

## AGENDA

### BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS MARCH 7, 2007

#### LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM 8:30 A.M.

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### ITEM #1 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2007.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

**ITEM #2 – VARIANCE REQUEST. BASEMENT EXPERTS, 6688 GRANGER,** for relief of the 2003 Michigan Residential Code to finish a basement.

Petitioner is requesting relief of Section R 305 of the 2003 Michigan Residential Code to finish a basement. The plans submitted indicate the existing basement has a 7' height to the bottom of the joist and a dropped I-beam and ductwork with 6'-4" clear height. The proposed finish materials would lower the main ceiling height to 6'-10" and the drops under the I-beam and ducts to 6'-3".

**ITEM #3 – VARIANCE REQUEST. TROY GYMNASTICS, 1600 W. MAPLE,** for relief of Section 803.2 of the International Fire Code.

The petitioner operates a gymnastics facility in an existing building in the City of Troy. The petitioner has constructed a pit within the floor of the building that is to be used for a landing area from some of the gymnastics equipment. The pit is approximately 28' long, 16' wide and 6' deep. The top approximately 4' of this pit is filled with foam plastic cubes used to cushion the fall of the users of the apparatus. The bottom 2' feet of the pit has a trampoline-like suspension device to further cushion the impact. There are approximately 7000 of these 6" square foam cubes in the pits or approximately 1800 cubic feet of the foam.

Section 803.2 of the International Fire Code requires that exposed foam plastic material used in assembly buildings have a maximum rate of heat release of 100 kilowatts (kW) when tested in accordance with Underwriters Laboratory test standard #1975-96. Our inquiries with the manufacturer of the foam failed to show that the material complies with or has been tested in accordance with this standard.

The manufacturer has submitted information that they did their own test on the foam and that it passes the California Technical Bulletin 117 test for materials used in upholstered furniture. Part of that test criteria is that the average afterflame (the amount of time that the specimen continues to burn after the burner flame is removed) of 5 test specimens shall not be more than 5 seconds. It further requires that the maximum

afterflame time of any test specimen not exceed 10 seconds. Members of the Troy Fire Department did a field test on a sample of the material from the site and the results showed that the material did support flame, dripped flaming material and did not self extinguish for at least 30 seconds after the heat source was removed.

The petitioner is asking that this foam material be permitted to be used in the building.