

Recommending Committee Briefing for Bill 2017-19

Residential Sprinklers in New Homes

What This Bill is About:

- Bill 2017-19 amends Title 16 of the Municipal Code to provide for an automatic fire sprinkler system to be installed in all new one- and two- family homes built in the City.
- Las Vegas has been called one of the safest resort districts in the world– we'd like to see that same level of safety provided to our citizens!
- Sprinklers have been installed in commercial buildings in CLV for years. The requirement for sprinklers in all new homes has been a part of the national model codes since 2009; other cities (like Henderson) have already adopted it and already have local 'saves' to prove their value.
- As required by NRS 278.586, an independent Cost-Benefit Analysis was performed by UNLV 's School of Public Policy and the associated public hearing on the results of that analysis is tentatively scheduled for 06/21/17.

What will happen if this Bill is not approved?

- **Issue #1:** If no sprinkler ordinance is put in place, most homes built in Las Vegas in the near future will continue to be built without the benefit of any fire protection other than smoke alarms.
- **Issue #2:** Fire station locations are typically planned using home fire statistics from 40-50 years ago when typical home furnishings and decorations were of natural fibers and materials. Fires grew more slowly then – typically giving the homeowner 12-18 minutes to escape a burning house alive. Our fire response times currently average 6-9 minutes. Modern homes full of synthetic materials and plastics burn up to 8 times faster (UL, 2009) and produce very toxic black smoke. Escape time can be as little as 2-3 minutes (NFPA statistics)! Sprinklers can give us a fighting chance!
- **Issue #3:** Modern home construction materials and methods include many types of manufactured lumber and lightweight trusses built of plywood webbing, 2x4's, and nail plates. They are cheaper, lighter, and straighter than solid wood – and they burn and collapse *much* faster. *A new home of lightweight construction + synthetic contents and no sprinklers = the Perfect Storm and danger to the occupants and first responders, alike!*

What will happen if this Bill passes?

- The enactment date will be at least 6 months in the future to allow for contractors to prepare, or could be made to coincide with the City's next code adoption cycle (2018 Editions) to simplify the implementation for all stakeholders.
- Industry notices, meetings, and workshops will continue to be held to inform and prepare all affected businesses. [Business Impact Study and meetings already conducted prior to submitting 2017-19]

Who are our stakeholders regarding this Bill?

Contractors, homebuilders' groups, fire sprinkler and other construction trades, IAFF and developers

Submitted At Meeting

Date Item
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