BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.
AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE ONE: Code and Appendices. That, pursuant to Alabama Code Section 11-45-8 (1975), the 2012 Edition of the International Building Code and Appendices, along with the amendments to the same contained in this ordinance, which has been on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Mobile, Alabama, pursuant to a resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Mobile, Alabama, on March 3, 2015, 2014, is hereby adopted as "The Building Code of the City of Mobile."

ARTICLE TWO: Published Ordinance. A copy of this ordinance shall be published pursuant and according to law, after its adoption, but it shall not be necessary for the said 2012 International Building Code to be published in a newspaper, nor shall the same be spread at length upon the Minutes of this Council, but this ordinance shall be recorded in said minutes.

ARTICLE THREE: Effective Date. The said 2012 International Building Code shall be in full force and become effective sixty days after its adoption, and all ordinances heretofore adopted by the City of Mobile in conflict are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE FOUR: Contractors Criteria and Qualifications.

Contractor Responsibilities. It shall be the duty of every contractor who shall make contracts for the construction, installation, repair or modifications of buildings, for which a permit is required, to be properly licensed and bonded in accordance with all the City of Mobile and State of Alabama requirements. The contractor shall register his/her name in a register with the Building Official in a book provided for that purpose. The said book shall record the full name, residence and place of business and it shall be the contractor's responsibility to notify the City of Mobile of any changes.

In addition to the requirements as set forth herein, all individuals, agents or businesses that perform work that exceeds $50,000 are required to be a general contractor or subcontractor in accordance with all the statutory requirements of the State of Alabama and City of Mobile.

ARTICLE FIVE: Surety Bond. In addition to the requirements as set forth herein, it shall be the duty of every builder; contractor and sub-contractor shall provide and have on file a current License and Permit Bond for $10,000. The bond is subject to the approval of City of Mobile Legal Department and shall be provided by a surety company qualified to do business in the State of Alabama and from an agent thereof with an office in the City of Mobile.

Such bond shall insure that the licensee complies with laws, ordinances and building regulations of the applicable governing body. The local governing body shall be indemnified and saved harmless from all claims arising from accidents and damage of any character whatsoever caused by the negligence of such person, firm, or corporation engaged in the building business or by any other unfaithful, inadequate work done either by themselves or their agents or employees.
ARTICLE SIX: Criteria for Owners to Obtain Permits. For the purpose of this code, an owner physically doing the work themselves may be issued a permit upon the Building Official’s satisfaction that the owner is competent to perform the work for which the permit is requested and completion of a Building Affidavit. Any individual other than the owner doing the work on the property is considered a contractor and shall meet the requirements of a contractor and shall comply with all applicable laws, codes and ordinances. All inspection criteria shall be the same as for contractors in SECTION 110 INSPECTIONS. All other properties will be considered as commercial and subject to ARTICLE FOUR in this Ordinance.

ARTICLE SEVEN: Vehicular Signs. All trucks and similar vehicles used by contractors and subcontractors shall have signs on both sides of the body of said vehicle indicating the full name, address, and telephone number of the firm to which it belongs. Lettering may be any color in contrast to the color of the body, but letters identifying the firm name must be at least 1 ½ inches high.

ARTICLE EIGHT: CHAPTER 1 SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend SECTION 101 GENERAL to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 101.1 to read as follows:
101.1 Title. These regulations shall be known as the Building Code for the City of Mobile, hereinafter referred to as “this Code” or “the Technical Codes.”

Amend Paragraph 101.2 to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 101.2 Scope by adding exception to read as follows:
2. Historic structures designated by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings, including those listed on the Alabama Register of Landmark and Heritage or in the National Register of Historic Places; existing buildings undergoing repair; alteration or additions; and change of occupancy shall be permitted to comply with the International Existing Building Code.

Amend Paragraph 101.2.1 to read as follows:
101.2.1 Appendices. The following appendices shall be adopted:

A - Employee Qualifications
B - Board of Appeals
C - Group U – Agricultural Buildings
E - Supplementary Accessibility Requirements
F - Rodent Proofing
G - Flood-Resistant Construction
H - Signs
I - Patio Covers
J - Grading
Amend APPENDIX H: SIGNS to read as follows:

Amend SECTION H101 GENERAL as follow:

Amend H101.1 to read as follows:

H101.1 General. This section is to regulate the construction of new signs and reconstruction of existing signs support structures, braces and anchors so they may be erected in a safe manner. Where a permit is required, as provided in Chapter 1, construction documents shall be required. These documents shall show the dimensions, material and required details of construction, including loads, stresses and anchors.

