



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1787, Agenda Item #: 56.

6/3/2021

Posting Language

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 7 of City Code Chapter 25-12 (Technical Code) to adopt the 2021 International Fire Code and local amendments; and creating offenses.

Lead Department

Austin Fire Department

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

December 7, 2017 - Council adopted the 2015 International Fire Code and local amendments.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

April 28, 2021 - Recommendation of the 2021 International Fire Code and related local amendments to be considered by the Building and Fire Board.

Additional Backup Information:

The International Fire Code (IFC) provides minimum requirements to address the design and construction of commercial buildings. The proposed ordinance reduces local amendments and clarifies existing amendments. The Austin Fire Department - Fire Marshal's Office obtained stakeholder feedback through the Public Input platform.

Significant changes for the Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code include:

- Requirements for Additive Manufacturing (3D printing).
- Sprayed Fire-Resistant materials to be visually inspected and have annual inspection requirements.
- Open parking garage sprinkler requirements.
- Fire alarm requirements for Public- and Self-storage facilities.
- Water supply connections for Type IV-A and IV-B buildings greater than 120' in height.
- Electrical Energy Storage system requirements (also locally amended).
- Combustible dust requirements expanded.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Requiring new buildings to have Emergency Responder Radio coverage, specifically high rise buildings (no longer allowing two-way hard wired communication systems).

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- Emergency response plans.
 - Electrical Energy Storage systems.
 - Relaxing generator diesel fuel storage inside buildings.
 - Gas detection requirements.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety