upon the 2009
5 International Fire Code. If this bill is
6 enacted, it will enable the City to adopt
7 and enforce the 2018 International Fire
8 Code, along with existing local
9 amendments. The adoption of the latest
10 version of the International Fire Code
11 provides the City of Philadelphia with
12 the most up-to-date fire prevention
13 standards in the country.

14 This bill has also been amended
15 to incorporate provisions of Bill No.
16 171112 related to fire and smoke damper
17 inspections.

18 I would like to thank everyone
19 who has worked tirelessly to ensure that
20 this endeavor was a success. I want to
21 take the time to specifically acknowledge
22 the tremendous efforts that were made by
23 former Fire Department Deputy Chief
24 Richard Bailey and former Chief Code
25 Engineer Michael Fink. Your expertise

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 and personal dedication were essential in
3 drafting this legislation.

4 Thank you for the opportunity
5 to provide the Department's testimony. I
6 am happy to answer questions at this
7 time.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ:
9 Mr. Murphy.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MURPHY:
11 Good afternoon, Councilperson Sanchez and
12 other members of City Council. I am
13 Deputy Fire Commissioner Craig Murphy. I
14 am here before you today to testify on
15 behalf of Bill No. 181006, which adopts
16 the 2018 International Fire Code.

17 The Fire Code regulates fire
18 safety in buildings and on properties
19 throughout the City. It protects
20 citizens and buildings from death and
21 destruction resulting from the ravages of
22 fire. It enables us to use fire safely
23 and to enjoy its benefit while protecting
24 us from its destructive nature.

25 The 2018 International Fire

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 Code addresses fire safety issues facing
3 cities, large and small. It is updated
4 every three years to keep abreast of fire
5 safety issues related to changes in
6 building construction, equipment and
7 systems, and hazardous materials. It is
8 important for cities, especially large,
9 older cities like Philadelphia, to adopt
10 the most up-to-date fire code to keep
11 pace with those changes in fire safety
12 issues.

13 Because of Philadelphia's size,
14 amendments have been added to the past
15 fire codes to address the unique fire
16 hazards that face our city. The Fire
17 Department and the Department of Licenses
18 and Inspections have reviewed the new
19 fire code and added amendments to address
20 those unique fire hazards to keep our
21 city safe.

22 The new fire code will provide
23 the City with the tools to keep our city
24 safe from fire. I urge City Council to
25 support the adoption of the 2018

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 International Fire Code and the proposed
3 amendments to it.

4 Thank you, and I will be happy
5 to respond to any questions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: For the
7 purposes of the record, I just want to
8 clarify and I appreciate the fact that
9 the Commissioner alluded to the inclusion
10 of our recently passed fire dampers
11 legislation that gets incorporated in
12 here, but, secondly, I just want to for
13 the record -- it amends and clarifies
14 that the old code is done and this is the
15 entire new code.

16 Is there anything different
17 that the Commissioner or the Deputy
18 Commissioner of Fire want to highlight is
19 different that this panel should be aware
20 of?

21 COMMISSIONER PERRI: I think
22 one of the things that we want to point
23 out -- and I think this is significant --
24 the new fire code will require a fire
25 watch during a combustible construction.

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 So as the City continues to grow and we
3 see more projects that are made out of
4 wood frame construction, this new fire
5 code will require a fire watch during
6 times in which the building site is not
7 active.

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
9 questions from this panel?

10 I want to for the record
11 recognize that Councilman Squilla has
12 joined.

13 Councilman Domb.

14 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you,
15 Madam Chair.

16 Let me just make sure I
17 understand what you're talking about,
18 Commissioner. If you're talking about
19 a -- explain this again, the fire watch
20 requirement on construction.