H101.1.1
All signs shall be in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 64-11 adopted in a separate ordinance and enforced by Zoning.

Delete H101.2 Signs exempt from permits.

Amend SECTION H102 DEFINITIONS as follows:

Delete H102.1 as follows:

DISPLAY SIGN
ELECTRIC SIGN
PORTABLE SISPLAY SURFACE
PROJECTING SIGN
ROOF SIGN
SIGN
WALL SIGN

Amend SECTION H103 LOCATION to read as follows:

Delete SECTION H103 LOCATION in its entirety.

Amend SECTION H108 ANIMATED DEVICES to read as follows:

Delete SECTION H108 ANIMATED DEVICES in its entirety.

Amend SECTION H110 ROOF SIGNS to read as follows:

Delete SECTION H110 ROOF SIGNS in its entirety.

Amend SECTION H114 PORTABLE SIGNS to read as follows:

Delete SECTION H114 PORTABLE SIGNS in its entirety.

Amend SECTION H115 REFERNECED STANDARDS to read as follow:
Amend Paragraph 101.4 Referenced codes to read as follows:

Delete Paragraph 101.4.1 Gas in its entirety.

Amend Paragraph 101.4.6 Energy to read as follows:
101.4.6 Energy. Where referenced, the International Energy Conservation Code shall be the energy code adopted and enforced by the State of Alabama.

Amend Paragraph 101.4.7 International Existing Building Code to read as follows:
101.4.7 International Existing Building Code. The provision of the 2012 International Existing Building Code and adopted ordinances shall apply to existing building undergoing repairs and alteration.

Amend Paragraph 101.4.8 National Electrical Code to read as follows:
101.4.8 National Electrical Code. The provision of the 2014 National Electrical Code and adopted ordinances shall apply to new construction, existing building undergoing repairs and alteration.

Amend SECTION 105 PERMITS to read as follows:

Delete 105.1.1 Annual permit in its entirety.

Delete 105.1.2 Annual permit records in its entirety.

Amend 105.2 Work Exempt from permit to read as follows:

Delete 105.2 Work Exempt from permit sub-paragraphs 2, 12 under “Building”

Add Paragraph 105.3 Application for permit sub-paragraph 8 and 9 to read as follows:

8. Applicant must provide proper identification.

9. Applicant must verify ownership of property.

Amend SECTION 107 SUBMITTAL DOCUMENTS to read as follows:

Add Paragraph 107.3.4.1.2 Work requirement of registered design professional to read as follows:

107.3.4.1.2 Work requirements of registered design professional. All drawings, specifications, and accompanying data shall bear the name and address of the registered design professional. The registered design professional shall affix his/her official seal to said drawings, specifications and accompanying data for the erection, enlargement or alteration of any building. The provisions of this code shall not be held to deprive any Federal or State agency, or any applicable governing authority having jurisdiction, of any power or authority.
The registered design professional shall provide the Building Official a letter stating that he/she is the design professional in responsible charge on each project. The services of a registered design professional shall be required on all buildings except those herein exempted and no official of the City herein charged with the enforcement of laws, ordinances or regulations relating to the construction or alteration of buildings shall accept or approve any plans or specifications that are not so prepared. Upon completion of construction and prior to the issuance of a certificate of Occupancy the registered design professional shall submit to the building official a letter of certificate of substantial completion.

Exceptions:

1. Exemptions shall be in accordance with Code of Alabama 1975, Title 34, Chapter 2, Alabama Board of Architects Registration Act Rules and Regulation.

2. Exemption shall be in accordance with Code of Alabama 1975, Title 34, Chapter 11, and Alabama Board of Licensure for professional Engineers and professional Land Surveyors.

Amend SECTION 109 FEES to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 109.2 to read as follows:

109.2 Schedule of permit fees. On all buildings, structures, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems or alterations requiring a permit, a fee for each permit shall be paid as required at the time of filing application, in accordance with the “Building Codes Permit Fee Schedule Ordinance” as established by the City of Mobile and adopted in a separate ordinance.

Delete 109.6 Refund in its entirety:

Amend 109.6 Refund to read as follows:
Add 109.6 Refund – Refunds shall be in accordance with the “Building Codes Permit Fee Schedule Ordinance.”

Amend SECTION 110 INSPECTIONS to read as follows:
Delete 110.3.7 Energy efficiency inspections in its entirety.

Amend SECTION 111 CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY to read as follows:

Add Paragraph 111.2.1 to read as follows:

111.2.1 Certificate of Shell Completion. After the building official inspects the building or structure and finds no violations of this code or other laws that are enforced, the Building Official shall issue a certificate of completion for a shell building.

