

Late Backup

Houston

9/14/16

Background for Concept Menu PS1.09

Two FTE's for Code Compliance

The identification, inspection and licensing of residential homes, where more than 7 unrelated individuals live, has been a long standing issue. In **2009**, the State Legislature passed HB 216, allowing cities to license, inspect and developed 'model standards' which could be used to ensure the health and safety of people who live there.

In **2010**, the City convened an internal work group of city staff to address this issue. Their work expanded to include stakeholders and they continued to work until 2012. In **2012**, the City Council passed Resolution 201220524-086, requiring CODE and the Health and Human Service Department to survey homes within the city. The results showed a significant number of homes in operation in the city.

The city was prepared to begin a process to inspect and permit the homes to ensure that they were safe and there were individual protections for the people who lived there. A budget of \$450,000 was proposed; efforts to educate the public were planned. Efforts stalled.

In **2015**, efforts were restarted. The CODE Department convened an interagency Task Force, which included local, county, state entities, public safety agencies, providers and community stakeholders. In **2016** the Council passed the Reasonable Accommodations Ordinance to ensure protections for individuals under the federal fair housing statutes. The CODE Department now has the tools required to start the process.

PS1.09 on the Concept Menu, is a request for two FTEs for the CODE Department: a compliance officer to inspect homes and insure that they meet the requirements of the International Property Code; and a program specialist to ensure the homes are registered and pay the registration fee.

The cost for the two positions - \$234,697