

BILL/ RESOLUTION REQUEST

- 1. Title:** Amends the 2011 Denver Building and Fire Codes to allow for the transfer of the Conveyance Inspection program from the state of Colorado to the City and County of Denver Fire Department.
- 2. Requesting Agency:** Department of Safety
- 3. Contact Person *with actual knowledge of proposed ordinance***
Name: Joseph L. Gonzales
Phone: 720-913-3462
Email: joseph.gonzales@denvergov.org
- 4. Contact Person *with actual knowledge of proposed ordinance who will present the item at Mayor Council and who will be available for first and second reading, if necessary***
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- 5. Describe the proposed ordinance, including what the proposed ordinance is intended to accomplish, who's involved**
 - a. Scope of Work**

The Conveyance Inspection Program deals with annual safety inspections for conveyances (elevators, escalators, moving walkways, chair lifts, people-mover systems, etc.) as well as plan review / construction inspections and testing for new conveyances.

Denver's Building Department managed the Conveyance Inspections Program for the City from approximately 1938 to 2009. During 2009, the City's Community Planning and Development Agency made the decision to enter into an agreement with the State of Colorado to transfer authority for the Conveyance Inspections Program to the State of Colorado's Division of Oil and Public Safety. During 2009 the program was phased in, with the City competing projects they had started, and by January 1, 2012, all responsibility for the program had been completely transferred.

The state managed the program effectively and Denver Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division was represented on the State of Colorado's Division of Oil and Public Safety's Conveyance Advisory Board. However, what was missing was the on-call emergency response to incidents or accidents involving conveyances, i.e., Coors Field escalator failure, Cherry Creek Shopping Center escalator incident, Denver International Airport's AGTs fire, etc.) and the frequent conveyance systems training of Fire Department personnel.

As the infrastructure of the City ages, including many buildings with elevators, the frequency of emergencies involving conveyances increases. Safety of the building occupants, and safety of first responders whose emergency operations require use of conveyances, was the basis for the Fire Department's objecting to the City's transfer of the conveyances to the state in 2009 and for our pursuing the return of the program to the City ever since. We have been in discussion with officials from the Division of Oil and Public Safety since 2009 and they are in full agreement with the transfer; in fact, the director of that state agency would be willing to appear at the City Council meeting to answer questions if that is desired.

There will be no negative financial impact to the City from management of the Conveyance Inspections program; on the contrary, there will be a positive financial impact, since the projected revenue stream is significantly more than the cost of the one Career Service Authority position hired for this program and all associated equipment necessary for the program.

Other than the one position hired for this program, the program will be handled by Fire Prevention's current staff, which manages several other safety / revenue-generating programs. The actual inspections will continue to be contracted by the property owner, as they have been for many years, and will be conducted by certified elevator inspectors; in most cases, the same individuals who have been conducting the inspections all along. The property owner will experience little if any difference as a result of the program transfer, but we believe Denver's conveyances will be safer for citizens and first responders.

b. Duration

N/A

c. Location

N/A

d. Affected Council District

N/A

e. Benefits

Improved accuracy and clarity for citizens working to comply with City Code and City personnel working to enforce that code.

f. Costs

N/A

6. Is there any controversy surrounding this ordinance, groups or individuals who may have concerns about it? Please explain.

No controversial items. All stakeholders have been notified that the Conveyance Inspection program will be transferred from the State of Colorado to the City and County of Denver Fire Department.