

** Alderman **
Michele Smith
 Chicago's 43rd Ward



State Fire Marshal Demands Onerous New Requirements on Homes, Condos, Apartments and Businesses - It's Time to take Action

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Commissioner Gainer's Satellite Office Hours

This Friday, staff from Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer's office will be available at our office to offer onsite property tax assistance. Stop by to ensure that all eligible exemptions are being applied and to get answers for any of your questions. Click here for more information.

Friday, July 19
2:00pm-6:00pm
43rd Ward Office
2523 N. Halsted

Sheffield Garden Walk

Enjoy Sheffield Neighbor's
 45th annual Sheffield
 Garden Walk & Music Festival
 this weekend. Take
 tours of more than 80 gardens
 as well as guided architectural

Dear Friends,

I want to bring to your attention potentially expensive and unnecessary regulations being proposed by the State Fire Marshal. On Friday, June 28th, the State Fire Marshal [proposed rules](#) that would overrule current City requirements for sprinkler systems and other safety measures in high rises, both existing and future. I am strongly opposed to these proposals and I am asking for YOUR help in defeating them.

The proposed rules would require:

- **Retroactive installation of sprinklers in all pre-1975 high rise buildings, within 12 years, whether or not the building already underwent the extraordinarily expensive Life Safety Evaluation** mandated by the City of Chicago under the City's [Life Safety Ordinance](#);
- Sprinklers in all newly constructed homes;
- Sprinklers in existing homes and residential buildings where more than half of the building is renovated;
- Sprinklers in new religious buildings with seating for over 300 people;
- Sprinklers in restaurants with dancing, and all bars larger than 700 square feet;
- Fire alarm systems with manual pull stations that automatically notify the fire department in all apartment buildings more than three stories tall or more than ten units in size.

Not only would this be a tremendously expensive proposition, but it is an illegal violation of Chicago's "home rule" authority and totally unnecessary in light of

tours. Listen to live entertainment by some of Chicago's finest bands, enjoy food and drink, and stop by the Kids Corner. Click here for more information.

***Saturday and Sunday
July 20 and 21
noon-10:00pm
Webster and Sheffield***

Dearborn Garden Walk

This Sunday join the North Dearborn Association at their 55th annual Dearborn Garden Walk. Tour over 20 distinctive rear gardens, take a narrated architectural walking tour of historic Dearborn Street, and listen to live jazz and classical performances. Click here for more information.

***Sunday, July 21
Noon-5:00pm
The Latin School
45 W. North Blvd.***

LPMA Annual Sidewalk Sale This Weekend

This weekend, stop by the Lincoln Park Merchants Association's annual sidewalk sale. Save up to 75% on select items, listen to great music and more! Click here for additional information.

***Saturday, July 20
10:00am-6:00pm
Sunday, July 21
10:00am-5:00pm
Armitage/Halsted/Webster***

Etno Community Meeting

Join Etno owners and the Wrightwood Neighbor

the City's Life Safety Ordinance. Click [here](#) for a fact sheet.

Since 1975, the City of Chicago has required all newly-constructed high rise buildings to be equipped with sprinkler systems. The City also requires all pre-1975 hotels, motels, shelters, dormitories and other transient residential buildings to install sprinkler systems by the end of 2016.

Instead of requiring sprinkler instillation in pre-1975 buildings, the City enacted the Life Safety Ordinance. Each building must undergo a rigorous life safety evaluation, including upgrades such as fire-rated doors, communication systems, emergency lighting and smoke detectors. These upgrades were found to have a comparable effect on safety to sprinklers.

The City and my fellow aldermen are adamantly [opposed](#) to this unwarranted expansion of regulation. This could lead to **massive rent hikes or special assessments starting at an estimated \$25,000-\$35,000 per unit** and even more depending on whether installation requires asbestos removal or if the installation triggers American Disability Act upgrades.

If the proposed requirements could be shown to save lives in Chicago, perhaps these enormous costs could be justified. However, the proposed requirements duplicate fire safety measures that are not only already in place but have proven to save lives. The City of Chicago has some of the most comprehensive fire regulations in the nation, which have led to a dramatic reduction in fire deaths over the last 30 years. In 1980, 185 people died in fire related incidents in Chicago. In 2012, only 28 people died in fires, 2 of whom were high-rise residents. The Life Safety Ordinance already has a proven track record of making buildings safer.

These proposals would not only dramatically increase costs for high-rises, but also single family homeowners, apartment building owners and businesses. Click [here](#) for a list of affected high rises in the 43rd Ward. We must join together to fight this.

What Can We Do?

The Fire Marshal's proposed regulations must be reviewed and approved by a committee of state

Association at a community meeting to discuss Etno's proposed plans for expansion.

Tuesday, July 23rd
6:30pm-7:30pm
New Life Church
1110 W. Lill



43rd Ward Office
2523 N. Halsted
www.ward43.org

Office Hours:
Monday
9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday
9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Friday
9 a.m.-12 p.m. & 2 p.m.-6 p.m.

Contact us:
phone
773-348-9500
email
yourvoice@ward43.org

legislators known as the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). The general public has until **Monday, August 12th**, to submit comments to JCAR on the Fire Marshal's proposals. Here is a [sample letter](#) our office has prepared with room to add your own personal comments.

I have contacted every high rise building to ask that residents write in opposition to this ill-considered proposal. Please contact your building management, whether you are an owner or a renter, and make sure all your neighbors send letters as well. Join me in writing to the rule-making panel and state lawmakers to oppose adoption of the Office of the State Fire Marshal's proposed rules. Please write and fax letters to JCAR no later than August 12, 2013 to the co-chairs, State Senator Harmon and State Representative Schmitz at jcar@ilga.gov, by FAX to (217) 524-0567 or via U.S. mail to:

Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
700 Stratton Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Please also send your letters to each individual State Senator and Representative who serves on the Committee and to our local legislators, who would like to hear from you as well. Click [here](#) for a list.

Failure to convince our State legislators could result in tremendous hardship for our neighbors in the 43rd Ward and beyond.

Sincerely,

Michele Smith
43rd Ward Alderman

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