

RESOLUTION 184

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety is the largest municipal government department in the City of St. Louis with over 1,500 employees, the Fire Department, six major divisions (including the Building Division), two bureaus, a correctional institution and the city jail, and;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 15 Subsection (e) of the St. Louis City Charter states “There shall be a division of building and inspection. It shall superintend all buildings belonging to or under the control of the city and have charge of the condemnation of unsafe buildings and the prevention of the use of buildings while unsafe, the granting of building permits, the inspection of all buildings in course of construction, the enforcement of all building ordinances, the supervision of all plumbing, the abatement of the smoke nuisance, and the inspection of all boilers, elevators and mechanical plants. The head of said division shall be known as the building commissioner,” and:

WHEREAS, the mission of the Department of Public Safety is to safeguard the City’s state of well being, protect lives and property, and ensure the complete safety of the 348,189 people who live in the city, and the one million people who work, traverse and visit the City of St. Louis daily, and;

WHEREAS, the Building Division is responsible for ensuring that residents and businesses comply with the Building Code and other national codes that regulate new construction and the maintenance of existing buildings. The Division issues trades and occupancy building permits, conducts inspections, demolishes vacant buildings and enforces zoning ordinances, and;

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of this body that there is a high level of frustration with the Building Division regarding the lack of competency and efficiency by the building inspector supervisors and building inspectors, and;

WHEREAS, at risk is the health and safety of citizens, the protection and well-being of buildings and houses and the potential of lower property values due to the lack of code enforcement by the Building Division and its building inspectors, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we direct the Public Safety Committee to convene for the purpose of investigating and examining the issues of the City as related to the Building Division and the building inspection process and we further direct the committee to include in the investigation and examination, discussion with the Public Safety Director, the Building Commissioner, building inspector supervisors, the Neighborhood Stabilization Office Program Director and all other parties deemed necessary and appropriate by the Public Safety Committee.

Introduced on the 30th day of October, 2009 by:

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French, Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 30th day of October, 2009 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

