



NEWS **RELEASE**

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BUILDING CODES DIVISION SETTLES CERTIFICATION ISSUES WITH LOCAL OFFICIAL

(Salem) The Oregon Building Codes Division has reached agreement with Garth King, former building official for the City of Silverton, to resolve issues that arose when King approved certain inspections without appropriate state certification.

Building contractors, plumbers and electricians must be licensed to work in Oregon, and most of the work they do must be permitted and inspected either by the state or by the local building department in the jurisdictions where they work. Building officials and inspectors, in turn, must be trained and qualified to perform the level and type of work they do, with certifications required in order to conduct or approve electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and structural inspections.

The agreement with King brings to a close developments that began when BCD responded to complaints filed by a contractor who alleged that unqualified City of Silverton building department staff had conducted and approved certain building inspections.

King was certified to perform and approve structural and mechanical inspections, but also gave his administrative sign-off as building official on four plumbing inspections for which he was not certified.

The city took action to prevent any repetition of this kind of problem within its jurisdiction, and BCD began a dialogue with King to resolve the related certification issues.

Under the agreement, King will place his certification as a building official on inactive status for twelve months, and will complete additional training before reactivating it. He will also complete training and take the state's examination to be certified as a one- and two-family dwelling plumbing inspector. He will voluntarily refrain from seeking to obtain an electrical certification during this period. King remains authorized to function as a state-certified structural and mechanical inspector.

"We believe this is an appropriate agreement and appreciate Mr. King's cooperation throughout this process," BCD Administrator Joe Brewer said. "While we're fortunate that the violations in this specific case did not result in life safety hazards, it's important to ensure that both the public and the building industry can have confidence in the building inspection process."

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