



**MICHAEL N. FEUER**  
CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 19 - 0 4 1 3  
DEC 1 0 2019

**REPORT RE:**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 7, CHAPTER 5 OF THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE PORTIONS OF THE 2019 EDITION OF THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE AND THE 2018 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE, TO CORRECT AN ERROR IN SECTION 57.4908.8, AND EFFECT OTHER NON-SUBSTANTIVE CORRECTIONS**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 19-1015

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. This ordinance would amend Article 7 of Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, known as the Los Angeles Fire Code, in its entirety and incorporate by reference portions of the 2019 edition of the California Fire Code (CFC) and the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC). The ordinance would also amend Section 57.4908.8 to correct an error noted during the preparation of the larger Article 7 amendment package.

On October 15, 2019, the City Council requested the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code by updating the current Los Angeles Fire Code and adopting a proposed Los Angeles Fire Code amendment package for 2020 based on the CFC and IFC, published by the International Code Council with amendments. The original Los Angeles Fire Code was adopted in 1987 and was not part of a unified standard code system. In 2013, this Council adopted an ordinance which created a new Fire Code designed to be the

companion code to the existing Los Angeles Building Code. The City's Building Code is based on the International and State codes as part of a uniform standard code system. Adoption of the 2013 ordinance helped minimize inconsistencies between the Los Angeles Fire Code and the Los Angeles Building Code, as well as reduced code enforcement inconsistencies in the City of Los Angeles.

Generally, the State of California adopts a new California Fire Code every three years, and local jurisdictions are required to enforce the California Fire Code, except where the local jurisdiction enacts more restrictive standards or local administrative provisions. In order for the City of Los Angeles to enact local amendments, the City Council must make express findings regarding local conditions.

Therefore, pursuant to the three-year code adoption cycle mentioned above, this draft ordinance is required to implement the changes to the CFC and IFC, and maintain the amendments established for the City. No CFC/IFC amendment changes have been proposed which have not already been vetted through the International Code Council or California Fire Code development process.

Additionally, during preparation of the Article 7 amendment package, it was noted that the recent amendment to Section 57.4908.8 inadvertently referenced Section 57.4908.4, which reference should have been removed at the time of the ordinance amendments. The draft ordinance presented herewith reflects that correction.

Finally, non-substantive corrections made during the drafting of this ordinance are also included herein.

#### Council Rule 38 Referral

Pursuant to Council Rule 38, a copy of the draft ordinance has been sent to the Los Angeles Fire Department with a request that any comments concerning the ordinance be presented directly to the City Council or its Committees when this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Julie Raffish at (213) 978-8388. She or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 

DAVID MICHAELSON  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM:JSR:lp  
Transmittal