

## TITLE FIVE - Housing Code

- Art. 1761. Licensing and Inspection of Tenant Occupied Residential and all Institutional Occupancies.  
 Art. 1763. Standards and Requirements.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Department of Fire/Rescue Services certifies dwellings as unfit for human habitation in accordance with Section 1761.08 of the Codified Ordinances and Act 89 of June 11, 1968 as amended (35 P.S. §1700-1). Ordinances 78-1968 and 83-1969 authorize the Hamilton Bank to act as a depository for the deposit, handling and processing of rent moneys into escrow accounts by tenants of such premises.

## ARTICLE 1761

## Licensing and Inspection of Tenant Occupied Residential and all Institutional Occupancies

Licensing & Inspection Fees  
Daycare Fees

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## CROSS REFERENCES

Tenement, lodging and boarding houses - see 25 Pa. Code Ch. 175  
 Unsafe dwellings - see BLDG. & HSG. Art. 1725  
 Minimum dwelling standards - see BLDG. & HSG. Art. 1763

## 1761.01 SCOPE.

The provisions of this Article shall provide for the licensing and inspection of all buildings and structures defined by the Building Code as Group I (Institutional) or Group R (Residential) that are tenant occupied. (Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

## 1761.02 INTENT.

To ensure the public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of tenant occupied Group I and Group R buildings and structures. (Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

## 1761.03 DEFINITIONS.

The following words and terms, when used in this Article, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (a) "Department" means the Department of Fire/Rescue Services or any authorized representative thereof as designated by the Fire Chief.
- (b) "Building Code" means the Building Code of the City of York.
- (c) "Plumbing Code" means the Plumbing Code of the City of York.
- (d) "Fire Prevention Code" means the Fire Prevention Code of the City of York.
- (e) "Property Maintenance Code" means the Property Maintenance Code of the City of York
- (f) "Refuse fee" means all fees and penalties imposed by the City of York under Article 951.
- (g) "Sewer fee" means all fees and penalties imposed by the City of York under Article 933.
- (h) "Structure unfit for human occupancy" means a building or structure that is found to constitute a serious hazard to the physical health or safety of the occupants or to the general public because it is considered dilapidated, unsanitary, vermin-infested or lacking the facilities and equipment as required by the Property Maintenance Code of the City.
- (i) "Unsafe structure" means a building or structure that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe, or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.
- (j) "Person" means an individual or individuals, a partnership, an association, a corporation, a joint stock company, a trust, an unincorporated association or any other group or legally recognized entity and/or the owners or officers in such legally recognized entities.
- (k) "Owner" means any individual, corporation, partnership or any other groups as a unit having a legal or equitable interest in a property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court, provided that any ownership right created by an installment sales agreement shall be recorded with the Recorder of Deeds Office in and for York County.
- (l) "Tenant" means any person residing in a dwelling unit not listed on the deed or recorded sales agreement, regardless of exchange of rent. Husband or wife, domestic partner, son or daughter, mother or father or sister or brother of the owner, residing within the same dwelling unit shall not be considered a tenant.
- (m) "Institutional" or "Group I" Occupancy means a building or structure, or portion thereof, classified by the Building Code as Group I-1, I-2, I-3 or I-4.

- (n) “Residential” or “Group R” Occupancy means a building or structure, or portion thereof classified by the Building Code as Group R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 or defined by this Article as Group R-5.
- (o) “Group R-5 Occupancy” means existing one-and two-family dwellings and one-and two-family dwellings designed and constructed under the *International Residential Code*. (Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

#### 1761.04 LICENSING OF OCCUPANCY USES.

No person shall offer for occupancy or operate a Group I or Group R Occupancy without first obtaining a license from the Department of Fire/Rescue Services.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

#### 1761.05 GENERAL STANDARDS FOR APPLICATION OF LICENSE, LATE FEE, INSPECTION AND ACCESS TO DWELLING; INSPECTION FEE.

(a) Every person applying for a license under this article shall supply such information as the Department requires and shall pay an annual license fee as established by resolution of Council, on or before January 31<sup>st</sup> of the year for which it is issued or the annual license fee shall be increased in accordance with the following schedule:

Date	Fee increase
February 1 - 5	10 percent additional charge
February 6-10	25 percent additional charge
February 11 – March 1	50 percent additional charge
After March 1	100 percent additional charge

(b) An inspection fee established by resolution of Council shall also be charged. However, where the owner occupies a unit therein, a license fee and inspection fee need not be paid on the unit during such occupancy. The Department shall inspect all Group I Occupancies and all tenant occupied Group R Occupancies according to the following schedule to determine that no violations of the City’s Fire Prevention or Property Maintenance Codes are in existence. The inspection shall include all units in the property.

