



City Council Report

Date: August 29, 2016
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Harry Beck, Fire Chief
Mike Dunn, Assistant Fire Chief
Subject: Fire Code Amendment
"Citywide Project"

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to recommend an amendment to the 2006 International Fire Code sections 503.1.1 and 105.1.2. The proposed modifications will more clearly state the intent of these sections. These changes will not negatively impact the Fire and Medical Department's ability to provide service.

Background

The Fire and Medical Department's Fire Prevention Division uses section 503.1.1 of the 2006 International Fire Code to ensure proper fire access is provided to all structures. As currently written, section 503.1.1 allows for alternative means of fire protection when the Fire Access Road is not within 150 feet; however, no specific alternatives are listed.

The Fire and Medical Department Fire Prevention Division uses Fire Safety Operational Permit (FSOP), Section 105.1.2., as a means of collecting business information.

Discussion

The proposed modification to section 503.1.1 adds specific examples of alternative means of fire protection, including two additional construction methods and "alternative means as prescribed in sections 104.6.4 through 104.9 of the Fire Code." The modification makes clear that the options listed are only examples of possible alternatives. The list is non-exhaustive and other alternative means can be considered. The change in language will not impose additional fees upon a builder.

The modification to section 105.1.2 clarifies the intent of the FSOP. The proposed language includes the phrase "required for any inspectable occupancy" and removes

“allows the applicant to conduct business.” In addition to general business information, the FSOP also includes emergency contact information, which is critical for the Fire Department in the event of an emergency. Even if the owner/occupant is not currently conducting business, the Fire and Medical Department still needs the emergency contact information.

Alternatives

Leave the current language in sections 503.1.1 and 105.1.2 as is.

Fiscal Impact

There will be no financial impact to the citizens of the City of Mesa regarding these proposed amendments to the 2006 International Fire Code.