

## Code Change Fact Sheet

This fact sheet must be attached to any ordinance in Legistar that is proposing to amend Columbus City Codes. It should also be circulated among Councilmember offices prior to submitting an ordinance in Legistar.

It is also a standard practice that Council will not consider any code changes that have not been previously reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office. Drafters should ensure that the City Attorney's office has approved a final version of a proposed code change prior to circulating this fact sheet to Councilmember offices.

**Drafter:** Mike Root

**Department:** DOW

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**Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:**

1105.038 – Water metering systems

**What is the overall purpose of this code change?** *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*



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Adding the term “water service lines, including but not limited to fire service lines” to the Director’s authority over metering systems. Ohio requires that every public water system have a cross-connection elimination program which requires customers install backflow prevention devices in specific instances. Those backflow devices have a small meter on the side of it called a “detector check” which measures the low flow through those backflow devices. For customers with Fire-only lines, the City has allowed use of a backflow device with this detector check meter—instead of a traditional meter—to minimize the cost impact to the customer to meet these regulations as these fire-only lines should only have very limited usage. The customer’s bill for the water used through that fire-only line is based on the readings through the detector check meters. The meters may lose accuracy or malfunction over time. The Code change will allow Columbus Water & Power to accept responsibility for that detector check meter on the side of a backflow device.

Having the City own the revenue-generating detector check meter aligns with the City’s responsibility to install, read, maintain, and replace metering systems. This update is expected to improve accountability and guarantee that the detector check meters are adequately maintained, thereby ensuring bills are accurate and the metering system continues to meet specifications.

**Why is this code change needed?** *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*

To modify the text to specifically include water service lines and fire service lines so that the City can better meet its responsibilities regarding metering systems.

**What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?**

Currently, the Columbus City Code is not as clear as it could be regarding the scope of the metering systems.

**Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?** *These may be direct or indirect, and please also note any long-term impact.*



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Providing the detector check meter to customers if they already have an existing meter.

**Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?**

This will be discussed at the December BSRC meeting.

**Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date?**

Effective date would be with the ordinance.



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