
SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

DATE: October 11, 2002

SUBJECT: Ordinance adopting the 2000 edition of the International Fire Code as part of the Salt Lake City Code

STAFF REPORT BY: Michael Sears, Budget & Policy Analyst

CC: Cindy Gust-Jenson, Rocky Fluhart, Chief Querry, and Dan Andrus

Document Type	Budget-Related Facts	Policy-Related Facts	Miscellaneous Facts
Ordinance	There are no budget impacts resulting from the adoption of <i>The International Fire Code</i> as part of the Salt Lake City Code.	This change would replace <i>The Uniform Fire Code</i> with <i>The International Fire Code</i> as part of the Salt Lake City Code.	This change will bring the Salt Lake City Code in compliance with the State fire code.

OPTIONS AND MOTIONS:

1. ["I move that the Council"] **Adopt the ordinance as proposed.**
2. ["I move that the Council"] **Not adopt the ordinance.**

SUMMARY OF BRIEFING

The City Council held a briefing on October 8, 2002 regarding the proposed ordinance. Council Members discussed how the State decides which fire code to use and why the State adopts a fire code for all political subdivisions of the State. The Council had additional questions concerning the degree to which the City could adopt the fire code and whether or not the fire code or the building code on which the fire code relies is a deterrent to development in the City. After asking questions about the proposed ordinance and hearing responses from the City's Fire Marshal, the Council indicated that the ordinance should be on the agenda for adoption at the next Council meeting.

Note: The following information was provided to the Council for the 10/08/02 briefing. It is provided again for your reference.

The Administration is proposing that the City Council approve an ordinance that deletes all references to the 1988 edition of *The Uniform Fire Code* and reference the 2000 edition of *The International Fire Code* as the City fire code. The recommendation of the Administration to adopt the International Fire Code 2000 Edition including Appendixes A, B, C, D, E, F, and G published by the International Code Council, Inc. The International Fire Code provides standards and procedures for the construction

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and maintenance of buildings and structures for the purposes of fire and life safety prevention.

This ordinance is a housekeeping measure that will bring the City Code in line with the State approved fire code. Utah Code requires that the Utah State Fire Prevention Board adopt a nationally recognized code to be the minimum fire code for all political subdivisions of the state. The Utah State Fire Prevention Board adopted the 2000 edition of *The International Fire Code* on September 11, 2001 and it became effective on January 1, 2002.

The Administration has been following this code, rather than the one reflected in City Ordinance. The Council Office has received inquiries from citizens confused by the inconsistency.

The adoption of the proposed ordinance will bring the City into compliance with the State. Additional information is contained in the transmittal from the Administration. The Administration has forwarded a table for use by Council staff. The table is attached to this staff report. The table outlines the existing City Code section, the topic of the section and where the topic is reference in the International Fire Code. Council staff has review the table, current City Code and the proposed Code and has found that the current fire code related restrictions or situations are found in the proposed ordinance. As noted in the transmittal the proposed ordinance deletes all references to the 1988 edition of *The Uniform Fire Code* and clarifies some of the requirements for spill reporting.

As part of the review of the proposed ordinance Council staff reviewed the fire codes of some local cities and comparable cities in the nation. The proposed fire code seems to be more stringent then many comparable cities. The incorporation of the *International Fire Code* and the *Uniform Building Code* seem to be one of the main factors of more stringent fire code. Other cities that operate under the *Uniform Building Code* have made exceptions to the building code. These exemptions allow more flexibility in building standards. As a result of the flexibility the resulting fire code in those municipalities is less stringent than a municipality that has tightened building requirements.

Council staff has attached to this report Section 53-7-106 of the Utah Code. This section deals with the adoption of fire code. Also attached to this report is Rule R156-56-701 of the Utah Uniform Building Standard Act Rules. This rule deals with the specific editions of the Uniform Building Standards that the City follows. The rule outlines the building standard that is in effect for the City. The *International Fire Code* references the Uniform Building Standards, specifically the *International Building Code*. In rule R156-56-704 the Statewide amendments to the *International Building Code* are noted. The statewide *International Building Code* amendments do not appear to have an impact on the *International Fire Code* that the State has adopted. Utah Code Sections 58-56-3 and 58-56-4 are also attached. These two sections of Utah Code deal with the adoption of building codes.

Council staff has also attached a 4-page summary of the International Fire Code that was prepared by BOMA [Building Owners and Managers Association] International. The summary is helpful in understanding why the International Fire Code was created.

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The relevance of the attachments is that the new *International Fire Code* relates primary to the construction and maintenance of buildings and structures for the purposes of fire and life safety prevention. The nearly 400 page *International Fire Code* booklet is available for review in the Council Office if Council Members wish to research the fire code.