21 COMMISSIONER PERRI: A fire
22 watch is basically providing after-hour
23 security to a construction site. So if
24 you imagine if you had a four-story wood
25 frame building, during its construction

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 it may not have its sprinkler system
3 operating. So if a fire were to occur
4 before the building is completed, it's
5 not going to be protected. So we need
6 somebody to be on site to look for
7 incipient fire to make sure that there's
8 no vandalism or arson that may take place
9 while there's not workers on site, and
10 this will help protect firefighters in
11 the event that something were to occur at
12 that site, we'd have early warning and be
13 able to handle this type of situation in
14 its incipient phase as opposed to a fire
15 that would get out of control.

16 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Will this
17 apply to all new construction, including
18 row homes that are being built, or just
19 wood frame properties, or which
20 properties would it apply to?

21 COMMISSIONER PERRI: It would
22 apply to multi-floor, multiple-family
23 construction.

24 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Multi-family.

25 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Right.

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Above a
3 certain level?

4 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Above a
5 certain level.

6 COUNCILMAN DOMB: Thank you
7 very much.

8 Thank you.

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
10 other questions for this panel?

11 (No response.)

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Is there
13 anyone else here to testify on Bill
14 181006?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
17 none, will the Clerk read the title of
18 Bill No. 190455.

19 THE CLERK: Bill No. 190455, an
20 ordinance amending Title 4 of The
21 Philadelphia Code, entitled "The
22 Philadelphia Building Construction and
23 Occupancy Code," by adopting the 2018
24 edition of the "International Plumbing
25 Code" as published by the International

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 Code Council as "The Philadelphia
3 Plumbing Code," with additions, deletions
4 and other amendments thereto, all under
5 certain terms and conditions.

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
7 you.

8 Before we start, let me just
9 personally recognize the Mayor and his
10 Administration under the leadership of
11 our Commissioner Perri for in 2007
12 re-establishing the Plumbing Advisory
13 Board. As a result of that process, over
14 the last 18 months, there's been a lot of
15 thoughtful work that has been conducted
16 by the industry, the builders,
17 architects, and the Plumbers Union. I
18 think we in this process created a
19 process, one that should be followed as
20 we talk about any evolution, inclusion,
21 and adoption of future code modifications
22 as significant as the one that we're
23 doing today.

24 So I personally want to thank
25 everyone. I want to recognize former

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 Commissioner Michael Fink for joining us
3 this afternoon for such an important
4 process, Commissioner Perri for your
5 entire team, to the Plumbers Union, John
6 Kane and Walt and everyone who has been
7 involved, obviously Jim and the BIA.

8 I know a lot of this work has
9 to do with a lot of technical issues that
10 some of us don't always understand the
11 nuances. I'd like to say that the people
12 around the table not only cared about the
13 nuances, but were very respectful to each
14 other in ensuring that Philadelphia
15 adopted a modern code that was safe,
16 predictable for the builders as well as
17 the workers.

18 So I want to congratulate all
19 of you for this hard work and thank the
20 Administration for helping us get to this
21 very important point. It closes out my
22 trauma of my first L&I hearing. I bother
23 Walt around this. My first L&I hearing
24 with 400 plumbers screaming at me. And
25 it just shows that there is an evolution

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2 to this process, and as long as people
3 can talk and respect each other in their
4 perspectives, we can accomplish a lot for
5 the City of Philadelphia, and I think
6 today the winners are the City of
7 Philadelphia. So thank you, gentlemen,
8 both of you.

9 And with that, I don't know if
10 you want to let -- we'll start with the
11 Commissioner and then obviously with
12 Walt.

13 COMMISSIONER PERRI: Good
14 afternoon, Chairperson Maria
15 Quinones-Sanchez and members of the
16 Licenses and Inspections Committee. My
17 name is David Perri and I am the
18 Commissioner of the Department of
19 Licenses and Inspections. Today I am
20 here to provide testimony on Bill No.
21 190455, which, if enacted, will adopt the
22 2018 edition of the "International
23 Plumbing Code" as published by the
24 International Code Council as "The
25 Philadelphia Plumbing Code," with

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 additions, deletions and other local
3 amendments.

4 I am here with Walt
5 Krzyzanowski, Chairperson of the Plumbing
6 Advisory Board, who was able to provide
7 feedback on the technical aspects of the
8 Plumbing Code.

