

July 17, 2019

To: Tabitha Miller, F.B. City Manager and Members of the Public Safety Committee

RE: City Ordinance Section 15.06 Fire Sprinkler Requirement:

The City of Fort Bragg's Municipal Code (section 15.06) requires that all commercial and multifamily remodel projects, with a total valuation of more than \$75,000: •The valuation includes but is not limited to demolition, new construction, framing, interior/exterior painting, all floor finishes, electrical and plumbing, new fixtures, counter tops, appliances, built in furniture, replacement windows, decks, etc.

Dear City Manager Tabitha Miller and Members of the Public Safety Committee

I am asking this Committee to please reconsider the amount and the exterior repair items that currently require that a sprinkler system be installed.

1. The amount of 75k is low in relation to construction costs today. I have spoken to an architect; contractor, real estate broker and insurance agent, all agree that the amount of 75k is a low threshold. They also were surprised that exterior repairs triggered the requirement for fire sprinklers.
2. Exterior repairs & improvements should be eliminated from the Ordinance. We have just recently had a stem wall installed on our building and sidewalks replaced. Amazingly all this counts towards the requirement for a fire sprinkler system inside the building. As we approach the 75k threshold we may only be able to patch the stucco and leave the building unpainted for the next 3 years.
This seems like a deterrent to businesses or property owners who may want to at least improve the outside appearance of their building.
3. I am asking to the Public Safety Committee to please revise this Ordinance so that downtown businesses will be encouraged to maintain the outside of their buildings. Any inside improvements should count towards the requirement for a Fire Sprinkler System but this amount should be increased.

As a business owner, a member of the Chamber of Commerce and one who is dedicated to see our economy improve and support our business community, I ask for your consider in this matter.

Thank you,

Jeanette Colombi