

memorandum

SP

TO: Roger Bernstein FROM: Ken Lane DATE: <i>Ken</i> June 9, 1986 RECEIVED JUN 10 1986 M. E. C. P. L. A.	REFERENCE Chicago Hearing to Revise the Building Code
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Hearing Review

I attended the June 7 hearing in Chicago held by Mayor Washington's Advisory Commission to Revise the Building Code. While testimony was open to any building code topic, most participants spoke either in favor of or in opposition to a proposed ordinance which would allow the use of plastic pipe in building construction in the city of Chicago. Mayor Washington introduced and supports the ordinance.

Fourteen people testified as follows:

Support

Jack Dillon
R&G Sloan Manufacturing Co.

Glen Pariani
R&G Sloan Manufacturing Co.

Jack Lancaster
Plastic Pipe and Fitting Assn.

Jim Houlihan
(on behalf of Cantex Industries)

Charles Forsberg
Carlton

Steve Pregun
Shell Chemical

Dr. Robert Hinderer
B.F. Goodrich

Oppose

Jim McCarthy
Local 130 Plumbers Union

Patricia Horton
Allied Tube and Conduit Corp.

Ken Murphy
Owner/Local Plumbing Co.

Dick Morne
American Society of
Sanitation Engineers

Support adoption of national codes and upgrade of current code

Charles Ostrander
Multi-Family Construction Advisory Committee

Robert Polan
National Electrical Manufacturers Assn.

John Cooton
Registered Professional Engineer

Presentations were kept brief because speakers were limited to 5 minutes each. No questions were asked and there was no press coverage of any kind. The proceeding was videotaped and, along with the June 14 hearing, will be broadcast on a local TV station that covers the City Council and related government bodies.

The opposition spoke to the following issues:

1. burning plastics emit toxic gases - Local 130 Plumbers Union;
2. current activity at the federal level, vis-a-vis the National Fire Protection Research Foundation Risk Assessment Project, will be completed in three years; should withhold any decisions or changes in code until the project is completed - ATCOR;
3. glue fumes from installation of plastic pipe have caused a lung infection and liver ailment - owner/local plumbing company;
4. serious contamination, permeation, and leaching potential exist with the use of plastic pipe - American Society of Sanitation Engineers.

Interestingly, ATCOR's remarks were not consistent and counter to the arguments used in New York State; we should secure a copy of the videotape of the hearings.

Unfortunately, Nina McClelland of the National Sanitation Foundation was grounded in Detroit and unable to make the hearing. She will, however, make her presentation on June 14.

I met briefly with Jim Wise of the Mayor's office and offered SPI's assistance as they see fit. Jim Houlihan, who spoke on behalf of Cantex Industries, is a former state Assemblyman from North Chicago and a lobbyist being retained by Carlon. He is optimistic about the chances of a pro-plastic code change. I am less so.

City Council Make-up

Mayor Washington has an extremely slim majority on the City Council. There are 25 Republicans and 25 Democrats, with the Mayor having the deciding vote. Last Friday, in a six-hour Council session, the Mayor, after three years of battle, finally gained control of the powerful committee structure. The committees were pared from 37 to 28, with a clear Washington majority on each. And, while some key committee chairmanships were maintained by some of his opponents, the duties, budgets and memberships of those committees were altered to the extent that the chairmen were left with little control.

OCC 3354

The rules committee, where the plastic pipe ordinance currently rests, is chaired by a Republican; however, the majority of committee members support the Mayor.

At this point, one of two things will happen to the ordinance: it can be reported out of the committee for a full City Council vote or, more likely, it will remain in the Rules Committee for 90 days when the Council will vote to call the bill to a floor vote. The ordinance was introduced April 14.

While the hearings are pro forma and no one is listening, there will be a political reckoning of numbers pro and con. Therefore a like amount of support at the June 14 exercise is important; the unions may turn out in greater force at the next hearing as they recognize this political fact, as well.

KFL/ndn

cc: Lew Freeman
Roy Gottesman
~~William Carroll~~
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OCC 3355