



BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

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www.broward.org/codeappeals

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Board Attorney
Robert Ziegler, Esq.

Board Administrative Director
James DiPietro

July 11, 2008

Rick Dixon
Executive Director
Florida Building Commission
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Dear Mr. Dixon,

Please find enclosed a resolution of the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals concerning the adoption of the 2008 National Electric Code (NPFA70) and at the 2008 NEC for one-and-two family dwellings (NFPA70A). It is respectfully requested that a copy of the resolution be given to each member of the Florida Building Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James DiPietro".

James DiPietro,
Administrative Director

JDP/ck

c.c.: John R. Smith Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Chair
Raul L. Rodriguez, Chairman, The Florida Building Commission

Attachment (Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Resolution #08-01)

BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES & APPEALS

RESOLUTION #08-01

**RESOLUTION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY
BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS URGING
THE ADOPTION OF THE 2008 NATIONAL
ELECTRICAL CODE (NFPA 70) AND THE
2008 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE FOR
ONE- AND TWO- FAMILY DWELLINGS
(NFPA 70A) BY THE
FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the life, health, safety and welfare of the residents of Broward County, and of the State of Florida is the top priority of the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals and the Florida Building Commission, and

WHEREAS, The National Electrical Code is the Country's most universally adopted construction code, with more than a 100 year track record of providing electrical safety for millions of Americans through regular and thorough revisions that incorporate the latest in safety technology, and

WHEREAS, The 2008 edition of the NEC includes many updates, one of which is an expanded requirement for Arc Fault Circuit interrupters (AFCI's) an innovative home safety device designed to prevent home electrical fires, and

WHEREAS, Each year in the United States electrical fires take the lives of 485 people, injure 2,300 others, and destroy more than \$868 million in property damage, accordingly to data from the United States Fire Administration (USFA), and,

WHEREAS, The combination of two safety enhancements in the 2008 NEC, AFCI Protection and Tamper Resistant Receptacles, are of only modest cost and reliably estimated to be as follows:

Example A - 900 sq ft house \$160.18 or 900 sq ft dwelling unit
Or \$.18/sq ft

Example B - 2,100 sq ft house \$241.36 or
2,100 sq ft dwelling unit or \$.11 sq ft, and

WHEREAS, The adopting of the 2008 NEC is supported by the Electrical Safety Foundation International, the National Electrical Contractors Association, the National Association of State Fire Marshalls, and the United States Product Safety Commission (CPSC), among others, and

WHEREAS, The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission believes that the AFCI form of circuit breakers, if installed in all homes, could prevent more than 50 percent of electrical fires from occurring , and

WHEREAS, Florida Governor Charlie Crist has signed into law CS/HB697, effective 7/1/2008, authorizing the Florida Building Commission to adopt the 2008 NEC, with the following language included in the law:

- (f) Adoption of an updated edition of the National Electrical Code if the Commission finds that delay of implementing the updated edition causes undue hardship to stakeholders or otherwise threatens the public health, safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, that the Board urges the Florida Building Commission to adopt the 2008 NEC as a matter of top priority to alleviate threats to public health, safety and welfare as part of the 2008 Florida Building Code, "glitch" cycle amendments as authorized by CS/HB697, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should any unanticipated technical difficulties be determined in adopting the 2008 NEC at this time, that the Florida Building Commission instead direct a formal request to the State Legislature to adopt the NEC 2008 code as soon as is practical, but no later than July 1, 2009 as an urgent matter of public safety.

Adopted by a 13 to 0 vote of the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals on July 10, 2008.



John R. Smith, Chairman
Broward County Board of
Rules and Appeals