

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

Fire Prevention Activity Update

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Fire Department

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

INFORMATION ONLY

Tonight's presentation will provide Council with an update on the impact the addition of two Fire Prevention Officers has had on fire prevention activity over the past year.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

On December 2, 2018, the City Council authorized two additional Fire Prevention Officer positions, effective January 1, 2019, to join the inspection team that focuses on the fire and life safety of our citizens and the existing built environment. Staff will share with the City Council the impact this has made on the community, highlighting milestones and successes.

Fire Prevention's purpose is to serve the public by providing fire and life safety inspections, community education, and investigation services to help prevent fires to achieve a safe, vibrant and economically sustainable City. Our services result in enhanced public safety in all buildings and improves emergency responders' ability to manage an incident. In 2019, significant Fire Prevention achievements included the following:

- 2019 Fire Inspections 100 percent completed, in accordance with Council approved bi-annual frequency for existing buildings and tenants:

Year	Buildings/Tenants Assigned	Building/Tenants Inspected	Completed
2019	1452 / 4966	1452 / 4966	100% / 100%
2018	1423 / 5115	1213 / 4410	85% / 86%
2017	1375 / 4915	1028 / 3913	75% / 80%
2016	1436 / 4758	1343 / 4284	94% / 90%
2015	1411 / 4653	1390 / 4536	99% / 97%

- On January 1, 2020, staff implemented a robust fire inspection software solution *Streamline*, for maintenance fire inspections performed on existing buildings and tenants. The new system will benefit the customer in the form of immediate receipt of results and includes a self-certification feature that allows customers to clear certain violations by uploading photo documentation online. The software will also benefit staff with efficiencies during the inspection, report writing, electronic delivery of results, and the follow up to clear violations.

- Throughout 2019 the department provided fire prevention inspection training to firefighters to ensure that all staff conducting inspections were appropriately trained.
- During the inspection process, staff discovered and mitigated potential impacts on life and safety (e.g. work without a permit, recalled sprinkler heads, disabled fire doors and blocked exits).
- Staff have been working to ensure fire safety features are installed and maintained in working order. To underscore that importance, there have been six fires since August that were extinguished by fire sprinklers. In each of these cases, there was minimal fire damage which required fewer firefighters and allowed them to get back in service much sooner than when compared to the same fire in a non-sprinklered structure.
- The benefit of two additional Fire Prevention Officers for 2019 provided the means to complete all assigned maintenance inspections, the ability to conduct extensive customer outreach regarding the upcoming fire inspection fees and allowed staff to address countless fire code violations.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue has been in an extended development cycle with Development Services issuing Certificate of Occupancies to numerous buildings with life and safety systems including fire sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, emergency responder radio systems and smoke control systems that mitigate the impact when fires and other emergencies occur. In the past five years, over 10 million square feet of new construction has been added to the built environment. Every existing building in Bellevue and our contract cities and each subsequent building that comes online becomes the responsibility of Fire Prevention to ensure that all life and safety features of the buildings are maintained for both the occupants and our emergency responders.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this update.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

N/A

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A