9 As the City's enforcement
10 agency, the Department of Licenses and
11 Inspections is dedicated to ensuring the
12 consistent safety of its citizens through
13 the efficient implementation and
14 enforcement of the City's building,
15 maintenance, and safety codes. Adopting
16 modern codes is critical to ensure that
17 structures within the City are
18 constructed and maintained to the highest
19 standards.

20 On August 17th, 2017, Mayor
21 James F. Kenney signed an Executive Order
22 for the re-establishment of the Plumbing
23 Advisory Board to propose substantial
24 updates to the City's Plumbing Code. The
25 Philadelphia Plumbing Code has not

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 undergone major changes since 1995.
3 Through the Executive Order, the Mayor
4 has enabled the City to modernize its
5 plumbing code, which allows for the use
6 of new materials, products, and methods
7 of construction. It also provides for
8 standardization in construction by
9 providing requirements that are
10 consistent with nationally recognized
11 standards.

12 The Plumbing Advisory Board is
13 composed of seven members appointed by
14 the Mayor - four registered master
15 plumbers, one Pennsylvania licensed or
16 registered design professional
17 experienced in the design of plumbing
18 systems, one development community
19 representative, and one sustainability
20 community representative. Additionally,
21 the Board consists of three non-voting
22 members that include one member from the
23 Department of Licenses and Inspections,
24 one member from the Streets Department,
25 and one member from the Water Department,

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2 each appointed by their respective
3 commissioners.

4 After careful consideration and
5 tireless efforts, the Plumbing Advisory
6 Board was able to come to a consensus,
7 and the Board's recommendations were
8 submitted to me and the Board of Building
9 Standards. The recommendations include
10 the adoption of an updated Philadelphia
11 Plumbing Code based upon the model
12 plumbing code developed by the
13 International Code Council, which is
14 consistent with the Pennsylvania Uniform
15 Construction Code Act 45 of 1995. The
16 recommendations also include amendments
17 which would increase sustainability,
18 decrease the use of lead and other
19 antiquated materials, and take into
20 consideration existing local conditions.

21 The Department is supportive of
22 the technical suggestions made by the
23 Plumbing Advisory Board, and we believe
24 that these changes are necessary to
25 promote positive growth in the City of

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 Philadelphia. The proposed changes
3 provide transparency, consistence, and
4 leverage modern technologies to promote
5 economy, energy efficiency, and water
6 conservation, while retaining some of the
7 current provisions of The Philadelphia
8 Code that are essential in addressing our
9 existing infrastructure.

10 Since the introduction of the
11 bill, we have proposed a variety of
12 amendments that make changes to rectify
13 minor oversights and further clarify the
14 bill. We understand that Councilperson
15 Quinones-Sanchez has also included in the
16 amendments language to codify the
17 composition of the Plumbing Advisory
18 Board in the bill, following what has
19 been established by the Mayor in
20 Executive Order. The Administration
21 supports permanency for the Plumbing
22 Advisory Board. However, we believe that
23 this would require a change to the
24 Philadelphia Home Rule Charter.

25 Lastly, I want to highlight the

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 Department recently proposed an amendment
3 to the bill that would propose an
4 effective date of October 1, 2019. Our
5 goal is to use this time to create a
6 complete, fully compiled, and easily
7 readable code document. When we are able
8 to publish hard copies of the code, we
9 will include the Mayor's Executive Order
10 as a preface to the code.

11 The development and adoption of
12 this code has been a major undertaking
13 which required coordination between the
14 Plumbing Advisory Board, several City
15 departments, City Council, and
16 Pennsylvania Department of Labor and
17 Industry. On behalf of the Department, I
18 would like to sincerely thank everyone
19 who was involved in the development of
20 this code. Many of the individuals that
21 were involved in this development effort
22 have spent countless hours, including
23 their personal time, to ensure the
24 success of this code update. I would
25 like to specifically thank Councilperson

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 Quinones-Sanchez and the Chair of the
3 Plumbing Advisory Board, Walt
4 Krzyzanowski, for their tremendous
5 efforts. Without your fortitude,
6 determination, and perseverance, this
7 essential piece of legislation would
8 never have come to fruition.

