

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE BUILDING OFFICIAL TO EXEMPT CERTAIN PLUMBING ACTIVITIES FROM THE PLUMBING PERMIT REQUIREMENT; EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN PERMIT APPLICATIONS; WAIVING THE PLUMBING CODE'S REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

PART 1. FINDINGS.

- (1) On February 12, 2021, Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain statewide and declaring a state of disaster in all 254 Texas counties.
- (2) On February 14 and 19, 2021, Mayor Steve Adler issued a Declaration of Local Disaster due to severe winter weather posing an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage, injury, and loss of life due to prolonged freezing temperatures, heavy snow and freezing rain.
- (3) From February 11, 2021, through February 19, 2021, the City experienced prolonged freezing temperatures, significant snow accumulation, and freezing rain ("February 2021 Winter Weather Event").
- (4) During the February 2021 Winter Weather Event, many pipes were damaged. It is expected that much of the pipe damage will require small-scale repairs.
- (5) The City's Plumbing Code requires an individual to obtain a permit for most plumbing activities. In this instance, the building officials expect that the number of small-scale plumbing activities will be significant. As a result, the permit requirement may, in some circumstances, result in delays that are counter to the City's health and safety interests, which include preventing further damage to structures.
- (6) Because the number of structures that will require emergency repairs and replacements is significant, it will take additional time for individuals and entities to submit permit applications.

32 **PART 2. BUILDING OFFICIAL’S AUTHORITY.**

33 (A) The city council authorizes the Building Official to exempt certain plumbing
34 activities from the permit requirement established in Article 6 (*Plumbing Code*) of
35 Chapter 25-12 (*Technical Code*).

36 (B) The exemptions authorized in Subsection (A) apply to plumbing activities started
37 on or after February 12, 2021.

38 **PART 3. PERMIT APPLICATIONS.**

39 An activity that is not exempt under Part 2 of this ordinance or Chapter 25-12
40 (*Technical Codes*) shall submit a permit application within five business days from the
41 date the activity starts if the activity is:

- 42 (1) an emergency repair or replacement; and
43 (2) started in response to the February 2021 Winter Weather Event.

44 **PART 4. REGISTRATION.**

45 A person who is authorized under Texas law or by Governor Abbott to repair,
46 replace, or install plumbing fixtures or systems is not required to register with the City
47 before performing any work regulated by the Plumbing Code.

48 **PART 5. EXPIRATION.**

49 This ordinance expires on March 31, 2021

50 **PART 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

51 Based on Part 1 of this ordinance, the city council finds that small-scale
52 plumbing repairs need to be addressed quickly to avoid further damage to a
53 structure; and the volume of expected repairs necessitates additional application
54 submittal time. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect immediately
55 on its passage for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

PASSED AND APPROVED

_____, 2021

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Steve Adler
Mayor

APPROVED: _____
Anne L. Morgan
City Attorney

ATTEST: _____
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk