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Mayor Mike Duggan
City of Detroit

7.17.2017

Dear Mayor Duggan:

To our disappointment, we believe that there are recently completed buildings, and projects under construction, in Detroit that do not comply with IBC codes. We have agonized over this situation, made worse by the tragic events in the U.K. However, we believe that existing and in-process construction projects are a matter the City must address immediately.

For the last year+, Conquest -- a Warren based manufacturer of fire-rated HVAC systems -- has been working with national, state and local fire code officials to point out broad non-compliance with International Building Code (IBC) fire safety / life safety codes in fire-rated HVAC systems. The purpose of these fire-rated systems, which must be 2-hour-rated or more, is to manage hot gases (2000 degrees) so that occupants and first responders are safe within the specified time frame during a fire.

How could this happen?

- Engineers and code officials have focused on mechanical codes without considering the role of the *International Building Code (IBC)*. There has been a lack of awareness of key code provisions.
- Last summer Conquest conducted training, approved by State of Michigan Act 54, for the City of Detroit's code officials. Training emphasized the importance of using systems that are rated and tested for all conditions.
- This has been a revelation for code authorities, many of whom worry about professional exposure from past practices.

In Houston, for example, the response has been swift (letter attached). In Detroit, despite raised awareness of important IBC provisions, we have not seen a similar call to action. Contractors minimize concerns by relying on code officials who choose not to enforce, and the issue is punted at the expense of occupants.

As you know, recent events in the UK make clear that codes are not enough....they must be enforced.

The State of Florida -- which is ruled by the same code that prevails in Detroit -- issued a Declaration in January making it clear that *all fire rated duct systems need*



to be tested both inside and outside in the vertical and horizontal configuration.
Other states and cities are following Florida's lead.

We believe it is important that properly trained code authorities demand that engineers and contractors deliver the code compliant facilities that owners and the public pay for, and that first-responders and occupants rely upon. We are looking for assurance from you that enforcement will be taken seriously in Detroit, as it has been in other cities and states.

We are happy to provide detailed information that supports our code conclusions.

Thank you.

James D Miller

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