

Proposed Language Council Resolution on Wildfire Planning

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is committed to establishing policies and practices that protect life, property and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has been ranked as one of the most at-risk communities in the nation for wildfire related structure losses; and

WHEREAS, in March 2014, the City Council unanimously approved the adoption of the city's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), a product of extensive stakeholder involvement that provides actionable recommendations to enhance Austin's resiliency to the impacts of wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the CWPP is a key planning document for addressing wildfire concerns while also upholding the community's long-time land use and management values; and

WHEREAS, the CWPP recommends that Austin address wildfire risk through appropriately codified planning and regulatory measures that both complement existing land use and development principles, and maximize wildfire resiliency; and

WHEREAS, wildfire risk is most effectively addressed through a comprehensive and sustainable approach integrating wildfire considerations at all appropriate levels of the planning process including, but not limited to: land use and management planning, subdivision design, materials planning, and incorporation of critical Wildland Urban Interface Code elements; and

WHEREAS, the International Code Council's Wildland Urban Interface Code has been shown to be an effective mechanism for reducing wildfire risk when adopted as a component of comprehensive community wildfire planning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has been selected as one of three communities in the nation awarded the "Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW)" award, presented by Headwaters Economics, to receive technical assistance in addressing community wildfire resiliency through a collaborative planning process; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

It is recommended that the City Council establish the goal of zero tolerance for wildland fire related fatalities, promote the development of wildland fire defensible strategies, and support incorporation of these strategies within the City's existing regulatory framework to ensure communities and ecosystems are resilient to extreme fire behavior.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Commission recommends the City Council lend full support, and direct the City Manager, to evaluating the Wildland Urban Interface Code and exploring its applicability as a potential mechanism for protecting life, property, and natural resources from the catastrophic effects of wildfire.