HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS, LICENSES AND PERMITS
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Date: December 2, 2010

To: New Home Builders

From: Robert J. Frances, P.E., Director R. J. Frances

Subject: Expiration Policy Regarding Permit Applications for One and Two-Family Dwellings after January 1, 2011

As of January 1, 2011, all new one- and two-family dwellings applied for after this date will be required to be provided with residential sprinklers in accordance with the 2009 International Residential Code, Section R313. We understand that there may be a rush of applications submitted prior to this January 1st date. At this time, I would like to clarify the policy of this Department in regards to the expiration of permits so there will be no confusion.

If you apply for your building permit before January 1, 2011 and it is approved and ready to be issued, this permit will expire after six (6) months of the "ready for issuance" date which is the date that all agencies have approved your plans and your permit is ready to be picked up. A permit must be picked up within that six (6) month timeframe or it will be cancelled and you will have to reapply for a new one when you are ready to proceed with construction. If you need to reapply, at that time, the house will be required to be provided with residential sprinklers in accordance with the 2009 International Residential Code, Section R313.

For permits applied for before January 1, 2011 and issued within six (6) months from the date of approval, if construction does not start within six (6) months of the issued date on the permit, your permit will be cancelled and a letter requesting an extension will be required to be sent to Ms. Avis Corbin. All reasonable requests will be granted a one time extension. If construction does not begin within the time period of the extension, no further extensions will be granted. A new permit will be required when you are ready to begin construction and must be provided with residential sprinklers in accordance with the 2009 International Residential Code, Section R313.

If you have any questions about the above policy, you can contact Donald Mock at 410-313-3948.

Copy: Mr. Donald Mock, Plan Review Chief, DILP
Ms. Avis Corbin, Licenses and Permits Chief, DILP
Mr. Sean Kelly, Inspections Chief, DILP
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