

August 2, 2016

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

June 28, 2016

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 16-065

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2017 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

SUMMARY

The three year code adoption cycle for the Los Angeles Fire Code requires that the process used in 2013, be replicated to create the 2017 Los Angeles Fire Code. On January 1, 2017, the code will go into effect. An ordinance drafted by the City Attorney is required to implement the changes to the California Fire Code and maintain the amendments established for the City of Los Angeles.

It is required to have the City Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Chapter 5, Article 7, to replace the current Los Angeles Fire Code (LAFC) and to adopt a proposed "Los Angeles Fire Code" amendment package for 2017 that is based on the 2016 California Fire Code (CFC) and the International Fire Code (IFC), published by the International Code Council with amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

Direct the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit this report to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval. Subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor, request the City Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Chapter 5, Article 7, to replace the current Los Angeles Fire Code (LAFC) and to adopt a proposed "Los Angeles Fire Code" amendment package for 2017 that is based on the 2016 California Fire Code (CFC) and the International Fire Code (IFC), published by the International Code Council with amendments.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department has budgeted for the editing, publication and purchase of the 2017 Los Angeles Fire Code amendment package.

DISCUSSION

In 2013, the City of Los Angeles adopted a Los Angeles Fire Code based on the International and California models. One of the requirements of California Health and Safety Code is that after the State adopts its new code every three years, then local jurisdictions have 180 days to adopt any amendments they intend to have. In January 2016, California adopted the 2016 California Fire Code. By July 1, 2016, it will be published. The City of Los Angeles has 180 day to adopt our amendments to the code or on January 1, 2017, they become unenforceable.

CONCLUSION

The IFC model code was the base document used to develop the CFC. The adoption of the Model IFC/CFC, with Los Angeles amendments, will create the new "Los Angeles Fire Code" which will allow the City of Los Angeles to provide consistent fire protection for the unique challenges found in Los Angeles. No amendment changes will be proposed that have not already been vetted through the ICC or CFC Code development process.

The LAFC fills a critical need to provide additional public safety regulations beyond both the IFC and CFC regarding general fire precautions and the maintenance of fire protection systems for hazards unique to Southern California and Los Angeles.

Board Report prepared by John N. Vidovich, Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.