EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 6-17

THE PLUMBING ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code ("UCC") became effective in 2004 to provide standards for the protection of life, health, property and environment and for the safety and welfare of the consumer, general public and the owners and occupants of building and structures throughout Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia seeks to encourage standardization in construction by providing requirements for construction and construction materials consistent with nationally recognized standards and to permit to the fullest extent feasible the use of state-of-the-art technical methods, materials and devices consistent with reasonable requirements for the health, safety and welfare of occupants or users of buildings and structures in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia Plumbing Code, one of the first plumbing codes in the country, has not undergone significant change since 1995; and

WHEREAS, the UCC adopts the International Plumbing Code as the standard for plumbing installations in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia seeks to incorporate the formatting and modernity of the International Plumbing Code into the Philadelphia Plumbing Code as a blend to allow for the use of new materials, products or methods of construction as applicable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia supports water efficiency and the use of sustainable plumbing products, systems, and practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Philadelphia seeks to significantly reduce the use of lead in plumbing installations to the maximum extent possible; and

WHEREAS, individuals with technical expertise in the design and installation of plumbing systems can provide the City with valuable assistance in updating code requirements to ensure that the tradition of a Philadelphia Plumbing Code endures, but in a form which encourages standardization and economy in construction as well as the use of state-of-the-art methods, materials and devices, consistent with nationally recognized quality and safety standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, by the powers vested in me by the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter, do hereby order as follows:

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLUMBING ADVISORY BOARD

A. The Plumbing Advisory Board is hereby established in the Department of Licenses and Inspections.

B. The Board shall consist of seven members appointed by the Mayor and shall be chaired by one such appointed member designated by the Mayor.

C. The Board shall consist of the following members: four (4) members shall be registered master plumbers; one (1) member shall be a design professional licensed or registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania experienced in the design of plumbing systems; one (1) member shall represent the development community; one (1) member shall represent the sustainability community.

D. The members of the Board shall serve with compensation for such service as set forth in § 20-304 of the Philadelphia Code.

E. The Board shall also include the following non-voting ex-officio members: one (1) member from the Department of Licenses and Inspections, one (1) member from the Streets Department and one (1) member from the Water Department; each appointed by their respective Commissioners.

F. In the event a vacancy occurs with one of the members as described in Section 1.C, the remainder of the Board through majority consensus shall have the ability to recommend to the Mayor a replacement.

SECTION 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PHILADELPHIA PLUMBING CODE

A. The Plumbing Advisory Board shall, within six (6) months of this Order, make recommendations to the Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections and the Board of Building Standards regarding the adoption by the City of a new Philadelphia Plumbing Code based upon the model plumbing codes developed by the International Code Council consistent with the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code Act 45 of 1999 as amended (the "UCC"); to include:

1. The development of any necessary local exceptions to such model plumbing codes such that subject amendments would equal or exceed the minimum requirements of the UCC and remain subject to the following standards imposed by the UCC:

    a. that certain clear and convincing local climatic, geologic, topographic or public health and safety circumstances or conditions justify the exception;

    b. the exception shall be adequate for the purpose intended and shall meet a standard of performance equal to or greater than that prescribed by the UCC;

    c. the exception would not diminish or threaten the health, safety and welfare of the public.

2. National standards that eliminate to the greatest extent possible the use of lead in the installation of plumbing materials both to protect the soil from contamination and to meet the requirements of the Federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act.

3. National standards that allow for methods and materials which promote sustainability and conservation in the City's built environment.

4. Code provisions that shall allow for alterations pursuant to plumbing codes adopted as part of the UCC to existing plumbing systems installed under current and previous codes and standards.

B. Upon receipt of the recommendations of the Plumbing Advisory Board, the Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections and the Board of Building Standards shall consider such recommendations and their compliance with the UCC. Upon such consideration, the Commissioner shall move to enact a new "Philadelphia Plumbing Code" through Regulation.

C. Once enacted, the City shall establish a formal agreement with the International Code Council for publication of a "Philadelphia Plumbing Code" subject to the copyright of the Council.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF THE PLUMBING ADVISORY BOARD

A. In addition to the duties established in Section 2 of this Order, the Plumbing Advisory Board shall make recommendations to the Commissioner of Licenses and Inspections and the Board of Building Standards regarding:

1. The review of future editions of the International Plumbing Code as adopted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as part of the UCC: and the necessary establishment or elimination of local amendments to such Plumbing Code as authorized by the UCC and in consideration of Section 2.A. of this Order; and

2. Appeals for variances from Philadelphia Plumbing Code provisions related to permit applications; and

3. Methods and materials of plumbing not specifically authorized by the codes which require consideration due to the unique nature of Philadelphia's climate, topography or geology; and

4. Assistance with the development of technical examinations utilized for testing qualification for licenses related to plumbing in conjunction with a third party approved by the Department.

SECTION 4. ADVISORY ROLE OF THE BOARD

The role of the Board shall be advisory in nature and no recommendation made by the Board shall be binding on the Department of Licenses and Inspections, the Board of Building Standards or any other agency of the City.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order shall take effect immediately.

8/17/17
DATE

James F. Kenney
JAMES F. KENNEY, MAYOR