

get it TOGETHER



*A coalition of
public and
private*

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Contact:

Marco Giamberardino
202-326-6356
mgiamber@boma.org

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“get it TOGETHER” Coalition Shifts Focus

Washington, D.C. – “get it TOGETHER” (GIT) – a coalition of public and private organizations involved in the design, construction, management and ownership of buildings – today announced it has realigned its mission and will focus on two specific goals: 1) to actively work with the major model code developers to make their respective building codes consistent and compatible; and, 2) to actively support the adoption of a coordinated set of model codes and standards at the state and local level.

This realignment is a departure from the original mission of GIT, which was to encourage the two principle code and standards development organizations -- the International Code Council (ICC) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – to work together to produce a coordinated set of model codes and standards for the built environment.

“Despite our best efforts, ‘get it TOGETHER’ recognizes that the ICC and NFPA have irreconcilable differences when it comes to jointly creating one set of building codes,” said Richard D. Baier, president of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International and managing director of CB Richard Ellis in Kansas City, Mo. “GIT members still support and want a single set of codes, and GIT will continue to pursue this. Nevertheless, we have an opportunity to produce a more immediate impact on the current code system by focusing our efforts.”

The “get it TOGETHER” coalition has long encouraged the ICC and NFPA to come together to establish one set of building codes. GIT fears that without a unified set of codes, a patchwork quilt of competing and conflicting codes will emerge, causing confusion and inconsistency in code enforcement and interpretation and unnecessarily increasing costs to consumers with no benefit. The coalition has made several attempts to bring the two groups together, including offering a mediator to help the groups come to an amicable agreement and offering to fund the mediation, as well as holding informational events at the ICC’s and NFPA’s annual meetings, to no avail. Consequently, since the two groups have failed to come to an agreement, GIT’s membership jointly chose to work within the major model code development organizations and advance their cause through participation in the state and local code adoption processes.

Founded in 1999, “get it TOGETHER” is a coalition of public and private organizations in the design, construction and building industries, whose constituencies rely upon model codes and standards. The coalition supports development and adoption of one single coordinated set of model codes and standards for the built environment. For more information, visit “get it TOGETHER’s” Web site at <http://www.boma.org/gitcoalition.htm>.

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