



SEP 18 2007

DOUGLAS L. BARRY
FIRE CHIEF

September 11, 2007 (Revised)

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 07-082- R

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Douglas L. Barry, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: APPROVE AN INCREASE IN THE HIGH-RISE BUILDING ANNUAL
INSPECTION AND PERMIT FEE

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 Withdrawn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

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are submitted to the Board for consideration and public hearing. In accordance with Section 57.04.12, Subsection C of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (L.A.M.C.), which authorizes the Board to modify fees based on the cost of services, the High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee has been reviewed and concurred by the Office of the City Administrative Officer. Per the requirements of the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Adopted Budget, Section 57.04.12, Subsection C of the L.A.M.C., was amended to allow the Board to modify verifiable costs at anytime throughout the fiscal year, instead of prior to April 1st of each year. The amendment to L.A.M.C. Section 57.04.12, Subsection C, (Ordinance No. 178882) became effective July 26, 2007. It is recommended that the Board:

- 1) Approve the proposed High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee (L.A.M.C. Section 57.119) increase to \$1.11 per 100 square feet of building area (+26.1 percent).
- 2) Approve the proposed High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit fee (L.A.M.C. Section 57.119) increase to \$0.56 per 100 square feet of garage area.
- 3) Direct the Board's Executive Assistant to publish the required notice of a public hearing on the proposed fee increase at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

- 4) Adopt the attached Resolution (Attachment I) adjusting the High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee after the required public hearing and notice of this action be transmitted by the Board's Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Council at the conclusion of the public hearing. If the Mayor and Council do not take action within the 60-day review period, the Resolution adopted by the Board will be published through the Office of the Board of Fire Commissioners and the new fee will become effective upon publication.
- 5) That the Commission Executive Assistant II be authorized to modify the attached Resolution as needed.

Summary:

An annual inspection of all commercial high-rise buildings and all residential high-rise hotels and dormitories is required per Section 57.119 of the L.A.M.C. A fee is assessed to recover City costs in performing the annual inspections. Based on the City's financial policy of cost recovery for specialized services, a fee is determined on actual personnel costs (salary and benefits) incurred in performing the high-rise inspections. Using the square footage areas of buildings and garages being inspected and the total costs to the City, a rate of \$1.11 per 100 square feet of building area and a rate of \$0.56 per 100 square feet of garage area was determined. The rate for inspection of garages is one half the rate of inspection for buildings due to less time required to inspect garages. The proposed fee increase represents a 26.1 percent increase from the current \$0.88 per 100 square feet of building area and the current \$0.44 per 100 square feet of garage area. The minimum charge imposed on all vacant or partially vacant high-rise buildings would increase from \$322 to \$407 per building (+26.1 percent).

The increase in the High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee is attributable to the increase in staff costs and the yearly adjustments made in building square footages.

Conclusion:

Revenues generated from the High-Rise Annual Inspection and Permit Fee will increase from \$1,483,803 in Fiscal Year 2006-07 to \$1,869,592 in Fiscal Year 2007-08, an increase of \$385,789.

Board Report prepared by Rosemarie Barraza, Senior Management Analyst I, Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety and Muriel Gee, Senior Management Analyst I, Bureau of Administrative Services.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT I

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, Section 57.04.12 Permit Fees, Subsection C of the Los Angeles Municipal Code authorizes the Board of Fire Commissioners to determine on a regular basis, with the concurrence of the City Administrative Officer, the schedule of applicable charges necessary to recover City costs for issuing numerous permits; and

WHEREAS, these permits include High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee as identified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 57.119; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Fire Commissioners, at its meeting of (Date), adopted a recommended fee for which it has been given authority to establish fees; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 57.04.12, Subsection C of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the City Administrative Officer has reviewed and concurred with the recommended fees;

WHEREAS, if the Mayor and Council do not take action within the 60-day review period, the Resolution adopted by the Board will be published through the Office of the Board of Fire Commissioners and the new fee will become effective upon publication.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS adopts the High-Rise Building Annual Inspection and Permit Fee of \$1.11 per 100 square feet of building area, \$0.56 per 100 square feet of garage area, and \$407 minimum charge per building for vacant or partially vacant high-rise buildings. (See L.A.M.C. for complete text.)

Adopted this (Date), 2007

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

GENETHIA HUDLEY-HAYES, PRESIDENT

Attest:

BLANCA GOMEZ-REVELLES
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT