

Your PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT and ORDINANCE relative to additional emergency and evacuation requirements for high-rise buildings and related fees.

Recommendation for Council action, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR:

PRESENT and ADOPT accompanying ORDINANCE amending Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections 57.33.19 and 57.02.02 to provide additional emergency and evacuation requirements for high-rise buildings, to add applicable definitions, and related fees.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Based on direct and indirect staffing costs, the Fire Department proposes the following fees: Fire Safety Director Fee \$305 per building; Floor Warden Fee \$24 per floor, and a Total Building Evacuation Oversight Fee \$500 per evacuation. The Department estimates the new emergency evacuation program fee revenue will be is \$188,458. Fees will be collected on an annual basis in conjunction with the high-rise fees. Fee revenue will recover the cost of the Fire Inspector position that is currently in the Department's High-rise Unit.

SUMMARY

In a report to the Board of Fire Commissioners dated August 11, 2008 (attached to the Council file), the Fire Department requests approval of a set of recommendations for new fees to cover the costs of its high-rise emergency evacuation program, and related costs.

The Fire Department is the exclusive Department for enforcing State and local fire and life safety codes in all high-rise buildings in the city of Los Angeles. The Department reports that existing emergency planning and evacuation requirements for high-rise buildings, requires all high-rise buildings to complete and submit emergency plans, procedures, and evacuation signs to the Fire Department for inspection and approval prior to their implementation. The Department endeavors to improve on existing emergency planning and evacuation procedures by requiring designated personnel in high-rise buildings to be trained, tested, and certificated annually. The proposed amendment to L.A.M.C. 57.33.19 will require all Fire Safety Directors and Floor Wardens in high-rise buildings to be trained, tested, and have valid certificates.

According to the Fire Department, there are currently over 740 high-rise buildings in the city of Los Angeles. The Department's program will initially focus on 236 buildings greater than 250,000 square feet and will gradually phase in the remaining high-rise buildings in the city once the program has been firmly established. In addition, high-rise buildings 35 stories or more in height will be required to conduct a total building evacuation once every three years. The Fire Department will provide coordination and oversight during a total building evacuation. In order to recover the costs to administer the program, new fees are needed to cover the administrative oversight provided in tracking of Fire Safety Directors and Floor Wardens and oversight provided during a total building evacuation.

On September 16, 2008, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the Department's recommendations and forwarded the matter on to Council for further consideration. In a report

to the Mayor and Council dated November 13, 2009, the CAO concurs with this action.

Accompanying a report to Council dated February 10, 2009 (attached to the Council file), the City Attorney transmits Ordinance amending the LAMC to improve the training, tracking and effectiveness of high-rise building evacuation procedures by requiring that designated personnel in high rise buildings be trained and tested and obtain a valid certificate. The City Attorney goes on to report that the Ordinance will also add definitions to the applicable General Definition section of the Code and impose related program fees.

At its meeting held March 23, 2009, the Public Safety Committee recommended that Council approved the accompanying Ordinance amending LAMC to provide additional emergency and evacuation requirements for high-rise buildings, to add applicable definitions, and related fees, as recommended by the Board of Fire Commissioners and the CAO.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
WEISS:	YES
SMITH:	YES
PARKS:	ABSENT
REYES:	YES
ZINE:	YES

JAW
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