

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

## AGENDA ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: December 2, 2008

**TITLE: Consideration of an Amendment to Chapter 12 (Fire Protection) of the Town Code**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue Department</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: NO</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> <b>A. Ordinance</b> <b>B. Excerpt from 11/18/08 BOA Minutes</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> <b>Travis Crabtree, 918-7349</b>

### PURPOSE

Staff was asked to create different options that were occupancy specific with respect to Section 12-14 (g) of the Town Code. The Town Attorney has prepared an ordinance for the Board's consideration.

### INFORMATION

The Town of Carrboro currently has a fire sprinkler ordinance (since 1997) in place through special legislation which requires fire sprinkler systems in all newly constructed buildings and changes of use that occurs in any existing buildings that are over 6,000 sq ft. This ordinance is more restrictive than the state building and fire codes, which in most instances requires a fire sprinkler system at 12,000 sq ft.

The 6,000 sq ft threshold was determined as the maximum size building that the Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department could have a reasonable expectation of attacking successfully with the limited resources that arrive on the initial dispatch of a structure fire (2 engines, 1 ladder truck) and determined that anything exceeding that needed sprinklers for adequate protection.

Staff recognizes the need for economic development, especially when using existing buildings. At the same time, the Fire Department would prefer no additional changes in the fire sprinkler ordinance. The current language provides protection for the public and firefighters that will not be present if the ordinance is amended as proposed.

### FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

The impact of the proposed ordinance would not require any additional time during the plans review process for new buildings.

### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen make no changes to Section 12-14 (g) of Chapter 12 of the Town Code.