**Fire TAG MEETING MINUTES 11.9.15**

A Fire TAG meeting was held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at DCRA in E 380 from 3:00-3:30 pm.

Introductions: CCCB Chair Jill Stern was present in the meeting room. The following TAG members participated by conference call: Eric Mayle, Scott Vandame, and Jason Wright. The following additional persons also participated by conference call: Chief Falwell and Nicola Whiteman.

Background: Jill Stern stated that the purpose of the TAG meeting was to review and provide recommendations on code change proposals FC-CCCB-3-1-14 and FC-CCCB-1-1-14 which had previously been referred to the Fire TAG for consideration. She explained that the proposal dealing with child development homes (FC-CCCB-3-1-14) had previously been approved by the Fire TAG, but had been revised to conform with minor changes in the parallel Residential Code provisions, and had been sent back for Fire TAG consideration of these minor revisions. With respect to the second proposal (FC-CCCB-1-1-14), she explained that the proposal modified Section 111 of the Fire Code to clarify code official authority to take action in an imminently dangerous condition, and conformed the Fire Code chapter 1 provision to parallel revisions in chapter 1 of the Building Code and Property Maintenance Code.

She told the TAG that the parallel code change for Chapter 1 of the Building Code had been adopted by the CCCB, and the conforming revision to Chapter 1 of the Property Maintenance Code had been approved by the PMC TAG. She mentioned that she had provided background information to the TAG by email on the reasons for the proposed code change, i.e., that DCRA’s Office of the General Counsel had requested the code change because of a recent OAH proceeding where the Administrative Law Judge read the Emergency Measures provision to focus primarily on building closures, and OGC does not believe that the code official’s authority to take emergency measures was intended to be read so narrowly. Jill Stern indicated that the code official needs to have the authority to take emergency measures in other situations, including vacant property and buildings under construction.

The TAG discussion on the expanded child care revisions was very brief, and the only revision requested was to change the frequency of fire inspections to annual rather than bi-annual, since Chief Falwell pointed out that a recent MOU between the agencies requires annual fire inspections of licensed child care homes. Jason Wright moved to adopt code change proposal FC-CCCB-3-1-2014 with the revision noted, and the motion was seconded by Scott Vandame. The motion was approved unanimously by the voting members (3-0).

With respect to the emergency measures proposal (FC-CCCB-1-1-14), the TAG discussed a point raised by Dave Wilmot in an email as to whether the broader code official powers made sense in a Fire Code context, where the code official would be the Fire Chief. After a discussion among the TAG members, the consensus was that DCRA and FEMS should have parallel powers in emergency situations, and the two agencies could agree among themselves, in an MOU, on any limits on or coordination of this emergency authority as between DCRA and FEMS in particular cases or situations. Jason Wright moved to adopt code change proposal FC-CCCB-1-1-2014, and the motion was seconded by Eric Mayle. The motion was approved unanimously by the voting members (3-0).