

**JOURNAL OF COMMISSION WORK SESSION**  
**October 1, 2013**

City Commission Work Session  
Civic Center, Gibson Room 212

Mayor Pro Tempore Jones presiding




**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** City Commissioners present: Bill Bronson, Bob Jones, Bob Kelly, and Fred Burow. Mayor Michael J. Winters was excused.

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager; Deputy City Manager; City Attorney; Directors of Fiscal Services, Planning and Community Development, and Public Works; Fire Chief; Police Chief; Assistant Fire Chief; and the Deputy City Clerk.

**1. LIFE SAFETY FIRE CODE UPDATE**

Fire Marshal Dirk Johnson provided and discussed a PowerPoint presentation on fire prevention. He also provided a handout of the City Fire Marshal Fire Prevention Bureau Report.

<p style="text-align: center;">CITY FIRE PREVENTION WORK SESSION</p> <p>Dirk Johnson, Fire Marshal Date: Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WHY???</p> <p>□ WHY do we have fire codes??</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">2013 Fire Marshal's Report</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Triangle Shirtwaist Fire 1911</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Top 3 floors</li><li>□ 500 Employees</li><li>□ 147 garment workers killed<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Exits were blocked or locked</li><li>■ 2 Months worth of "cutaway cloth"</li></ul></li><li>■ Prompts 1913 NFPA Executive Committee to form the "Committee on Safety of Life from Accidents"</li></ul>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">2013 Fire Marshal's Report</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cocoanut Grove Nightclub 1942</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>□ Locked and lack of exits</li><li>□ Narrow hallways</li><li>□ Occupancy load 600</li><li>□ Over 1000 in attendance</li><li>□ 492 people died</li></ul> <p>Prompts changes to the NFPA "Building Exits Code"</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">2013 Fire Marshal's Report</p>

## Our Lady of the Angels School 1958

- Combustible interior finishes
- Lack of exits
- Open stairwells B/T buildings
- 90 Pupils and 3 Nuns died
  
- Follow up testing (1960) revealed complete sprinkler systems provide the best chance for escape.



2013 Fire Marshal's Report

## Rhode Island Nightclub Fire 2003

- Lack of Exits
- Interior Finishes
- Pyrotechnics
- 100 people died



2013 Fire Marshal's Report

## “In Prevention of those Situations” some Current Challenges

- Code compliance
  - Fire Alarms Systems
    - - Inspected and operating
    - 24 hour monitoring by staff or electronically
  - Building Fire Sprinkler Systems
    - - Inspected and operating/alarmed
  - Means of Egress
    - - Sufficient egress for type of occupancy
- Challenges facing exiting businesses & buildings
  - Changes in occupancy
    - Buildings that are now used as a different occupancy type than built for (factory occupancy with a business occ. now)
  - Compliance
    - Does it meet current code or code when it was built
  - Fire protection system deficiencies
    - Inoperable alarm/sprinkler systems or systems that are completely shut off, Fire Department Connections taken off etc.
    - Exits blocked or exit ways used for storage.

2013 Fire Marshal's Report

## Prevention

- Increased contact with contractors, installers, community development and building code enforcement
- No means of regulating special events or operations for which a facility was not originally designed
  - Haunted Houses
- City liability and risk management in regards to code enforcement. What we know might hurt us

2013 Fire Marshal's Report

## Short and Long term goals

- Reprioritize fire inspection program to emphasize life safety
- Train operations staff to inspect fire protection systems
- Follow-up on major code infractions and discrepancies.
- Continue to work closely with code enforcement staff on new construction and renovation projects
- Hire a Deputy Fire Marshal (someday?)

2013 Fire Marshal's Report

## Impact

- Negative Impact
  - Community business owners resistance to change
  - Increase in cost to the Community
  - Perception of heavy handedness
  - Buildings & Businesses must only meet the standard that was in place when originated unless renovated or there is a change in occupancy
- Positive Impact
  - Improved public safety
  - Improved community quality of life
  - Reduced life loss and property damage
  - Improved safety for firefighters
  - Decreased liability for the City

2013 Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Johnson explained the City recently adopted the 2012 International Fire Code (IFC) that references National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes.

Discussion followed on opportunities for education and enforcement of life safety fire code regulations.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Jones adjourned the informal work session of October 1, 2013, at 6:12 p.m.

10/01/2013