



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# H-3

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE

925 Harbor Plaza, Suite 100 • Long Beach, CA 90802 • Telephone (562) 570-2500 • FAX (562) 570-2506

DAVID W. ELLIS  
FIRE CHIEF

November 13, 2007

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Declare Ordinance amending the City of Long Beach Fire Code read the first time and laid over to the next regular meeting of the City Council for final reading; Adopt Resolution making findings and determinations relating to the adoption of more restrictive City of Long Beach Fire Code provisions, where appropriate. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of the California Fire Code (CFC) and local amendments is to prescribe regulations consistent with nationally recognized standards of safe and best practices. This purpose is accomplished by safeguarding life and property from the hazards of fire, explosion, release of hazardous materials and hazardous conditions associated with the use or occupancy of buildings or premises.

The California Fire Code is revised and published every three years. State law requires jurisdictions that adopt local amendments to do so within 180 days from the adoption of, and prior to the effective date of, the CFC. State law requires the City's specific findings of local amendments to be based on climatic, geological or topographical conditions. Amendments for administrative purposes are also indicated in the specific findings. State law also requires that there be a reading to introduce the ordinance, resolution and title of the code to be adopted.

The California Fire Code, 2007 Edition is based on the 2006 International Fire Code (IFC). The IFC is a consensus document that was developed after numerous public hearings with testimony from interested members of the fire service, private industry and other concerned individuals throughout the United States. It is currently used at the state or local level in forty-one states and in Washington DC. Previous editions of the CFC were based on the Uniform Fire Code (UFC), a similar consensus document that was used by many states. Publication of the UFC was discontinued in 2000 and now has been replaced with the IFC.

California historically has adopted the UFC with California amendments. This practice will continue with the amendment and adoption of the CFC and portions of the IFC that were not included in the CFC. The California Fire Code, 2007 Edition will become effective January 1, 2008. Local agencies must adopt any amendments to the CFC or IFC 30 days prior to the effective date.

The attached ordinance and resolution amend the City of Long Beach Fire Code to reflect a number of deletions and editorial clarifications to the CFC and IFC sections, which do not compromise public safety, but streamline and coordinate the code requirements on a Citywide basis. Existing local amendments were reviewed to determine applicability and were carried over from previous code adoptions, when appropriate. Amendments result from identifying hazards from lessons learned, and by proactively incorporating engineering controls and best practices into new buildings within the community.

Provisions addressing fire sprinkler requirements for new commercial and residential structures and fire alarm requirements for existing structures have been incorporated as local amendments to the CFC, as adopted by the City Council on June 19, 2007. (Attached)

The proposed amendments to the City of Long Beach Fire Code are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15061 of the CEQA Guidelines, because the proposed amendments will not have a significant effect on the environment.

This matter was reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Michael J. Mais and Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on November 2, 2007.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested at a public hearing on November 13, 2007 to adopt the Ordinance and Resolution and to proceed with the necessary requirements to have the California Fire Code, 2007 Edition become effective on January 1, 2008.


FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact is associated with the adoption of the Ordinance or the Resolution.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of David W. Ellis in cursive, followed by the word "FOR" in a smaller, less distinct script.

DAVID W. ELLIS  
FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Patrick H. West in cursive, written over a horizontal line.

PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER