

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Update on the Fire Inspection Fee program

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*Fire Department*

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*City Attorney's Office*

**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

As requested by Council, staff will present an informational update on the Fire Inspection Fee Program.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS****Fire Inspection Fees**

Recognizing the increased demand for fire inspection services driven by growth in Bellevue, in 2019 Council authorized the Bellevue Fire Department to begin collecting fire inspection fees. The fire inspection fee charged is based on a formula taking into account the occupancy of the building, square footage, and complexity of the inspection. Fees are waived for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Council's stated policy objective is for the fire inspection fee program to be revenue neutral, with the amount collected in fire inspection fees covering the costs of the necessary fire inspections.

Since its implementation, the fire inspection fee ordinance has been modified twice to adjust rates and make technical corrections to better serve Council's policy objectives. COVID-19 created several challenges for the Fire Department related to conducting fire life safety inspections. Despite these challenges, fire inspectors were able to adapt and increased completed inspections and fee collections year-over-year.

In 2020, 90 percent of the necessary life safety inspections were completed, for a total of \$693,000 in fees collected. In 2021, 100 percent of the necessary life safety inspections were completed, for a total of \$731,000 in fees collected. In 2022, staff are projected to again complete 100 percent of the necessary life safety inspections, for a projected total of \$812,000 in fees collected.

**POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS****Policy Impact**

There are no policy impacts associated with this update.

**Fiscal Impact**

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this update.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

A. Ordinance No. 6443 adopted December 3, 2018

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A