



# THE CITY OF AUGUSTA

DAVID M. ROLLINS, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

JEFFREY M. BILODEAU  
ANNA D. BLODGETT  
LINDA J. CONTI  
DANIEL M. EMERY

DAREK M. GRANT  
DALE McCORMICK  
CECIL E. MUNSON  
PATRICK E. PARADIS

WILLIAM R. BRIDGEO  
CITY MANAGER

## INFORMATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, December 10, 2015

CITY HALL (COUNCIL CHAMBERS)

**6:30 P.M.**

- A. Items for discussion submitted by the City Council and/or the City Manager:**
1. Recycling Discussion – Mayor Rollins
  2. Draft Property Maintenance Ordinance – Councilors Blodgett and Conti
  3. Childhood Hunger and Homelessness Report – Councilor Grant
- B. Persons wishing to address the City Council who have submitted a formal request in accordance with Section 2-61 of the Code of Ordinances:**
- C. Open comment period for any persons wishing to address the City Council.**

**City of Augusta, Maine**  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT  
CODE ENFORCEMENT  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



ENGINEERING  
FACILITIES & SYSTEMS  
PLANNING

Memo

To: City Council  
William Bridgeo, City Manager

From: Matt Nazar, Director of Development Services

Date: December 7, 2015

Re: Proposed Property Maintenance Code

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At the last City Council Informational meeting, Councilors asked a number of questions regarding the proposed property maintenance code brought to the Council by a City Council Subcommittee Chaired by Councilor Blodgett.

1. Have other municipalities in Maine adopted the International Property Maintenance Code?

Quite a number of Maine municipalities have adopted the International Property Maintenance Code during the past decade. Some of those that have adopted it include Lewiston, Caribou, Presque Isle, Biddeford, Bangor, Waterville, Ellsworth, etc. Many communities have adopted modified versions, but in most cases the modifications are relatively minor. All that I have reviewed to date include the section on "weeds" and the Managers of Lewiston and Caribou stated that they have no real problems with these provisions. The Manager of Bangor stated that contacting banks to deal with enforcement has been extremely difficult. And the Manager of Waterville expressed concern about the code, but did not describe specific problems he'd had with administration and enforcement.

2. Can the code be limited in its geographic scope within the city? For example, can it be limited to specific zoning districts or to within the urban compact?

Yes it can. Lewiston is a good example where certain provisions of the code only apply to specific zoning districts.

3. How does the proposed code relate to some of the existing codes past city councils have already adopted?

The proposed code intended to pull a number of other related sections into one location within the Code of Ordinances to make it easier for all users of the code to find property

maintenance issues in one place. Specifically:

- a. Section 6.2-196 to 6.2-221 on solid waste accumulations and disposal
- b. Section 6-51 to 6-68 on safe and sanitary housing, which includes sanitary facilities, interior air quality, yard maintenance, lead based paint and other provisions.
- c. Section 13-8 regarding open cellar holes, wells, etc
- d. Section 13-10 regarding depositing material in the street or public way
- e. Section 13-14 regarding fencing pools
- f. Section 13-25 regarding unregistered motor vehicles
- g. Additionally, it is intended to create local language related to dangerous buildings currently found in MRSA Title 17, Section 2851 to 2871
- h. And create additional local language related to junkyards

As with any recommendation, staff are happy to provide the language that the Council desires, and ensure that it gets Corporation Council review regarding the legal validity of the proposed regulations.

# SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

## PART 1 — SCOPE AND APPLICATION

### SECTION 101 GENERAL

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the *International Property Maintenance Code of Augusta*, hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

**101.2 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing *premises* and constitute minimum requirements and standards for *premises*, structures, equipment and facilities for light, *ventilation*, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, a reasonable level of safety from fire and other hazards, and for a reasonable level of sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of *owners*, an owner’s authorized agent, *operators* and *occupants*; the *occupancy* of existing structures and *premises*, and for administration, enforcement and penalties.

**101.3 Intent.** This code shall be construed to secure its expressed intent, which is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued *occupancy* and maintenance of structures and *premises*. Existing structures and *premises* that do not comply with these provisions shall be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein.

**101.4 Severability.** If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

### SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY

**102.1 General.** Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall govern. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

**102.2 Maintenance.** Equipment, systems, devices and safeguards required by this code or a previous regulation or code under which the structure or *premises* was constructed, altered or repaired shall be maintained in good working order. No *owner*, owner’s authorized agent, *operator* or *occupant* shall cause any service, facility, equipment or utility that is required under this section to be removed from, shut off from or discontinued for any occupied dwelling, except for such temporary interruption as necessary while repairs or alterations are in progress. The requirements of this code are not

intended to provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures. Except as otherwise specified herein, the *owner* or the *owner’s* authorized agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures and *premises*.

**102.3 Application of other codes.** Repairs, additions or alterations to a structure, or changes of *occupancy*, shall be done in accordance with the procedures and provisions of applicable local, state, and federal codes.

**102.4 Existing remedies.** The provisions in this code shall not be construed to abolish or impair existing remedies of the jurisdiction or its officers or agencies relating to the removal or demolition of any structure that is dangerous, unsafe and insanitary.

**102.5 Workmanship.** Repairs, maintenance work, alterations or installations that are caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of this code shall be executed and installed in a *workmanlike* manner and installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

**102.6 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures designated as historic buildings where such buildings or structures are judged by the *code official* to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare.

**102.7 Referenced codes and standards.** Reserved

**102.8 Requirements not covered by code.** Requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing fixture, structure or equipment, or for the pub-

lic safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this code, shall be determined by the *code official*.

**102.9 Application of references.** Reserved

**102.10 Other laws.** The provisions of this code shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

**PART 2 — ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

**SECTION 103  
BUREAU OF CODE ENFORCEMENT**

**103.1 General.** The Bureau of Code Enforcement is the official in charge thereof shall be known as the *code official*.

**103.2 Appointment.** The *code official* shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction.

**103.3 Reserved.**

**103.4 Liability.** The *code official*, member of the board of appeals or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this code or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered civilly or criminally liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of an act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of official duties.

**103.4.1 Legal defense.** Any suit or criminal complaint instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The *code official* or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in an action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code.

**103.5 Fees.** Reserved

**SECTION 104  
DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CODE OFFICIAL**

**104.1 General.** The *code official* is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The *code official* shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code and to adopt policies and procedures in order to

clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies and procedures shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code.

**104.2 Inspections.** The *code official* shall make all of the required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by *approved* agencies or individuals. Reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such *approved* agency or by the responsible individual. The *code official* is authorized to engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

**104.3 Right of entry.** Where it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code, or whenever the *code official* has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in a *structure* or upon a *premises* a condition in violation of this code, the *code official* is authorized to enter the structure or *premises* at reasonable times to inspect or perform the duties imposed by this code, provided that if such *structure* or *premises* is occupied the *code official* shall present credentials to the *occupant* and request entry. If such structure or *premises* is unoccupied, the *code official* shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the *owner*, *owner's* authorized agent or other person having charge or control of the *structure* or *premises* and request entry. If entry is refused, the *code official* shall have recourse to the remedies provided by law to secure entry.

**104.4 Identification.** The *code official* shall carry proper identification when inspecting *structures* or *premises* in the performance of duties under this code.

**104.5 Notices and orders.** The *code official* shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

**104.6 Bureau records.** The *code official* shall keep official records of all business and activities of the bureau specified in the provisions of this code. Such records shall be retained in the official records for the period required for retention of public records.

**SECTION 105  
APPROVAL**

**105.1 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the *code official* shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases upon application of the *owner* or *owner's* authorized agent, provided the *code official* shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical, the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the department files.

**105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided

that any such alternative has been *approved*. An alternative material or method of construction shall be *approved* where the *code official* finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not *approved*, the *code official* shall respond in writing, stating the reasons the alternative was not *approved*.

**105.3 Required testing.** Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the *code official* shall have the authority to require tests to be made as evidence of compliance at no expense to the jurisdiction.

**105.3.1 Test methods.** Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the *code official* shall be permitted to approve appropriate testing procedures performed by an *approved* agency.

**105.3.2 Test reports.** Reports of tests shall be retained by the *code official* for the period required for retention of public records.

**105.4 Used material and equipment.** The use of used materials that meet the requirements of this code for new materials is permitted. Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements are in good repair or have been reconditioned and tested where necessary, placed in good and proper working condition and *approved* by the *code official*.

**105.5 Approved materials and equipment.** Materials, equipment and devices *approved* by the *code official* shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval.

**105.6 Research reports.** Supporting data, where necessary to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in this code, shall consist of valid research reports from *approved* sources.

## SECTION 106 VIOLATIONS

**106.1 Unlawful acts.** It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to be in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

**106.2 Notice of violation.** The *code official* shall serve a notice of violation or order in accordance with Section 107.

**106.3 Prosecution of violation.** Any person failing to comply with a notice of violation or order served in accordance with Section 107 shall be deemed guilty of a civil infraction as determined by the local municipality, and the violation shall be deemed a *strict liability offense*. If the notice of violation is not complied with, the *code official* shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity

to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful *occupancy* of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto. Any action taken by the authority having jurisdiction on such *premises* shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

**106.4 Violation penalties.** Any person who shall violate a provision of this code, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, shall be prosecuted within the limits provided by state or local laws. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

**106.5 Abatement of violation.** The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal *occupancy* of a building, structure or *premises*, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the building, structure or *premises*.

