

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	9079	Agenda Number	88.
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Meeting Date:	8/18/2011	Department:	Planning and Development Review
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 (Electrical Code) of Section 25-12 of the City Code to adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code, and adopting certain local amendments to the Electrical Code. (Suggested date and time: September 22, 2011, 4:00 p.m., at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.)

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	March 5, 2009 - Council adopted the 2008 Electrical Code, as well as local amendments.
For More Information:	Carl Thompson, 974-2887; Dan McNabb, 974-2752; Leon Barba, 974-7254
Boards and Commission Action:	Recommended by the Electric Board.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The National Electrical Code provides a national standard for electrical installations within both residential and commercial structures. The proposed ordinance establishes local amendments to address particular installations and establishes more stringent standards as recommended by the Electrical Board.

Highlights for the Adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code Include:

- More stringent requirements when replacing receptacles.
- Tamper-resistant receptacles will be required in child care facilities, and guest rooms and guest suites.
- Reduced requirements for tamper-resistance receptacles for dwellings.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Defines uses permitted for type NM cable.
- Provides precise language for locations of service disconnect.

- Reduces the requirements of wiring methods in some applications.
- Language for concrete encased electrodes allows contractors flexibility in the installation of the grounding electrode due to the high rate of theft on certain types of metals.
- Revises the minimum conductor size for residential wiring.
- Adds a Special Inspections Program (based on available resources) - special inspection program will provide timed inspections to enhance customer service which accommodates electrical projects valued not to exceed \$2,000 dollars.

These changes in the Local Amendments have a positive impact on housing affordability by reducing construction costs. The proposed changes impacting housing affordability are clarifications and in some instances decrease the amount of cost to the builder by reducing upgrades to wiring and circuit breaker costs.