

# LOS ANGELES FIRE COMMISSION

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September 3, 2019

Honorable Members of the City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
City Hall, Room 395  
Attn: City Clerk

Honorable Eric Garcetti  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Room 303, City Hall  
Attn: Legislative Coordinator

[BFC 19-101] – PROPOSED 2020 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE

At its meeting of September 3, 2019, the Board of Fire Commissioners approved the report and its recommendations. The report is hereby transmitted concurrently to the Mayor and City Council for consideration and approval.

Should you need additional information, please contact the Board of Fire Commissioners' office at 213-978-3838.

Sincerely,

Isela Iñiguez  
Acting Commission Executive Assistant

Attachment

cc: Board of Fire Commissioners (without attachments)  
Fire Chief Ralph M. Terrazas (without attachments)

September 3, 2019

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



RALPH M. TERRAZAS  
FIRE CHIEF

APPROVED: 9-3-19  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
BY:   
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

August 20, 2019

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:  Ralph M. Terrazas, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: PROPOSED 2020 LOS ANGELES FIRE CODE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 19-101

FINAL ACTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

## SUMMARY

The three year code adoption cycle for the Los Angeles Fire Code (L AFC) requires that the process used in 2016, be replicated to create the 2020 L AFC. On January 1, 2020 the code will go into effect. An ordinance drafted by the City Attorney is required to implement the changes to the California Fire Code and maintain the amendments established for the City of Los Angeles.

It is required to have the City Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Chapter 5, Article 7, to replace the current L AFC and to adopt a proposed "L AFC" amendment package for the 2020 that is based on the 2019 California Fire Code (CFC) and the International Fire Code (IFC), published by the International Code Council (ICC) with amendments.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Board:

Direct the Commission Executive Assistant to transmit this report to the City Council and Mayor for consideration and approval. Subject to the approval of the City Council and Mayor, request the City Council to instruct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to the LAMC, Chapter 5, Article 7, to replace the current L AFC and to adopt a proposed "L AFC" amendment package for 2017 that is based on the 2019 CFC and the IFC, published by the International Code Council with amendments.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The Department has budgeted for the editing, publication and purchase of the 2020 L AFC amendment package.

**DISCUSSION**

In 2016, the City of Los Angeles adopted a LAFC based on the International and California models. One of the requirements of California Health and Safety Code is that after the State adopts its new code every three years, then local jurisdictions have 180 days to adopt any amendments they intend to have. In January 2019, California adopted the 2019 CFC. After publication in July 2019, the City of Los Angeles has 180 days to adopt our amendments to the code or on January 1, 2020, they become unenforceable.

**CONCLUSION**

The IFC model code was the base document used to develop the CFC. The adoption of the Model IFC/CFC, with Los Angeles amendments, will create the new “LAFC” which will allow the City of Los Angeles to provide consistent fire protection for the unique challenges found in Los Angeles. No amendment changes will be proposed that have not already been vetted through the ICC or CFC Code development process.

The LAFC fills a critical need to provide additional public safety regulations beyond both the IFC and CFC regarding general fire precautions and the maintenance of fire protection systems for hazards unique to Southern California and Los Angeles.

Board Report prepared by Chad Richardson, Commander, Legal Unit, Administrative Section, Fire Prevention and Public Safety Bureau.