Classification	Inspection frequency
Group I-1	24 months
Group I-2	24 months
Group I-3	24 months
Group I-4	24 months
Group R-1	24 months
Group R-2	24 months
Group R-3	24 months
Group R-4	24 months
Group R-5	24 months

(c) Upon the receipt of an application and fee for a license, the Department shall conduct an inspection of the occupancy. If it is determined to be in compliance with the Property Maintenance Code, Fire Prevention Code and with this Article, the Department shall issue the license.

(d) If the Department finds violations of the Property Maintenance Code or Fire Prevention Code, the Department shall issue a notice of violation. Upon compliance with the codes, the Department shall issue the license.

(e) Licenses shall be maintained on the premises at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the Department. Those who sign a lease for a licensed property shall receive a copy of the license with the signed lease.

(f) Every license granted hereunder shall terminate on the last day of the calendar year in which it was issued, unless sooner revoked.

(g) No license required by this section shall be transferable unless the new owner or operator gives written notice to the Department within ten days after the transfer in any manner of ownership or control of the interest in such a facility. Such notice shall include the name and address of the person succeeding the ownership or control.

(h) Licenses issued under this Article shall be revoked for noncompliance with the Property Maintenance Code or Fire Prevention Codes. When the Department determines that violations exist, the owner or operator shall be issued a notice of violation with a scheduled date for re-inspection. Upon re-inspection, if the violations have not been corrected and no appeal is pending, the Department shall revoke the license and shall notify the owner or operator in writing of the revocation.

(i) Any person whose license has been revoked or whose application for a license to operate has been denied may appeal to the Construction Board of Adjustment and Appeals as is otherwise provided by ordinance of the City.

(j) The Department shall immediately revoke the license of any property that it determines constitutes an unsafe structure or structure unfit for human occupancy as defined by this Article. A notice of violation shall be issued to the owner or operator within 48 hours. The notice shall list the unsafe condition(s), applicable code section(s) and shall contain a correction order with a date for re-inspection. The notice may be hand delivered directly to the owner or his agent or sent to either via certified mail, return receipt requested. The City shall take any and all other action as allowed by law to bring the property into compliance.

(k) The Department of Fire/Rescue Services is authorized and directed to make inspections at any reasonable hour to determine compliance with this Article and with the Fire Prevention and Property Maintenance codes. For this purpose, the Department, its officers or representatives are authorized to enter and examine any building, structure, yard or part of either and every owner, operator or occupant shall allow the Department, its officers or representatives free access. Inspection may be postponed by the Department due to illness of one or more occupants of the premises or other emergency.

(l) Every occupant of a Group I Occupancy or Group R Occupancy regulated by this Article shall grant to the owner or operator thereof or his agent or employee or any person with whom the Department has contracted under Section 1761.05 free access at all reasonable times for the purpose of making repairs or alterations to affect compliance with this Article and with the Building, Fire Prevention and Property Maintenance codes and with any notice or order issued there under.

(m) Whenever the owner, mortgagee, purchaser or other interested party requests a special inspection of a property regulated by this Article, or certification that a property is in compliance with this Article or other applicable City ordinances pertaining to structural condition; when such a request is being made in connection with the sale, conveyance, transfer, financing or refinancing of such property; then such person shall first pay a fee to the City to defray the expenses of making such inspection. The fee shall be established by resolution of Council.

(n) Annual Inspection Program. The Department shall establish an inspection process known as the "Annual Inspection Program" for Group I and Group R occupancies that have a history of violations under this Article or the Building, Fire Prevention and/or Property Maintenance Codes. The Department shall establish specific regulations for the Fire Chief and/or his designee to determine which properties shall be included in the annual inspection program. The Department shall provide the regulations and any amendments thereof to Council, which shall either approve or deny the regulations. The regulations and any amendments thereof take effect upon Council approval.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

#### 1761.06 ENFORCEMENT POWERS.

The Fire Chief and/or the inspectors of Department of Fire/Rescue Services shall have the authority to institute summary criminal proceedings as a means of enforcement of this article and shall, when acting within the scope of employment hereunder, have the powers of a police officer of the City; provided, however, that under no circumstances shall they have the power of arrest. (Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

**1761.07 PAYMENT OF SEWER AND REFUSE FEES.**

(a) Effective January 1, 2007, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services shall not issue and shall revoke a license for a property determined by the Department to be greater than thirty days in arrears on payment of sewer fees and/or refuse fees and/or if the property has been referred to the York County Tax Claim Bureau for collection of taxes.

