



**DENVER**  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

# **2016 Denver Building and Fire Code – Amendment 2 Package**

LUTI Committee

November 29, 2016

Community Planning and Development  
Denver Fire Department

# Role of the City in building safety & code compliance

- Community Planning & Development (CPD) and Denver Fire Department (DFD) review building permit submittals to determine compliance with adopted building and fire codes
  - These codes set a minimum level of life safety, building and energy requirements.
- Conduct inspections to ensure what is built matches approved plans
- DFD conducts annual inspections of commercial occupancies within Denver to ensure compliance with the Fire Code

- Led a nearly two year public process to prepare the 2016 Denver Amendments
- City Council adopted the 2016 Denver Building and Fire Code on March 7, 2016
- Amendment Package 1 was adopted by City Council on April 25, 2016
  - This package added requirements for noise mitigation in the Airport Influence Overlay, and fixed a few minor issues missed in the original package.

- Following conclusion of the public process but prior to March 7<sup>th</sup>, we received a request to consider an amendment concerning gender-neutral restrooms
- As plans started to come in under the 2016 Denver Building and Fire Code, questions were raised by customers that led to a need to clarify some amendments and a realization that some needed items were missed by staff
- Entire set of proposed amendments posted at [www.denvergov.org/buildingcode](http://www.denvergov.org/buildingcode) with changes shown - also hosted a public open house on these proposed amendments on November 1, 2016

# Gender-Neutral Proposal

- Request from the LGBTQ Commission to look at requiring single-occupant toilet facilities (one sink and one toilet) to be signed as gender-neutral
- Working with the LGBTQ Commission, Councilwoman Kniech, Councilman Clark and the Mayor's Office, an approach was developed
- Cities such as Seattle, West Hollywood, Berkeley, Washington D.C., Austin and Multnomah County, OR have adopted regulations that allow or mandate gender-neutral restrooms



# Why is the building code involved?

- International Building and Plumbing Codes (IBC and IPC) require toilet facilities to be designated by sex
- When only one or two toilet facilities are required, the code says you can only not designate them by sex if they are family or assisted-use toilets
  - These rooms must include any amenities found in a woman or man’s restroom.

# Gender-neutral amendment

- When a single-occupant toilet facility is provided, it will be required to be signed as either gender-neutral or family or assisted-use/gender-neutral
- Existing single-occupant toilet facilities have until May 1, 2018 to comply with the signage requirement
- The code doesn't specify what signage has to be used – just that it be clear it is open for use by all genders.
- Some existing single-occupant toilet facilities may also have to add an exterior door lock.
- Thank you to the LGBTQ Commission, Councilman Clark, Councilwoman Kniech and the Mayor's office!



# Other New Proposed Amendments

- Adding International Swimming Pool and Spa Code Section 305 as an appendix to the International Building Code and International Residential Code
- International Fire Code Section 904.14 and 6112 regarding fixed, mobile or temporary concessions protections
- International Energy Code Section C406 regarding the additional efficiency package

QUESTIONS?