## SECTION 107 NOTICES AND ORDERS

**107.1 Notice to person responsible.** Whenever the *code official* determines that there has been a violation of this code or has grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, notice shall be given in the manner prescribed in Sections 107.2 and 107.3 to the person responsible for the violation as specified in this code. Notices for condemnation procedures shall also comply with Section 108.3.

**107.2 Form.** Such notice prescribed in Section 107.1 shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. Be in writing.
2. Include a description of the real estate sufficient for identification.
3. Include a statement of the violation or violations and why the notice is being issued.
4. Include a correction order allowing a reasonable time to make the repairs and improvements required to bring the *dwelling unit* or structure into compliance with the provisions of this code.
5. Inform the property *owner* or owner's authorized agent of the right to appeal.
6. Include a statement of the right to file a lien in accordance with Section 106.3.

**107.3 Method of service.** Such notice shall be deemed to be properly served if a copy thereof is:

1. Delivered personally;
2. Sent by certified or first-class mail addressed to the last known address; or
3. If the notice is returned showing that the letter was not delivered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicu-

notice.

**107.4 Unauthorized tampering.** Signs, tags or seals posted or affixed by the *code official* shall not be mutilated, destroyed or tampered with, or removed without authorization from the *code official*.

**107.5 Penalties.** Penalties for noncompliance with orders and notices shall be as set forth in Section 106.4.

**107.6 Transfer of ownership.** It shall be unlawful for the *owner* of any *dwelling unit* or structure who has received a compliance order or upon whom a notice of violation has been served to sell, transfer, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such *dwelling unit* or structure to another until the provisions of the compliance order or notice of violation have been complied with, or until such *owner* or the owner's authorized agent shall first furnish the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee a true copy of any compliance order or notice of violation issued by the *code official* and shall furnish to the *code official* a signed and notarized statement from the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee, acknowledging the receipt of such compliance order or notice of violation and fully accepting the responsibility without condition for making the corrections or repairs required by such compliance order or notice of violation.

## SECTION 108 UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT

**108.1 General.** When a structure or equipment is found by the *code official* to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human *occupancy*, or is found unlawful, such structure shall be *condemned* pursuant to the provisions of this code.

**108.1.1 Unsafe structures.** An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the *occupants* of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn *occupants* in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

**108.1.2 Unsafe equipment.** Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers or other equipment on the *premises* or within the structure which is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or *occupants* of the *premises* or structure.

**108.1.3 Structure unfit for human occupancy.** A structure is unfit for human *occupancy* whenever the *code official* finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is insanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth and contamination, or lacks *ventilation*, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities or other essential equipment required by this code, or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the *occupants* of the structure or to the public.

**108.1.4 Unlawful structure.** An unlawful structure is one found in whole or in part to be occupied by more persons than permitted under this code, or was erected, altered or occupied contrary to law.

**108.1.5 Dangerous structure or premises.** For the purpose of this code, any structure or *premises* that has any or all of the conditions or defects described below shall be considered dangerous:

1. Any door, aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress that does not conform to the *approved* building or fire code of the jurisdiction as related to the requirements for existing buildings.
2. The walking surface of any aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress is so warped, worn loose, torn or otherwise unsafe as to not provide safe and adequate means of egress.
3. Any portion of a building, structure or appurtenance that has been damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, flood, *deterioration*, *neglect*, abandonment, vandalism or by any other cause to such an extent that it is likely to partially or completely collapse, or to become *detached* or dislodged.
4. Any portion of a building, or any member, appurtenance or ornamentation on the exterior thereof that is not of sufficient strength or stability, or is not so *anchored*, attached or fastened in place so as to be capable of resisting natural or artificial loads of one and one-half the original designed value.
5. The building or structure, or part of the building or structure, because of dilapidation, *deterioration*, decay, faulty construction, the removal or movement of some portion of the ground necessary for the support, or for any other reason, is likely to partially or completely collapse, or some portion of the foundation or underpinning of the building or structure is likely to fail or give way.
6. The building or structure, or any portion thereof, is clearly unsafe for its use and *occupancy*.
7. The building or structure is *neglected*, damaged, dilapidated, unsecured or abandoned so as to become an attractive nuisance to children who might play in the building or structure to their danger, becomes a harbor for vagrants, criminals or immoral persons, or enables persons to resort to the building or structure for committing a nuisance or an unlawful act.
8. Any building or structure has been constructed, exists or is maintained in violation of any specific requirement or prohibition applicable to such building or structure provided by the *approved* building or fire code of the jurisdiction, or of any law or ordinance to such an extent as to present either a substantial risk of fire, building collapse or any other threat to life and safety.



9. A building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, inadequate light, *ventilation*, mechanical or plumbing system, or otherwise, is determined by the *code official* to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such a condition that is likely to cause sickness or dis- ease.
10. Any building or structure, because of a lack of sufficient or proper fire-resistance-rated construction, fire protection systems, electrical system, fuel connections, mechanical system, plumbing system or other cause, is determined by the *code official* to be a threat to life or health.
11. Any portion of a building remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned so as to constitute such building or portion thereof as an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

**108.2 Closing of vacant structures.** If the structure is vacant and unfit for human habitation and *occupancy*, and is not in danger of structural collapse, the *code official* is authorized to post a placard of condemnation on the *premises* and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the *owner* or owner's authorized agent to close up the *premises* within the time specified in the order, the *code official* shall cause the *premises* to be closed and secured through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate and shall be collected by any other legal resource.

**108.2.1 Authority to disconnect service utilities.**

The *code official* shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by this code and the referenced codes and standards set forth in Section 102.7 in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property or where such utility connection has been made without approval. The *code official* shall notify the serving utility and, whenever possible, the *owner* or owner's authorized agent and *occupant* of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnection the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or *occupant* of the building structure or service system shall be notified in writing as soon as practical thereafter.

**108.3 Notice.** Whenever the *code official* has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall be in the form prescribed in Section 107.2.

**108.4 Placarding.** Upon failure of the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the *code official* shall post on the *premises* or on defective equipment a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the *premises*, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

**108.4.1 Placard removal.** The *code official* shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the *code official* shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

**108.5 Prohibited occupancy.** Any occupied structure condemned and placarded by the *code official* shall be vacated as ordered by the *code official*. Any person who shall occupy a placarded *premises* or shall operate placarded equipment, and any *owner*, owner's authorized agent or person responsible for the *premises* who shall let anyone occupy a placarded *premises* or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

**108.6 Abatement methods.** The *owner*, owner's authorized agent, *operator* or *occupant* of a building, *premises* or equipment deemed unsafe by the *code official* shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such unsafe conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other *approved* corrective action.

**108.7 Record.** The *code official* shall cause a report to be filed on an unsafe condition. The report shall state the *occupancy* of the structure and the nature of the unsafe condition.

## SECTION 109 EMERGENCY MEASURES

**109.1 Imminent danger.** When, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* of failure or collapse of a building or structure that endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building *occupants* or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the *code official* is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the *occupants* to vacate the *premises* forthwith. The *code official* shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows: "This Structure Is Unsafe and Its Occupancy Has Been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

**[A] 109.2 Temporary safeguards.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* due to an unsafe condition, the *code official* shall order the necessary work to be done

including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted; and shall cause such other action to be taken as the code official deems necessary to meet such emergency.

**109.3 Closing streets.** When necessary for public safety, the code official shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, public ways and places adjacent to unsafe structures, and prohibit the same from being utilized.

**109.4 Emergency repairs.** For the purposes of this section, the code official shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

**109.5 Costs of emergency repairs.** Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises or owner's authorized agent where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

**109.6 Hearing.** Any person ordered to take emergency measures shall comply with such order forthwith. Any affected person shall thereafter, upon petition directed to the appeals board, be afforded a hearing as described in this code.

## SECTION 110 DEMOLITION

**110.1 General.** The code official shall order the owner or owner's authorized agent of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the code official's or owner's authorized agent judgment after review is so deteriorated or dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and such that it is unreasonable to repair the structure, to demolish and remove such structure; or if such structure is capable of being made safe by repairs, to repair and make safe and sanitary, or to board up and hold for future repair or to demolish and remove at the owner's option; or where there has been a cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than two years, the code official shall order the owner or owner's authorized agent to demolish and remove such structure, or board up until future repair. Boarding the building up for future repair shall not extend beyond one year, unless approved by the building official.

**110.2 Notices and orders.** Notices and orders

shall comply with Section 107.

**110.3 Failure to comply.** If the owner of a premises or owner's authorized agent fails to comply with a demolition order within the time prescribed, the code official shall cause the structure to be demolished and removed, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons, and the cost of such demolition and removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

**110.4 Salvage materials.** When any structure has been ordered demolished and removed, the governing body or other designated officer under said contract or arrangement aforesaid shall have the right to sell the salvage and valuable materials. The net proceeds of such sale, after deducting the expenses of such demolition and removal, shall be promptly remitted with a report of such sale or transaction, including the items of expense and the amounts deducted, for the person who is entitled thereto, subject to any order of a court. If such a surplus does not remain to be turned over, the report shall so state.

