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MIAMI-DADE DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES ANNOUNCES A REDUCED PERMIT FEE TO CHANGE EXISTING 120 VOLT POOL LIGHTS TO A SAFER LOW VOLTAGE OPTION

(MIAMI, December 8, 2014) The Miami-Dade County Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources (RER) Building Division has unveiled a new reduced permit fee of \$65 to help prevent serious injuries caused by faulty underwater pool lights.

“Miami-Dade County has taken an important step to help prevent additional deaths or injuries from electrocutions due to a faulty underwater pool light. I encourage residents to take advantage of the reduced permit fee option and remove or change existing 120 volt pool lights to a safer low voltage pool light,” said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez.

On October 7, 2014, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed the Swimming Pool Light Ordinance 14-95, sponsored by Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson. The ordinance modifies two sections of the Florida Building Code, which apply to underwater pool lights, and provides residential pools the same level of lighting requirements and protection that are applicable to commercial pools. The ordinance also requires that a low voltage light be used for all new residential pools which include an underwater pool light.

Existing residential pools are also required to meet the new low voltage requirements at the time of repair or alteration of an existing pool light. Additionally, the ordinance allows the option to not have an underwater pool light. “With so many families in our community enjoying the benefit of having pools, it is very important that they are as safe as possible,” said Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.

A permit application must be submitted [online](#) by a licensed and insured electrical contractor to remove an existing pool light or change it to a low voltage light at residences located in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County. The permit fee was reduced from \$130 to \$65 to help with the cost. There is also a **No Cost Option** by simply disconnecting the power to the underwater pool light at the electrical panel.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 60 electrocutions and nearly 50 serious electrical shocks have occurred in and around swimming pools since 1990. Thirteen of the 60 electrocutions were from faulty underwater pool lights.

For more information, go to www.miamidade.gov/building or call 786-315-2100.

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It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The facility is accessible. For sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices or materials in accessible format, please call at least five days in advance.

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