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ORDINANCE NO.: 2022-117

Amending Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II, Building and Technical Codes, Division 7, Property Maintenance Code, Sec. 5-151, Adoption; conflicting provisions

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council this 20th day of December, 2022, that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Columbia, South Carolina, Chapter 5, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article II, Building and Technical Codes, Division 7, Property Maintenance Code, Sec. 5-151, Adoption; conflicting provisions, is amended as follows:

Sec. 5-151. Adoption; conflicting provisions.

(a) There is hereby adopted by and for the city the International Property Maintenance Code 2021 edition as published by the International Code Council Inc., which code is published separately in book form and is adopted by reference as though copied fully in this section. Specifically excluded from the adoption of the Property Maintenance Code is Section 103, and its subsections (enumerated as 103.1, 103.2, and 103.3) and 105.7. Any other provision not specifically excluded above which concerns the qualification, removal, dismissal and duties of the building official or any other city official or employee are deemed excluded from this section. A file of record of this code is in the offices of the city clerk and building official.

(b) Section 107.2 of the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code is amended to read as follows:
107.2 Limitation of authority. Any person directly affected by a decision of the code official or a notice or order issued under this code shall have the right to appeal to the board of appeals, provided that a written application for appeal is filed within 10 days after the day the decision, notice or order was served. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intention of this code or the rules legally adopted thereunder have been incorrectly interpreted, the provisions of this code do not fully apply, or the requirements of this code are adequately satisfied by other means, or that the strict application of any requirement of this code would cause an undue hardship.

(c) Section 302.4 of the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code is amended to read as follows:
302.4 Weeds. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of one foot on the average. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens.

Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice of violation, they shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with Section 106.3 and as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the jurisdiction or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property.

(d) Section 304.14 of the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code is amended to read as follows:
304.14 Insect Screens. During the period from January 1st to December 31st, every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, food service areas or any areas where products to be included or utilized in food for human consumption are processed, manufactured, packaged or stored shall be supplied with approved tightly fitting screens of not less than 16 mesh per inch (16 mesh per 25 mm), and every screen door used for insect control shall have a self-closing device in good working condition.

Exception: Screens shall not be required where other approved means, such as air curtains or insect repellent fans, are employed.

(e) In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the code adopted by this section and state law or city ordinances, rules or regulations, then the code adopted by this section shall prevail and be controlling unless the code is specifically amended by state law which shall prevail and be controlling.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon second reading.

Requested by:

Krista Hampton, Director of Planning &
Development Services

Approved by:

Cheresa B. Wilson
City Manager

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
City Attorney

Introduced: 12/6/2022
Final Reading: 12/20/2022

MAYOR

[Signature]

ATTEST:

Erick D. Hammond
City Clerk