9 Thank you for the opportunity
10 to provide the Department's testimony.
11 Walt Krzyzanowski and I are happy to
12 answer questions at this time.

13 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
14 you.

15 Questions for the panel
16 specifically to the code adoption,
17 technical questions?

18 Councilman Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Just one
20 quick question. I know you said that you
21 believe that it needs a Home Rule Charter
22 change for it to be permanent?

23 COMMISSIONER PERRI: We think
24 that a Charter change would further
25 ensure the longevity and permanency of

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 the Plumbing Advisory Board.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Okay.

4 Thank you.

5 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
6 you. And that's because we want to
7 ensure that every mayor moving forward
8 has the opportunity to have one and that
9 the integrity of the compensation be
10 maintained and sustained. We're
11 committed to that.

12 Thank you.

13 Any other questions to the
14 panel?

15 (No response.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: The next
17 witnesses, please. We have John Kane,
18 Mike McGraw, Mike Ingram, and James
19 Maransky. And then following that, I
20 have a Chris Stigler and a Shawn
21 Strausbaugh.

22 (Witnesses approached witness
23 table.)

24 MR. KANE: Good morning -- or
25 good afternoon, Madam Chair and

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 Councilmembers. My name is John Kane.
3 I'm the Business Manager of Plumbers
4 Local 690. I'd like to have some brief
5 comments here over what has established
6 over the last, I want to say, 10, 12
7 years since the last time we were here.

8 We were always in agreement
9 that the code definitely needed to be
10 modernized, and I just wanted to go out
11 and just let you know, thank you for
12 allowing us to do this. The plumbing
13 industry has been getting beat up over a
14 long, long time over this. We finally
15 came to an agreement with the BIA and
16 other people on the Board. It was an
17 extremely -- I just want to basically say
18 it was pretty entertaining at times, but
19 that much I can say. We did come to an
20 agreement. We can live with this, the
21 plumbers that I represent, which is
22 roughly 1,850 members, and I want to move
23 forward with this, and I appreciate you
24 for allowing us to do this.

25 Thank you very much.

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2 MR. McGRAW: Good afternoon,
3 Chairwoman Sanchez and members of the
4 Council. Thank you for allowing me to
5 testify here today on Council Bill
6 190455. My name is Michael McGraw. I'm
7 the Executive Director of the PA PHCC,
8 which is the Pennsylvania Association of
9 Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors.
10 I'm also a member of the Philadelphia
11 Plumbing Industry Committee.

12 I represent plumbing
13 contractors across the State of
14 Pennsylvania, but today I'm here on
15 behalf of my members in Bucks, Delaware
16 Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties who
17 are licensed master plumbers and perform
18 plumbing work in the City of
19 Philadelphia.

20 As you know, technology has
21 changed the way we live, work, and play
22 today. The plumbing industry is no
23 different. Technology has changed the
24 plumbing world and how we install waste
25 and storm piping, water lines, fixtures,

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2 faucets. The City of Philadelphia is
3 currently working under the Philadelphia
4 Plumbing Code of 2004. It is time to
5 update the Philadelphia Plumbing Code in
6 conjunction with the 2018 ICC codes.

7 Seeing how the City of
8 Philadelphia is a unique city and many of
9 the existing plumbing systems will not
10 operate efficiently under the 2018
11 International Plumbing Code as written,
12 the codes need to be a combination of the
13 two codes.

14 Bringing back the Plumbing
15 Advisory Board is a win-win for the City
16 of Philadelphia, my members, and all the
17 plumbing contractors doing business in
18 this great city.

