

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	24665	Agenda Number	117.
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Meeting Date:	5/23/2013	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing City Code Chapter 25-12, Article 7 to adopt the 2012 International Fire Code and local amendments.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Carl Wren, 974-0191.
Boards and Commission Action:	February 7, 2013 – Unanimously approved by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals on a 5-0 vote. February 20, 2013 – Approved by the Environmental Board on a 5-2 vote with Board Member Bob Anderson off the dais and Board Member Jennifer Walker absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The purpose of the fire code is to establish minimum requirements for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings or other structures and premises and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations. Council is requested to consider approval of an ordinance adopting the 2012 International Fire Code with local amendments.

The City of Austin first adopted a nationally published and recognized fire code separate from the building code when City Council adopted the 1973 Uniform Fire Code on August 22, 1974. Subsequently the City adopted new editions of the Uniform Fire Code until the International Conference of Building Officials and the Western Fire Chief's Association ceased publishing it with the 1997 edition. The 1997 Uniform Fire Code was adopted by Council on

April 6, 2000. The currently adopted fire code, which is the 2009 International Fire Code, was approved on June 24, 2010 and was effective on October 1, 2010.

The proposed ordinance establishes local amendments to address particular installations and establishes more stringent standards as recommended by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals and by the Environmental Board.

Highlights of the new provisions included in the draft ordinance are as follows:

- Adds language to clarify the method for handling conflicts, if any, within the City's technical codes and clarifies that permitting for new construction is coordinated by the Planning and Development Review Department;
- Provides for annual operational permits for fire protection systems such as fire alarm and sprinkler systems;
- Provides for new permits that are needed to allow the new "Special Events Section" to adequately address carnivals, fairs, exhibits and trade shows;
- Provides clarification that, like fire emergencies, all emergency situations involving hazardous materials are required to be reported to the Fire Department;
- A local amendment to reflect a cooperative process between AFD and the Transportation Department for addressing the design and installation of traffic calming devices;
- Provides more flexibility for designing fire sprinkler systems to protect certain institutional occupancies;
- Adds requirements for additional hose connections at the top of certain standpipe systems to facilitate proper acceptance testing procedures;
- Clarification that the local amendment for designing fire alarm systems in day care occupancies also applies to day cares that are classified as educational occupancies;
- Specific language on placard required to assist emergency responders in utilizing fire department connections on commercial and multifamily buildings;
- Added language addressing new State of Texas requirements for maintenance and operation of fuel dispensing equipment;
- Clarification that underground storage tanks for hazardous materials such as fuels cannot be under or impacted by structural loads from buildings; and
- Carbon monoxide alarms are required in institutional and residential buildings/occupancies where there is a possibility of exposure due to fuel fired equipment or appliances. For existing buildings, the amendments relax published retroactive the requirement by tying it to new work that requires a City permit.