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City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1403, Agenda Item #: 4.

2/25/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance waiving residential permitting and development fees related to repairing or reconstructing structures, and removing trees and tree limbs damaged as a result of winter weather events; waiving emergency medical services fees and costs for services provided during winter weather events; and declaring an emergency.

Additional Backup Information:

If approved, this ordinance will waive certain fees for repairs and tree removal at residential properties. These fee waivers will assist in accomplishing the City's health and safety goal of preventing further damage at residential properties. This action is consistent with the City's approach to immediate repair needs in prior disasters.

If this ordinance is approved, it will waive the fees and costs associated with services provided by the City's Emergency Medical Services Department (EMS). Because of the sustained volume of emergency calls during the February 2021 winter weather event, EMS's approach to billing was impacted. EMS medics needed to move very quickly from case to case with very little time in between calls to recover their equipment, ambulances, and even personally. This action addresses the impact to EMS' billing approach.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Government that Works for All.