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For Immediate Release: 11.01.02

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Public Meetings Set to Discuss Revamping Building Codes and Standards

A series of meetings has been scheduled for November to gather public input as the Village moves to update its current building codes and standards.

“The Village’s current Building Code, the 1993 edition of the Building Officials and Code Administrators’ (BOCA) National Building Code, has its limitations and will be out-of-date after 2003 when BOCA merges into the International Code Council (ICC),” said Nicholas Gadzekpo, director of the Building & Property Standards Department.

“It is essential that we update our building codes and standards to allow the flexibility that modern codes afford, while ensuring that our homes and workplaces are constructed and maintained as safe structures.”

Meetings, all to be held in Council Chambers of Village Hall, 123 Madison St., are scheduled for 8 – 10 p.m., Fri., Nov. 8; 10 a.m. – noon, Sat., Nov. 9; 2 – 4 p.m., Mon., Nov. 11; and 10 a.m. – noon, Tues., Nov. 12.

Recommendations for changes will be presented during the public hearings by the citizen volunteers on the Building Codes Advisory Commission and Building & Property Standards Department staff, which are recommending adopting the International Code Council’s (ICC) International Building Codes.

Among the international codes that will be discussed at the public meetings are the International Building Code (IBC), the International Electrical Code’s Administrative provisions, the International Residential Code (IRC), the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), the International Mechanical Code (IMC), the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the International Fire Code and the International Plumbing Code’s Administrative provisions

Gadzekpo said the ICC codes under consideration have been endorsed by a wide range of organizations, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the American Institute of Architects, the National Association of Home Builders and the National Building Owners and Managers Association. Even the U.S. military has endorsed the International Building Code for its structures here and abroad, he said.

“Oak Park is a unique jurisdiction with a lot of capacity for creativity in construction design, adaptive reuse and conversions of existing structures. We face an array of complex issues for accommodating mixed uses within the current code,” Gadzekpo said.

“With some innovative user-friendly local amendments we will be able to help Oak Park retain its historical structures and buildings of character, while ensuring our codes are keeping up with changing materials, national standards, techniques, technological advances in building construction, and innovative approaches to property maintenance.”

For more information, call 358.5430 or email building@oak-park.us.

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