ARTICLE II. - FIRE PREVENTION CODE

Sec. 38-31. Adoption by reference.



- a. There is hereby adopted by the city for the purpose of prescribing rules and regulations to improve public safety by promoting the control of fire hazards; regulating the installation, use and maintenance of equipment; regulating the use of structures, premises, and open areas; providing for the abatement of fire hazards; establishing the responsibilities and procedures for code enforcement; and setting forth the standards for compliance and achievement of these objectives, that certain set of codes known as The National Fire Codes, to include the Life Safety Code and International Fire Codes, as Adadopted by the Georgia State Fire Commissioner, with revisions, codes and standards, published by the National Fire Protection Association, and all subsequent amendments thereto, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified or amended, of which code at least one copy is on file in the office of the city fire inspector; and the same is hereby adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out at length herein; and from the date on which this section shall take effect, the provisions thereof shall be controlling within the limits of the city; however, should any provision of the fire prevention code as adopted hereby be in conflict with any other provisions of this Code of Ordinances, the provisions of this Code of Ordinances shall prevail.
- (1) Add: "National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- (2) Add: "The"
- (3) Delete the highlighted "s" word should read "Code"
- (4) Delete highlighted section and change to: "modified by the State of Georgia's Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner Chapter 120-3-3 Rules and Regulations for the State Minimum Fire Safety Standards"
- b. The penalties for violating any section of this fire prevention code shall be as prescribed in section (5)38-32(1).
- (5) Delete the highlighted "(1)" and replace with "(o)"

- c. 6) There is hereby adopted by the council, for the purpose of prescribing regulations governing conditions to life and property from fire, explosion and hazardous materials and conditions that certain code known as the International Fire Code (IFC), as adopted and modified by the State Minimum Fire Safety Standard including appendixes. Additionally, NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code, current edition will be used as a guide for the City of Richmond Hill. Copies of these Codes will be maintained and updated by the Bureau of Fire Prevention. These codes are adopted and incorporated as fully as if set out in length in this section; and the provisions of such codes shall be controlling within the city, subject to amendments, modifications, deletions and conflicting provisions in this Code that do not provide standards less stringent than the state minimum fire safety standards.
- (6) Delete highlighted section "c." in it's entirety this is a duplication of Sec. 38-31. Adoption by reference, section a

(Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-1; Ord. of 5-18-99; Ord. of 7-3-07, Ord. of 9-8-14)

Sec. 38-32. Bureau of fire prevention.

(d) Whenever any inspector shall find in any building, or upon any premises or other places, combustible or explosive matter or dangerous accumulations of rubbish or unnecessary accumulations of wastepaper, boxes, shavings, or any highly flammable materials especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to endanger property, or shall find obstructions to or on fire escapes, stairs, passageways, doors or windows, liable to interfere with the operations of the fire department or egress of occupants in case of fire, the inspector shall order the same to be removed or remedied; and such order shall forthwith be complied with by the owner or occupant of such premises or buildings, subject to the appeals procedure provided for in the fire prevention code. Any owner or occupant failing to comply with such order within 30 days after the service of the order shall be liable to penalties prescribed in subsection methodow. The service of any such order may be made upon the occupant of the premises to whom it is directed, either by delivering a copy of same to such occupant personally, or leaving it with any person in charge of the premises, or, in case no such person is found upon the premises, by affixing a copy thereof in a conspicuous place on the door to the entrance of the premises, or by mailing such copy by certified mail to the owner's last known post office address. Whenever it may be necessary to

serve such an order upon the owner of premises, such order may be served by delivering to and leaving with the person a copy of the order, or, if the owner is absent from the jurisdiction of the officer making the order, by mailing such copy by certified mail to the owner's last known post office address. The owner of the premises shall inform the bureau of fire prevention of the fire department in writing of the corrections made on the premises.

(7)Delete highlighted "m" and replace with "(o)"

(a) Fire inspectors are to charge a fee for annual inspections to include a fee for 30 day initial re-inspections. The re-inspection fee will be paid prior to the inspection and if not paid will constitute non-compliance and result in the issuance of a citation to appear in Richmond Hill Municipal Court. Fines will be as described in sub-paragraph "o" of this section. The payment for inspections and re- inspections are included in the [8] cities revenue ordinance section I.

(8)Delete highlighted "cities" and replace with "city's"

Sec. 38-33. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in the fire prevention code adopted in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

- Bureau of fire prevention means the City of Richmond Hill Fire Department
- Corporation counsel means the city attorney.
- Fire marshal means the head of the Prevention Bureau.

(Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-3; Ord. of 7-3-07)

Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-2. (9)

Sec. 38-34. State safety fire commission rules adopted by reference.

There is adopted by the city, for the purpose of prevention of destruction of life and property by fire, explosion and related hazards, the rules and regulations of the state safety fire commissioner, under the authority of O.C.G.A. Title 25, chapter 2-12a(7)(b). Such rules are hereby adapted to the same extent as if fully set out herein. Copies of such rules are on file at the office of the city fire inspector. (Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-4; Ord. of 7-3-07)

(9) Delete highlighted section in entirety this is a duplication of Sec. 38-31 (a). Adoption by reference.

Sec. 38-35. Fire chief and officials to cooperate with state officials.

The fire chief and all other city officials, department heads and employees shall lend their cooperation to the state safety fire commissioner, state fire marshal, and their deputies or assistants, whenever called upon by them in the enforcement of the state safety fire law, and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

(Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-5)

Sec. 38-36. Electric wires, electric power meters; authority to cut electric wires and remove electric power meters.

The chief of the fire department and persons acting under him are authorized to cut any electric wire or remove any electric power meter deemed necessary to cut off the current at any fire, or related emergency, without expense to the city for so doing.

(Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-6)

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(b) (10) Obstructing. It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct with building materials or in any other manner whatsoever any cistern, fire hydrant, standpipe, sprinkler connection, or other fire department connection, which would hinder approach to the same by any member of the fire department. No person shall put any posts or installations of any nature whatsoever nearer than 24 inches to any cistern, fire hydrant, standpipe, sprinkler connection, or other fire department connection without first obtaining written permission from the fire chief.

(10) Delete highlighted section in entirety. State minimum is 36 inches (Ord. of 12-4-90, § 3-7; Ord. of 5-18-99; Ord. of 7-3-07; 09-08-14)

- (d) Contractors' equipment permits. All contractors shall use a forced air curtain, or equivalent, to dispose of debris, trees, stumps, and brush or lumber that is over four inches in diameter and two feet long. Burning permits for contractors shall last for the entire length of the job, and shall not be required to be out by sunset.
- (11) Delete highlighted section. Replace with: "Contractors involved in the burning of machine piled natural vegetation as the result of land clearing operations shall abide by the Georgia Forestry Commission's regulations regarding the use of an Air Curtain Destructor. Permits must be obtained through the Georgia Forestry Commission for each day that the burning occurs."

Sec. 38-42. Fire protection requirements.

- (a) Fire protection and alarm systems.
- (1) Fire suppression and detection systems will be installed as required by the Life Safety Code as adopted by the City of Richmond Hill to include:
- a. All assembly occupancies of new bars with live entertainment, nightclubs, dance halls, discotheques, and assembly occupancies with festival seating having an occupant load of 100 or more.
- b. Modifications or additions to existing buildings for the purpose of housing assembly occupancies of bars with live entertainment, dance halls, discotheques, nightclubs, and assembly occupancies with festival seating where occupancy load exceeds 100 persons.

