

Memorandum



DATE January 6, 2023

CITY OF DALLAS

Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

TO Adam McGough (Chair), Cara Mendelsohn (Vice Chair), Tennell Atkins, Jesse Moreno, Jaime Resendez, Casey Thomas, Gay Donnell Willis

SUBJECT **January 11, 2023, City Council Agenda Item #23-29 Adoption of the International Fire Code**

Please accept this message as an update to the process for the adoption of the International Fire Code, on which the Public Safety Committee was briefed on August 8th, 2022. The Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board (FCB) voted to approve the adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code with Dallas amendments on October 26th, 2022.

Dallas Fire-Rescue (DFR) is proposing the adoption of the 2022 Dallas Fire Code, which is a combination of the 2021 International Fire Code and 2022 Dallas amendments. DFR provides amendments to specific sections of the International Fire Code model code language as a part of the overall adoption process of the Dallas Fire Code. The proposed 2022 amendments are primarily a carryover of previous Dallas amendments from previous Dallas Fire Codes.

The new Dallas Fire Code amendments reflect modifications of new code sections that have been added to the International Fire Code model code language since the 2016 Dallas Fire Code adopted by the City of Dallas. The proposed amendments mirror the language and intent of the additions to the 2021 Regional Code amendments for the 2021 International Fire Code, which was adopted by the North Texas Council of Governments. The 2021 Regional Code amendments provide a base of amendments used by several municipalities in the North Texas area for Fire Code consistency.

Sections of note within the proposed 2022 Dallas Fire Code amendments include:

- Appendix L, Firefighter Air Replenishment Systems (FARS) has been widely adopted by fire departments throughout the United States. This system provides the ability for firefighters to replenish their air bottles inside a structure within minutes, increasing their safety factor significantly.
- Section 510, Emergency Responder Communication Coverage, provides fire code regulation to ensure that structures have the critical radio signal strength necessary for first responders to communicate during an emergency incident.

In preparation for developing the suggested amendments, DFR collaborated with external stakeholders for constructive feedback. Additionally, DFR also met with representatives

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of the City of Dallas Sustainable Development department and the Fire Code Advisory and Appeals Board for comments and discussion.

The City Attorney's reviewed the 2022 Dallas Fire Code and is scheduled for consideration to full Council on January 11, 2023.

Additional information or questions on the 2022 Dallas Fire Code and the Dallas amendments may be obtained from the Dallas Fire Marshal, Deputy Chief Christopher Martinez at c.martinez@dallasfire.gov or by calling the Inspection and Life Safety Education Division at 214-670-4319.



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Deputy City Manager

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