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Land Use & Environment Committee

Residential Fire Sprinkler Update

Agenda Date: 2/13/2020
Agenda Item Number: 6.C
File Number: 20-0122

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Title

Residential Fire Sprinkler Update

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive a briefing on residential sprinkler ordinance and recent administrative decisions to minimize cost(s) for construction of housing. Briefing only. No action requested

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive a briefing on residential sprinkler ordinance and recent administrative decisions to minimize cost(s) for construction of housing.

Staff Contact:

Kevin Bossard, Assistant Chief / Fire Marshal, Olympia Fire Department, 360-688-8222

Presenter(s):

Kevin Bossard, Assistant Chief / Fire Marshal, Olympia Fire Department

Background and Analysis:

Olympia's residential sprinkler ordinance was enacted July 1, 2014. There have been approximately 650 residential sprinkler systems installed since then. The current average cost for a residential sprinkler system is approximately \$250.00 per sprinkler head or \$3.50 per square foot. Recent administrative decisions have reduced cost of installation. These include:

- 1) Removal of a requirement for an item that in effect reduced the cost of a sprinkler system by approximately \$1,000.00.
- 2) Approval of an alternative method (instead of installing sprinklers) for conversion of a finished basement to an accessory dwelling unit or conversion of a pre-existing garage to ADU.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

The entire community is interested in life safety and property protection. Some members of the

community have raised concerns regarding the cost and function of residential fire sprinkler requirements, particularly related to ADU development costs.

Options:

1. Discuss information presented and take no action.
2. Discuss information presented and direct to staff to further research additional issues.

Financial Impact:

Cost to administer the residential fire sprinkler ordinance is covered by the City's adopted budget, primarily through permit and inspection fees. The overall financial impact to the City for fire protection services is significantly reduced by having sprinklers in residential buildings.

Attachments:

Sprinkler Fact Sheet