19 I would like to commend all the
20 members of the Plumbing Advisory Board
21 for completing the task of rewriting the
22 Philadelphia Plumbing Code given to them
23 by the Philadelphia Department of
24 Licenses and Inspections. I know they
25 worked tirelessly, and disagreeing at

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 times, but in the end, they rewrote this
3 code as a group with all parties' best
4 interests at hand and, more importantly,
5 the health and safety of the residents of
6 Philadelphia.

7 So today I ask this Council to
8 approve Bill No. 190455 as the
9 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
12 you.

13 Any questions for this panel?
14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: John, I
16 want to really personally thank you for
17 all your help and guidance.

18 MR. KANE: You're more than
19 welcome. Any time.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
21 you.

22 Mike Ingram and James Maransky.
23 (Witnesses approached witness
24 table.)

25 MR. MARANSKY: Good afternoon,

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 Council. My name is James Maransky. I
3 am the President of the BIA, the Builders
4 Industry Association of Philadelphia,
5 which represents the region's residential
6 homebuilders, residential contractors,
7 and suppliers. I am here today to
8 provide testimony in support of Bill No.
9 190455, which will modernize our city's
10 plumbing code.

11 As you know, the City of
12 Philadelphia adopted new building codes
13 last year and one of the first cities on
14 the East Coast to implement the 2018
15 International Building Code in an effort
16 to modernize construction and adopt more
17 high-tech, efficient, and sustainable
18 building practices. A new plumbing code
19 was integral to this part.

20 As most of City Council is
21 aware, the BIA has been advocating for
22 many years for the expanded use of
23 plastic pipe in residential construction,
24 as every other jurisdiction in the
25 country allows. When Mayor Kenney

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 announced in June 2017 that he intended
3 to re-establish the Plumbing Advisory
4 Board and appoint both plumbing and
5 development experts to that Board, the
6 BIA was pleased to have an opportunity to
7 help modernize the Philadelphia Plumbing
8 Code. BIA members have served on the PAB
9 and worked collaboratively with the
10 plumbing community, L&I, and PWD to
11 painstakingly rewrite the new code
12 provisions, going through the
13 International Plumbing Code page by page,
14 with the goal of making construction
15 safer, cleaner, easier, and more
16 affordable.

17 Their final product has since
18 been approved by L&I and the PA
19 Department of Labor and Industry and
20 serves as the basis for Bill No. 190455.

21 The new plumbing code
22 represents a tremendous amount of work,
23 cooperation, compromise, and goodwill on
24 all the parties involved. The final
25 product is a testament to what can be

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 accomplished when all stakeholders are at
3 the table, and we consider it a
4 significant achievement.

5 The proposal adopts the 2018
6 International Plumbing Code which
7 provides transparency, consistency, and
8 leverages modern technologies to promote
9 economy, energy efficiency, and water
10 conservation. The proposal also retains
11 some of the current provisions of the
12 Philadelphia Plumbing Code to
13 specifically address our existing
14 infrastructure and allow necessary
15 protections that are unique to a densely
16 populated city.

17 This legislation is a landmark
18 achievement and a huge positive step
19 forward for the development industry and
20 for the City. Mayor Kenney, Councilwoman
21 Sanchez, and Commissioner Perri and his
22 team all should be applauded for making
23 this a reality after so many years.

24 And I would like to second,
25 although not in my written testimony, I

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 would like to second Councilwoman
3 Sanchez's comments and personally thank
4 Mike Fink, who without his help, I don't
5 know if this would have come to fruition.

6 I'd also like to state my
7 appreciation for the Plumbers Union and
8 for their collaboration and
9 forward-thinking, without which this
10 legislation would not have been possible.
11 It was a true teamwork approach between
12 the Building Industry and the Plumbers
13 Union, and the BIA is very proud of this.

14 The Building Industry
15 Association fully supports Bill No.
16 190455 and we ask that the Committee and
17 all City Council support it as well.

18 Thank you for your
19 consideration.

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
21 you, Jim, and thank you for bringing the
22 environmental element to this. I know
23 that for you, that was very important.
24 You build green roofs and sustainability
25 practices. So thank you for that

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 perspective. I think that -- I know I
3 speak for the rest of the folks. For you
4 understanding the nuances made all the
5 difference in the world about respecting
6 the territories and what we were trying
7 to get to. So I appreciate that.

