HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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LIONEL CAMARA JR. ACTING FIRE CHIEF

SHELDON K. HAO ACTING DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



September 1, 2021

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Members Committee on Public Information and Technology Honolulu City Council 530 South King Street, Room 202 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Fukunaga and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Questions Relating to Departmental Communication D-581-Honolulu Fire Department Three-Month Report Pursuant to Ordinances 19-4 and 21-14 Relating to Fire Safety

In response to your memorandum dated August 23, 2021, regarding the abovementioned subject, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) does not recommend any modifications to the scoring for specific categories on the existing building fire and life safety evaluation (LSE). The current scoring is based on original code requirements and not additions to code requirements.

The numerical totals in the bullet points provided in your memorandum do not accurately reflect the associated fire-related deficiency. Building counts may be duplicated as deficiencies may be combined. The combination of deficiencies provides information that may impact significant fire-related risk parameters and results on Table 8 of the building fire and LSE as determined by licensed design professionals.

For clarification, fire-related deficiencies are listed as 16 fire safety parameters in Table 4 of the building fire and LSE with varying scores primarily based on fire-related risk factors. These scores are determined by licensed design professionals.

Additionally, the HFD does not recommend additional tweaks to the law in an effort to maintain fire safety for the community and first responders. As reported by the HFD at the Committee on Public Infrastructure and Technology meeting on August 25, 2021, 239 high-rise fires have occurred since the Marco Polo building fire on July 14,

DEPT. COM. 618

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair and Members September 1, 2021 Page 2

2017. Of these 239 high-rise fires, 190 did not have automatic fire sprinklers throughout the building and resulted in two fatalities.

Should you have questions, please contact Acting Assistant Chief Reid Yoshida of our Support Services division at 723-7151 or ryoshida@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Camara Jr., Lionel E Date: 2021.09.01 08:22:56 -10'00' ME. Cop

LIONEL CAMARA JR. Acting Fire Chief

APPROVED:

Michael D. Formby Managing Director