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St. Louis Updates Plumbing Code to 2021 Uniform Plumbing Code

St. Louis (Feb. 21, 2023) — City of St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones has signed legislation adopting the 2021 *Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)*, updating the city's code from the 2009 edition of the *UPC*. The adoption was recommended by the city's Committee of Plumbing Code Review and has the enthusiastic support of St. Louis' plumbing industry.

Alderman Bret Narayan (Ward 24) sponsored Board Bill 182 and guided it through the adoption process. The legislation unanimously passed out of the St. Louis Health and Human Services Committee and moved forward to the Board of Aldermen for consideration, passing overwhelmingly on Feb. 3 and 7.

"I applaud the work of Alderman Narayan, the St. Louis Health and Human Services Committee and the Board of Aldermen in updating the city's plumbing code from the 2009 *UPC* to the 2021 *UPC*," said Brian Rogers, IAPMO senior vice president of Field Services. "This action helps ensure the residents of St. Louis have access to a newer code that reflects changes in water conservation and plumbing technology. The adoption of the 2021 *UPC* will benefit citizens throughout St. Louis and reaffirms the city's commitment to help ensure that all buildings have safe and cost-effective plumbing systems that meet the demands of today's consumers."

One of the many significant updates found in the 2021 *UPC* is the addition of the Water Demand Calculator™ (WDC) (<https://www.iapmo.org/water-demand-calculator/>). The *UPC* is the only national model plumbing code with significant updates for water pipe sizing in buildings since the development of Hunter's Curve more than 80 years ago. It is the result of a multiyear, IAPMO-led effort to develop a new statistically based pipe sizing method stemming from a need to address profound water safety and wasted water and energy concerns due to oversized water supply pipes in homes and buildings.

Other noteworthy updates in the 2021 edition include:

- Alternate Water Sources for Nonpotable Applications
- Nonpotable Rainwater Catchment Systems
- Alternate Plumbing Systems
- Potable Rainwater Catchment Systems
- Sustainable Practices

"Updating the *Uniform Plumbing Code* as recommended by the city's Committee of Plumbing Code Review ensures St. Louis residents have access to the most progressive, sustainable, and resilient plumbing code available," Alderman Narayan said. "The adoption of the 2021 *Uniform Plumbing Code* is the highest level of health and safety protection and will benefit all citizens of St. Louis well into the future."

The *UPC* was introduced in Los Angeles in 1928 and formally published as the *Uniform Plumbing Code* in 1945. It is developed using IAPMO's consensus development procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This process brings together volunteers representing a variety of viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on construction practices. Developed and subsequently republished at the conclusion of each three-year code cycle, the *Uniform Codes* are designed to provide consumers with safely functioning systems while, at the same time, allowing latitude for innovation and new technologies.

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Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO® – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary and resilient plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at www.iapmo.org.