



January 29, 2021

**RE: HB0451 entitled "Real Property - Residential Rental Property Inspection - Remote Video Inspection"**

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Shaker Heights implemented an RVI program in March of 2020 in response to the pandemic for both permit inspections as well as rental and Point of Sale (POS) inspections. The Governor of Ohio determined that the building construction industry was an essential service that needed to be provided to the residents, business owners and contractors in Ohio.

In an attempt to maintain uninterrupted service to the residents of Shaker Heights, we adopted Remote Video Inspections utilizing the application, Google Duo. It is free application that is supported by Windows, Android, and Apple products. Inspectors are able to conduct inspections from a web browser on a computer.

By using RVI, the Building Department was able to perform our field inspections in both residential and commercial construction projects all the while minimizing our contact with contractors and homeowners. This decision ensured that the building trades would continue to operate and minimized health risk to all parties involved.

To date, thousands of inspections have been performed with positive response from our residents and contractors. Homeowners appreciate our new practice as way to protect them from unnecessary contact and as well protecting our employees.

In practice, the use of RVI has increased the productivity of the department by eliminating drive time and reducing operating expenses. The inspectors work from home, reducing their travel to work and contact with other municipal workers. The RVI system has been most successful and will like remain an important tool for building code enforcement in Shaker Heights, even after the pandemic.

We have reviewed the proposed HB0451 Real Property- Residential Rental Property Inspection- Remote Video Inspection, and strongly support its adoption.

Sincerely,

Paul Konys, Building Official

Kyle Krewson, Director of Building and Housing

**CITY OF SHAKER HEIGHTS** | *Building and Housing*

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