



PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE



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DATE: April 30, 2018
TO: Andrew Aebi, Portland Bureau of Transportation
FROM: Nate Takara, Fire Marshal ↷
COPY: Rebecca Esau, Bureau of Development Services Director

Portland Fire & Rescue acknowledges that the Bureau of Development Services is the lead addressing bureau on behalf of the City. Chapter 24.75 of City Code provides for a Uniform Building Address System in which the current five (5) addressing quintets are established. It further outlines the responsibility of the Bureau of Development Services Director regarding addressing; it is the BDS Director who “shall assign address numbers, keep records of address assignments and exercise such other powers as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Chapter.”

Chapter 31.10.060 of City Code also states that the Fire Marshal “is authorized to require a property address change when, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal, the existing address may delay emergency response by emergency service providers.” It has been our experience that the leading zeros in addresses have caused confusion for emergency responders, particularly with the internet and web-based map programs that often do not recognize leading zeros in an address.

Therefore, as Fire Marshal per PCC 31.10.060 I request on behalf of Portland Fire & Rescue that BDS and PBOT eliminate the leading zero addressing in accordance with PCC 31.10.060. PF&R also requests that this opportunity be used to make any other necessary addressing changes in conformance with nationally-recognized addressing standards, as well as to be responsive to wayfinding concerns raised by residents of the future South Portland addressing area, particularly in the Riverdale area.

Many City bureaus will benefit from this addressing change, and PF&R looks forward to continued collaboration with PBOT, BDS, BTS and other bureaus to bring the South Portland Addressing Project to a successful conclusion with Council consideration on May 31, 2018 and final approval on June 6, 2018. Portland Fire & Rescue looks forward to the implementation of six addressing sextants beginning in May 2020 following this Council action.