



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1755, **Agenda Item #:** 40.

4/9/2020

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 25-12 (Technical Codes) to adopt and amend the 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code.

Lead Department

Austin Fire Department

Fiscal Note

Not applicable

Prior Council Action:

On May 12, 2016, Resolution 20160512-016 was approved by the Austin City Council to adopt the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) code.

For More Information:

Joel G Baker, Fire Chief 974-0131; Rob Vires, Fire Chief of Staff 974-0132

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

June 3, 2019 -Public Safety Commission approved the draft WUI Code and recommended Council appropriate necessary funds to implement.

September 18, 2019 -Environmental Commission approved the WUI Code, Motion number 20190918 007b to support the WUI Code with conditions to be addressed in a rules development process.

October 23, 2019 -Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals technical board recommended Council adoption of WUI Code.

Additional Backup Information:

The 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (WUI) is promulgated by the International Code Council and is intended to improve overall fire prevention and safety in the community. These requirements are intended to reduce the risk, spread and damage of wildland fires and to make the community safer by requiring that new construction and exterior remodels/additions built within identified Wildland Urban Interface areas meet specific compliance standards. The amendments proposed in the ordinance remove redundant requirements that can be found in other articles of Chapter 25-12 (Technical Codes). The Austin Fire Department recommends approval of this ordinance with an effective date of January 1, 2021. If approved, this is the first time the City will adopt and amend the WUI so the delayed effective date will allow design and construction professionals to prepare for the change in requirements.