



Recent Council Decision on 'Fire Spread' Report



Industry Voice
Recent Council Decision on 'Fire Spread' Report
Amie Blanchette
January 25, 2011

On Monday, January 24th City Council made an important decision to increase consultation and transparency when it comes to administration advocating changes to the Building and Fire Codes. [Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart](#) brought forward several amendments to a recent report ("Protection Against Residential Fires and Fire Spread in the City of Calgary") that had been jointly authored by Development and Building Approvals (DBA) and the Calgary Fire Department.

The report had stated that DBA would promote changes to spatial separation requirements in the Alberta Building Code as a measure to increase fire protection and reduce fire spread, while at the same time the Calgary Fire Department would continue lobbying for mandatory sprinklers. This divided approach meant there was no clear understanding by City Council as to which direction they were endorsing and ultimately advocating to the Provincial Government.

Alderman Colley-Urquhart's amendments (listed below) were almost unanimously approved, with only Alderman Hodges opposing.

- Encourage the Minister of Municipal Affairs to continue to consult with industry and other key stakeholders in proceeding with the recommendations on the High Intensity Residential Fires (HIRF) that were tabled;

- Have the Calgary Fire Department and Development & Building Approvals work in cooperation with industry on any proposed changes to the Alberta Building Code (ABC) and the National Building Code (NBC) aligned with the ["Protection Against Residential Fires and Fire Spread in the City of Calgary"](#) report, and advise Council of Code recommendations in advance; and

- Direct Administration to work with key industry stakeholders and the Department of Municipal Affairs to determine the potential financial impact of the remaining four recommendations; and

- As a result of the two research projects (NRC and the CFD) which are underway to specifically examine mandatory residential sprinkler systems, direct Administration to report back through the SPC on Community & Protective Services with policy options on the feasibility of mandatory residential sprinklers systems prior to The City of Calgary advocating for such a provincial policy.

These amendments will ensure that both DBA and the Calgary Fire Department continue to consult with Industry on any of the Code change recommendations coming out of the Fire Spread report. It also allows for additional discussion of upcoming research and review of an internal Calgary Fire Department report on mandatory sprinklers that may not have otherwise been made available for public comment.

Perhaps most importantly, these changes ensure that in the end it is Council's clear direction that will set the path for advocacy when it comes to residential fire sprinklers. We hope these amendments will also inform the reporting process for any other major Code change proposals or related advocacy issues going forward.

A thank you to all members of Council who supported these amendments and Industry looks forward to working once again with our partners at Development and Building Approvals along with the Calgary Fire Department on this important issue.

Industry Voice

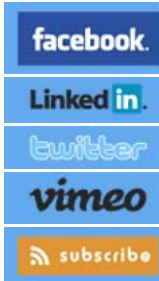
Date: January 25, 2011

Posted: 09:30

Author: Amie Blanchette

Like |
4 retweet

Share



Interviews & Videos [View More Videos](#)



[Votecalgary Aldermanic](#)



[Norris Urges Industry](#)



[Vote Calgary Mayoral Forum](#)



[Ric McIver, Mayoral](#)

More Information

[The Partners](#)
[Industry Issues](#)

[Mayoral Candidates](#)
[Aldermanic Candidates](#)
[Our Supporters](#)

[Submit An Article](#)
[Project Manager](#)
[Contact Us](#)

[CHBA - Calgary Region](#)
[UDI - Calgary](#)

Brought To You By:

