ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance amending Chapter 55, "Dallas Mechanical Code," of the Dallas City Code, as amended; adopting with certain changes the 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code of the International Code Council, Inc.; regulating the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use, and maintenance of mechanical work in the city; providing a penalty not to exceed $2,000; providing a saving clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 55, "Dallas Mechanical Code," of the Dallas City Code, as amended, is amended by adopting the 2021 Edition of the International Mechanical Code of the International Code Council, Inc. (which is attached as Exhibit A and made a part of this ordinance), with the following amendments:

1. Chapter 1, "Scope and Administration," of the 2021 International Mechanical Code is deleted and replaced with a new Chapter 1, "Administration," to read as follows:

"**CHAPTER 1**
ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 101
GENERAL

101.1 Title. These regulations are known as the *Dallas Mechanical Code*, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

101.2 Scope. This code regulates the design, installation, maintenance, alteration and inspection of mechanical systems that are permanently installed and utilized to provide control of environmental conditions and related processes within buildings. This code also regulates those mechanical systems, system components, *equipment* and *appliances* specifically addressed herein. The installation of fuel gas distribution piping and *equipment*, fuel gas-fired *appliances* and fuel gas-fired *appliance* venting systems are regulated by the *Dallas Fuel Gas Code.*

Exceptions:

1. Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories high with separate means of egress and their accessory structures must comply with the *Dallas One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code.*

2. Mechanical systems in existing buildings undergoing repair, alterations, or additions, and change of occupancy may comply with the *Dallas Existing Building Code.*

101.3 Administrative procedures. Except as otherwise specified in this code, all provisions of Chapter 52, "Administrative Procedures for the Construction Codes," of the *Dallas City Code* apply to this code.

101.4 Referenced codes and standards. The codes and standards referenced in this code are considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference only when such codes and standards have been specifically adopted by the city of Dallas. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to the codes and standards is considered to reference the amendments as well. Any reference made to NFPA 70 or the *ICC Electrical Code* means the *Dallas Electrical Code*, as amended. References made to the *International Plumbing Code*, the *International Building Code*, the *International Fire Code*, the *International Energy Conservation Code*, the *International Fuel Gas Code*, the *International Existing Building Code*, *International Residential Code*, *International Green Construction Code*, and the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*, respectively mean the *Dallas Plumbing Code*, the *Dallas Building Code*, the *Dallas Fire Code*, the *Dallas Energy Conservation Code*, the *Dallas Fuel Gas Code*, the *Dallas Existing Building Code*, *Dallas One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code*, the *Dallas Green Construction Code*, and the *Dallas Swimming Pool and Spa Code*, as amended.

Exception: Where enforcement of a code provision would violate the conditions of the listing of the equipment or appliance, the conditions of the listing and the manufacturer's instructions apply."

2. Subsection 306.5, "Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures,"

of Section 306, "Access and Service Space," of Chapter 3, "General Regulations," of the 2021

International Mechanical Code is amended to read as follows:

"**306.5 Equipment and appliances on roofs or elevated structures.** Where *equipment* requiring access or *appliances* are located on an elevated structure or the roof of a building such that personnel will have to climb higher than 16 feet (4877 mm) above grade to access a permanent [~~such *equipment* or *appliances*, an~~] interior or exterior means of access shall be provided. Permanent exterior ladders providing roof *access* need not extend closer than 12 feet (2438 mm) to the finish grade or floor level below and shall extend to the equipment and appliances' level service space. Such access shall not require climbing over obstructions greater than 30 inches (762 mm) in height or walking on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Such access shall not require the use of portable ladders. Where access involves climbing over parapet walls, the height shall be measured to the top of the parapet wall.

Permanent ladders installed to provide the required access shall comply with the following minimum design criteria:

1. The side railing shall extend above the parapet or roof edge not less than 30 inches (762 mm).

2. Ladders shall have rung spacing not to exceed 14 inches (356 mm) on center. The uppermost rung shall be not greater than 24 inches (610 mm) below the upper edge of the roof hatch, roof or parapet, as applicable.

3. Ladders shall have a toe spacing not less than 6 inches (152 mm) deep.

4. There shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm) between rails.

5. Rungs shall have a diameter not less than 0.75-inch (19.1 mm) and be capable of withstanding a 300-pound (136 kg) load.

6. Ladders over 30 feet (9144 mm) in height shall be provided with offset sections and landings capable of withstanding 100 pounds per square foot (488 kg/m^2). Landing dimensions shall be not less than 18 inches (457 mm) and not less than the width of the ladder served. A guard rail shall be provided on all open sides of the landing.