8 MR. MARANSKY: Thank you.

9 MR. STIGLER: Good afternoon.
10 My name is Chris Stigler. I'm testifying
11 today on behalf of the Philadelphia
12 Chapter of the American Institute of
13 Architects. The AIA is Philadelphia's
14 voice of the architectural profession and
15 represents one of 263 member architecture
16 firms and 228 affiliated companies
17 supplying products and services to the
18 industry in this region.

19 I would like to thank
20 Councilwoman Sanchez for allowing me to
21 testify in support of her legislation,
22 Bill No. 190455.

23 This update to the Philadelphia
24 Plumbing Code is an exciting new chapter
25 in construction and development for our

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 city. These revisions will allow
3 expanded use of modern materials, which
4 will reduce construction costs and
5 development difficulties. The adoption
6 of internationally recognized codes will
7 also standardize the design and
8 development process, thereby simplifying
9 the practice for design professionals.

10 Our city has slowly adopted
11 most of the International Code Council's
12 recommended codes for construction, and
13 as we transition to these new code
14 packages, our current plumbing code does
15 not recognize the new technologies that
16 are now an important part of these
17 systems. With the adoption of Bill No.
18 190455, we have the opportunity to join
19 the most forward-looking cities and
20 demonstrate that we are open for business
21 to all and not just those who have become
22 experts on the minutia of our archaic and
23 esoteric building codes.

24 The AIA supports these proposed
25 revisions to the plumbing code and thanks

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 all in the plumbing and development
3 communities who worked together to bring
4 this legislation to the forefront. The
5 Kenney Administration and Councilwoman
6 Sanchez should also be applauded for this
7 progressive legislation, and we ask that
8 the Committee and all of the Council
9 support it as well.

10 Thank you for your
11 consideration.

12 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
13 questions of this panel?

14 (No response.)

15 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
16 none, I had a Mike Ingram. Are they
17 here?

18 (Witness talking without
19 microphone.)

20 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Okay.
21 Hopefully he'll bring written testimony
22 in case we finish.

23 And then I have Shawn
24 Strausbaugh.

25 (Witness approached witness

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 table.)

3 MR. STRAUSBAUGH: Thank you,
4 Councilperson Sanchez. Good afternoon,
5 members of Licenses and Inspection
6 Committee. My name is Shawn Strausbaugh.
7 I work for the International Code Council
8 as the Governmental Affairs
9 Representative for the Commonwealth of
10 Pennsylvania. I would like to provide
11 testimony today in support of Bill
12 190455, which is adopting the new
13 Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

14 With this adoption, the bill
15 will correlate all the Philadelphia
16 building construction and occupancy codes
17 by having subcodes, such as the
18 Philadelphia Building Code, existing
19 building code, Energy Conservation Code,
20 the Fire Code, which was just heard, and
21 the Mechanical Code that are in
22 consistent code format.

23 This bill incorporates many
24 provisions of the existing Philadelphia
25 Plumbing Code that are of significant

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 importance to the City of Philadelphia.

3 Some of those items are:

4 Maintaining defined terms that
5 have been used under the existing
6 plumbing code that are also part of other
7 regulations in ordinance here in the City
8 of Philadelphia, thus further providing
9 correlation with the existing ordinances
10 and regulation. Some of these terms are
11 water distribution, water service, and
12 water supply systems. And, again, these
13 are just some examples;

14 Additional portions of the
15 existing Philadelphia Plumbing Code,
16 including the Philadelphia single-stack
17 waste and vent system, which has been
18 used extensively throughout the City of
19 Philadelphia and has been in the
20 Philadelphia Plumbing Code since its
21 inception dating back to 1885.