## SECTION 111 MEANS OF APPEAL

**Application for appeal.** 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 zoning appeals, provided that a written application for appeal is filed within 20 days after the day the decision, notice or order was served. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent 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.

## SECTION 112 STOP WORK ORDER

**112.1 Authority.** Whenever the *code official* finds any work regulated by this code being performed in a manner contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, the *code official* is authorized to issue a stop work order.

**112.2 Issuance.** A stop work order shall be in writing and shall be given to the *owner* of the property, to the *owner's* authorized agent, or to the person doing the work. Upon issuance of a stop work order, the cited work shall immediately cease. The stop work order shall state the reason for the order and the conditions under which the cited work is authorized

to resume.

**112.3 Emergencies.** Where an emergency exists, the *code official* shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work.

**112.4 Failure to comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not less than [AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.

# DEFINITIONS

## SECTION 201 GENERAL

**201.1 Scope.** Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

**201.2 Interchangeability.** Words stated in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural, the singular.

**201.3 Terms defined in other codes.** Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the *International Building Code*, *International Existing Building Code*, *International Fire Code*, *International Fuel Gas Code*, *International Mechanical Code*, *International Plumbing Code*, *International Residential Code*, *International Zoning Code* or NFPA 70, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them as stated in those codes.

**201.4 Terms not defined.** Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

**201.5 Parts.** Whenever the words “*dwelling unit*,” “*dwelling*,” “*premises*,” “*building*,” “*rooming house*,” “*rooming unit*,” “*housekeeping unit*” or “*story*” are stated in this code, they shall be construed as though they were followed by the words “or any part thereof.”

## SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**ANCHORED.** Secured in a manner that provides positive connection.

**APPROVED.** Acceptable to the *code official*.

**BASEMENT.** That portion of a building which is partly or completely below grade.

**BATHROOM.** A room containing plumbing fixtures including a bathtub or shower.

**CODE OFFICIAL.** The official who is charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or any duly authorized representative.

**COST OF SUCH DEMOLITION OR EMERGENCY REPAIRS.** The costs shall include the actual costs of the demolition or repair of the structure less revenues obtained if salvage was conducted prior to demolition or repair. Costs shall include, but not be limited to, expenses incurred or necessitated related to demolition or emergency repairs, such

as asbestos survey and abatement if necessary; costs of inspectors, testing agencies or experts retained relative to the demolition or emergency repairs; costs of testing; surveys for other materials that are controlled or regulated from being dumped in a landfill; title searches; mailing(s); postings; recording; and attorney fees expended for recovering of the cost of emergency repairs or to obtain or enforce an order of demolition made by a *code official*, the governing body or board of appeals.

**DETACHED.** When a structural element is physically disconnected from another and that connection is necessary to provide a positive connection.

**DETERIORATION.** To weaken, disintegrate, corrode, rust or decay and lose effectiveness.

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EASEMENT.** That portion of land or property reserved for present or future use by a person or agency other than the legal fee *owner(s)* of the property. The *easement* shall be permitted to be for use under, on or above a said lot or lots.

**EQUIPMENT SUPPORT.** Those structural members or assemblies of members or manufactured elements, including braces, frames, lugs, snuggers, hangers or saddles, that transmit gravity load, lateral load and operating load between the equipment and the structure.

**EXTERIOR PROPERTY.** The open space on the *premises* and on adjoining property under the control of *owners* or *operators* of such *premises*.

**GARBAGE.** The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

**GUARD.** A building component or a system of building components located at or near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from the walking surface to a lower level.

**HABITABLE SPACE.** Space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. *Bathrooms*, *toilet rooms*, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces, and similar areas are not considered *habitable spaces*.

**HISTORIC BUILDING.** Any building or structure that is one or more of the following:

1. Listed or certified as eligible for listing, by the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Designated as historic under an applicable state or local law.

## DEFINITIONS

3. Certified as a contributing resource within a National Register or state or locally designated historic district.

**HOUSEKEEPING UNIT.** A room or group of rooms forming a single *habitable space* equipped and intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking and eating which does not contain, within such a unit, a toilet, lavatory and bathtub or shower.

**IMMINENT DANGER.** A condition which could cause serious or life-threatening injury or death at any time.

**INFESTATION.** The presence, within or contiguous to, a structure or *premises* of insects, rats, vermin or other pests.

**INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE.** A vehicle which cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power.

**LABELED.** Equipment, materials or products to which have been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**LET FOR OCCUPANCY or LET.** To permit, provide or offer possession or *occupancy* of a dwelling, *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit*, building, premise or structure by a person who is or is not the legal *owner* of record thereof, pursuant to a written or unwritten lease, agreement or license, or pursuant to a recorded or unrecorded agreement of contract for the sale of land.

**NEGLECT.** The lack of proper maintenance for a building or *structure*.

**OCCUPANCY.** The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is utilized or occupied.

**OCCUPANT.** Any individual living or sleeping in a building, or having possession of a space within a building.

**OPENABLE AREA.** That part of a window, skylight or door which is available for unobstructed *ventilation* and which opens directly to the outdoors.

**OPERATOR.** Any person who has charge, care or control of a structure or *premises* which is let or offered for *occupancy*.

**OWNER.** Any person, agent, *operator*, firm or corporation having legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county or municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

**PERSON.** An individual, corporation, partnership or any other group acting as a unit.

**PEST ELIMINATION.** The control and elimination of insects, rodents or other pests by eliminating their harborage places; by removing or making inaccessible materials that serve as their food or water; by other *approved pest elimination* methods.

**PREMISES.** A lot, plot or parcel of land, *easement* or *public way*, including any structures thereon.

**PUBLIC WAY.** Any street, alley or similar parcel of land essentially unobstructed from the ground to the sky, which is deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated to the public for public use.

**ROOMING HOUSE.** A building arranged or occupied for lodging, with or without meals, for compensation and not occupied as a one- or two-family dwelling.

**ROOMING UNIT.** Any room or group of rooms forming a single habitable unit occupied or intended to be occupied for sleeping or living, but not for cooking purposes.

**RUBBISH.** Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, *yard* trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

**SLEEPING UNIT.** A room or space in which people sleep, which can also include permanent provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities, but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a *dwelling unit* are not *sleeping units*.

**STRICT LIABILITY OFFENSE.** An offense in which the prosecution in a legal proceeding is not required to prove criminal intent as a part of its case. It is enough to prove that the defendant either did an act which was prohibited, or failed to do an act which the defendant was legally required to do.

**STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

**TENANT.** A person, corporation, partnership or group, whether or not the legal *owner* of record, occupying a building or portion thereof as a unit.

**TOILET ROOM.** A room containing a water closet or urinal but not a bathtub or shower.

**ULTIMATE DEFORMATION.** The deformation at which failure occurs and which shall be deemed to occur if the sustainable load reduces to 80 percent or less of the maximum strength.

**[M] VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**WORKMANLIKE.** Executed in a skilled manner; e.g., generally plumb, level, square, in line, undamaged and without marring adjacent work.

**YARD.** An open space on the same lot with a structure.

# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

## SECTION 301 GENERAL

**301.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and *exterior property*.

**301.2 Responsibility.** The *owner* of the *premises* shall maintain the structures and *exterior property* in compliance with these requirements, except as otherwise provided for in this code. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy *premises* that are not in a sanitary and safe condition and that do not comply with the requirements of this chapter. *Occupants* of a *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit* or *housekeeping unit* are responsible for keeping in a clean, sanitary and safe condition that part of the *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit*, *housekeeping unit* or *premises* which they occupy and control.

**301.3 Vacant structures and land.** Vacant structures and *premises* thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety.

## SECTION 302 EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS

**302.1 Sanitation.** *Exterior property* and *premises* shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The *occupant* shall keep that part of the *exterior property* that such *occupant* occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

**302.2 Grading and drainage.** *Reserved*

**302.3 Sidewalks.** Sidewalks, walkways, stairs, and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions.

**302.4 Weeds.** *Reserved*

**302.5 Rodent harborage.** Structures and *exterior property* shall be kept free from rodent harborage and *infestation*. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by *approved* processes that will not be injurious to human health. After pest elimination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent reinfestation.

**302.6 Exhaust vents.** Pipes, ducts, conductors, fans or blowers shall not discharge gases, steam, vapor, hot air, grease, smoke, odors or other gaseous or particulate wastes directly upon abutting or adjacent public or private property or that of another *tenant*.

**302.7 Accessory structures.** Accessory structures, including *detached* garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

**302.8 Motor vehicles.** *Reserved*

**302.9 Defacement of property.** No person shall willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

It shall be the responsibility of the *owner* to restore said surface to an *approved* state of maintenance and repair.

## SECTION 303 SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

**303.1 Swimming pools.** Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair.

**303.2 Enclosures.** Private swimming pools, hot tubs and spas, containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool. Gates and doors in such barriers shall be self-closing and self-latching. Where the self-latching device is not less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the bottom of the

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate. Self-closing and self-latching gates shall be maintained such that the gate will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches (152 mm) from the gatepost. No existing pool enclosure shall be removed, replaced or changed in a manner that reduces its effectiveness as a safety barrier.

