



# MEMORANDUM

Council Agenda  
Item No. IX.B.  
12/6/2016

## The City of OKLAHOMA CITY

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: James D. Couch, City Manager

Ordinance on final hearing, relating to the Building Code, amending Chapter 12, Article XI Section 12-252(a) of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code, 2010, relating to the requirement of smoke detector installation in certain buildings to require smoke detector installation in all residential one or two family structures.

### Purpose

To amend The City of Oklahoma City code to require the mandatory installation of smoke detectors in single and two family residential structures.

### Background

Municipalities may adopt national compilations or codes of law relating traffic, building, plumbing, electrical and fire regulations to protect the public health and safety. The City has previously required the installation of smoke detectors in commercial and multi-family dwellings. Smoke detectors are also required in single family homes when they are built or when construction is done.

The attached Ordinance will amend Section 12-252 of the Oklahoma City Municipal Code by deleting an exception to the smoke detector requirement for detached single-family dwellings. This change will require detached single family homes to have or install smoke detectors in accordance with the code.

To increase life safety, the Oklahoma City Fire Department has made smoke detectors available to home owners for many years, free of cost, through federal grants and the department's 501c3 non-profit charity, Project Life Endowment Fund, maintained by the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In fiscal year 2016, the Oklahoma City Fire Department installed and/or distributed over 3000 smoke detectors.

The Oklahoma City Fire Department has explained for many years that these small devices are one of the best ways to eliminate or reduce injuries in a fire. Nationwide the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has reported that 2 of every 5 fatalities which occur in home fires occur where there is no smoke detector. NFPA also reports that in a recent survey 96% of those responding said they have at least one detector in their home. But this still leaves a large number of homes with no early warning for the occupants in case of a fire.

Locally, the Oklahoma City Fire Department has seen multiple fire situations where they know that the smoke detectors helped get people out of the structure and saved many lives. This change supports the goals of National Fire Prevention Month and more education about the change can be distributed about the change and the life safety it can help achieve.

The Fire Department has reviewed the proposed Ordinance and recommends the change be adopted.

The proposed amendments to smoke detector ordinance will require the installation of wired or battery smoke detectors in all single family homes. When any construction is done, the current International Code adopted in Oklahoma City requires that wired smoke detectors be provided.

Review

Development Services

Recommendation: Ordinance be adopted.

Attachment