7. Climbing clearance. The distance from the centerline of the rungs to the nearest permanent object on the climbing side of the ladder shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) measured perpendicular to the rungs. This distance shall be maintained from the point of ladder access to the bottom of the roof hatch. A minimum clear width of 15-inches (381 mm) shall be provided on both sides of the ladder measured from the midpoint of and parallel with the rungs except where cages or wells are installed.

8. Landing required. The ladder shall be provided with a clear and unobstructed bottom landing area having a minimum dimension of 30 inches (762 mm) by 30 inches (762 mm) centered in front of the ladder.

9. Ladders shall be protected against corrosion by *approved* means.

10. Access to ladders shall be provided at all times.

Catwalks installed to provide the required access shall be not less than 24 inches (610 mm) wide and shall have railings as required for service platforms.

Exception: This section shall not apply to Group R-3 *occupancies*.

306.5.1 Sloped roofs. Where *appliances*, *equipment*, fans or other components that require service are installed on [~~a~~] roofs having [~~a~~] slopes greater than four [~~of three~~] units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33[~~25~~]-percent slope) [~~or greater~~] and having an edge more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at such edge, a catwalk at least 16 inches (406.4 mm) in width with substantial cleats spaced not more than 16 inches (406.4 mm) apart shall be provided from the roof access to a level platform at the appliance. The level platform shall be provided on each side of the *appliance* or *equipment* to which access is required for service, repair or maintenance. The platform shall be not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in any dimension and shall be provided with guards. The guards shall extend not less than 42 inches (1067 mm) above the platform, shall be constructed so as to prevent the passage of a 21-inch diameter (533 mm) sphere and shall comply with the loading requirements for guards specified in the *Dallas* [~~*International*~~] *Building Code*. Access shall not require walking on roofs having a slope greater than four units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33-percent slope). Where access involves obstructions greater than 30 inches (762 mm) in height, such obstructions shall be provided with ladders installed in accordance with Section 306.5 or stairways installed in accordance with the requirements specified in the *Dallas* [~~*International*~~] *Building Code* in the path of travel to and from *appliances*, fans or *equipment* requiring service.

306.5.2 Electrical requirements. A receptacle outlet shall be provided at or near the *equipment* location in accordance with NFPA 70."

3. Paragraph 403.2.1, "Recirculation of Air," of Subsection 403.2, "Outdoor Air Required," of Section 403, "Mechanical Ventilation," of Chapter 4, "Ventilation," of the 2021 International Mechanical Code is amended to read as follows:

"**403.2.1 Recirculation of air.** The outdoor air required by Section 403.3 shall not be recirculated. Air in excess of that required by Section 403.3 shall not be prohibited from being recirculated as a component of supply air to building spaces, except that:

1. Ventilation air shall not be recirculated from one *dwelling* to another or to dissimilar *occupancies*.

2. Supply air to a swimming pool and associated deck areas shall not be recirculated unless such air is dehumidified to maintain the relative humidity of the area at 60 percent or less. Air from this area shall not be recirculated to other spaces where more than 10 percent of the resulting supply airstream consists of air recirculated from these spaces. The design and installation of dehumidification systems shall comply with ANSI/ACCA 10 Manual SPS.

3. Where mechanical exhaust is required by Note b in Table 403.3.1.1, recirculation of air from such spaces shall be prohibited. Recirculation of air that is contained completely within such spaces shall not be prohibited. Where recirculation of air is prohibited, all air supplied to such spaces shall be exhausted, including any air in excess of that required by Table 403.3.1.1.

4. Where mechanical exhaust is required by Note g in Table 403.3.1.1, mechanical exhaust is required and recirculation from such spaces is prohibited where more than 10 percent of the resulting supply airstream consists of air recirculated from these spaces. Recirculation of air that is contained completely within such spaces shall not be prohibited.

5. Toilet rooms within private dwellings that contain only a water closet, lavatory or combination thereof may be ventilated with an approved mechanical recirculating fan or similar device designed to remove odors from the air."

4. Subsection 501.3, "Exhaust Discharge," of Section 501, "General," of Chapter 5, "Exhaust Systems," of the 2021 International Mechanical Code is amended to read as follows:

"**501.3 Exhaust discharge.** The air removed by every mechanical exhaust system shall be discharged outdoors at a point where it will not cause a public nuisance and not less than the distances specified in Section 501.3.1. The air shall be discharged to a location from which it cannot again be readily drawn in by a ventilating system. Air shall not be exhausted into an attic, crawl space, or be directed onto walkways.

Exceptions:

1. Whole-house ventilation-type attic fans shall be permitted to discharge into the attic space of *dwelling units* having private attics.

2. Commercial cooking recirculating systems.

3. Where installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and where mechanical or *natural ventilation* is otherwise provided in accordance with Chapter 4, *listed* and *labeled* domestic ductless range hoods shall not be required to discharge to the outdoors.

4. Toilet room exhaust ducts may terminate in a warehouse or shop area when infiltration of outside air is present.

501.3.1 Location of exhaust outlets. The termination point of exhaust outlets and ducts discharging to the outdoors shall be located with the following minimum distances:

1. For ducts conveying explosive or flammable vapors, fumes or dusts; 30 feet (9144 mm) from property lines; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into buildings; 6 feet (1829 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 30 feet (9144 mm) from combustible walls and operable openings into buildings that are in the direction of the exhaust discharge; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.

2. For other product-conveying outlets: 10 feet (3048 mm) from the property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 10 feet (3048 mm) from operable openings into buildings; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.

3. For all *environmental air* exhaust: 3 feet (914 mm) from property lines; 3 feet (914 mm) from operable openings into buildings for all *occupancies* other than Group U; and 10 feet (3048 mm) from mechanical air intakes. Such exhaust shall not be considered hazardous or noxious. Separation is not required between intake air openings and living space *exhaust air* openings of an individual *dwelling unit* or *sleeping unit* where an approved factory-built intake/exhaust combination termination fitting is used to separate the air streams in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

4. Exhaust outlets serving structures in flood hazard areas shall be installed at or above the elevation required by Section 1612 of the *Dallas* [~~*International*~~] *Building Code* for utilities and attendant equipment.

5. For specific systems see the following sections:

    5.1. Clothes dryer exhaust, Section 504.4.

    5.2. Kitchen hoods and other kitchen exhaust *equipment*, Sections 506.3.13, 506.4 and 506.5.

    5.3. Dust, stock and refuse conveying systems, Section 511.2.

    5.4. Subslab soil exhaust systems, Section 512.4.

    5.5. Smoke control systems, Section 513.10.3.

    5.6. Refrigerant discharge, Section 1105.7.

    5.7. *Machinery room* discharge, Section 1105.6.1.

501.3.2 Exhaust opening protection. Exhaust openings that terminate outdoors shall be protected with corrosion-resistant screens, louvers or grilles. Openings in screens, louvers and grilles shall be sized not less than ¼ inch (6.4 mm) and not larger than ½ inch (12.7 mm). Openings shall be protected against local weather conditions. Louvers that protect exhaust openings in structures located in hurricane-prone regions, as defined in the Dallas [~~International~~] *Building Code*, shall comply with AMCA Standard 550. Outdoor openings located in exterior walls shall meet the provisions for exterior wall opening protectives in accordance with the Dallas [~~International~~] *Building Code*."

5. Appendix A, "Chimney Connector Pass-Throughs," of the 2021 International Mechanical Code is adopted.

6. Appendix B, "Recommended Permit Fee Schedule," of the 2021 International Mechanical Code is deleted.

7. Appendix C, "Board of Appeals," of the 2021 International Mechanical code is deleted.

8. All chapters of the 2021 International Mechanical Code adopted by this ordinance are subchapters of Chapter 55 of the Dallas City Code, as amended.

9. All references in the 2021 International Mechanical Code to the fire code, building code, plumbing code, electrical code, residential code, existing building code, energy conservation code, fuel gas code, green construction code, and swimming pool and spa code refer, respectively to Chapters 16, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62 of the Dallas City Code.

SECTION 2. That a person violating a provision of this ordinance, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine not to exceed $2,000. No offense committed and no liability, penalty, or forfeiture, either civil or criminal, incurred prior to the effective date of this ordinance will be discharged or affected by this ordinance. Prosecutions and suits for such offenses, liabilities, penalties, and forfeitures may be instituted, and causes of action pending on the effective date of this ordinance may proceed, as if the former laws applicable at the time the offense, liability,

penalty, or forfeiture was committed or incurred had not been amended, repealed, reenacted, or superseded, and all former laws will continue in effect for these purposes.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 55 of the Dallas City Code, as amended, will remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this ordinance. Any existing structure, system, development project, or registration that is not required to come into compliance with a requirement of this ordinance will be governed by the requirement as it existed in the former law last applicable to the structure, system, development project, or registration, and all former laws will continue in effect for this purpose.

SECTION 4. That the terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of Chapter 1 of the Dallas City Code, as amended.

SECTION 5. That this ordinance shall take effect on May 12, 2023, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

TAMMY L. PALOMINO, Interim City Attorney

By_____
Assistant City Attorney

Passed_____