

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE OFFICE OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR AND PROVIDING FOR THE INSPECTION OF AND REGULATION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS.

WHEREAS, an Electrical Commission and an Electrical Inspection Department was first established for the City of Urbana, Illinois by ordinance adopted and approved on March 19, 1928 by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois; and

Whereas, the office of City Electrician of the City of Urbana was created by ordinance adopted by the City Council on the 2nd day of September, 1924 and approved by the Mayor on the 3rd day of September 1924; and

Whereas, the manner of installation of electrical equipment in the City of Urbana has in the past, been regulated by an ordinance in effect on June 6, 1928 and amendment thereto in effect on December 20, 1938; and

Whereas, the statutory law of the State of Illinois provides that the Electrical Commission shall recommend:

- 1. Safe and practical standards and specifications for the installation, alteration and use of electrical equipment designed to meet the necessities and conditions of the City of Urbana,
- 2. Reasonable rules and regulations governing the issuance of permits by the Electrical Inspection Department, and
- 3. Reasonable fees to be paid for the inspection by the Inspection Department of all electrical equipment installed or altered within the City; and

Whereas, after investigation and study, and on the basis of the recommendation of the Electrical Commission, the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois finds:

(a) The National Electrical Code, as sponsored by the National Fire Protection Association, is a standard with reference to the installation and use of electrical equipment in public and private premises which has been adopted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters; has been approved by the American Standards Association and represents the consensus of expert opinion as to practical methods of installing electrical equipment to provide for the safety of persons and property; and is generally recognized and accepted by authorities in the electrical industry.

(b) Underwriters' Laboratories Standards are published and available without charge and are formulated by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., a non-profit

organization, in conference with producers of electrical equipment, and such standards are approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories Electrical Council which is composed of technically qualified persons in the insurance business and in government, who are primarily concerned with safeguarding persons and property from the hazards of fire and accident;

(c) Electrical materials and devices which are certified by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. are accepted generally by electrical inspection authorities as approved materials and devices in accordance with requirements contained in the National Electrical Code.

(d) The National Electrical Safety Code is a standard governing the installation, maintenance and operation of electrical supply systems and utilization equipment, used in the generation and distribution of electrical energy by electricity supply agencies and the utilization of electrical equipment in industrial, commercial and public buildings;

(e) The National Electrical Safety Code is formulated under the sponsorship of the National Bureau of Standards of the U. S. Department of Commerce and is approved by the American Standards Association as an American Standard; and has been recognized and accepted by authorities having jurisdiction and by the electrical industry generally since 1916; and

Whereas, the Electrical Commission of the City of Urbana, Illinois has recommended this ordinance to the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois and has further recommended the National Electrical Code, Underwriters' Laboratories Standards and the National Electrical Safety Code as standards which are adequate to safeguard persons and property from electrical hazards arising from the installation and use of electrical equipment and devices in the City of Urbana, Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1. APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE, AND DEFINITIONS:

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to all installations of electrical conductors, fittings, devices, and fixtures, hereinafter referred to as "electrical equipment," within or on public and private buildings and premises, with exceptions as provided in Sections 7 and 8 and with the following general exceptions:

1. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to installations in mines, ships or railway cars or to automotive equipment;
2. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to installations used by electricity supply or communication agencies in the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity or for the operation of signals or the transmission of intelligence, and located within or on buildings or premises used exclusively by such an agency or on public thoroughfares;
3. The provisions of this ordinance shall not apply to the installations or equipment employed by a railway utility in the exercise of its functions as a utility, and located outdoors or in buildings used exclusively for that purpose;
4. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to electrical equipment used for radio transmission in amateur radio transmitting stations and shall apply to all electrical equipment used for power supply to radio transmitting equipment, but shall not apply to other electrical equipment used for radio transmission.
5. As used in this Ordinance, "reasonably safe to persons and property" as applied to electrical installations and electrical equipment means safe to use in the service for which the installation or equipment is intended without unnecessary hazard to life, limb or property.
6. The term "electrical contractor," as used in this ordinance, means any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of installing or altering by contract electrical equipment for the utilization of electricity supplied for light, heat or power, not including radio apparatus or equipment for wireless reception of sounds and signals and not including apparatus, conductors and other equipment installed for or by public utilities, including common carriers, which are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission, for use in their operation as public utilities; but the term "Electrical contractor" does not include employees employed by such contractor to do or supervise such work.
7. The term "electrical equipment" as used in this ordinance means conductors and equipment installed for the utilization of electricity supplied for light, heat or power, but does not include radio apparatus or equipment for wireless reception of sounds and signals, and does not include apparatus, conductors

and other equipment installed for or by public utilities, including common carriers, which are under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Commerce Commission, for use in their operation as public utilities.