**Exception:** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

### SECTION 304 EXTERIOR STRUCTURE

**304.1 General.** The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

**304.1.1 Unsafe conditions.** The following conditions shall be determined as unsafe and shall be repaired or replaced to comply with the *International Building Code* or the *International Existing Building Code* as required for existing buildings:

1. The nominal strength of any structural member is exceeded by nominal loads, the load effects or the required strength;
2. The *anchorage* of the floor or roof to walls or columns, and of walls and columns to foundations is not capable of resisting all nominal loads or load effects;
3. Structures or components thereof that have reached their limit state;
4. Reserved;
5. Structural members that have evidence of *deterioration* or that are not capable of safely supporting all nominal loads and load effects;
6. Foundation systems that are not firmly supported by footings, are not plumb and free from open cracks and breaks, are not properly *anchored* or are not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;
7. Exterior walls that are not *anchored* to supporting and supported elements or are not plumb and free of holes, cracks or breaks and loose or rotting materials, are not properly *anchored* or are not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;
8. Roofing or roofing components that have defects that admit rain, roof surfaces with inadequate drainage, or any portion of the roof framing that is not in good repair with signs of *deterioration*, fatigue or without proper anchorage and incapable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;

9. Flooring and flooring components are incapable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;
10. Reserved;
11. Overhang extensions or projections including, but not limited to, trash chutes, fire escapes, standpipes and exhaust ducts not properly *anchored* or that are *anchored* with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects;
12. Exterior stairs, decks, porches, balconies and all similar appurtenances attached thereto, including *guards* and handrails, are not structurally sound, not properly *anchored* or that are *anchored* with connections not capable of supporting all nominal loads and resisting all load effects; or
13. Reserved.

**304.2 Protective treatment.** Reserved

**304.3 Premises identification.** Buildings shall have *approved* address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7 mm).

**304.4 Structural members.** Structural members shall be capable of safely supporting the imposed dead and live loads.

**304.5 Foundation walls.** Foundation walls shall be kept in such condition so as to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests.

**304.6 Exterior walls.** Reserved.

**304.7 Roofs and drainage.** Roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

**304.8 Decorative features.** Reserved.

**304.9 Overhang extensions.** Overhang extensions including, but not limited to fire escapes, standpipes and exhaust ducts shall be maintained in good repair and be properly *anchored* so as to be kept in a sound condition.

**304.10 Stairways, decks, porches and balconies.** Every

exterior stairway, deck, porch and balcony, and all appurtenances attached thereto, shall be maintained structurally sound, in good repair, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads.

**304.11 Chimneys and towers.** Reserved.

**304.12 Handrails and guards.** Every handrail and *guard* shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

## SECTION 305 INTERIOR STRUCTURE

**305.1 General.** Reserved

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 306 COMPONENT SERVICEABILITY

306.1 General. The components of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition.

306.1.1 Unsafe conditions. Reserved

SECTION 307 HANDRAILS AND GUARDRAILS

307.1 General. Every exterior and interior flight of stairs having more than four risers shall have a handrail on one side of the stair and every open portion of a stair, landing, balcony, porch, deck, ramp or other walking surface that is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards. Handrails shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in height or more than 42 inches (1067 mm) in height measured vertically above the nosing of the tread or above the finished floor of the landing or walking surfaces. Guards shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in height above the

floor of the landing, balcony, porch, deck, or ramp or other walking surface.

Exception: Guards shall not be required where exempted by the adopted building code.

SECTION 308 RUBBISH AND GARBAGE

308.1 Accumulation of rubbish or garbage. Exterior property and premises, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

308.2 Disposal of rubbish. Reserved

SECTION 309 PEST ELIMINATION

309.1 Infestation. Structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation. Structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After pest elimination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

309.2 Owner. The owner of any structure shall be responsible for pest elimination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.

309.3 Single occupant. The occupant of a one-family dwelling or of a single-tenant nonresidential structure shall be responsible for pest elimination on the premises.

309.4 Multiple occupancy. The owner of a structure containing two or more dwelling units, a multiple occupancy, a rooming house or a nonresidential structure shall be responsible for pest elimination in the public or shared areas of the structure and exterior property. If infestation is caused by failure of an occupant to prevent such infestation in the area occupied, the occupant and owner shall be responsible for pest elimination.

309.5 Occupant. The occupant of any structure shall be responsible for the continued rodent and pest-free condition of the structure.

Exception: Where the infestations are caused by defects in the structure, the owner shall be responsible for pest elimination



# SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

## PART 1 — SCOPE AND APPLICATION

### SECTION 101 GENERAL

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the *International Property Maintenance Code* of Augusta, hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

**101.2 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing *premises* and constitute minimum requirements and standards for *premises*, structures, equipment and facilities for light, *ventilation*, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, a reasonable level of safety from fire and other hazards, and for a reasonable level of sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of *owners*, an owner’s authorized agent, *operators* and *occupants*; the *occupancy* of existing structures and *premises*, and for administration, enforcement and penalties.

**101.3 Intent.** This code shall be construed to secure its expressed intent, which is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued *occupancy* and maintenance of structures and *premises*. Existing structures and *premises* that do not comply with these provisions shall be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein.

**101.4 Severability.** If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

### SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY

**102.1 General.** Where there is a conflict between a general requirement and a specific requirement, the specific requirement shall govern. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

**102.2 Maintenance.** Equipment, systems, devices and safeguards required by this code or a previous regulation or code under which the structure or *premises* was constructed, altered or repaired shall be maintained in good working order. No *owner*, owner’s authorized agent, *operator* or *occupant* shall cause any service, facility, equipment or utility that is required under this section to be removed from, shut off from or discontinued for any occupied dwelling, except for such temporary interruption as necessary while repairs or alterations are in progress. The requirements of this code are not

intended to provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures. Except as otherwise specified herein, the *owner* or the *owner’s* authorized agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures and *premises*.

**102.3 Application of other codes.** Repairs, additions or alterations to a structure, or changes of *occupancy*, shall be done in accordance with the procedures and provisions of applicable local, state, and federal codes.

**102.4 Existing remedies.** The provisions in this code shall not be construed to abolish or impair existing remedies of the jurisdiction or its officers or agencies relating to the removal or demolition of any structure that is dangerous, unsafe and insanitary.

**102.5 Workmanship.** Repairs, maintenance work, alterations or installations that are caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of this code shall be executed and installed in a *workmanlike* manner and installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

**102.6 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures designated as historic buildings where such buildings or structures are judged by the *code official* to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare.

**102.7 Referenced codes and standards.** Reserved

**102.8 Requirements not covered by code.** Requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing fixture, structure or equipment, or for the pub-



## SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

lic safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this code, shall be determined by the *code official*.

**102.9 Application of references.** Reserved

**102.10 Other laws.** The provisions of this code shall not be deemed to nullify any provisions of local, state or federal law.

## PART 2 — ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

### SECTION 103 BUREAU OF CODE ENFORCEMENT

**103.1 General.** The Bureau of Code Enforcement is the official in charge thereof shall be known as the *code official*.

**103.2 Appointment.** The *code official* shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction.

**103.3 Reserved.**

**103.4 Liability.** The *code official*, member of the board of appeals or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, in good faith and without malice in the discharge of the duties required by this code or other pertinent law or ordinance, shall not thereby be rendered civilly or criminally liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of an act or by reason of an act or omission in the discharge of official duties.

**103.4.1 Legal defense.** Any suit or criminal complaint instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The *code official* or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in an action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code.

**103.5 Fees.** Reserved

### SECTION 104 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CODE OFFICIAL

**104.1 General.** The *code official* is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The *code official* shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code and to adopt policies and procedures in order to

clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies and procedures shall be in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code.

**104.2 Inspections.** The *code official* shall make all of the required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by *approved* agencies or individuals. Reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such *approved* agency or by the responsible individual. The *code official* is authorized to engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

**104.3 Right of entry.** Where it is necessary to make an inspection to enforce the provisions of this code, or whenever the *code official* has reasonable cause to believe that there exists in a *structure* or upon a *premises* a condition in violation of this code, the *code official* is authorized to enter the structure or *premises* at reasonable times to inspect or perform the duties imposed by this code, provided that if such *structure* or *premises* is occupied the *code official* shall present credentials to the *occupant* and request entry. If such structure or *premises* is unoccupied, the *code official* shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the *owner*, *owner's* authorized agent or other person having charge or control of the *structure* or *premises* and request entry. If entry is refused, the *code official* shall have recourse to the remedies provided by law to secure entry.

**104.4 Identification.** The *code official* shall carry proper identification when inspecting *structures* or *premises* in the performance of duties under this code.

**104.5 Notices and orders.** The *code official* shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

**104.6 Bureau records.** The *code official* shall keep official records of all business and activities of the bureau specified in the provisions of this code. Such records shall be retained in the official records for the period required for retention of public records.

