

# SPRINKLER FITTERS AND APPRENTICES UNION

**LOCAL NO. 281, AFL-CIO**

of the **UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING AND PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

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To: Chicago Media Contacts

From: Sprinkler Fitters Local Union 281 U.A. and NIFSI Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Initiative

Re: Recent High-Rise fire 4850 South Lake Park Ave in Kenwood, Chicago

**Kenwood Fire Death, Injuries and Displacement could have been prevented if the building had fire sprinkler protection.**

Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 The death of the Senior Occupant, the eight injuries, and 130 displacements in the Kenwood fire could have been prevented if the high rise had been protected with a fire sprinkler system according to Local #281 U.A. and NIFSI.

Bryan LaRoche Business Manager for Local 281 said the building had passed the Chicago version of the Nationally accepted NFPA Life Safety Evaluation but that Chicago had modified that standard so that points for fire sprinklers were greatly reduced, allowing buildings to pass without fire sprinklers.

If a fire starts in a room with automatic fire sprinklers the sprinkler closest to the fire activates and immediately starts controlling the fire preventing deadly flashover and, in this case, there would be no fire pushing outside and lapping up the outside of the building says LaRoche.

This building, like hundreds of Chicago High Rises without fire sprinklers already has the infrastructure in place for a complete fire sprinkler system to be installed.

There is an underground water supply, a fire standpipe system in the stairways, and a fire pump to ensure there is water at the highest story.

You would only have to install cross main piping in the hallways from the standpipe feeds to get fire sprinkler protection for each tenant space.

As a plus the building common elements would receive a fire insurance discount and the tenants would also receive a discount on their fire insurance besides the greatly improved life safety.

We call on Chicago elected officials, community, and special interest groups to work together by adopting and enforcing codes to make Chicago fire safe!

Contact: 1-708-710-1448

Bryan LaRoche – Business Manager/Financial Secretary - Local 281 Sprinkler Fitters Union