(b) Exception: The Department may issue a license if a property is more than thirty days in arrears on payment of sewer fees and/or refuse fees and/or if the property has been referred to the York County Tax Claim Bureau if the property owner agrees to and follows a payment plan approved by the City.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

**1761.08 CONFLICT OF ORDINANCES.**

In any case where a provision of this article is found to be in conflict with a provision of any City zoning, building, fire, safety or health ordinance, or law, rule or regulation of the Commonwealth, the provision which establishes the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people shall prevail. In any case, where a provision of this article is found to be in conflict with a provision of any other City ordinance or code or law, rule or regulation of the Commonwealth which establishes a lower standard for the promotion and protection of the health and safety of the people, the provisions of this article shall be deemed to prevail, and such other ordinances or codes are hereby declared to be repealed to the extent that they may be found in conflict with this article.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

**1761.09 PAYMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF COLLECTION OF FEES.**

(a) All fees and charges for licenses or permits shall be paid in advance at the time application therefore is made to the Department of Fire/Rescue Services. Each license or permit granted hereunder shall terminate on the last day of the year in which it was issued. The fee for each annual license shall be paid to the Department on or before January 30 of the year for which it is issued. The fee for each annual license shall be paid to the Department on or before January 30 of the year for which it is issued. For purposes of determining compliance with this ordinance, the postmark date shall be considered the date of receipt of payment for those license fees sent by mail.

(b) No person shall commence operation of any Group I or Group R Occupancy required to be licensed under this article after January 30 of any year unless the required fees are paid and the structure is inspected and approved.

Exception: In the case of a previously licensed occupancy that has been inspected within the time frame established by this article, the due date for the license fee shall be thirty days after such operation commences, however operation of such occupancy shall not begin prior to notification of the Department.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

## 1761.10 ISSUANCE.

Effective January 1, 2007, the Department of Fire/Rescue Services shall not issue a license for a any property regulated under this article unless it has complied with Section 1512.06 requiring liability and casualty insurance.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed -3-7-06.)

## 1761.11 SEVERABILITY.

The provisions of this article are severable and if any of its sections, clauses or sentences shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional, such provisions shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses or sentences. It is hereby declared to be the intent of Council that this article would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, clause or sentence had not been included herein.  
(Ord. 11-2006. Passed 3-7-06.)

1761.12 OPERATION OF GROUP I-1 AS HALFWAY HOUSES AND ALL  
GROUP I-3.

(a) Group I-1 that would operate as a halfway house or related facility serving those recently released from a state, county or federal prison and all Group I-3 shall not qualify for licensing if the proposed location of such a Group I-1 or I-3 would fall within 500 feet of any Group R as defined within this Article, and within 1,500 feet of any school, child care facility, community center, public park, recreational facility or library in the City.

(b) For the purpose of determining the minimum distance separation, the requirements shall be measured by following a straight line from the outer property line of the proposed location of the Group I-1 or Group I-3 as described in subsection (a) to the nearest outer property line of a school, child care facility, community center, public park, recreational facility or library.

(c) The requirements in subsection (a) shall not apply to Group I-1 or Group I-3 as described in subsection (a) that qualified for licensing before the requirements in subsection (a) take effect or if such a Group I-1 or Group I-3 qualified for licensing before a school, child care facility, community center, public park, recreational facility or library had become established.  
(Ord. 40-2009. Passed 12-15-09.)

## 1761.12.1 DEFINITIONS.

The following words and terms, when used in this subsection, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- (a) "Child Care Facility" means a day care center, child care facility licensed under this article by the City of York or any other child care service facility exempt from licensing pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or the City of York.
- (b) "Community Center" means a building and its related facilities used for educational, social, cultural or recreational activities, which is operated by a not-for-profit entity.
- (c) "Public Park" or "Recreational Facility" means any land, or tract of land, or facility used for passive or active recreation, including any playground, park, skate park, athletic field, swimming pool, and any other facility owned or operated by the City or any other governmental agency or not-for-profit organization, including York County or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- (d) “School” means any educational building or facility, whether public or private, that provides educational services, including secondary schools, trade or professional institutions or institutions of higher education.
- (e) “Halfway House” means a residential facility primarily for persons who have been institutionalized in state, county or federal prisons for various reasons and released, and require the temporary protection of a group setting to facilitate the transition to society. The term does not include residential facilities housing groups of individuals recovering from alcohol or drug abuse or who otherwise qualify as “handicapped” pursuant to the Fair Housing Act, the American with Disabilities Act, or other applicable federal or state legislation who act as a family. (Ord. 40-2009. Passed 12-15-09.)

#### 1761.99 PENALTY.

In addition to any other sanction or remedial procedure provided, any person who violates any provision of this Article shall upon conviction thereof, in a summary proceeding, be fined not less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a first offense, not less than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a second offense and not less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a subsequent offense and costs of prosecution for each offense, to be collected as other fines and costs are by law collectible. Any person in default of payment thereof shall be imprisoned for not more than ninety days (90 days). Continuing violation as to any premises of the same provision after notice from the Department of Fire/Rescue Services shall be a separate violation for each day. (Ord. 1-2009. Passed 1-6-09.)