SECTION 2. ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR--QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT: There is hereby created the office of Electrical Inspector. The person chosen to fill the office of Electrical Inspector shall be of good moral character, shall be possessed of such executive ability as is requisite for the performance of his duties and shall have a thorough knowledge of the standard materials and methods used in the installation of electrical equipment; shall be well versed in approved methods of construction for safety to persons and property, the statutes of the State of Illinois relating to electrical work and any orders, rules and regulations issued by authority thereof, and the National Electrical Code, as approved by the American Standards Association; shall have had at least five years' experience as an electrical inspector or in the installation of electrical equipment or in lieu of such experience shall be a graduate in electrical or mechanical engineering of a college or university considered by the Mayor and City Council as having suitable requirements for graduation and shall have had two years' practical electrical experience.

1. The Electrical Inspector shall be appointed by the Mayor by and with the advice and consent of the City Council. His term of office shall commence on May 1 annually and shall end on the 30th day of April of the following year.

2. The salary to be paid to the Electrical Inspector shall be determined by the Mayor and City Council. Before entering upon the discharge of his duties he shall file a bond in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2000.00), payable to the City of Urbana, Illinois, said bond to be approved by the City Council and conditioned upon the faithful performance of his duties. The Electrical Inspector shall also take and subscribe an oath, which together with the certificate of his appointment, shall be filed with the City Clerk. He shall be removed from office for cause only, after a full hearing by the Mayor and City Council, at which he shall be entitled to appear and produce evidence in his behalf.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR: It shall be the duty of the Electrical Inspector to enforce the provisions of this ordinance. He shall upon application grant permits for the installation or alteration of electrical equipment, and shall make inspections of electrical installations, all as provided in this

ordinance. He shall keep complete records of all permits issued, inspections and reinspections made and other official work performed in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. He shall also keep on file a list of inspected electrical equipment issued by or for Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., which list shall be accessible for public reference during regular office hours. He should hold membership in the International Association of Electrical Inspectors and the National Fire Protection Association and, with the consent of the Mayor, may serve on any electrical committee of these associations to which he may be appointed and shall be allowed all necessary expenses in connection with such activities as may be approved by the City Council from time to time.

It shall be unlawful for the Electrical Inspector or any of his assistants to engage in the business of the sale, installation or maintenance of electrical equipment, either directly or indirectly, and they shall have no financial interest in any concern engaged in such business at any time while holding such office.

SECTION 4. AUTHORITY OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR: The Electrical Inspector shall have the right, after due notice and during reasonable hours to enter any building or premises in the discharge of his official duties, or for the purpose of making any inspection, reinspection or test of the electrical equipment contained therein or its installation. When any electrical equipment is found by the Electrical Inspector to be dangerous to persons or property because it is defective or defectively installed, the person, firm or corporation responsible for the electrical equipment or the installation thereof, shall be notified in writing to make any changes or repairs required in the judgment of the Electrical Inspector to place such equipment in safe condition, and if such work is not completed within fifteen (15) days or any longer period that may be specified by the Electrical Inspector in said notice, the Electrical Inspector shall have the authority to disconnect or order the discontinuance of electric service to said electrical equipment. In cases of emergency, where necessary for safety to persons or property, or where electrical equipment may interfere with the work of the fire department, the Electrical Inspector shall have the authority to disconnect or cause the disconnection immediately of any electrical equipment.

The Electrical Inspector may delegate any of his powers or duties to any of his assistants.

SECTION 5. CITY ELECTRICIAN: There is hereby created for the City of Urbana, Illinois, the office of City Electrician. The City Electrician and one or more assistants shall be appointed by the Mayor by and with the advice and consent of the City Council. His term of office shall commence on May 1st annually and shall end on the 30th day of April of the following year and he shall receive such salary as determined by the Mayor and City Council. He shall be charged with the care, control, upkeep and protection of the lighting system of the City of Urbana and the equipment in the central control station and shall have charge of the time and manner of operation thereof. The City Electrician may also hold the office of Electrical Inspector and shall supervise all extra laborers employed by the Mayor and City Council in the Electrical Department.

SECTION 6. STANDARDS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT: All installations of electrical equipment shall be reasonably safe to persons and property and in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance and the applicable statutes of the State of Illinois, and all orders, rules and regulations issued by authority thereof.

Conformity of installations of electrical equipment with applicable regulations set forth in the National Electrical Code, National Electrical Safety Code, or electrical provisions of other safety codes, which have been approved by the American Standards Association, and with such rules or regulations of the Electrical Commission of the City of Urbana, as have been approved by the City Council, shall be prima-facie evidence that such installations are reasonably safe to persons and property.

The Electrical Inspector may, with the approval of the Commission, authorize installations of special wiring methods.

SECTION 7. STANDARDS FOR ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT: All electrical equipment installed or used shall be reasonably safe to persons and property and in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, the applicable statutes of the State of Illinois, and any orders, rules or regulations issued by authority thereof.

Conformity of electrical equipment with applicable standards of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. shall be prima-facie evidence that such equipment is reasonably safe to persons and property.

This section shall not apply to equipment owned and used by an electricity supply or communication agency in the generation, transmission or distribution of electricity or for the operation of signals or the transmission of intelligence.

The Electrical Inspector may, with the approval of the Commission authorize the installation of special equipment.

SECTION 8. PERMITS: No electrical equipment shall be installed within or on any building, structure or premises, publicly or privately owned, nor shall any alteration or addition be made in any such existing equipment without first securing a permit therefor from the Electrical Inspector, except as provided in Section 1 and except that no permit will be required to execute any of the classes of electrical work specified in the following paragraphs 1 to 4 inclusive:

1. Minor and or emergency repair work, the replacement of lamps or the connection of portable electrical equipment to suitable permanently installed receptacles;
2. The installation, alteration or repair of electrical equipment for the operation of signals or the transmission of intelligence;
3. The installation, alteration or repair of electrical equipment installed by or for an electricity supply agency for the use of such agency in the generation, transmission, distribution or metering of electricity;
4. Any work involved in the manufacturing, testing, servicing, altering or repairing of electrical equipment or apparatus, except that this exemption shall not include any permanent wiring other than that required for testing purposes.

Application for such permit, describing the work to be done, shall be made in writing to the Electrical Inspector by the person, firm or corporation installing the work. The application shall be accompanied by such plans, specifications and schedules as may be necessary to determine whether the installation as described will be in conformity with the requirements of this ordinance. If it shall be found that the installation as described will conform with all legal requirements and if the applicant has complied with all provisions of this ordinance, a permit for such installation shall be issued.

No deviation may be made from the installation described in the permit without the written approval of the Electrical Inspector.



Permits for the installation or alteration of electrical equipment in the City of Urbana, Illinois shall be issued only to registered electrical contractors who have, prior to the issuance of the permit, paid to the City of Urbana, Illinois, an annual registration fee of \$25.00, except that permits shall be issued in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the issuance of permits as above set forth to an electrical contractor who is registered in any other city or village of the State of Illinois which has adopted "An Act in Relation to the Regulation of the Installation, Alteration and Use of Electrical Equipment" laws 1927, page 234. Permits shall also be granted to the owner or lessee of residential premises where the work is to be done by such owner or lessee on his own residential premises.

SECTION 9. FEES FOR PERMITS AND INSPECTION: Before any permit is granted for the installation or alteration of electrical equipment, the person, firm or corporation making application for such permit shall pay to the Electrical Inspector a fee in such amount as specified below:

Residential

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| 1. Service Installations                                       |           |
| Single meter   | \$2.00    |
| Each additional meter  | .50       |
| 2. Outlets and/or fixtures                                     |           |
| a. new building construction                                   |           |
| first 40 outlets and/or fixtures                               | 2.00      |
| each additional 20 outlets and/or fixtures or fraction thereof | .50       |
| b. alterations to existing installations                       |           |
| first 3 outlets and/or fixtures                                | no charge |
| 4 to 10 outlets and/or fixtures                                | 1.00      |
| each additional 20 outlets and/or fixtures or fraction thereof | .50       |

Commercial and Industrial

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| 1. Service installations                                       |           |
| 60 amp.  | 2.00      |
| 100 amp.   | 2.50      |
| 200 amp.   | 3.00      |
| 400 amp.   | 4.00      |
| over 400 amp.  | 5.00      |
| 2. Outlets and/or fixtures                                     |           |
| a. new building construction                                   |           |
| first 20 outlets and/or fixtures                               | 2.00      |
| each additional 20 outlets and/or fixtures or fraction thereof | .50       |
| b. alterations to existing installations                       |           |
| first 3 outlets and/or fixtures                                | no charge |
| 4 to 10 outlets and/or fixtures                                | 1.00      |
| each additional 10 outlets and/or fixtures or fraction thereof | .50       |
| 3. Motors and/or Heating                                       |           |
| up to 10HP   | 1.00      |
| each additional 10HP or fraction thereof                       | .50       |
| each KW of heating shall be considered 1HP                     |           |

Signs (exterior only)

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| up to 1000 watts                               | 1.00 |
| each additional 1000 watts or fraction thereof | .50  |
| Temporary and/or 30 amp. service               | 1.00 |

At the discretion of the Electrical Inspector, permit fees may be paid on a monthly bases. All fees for permits shall be paid monthly by the Electrical Inspector to the City Clerk who shall deposit them in the General Fund of the City.