### SECTION 105 APPROVAL

**105.1 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the *code official* shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases upon application of the *owner* or *owner's* authorized agent, provided the *code official* shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical, the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the department files.

**105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the

installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code,

provided

that any such alternative has been *approved*. An alternative material or method of construction shall be *approved* where the *code official* finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. Where the alternative material, design or method of construction is not *approved*, the *code official* shall respond in writing, stating the reasons the alternative was not *approved*.

**105.3 Required testing.** Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the *code official* shall have the authority to require tests to be made as evidence of compliance at no expense to the jurisdiction.

**105.3.1 Test methods.** Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the *code official* shall be permitted to approve appropriate testing procedures performed by an *approved* agency.

**105.3.2 Test reports.** Reports of tests shall be retained by the *code official* for the period required for retention of public records.

**105.4 Used material and equipment.** The use of used materials that meet the requirements of this code for new materials is permitted. Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements are in good repair or have been reconditioned and tested where necessary, placed in good and proper working condition and *approved* by the *code official*.

**105.5 Approved materials and equipment.** Materials, equipment and devices *approved* by the *code official* shall be constructed and installed in accordance with such approval.

**105.6 Research reports.** Supporting data, where necessary to assist in the approval of materials or assemblies not specifically provided for in this code, shall consist of valid research reports from *approved* sources.

## SECTION 106 VIOLATIONS

**106.1 Unlawful acts.** It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to be in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

**106.2 Notice of violation.** The *code official* shall serve a notice of violation or order in accordance with Section 107.

**106.3 Prosecution of violation.** Any person failing to comply with a notice of violation or order served in accordance with Section 107 shall be deemed guilty of a civil infraction as determined by the local municipality, and the violation shall be deemed a *strict liability offense*. If the notice of violation is not complied with, the *code official*

shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or to

require the removal or termination of the unlawful *occupancy* of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto. Any action taken by the authority having jurisdiction on such *premises* shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

place in or about the structure affected by such notice.

**106.4 Violation penalties.** Any person who shall violate a provision of this code, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, shall be prosecuted within the limits provided by state or local laws. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

**106.5 Abatement of violation.** The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal *occupancy* of a building, structure or *premises*, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the building, structure or *premises*.

## SECTION 107 NOTICES AND ORDERS

**107.1 Notice to person responsible.** Whenever the *code official* determines that there has been a violation of this code or has grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, notice shall be given in the manner prescribed in Sections 107.2 and 107.3 to the person responsible for the violation as specified in this code. Notices for condemnation procedures shall also comply with Section 108.3.

**107.2 Form.** Such notice prescribed in Section 107.1 shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. Be in writing.
2. Include a description of the real estate sufficient for identification.
3. Include a statement of the violation or violations and why the notice is being issued.
4. Include a correction order allowing a reasonable time to make the repairs and improvements required to bring the *dwelling unit* or structure into compliance with the provisions of this code.
5. Inform the property *owner* or owner's authorized agent of the right to appeal.
6. Include a statement of the right to file a lien in accordance with Section 106.3.

**107.3 Method of service.** Such notice shall be deemed to be properly served if a copy thereof is:

1. Delivered personally;
2. Sent by certified or first-class mail addressed to the last known address; or
3. If the notice is returned showing that the letter was not delivered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous

## SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION

**107.4 Unauthorized tampering.** Signs, tags or seals posted or affixed by the *code official* shall not be mutilated, destroyed or tampered with, or removed without authorization from the *code official*.

**107.5 Penalties.** Penalties for noncompliance with orders and notices shall be as set forth in Section 106.4.

**107.6 Transfer of ownership.** It shall be unlawful for the *owner* of any *dwelling unit* or structure who has received a compliance order or upon whom a notice of violation has been served to sell, transfer, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such *dwelling unit* or structure to another until the provisions of the compliance order or notice of violation have been complied with, or until such *owner* or the owner's authorized agent shall first furnish the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee a true copy of any compliance order or notice of violation issued by the *code official* and shall furnish to the *code official* a signed and notarized statement from the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee, acknowledging the receipt of such compliance order or notice of violation and fully accepting the responsibility without condition for making the corrections or repairs required by such compliance order or notice of violation.

equipment required by this code, or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the *occupants* of the structure or to the public.

## SECTION 108 UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT

**108.1 General.** When a structure or equipment is found by the *code official* to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human *occupancy*, or is found unlawful, such structure shall be *condemned* pursuant to the provisions of this code.

**108.1.1 Unsafe structures.** An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the *occupants* of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn *occupants* in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

**108.1.2 Unsafe equipment.** Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers or other equipment on the *premises* or within the structure which is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or *occupants* of the *premises* or structure.

**108.1.3 Structure unfit for human occupancy.** A structure is unfit for human *occupancy* whenever the *code official* finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is insanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth and contamination, or lacks *ventilation*, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities or other essential

**108.1.4 Unlawful structure.** An unlawful structure is one found in whole or in part to be occupied by more persons than permitted under this code, or was erected, altered or occupied contrary to law.

**108.1.5 Dangerous structure or premises.** For the purpose of this code, any structure or *premises* that has any or all of the conditions or defects described below shall be considered dangerous:

1. Any door, aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress that does not conform to the *approved* building or fire code of the jurisdiction as related to the requirements for existing buildings.
2. The walking surface of any aisle, passageway, stairway, exit or other means of egress is so warped, worn loose, torn or otherwise unsafe as to not provide safe and adequate means of egress.
3. Any portion of a building, structure or appurtenance that has been damaged by fire, earthquake, wind, flood, *deterioration, neglect, abandonment, vandalism* or by any other cause to such an extent that it is likely to partially or completely collapse, or to become *detached* or dislodged.
4. Any portion of a building, or any member, appurtenance or ornamentation on the exterior thereof that is not of sufficient

strength or stability, or is not so *anchored*, attached or fastened in place so as to be capable of resisting natural or artificial loads of one and one-half the original designed value.

5. The building or structure, or part of the building or structure, because of dilapidation, *deterioration, decay, faulty construction, the removal or movement of some portion of the ground necessary for the support, or for any other reason*, is likely to partially or completely collapse, or some portion of the foundation or underpinning of the building or structure is likely to fail or give way.
6. The building or structure, or any portion thereof, is clearly unsafe for its use and *occupancy*.
7. The building or structure is *neglected, damaged, dilapidated, unsecured or abandoned* so as to become an attractive nuisance to children who might play in the building or structure to their danger, becomes a harbor for vagrants, criminals or immoral persons, or enables persons to resort to the building or structure for committing a nuisance or an unlawful act.
8. Any building or structure has been constructed, exists or is maintained in violation of any specific requirement or prohibition applicable to such building or structure provided by the *approved* building or fire code of the jurisdiction, or of any law or ordinance to such an extent as to present either a substantial risk of fire, building collapse or any other threat to life and safety.

9. A building or structure, used or intended to be used for dwelling purposes, because of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, decay, damage, faulty construction or arrangement, inadequate light, *ventilation*, mechanical or plumbing system, or otherwise, is determined by the *code official* to be unsanitary, unfit for human habitation or in such a condition that is likely to cause sickness or dis- ease.
10. Any building or structure, because of a lack of sufficient or proper fire-resistance-rated construction, fire protection systems, electrical system, fuel connections, mechanical system, plumbing system or other cause, is determined by the *code official* to be a threat to life or health.
11. Any portion of a building remains on a site after the demolition or destruction of the building or structure or whenever any building or structure is abandoned so as to constitute such building or portion thereof as an attractive nuisance or hazard to the public.

prescribed in Section 107.2.

**108.2 Closing of vacant structures.** If the structure is vacant and unfit for human habitation and *occupancy*, and is not in danger of structural collapse, the *code official* is authorized to post a placard of condemnation on the *premises* and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the *owner* or owner's authorized agent to close up the *premises* within the time specified in the order, the *code official* shall cause the *premises* to be closed and secured through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate and shall be collected by any other legal resource.

**108.2.1 Authority to disconnect service utilities.**

The *code official* shall have the authority to authorize disconnection of utility service to the building, structure or system regulated by this code and the referenced codes and standards set forth in Section 102.7 in case of emergency where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life or property or where such utility connection has been made without approval. The *code official* shall notify the serving utility and, whenever possible, the *owner* or owner's authorized agent and *occupant* of the building, structure or service system of the decision to disconnect prior to taking such action. If not notified prior to disconnection the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or *occupant* of the building structure or service system shall be notified in writing as soon as practical thereafter.

**108.3 Notice.** Whenever the *code official* has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall be in the form

**108.4 Placarding.** Upon failure of the *owner*, owner's authorized agent or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the *code official* shall post on the *premises* or on defective equipment a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the *premises*, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

**108.4.1 Placard removal.** The *code official* shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the *code official* shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

**108.5 Prohibited occupancy.** Any occupied structure condemned and placarded by the *code official* shall be vacated as ordered by the *code official*. Any person who shall occupy a placarded *premises* or shall operate placarded equipment, and any *owner*, owner's authorized agent or person responsible for the *premises* who shall let anyone occupy a placarded *premises* or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

**108.6 Abatement methods.** The *owner*, owner's authorized agent, *operator* or *occupant* of a building, *premises* or equipment deemed unsafe by the *code official* shall abate or cause to be abated or corrected such unsafe conditions either by repair, rehabilitation, demolition or other *approved* corrective action.

