

DEC 14 2007

PUBLIC SAFETY

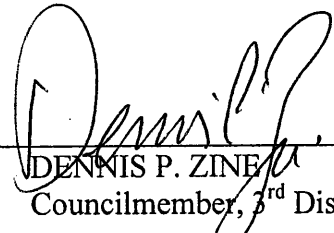
MOTION

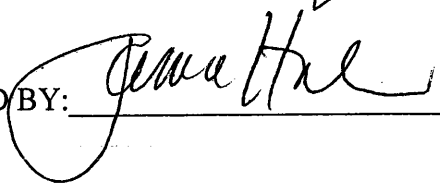
The October 2007 California wildfires had devastating effects on lives, homes and the environment. At least 1,500 homes were destroyed, over 500,000 acres of land burned, and nine people died as a direct result of the fire. The fire was eventually contained as a result of the tireless efforts of the Fire Department; however, the City must evaluate precautions to prevent future fires and minimize the damage a fire causes when it does occur.

The roof is the most vulnerable part of any home during a wildfire. The majority of fires start when embers ignite on non-fire resistant roofing materials. Recently, the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) reported that Municipal Code requirements pertaining to fire-retardant roof coverings have been successful in curbing the spread of residential fires. However, the LAFD reported that a weakness in the Municipal Code was its failure to require that roof eaves be fire-retardant. Roof eaves are the horizontal, lower edge of a sloped roof. Even if a roof is fire-retardant, unless roof eaves are enclosed with fire-resistant material, the house is vulnerable to catching on fire.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety be requested to report to the Public Safety Committee on:

- 1) Proposed new requirements for fire-retardant eaves on roofs on homes in the City; and
- 2) Requirements for fire-retardant roof eaves in other local jurisdictions.

PRESENTED BY: 
 DENNIS P. ZINE
 Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: 

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