



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Fire & Building Department
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MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager
From: Grace Steuart, Fire Marshal
Date: July 24, 2007
Subject: Fire Sprinkler Ordinance Process

RECOMMENDATION:

No recommendation at this time, this is an update on the fire sprinkler ordinance process.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

At Council's direction, the Fire Department is preparing information on a zero-threshold fire sprinkler ordinance which would require the installation of fire sprinklers in all new residential structures. Working with the Public Safety Committee, we have identified a timeline and a process which would lead to accomplishing this goal. Attached are the proposed timeline and action items we will be undertaking over the next several months.

When Council gave direction to look at a new ordinance, we heard of your desire to include all the stakeholders in the process. We have included a couple of key steps which should provide the opportunity for citizens, contractors, and developers to give input into the development of an ordinance. We will hold open forums as well as invite key stakeholders to share their input on the proposed new fire sprinkler requirement. Key stakeholders include neighborhood associations, Kirkland Chamber of Commerce, and the Master Builders Association. As we proceed through the input process, other key stakeholders may be identified and invited to participate in the process. Our goal is to have a very inclusive process. We also envision a public hearing prior to adoption to insure the City Council as well as the Fire Department will have heard from anyone interested in this topic.

Staff will be available at the August 7th City Council meeting to answer any questions you might have or to discuss any change in direction you may wish to take.

Timeline

The Fire Department has been working with the Public Safety Committee to explore the possibility of implementing a “zero threshold” requirement for fire sprinklers in residential occupancies.

Below is the proposed schedule for the process, which includes Council review, public input, approval by Council, approval by State Building Code Council (SBCC), and implementation:

August 7, 2007	Introduction of process to Council regarding timeline for adoption and implementation
October 2, 2007	Presentation to the full Council (Presentation will include information on sprinklers and the proposed ordinance)
Late Sept/early Oct 2007	Report on Fee Study and Staffing Analysis*
October/November 2007	Begin public input (The process will include a public hearing, stakeholder forums, written comment, etc.)
January 2008	To Council for possible adoption and to SBCC for approval
First quarter 2008	Proposed implementation date, if approved.

*A fee study and staffing analysis will be conducted concurrently. We want to ensure that we have adequate staff to address the increased workload, as well as provide for 100 percent cost recovery.