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August 23, 2021

TO: Acting Fire Chief Lionel Camara, Jr.
Honolulu Fire Department

FROM: Councilmember Carol Fukunaga *mf*
Committee on Public Infrastructure and Technology

RE: 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*

Thank you for transmitting Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) Three-Month report relating to the implementation of *Ordinance 19-04* and *Ordinance 21-4* to the Council on August 10, 2021.

It was disheartening to find that, out of the 156 Life Safety Evaluations (LSE) completed within the most recent time frame, a total of only 8 buildings have passed. This means that only two buildings since April 2021 have met the conditions of the LSE process.

During the June 29th Public Infrastructure and Technology (PIT) Committee info briefing with several condo management, insurance, design and legal representatives, it has become apparent that most older buildings will fail the LSE process as a result of low scores on the vertical-openings category (*Ordinance 19-04, Exhibit A -Table 4, Fire Safety Parameter Values, item #6, Vertical Openings*).

As such, I would like the department to focus on the following points from your 3-month report during the August 25, 2021 informational briefing, and discuss whether modifications to scoring for specific categories are needed to enable more properties to achieve compliance:

- 308 buildings do not have the required operable fire alarm system
- 272 buildings do not have the required corridor door or doors that contain unprotected openings
- 182 buildings do not have smoke alarms in the dwelling units
- 149 buildings have four or more floors with vertical openings
- 48 buildings do not have corridor and dwelling unit separation walls or walls that were incomplete
- 156 buildings have two or more floors with vertical openings
- 45 buildings have two or more hazardous areas inside or outside a fire compartment

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LSE Criteria	Number of Buildings
No Fire Alarm System or Fire Alarm System was not operational or compliant or could be manually initiated to notify occupants without voice communication	7+19+25+29+30+45+67+86 = 308
Did not have the required corridor doors or doors that contained unprotected openings;	16+19+25+29+30+67+86 = 272
Did not have any smoke alarms in the dwelling units	16+19+25+55+67 = 182
Contained four or more floors with vertical openings	16+19+29+30+55 = 149
Did not have corridor and dwelling unit separation walls or walls that were incomplete	19+29 = 48
Two or more floors with vertical openings	25+45+86 = 156
Buildings had two or more hazardous areas inside or outside a fire compartment	45

As noted during the June 29th PIT Committee informational briefing, high costs for retrofits to residential condo properties constructed before 1975 present significant obstacles to condo associations and managers from meeting compliance requirements within the designated timeframe.

I am therefore interested in identifying areas in which Honolulu Fire Department and representatives of the residential condo associations impacted by the mandatory fire safety requirements may find common ground for additional tweaks to the law.

Thank you for your willingness to participate in this PIT Committee informational briefing. Please contact Senior Advisor Kimberly Ribellia at kribellia@honolulu.gov if you have additional questions.