

Agenda Report

May 20, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (May 15, 2019)

FROM: Fire Department

SUBJECT: ACKNOWLEDGE THE PASADENA FIRE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF ANNUAL INSPECTIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 13146.2 AND 13146.3 OF THE CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule; and
2. Adopt the resolution recognizing the Pasadena Fire Department's level of compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3.

BACKGROUND:

California Senate Bill 1205 (SB 1205) was signed into law on September 27, 2018, after the tragic Ghost Ship Fire (December 2016) brought national attention to California and put a spotlight on fire safety laws as well as the performance of fire inspections. This law amends preceding law such that an annual report on state mandated inspections is now required to be submitted to the governing body of each jurisdiction having authority for inspections. The law also requires the report to be given when the administering authority discusses its annual budget and receipt of the report must be acknowledged in a resolution or similar formal document.

State mandated inspections were enacted by the California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 and requires all fire departments that provide fire protection services to perform annual inspections in every building used as a public or private school, hotel, motel, lodging house, apartment house, and certain residential

care facilities for compliance with building standards. The California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 did not require fire departments to report or demonstrate compliance as the new law (SB 1205) does.

Although there are no penalties identified in the law, adoption of the resolution will establish the City of Pasadena's intent to fulfill the requirements of the California Health & Safety Code regarding acknowledgment of the Pasadena Fire Department's compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3, which identifies the state mandated inspections above and further described below.

Public and private schools are generally classified as Educational Group E occupancies. They are schools used by more than six persons at any one time, for educational purposes through the 12th grade. Within the City of Pasadena, there are 96 Group E occupancies, buildings, structures and facilities.

During fiscal year 2018, the Pasadena Fire Department completed the annual inspection of 74 Group E occupancies, buildings, structures and facilities. This represents a compliance rate of 77%. There is one dedicated fire inspector assigned to these occupancy types and the performance for fiscal year 2019 is trending upwards with an anticipated completion of about 93% of the required inspections. The increase in performance is attributed to improved coordination and cooperation with school maintenance staff and a reduction in violations which would require re-inspection.

Hotels, motels, apartments (three units or more), and other residential occupancies that contain sleeping units (including some residential care facilities) are generally classified as Residential Group R occupancies. The residential care facilities have various sub-classifications and may contain residents or clients that have a range of needs, such as, custodial care, mobility impairments, cognitive disabilities, and more. The residents may also be non-ambulatory. Within the City of Pasadena, there are 2,673 Group R (and their associated sub-categories) occupancies.

During fiscal year 2018, the Pasadena Fire Department completed the annual inspection of 1,363 Group R occupancies, buildings, structures and facilities. This is a compliance rate of 51%. Residential occupancy inspections are divided between the Operations and Fire Prevention Bureaus. Calls for service, training, public education and other responsibilities impact available time to complete these fire inspections.

In an effort to increase overall performance and compliance with the State mandate, the Department has hired one city temporary worker (one day a week) and also assigned modified duty firefighters to conduct residential fire inspections. The combined effort is trending to increase the Department's compliance rate of mandated inspections for fiscal year 2019. If approved, the City Manager's recommended operating budget proposal to add one fire inspector to the Fire Department is expected to further increase compliance in fiscal year 2020.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), the general rule.

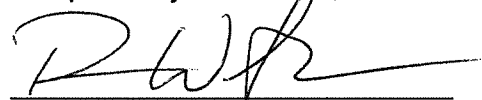
COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This action supports the City Council's strategic goal to ensure public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT:

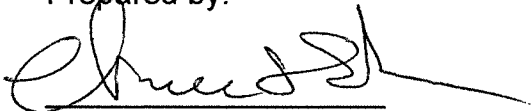
There is no fiscal impact as a result of acknowledging the Pasadena Fire Department's compliance with certain State mandated fire inspections. The report seeks to communicate with the governing authority about the level of compliance with state mandated safety inspections. This report should assist the Pasadena Fire Department and governing authority in planning and prioritizing available resources to appropriately staff and carry out state mandated inspections.

Respectfully submitted,



BERTRAL T. WASHINGTON
Fire Chief / Fire Marshal

Prepared by:



Wendell L. Eaton
Battalion Chief / Deputy Fire Marshal

Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment A – Resolution Acknowledging the Measure of Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3
Attachment B – Pasadena Fire Department FY18 Fire Prevention Inspection Summary Performance Report