

Agenda Report

May 8, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (April 19, 2023)
FROM: Fire Department
SUBJECT: 2022 REPORT REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH STATE-MANDATED FIRE INSPECTIONS

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 common sense exemption; and
2. Adopt a resolution acknowledging receipt of the Pasadena Fire Department's report on its level of compliance with state-mandated annual fire inspections as required by Senate Bill 1205 and California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

BACKGROUND:

On December 2, 2016, a fire occurred in a warehouse, known as the Ghost Ship that had been converted into an artist collective that included dwelling units, in the Fruitvale neighborhood of Oakland, California. A total of 36 people were killed in the fire and it became the deadliest fire in the history of the city. It is also recognized as the deadliest fire in the United States since The Station Nightclub Fire in 2003 and the deadliest in California since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. The tragedy that occurred at the Ghost Ship warehouse brought national attention and put a spotlight on fire safety laws as well as the performance of fire inspections in California.

On September 27, 2018, California Senate Bill 1205 (SB 1205) was signed into law, which amended preceding law such that an annual report on State mandated fire inspections is now required to be submitted to the governing body of each jurisdiction having authority for conducting fire 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 as per California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

Annual fire inspections help mitigate known hazards, reduce community risk and ensure reasonable compliance with the California Fire Code. During inspections, Fire Department staff verify maintenance of fire protective construction, sufficient Fire Department access, adequate exiting systems, and fire protection systems. These inspections also provide an opportunity for Fire Department personnel to become familiar with the buildings we protect and respond to for emergencies.

The California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.2 mandates that all Group R Occupancy hotels, motels and lodging houses, apartment buildings, condominiums, and other multi-family residential occupancies (including some residential care facilities) are inspected annually by the local fire department. During calendar year 2022, the Pasadena Fire Department completed 605 of 2,252 of the initial fire inspections of these Group R occupancy buildings; this represents a compliance rate of 27%, a slight improvement from CY2021 when 25% of these inspections were completed.

The California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.3 mandates that all K-12 schools are inspected annually by the local fire department. During calendar year 2022, the Pasadena Fire Department completed 45 of 96 of the initial fire inspections of these Group E occupancy buildings; this represents a compliance rate of 65%, an improvement from CY2021 when 47% of these inspections were completed.

In total, the Fire Department conducted 667 of 2,348 of the mandated inspections (or 28%) during CY2022, a slight improvement from the 26% of inspections completed in CY2021. Attachment A, Fire Inspection Performance, provides summarized CY2022 Pasadena Fire Department inspection completion rates.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This action of reporting on compliance with state mandated occupancy inspections provides transparency on compliance rates in support of the City Council's strategic goals of ensure public safety, and support and promote the quality of life and the local economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

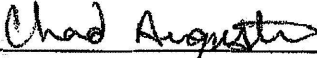
Find that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3), the common sense exemption.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as a result of acknowledging receipt of a report on 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 fire 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 fire inspections.

Respectfully submitted,



CHAD AUGUSTIN
Fire Chief
Pasadena Fire Department

Prepared by:



Anthony James
Deputy Fire Chief / Fire Marshal
Pasadena Fire Department

And



Joe Morelli
Deputy Fire Marshal
Pasadena Fire Department

Approved by:



MIGUEL MARQUEZ
City Manager

Attachment:

Attachment A – Fire Inspection Performance