**108.7 Record.** The *code official* shall cause a report to be filed on an unsafe condition. The report shall state the *occupancy* of the structure and the nature of the unsafe condition.

## SECTION 109 EMERGENCY MEASURES

**109.1 Imminent danger.** When, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* of failure or collapse of a building or structure that endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building *occupants* or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the *code official* is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the *occupants* to vacate the *premises* forthwith. The *code official* shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows: "This Structure Is Unsafe and Its Occupancy Has Been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

**[A] 109.2 Temporary safeguards.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the *code official*, there is *imminent danger* due to an unsafe condition, the *code official* shall order the necessary work to be done

including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted; and shall cause such other action to be taken as the code official deems necessary to meet such emergency.

**109.3 Closing streets.** When necessary for public safety, the code official shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, public ways and places adjacent to unsafe structures, and prohibit the same from being utilized.

**109.4 Emergency repairs.** For the purposes of this section, the code official shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

**109.5 Costs of emergency repairs.** Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises or owner's authorized agent where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

**109.6 Hearing.** Any person ordered to take emergency measures shall comply with such order forthwith. Any affected person shall thereafter, upon petition directed to the appeals board, be afforded a hearing as described in this code.

## SECTION 110 DEMOLITION

**110.1 General.** The code official shall order the owner or owner's authorized agent of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the code official's or owner's authorized agent judgment after review is so deteriorated or dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and such that it is unreasonable to repair the structure, to demolish and remove such structure; or if such structure is capable of being made safe by repairs, to repair and make safe and sanitary, or to board up and hold for future repair or to demolish and remove at the owner's option; or where there has been a cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than two years, the code official shall order the owner or owner's authorized agent to demolish and remove such structure, or board up until future repair. Boarding the building up for future repair shall not extend beyond one year, unless approved by the building official.

**110.2 Notices and orders.** Notices and orders

shall comply with Section 107.

**110.3 Failure to comply.** If the owner of a premises or owner's authorized agent fails to comply with a demolition order within the time prescribed, the code official shall cause the structure to be demolished and removed, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons, and the cost of such demolition and removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

**110.4 Salvage materials.** When any structure has been ordered demolished and removed, the governing body or other designated officer under said contract or arrangement aforesaid shall have the right to sell the salvage and valuable materials. The net proceeds of such sale, after deducting the expenses of such demolition and removal, shall be promptly remitted with a report of such sale or transaction, including the items of expense and the amounts deducted, for the person who is entitled thereto, subject to any order of a court. If such a surplus does not remain to be turned over, the report shall so state.

## SECTION 111 MEANS OF APPEAL

**Application for appeal.** 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 zoning appeals, provided that a written application for appeal is filed within 20 days after the day the decision, notice or order was served. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent 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.

## SECTION 112 STOP WORK ORDER

**112.1 Authority.** Whenever the *code official* finds any work regulated by this code being performed in a manner contrary to the provisions of this code or in a dangerous or unsafe manner, the *code official* is authorized to issue a stop work order.

**112.2 Issuance.** A stop work order shall be in writing and shall be given to the *owner* of the property, to the *owner's* authorized agent, or to the person doing the work. Upon issuance of a stop work order, the cited work shall immediately cease. The stop work order shall state the reason for the order and the conditions under which the cited work is authorized

to resume.

**112.3 Emergencies.** Where an emergency exists, the *code official* shall not be required to give a written notice prior to stopping the work.

**112.4 Failure to comply.** Any person who shall continue any work after having been served with a stop work order, except such work as that person is directed to perform to remove a violation or unsafe condition, shall be liable to a fine of not less than [AMOUNT] dollars or more than [AMOUNT] dollars.

# DEFINITIONS

## SECTION 201 GENERAL

**201.1 Scope.** Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

**201.2 Interchangeability.** Words stated in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural, the singular.

**201.3 Terms defined in other codes.** Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the *International Building Code*, *International Existing Building Code*, *International Fire Code*, *International Fuel Gas Code*, *International Mechanical Code*, *International Plumbing Code*, *International Residential Code*, *International Zoning Code* or NFPA 70, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them as stated in those codes.

**201.4 Terms not defined.** Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

**201.5 Parts.** Whenever the words “*dwelling unit*,” “*dwelling*,” “*premises*,” “*building*,” “*rooming house*,” “*rooming unit*,” “*housekeeping unit*” or “*story*” are stated in this code, they shall be construed as though they were followed by the words “or any part thereof.”

## SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**ANCHORED.** Secured in a manner that provides positive connection.

**APPROVED.** Acceptable to the *code official*.

**BASEMENT.** That portion of a building which is partly or completely below grade.

**BATHROOM.** A room containing plumbing fixtures including a bathtub or shower.

**CODE OFFICIAL.** The official who is charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or any duly authorized representative.

**COST OF SUCH DEMOLITION OR EMERGENCY REPAIRS.** The costs shall include the actual costs of the demolition or repair of the structure less revenues obtained if salvage was conducted prior to demolition or repair. Costs shall include, but not be limited to, expenses incurred or necessitated related to demolition or emergency repairs, such

as asbestos survey and abatement if necessary; costs of inspectors, testing agencies or experts retained relative to the demolition or emergency repairs; costs of testing; surveys for other materials that are controlled or regulated from being dumped in a landfill; title searches; mailing(s); postings; recording; and attorney fees expended for recovering of the cost of emergency repairs or to obtain or enforce an order of demolition made by a *code official*, the governing body or board of appeals.

**DETACHED.** When a structural element is physically disconnected from another and that connection is necessary to provide a positive connection.

**DETERIORATION.** To weaken, disintegrate, corrode, rust or decay and lose effectiveness.

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EASEMENT.** That portion of land or property reserved for present or future use by a person or agency other than the legal fee *owner(s)* of the property. The *easement* shall be permitted to be for use under, on or above a said lot or lots.

**EQUIPMENT SUPPORT.** Those structural members or assemblies of members or manufactured elements, including braces, frames, lugs, snuggers, hangers or saddles, that transmit gravity load, lateral load and operating load between the equipment and the structure.

**EXTERIOR PROPERTY.** The open space on the *premises* and on adjoining property under the control of *owners* or *operators* of such *premises*.

**GARBAGE.** The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

**GUARD.** A building component or a system of building components located at or near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from the walking surface to a lower level.

**HABITABLE SPACE.** Space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. *Bathrooms*, *toilet rooms*, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces, and similar areas are not considered *habitable spaces*.

**HISTORIC BUILDING.** Any building or structure that is one or more of the following:

1. Listed or certified as eligible for listing, by the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Designated as historic under an applicable state or local law.



## DEFINITIONS

3. Certified as a contributing resource within a National Register or state or locally designated historic district.

**HOUSEKEEPING UNIT.** A room or group of rooms forming a single *habitable space* equipped and intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking and eating which does not contain, within such a unit, a toilet, lavatory and bathtub or shower.

**IMMINENT DANGER.** A condition which could cause serious or life-threatening injury or death at any time.

**INFESTATION.** The presence, within or contiguous to, a structure or *premises* of insects, rats, vermin or other pests.

**INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE.** A vehicle which cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power.

**LABELED.** Equipment, materials or products to which have been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and whose labeling indicates either that the equipment, material or product meets identified standards or has been tested and found suitable for a specified purpose.

**LET FOR OCCUPANCY or LET.** To permit, provide or offer possession or *occupancy* of a dwelling, *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit*, building, premise or structure by a person who is or is not the legal *owner* of record thereof, pursuant to a written or unwritten lease, agreement or license, or pursuant to a recorded or unrecorded agreement of contract for the sale of land.

**NEGLECT.** The lack of proper maintenance for a building or *structure*.

**OCCUPANCY.** The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is utilized or occupied.

**OCCUPANT.** Any individual living or sleeping in a building, or having possession of a space within a building.

**OPENABLE AREA.** That part of a window, skylight or door which is available for unobstructed *ventilation* and which opens directly to the outdoors.

**OPERATOR.** Any person who has charge, care or control of a structure or *premises* which is let or offered for *occupancy*.

**OWNER.** Any person, agent, *operator*, firm or corporation having legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county or municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

**PERSON.** An individual, corporation, partnership or any other group acting as a unit.

**PEST ELIMINATION.** The control and elimination of insects, rodents or other pests by eliminating their harborage places; by removing or making inaccessible materials that serve as their food or water; by other *approved pest elimination* methods.

**PREMISES.** A lot, plot or parcel of land, *easement* or *public way*, including any structures thereon.

**PUBLIC WAY.** Any street, alley or similar parcel of land essentially unobstructed from the ground to the sky, which is deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated to the public for public use.

**ROOMING HOUSE.** A building arranged or occupied for lodging, with or without meals, for compensation and not occupied as a one- or two-family dwelling.

**ROOMING UNIT.** Any room or group of rooms forming a single habitable unit occupied or intended to be occupied for sleeping or living, but not for cooking purposes.

**RUBBISH.** Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, *yard* trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

**SLEEPING UNIT.** A room or space in which people sleep, which can also include permanent provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities, but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a *dwelling unit* are not *sleeping units*.

