

**AN ORDINANCE BY
COUNCILMEMBER JIM MADDOX**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX C, CHAPTER 1, SECTIONS 102-105, 1204 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, BY ADDING A NEW SECTION (1206), ENTITLED "INSTALLATION OF RAIN SENSOR SHUT-OFF SWITCH", FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING ANY EXISTING AMBIGUITY IN THE CODE SECTION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 6 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A § 12-5-6), relating to the installation and definition of rain sensor shut-off switches, states that on and after January 1, 2005, no person shall install within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District area created under Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A § 12-5-570 *et seq.*), any landscape irrigation system equipped with an electronic controller that does not have a rain sensor shut-off switch; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta ("City") sits in the center of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District area; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that water is a vital resource, essential to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents and the 1.5 million persons reliant upon the City for drinking water; and

WHEREAS, a rain sensor shut-off switch detects and measures rainfall and turns off the irrigation system when precipitation has fallen thereby preventing over-watering and assisting with conserving water by reducing water that would be wasted if a lawn was being irrigated and rained on at the same time; and

WHEREAS, a rain sensor shut-off device equipped with a temperature sensor device will ensure that the automatic sprinkler system turns off when temperatures reach thirty-two (32) degrees Fahrenheit or below thereby keeping landscapes from becoming frozen due to irrigation in these conditions; and

WHEREAS, amending the City's Plumbing Code so as to require that all new irrigation systems have a rain sensor shut-off mechanism, will be more inclusive than state law in that it would also require landscape irrigation systems installed on golf courses and systems dependent on nonpublic water sources to install rain sensor shut-off switches.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, HEREBY ORDAINS as follows:

Section 1: That Appendix C, Chapter 1 of the Land Development Code of the City of Atlanta, is hereby by amended by adding a new section 1206 to be read as follows:

(1206) Installation of Rain Sensor Shut-Off Switch. All residential and commercial automatic sprinkler systems installed for the purpose of landscape irrigation shall be equipped with a functioning rain sensor/shut-off device that ensures the automatic irrigation system will not operate during times of precipitation, or when the temperature reaches 32 degrees Fahrenheit (0 degrees Celsius) or below.

Section 2: That all existing ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict this ordinance shall be waived to the extent of the conflict.