

CITY COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

FROM: The Office of the City Manager **DATE:** March 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 3681 temporarily suspending the fees imposed under Appendix A, Fee Schedule, Chapter 98, of the City of North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances, for the issuance of permits and building inspections for home repairs related to the February 15, 2021 Tarrant County Declaration of Disaster.

PRESENTER: Clayton Comstock, Director of Planning

SUMMARY:

February's winter storms wreaked havoc on the residents and businesses of our community. Significant damage to residents' homes were reported during the storm, including burst water pipes and irrigation lines, collapsed roofs and ceilings, fire damage, and busted water heaters and furnaces. The City encourages homeowners to seek permits for repairs to ensure the work is inspected by the City's building inspectors.

To alleviate the financial impact to North Richland Hills homeowners and encourage use of courtesy inspections by our qualified professional building inspectors, the City of North Richland Hills is proposing to temporarily waive building permit and inspection fees related to the February 2021 winter storm event for 90 days.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The following fees found in Appendix A, Fee Schedule, Chapter 98 of the City of North Richland Hills Code of Ordinances are proposed to be temporarily waived for a period of 90 days effective as of February 15, 2021, for any repair to a home or business for damage caused by the February 2021 winter storm:

- (a) The \$43 flat fee for plumbing for a residential or commercial water line repair (Appendix A, Chapter 98, Table 4, Category 6, Line 14);
- (b) The \$39 flat fee for simple repair to a home that suffered water damage such as replacement of sheetrock (Appendix A, Chapter 98, Table 1(b), Line 3);
- (c) The \$39 base fee for larger repairs to a home that suffered water damage involving sheetrock replacement and reinstallation of electrical, mechanical and/or plumbing (Appendix A, Chapter 98, Table 1(b), Line 4);



- (d) The \$39 base fee for major repairs to a home that suffered severe water damage involving more than 25% of the home's building area (Appendix A, Chapter 98, Table 1(b), Line 5);
- (e) A \$39 permit fee discount applied to repairs of a commercial buildings (Appendix A, Chapter 98, Table 1(a)).

The Chief Building Official shall be authorized to waive or refund fees not specifically listed above if the permit is necessary to repair damage to property caused by the February 2021 winter storm event.

This waiver of fees is proposed to be applied to all winter storm related permits and inspections applied for between February 15, 2021 and May 14, 2021 ("suspension period"). All permits and inspections applied for after May 14, 2021 would revert to paying the full permit fee. Refunds for fees already paid during the suspension period would also be approved to be processed.

The Chief Building Official, or his designee, will determine if the requested building permit is a result of damage caused by the February 2021 winter storm event.

Fee waivers and refunds are intended for the benefit of the North Richland Hills homeowner, tenant, or property owner, not the contractor.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Ordinance 3681.