

July 17, 2001

Ald. Paul Henningsen, Chair
Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Ald. Henningsen:

I am writing to express the Department of City Development's support for file number 010405, which provides for increases in plumbing plan examination fees.

The proposed changes were developed in consultation between the Development Center and the Department of Neighborhood Services plumbing inspection section. They accomplish several goals:

- 1) The file raises the threshold at which plumbing plan submission is required. This change was made following discussions with plumbing contractors and plumbing designers, who argued quite correctly that certain small jobs should not require the time and expense of a plumbing plan examination.
- 2) The file institutes a new requirement and fee for sprinkler systems installed in one- and two-family homes. Milwaukee home builders are beginning to sell this option to their customers, and we believe a plan review is required to ensure that water service is adequate to provide sufficient water to these systems in case of a fire at the home.
- 3) The file codifies a long-standing policy of charging additional plan review fees if plumbing plans must be completely re-drawn because the plan examiner discovers, while doing the plan examination, that the plans contain substantial errors or omissions.
- 4) The policy makes modest increases in the overall plumbing plan review fee scale, reflecting increased costs to perform these reviews.

Tom Cottreau, the senior plumbing plan examiner at the Development Center, will be present at the ZND hearing on Tuesday, July 31, 2001, to answer any questions posed by the committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Penman
Commissioner

MLB:tb
C: Tom Cottreau, Development Center