

January 16, 2018

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM**

**SUBJECT**

Discussion of proposed update to local electrical code, as required by state law, and proposed amendments to local building codes for consistency with state codes and local fire code.

**STAFF CONTACTS**

Mike Brennan, Director, 452-4113  
Gregg Schrader, Building Official, 452-6451  
*Development Services Department*

Matt McFarland, Asst. City Attorney, 452-6829  
*City Attorney's Office*

**POLICY ISSUES**

Should the City amend the Bellevue Construction Codes (Chapters 23.10, 23.12, 23.13, 23.30, and 23.50 BCC) and certain provisions of the Construction Administration Code (Chapter 23.05 BCC) to adopt the 2017 Washington Cities Electrical Code, add provisions for firefighter air systems, correct typographic errors, and ensure consistency between the Bellevue Construction Code and the various state and national codes?

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**

**ACTION**

**DIRECTION**

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Review and discuss proposed amendments and direct staff to bring back legislation or provide alternative direction.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The proposed Ordinance is intended to accomplish these three key tasks:

1. Adopt the 2017 Washington Cities Electrical Code, and include by reference the 2017 National Electrical Code, as required by Chapter 19.28 RCW.

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries and Chapter 19.28 RCW require that those cities and counties which conduct their own electrical program, such as Bellevue and Seattle, adopt and enforce the 2017 National Electrical Code. The City of Bellevue is a member of a consortium of Washington cities working jointly on electrical code adoption through the eCityGov Alliance. These member cities adopt the 2017 National Electrical Code by reference to the Washington Cities Electrical Code, and the proposed Ordinance would revise that reference from the 2014 edition to the 2017 edition.

The most significant change included in the new Electrical Code is the requirement for additional electrical outlets in meeting rooms, including conference rooms and ballrooms, to ensure that presenters and participants can obtain power without the need for long extension cords

2. Add provisions for firefighter air systems.

The proposed code amendment adds a new section 23.10.917 requiring the installation of a Firefighter Rescue Air systems in new high-rise buildings. The Rescue Air System provides firefighters the ability to recharge breathing air bottles without needing to exit the building or have exchange air bottles transported into the building, both of which use resources that can be better utilized to support the fire response directed towards fire suppression efforts. The Fire Department has discussed these issues with BOMA/Seattle (Building Owners and Managers Association) who provided feedback to staff. Staff are seeking direction on whether to include these changes to the Building Code in the current update.

3. Correct typographic errors and ensure consistency between the Bellevue Construction Code and the various state and national codes enforced in Bellevue.

On July 1, 2016, the 2015 edition of the International Building Code together with State of Washington and City of Bellevue amendments became effective. City staff and professional designers have identified corrections that are needed in 23.05, 23.10, 23.12, 23.13, and 23.50 BCC to correct code references and typographic errors. Please refer to (Attachment A) the annotated draft Ordinance document for additional explanation.

The state adoption of the electrical code is on a different schedule from other construction codes, which were updated on June 6, 2016, when Council adopted Ordinance 6291 which became effective July 1, 2016, as mandated by the State Building Code Act, Chapter 19.27 RCW, and the WAC Chapters listed below. The State Building Code Act allows for cities and counties (with some exceptions) to amend the codes, provided that such amendments do not diminish the performance standards or objectives outlined in the State Building Code Act.

The construction codes adopted effective July 1, 2016 were:

- 2015 International Building Code (IBC) / 23.10 BCC & WAC 51-50
- 2015 International Energy Conservation Code / 23.10 BCC & WAC 51-11C / 51-11R
- 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) / 23.12 BCC & WAC 51-51
- 2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) / 23.13 BCC & WAC 51-50
- 2015 International Mechanical Code (IMC) / 23.50 BCC & WAC 51-52
- 2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) / 23.60 BCC & WAC 51-56

Subsequent to the 2016 adoption, staff has identified corrections and updates that are needed to correct typographic errors and ensure consistency between the Bellevue Construction Code and the various state and national codes.

### **OPTIONS**

1. Direct staff to bring back proposed legislation for adoption.
2. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1

### **ATTACHMENT(S)**

A. Proposed Ordinance with explanatory annotations

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY**

N/A