Delete SECTION 113 BOARD OF APPEALS in its entirety.

Add SECTION 113 BOARD OF APPEALS to read as follows:

113.1 General. In order to hear and decide appeals of orders, decisions or determinations made by the building official relative to the application and interpretation of this code, there shall be and is hereby created a Construction Board of Appeals, hereafter referred to as “The Board of Appeals”. The Board of Appeals shall be appointed by the Mayor.
Exception: The appeal and variance procedure for structures located in flood hazard areas shall be in accordance with the applicable sections of the City of Mobile’s “Storm Water Management and Flood Control Ordinance”, which is administered and enforced by the City of Mobile Engineering Department and adopted by a separate ordinance.

The building official for the Board of Appeals shall be defined as the code official having jurisdiction over each of the applicable codes adopted in separate ordinances by the City of Mobile.

113.2 Limitations on authority. An application for appeal shall be based on a claim that the true intent of this code or the rules legally adopted hereunder has been incorrectly interpreted; the provisions of this code do not fully apply; or an equally good or better form of construction is proposed. The Board of Appeals shall have no authority to waive requirements of this code.

113.3 Qualifications. The Board of Appeals shall consist of members who are qualified by experience and training to pass on matters pertaining to building construction and are not employees of the jurisdiction.

113.4 Application. The application for appeal shall be filed on a form obtained from the building official within 20 calendar days after a written decision by the building official.

113.5 Membership of the Board. The Board of Appeals shall consist of persons appointed by the Mayor as follows:

1. Two for four years; two for three years; two for two years; and three for one year.
2. Thereafter, each new member shall serve for four years or until a successor has been appointed.

The building official and city attorney or their designees shall be ex officio members of said Board of Appeals but shall have no vote on any matter before the board.

113.6 Members. The Board of Appeals shall consist of seven individuals who are not employees of the jurisdiction, one from each of the following disciplines:

1. Registered design professional with architectural experience or a State of Alabama licensed builder with at least ten years’ experience, five of which have been in responsible or supervisory level of work.

2. Licensed design professional with structural engineering experience.

3. Licensed design professional with mechanical engineering experience or a mechanical contractor with at least ten years’ experience, five of which have been in a responsible or supervisory level of work.

4. Licensed design professional with plumbing engineering experience or a plumbing contractor with at least ten years’ experience, five of which have been in a responsible or supervisory level of work.
5. Licensed design professional with electrical engineering experience or a contractor with at least ten years' experience, five of which have been in a responsible or supervisory level of work.

6. Licensed design professional with fire protection engineering experience or a fire protection contractor with at least ten years' experience, five of which have been in a responsible or supervisory level of work.

7. One who is qualified by experience and training to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance. If a representative is not available from the listed disciplines, the Mayor may appoint others who may be qualified by experience, education and training to pass upon appeals presented to the Board of Appeals.

113.7 Alternate members. The Mayor shall appoint two alternate members who shall be called by the board chairperson to hear appeals during the absence or disqualification of a member. Alternate members shall possess the qualifications required for board membership and shall be appointed for five years, or until a successor has been appointed.

113.8 Rules and procedures. The Board of Appeals is authorized to establish policies and procedures necessary to carry out its duties.

113.9 Chairperson. The Board of Appeals shall annually select one of its members to serve as chairperson.

113.10 Vice-Chairperson. The Board of Appeals shall annually select one of its members to serve as chairperson.

113.11 Disqualification of member. A member shall not hear an appeal in which that member has a personal, professional or financial interest.

113.12 Secretary. The Director of Urban Development shall designate a qualified clerk to serve as secretary to the Board of Appeals. The secretary shall not be a member of the Board of Appeals. The secretary shall file a detailed record of all proceedings in the office of the Director of Urban Development.

113.13 Compensation of Members. There shall be no compensation for members who serve on the Board of Appeals.

113.14 Ad-hoc Advisory Committees. For the sole purpose of deciding an appeal brought before the Board of Appeals, the Chairperson may empanel an Ad-hoc Committee consisting of one member of the Board of Appeals and two individuals who have specialized expertise relevant to the appeal. Those appointed committee members shall not have a vote in the matter of the appeal and are to serve in an advisory role. Committee members shall present their opinions individually to the full membership of the Board of Appeals. The Ad-hoc Committee shall be limited in scope of service to the single appeal and its existence shall terminate with the issuance of the decision on the appeal.

113.14 Ad-hoc Committees Members. Ad-hoc committees shall be composed of individuals who through education, experience, and licensing by the State of Alabama, are considered qualified to opine on the subject matter that constitutes the basis.
113.15 Notice of meeting. The Board of Appeals shall meet upon notice from the chairperson, within 10 business days of the filing of an appeal or at stated periodic meetings.

