



City Council Report

Date: December 5, 2016
To: City Council
Through: John Pombier, Assistant City Manager
From: Mary Cameli, 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 section 503.1.1, relating to fire apparatus access roads for One and Two Family R3/R5 dwellings. The amendment also reorganizes the section for clarity.

Background

Section 503.1.1 of the fire code sets forth the requirements relating to fire apparatus access roads for buildings and facilities. Generally, fire apparatus access roads must extend to within 150 feet of all portions of a facility and all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of a building. However, the fire code provides a number of exceptions where fire apparatus access roads are either not required, or the fire code official is authorized to increase the 150-foot dimension.

The current fire code provides that fire apparatus access roads are not required for One and Two Family Group R3/R5 dwellings that do not exceed 5000 square feet and that have a minimum lot frontage of 50 feet adjacent to an approved access road. One and Two Family Group R3/R5 dwellings that do not meet both of these criteria are required to build fire apparatus access roads meeting the 150-foot dimension requirement. The 150-foot dimension requirement can only be increased by the fire code official if an approved alternative means of fire protection is provided.

Discussion

The proposed amendment provides that the fire code official is also authorized to increase the 150-foot dimension requirement for One and Two Family R3/R5 dwellings that do not meet both of the criteria set forth above when the fire code official determines that other hazard-mitigating factors are present. The amendment provides examples of hazard-mitigating factors, such as, but not limited to, proximity of the property to the closest fire station, proximity of the property to a fire hydrant, the location of the property within the subdivision, or the presence of two or more approved access roads.

Alternatives

Maintain the current version of section 503.1.1, which limits the fire code official's ability to authorize exceptions to the 150-foot dimension requirement for One and Two Family R3/R5 dwellings that are required to install fire apparatus access roads.

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.