



Department Source: Fire

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 21, 2015

Re: Modification of City Ordinance 9-22, Section 903.2.8.3 Fraternity and Sorority Houses

## Executive Summary

The Fire Department recommends the following modifications to City Ordinance 9-22, Section 903.2.8.3:

903.2.8.3 *Fraternity and Sorority Houses*. Each fraternity and sorority house and fraternity and sorority annex with sixteen (16) or more occupants existing on March 16, 2009 shall install at a minimum an automatic fire sprinkler system, designed and installed under the current edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 13R, in accordance with Section 903.3 of the 2006 International Fire Code, no later than ~~March 16~~ June 1, 2016.

New fraternity and sorority houses and fraternity and sorority annexes and such houses and annexes that undergo renovation of their space, shall install at a minimum an NFPA 13R fire sprinkler system.

Existing fraternity and sorority houses and fraternity and sorority annexes that cannot be compliant by June 1, 2016 must submit a plan to achieve compliance to the Fire Chief (or designee) and receive approval of the plan prior to June 1, 2016. The Fire Chief (or designee) will review the plans, establish benchmarks, identify additional interim safety measures required, and, if approved, establish a new deadline not to exceed three years in duration, June 1, 2019. Additional interim safety measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Occupancy restrictions,
- Special event restrictions,
- Alarm system enhancements,
- Monthly fire alarm battery checks and certification by governing board president and secretary, or equivalent (adult governing board or advisor, not student leadership),
- Fire watch, and/or
- Temporary sprinkler system

Written quarterly reports to the Fire Chief, or designee, will be required to be submitted by any fraternity or sorority who receives an extension.

If the fraternity or sorority disagrees with the determination of the Fire Chief, a written request for review and variance from the requirements established by the Fire Chief may be



requested by the fraternity or sorority from the city council. Compliance with the requirements of this section shall not be stayed pending review of the request by the city council.

For purposes of this section, "fraternity and sorority house" means any building used as a dwelling and occupied by and maintained exclusively or primarily for college, university or professional school students who are affiliated with a social, honorary or professional organization recognized currently or in the past by a college, university or professional school.

### Discussion

As of July 31, 2015 five fraternities / sororities meeting the appropriate criteria had not been sprinkled. Two of those five have requested extensions to the March 16, 2016 deadline. These recommended changes are based on council recommendations from discussion on August 17, 2015 from REP 81-15.

### Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No fiscal impact  
Long-Term Impact: No fiscal impact

### Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

[Vision Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Environment, Secondary Impact: Health, Social Services & Affordable Housing, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Legislative History

Date	Action
None	None



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Suggested Council Action

Recommend approval of the recommended changes.