

# AGENDA



## Recommendation for Council Action

### AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: December 7, 2017

Item Number: 098

### Public Hearing and Possible Action

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance adopting the 2015 International Fire Code and related local amendments.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Lead Department</b>                                 | Austin Fire Department.   |
| <b>Fiscal Note</b>                                     | There is no financial impact for this item.   |
| <b>Prior Council Action</b>                            | June 6, 2013 - Council adopted the 2012 International Fire Code with local amendments.  |
| <b>For More Information</b>                            | Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr 974-0131; Carl Wren 974-0191.   |
| <b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b> | July 27, 2016 - Approved by the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals on a 7- 0 vote with Commissioners Bess, Cannatti and Kiracofe absent. |

### Additional Backup Information:

The International Fire Code provides statewide minimum requirements for life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises and provides safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

#### Key Changes to the Published Code:

- Section 409 Adds language that clarifies the process and enforcement for Temporary Change of Use Permits for Special Events.
- Section 907.2 Clarifies language on manual fire alarm boxes and allows alternative means for compliance.
- Section 907.2.7 Language is codified in the 2015 Fire Code, so removed for redundancy.
- Section 907.2.8.2 Clarifies “exterior exit access.”
- Section 907.5.2.1.1 Adds language that requires alarms to be audible on balconies associated with an occupiable space.
- Section 907.6.1 Adds Surge Protection Devices to protect Data Communications and Fire Alarm Circuits to protect the circuits from lightning strikes.
- Section 909.22 Adds design requirements for Smoke Control Systems in pressurized stairs and vestibules.
- Section 1025.6 Adds and Clarifies 6 alternative methods of compliance permitted for egress lighting for certain occupancies.

The Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC) and the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Plan Implementation Advisory Commission (Mueller Commission) have both requested that the Council delay any changes to Sections 503.2.1 (Dimensions and Exceptions) and 503.2.2 (Authority) of the proposed ordinance to gather input from stakeholders regarding the impact of the Fire Code's street width limits. Staff from the Austin Fire, Transportation, and Economic Development Departments concur with delaying any changes to these Sections until a stakeholder input process can be conducted.

As such, this ordinance would adopt the 2015 International Fire Code and the majority of local amendments, but does not make any changes to Sections 503.2.1 (Dimensions and Exceptions) and 503.2.2 (Authority). These sections will remain unchanged from the current Fire Code requirements set forth in Ordinance No. 20130606-092.

The ordinance also directs the City Manager to bring an ordinance to the Council by June 30, 2018 that incorporates any recommended changes to these sections. This should allow sufficient time for department staff to coordinate and collaborate, as well as time to conduct a stakeholder input process to consider whether the existing road width dimensions, exceptions to road width dimensions, and the related fire chief authority should be further amended