

## Plumbing Advisory Board

October 20, 2022

Advisory Board Attendees: Ed Bigley, John Inks, Regis Claus, John Cummins, David Green, John Moffit

Absent Advisory Board Members: William Price, Ruthann Omer, Jim Eichenlaub

ACHD staff Attendees: Drew Grese, Jeff Czochara, Brendan Turley, Todd Bogdanovich

Mr. Bigley called the meeting to order and requested votes to approve the minutes from July.

**Action:** Mr. Green motioned to approve the minutes from July 2022. Mr. Inks seconded the motion.

**The motion passed unanimously by a 6-0 vote.**

Mr. Grese introduced ACHD attorney Brendan Turley and newly appointed Plumbing Program Assistant Manager Jeff Czochara to the Advisory Board. He then updated the Advisory Board about the status of the changes to Article XV. The Program held a public hearing on August 11<sup>th</sup> regarding the changes and there were no public comments offered at the hearing. One comment was submitted online regarding advanced standing. The section on advanced standing has been removed, as the focus on safety in the first year of plumbing school is very important. On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Health unanimously voted to approve the changes. The changes should be voted upon by County Council by the end of the year. Mr. Grese informed the Advisory Board that the Program has begun updating its contract with the ICC to create one book of Allegheny County plumbing regulations that incorporate all changes into one book. The Program will work with the plumbing schools regarding an implementation plan, as the plumbing exams will need to be reworked. Mr. Czochara stated that the schools have suggested cleaning up the exam's drawings and modernizing them. Mr. Inks asked when the 2018 regulation changes will begin being enforced. Mr. Grese stated that the Program is working on that with ACHD's Legal Program, and that there will be a grace period as plumbers will need time to implement the changes. Mr. Inks asked if there will be fee increases. Mr. Grese stated that they will be 6% across the board for all fees. Mr. Claus asked if that will include fixture fees. Mr. Grese stated that fixture fees will be included. Mr. Inks asked that the fees please be set to even numbers and asked when the fees will take effect. Mr. Grese stated that the fees will change on January 1, 2023.

Mr. Grese updated the Advisory Board about ACHD's proposed virtual inspection policy. The final version of the policy was given to the ACHD Director on Monday, and he hopes to be able to implement it by January 1. Mr. Inks stated that he has heard good things about it. Mr. Grese noted that its flexibility helps the Program since it is shorthanded. Mr. Czochara informed the Advisory Board that the Program is also working on an online scheduling system for its inspectors.

Mr. Grese presented the Advisory Board with metrics measuring the program's performance, such as the number of inspections that were conducted and the number of plans that were filed. Mr. Inks asked about the Program's staffing. Mr. Grese stated a new inspector, Charles Allen, has been hired and will start on the 31<sup>st</sup> but more inspectors are still needed. Mr. Claus asked by how many inspectors

is the Program short. Mr. Grese stated 4 inspectors. Mr. Czochara stated the Program currently has 15 Inspectors, including Mr. Grese and himself. Mr. Grese asked Mr. Bigley if he has had the opportunity to meet with the County Manager. Mr. Bigley stated that he has not yet had the opportunity. Mr. Inks noted that the District Attorney's and Public Defender's offices were both fighting for more money.

The dates for the Advisory Board's meetings in 2023 were set to be on: January 19<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, and October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Bigley adjourned the meeting, Mr. Inks seconded the adjournment.**