

Council Meeting of
November 6, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Fire Department - Set Date for First Reading of California Fire Code Ordinance Adoption on November 20, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

The Torrance Fire Chief recommends that City Council set the date of November 20, 2007 for a public hearing to consider a proposed ordinance adopting the 2007 California Fire Code with local amendments.

Funding

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The State of California adopts Fire codes establishing minimum Fire standards throughout the state typically every three-(3) years. These codes are reflective of the most current Fire Service practices and technology and are based on a set of "model codes" published by various independent organizations. Memberships of these organizations include Fire Code officials, Fire engineers, Fire industry representatives, and others all of whom provide input into the contents of these "model codes". The State then analyzes the "model codes" and adopts them with amendments to become the California Fire Code.

The State of California publishes this code of minimum standards and it becomes effective 180 days after publication. The code currently being adopted was published in July 2007 and will become effective January 1, 2008. Local jurisdiction may either accept the California Fire Code as it stands or amend and adopt the California Fire Code with more restrictive requirements to address local conditions.

State law specifies the procedure by which the local cities may amend and adopt the State Fire Codes. This procedure requires that the ordinance be brought before City

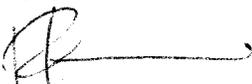
Council three times. The first step of the adoption process is to officially set a date for the public hearing on the subject. That is the purpose of tonight's recommended action. The second step will be to hold a public hearing on the date set by City Council to allow for public input and to approve the ordinance. The final step is the second reading and formal adoption of the ordinance. This occurs at the third City Council meeting. The intent of this process is to give the public and building industry time to review and comment on the City's proposed code amendments.

The Fire Department has a Code Review Team that reviews and analyzes the proposed changes to the "model codes" throughout the three-(3) year code adoption cycle. At the end of the cycle the Code Review Team analyzes the California Fire Code published by the State of California and amends this code as necessary to address local conditions. A local Fire code ordinance is then proposed for adoption by the City Council as the Torrance Fire Code. This ordinance adopts the California Fire Code by reference and incorporates City of Torrance amendments to address local conditions. Copies of the proposed ordinance will be available for public review in the City Clerk's office.

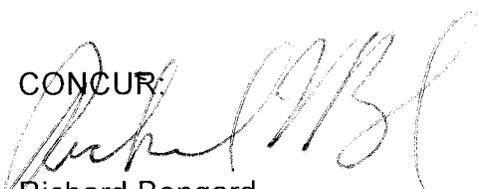
After completion of the process, the updated Fire Code and Standards of the City of Torrance will apply to the Code for the purpose of regulating and governing the safeguarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, and from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in the City of Torrance. The process will be completed on or prior to the mandated effective date of January 1, 2008. These codes will continue the high standard of Fire and Life safety that the City has maintained.

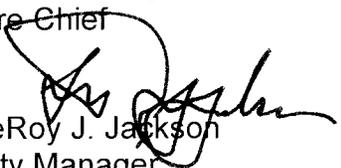
Respectfully submitted,

Ken Carter
Fire Marshal


By: Richard Kazandjian
Senior Fire Prevention Officer

CONCUR:


Richard Bongard
Fire Chief


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager