

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: January 17, 2017

TITLE: Ordinance Adopting the 2016 California Fire Code with Amendments

Prepared by: Kevin Reinertson, Deputy Fire Marshal

Reviewed by: Jennifer Mizrahi, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Receive public input on the proposed ordinance; and
- 2) Introduce for First Reading, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs Amending Title 15 "Buildings And Construction" of the City of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code to Repeal and Readopt Chapter 15.24 "California Fire Code" with Selected Appendices and Amendments and to Repeal Chapter 15.56 "NFPA 101 Life Safety Code" in its Entirety ("Ordinance"); waive the reading of the Ordinance in its entirety and City Clerk read by title only.

BACKGROUND:

On December 13, 2016, the Planning Commission voted 4-0 to recommend that the City Council adopt the proposed Ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

The adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code, California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 9, as amended will ensure that minimum building standards are implemented to safeguard life, limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings and structures within the City of Desert Hot Springs ("City").

In accordance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 17922 and 18935, the Building Standards Commission ("BSC") has approved the adoption of new model codes relating to fire and life safety ("Model Code"). The BSC has advised local jurisdictions that the State has adopted the 2016 Edition of the California Fire Code. Once the State Fire Marshal's Office has amended the Model Code to include California specific amendments, local jurisdictions are given 180 days to further amend the code by local ordinance.

The BSC has indicated that the above referenced codes will become effective at the local level on January 1, 2017. In order to include local amendments and adequately protect first responders, business community and citizens, it is suggested that we follow through with the adoption process.

Any amendments adopted by the City are not effective until copies of both the express findings and the amendments, with the amendments expressly marked and identified as to the applicable findings, have been filed with the California BSC.

If the City does not make amendments to the BSC, its provisions, without amendment, will become applicable to the City and will become effective 180 days after publication by the California BSC on January 1, 2017.

The City's Fire Officials are recommending certain amendments due to specific local conditions, as explained in more detail in "Exhibit 1 – Justifications for Amendments," attached hereto.

The adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code with amendments in the City Municipal Code shall provide for an orderly administration of the 2016 California Fire Code and the City Municipal Code by City Fire and Building Officials.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this action.

EXHIBITS:

- 1) Justifications for Local Amendments to 2016 California Fire Code
- 2) Proposed Ordinance - (Blackline Copy)
- 3) Proposed Ordinance - (Clean Copy)