

## **Notice to Lawrence Licensed Contractors and Construction/Contractor Licensing Boards**

### **Proposed adoption of 2018 International Construction Codes and 2017 National Electrical Code**

Throughout 2018, Building Safety and Fire Prevention staff worked with the Building, Fire, Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Boards of Appeal, and with representatives from other Douglas County jurisdictions, to review and prepare recommendations for adoption of the 2018 International Codes (I-Codes) and the 2017 National Electrical Code (NEC). Lawrence is currently enforcing the 2015 I-Codes and 2014 NEC (with local amendments). During the last quarter of 2018, boards made their final recommendations for adoption of the 2018 I-Codes (with local amendments) and the 2017 NEC (with local amendments). Board meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the City's website at <https://lawrenceks.org/boards/>, and draft ordinances can be found at <https://lawrenceks.org/pds/>. It is anticipated that ordinances will be presented to the City Commission for review and adoption in February 2019, with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

### **Proposed adoption of City Code amendments to combine the functions of current Building, Fire and Trade Boards of Appeal and the Contractor Licensing Board into a single Board**

Per direction from the Lawrence City Commission in late 2017, City staff drafted proposed Code amendments to combine the functions of the Building, Fire, Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Boards of Appeal, and the Contractor Licensing Board, into a combined Building Code Board of Appeals. During 2018, members of the affected boards were informed of this pending board consolidation. On December 12, 2018, staff made a presentation during a joint meeting of the current boards about the proposed Code amendments to combine the boards, responded to board member questions and took board member feedback. A draft ordinance and draft board bylaws can be found at <https://lawrenceks.org/pds/>. It is anticipated that the adopting ordinance will be presented to the City Commission in February 2019, with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

### **Proposed adoption of amendments to Lawrence Contractor Licensing Regulations**

During 2018, City staff developed revised Contractor Licensing Regulations to add Building Contractor license categories for Roofing Contractors and Swimming Pool Contractors. Several local roofing companies had requested the City to consider licensing of roofing contractors, and input was received from roofing contractors from late 2017 until a draft ordinance was presented to the Contractor licensing Board (CLB) in May 2018. During its May 2018 meeting, the CLB recommended that licensing regulations for roofing and swimming pool contractors be adopted.

Subsequent to the May 2018 CLB meeting, City staff drafted other proposed amendments to the Contractor Licensing Regulations including: (1) increasing initial and annual license renewal fee from \$65 to \$75 (has not been increased since 2005); (2) requiring all licensed contractors to provide and maintain general liability insurance coverage in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence, single limit for bodily injury and property damage (current requirement is \$1,000,000 for Class A, B and C Contractors, and \$500,000 for Class D and E Contractors); (3) adding provisions to allow an applicant for a new contractor license or a license renewal to appeal a denial by the Building Official to the Building Code Board of Appeals, and clarifying other appeal provisions; (4) eliminating the January late renewal "grace period" without penalty fee (a \$75 late fee would be assessed for renewals received after December 31<sup>st</sup> and prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>, with an application for a new contractor license required after April 30<sup>th</sup>); (5) granting administrative authority to the Building Official to place a contractor license on probation or to suspend or revoke a contractor license for violations of city codes and/or of federal or state laws, for a severe violation that puts safety of the public at risk, for habitual violations, or for a criminal conviction related to work as a contractor – contractors could appeal such decisions to the Building Code Board of Appeals; and (6) requiring appeals of any Building Code Board of Appeals decision to be taken to the District Court of Douglas County, Kansas, instead of to the Lawrence City Commission.

A draft ordinance and draft board bylaws can be found at <https://lawrenceks.org/pds/>. It is anticipated that the ordinance will be presented to the City Commission in February 2019, with an effective date of July 1, 2019.