SECTION 10. INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATES: Upon the completion of any installation of electrical equipment which has been made under a permit it shall be the duty of the person, firm or corporation making the installation to notify the Electrical Inspector, who shall inspect the installation within twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, of the time such notice is given or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Where the Electrical Inspector finds the installation to be in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, he shall issue to the person, firm or corporation making the installation a certificate of approval, with duplicate copy for delivery to the owner, authorizing the use of the installation and connection to the supply of electricity and shall send written notice of such authorization to the agency supplying the electric service.

When a certificate of approval is issued authorizing the connection and use of a temporary installation, such certificate shall be issued to expire at a time to be stated therein unless extended, and shall be revocable by the Electrical Inspector for cause.

When any electrical equipment is to be hidden from view by the permanent placement of parts of the building, the person, firm or corporation installing the equipment shall notify the Electrical Inspector and such equipment shall not be concealed until it has been inspected and approved by the Electrical Inspector or until twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, shall have elapsed from the time of such notification; provided that on large installations, where the concealment of equipment proceeds continuously, the person, firm or corporation installing the electrical equipment shall give the Electrical Inspector due notice and inspections shall be made periodically during the progress of the work.

If upon inspection the installation is not found to be fully in conformity with the provisions of this ordinance, the Electrical Inspector shall at once forward to the person, firm or corporation making the installation a written notice stating the defects which have been found to exist.

SECTION 11. CONNECTION TO INSTALLATIONS: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to make connection from a supply of electricity, or to supply electricity, to any electrical equipment for the installation of which a

permit is required or which has been disconnected, or ordered to be disconnected, by the Electrical Inspector, until such connection has been authorized by the Electrical Inspector.

SECTION 12. ELECTRICAL APPEAL BOARD: There is hereby created an Electrical Appeal Board which shall consist of the City Attorney and all members of the Electrical Commission except the Electrical Inspector. Each member of the Board shall serve without pay and until he has been removed from office by the Mayor and his successor has been appointed. Any person, firm or corporation may register an appeal with the Electrical Appeal Board for a review of any decisions of the Electrical Inspector, provided that such appeal is made in writing within five (5) days after such person, firm or corporation shall have been notified of such decision by the Electrical Inspector. Upon receipt of such appeal the said Electrical Appeal Board shall proceed to determine whether the action of the Electrical Inspector complies with this ordinance and within five (5) days after the appeal is made shall make a decision in accordance with its findings. Three members of the Board present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business but any action taken at any meeting shall require the affirmative vote of at least three members. The appeal Board shall elect its own chairman who shall have the right to vote on any decision of the Board.

SECTION 13. PENALTIES: Any person installing and, or altering electrical equipment in the City of Urbana, Illinois without first having obtained a permit therefor in accordance with this ordinance; any person installing and, or, altering electrical equipment in the City of Urbana, Illinois not in accordance with the applicable standards and specifications as herein defined; any person misrepresenting his registration as an electrical contractor; any person turning electric current into electrical equipment installed and, or, altered without a permit having first been issued for said installation or alteration, or without a certificate of inspection having been issued for said installation or alteration by the Electrical Inspection Department; and any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance, shall upon conviction thereof be fined not less than five dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each offense, and each day a violation continues shall be considered a separate offence.

SECTION 14. LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES: This ordinance shall not be construed

to affect the responsibility of liability of any party owning, operating, controlling or installing any electrical equipment for damages to persons or property caused by any defect therein, nor shall the City of Urbana be held as assuming any such liability by reason of the inspection or reinspection authorized herein or the certificate of approval issued as herein provided or by reason of the approval or disapproval of any equipment authorized herein.

SECTION 15. VALIDITY: If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The City Council of the City of Urbana hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION 16. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES: All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed and the ordinance creating the office of City Electrician adopted by the City Council on the 2nd day of September, A. D. 1924 and approved by the Mayor on the 3rd day of September, A. D. 1924 is hereby expressly repealed. The ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance prescribing the manner of installation of Electrical Equipment, etc," adopted June 4, 1928 approved June 5, 1928 and in effect June 6, 1928 and amendment thereto in effect December 20, 1938 are hereby specifically repealed.

SECTION 17. In lieu of all other publications, this ordinance shall be published in pamphlet form.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois this 2th day of March A. D. 1951.

Less M. Holmes  
CITY CLERK

Approved by the Mayor this 5th day of March A. D. 1951.

Glen E. Chapman  
MAYOR

PUBLISHED: