

Uniform Construction Code

Millcreek Township Encourages Inter-Municipal Approach to Administration

The Pennsylvania Construction Code Act provides that every Pennsylvania municipality must decide whether it will or will not administer and enforce the Uniform Construction Code.

Millcreek Township did not lobby for passage of the Construction Code Act. Millcreek, like all other municipalities, has known since 1999 that it would have to decide whether it will administer the UCC and, if it decides to administer the UCC, how to meet those responsibilities.

With a population of over 52,000 and so much development occurring, Millcreek's Supervisors recognized early on that the public safety and welfare demands that Millcreek adopt, administer and enforce the Uniform Construction Code.

The Construction Code Act allows municipalities to join together in an inter-municipal system. Soon after the Act's passage, Millcreek's Supervisors called for efforts to establish an inter-municipal process - one in which codes and procedures could be consistent. Adoption of a uniform code governing construction became the opportunity to work toward a more uniform approach to regulation.

In 2002, Supervisors and employees of Millcreek Township began work with colleagues from Fairview Township and Harborcreek Township to develop this inter-municipal system. Each Township quickly agreed on basic objectives to be served in the system -

- ▶ The minimum number of inspections required under the UCC will be required
- ▶ Certain construction standards unique to our weather conditions should be adopted
- ▶ The municipalities should adopt uniform ordinances, regulations and procedures
- ▶ The municipalities would retain a single firm to provide UCC services
- ▶ By joining together and avoiding excessive requirements, keep costs to a minimum

In April 2004, the Townships advertised their joint request for proposals from firms to provide plan review, inspection and other UCC services. Millcreek, Fairview and Harborcreek have invited other Erie County municipalities to join in the inter-municipal system. After review of proposals received, Millcreek, Harborcreek and Fairview in June 2004 awarded a contract to Building Inspection Underwriter of Pennsylvania, Inc. to provide building code official and related services to administer and enforce the Construction Code.