

CITY OF WARRENVILLE**MEMO**

To: Mayor, City Council, and City Administrator Coakley
From: Matt Cronin, Chief Code Official *MC*
Subject: CONSIDERATION OF ELIMINATION OF ELECTRICAL
COMMISSION
Date: November 2, 2021

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief history of the Electrical Commission, a summary of current conditions, and staff recommendation to revise section 8-8-4 of the City Code to eliminate the Electrical Commission.

History

The Electrical Commission was created in 1973 to serve as the authority overseeing the Electrical Inspection Department and the experts responsible for developing, adopting, and amending electrical codes. The Commission consists of six members; the chief electrical inspector, a registered professional engineer, an electrical contractor, a journeyman electrician, a representative of the fire protection district, and one representative of the electrical supply company. The various layers of expertise and background in related disciplines was intended to create a commission with checks and balances to develop well rounded standards, rules, and regulations.

Current Conditions

The establishment of the Building Division within the Community Development Department over the past two decades, including the creation and staffing of a full-time Chief Code Official position approximately six years ago, has resulted in a professional staff which coordinates code adoption including amendments and oversees inspections of all disciplines. Today's model codes, such as the National Electrical Code, undergo extensive reviews by code officials, designers, and industry experts from around the world before being published. The changes in the structure of the department and continued development of the model codes has resulted in a reduction of Electrical Commission meetings in recent years and the elimination of meetings since November of 2018.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the information outlined above, staff recommends the City amend section 8-8-4 of the City Code to eliminate the Electrical Commission. The attached letter presenting the proposed elimination of the commission was sent to Electrical Commission Members in October. To date, there have been no responses to the letter from any commission members.



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October 22, 2021

RE: Dissolving of Electrical Commission

Dear Electrical Commission Members,

I hope this letter finds all of you well. As you may be aware Dale Engebretson retired at the end of 2020 and in January 2021 I was hired as the City's new Chief Code Official. Over the past 9 months I have been familiarizing myself with the City's adopted codes and associated amendments. Recently we started preparing to begin the process of adopting the 2021 version of the ICC Codes. As part of this effort we have started to identify areas where revisions to the existing amendments will be necessary. One such area is the amending of the electrical code to create the Electrical Commission.

Since its inception in 1973 the Electrical Commission has provided great value to the Warrenville community by adopting electrical codes and amendments to them. Prior to the establishment of the City's Building Department, the Electrical Commission served as the authority overseeing the Electrical Inspection Department and experts responsible for adopting and amending electrical codes. However the creation of the City's Building Department, as well as the Chief Code Official position, has resulted in a professional staff which coordinates code adoption including amendments and oversees inspections of all disciplines. Additionally, the development of today's model codes involves reviews by code officials, designers, and industry experts from around the world before being published. These changes have resulted in a reduction of Electrical Commission meetings in recent years and the elimination of meetings since November of 2018.

I am reaching out today to inform you that I will be submitting a recommendation to the City Council to formally dissolve the Electrical Commission based on the information outlined above. The City of Warrenville, myself included, appreciates the service and dedication that all members of the Electrical Commission have provided over the past 40+ years. A special thank you to each of you for your involvement.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Matt Cronin, AIA
Chief Code Official
City of Warrenville

CC: Ron Mentzer, Community Development Director