22 This bill also incorporates
23 provisions of the existing Philadelphia
24 Plumbing Code that integrates
25 requirements that address the combined

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 sanitary and storm sewer systems that are
3 found in portions of the City of
4 Philadelphia and look to the future by
5 establishing new plumbing system
6 requirements that will allow for more
7 economical separation of the storm and
8 sanitary systems for not only the City of
9 Philadelphia but also for the building
10 owners.

11 There are several new
12 provisions that are found in this bill as
13 proposed under the adoption of the
14 Philadelphia Plumbing Code, and they
15 include again, as pointed out previously,
16 the standardized formatting of the code
17 requirements that is recognized by the
18 American Institute of Architects.

19 One additional point is
20 expanded material usage that incorporates
21 additional materials that can be used,
22 while limiting certain materials to
23 specific building classifications and
24 building height limitations; plumbing
25 fixture requirements that will align with

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 specific building uses and provide the
3 necessary number of required plumbing
4 fixtures, while not taking away key areas
5 of square footage for a specific building
6 usage.

7 Again, along sustainability
8 points, water efficiency, non-potable
9 water reuse, and green roof drainage
10 systems are all part of the sustainable
11 practices that are included in the new
12 Philadelphia Plumbing Code. Private
13 water, sewer, and storm infrastructure is
14 also addressed, which revise these types
15 of systems' clear requirements now under
16 the Philadelphia Plumbing Code.

17 Again, I would like to thank
18 Councilmembers, the Department of License
19 and Inspection staff, and all of the
20 Plumbing Advisory Board members for their
21 countless hours that have been spent
22 going over and creating the amendments
23 that will create the new Philadelphia
24 Plumbing Code based upon the 2000 IPC.
25 But, again, this is the Philadelphia

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.

2 Plumbing Code.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank
5 you.

6 Any questions for the panel?

7 (No response.)

8 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
9 none, thank you.

10 There is an official letter by
11 the Pennsylvania Association of Plumbing
12 Heating Cooling Contractors signed by
13 Mike McGraw.

14 Is there anyone else here to
15 testify on Bill No. 190455?

16 (No response.)

17 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
18 none, this will conclude the hearing.

19 For the record, Bill No. 190133
20 was held to the call of the Chair and
21 Bill No. 190455 [sic] was also held to
22 the call of the Chair.

23 The Committee will now go into
24 its public meeting.

25 We will now go into our public

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 meeting. Again, for the record, Bill No.
3 190133 and 190459 are being held to the
4 call of the Chair.

5 With that, the Chair recognizes
6 Councilman Henon for a motion on the
7 amendments to Bill 190133 [sic] and
8 190455.

9 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
10 Madam Chair. I move that amendments to
11 Bill No. 190455 and 190133 -- thank you,
12 Madam Chairwoman. I move that the
13 amendments to Bill No. 181006 and 190455
14 be adopted.

15 (Duly seconded.)

16 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: All
17 those in favor?

18 (Aye.)

19 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
20 opposition?

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Seeing
23 none, the bill has been properly amended.

24 The Chair recognizes Councilman
25 Henon on the amended Bill 181006 and

1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 190455.

3 COUNCILMAN HENON: Thank you,
4 Madam Chairwoman. I move that Bill No.
5 181006, as amended, and 190455, as
6 amended, be reported from this Committee
7 with a favorable recommendation and
8 further move that the rules of Council be
9 suspended to permit the first reading of
10 these bills at our next session of
11 Council.

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, it has been moved and properly
21 seconded that Bill No. 181006, as
22 amended, and Bill 190455, as amended, be
23 reported from this Committee with a
24 favorable recommendation and further
25 moved that the rules of Council be

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1 6/11/19 - L&I - BILL 181006, ETC.
2 suspended to permit first reading of
3 these bills at our next Council session.

4 All those in favor?

5 (Aye.)

6 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: Any
7 opposition?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILWOMAN SANCHEZ: This
10 concludes the Committee on Licenses and
11 Inspections meeting.

12 Thank you all very much.

13 (Committee on Licenses and
14 Inspections concluded at 1:51 p.m.)

15 - - -

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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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