

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
CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION
Date: November 2, 2021

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a brief history of City electrical contractor registration requirements, a summary of current conditions, and staff recommendation to revise section 8-8-3 of the City Code to eliminate electrical contractor registration requirements.

History

Section 8-8-3 of the City Code requires all electrical contractors working within the City be registered. The registration process involves submitting a valid electrical license from a licensing authority and submitting a \$35 fee. Provisions exist in the code allowing the chief electrical inspector to require the applicant pass an examination demonstrating their qualifications and experience. However, historically the examination requirement has not been enforced by the City. Upon successfully registering with the City, a contractor is to be provided a registration certificate and is required to display this certificate in a conspicuous location at their place of business.

Current Conditions

Since the City's current process for registering electrical contractors only requires a valid license and a yearly \$35 fee, any Contractor, regardless of experience or other qualifications can become registered. Contractors are then required to display that they are registered with the City of Warrenville and can use this to market their services to local customers. . The City's current process does not require references, proof of insurance, or other key items to verify the Contractor's qualifications. The requirements that residents utilize a registered contractor paired with the limited amount of information necessary for contractors to register has resulted in registration carrying an inflated amount of value. Unfortunately, uninformed residents may consider a registered contractor to be a City preferred contractor and erroneously assume the City has checked the Contractor's qualifications.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the information outlined above, staff recommends the City amend section 8-8-3 of the City Code to eliminate the electrical contractor registration requirement effective January 1st, 2022. Electrical contractors will be held to the same standards as plumbing, roofing, and other licensed contractors without the additional requirement that they register separately with the City.