113.16 Open hearing. All hearings before the Board of Appeals shall be open to the public. The appellant, the appellant’s representative, the building official and any person whose interests are affected shall be given an opportunity to be heard. A quorum must be present for the Board of Appeals to conduct a hearing. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members.

113.17 Procedure. The Board of Appeals shall adopt and make available to the public through the secretary procedures under which a hearing will be conducted. The procedures shall not require compliance with strict rules of evidence, but shall mandate that only relevant information be received.

113.18 Board of Appeals decision. The board shall modify or reverse the decision of the building official by a concurring vote of a super majority of its members present.

113.19 Administration. The building official shall take immediate action in accordance with the decision of the board.

Amend SECTION 114 VIOLATIONS to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 114.4 to read as follows:

114.4 Violation penalties.

a) Any person who violates a provision of this code or fails to comply with any of the requirements thereof or who erects, constructs, alters or repairs a building or structure in violation of the approved construction documents or directive of the Building Official, or of a permit or certificate issued under the provisions of this code, shall be subject to penalties in accordance with Chapter 1 of the Mobile City Code. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

b) Violation of the provisions of the 2012 International Building Code (IBC) shall be subject to $250.00 fine unless otherwise listed below:
   1. Occupying building without Certificate of Occupancy     $500.00
   2. Working without proper license and certifications    $500.00
   3. Signage on all vehicles used by contractor.          $100.00
   4. Interference with Building Official                   $100.00

Amend SECTION 116 UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 116.3 to read as follows:

116.3 Notice. All buildings or structures which are unsafe, unsanitary, or not provided with adequate egress, or which constitutes a fire hazard, or are otherwise dangerous to human life, or which in relation to existing use constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, obsolescence, or abandonment, are severally in contempt of this Section, Unsafe Structures and Equipment. All such unsafe buildings are hereby declared illegal and shall be abated by repair and rehabilitation or by demolition in accordance with the following procedures:

   1. Whenever the Building Official shall find any building or structure or portion thereof to be unsafe, as defined in this Section, he shall, in accordance with established procedure for legal notice, as required by Alabama Act 140, 1971, as amended by Act 581, 1973, give the
1 mortgagee(s), regulatory boards, the person last assessing the property for state taxes, and the owner, agent, or person in control of such building or structure written notice setting forth the defects thereof. This notice shall require the owner within a stated time either to complete specified repairs or improvements, or to demolish and remove the building or structure or portion hereof.

2. If necessary, such notice shall also require the building, structure or portion thereof to be vacated forthwith and not re-occupied until the specified repairs and improvements are completed, inspected and approved by the Building Official. The Building Official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building a notice stating: THIS BUILDING IS UNSAFE AND ITS USE OR OCCUPANCY HAS BEEN PROHIBITED BY THE BUILDING OFFICIAL. Such notice shall remain posted until the required repairs are made or demolition is completed. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation or their agents, or other servants, to remove such notice without written permission of the Building Official, or for any person to enter the building except for the purpose of making the required repairs or of demolishing same.

3. The mortgagee(s), regulatory boards, last person assessing for state taxation, and if other than those listed, the owner, agent or person in control shall have the right, except in cases of emergency, to appeal from the decision of the Building Official, as provided hereinafter, and to appear before the Board of Adjustment and Appeals at a specified time and place to show cause why he should not comply with said notice.

4. In case the mortgagee(s), regulatory boards, last person assessing for state taxation, and the owner, agent or person in control cannot be found within the stated time limit, or, if such owner, agent or person in control shall fail, neglect or refuse to comply with notice to repair, rehabilitate or to demolish and remove said building or structure or portion thereof, the Building Official, after having ascertained the cost, shall cause such building or structure or portion thereof, to be secured or required to remain vacant in accord with Section 102.4.a.1, and/or demolished in accord with Alabama Act 140, 1971.

5. The decision of the Building Official shall be final in cases of emergency, which, in his/her opinion, involve imminent danger to human life or health. He shall promptly cause such building, structure or portion thereof to be made safe or cause its removal. For this purpose he may at once enter such structure or land on which it stands, or abutting land or structures, with assistance and at such cost as he may deem necessary. He may order the vacation of adjacent structures and may require the protection of the public by appropriate fence or such other means as may be necessary and for this purpose may close a public or private way.

6. Costs included under Paragraphs 103.4(a) and 103.4(a) (5) of Alabama Act 140, 1971 shall be charged to the owner of the premises involved and shall be collected in the manner provided by law.