(12)

(2) All commercial structures which are Change to 5,000 sq. ft. to or larger in size will require an automatic fire protection system installed IAW National Fire Prevention Codes unless separated into fire areas less than 5,000 sq. ft by a 2-hr fire separation as described in the IBC. (Buildings of any type of construction or occupancy of 5,000 sq. ft.

or more of the total floor space for commercial buildings, including

- (3) All existing commercial structures over 5,000 sq. ft. that are deemed under renovation in which the cost of renovation is more than the building or structure grossed assed value according to city tax records will be required to be protected by an automatic fire protection system IAW National Fire Protection Codes or be separated into fire areas no greater than 5,000 sq. ft. by a 2-hr fire separation as described in the IBC.
- (12) Delete highlighted sections in entirety. Will reference state code based on occupancy.
- (4) All residential structures containing three or more living units to include townhouses that are more than three stories high will require an automatic sprinkler protection system. Party walls on property lines will be firewalls as described in the IBC. Fire separation requirements may be relaxed in sprinkler-protected structures to one hour rating IAW the IBC.
- (5) All structures including new one- and two-family dwellings with a Fire Separation Distance of less than 10 feet will meet fire protection rating requirements of the International Building Code as described in subsection (b)(1)(a) and subsection (b)(1)(b) below.
- (6)There shall be a fire detection system to meet NFPA 72, as applicable, in all new occupancies of the following classifications: sprinkler protected structures, educational, health care, detention, daycare for children, elderly or handicapped, and group care homes. The system shall notify emergency forces when activated.
- (7) The property owner is responsible for having the fire detection and/or fire protection system inspected and tested in accordance with NFPA 13A. The system shall be inspected annually and a copy of the inspection report will be submitted to the fire marshal's office.
- (8) All fire detection systems and fire alarm systems installed in the City of Richmond Hill

in commercial buildings will require a permit to be issued as follows:

- a .Application for a permit will be made at the planning and zoning office.
- b. Applications will be accompanied with a floor plan showing location of all appliances, i.e. control panels, battery backup, smoke detectors, heat detectors, horns, strobes, pull stations and all other system components. All plans will be approved by the fire department before issuance of the permit
- c. Applications will be accompanied by copies of certification of the designer, job supervisor and installers.
- d. Fire suppression and detection systems shall be permitted separately by the City of Richmond Hill Planning and Zoning Department for a permit fee of \$35.00 per system. As a minimum, a pressure test on sprinkler systems shall be observed by the inspections department or the Richmond Hill Fire Department. Fire suppression systems shall be tested and maintained IAW N.F.P.A. 25, current edition, by a licensed fire protection contractor and a report of inspection or maintenance forwarded to the Fire Chief of the Richmond Hill Fire Department. Sprinkler and Standpipe fire suppression fire department connections shall be equipped with a 5-inch STORZ adapter supplied by the contractor. Systems should be tested and inspected annually as a minimum. System owners are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their systems and for notifying a repair facility of any malfunction. Records shall be maintained on site for each system inspection, test, or maintenance.
- (13) Delete highlighted section.
- e. All sprinkler contractors shall notify the fire department prior to performing any type work, repair, test, or maintenance inside the city. All sprinkler contractors shall be licensed by the state to perform any type sprinkler work. All sprinkler plans for new installation or modification to existing systems must be approved by the appropriate authority, either the State Fire Marshal's Office or the Richmond Hill Fire Department prior to starting work.

- f. All insurance companies shall notify the fire department prior to performing any test on sprinkler systems in the city.
- g. Fire suppression systems control rooms will have installed a "Knox box" entry system keyed to the city fire department code. Property owners will be required to purchase "Knox boxes" for each sprinkler control room and fire alarm control room and provide entry keys for each room to be placed in boxes. [14] All post indicator valves will be equipped with a Knox lock keyed to RHFD code. Knox boxes applications for Knox box purchasing and installation shall be picked up at the Richmond Hill Fire Department Installation of Knox system boxes and locks will be the contractor's responsibility prior to completion for new and existing construction.
- (14) Delete highlighted section in entirety this is an unneeded cost to contractors
- (15) Add section (9) to read as follows: "Class I Standpipe systems shall be installed in accordance with International Building Code Section 905 and NFPA 14 in all new hotels, dormitories, or similar occupancies which are three (3) stories or greater in height, or as otherwise required by the AHJ."

(16)

- (9) If this section of the code in any way conflicts with the provisions in the International Building Code, the Fire Prevention Code, or the Life Safety Code and NFPA requirements the more restrictive shall apply.
- (17) Highlighted section should be renumbered (10)