

## Benjamin Wallace - Notes of meeting with Fire Chief

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**From:** "Douglas Richmond Architects" <drarch@gwi.net>  
**To:** "A. James Ross" <engelhardt1@roadrunner.com>, "Bill Noone" <billyroc...>  
**Date:** 11/7/2011 2:49 PM  
**Subject:** Notes of meeting with Fire Chief  
**CC:** "Frederick LaMontagne" <fjl@portlandmaine.gov>

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### MASONIC TEMPLE

#### MEMO

**Re:** Meeting with Chief Fred LaMontagne, Portland Fire Dept.  
**Meeting date:** 31 October 2011, 4:30-5:15 p.m.  
**To:** Masonic Trustees of Portland  
**cc:** Chief Fred LaMontagne, PFD  
**From:** Robert Kahn

Chief LaMontagne and I discussed events held at the Masonic Temple, and the MTP adherence to our understanding of life safety codes with respect to Masonic uses and non-Masonic uses. The Chief was aware of our concerns and efforts to maintain life safety and our intent to make life safety improvements as written in the Masonic Temple's *Building Code Review and Analysis*, 8 October 2010.

Going forward the Chief requests:

- The MTP develop a set of parameters, in a written form, that is completed by the Client (renter) for each event. The Portland Fire Dept. (PFD) does not need to review each form. The PFD does need to review any "one-off" events that may be considered for the Masonic Temple. Rock concerts, and events where alcohol is central to the program, should not be considered for the Temple.
- The *Building Code Review and Analysis* document should be used as a guide for occupancy counts.
- Chris Pirone, PFD, should be contacted in the future.

The Chief provided a 30 January 2008 clarification from the State Fire Marshal, *Existing Assemblies Policy for NFPA #101, 2006 edition*. This one-page document allows the local fire department to consider latitude for "private clubs" (specifically stating "Masonic Lodges") for full life safety implementation. Importantly, the specific facility cannot have a "pattern or history toward overcrowded conditions." Each building will be judged on a case-by-case basis and, "where there is a history of violation, there will be no grace period..." The building management should be aware of deficiencies and work with local officials to compensate for the deficiencies.