

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 1, 2013

DEPARTMENT: CITY MANAGER

DIRECTOR: ELIZABETH N. FRETWELL

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Report regarding the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code as adopted by the City of Las Vegas on April 6, 2011 - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☐

No Impact

☐

Budget Funds Available

☐

Augmentation Required

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND

In recent months, some members of the Council have been contacted by owners of businesses trying to locate in buildings in the downtown area of the City who have expressed concerns with the costs of meeting the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Further there has been concern expressed about the purpose of building codes and how the IECC promotes a stated primary goal of the protection of public safety in our built environment. This concern also stems from a question of whether or not enough public debate has occurred at the State or local level on the impact or necessity of adopting an energy conservation code that requires levels of energy efficiency to be imposed upon new and the re-use of our built environment.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a report from staff and provide any direction that the Council agrees is appropriate to address issues related to the current 2009 International Energy Conservation Code and anticipated upcoming adoption of the proposed 2012 International Energy Conservation Code

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

1. Agenda Memo
2. Submitted at Meeting - PowerPoint Presentation and White Paper Regarding IECC by Staff and Letter from Stacey Crowley by Staff for Items 41 and 61

Minutes:

CHRIS KNIGHT, Director of Building and Safety, submitted an updated White Paper for the record and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation in detail as it played on overhead monitors.

COUNCILMAN BEERS expressed concern that there appeared to be a serious disconnect between a recent case in Las Vegas, where a business owner paid over \$30,000 for insulation, and staff's report which showed that average costs were in the area of \$10,000.

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COUNCILMAN COFFIN received clarification from MR. KNIGHT that there are tax write-offs available for business owners.

COUNCILMAN BEERS noted that some code requirements are costing jobs, making these codes non-sustainable. It is his belief that the legislature has not passed any similar codes.

Regarding COUNCILMAN BEERS' concern about energy measures contained within Tivoli Village, MR. KNIGHT explained that some of those measures were at the recommendation of the design professional and were not required by city code. MR. KNIGHT emphasized that city staff only seek conformance with the minimum requirements of current codes. COUNCILMAN BEERS insisted that City staff continually bombards developers with new rules every three years, making it very difficult and costly for developers.

See Item 9 for related discussion.