

Resolution No. 52

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT: Health & Safety

Re: Development of an IAFF Political, Legislative, and Public Safety Resource Toolkit Regarding Single-Stair Residential Building Proposals

1 WHEREAS, there is a growing effort throughout
2 North America to modify existing building code
3 requirements by allowing multifamily residential
4 buildings to be constructed with a single interior
5 Stairway serving as the primary means of egress; and

6 WHEREAS, for decades, fire and life safety codes
7 have generally required multiple means of egress in
8 residential occupancies to provide redundancy during
9 fires, smoke conditions, structural compromise,
10 medical emergencies, and other incidents; and

11 WHEREAS, single-stair residential building
12 designs may create a single point of failure where
13 occupant evacuation, firefighter access, rescue
14 operations, fire attack, emergency medical services
15 operations, and occupant movement occur within the
16 same confined vertical space; and

17 WHEREAS, concerns have been raised by
18 members of the fire service, fire protection engineers,
19 code officials, and public safety professionals
20 regarding potential impacts to occupant evacuation,
21 firefighter operations, smoke movement, emergency
22 access, and overall life safety in certain single-stair
23 residential building configurations; and

24 WHEREAS, affiliates and state associations are

25 increasingly being required to engage in legislative,
26 regulatory, and public education efforts regarding
27 single-stair residential building proposals without
28 consistent access to centralized research, operational
29 analysis, messaging resources, and educational
30 materials; and

31 WHEREAS, many of these proposals are being
32 advanced through legislative and policy initiatives
33 focused on housing development and density rather
34 than through the traditional consensus-based building
35 and fire code development process; and

36 WHEREAS, construction cost reductions
37 associated with eliminating secondary stairways may
38 result in increased long-term operational, inspection,
39 enforcement, emergency response, and public safety
40 costs borne by local governments and taxpayers; and

41 WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire
42 Fighters has a long history of advocating for fire
43 fighter safety, public safety, and evidence-based fire
44 and life safety standards; therefore be it

45 RESOLVED, That the International Association
46 of Fire Fighters dedicate appropriate staff resources
47 to develop and maintain a comprehensive political,
48 legislative, communications, and public safety
49 resource toolkit for use by state associations and
50 local affiliates regarding single-stair residential
51 building proposals; and be it further

52 RESOLVED, That such toolkit include, where
53 appropriate:

- 54 • Model legislative and policy talking points;
- 55 • Operational fire service impact analyses;

- 56 • Research summaries and data compilations;
57 • Comparative cost analyses evaluating claimed
58 Construction savings and potential public safety
59 impacts;
60 • Public education materials;
61 • Digital communications and social media assets;
62 • Testimony templates;
63 • Graphics and presentation materials;
64 • Educational videos and multimedia resources
65 explaining operational and life safety
66 considerations associated with single-stair
67 residential building designs; and be it further
68 RESOLVED, That the IAFF coordinate with fire
69 protection engineers, code officials, fire marshals,
70 subject matter experts, and operational fire service
71 personnel to ensure such materials reflect current
72 research, operational experience, and nationally
73 recognized standards; and be it further
74 RESOLVED, That the IAFF provide support and
75 assistance to state associations and local affiliates
76 evaluating or responding to legislation, regulations,
77 or code changes affecting established fire and life
78 safety protections in multifamily residential
79 buildings.

Submitted by: IAFF Local 0230, San Jose Fire Fighters

Cost Estimate: **None**

Annual or Perpetual Designation: **N/A**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

CONVENTION ACTION: