

ORDINANCE NO. _____
ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALO ALTO
REPEALING CHAPTER 16.16 OF THE PALO ALTO MUNICIPAL
CODE AND AMENDING TITLE 16 TO ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER
16.16, CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE, 2007 EDITION, AND
LOCAL AMENDMENTS

The Council of the City of Palo Alto does ORDAIN as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 16.16 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code is hereby amended by repealing in its entirety and adopting a new Chapter 16.16 to read as follows:

16.16 ELECTRICAL CODE

16.16.010 2007 California Electrical Code adopted.

The California Electrical Code, 2007 Edition, Title 24, Part 3 of the California Code of Regulations, together with those omissions, amendments, exceptions and additions thereto, are adopted and hereby incorporated into this Chapter by reference and made a part hereof the same as if fully set forth herein. One copy of the California Electrical Code, 2007 edition, has been filed for use and examination of the public in the Office of the Building Official of the City of Palo Alto.

16.16.020 Cross - References to California Electrical Code

The provisions of this Chapter contain cross-references to the provisions of the California Electrical Code, 2007 edition, in order to facilitate reference and comparison to those provisions.

16.16.030 Violations -- Penalties.

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of this electrical code is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished as provided in subsection (a) of Section 1.08.010 of this code. Each separate day or any portion thereof during which any violation of this chapter occurs or continues constitutes a separate offense, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable as provided in this section.

16.16.040 Enforcement -- Citation authority.

The following designated employee positions may enforce the provisions of this chapter by the issuance of citations. Persons employed in such positions are authorized to exercise the authority provided in Penal Code section 836.5 and are authorized to issue citations for violations of this chapter. The designated employee positions are: (1) chief building official; (2) assistant building official; (3) supervisor, building inspection; and (4) code enforcement officer.

16.16.050 Local Amendments

The provisions of this Chapter shall constitute local amendments to the cross-referenced provisions

of the California Electrical Code, 2007 Edition, and shall be deemed to replace the cross-referenced sections of said Code with the respective provisions set forth in this Chapter.

16.16.060 Sub-paragraphs (D), (E) & (F) added to Subsection 300.1 – Wiring Methods, General Requirements.

Sub-paragraphs (D), (E) & (F) are added to Subsection 300.1 of the California Electrical Code to read:

(D) All buildings and structures (other than single or two family dwellings, apartment buildings of wood frame construction not exceeding three stories in height and accessory buildings thereto) shall be wired in an approved type raceway or metallic covered cable permitted by this code.

(E) Binding screws and self-locking wire terminals of receptacles and switches shall not be substituted for splicing devices or splices in conductors.

(F) That portion of a building to be remodeled shall be wired in accordance with this code and all other areas of the building shall be made safe as may be required by the building official.

SECTION 2. Findings and declarations. The Council adopts the findings for local amendments to the California Electrical Code, 2007 Edition, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 3. The Council finds that this project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), pursuant to Section 15061 of the CEQA Guidelines, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the amendments herein adopted will have a significant effect on the environment.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be effective on the thirty-first day after the date of its adoption.

INTRODUCED:

PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

NOT YET APPROVED

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

Mayor

APPROVED:

City Manager

Director of Utilities

Director of Administrative
Services

Exhibit A
FINDINGS FOR LOCAL AMENDMENTS
TO CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE

Section 17958 of the California Health and Safety Code provides that the City may make changes to the provisions in the uniform codes that are published in the California Building Standards Code. Sections 17958.5 and 17958.7 of the Health and Safety Code require that for each proposed local change to those provisions in the uniform codes and published in the California Building Standards Code which regulate buildings used for human habitation, the City Council must make findings supporting its determination that each such local change is reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

Local building regulations having the effect of amending the uniform codes, which were adopted by the City prior to November 23, 1970, were unaffected by the regulations of Sections 17958, 17958.5 and 17958.7 of the Health and Safety Code. Therefore, amendments to the uniform codes which were adopted by the City Council prior to November 23, 1970, and have been carried through from year to year without significant change, need no required findings. Also, amendments to provisions not regulating buildings used for human habitation do not require findings.

The findings made by the Council of the City of Palo Alto in Ordinance 2600 adopting the 1968 National Electrical Code and the findings adopted by the Council in Ordinance 2811 adopting the 1971 National Electrical Code, have been reaffirmed with each successive adoption of the National Electrical Code (California Electrical Code) as published in the California Building Standards Code, and are hereby reaffirmed and expressly made applicable to such changes as are hereby adopted, readopted, amended or carried through without significant change. New amendments or modifications to the California Electrical Code have been made for administrative consistency only, and do not require findings pursuant to California Health and Safety Code section 17958.7.