

**VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2010 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
An Ordinance Amending the International Fire Code Provisions of the Municipal Code	✓ Resolution Ordinance Motion Discussion Only	James G. Jackson, Sr. Fire Chief

SYNOPSIS

An ordinance has been prepared amending Chapter 17-45, Section 901.4 of the Downers Grove Municipal Code to remove the following:

- Requirement that installation of a new fire detection and alarm system be completed by a UL certified contractor
- Requirement of the UL certification on the installation and maintenance of fire alarm systems

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The FY10 Strategic Plan identifies *Fee Schedule and Related Code Revisions* as an action agenda item for 2010.

FISCAL IMPACT

NA

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the December 14, 2010 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

In 2005 the Village amended Chapter 17-45, Section 901.4 of the Municipal Code to require all new fire alarm systems to meet the requirements of the Underwriter’s Laboratory (UL) certification process. The amendment also required existing alarm systems to meet UL Certification requirements if altered or added to by greater than 50%. The certification is required to be maintained by each fire alarm system owner. The UL certification program was adopted to ensure that fire alarm systems are installed and maintained in a quality manner and to reduce the amount of time that fire alarm systems are out of service.

The cost for performing a UL Certification is dictated by the individual alarm system contractor and is borne entirely by the business that is the alarm user. The costs for UL certification vary among alarm contractors and have significantly increased since the adoption of the ordinance. The Fire Prevention Bureau has refined its processes and training to ensure the same level of compliance without the need for third-party certification. Staff recommends amending the code to remove the UL certification program and the requirement to use a UL listed alarm contractor.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE PROVISIONS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by shading/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 17.45. is hereby amended to read as follows:

17.45. International Fire Code - Amendments.

The deletions from and modifications and amendments to the Fire Prevention Code are as follows:

* * *

Section 901.4 is amended by adding the following at the conclusion thereof:

1. New fire detection and alarm systems shall be installed by a licensed State of Illinois Fire Alarm Contractor ~~who is also an approved UL certificated contractor.~~ The system shall be UL certified, and in accordance with meet the requirements of NFPA 72, Downers Grove Fire Prevention Code and the Village Alarm Code in Chapter 17, Article VI of the Downers Grove Municipal Code

2. Repairs, alterations, and replacements to existing fire alarm systems shall be done by a State of Illinois licensed Fire Alarm Contractor in accordance with NFPA 72, Downers Grove Fire Prevention Code and the Village Alarm Code in Chapter 17, Article VI of the Downers Grove Municipal Code, as follows:

- ~~_____ a. Existing UL listed fire detection and alarm systems shall only be repaired, altered, or added to by UL certificated contractors.~~
- ~~_____ b. Existing Non UL listed fire alarm systems, shall meet all the requirements of NFPA 72 and the Village Alarm Code. Fire Alarm Contractors shall be licensed by the State of Illinois.~~
- ~~_____ c. Existing Non UL listed fire alarm systems that are upgraded, altered, added to by fifty percent (50%) or more, as determined by the Fire Code Official, shall be upgraded to an UL certified fire alarm system. Where a fire alarm system has installed a new fire alarm panel, it shall be upgraded to an UL certified fire alarm system.~~

* * *

Section 2. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:
Published:
Attest: _____
Village Clerk