

STAFF REPORT

To: Asheville City Council
Public Safety Committee

Date: January 6, 2015

From: Chris Budzinski, Interim Fire Chief
Asheville Fire Department

Prepared by: Wayne Hamilton,
Assistant Fire Chief

Via: Gary Jackson, City Manager

Subject: Grant of smoke alarms – 2015 Home Safety Grant

Summary Statement: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDI), Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) of smoke alarms with the purpose of providing free smoke alarms to the citizens of Asheville.

Review: The North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDI), Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has offered the City of Asheville 2015 Home Safety Grant. This non-matching grant includes smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, hearing impaired smoke alarms, educational materials, and installation supplies valued at \$10,180.00.

Nearly 3 out of 5 home fire deaths occur in homes without a working smoke detector. This grant will increase the number of households in Asheville with smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. As part of the program, the Asheville Fire Department in partnership with WNC Safe Kids will identify and visit neighborhoods, install the free smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and deliver home safety education to the recipients.

Providing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and fire safety education complies with the City Council Strategic Operating Plan Focus Area 3, High Quality of Life; Goal 1, Make Asheville one of the safest cities in America based on approved metrics for similarly sized cities through partnerships, planning, and incentives.

Pros: • This grant will increase the number of households in Asheville with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms resulting in a safer community. This program enhances the partnership between the City of Asheville, WNC Safekids and the NC OSFM.

Cons: • None

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact for this nonmatching grant. The smoke alarms, along with the education provided while installing the smoke alarms, will not have an impact on the Asheville Fire Department's operating budget. On duty firefighters will be used to provide the staffing needed for installing the smoke detectors, in conjunction with WNC Safe Kids volunteers.

Recommendation: City staff recommends the Public Safety Committee support the adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to accept a grant from the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of the State Fire Marshal of these smoke alarms and associated fire safety materials.

Attachment: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL OF THEIR 2015 HOME SAFETY GRANT OF SMOKE DETECTORS AND FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is authorized pursuant to G.S. 160A-240.1 to acquire the fee or any lesser interest in real property by gift, grant, bequest or any other lawful method; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is interested in improving the quality of life of its citizens by providing and installing free smoke alarms to high risk populations within the corporate limits of the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is providing smoke alarms and educational materials valued at \$10,180.00 to the City of Asheville through their 2015 Home Fire Safety Grant; and

WHEREAS, The Asheville Fire Department, together with the Asheville Firefighter's Association (Local 865), strive to keep citizens safe from death or injury due to fire through our current program that allows low income households to obtain a free smoke alarm; and

WHEREAS, this OSFM Home Safety Grant is an enhancement and expansion of our current fire prevention and life safety efforts of providing citizens free smoke alarms,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City Manager is hereby authorized to accept on behalf of the City of Asheville the 2015 Home Safety Grant materials offered by the North Carolina Department of Insurance, Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Read, approved and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2015.

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney