

2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
147	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Pass C.B. 117636 -- The Fire Permit Fee Ordinance

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: John McCoy

Council Bill or Resolution: 117636

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
11/07/2012	Pass 8- 1-Absent	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Budget Action description:

This green sheet passes Council Bill 117636, an ordinance adjusting fire permit fees in 2013 and 2014. Revenues from this adjustment are assumed in the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget. Fire permits are required for a variety of activities, including code compliance for new buildings, handling and storage of hazardous materials, and place of assembly permits for regular and special events.

The City typically adjusts its fire permit fees every 2-3 years to align the fees with the cost of providing the service. Under this ordinance, the Fire Department estimates that fees would recover approximately 77% of the cost of service. Fire permits are expected to generate \$4.6 million in General Subfund revenue in 2013 and \$4.7 million in 2014. The incremental effect of the proposed ordinance is relatively modest, accounting for about \$2,400 in net new revenue in 2013 and \$61,300 in 2014. A much larger factor driving permit fee revenue is the uptick in the local economy, which is expected to drive demand higher for code compliance reviews. The Proposed Budget adds 2.0 FTEs, a Plan Reviewer and Construction Inspector, with staffing costs backed by fee revenue.

TriData, a consultant hired to evaluate the Fire Department’s costs, has recommended that the department raise fees to target full 100% cost recovery, which the department plans to address in future permit reviews.