7. The provisions of this code shall not be held to deprive any Federal or State agency, or any applicable governing authority having jurisdiction of any power or authority.

**ARTICLE NINE:** Chapter 2 Definitions of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

**Amend CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS to read as follows:**
Add Definitions to read as follows:

FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The area designed as a flood hazard area in accordance with the “Storm Water Management and Flood Control Ordinance” adopted and administered by the City of Mobile’s Engineering Department.

GROUND SIGN. A billboard or similar type of sign which is a supported by one or more uprights, poles or braces in or upon the ground other than a combination sign or pole sign, as defined by this code.

HISTORIC BUILDING. Any building or structure that is listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage or in the National Register of Historic Places; designated as a historic property under local or state designation; certified as a contributing resource within a National Register listed or locally designated historic district; or with an opinion or certification that the property is eligible to be listed in the Alabama Register or the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as a contributing building to a historic district by the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

POLE SIGN. A sign wholly supported by a sign structure in the ground.

ARTICLE TEN: Chapter 3 USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend Section 309 MERCANTILE GROUP M to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 309.1 to read as follows:

309.1 Mercantile Group M. Mercantile Group M occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure or a portion thereof, for the display and sale of merchandise and involves stocks of goods, wares or merchandise incidental to such purpose and accessible to the public. Mercantile occupancy shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
Department stores
Drug stores
Markets
Motor fuel-dispensing facilities Retail or wholesale stores
Sales rooms

Add Paragraph 309.1.1 to read as follows:

Exception. A facility such as above may be classified as Group B (Business) Occupancy when all for the following conditions are met:
1. Meets requirements of small quantity of goods and merchandise available for sale.
2. Occupancy load is 50 persons or less.
3. Meets all life safety requirements for Group B Occupancy.
4. The facility is existing and no building shall be greater than 2500 square feet.
ARTICLE ELEVEN: Chapter 16 STRUCTURAL DESIGN of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend SECTION 1609 WIND LOADS to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 1609.3 to read as follows:
1609.3 Basic Wind Speed. The ultimate design speed for the determination of the wind loads shall be in accordance with Section 1609 of the 2012 International Building Code, Ultimate Design Wind Speed Maps or in accordance with ASCE 7.
- Risk Category I, 145 mph 3-second gust
- Risk Category II, 159 mph 3-second gust
- Risk Category III and IV, 169 mph 3-second gust

Amend SECTION 1612 FLOOD LOADS to read as follows:

Add 1612.3 Establishment of Special Flood Hazard areas to read as follows:
1612.3 Establishment of Special Flood Hazard Areas. The flood hazard map shall include, at a minimum, areas of special flood hazard as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the most current adopted Flood Insurance Study entitled “The Flood Insurance Study for Mobile County, Alabama and incorporated areas”, as amended or revised with the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and related supporting data along with any revisions thereto. The adopted flood hazard map and supporting data are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this Section. The adopted “Storm Water Management and Flood Control Ordinance” flood hazard map and supporting data are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this Section. Where there is difference between the ordinances relating to flood hazard areas, flood hazard map, supporting data or code, the more stringent provision shall prevail.

The variance and appeal procedure shall be in accordance with the applicable sections of the adopted “Storm Water Management and Flood Control Ordinance” which is administered and enforced by the City of Mobile Engineering Department.

ARTICLE TWELVE: CHAPTER 23 WOOD of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend SECTION 2304 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 2304.11.6 Termite protection to read as follows:
2304.11.6 Termite protection. In geographical areas where hazard of termite damage is known to be very heavy, the floor framing shall be of naturally durable or preservative-treated wood, or provided with approved methods of termite protection. It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder to provide a receipt from a licensed and bonded pest control specialist to certify soil treatment and material used.
ARTICLE THIRTEEN: CHAPTER 34 EXISTING STRUCTURES of the 2012 International Building Code shall be amended as follows:

Amend Section 3412 COMPLIANCE ALTERNATIVES to read as follows:

Amend Paragraph 3412.2 to read as follows:

3412.2 Applicability. Structure existing prior to the effective date: See ARTICLE THREE of the Ordinance Adoption International Building Code, in which there is work involving additions, alterations or changes of occupancy shall be made to comply with the requirements of this section or the provisions in Sections 3403 through 3409. The provisions in Sections 3412.2.1 through 3412.2.5 shall apply to existing occupancies that will continue to be, or are proposed to be, in Group A, B, E, F, M, R, S and U. These provisions shall not apply to buildings with occupancies in Group H and I.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN: SEPARATION CLAUSE. If any section, subsection, 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 Mobile hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

ADOPTED: MAR 31 2015

City Clerk

March 31, 2015
Date