



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - BSD

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 6, 2016

Re: Dissolution of the trade boards (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing)

## Executive Summary

As part of the fiscal year 2017 budget City staff recommends that the boards of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing examiners be dissolved with their duties transferring to the Director of Community Development. Staff has prepared appropriate ordinances for Council consideration. A separate ordinance adds appeals of administrative decisions on trade licenses to the Building Construction Codes Commission's responsibilities.

## Discussion

Each trade board is responsible for the review of an applicant's qualifications and authorization of the applicant to take the examination necessary for licensure. Each board is also responsible for the review of license holders from other communities for reciprocity within the City of Columbia. The boards further have the ability to revoke trade licenses if necessary. Staff is recommending that these functions be transferred to the Director of Community Development.

The difficulty of maintaining memberships at full strength is one argument in favor of the proposed dissolution of the trade boards. Since January 2014 the Board of Mechanical Examiners has had vacancies 29 months in addition to the normal annual vacancies experienced by all City boards and commissions each year. The Board of Electrical Examiners and Board of Plumbing Examiners had vacancies 12 months during that same time period.

City staff have the ability to perform the same function as the trade boards on a day-to-day basis. Currently, Community Development assigns a liaison, typically a building inspector, to each board. The liaison attends each meeting and reviews applications with each applicant in an effort to guide them through the process. Therefore the staff liaison has already reviewed the applicant's qualifications prior to the meeting. Dissolution of the trade boards will speed up the process for an applicant to obtain licensure since the trade boards currently only meet on a monthly basis. Staff anticipates processing applications on a two week turnaround or less.

Since staff is proposing to take on the responsibilities of the trade board it is recommended that the Building Construction Codes Commission be granted appeal power for the decisions made by staff in regards to trade licensure should the need arise. Currently ordinance does not provide an appeal mechanism outside of the circuit court.



## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: None.

Long-Term Impact: None.

## Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

### Vision Impacts:

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Operational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None

## Suggested Council Action

Approval of the proposed ordinances.