




CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

Rapid City Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
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TO: Legal and Finance Committee
FROM: Assistant Chief Behlings 
DATE: August 12, 2015
SUBJECT: Ordinance 6049 Fire Protection of Floors

At the July 15, 2015, meeting; staff was directed to forward a recommendation to identify concessions that could be given to offset the contractor's cost due to the result/impact of the proposed ordinance. Following conversations with Brad Solon, Building Official, it does not appear that additional concessions are readily identifiable as the International Residential Code already contains the minimum standards accepted for construction of one or two-family dwellings. Mr. Solon issued a memorandum which outlines 12 concessions already provided through the recent review and adoption of the 2012 IRC.

In an attempt to identify specific areas of concern which could be considered, I reached out to the Black Hills Home Builders Association. Following numerous attempts to discuss the issue and seek specifics, no input was provided. Based upon past discussions, the only item that surfaced is in regard to an electrical code provision, which is adopted by the State of South Dakota. In my opinion, their lack of input or contact shows that they either do not have specifics or simply do not care at this point in the process.

The Fire Department has repeatedly identified options to meet the provisions of the proposed ordinance, and has diligently attempted to address concerns raised, both technical and economical.

It must be noted for the record that the Fire Department adamantly supports the ordinance to re-introduce the fire protection of floors back into the recently adopted International Residential Code. Neglecting to maintain the minimum provision of the IRC without suitable alternatives is reckless and does not comply with the Fire Department or City of Rapid City's core values or obligations.

I respectfully ask for your support of Ordinance 6049 as presented.