**STRICT LIABILITY OFFENSE.** An offense in which the prosecution in a legal proceeding is not required to prove criminal intent as a part of its case. It is enough to prove that the defendant either did an act which was prohibited, or failed to do an act which the defendant was legally required to do.

**STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

**TENANT.** A person, corporation, partnership or group, whether or not the legal *owner* of record, occupying a building or portion thereof as a unit.

**TOILET ROOM.** A room containing a water closet or urinal but not a bathtub or shower.

**ULTIMATE DEFORMATION.** The deformation at which failure occurs and which shall be deemed to occur if the sustainable load reduces to 80 percent or less of the maximum strength.

**[M] VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**WORKMANLIKE.** Executed in a skilled manner; e.g., generally plumb, level, square, in line, undamaged and without marring adjacent work.

**YARD.** An open space on the same lot with a structure.



# GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

## SECTION 301 GENERAL

**301.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and *exterior property*.

**301.2 Responsibility.** The *owner* of the *premises* shall maintain the structures and *exterior property* in compliance with these requirements, except as otherwise provided for in this code. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy *premises* that are not in a sanitary and safe condition and that do not comply with the requirements of this chapter. *Occupants* of a *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit* or *housekeeping unit* are responsible for keeping in a clean, sanitary and safe condition that part of the *dwelling unit*, *rooming unit*, *housekeeping unit* or *premises* which they occupy and control.

**301.3 Vacant structures and land.** Vacant structures and *premises* thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety.

## SECTION 302 EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS

**302.1 Sanitation.** *Exterior property* and *premises* shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The *occupant* shall keep that part of the *exterior property* that such *occupant* occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

**302.2 Grading and drainage.** *Premises* shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon.

**Exception:** *Approved* retention areas and reservoirs.

**302.3 Sidewalks and driveways.** Sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions.

**302.4 Weeds.** *Premises* and *exterior property* shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of **ten (10) inches**. Noxious weeds shall be prohibited. 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 viola-

tion, 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.

**302.5 Reserved.**

**302.6 Reserved.**

**302.7 Accessory structures.** Accessory structures, including *detached* garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

**302.8 Motor vehicles.** Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any *premises*, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an *approved* spray booth.

**Exception:** A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and *approved* for such purposes.

**302.9 Defacement of property.** No person shall willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

It shall be the responsibility of the *owner* to restore said surface to an *approved* state of maintenance and repair.

## SECTION 303 SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

**303.1 Swimming pools.** Reserved.

**303.2 Enclosures.** Reserved.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION 308 RUBBISH AND ARBAGE

**308.1 Accumulation of rubbish or garbage.** *Exterior property* and *premises*, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of *rubbish* or garbage.

**308.2 Disposal of rubbish.** Every *occupant* of a structure shall dispose of all *rubbish* in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such *rubbish* in *approved* containers.

**308.2.1 Rubbish storage facilities.** The *owner* of every occupied *premises* shall supply *approved* covered containers for *rubbish*, and the *owner* of the *premises* shall be responsible for the removal of *rubbish*.

**308.2.2 Refrigerators.** Refrigerators and similar equipment not in operation shall not be discarded, abandoned or stored on *premises* without first removing the doors.

**308.3 Disposal of garbage.** Every *occupant* of a structure shall dispose of garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such garbage in an *approved* garbage disposal facility or *approved* garbage containers.

**308.3.1 Garbage facilities.** The *owner* of every dwelling shall supply one of the following: an *approved* mechanical food waste grinder in each *dwelling unit*; an *approved* incinerator unit in

the structure available to the *occupants* in each *dwelling unit*; or an *approved* leakproof, covered, outside garbage container.

**308.3.2 Containers.** The *operator* of every establishment producing garbage shall provide, and at all times cause to be utilized, *approved* leakproof containers provided with close-fitting covers for the storage of such materials until removed from the *premises* for disposal.

### SECTION 309 PEST ELIMINATION

**309.1 Infestation.** Structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent *infestation*. Structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by *approved* processes that will not be injurious to human health. After pest elimination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

**309.2 Owner.** The *owner* of any structure shall be responsible for pest elimination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.

**309.3 Single occupant.** The *occupant* of a one-family dwelling or of a single-tenant nonresidential structure shall be responsible for pest elimination on the *premises*.

**309.4 Multiple occupancy.** The *owner* of a structure containing two or more *dwelling units*, a multiple *occupancy*, a

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

*rooming house* or a nonresidential structure shall be responsible for pest elimination in the public or shared areas of the structure and *exterior property*. If *infestation* is caused by failure of an *occupant* to prevent such *infestation* in the area occupied, the *occupant* and *owner* shall be responsible for pest elimination.

**309.5 Occupant.** The *occupant* of any structure shall be responsible for the continued rodent and pest-free condition of the structure.

**Exception:** Where the *infestations* are caused by defects in the structure, the *owner* shall be responsible for pest elimination.

## Augusta Childhood Hunger and Homelessness Working Group

Update to the City Council  
Thursday, December 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers at City Center

The following information has been provided by officials at the Augusta School Department. A special thanks to each school principal, the Title 1 director, food services director, and superintendent for their assistance in sharing this information.

A goal of addressing childhood hunger and homelessness in our community is to raise awareness. This document is a great example of this effort. I am proud of the many great initiatives already happening in our schools to help our student population with hunger and homelessness issues.

### Weekend backpack program as of December 1, 2015:

School	Augusta Food Bank	Good Shepherd	Pathway Vineyard Church
Cony	20		
Farrington	20	10	
Gilbert	16	25	
Hussey	16		
Lincoln			21
<b>Total</b>	72	35	21

A total of 128 weekend bags are distributed.

Cony currently has a waiting list of 9 students to receive bags.

Students in the special needs program at Cony help pack the weekend food bags and deliver them to the schools.

### Free/reduced meals as of Nov. 1, 2015:

School	Enrollment	# Free	# Reduced	% F / R
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<b>Farrington</b>	373	211	15	60.59%
<b>Gilbert</b>	342	191	13	59.65%
<b>Hussey</b>	281	115	23	49.11%
<b>Lincoln</b>	292	190	10	68.49%
<b>Total PK - 6</b>	1288	707	61	59.46%
<b>Cony</b>	1002	419	51	46.91%
<b>Total PK - 12</b>	2290	1126	112	54.06%
<b>*Not including PK</b>				
<b>Gilbert</b>	246	140	10	60.98%

**Number of students identified as homeless as of December 1, 2015:**

PK-12 = 34 students

Students PK-6 = 20

Students 7-8 = 4

Students 9-12 = 10

MV unaccompanied = 5

Unaccompanied = 1

Doubled Up = 18

Hotel = 8

Shelter = 8

The Augusta School Department ensures that homeless children and youth:

- Immediately enroll and receive transportation from their school of origin.
- Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities.
- Receive referrals to services that can support them.
- Cents for Kids supports our most needy families with necessary supplies, along with the Title 1 grant.

**Farrington Elementary School:**

- Farrington's K-Club does a variety of community service projects for the school and the City of Augusta.

- In October, sponsored the "Stuff a Truck" collection which donated over 600 lbs. of food to the Augusta Food Bank.
- Currently doing the "Coats for Kids" collection.
- School has 5 children who will attend the Kiwanis Christmas party.
- There was a staff collections at Thanksgiving and will be again at Christmas to make baskets.

### **Gilbert Elementary School:**

- Food boxes for families in need. The food boxes focus on breakfast, lunches, and snacks for students during school breaks. This food is donated by staff throughout the school year.
  - 40 boxes for 40 families during Christmas break.
  - 40 boxes for 40 families during February break.
  - 40 boxes for 40 families during April break.
  - 40 boxes for 40 families during summer break.
- 21 Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to 21 Gilbert School families.
- Student Council organized a food drive to create 15 baskets.
  - Anonymous donor donated 15 turkeys and hams for the baskets created by the Student Council.
  - Emblem Club donated 5 baskets.
  - Chateau Cushnoc donated 1 basket.
- Gilbert School has a garden that was planted and harvested by second grade.
- Extra clothing and footwear for any child in need.
- Christmas help from various organizations – Sense for Kids, Rotary, and anonymous donors. This provides Christmas help for 20 children.
- Coats for Kids sponsored by Margarita's Restaurant.
- Hats, mittens, and coats donated by various individuals for children in need.
- The Elks Club has adopted Gilbert School. The grant they received will be used to provide snacks and clothing for students in need.

### **Hussey Elementary School:**

- Weekend Food Program: 15 families receive weekly food bags - 19 children at Hussey.
- 5 families received Thanksgiving baskets – serving 8 Hussey children.
- Christmas Project: 21 children supported through various sponsors: businesses, staff & individuals in community.
- 5 children participating in Rotary Christmas project.
- Hussey food/clothing cupboard for families.
- Occasionally give out sneakers and fix or pay for eyeglasses.

### **Lincoln Elementary School:**

- Giving Tree for the holiday season. 14 students that the staff will be buying gifts for.

- In the process of a 6 week food challenge with a goal of 350 items. Hope is to add to the weekend bags for students on the long holiday break. Also hope to bring in enough food where might be able to supply a few more students with bags over the long break.

