



LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

RALPH M. TERRAZAS
FIRE CHIEF

November 3, 2020

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 20-110

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: 2020 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE UPDATE

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 Withdrawn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

This Board Report is a follow up to the previous FPB report made to the Board of Fire Commissioners on September 3, 2019. At that time, it was asked that the Board direct the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit our report to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval due to the three year code adoption cycle for the Los Angeles City Fire Code (L AFC). This was required to duplicate the process used in 2016, in order to create the 2020 LAFC.

Our request was to have the City Council instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Chapter 5, Article 7, to replace the current LAFC and to adopt a proposed "LAFC" amendment package for the 2020 that is based on the 2019 California Fire Code (CFC) and the International Fire Code (IFC), published by the International Code Council (ICC) with amendments.

An ordinance was drafted by the City Attorney as required to implement the changes to the California Fire Code and maintain the amendments established for the City of Los Angeles. The final result was an approval from City Council, which put ordinance #186616 in effect on May 24, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:
Receive and file.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

DISCUSSION

In 2020, the City of Los Angeles adopted a LAFC 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 2019, California

adopted the 2019 CFC and published their document in July 2019. The City of Los Angeles then had 180 day to adopt our amendments to the code on or after January 1, 2020, which is now enforceable.

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, has created the new "LAFC" which will allow the City of Los Angeles to provide consistent fire protection for the unique challenges found in Los Angeles. No amendment changes were proposed that have not already been vetted through the ICC or CFC Code development process. Any changes to the Los Angeles Fire Code require the adoption of an ordinance.

Since the adoption of ordinance #186616, the LAFD Fire Code Committee has been working in concert with ICC, who has been contracted, to produce the printed copies of the new 2020 LAFC. Once our final publication has been produced, it will be placed on our website and distributed throughout the department.

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/life safety protection systems for hazards unique to Southern California and Los Angeles.

Board Report prepared by Chad Richardson, Commander, Legal Unit, Administrative Section, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.