



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(revised 08/02/10)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 11/4/2010

Agenda Item #: R-7

Est. Start Time: 10:15 am

Agenda Title: Approve Resolution Adopting Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's Fire Prevention Code

Note: If Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation, provide exact title. For all other submissions, provide a clearly written title sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested Meeting Date:	November 4, 2010	Amount of Time Needed:	5 minutes
Department:	Community Services	Division:	Land Use and Trans Plan
Contact(s):	Karen Schilling		
Phone:	503-988-5050	Ext.	29635
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):	I/O Address: 455/1 st Floor		
	Karen Schilling, Planning Manager and Steve Forster, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Fire Marshal		

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approve Resolution adopting Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue's Fire Prevention Code.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

On a cycle of approximately every three years, the International Code Council develops and publishes an updated version of the International Fire Code. This Code is subsequently adopted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as the Oregon Fire Code (including Oregon-specific amendments) and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (with any TVF&R-specific amendments). After adoption by TVF&R, ORS 478.924 requires that the governing body of every city or county served by the fire district to approve the fire code ordinance by resolution for the provisions to be effective in that city or county (or portions thereof). Therefore, TVF&R is requesting that the County pass a resolution approving TVF&R Ordinance 10-02.

TVF&R has adopted two local amendments as is allowed by State law. Both amendments target the significant problem of false automatic alarms in our region. Nearly 1 in 10 emergency calls for TVF&R are false alarms dispatched by automatic alarm systems at commercial occupancies - resulting in a huge cost to our taxpayers. False alarms take emergency crews out of service, so they are unavailable for true emergencies, and responding to thousands of false alarms puts them on the road unnecessarily, adding to the risk to our community.

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The first amendment of the fire code requires that alarm monitoring companies attempt to verify the accuracy of alarms in commercial buildings prior to retransmitting to 911 centers, a precaution already taken in household alarm systems. This has no impact on the design or construction of buildings – it only impacts how alarm signals are handled by the offsite alarm monitoring companies.

The second amendment eliminates a firefighting water flow credit given for alarm systems. Given the poor reliability of alarm systems, TVF&R no longer believes it is prudent to trade firefighting water supply for unreliable alarm systems. This credit was rarely used, so the amendment should have little impact on the construction or design communities.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

There is no fiscal impact to Multnomah County.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

Adopting the TVR&R code is required for them to continue providing service in Multnomah County.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The proposed amendments went through TVFR's Board of Director's approval process, including public meeting advertising, and 2 separate readings prior to approval. Additionally, there was extensive dialogue with the Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA), since the amendments primarily affect the alarm monitoring industry.

Required Signature

**Elected Official or
Department/
Agency Director:**



Date: 10/14/2010

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