



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. XI. H  
2/13/2024

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Craig Freeman, City Manager

1. Ordinance to be introduced and set for final hearing February 27, 2024, relating to Fire Prevention and Protection Regulations, Repealing Article II, Division 1, Sections 20-20 through 20-22, of Chapter 20, of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2020, in its entirety; enacting a new Article II, Division 1, Sections 20-20 through 20-22, of Chapter 20, of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2020, providing for the adoption of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, with certain local amendments and deletions made thereto by Resolution, as the official Fire Prevention Code of The City of Oklahoma City; providing for publication by summary; amending Division 7, Sections 20-111 through 20-150, of Chapter 20, adding a new Part A. – Membership, Powers, and Duties, Etc., by Adding a new Part B. – Appeals Procedure, providing for a Fire Code Appeals Board, establishing the appeal process; amending Chapter 60, General Schedule of Fees, Title 20, by creating Article II, Section 60-20-42, Fee for Fire Code Appeals Board matters; and providing for an effective date of March 1, 2024; and declaring an emergency; and
2. Resolution to be introduced and set for final hearing February 27, 2024, declaring the need for adoption of the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, and providing certain local amendments to said code.

### **Purpose:**

To update the fire prevention codes of The City of Oklahoma City by replacing the International Fire Code, 2015 Edition, with the International Fire Code, 2018 Edition, with local amendments and to create a new Fire Code Appeals Board. The Board will hear variance requests by applicants who do not agree with the interpretation of the Fire Code Official or requests by applicants seeking to propose alternative methods of compliance not provided for by the code. Applicants will file requests for variances or alternative methods of compliance with the Fire Marshal's Office and the Board will be convened as needed.

### **Background:**

Municipalities may adopt national compilations or codes of law relating traffic, building, plumbing, electrical and fire regulations to protect the public health and safety. The City has previously adopted the 2015 International Fire Code, with local amendments as the Oklahoma City Fire Code.

The attached Resolution will adopt the 2018 International Fire Code, with local amendments, as the Fire Code of the City of Oklahoma City, effective March 1, 2024. Changes to the Fire Code

include clarity of the standards for fire and life safety for outdoor pallet storage; school lockdown provision have been updated to clarify security issues while maintaining required life safety standards for the occupants; emergency responder radio communication standards were updated to address new industry standards which are needed for emergency personnel to maintain radio communication inside a structure; there are also multiple chapters and sections that have been modified to address more clearly battery power systems and alternative fuel vehicles for everyone's safety.

The Fire Department has reviewed the proposed changes and local amendments to the 2018 International Fire Code and recommends the changes be adopted.

The proposed ordinance to adopt the amended 2018 International Fire Code, to be effective on March 1, 2024, will make the changes to the Fire Code enforceable at law. The ordinance is scheduled to go into effect on the same day as are proposed amendments to the 2018 International Building Code.

**Review:**

Fire Department

**Recommendation:** Ordinance and Resolution be introduced and set for final hearing on February 27, 2024.