

Johnson, Krista

From: Fred Irwin <fredirwin01@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 5, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Comments, BCC Agenda
Cc: Coats, Nikki; Carpenter, Katherine; Young, Bernie C; Johnson, Krista; 'Jim White'
Subject: Greetings
Attachments: Florida Fire Prevention Code - One Pager.docx

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Attached you will find a one-pager which I would appreciate that the Commissioners receive prior to the August 10th meeting.

I have now registered to speak and I would like to thank all of you for your assistance in this matter.

All the best. Fred

Florida Fire Prevention Code

HB 1209, sponsored by Senator Ed Hooper and supported by Representative Nick DiCeglie, was recently passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by Gov. DeSantis.

It states: “633.202 Florida Fire Prevention Code: The authority having jurisdiction shall determine the minimum radio signal strength for fire department communications in all new high-rise and existing high-rise buildings. Existing buildings are not required to comply with minimum radio strength for fire department communications and two-way radio system enhancement communications as required by the Florida Fire Prevention Code until January 1, 2025. However, by January 1, 2024, an existing building that is not in compliance with the requirements for minimum radio strength for fire department communications must apply for an appropriate permit for the required installation with the local government agency having jurisdiction and must demonstrate that the building will become compliant by January 1, 2025. Existing apartment buildings are not required to comply until January 1, 2025. However, existing apartment buildings are required to apply for the appropriate permit for the required communications installation by January 1, 2024.”

The law does not state how to make buildings compliant nor who is responsible.

Since this is a national issue, seeing this as an Infrastructure issue other US Counties have taken a pro-active role. For example, Nassau County New York installed repeaters on telephone poles; Fayette County Georgia installed additional towers; Sarasota and Manatee Counties installed an advanced, 18-tower public P25 radio system. There are many other examples of Counties addressing this issue.

These Counties did not simply want to replace the old equipment for new equipment, but rather desired to enhance and improve the radio system’s performance in order to better support the present and future needs of their public safety users.

The Radio & Technology Services have a mandate “to help resolve any communication problems and recommend solutions to best suit their customer’s needs.” (Quote from their website.)

The Radio & Technology Services do an outstanding job but they need a mandate from the Pinellas County Commissioners to initiate a Public-Safety Communication Systems study by a neutral organization recommending enhancements to their current communication system to comply with HB 1209 and then commission a firm to implement these enhancements.

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