



City of Austin

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P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

March 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

From: Alan Schumann - Chair of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals

Date: March 30, 2024

Subject: Code Amendment on Bedroom Window Requirements

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

At the March 27, 2024 meeting of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals, the Board met to review the Staff recommendation for a local amendment to the 2021 International Building Code, section 1204. Board members present were Alan Schumann, Aubrey Brasfield, Ben Abzug, Ron Buys, Jim Rumbo, Oren Mitzer and Allison Satt. Absent from the meeting were Gary Wilks and A. J. Juraska.

Rationale: Concerns were raised to Council Member Quadri's office on concerns to mental health and the welfare of the public. Studies indicated that without natural light deteriorated the quality of life and the welfare of people which created the risk of suicide. An amendment to this code is designed and intended to enforce the health, safety and welfare of the public.

After review and discussion with Board members and Development Services Department Staff, a motion was made by Board member Satt, to recommend the City Council amend the 2021 International Building Code as written by staff, and seconded by Board member Schumann. The amendment recommends that natural light be provided to all sleeping rooms in commercial construction, whether it's natural or borrowed light from the outside through a window, or an equivalent product. The Board members voted and the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Sincerely,

Alan Schumann

Chair, Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals