



Department of Building and Zoning Services

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2016

Contact: Tony Celebrezze

Department of Building and Zoning Services

614-645-6769 (direct), ajcelebrezze@columbus.gov

Two New Services for Developers Announced by Columbus Building and Zoning Services Department

(Columbus – April 27, 2016) - The City of Columbus Department of Building and Zoning Services today announced two new services in response to requests by the local development industry. The first creates an expedited afterhours review process for building plans and the second allows same day or walk-thru permitting for specific types of commercial alterations such as tenant finishes.

“The industry has asked for the availability of an accelerated timeline for certain projects with narrow windows of opportunity,” said Scott Messer, Director of the Department of Building and Zoning Services. “They have also voiced an interest in same day permits for simple alterations to commercial spaces that do not involve substantial zoning issues or site development. These two new services are the result of listening to the industry and continuously working to help build a better city.”

The afterhours plan review process will allow commercial and multifamily building plans to be reviewed outside of business hours in an expedited manner. So while a normal plan review may take up to 30 days, applicants who take advantage of this new process can get their plans reviewed without any delay. All correspondence with the applicant will be via e-mail and responses to plan review comments will also be examined in an expedited manner. This new afterhours plan review service will be available beginning May 1, 2016.

The second new service which allows for a same day walk-thru process gives applicants the opportunity to obtain same day permits for certain qualifying commercial alterations that do involve significant zoning or site plan issues. The application must include all signed mechanical, electrical and plumbing permit applications. This walk-thru process will save an applicant significant valuable time obtaining permits that alter or repair single tenant commercial spaces. The success of this process is based on the applicant’s ability to complete the Department’s walk-thru checklist, which is available on its web site www.columbus.gov/bzs. The new walk-thru process will be available beginning June 1, 2016. Walk-thru

reviews will be conducted by appointment only on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1:00 and 3:15 PM. Applicants can call 614-645-7562 to reserve an appointment.

Both of the new services offered by Building and Zoning Services are subject to additional fees to take advantage of the shortened plan review timelines as well as per hour charges for the actual review time.

The Department of Building and Zoning Services supports the safety and quality of life for City of Columbus residents and visitors alike. Helping to build a better city through the processes of reviews, permitting, inspections, zoning and engineering ensures proper land development and promotes high-quality design standards.