### **Cony High School:**

- The Key Club sponsors a Giving Tree every December.
- They also do collections periodically to help a family in an emergency situation.
- Sometimes they do food drive to support the food bank.
- Some of the band/chorus members are participating in a holiday concert at a local church to raise money to help families in need which includes food.
- Offer a Cooking Matters class for middle schoolers in conjunction with Healthy Communities of the Capital area. Students cook a meal and then bring home a bag of food to their families with the ingredients of that meal.
- Food service program has a student sharing table where students can drop off items that they don't want from their school lunch and then other students can pick up the items.
- Health class has gardens behind the school and during the summer, collaborate with the Augusta Boys and Girls club to tend to the garden. Items are consumed through Boys and Girls Club and some to food service program. This is also in collaboration with Healthy Communities of the capital area.

## **Augusta Childhood Hunger and Homelessness Working Group**

Public Forum  
Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 6 p.m.  
Lecture Hall at City Center

### **AGENDA:**

- I. Introductions
- II. Background
- III. Guest Panel Remarks
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Identify Opportunities/Programs/Services
- VI. Identify Challenges/Needs/Voids
- VII. Next Steps
- VIII. Adjourn

### **MINUTES:**

An estimated 50+ in attendance, including: Mayor Dave Rollins; City Councilors Cecil Munson, Dan Emery, Dale McCormick, Anna Blodgett, and Darek Grant; School Board Chairwoman Kim Martin; School Board Member Ed Hastings; State Representative Donna Doore; City Manager Bill Bridgeo; and Superintendent Jim Anastasio.

Guest Panel included: Abbie Perry and Sarah Miller from the Augusta Food Bank; and Theresa Violette and Maureen Sanborn from the Augusta School Department.

Organizations included: New Beginnings; Augusta First Church of the Nazarene; City of Augusta Health Office; Capital Area Multi-faith Association; United Way; Augusta Housing Authority; Bread of Life Ministries; Pathway Vineyard Church; Kennebec Retired Educators; South Parish Community Church; Children's Center; Anglez Behavioral Health; Maranacook Community High School; Healthy Communities of the Capital Area; Hands for Humanity; Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation; Family Violence Project Shelter; Penney Memorial Baptist Church; and interested residents.

### **DISCUSSION/HIGHLIGHTS ON CHILDHOOD HUNGER**

#### **Augusta Food Bank (AFB):**

Kids Pack Program: provide extra food for kids during summer and school vacations including cereal, milk, yogurt, canned fruit, pasta, juices, and granola bars. Have distributed over 6,000 Kids Packs since the program started in 2008. During the summer of 2015 handed out 670 Kids Packs.

Weekend Backpack Program: provides weekend backpacks to children in the Augusta school district. Each week food is brought from the warehouse to Cony High School. Students help pack the bags and then deliver them to the schools.

Last year, 2401 packs were handed out over the school year, to about 115 students. Currently, distributing 72 weekend packs per week for the 2015-16 school year.

AFB has seen an increase in the partnership of the program. Pathway Vineyard Church is sponsoring Lincoln School with 21 packs per week. Hope Baptist Church and the Good Shepherd Food Bank are also continuing their contribution of 35 packs through an annual grant.

\*\*\* **ACTION** \*\*\*: we need to track the demand for this school year and ensure that each request is fulfilled.

**Augusta School Department (ASD):**

Free and Reduced Lunch in Augusta (does not include PreK):

School Name	# Eligible for Free Lunch	# Eligible for Reduced Lunch	Total Enrollment	% Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch
Cony	458	70	1,003	51.65%
Farrington	198	15	354	60.17%
Hussey	128	20	283	52.30%
Lincoln	191	7	283	69.96%
Gilbert	147	12	243	65.43%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1354</b>		<b>2,166</b>	<b>57.06%</b>

(Source: ASD, November 1, 2014)

Income Guidelines for Free and Reduced Price Meals for School Year 2016:

Family Size Including Adults	Free Annual	Free Monthly	Reduced Annual	Reduced Monthly
1	15,301	1,276	21,775	1,815

2	20,709	1,726	29,471	2,456
3	26,117	2,177	37,167	3,098
4	31,525	2,628	44,863	3,739
5	36,933	3,078	52,559	4,380
6	42,341	3,529	60,255	5,022
7	47,749	3,980	67,951	5,663
8	53,157	4,430	75,647	6,304
Each Additional	5,408	451	7,696	642

School Year 2016 Reimbursement Rates:

	Lunch	Severe Need Lunch	Breakfast	Severe Need Breakfast	After-School Snack
Paid	\$0.29	\$0.31	\$0.29	\$0.29	\$0.07
Reduced Price	\$2.67	\$2.69	\$1.36	\$1.69	\$0.42
Free	\$3.07	\$3.09	\$1.66	\$1.99	\$0.84

\*\*\* **ACTION** \*\*\*: can Augusta participate in the universal free meal program like other communities (Skowhegan, Lewiston)?

Summer Bag Lunch Program: established to ensure children continue to receive nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session. Meals are served with no questions asked at various locations around the city. Primarily at playgrounds - Buker, Williams, McCall's, Calumet, others?

This past summer, the program was offered 39 days, 337 meals each day, for a total of 13,129 total meals.

Gilbert School Vacation Food Program: an initiative created at the school to collect extra food items to donate each week. 20 hot school meals and 10 healthy snacks are missed by students during the two week winter break. Many staff, students, and community members participated in the 14 can challenge to collect extra food prior to the winter break. Over 2,000 items were donated. 40 boxes were prepared with items to help families have extra food for breakfast, lunch, and snack over the winter break. Each of the 40 boxes contained 50 or more items for each family. The school is now holding a 21 can challenge to prepare boxes in anticipation of summer vacation.

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: can we expand this to other schools and increase awareness for greater community participation?

Other hunger-related programs in the community:

Buker Youth Gardening Program: Councilor Emery talked about his initiative this year to grow food - garden to table. There are currently 4 raised beds at Buker Center. They yielded a significant crop of vegetables. Incorporated the Augusta Childcare Program to help learn about growing food.

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: can we expand this program to other areas of the city and involve more students as a means to help provide local, fresh food?

Saturday Dinner: local churches coordinate to sponsor a dinner every Saturday of the month. St. Mark's Parish does the first Saturday; South Parish is the second; Green Street is the third; and Penny Memorial Baptist cover the fourth Saturday of every month. St. Mark's estimated about 125 people served during their dinner. Unitarian Universalist is looking to partner with St. Mark's.

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: can we sustain this initiative and provide community support to the churches who sponsor the meal?

Hands for Humanity: a program at St. Augustine Church. Helps with the backpack program, raises money for sneakers for children, and holds a pancake breakfast.

Additional Comments:

- There are even more children just above the eligibility requirements for free and reduced meals who are likely to be hungry at times.
- Monday morning, students come to school hungry.
- Children or families receiving state benefits are automatically added to the free and reduced meal program.
- The free and reduced meal program application is now available online in Augusta. This will hopefully encourage more participation.
- Capital Area Food Council is also working to address hunger issues in central Maine.

## DISCUSSION/HIGHLIGHTS ON CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS

### Augusta School Department (ASD):

PreK-12 = 101 students considered homeless, which by definition means they do not have a fixed nighttime residence.

Doubled Up = 65 students, meaning they are living with other family and/or friends.

Shelter = 27 students at the local shelter.

Unaccompanied = 15 students, meaning they are not living with a parent or guardian.

Hotel = 9 students, some were as a result of apartment fires over the past year.

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: we need to track the latest numbers for this school year and ensure that each student is getting the assistance that is available.

### **Bread of Life Ministries (BOL):**

Soup Kitchen: is located at 157 Water Street in Augusta, providing a complete, hot meal Monday through Saturday throughout the year. The kitchen offers a small, but welcoming space to anyone seeking a hot meal, no questions asked.

Homeless Shelter: the shelter is located on Hospital Street. It offers 20 beds, and 10 overflow beds each night to help those who are homeless. They experience a mix of families, couples, single parents with children, and singles.

According to the BOL, over 60% of our guests are families, with 1 of every 3 being a child. The average stay is 30 days. The goal is to get them settled in transitional or permanent housing such that they can receive the care they need to become self-sufficient, working toward employment and education whenever possible.

Transitional Housing: clients may stay in a transitional housing unit for up to 2 years. While in transitional housing, clients continue to receive additional services from BOL, such as case management, life skills training and education, and career assistance.

Permanent Housing: for people with minimum income and those with great need. Locations on Water Street, State Street, and others. Also, new initiative at Cony Village.

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: can we track reasoning for why each student is homeless?

**\*\*\* ACTION \*\*\***: should we have posters and material readily available for those who are homeless and might be too proud to ask for help?

### Additional Comments:

- There are more kids that might be homeless that we don't know about.
- Need to ensure transportation is available for homeless to get to school and elsewhere.
- Need to ensure homeless students are connected with food, clothing, and other resources.
- Domestic violence in the family may be a reason for homelessness.
- Some families are on waiting lists or have no access to subsidized housing.
- Parents cannot afford childcare, so cannot work a job, and move out of poverty.

Meeting adjourned around 8 p.m.