

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____
COUNCIL BILL 117945

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Building and Construction Codes, Subtitle VI Fire Code; amending Seattle Municipal Code Section 22.602.090 to revise Seattle Fire Department confidence test documentation filing fees.

WHEREAS, in keeping with State Fire Code and practices throughout the country, beginning in 2014 confidence test reports will no longer be collected by the Seattle Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to maintain appropriate cost recovery levels for fire prevention services; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2014, Section 22.602.090 of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last amended by Ordinance 124044, is amended as follows:

22.602.090 Fees for filing confidence test documentation

The Fire Chief or his designee shall collect a \$10 fee for processing documentation pertaining to confidence testing conducted between October 1, 2011 and December 31, 2013 in accordance with Administrative Rule 9.02.09, Confidence Test Requirements for Life Safety Systems, as required by the Seattle Fire Code. Confidence test documentation filing fees shall be payable by the person responsible for performing the confidence test. For purposes of this Section 22.602.090, "person" has the same meaning as defined in the Seattle Fire Code as constituted pursuant to Section 22.600.020. The \$10 fee for processing documentation pertaining to confidence testing is rescinded for all confidence tests conducted on or after January 1, 2014.



1 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and
5 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this
6 ____ day of _____, 2013.

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10 _____
11 President _____ of the City Council

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13 Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

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16 _____
17 Michael McGinn, Mayor

18 Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

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20 _____
21 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

22 (Seal)



2014 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Seattle Fire Department (SFD)	Karen Grove/6-1451	Melissa Lawrie/4-5805

Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Building and Construction Codes, Subtitle VI Fire Code; amending Seattle Municipal Code Section 22.602.090 to revise Seattle Fire Department confidence test documentation filing fees.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation would eliminate the \$10 fee associated with filing documentation for confidence tests conducted on fire and life safety systems as of January 1, 2014. This would reflect an administrative change in the program, whereby confidence test documentation will no longer be submitted to the Seattle Fire Department.

Background:

Functional tests of fire and life safety systems, such as sprinklers and fire alarms, are required by the fire code. The tests are known as "confidence tests," and for the past several years, the Seattle Fire Department required that test results be submitted to the Seattle Fire Marshal's Office. In 2011, a \$10 report filing fee was added to partially cover program costs. Roughly 15,000 to 17,000 reports have been received annually – the vast majority of which document a normal test result.

In keeping with Washington State fire code and practices throughout the country, beginning in 2014, confidence test reports will no longer be collected by the Seattle Fire Department. Customers will still be required to test their systems regularly and use a hotline to notify the Seattle Fire Department of significant system impairments. During annual inspections, Seattle Fire Department engine companies will continue to verify that confidence tests have been performed. As a result, discontinuing the practice of collecting reports will not impact current fire prevention efforts and will remove a bureaucratic burden from City customers. The revenue loss associated with eliminating the fee is offset by other adjustments included in the 2014 Proposed Budget.

 X This legislation has financial implications.

Summary of Changes to Revenue Generated Specifically from this Legislation:

Revenue Source	2014 Proposed	2015 Proposed
Confidence Testing	(\$125,000)	(\$150,000)
Total Fees and Charges Resulting From Passage of This Ordinance	(\$125,000)	(\$150,000)



Revenue Change Notes:

Confidence test filing fees were introduced in late 2011 and have not been modified since. This proposed legislation would eliminate the \$10 per report filing fee. Revenue estimates assume that reports conducted in the last two months of 2013 will be invoiced and payable in 2014. It is not possible to compare Seattle confidence test document filing fees to those charged elsewhere in the region, as most neighboring cities do not require confidence test reports to be filed with their fire departments.

Anticipated Total Revenue from Entire Program, Including Changes Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Revenue Source	Total 2014 Revenue	Total 2015 Revenue
General Fund, No. 00100, Fire Department	Confidence Testing	\$25,000	\$0
TOTAL		\$25,000	\$0

Total Revenue Notes:

The revenue loss associated with eliminating the confidence test filing fee is offset by other adjustments included in the 2014 Proposed Budget.

Other Implications:

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**
No.
- b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing this legislation?**
There is no direct cost to the City of Seattle in not implementing the legislation. However, the legislation intends to re-align fee levels based on current service costs. This realignment is an important component of managing a fee-based program.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
No.
- d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**
None.
- e) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- f) **Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**
No special notice – fees will be published with Adopted Budget.
- g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- h) **Other Issues:**



Karen Grove
SFD 2014 Fee ORD
August 28, 2013
Version #1

None.

Please list attachments to the fiscal note below:

None.





City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

September 23, 2013

Honorable Sally J. Clark
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Clark:

I am transmitting the attached proposed Council Bill for consideration with the 2014 Proposed Budget. This legislation removes a \$10 fee associated with the Seattle Fire Department's confidence testing program, reflecting changes to streamline the administration of the program that will begin in 2014.

Functional tests of fire and life safety systems, such as sprinklers and fire alarms, are required by the fire code. The tests are known as confidence tests, and for the past several years, the Seattle Fire Department required that test results be submitted to the Seattle Fire Marshal's Office. In keeping with Washington State fire code and practices throughout the country, beginning in 2014, confidence test reports will no longer be collected by the Seattle Fire Department. Several other programmatic requirements will remain in place to ensure that systems are regularly tested and that the Seattle Fire Department is notified of significant system impairments.

Fire prevention and life safety programs are vitally important for everyone who lives, visits, and works in Seattle. Fire prevention efforts will not be impacted by discontinuing the practice of collecting confidence test reports, and City customers will benefit from the reduction in paperwork. The 2014 Proposed Budget includes proposals to offset the revenue reduction and ensure that changes in Seattle Fire Department confidence testing services have no impact on the City's General Fund. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Karen Grove at 386-1451.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

