Public Hearing   **AGENDA ITEM NO.: 51**
CITY OF AUSTIN   **AGENDA DATE: Thu 11/17/2005**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION   **PAGE: 1 of 2**

SUBJECT: Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 7 of Chapter 25-12 of the City Code (*Uniform Fire Code*) to adopt the 2003 International Fire Code with local amendments. (Suggested date and time: December 15, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers, 301 West 2nd Street)

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING   Fire   **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: **AUTHORIZATION:** Jim Evans

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Evans, Acting Fire Chief, 974-4100; Don Smith, Asst. Fire Marshal, 974-0160; Carl Wren, P.E. 974-0160

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: April 6, 2000; Ordinance #000406-78

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Approved by the Building & Fire Code Board of Appeals.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Building and Fire Code Board is the body charged with review of amendments and is recommending adoption of the codes governing building construction. The Board has unanimously recommended these amendments which will adopt the 2003 International Fire Code and local amendments.

These recommendations follow extensive work by the Stakeholders, Fire Department Staff, and Review Board over a two year period in meetings, work sessions and public hearings. The Austin Fire Department supports these amendments which include the following elements:

•The local amendments presented for the adoption of the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) are primarily refinements to and restructuring of the current local amendments to the 1997 Uniform Fire Code (UFC). The IFC is a compilation of and replacement for the national model codes in existence at the time of the city's adoption of the 1997 UFC;

•The local amendments presented for the adoption of the 2003 IFC along with the 2003 International Building Code (IBC) allows the City to tailor these two complementary codes to our community and comply with the intent of the state legislature in the passage of SB 1458;

•They allow a continuation of modern code format and building classifications supported by design professionals and stakeholders on a national level;

•They allow an increase in requirements for sprinkler protection in residential and other occupancy classifications;

•They provide accommodations and allowances in construction design, construction materials and interior finishes due to increased protection of sprinklered occupancies. Allows non-fire rated corridors to be built within single tenant office spaces as a trade off for the sprinklers and smoke detection system. Allows greater flexibility in design and provides equivalent protection for occupants while reducing the cost of construction;

•The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Department (NHCD) finds that the adoption of the 2003 International Fire Code will require multi-family development to meet nationally accepted standards for safety. NHCD finds that adoption of the 2003 International Building Code on balance will have no significant impact on housing affordability;

•They provide for the requirement of smoke alarms in all residential occupancies;

•They stipulate an annual operational permit requirement to operate a place of assembly which is not in possession of a properly approved certificate of occupancy or where 51% or more of the gross receipts at the location are from alcoholic beverage sales. (a Council approved fee structure is already in place);

•They stipulate a triennial operational permit requirement for the use of a building or portion thereof as a high-piled storage area exceeding 500 square feet (46m^2). (a Council approved fee structure is already in place).