

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-200**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE 2018 EDITION OF INTERNATIONAL CODE COUCL INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE; PROVIDING FOR LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ADOPTED CODE; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES AND/OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on 5<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012, by Ordinance No. 2012-O-183 the City Council adopted the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code; and

**WHEREAS**, a newer edition of this code is now recommended for adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, these codes are designed to secure the public health and safety through structural strength, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, and safety to life and property form fire and other hazard attributable to the built environment, including alternation, repair, removal, demolition, use, and occupancy of building structures, or premises by regulation the installation and maintenance of all buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fire Chief recommends that the adoption of the 2018 edition of the International Fire Code will establish regulations affecting or relating to structures, processes, premises and safeguards regarding the hazards of fire.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:**

**Section 1.** The City of Laredo Code of Ordinances, Chapter 12, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article I, Sections 12-2 and 12-3 are hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 12-2. Fire prevention code—Adopted.

The city, by and through its city council, hereby adopts the ~~2012~~ 2018 edition of the International Fire Code in its entirety, save and except such portions as are hereinafter deleted, modified supplemented or amended; and the same is herby adopted and incorporated herein as fully as if set out at length; and from the date on which this section shall take effect, the provisions of the International Fire Code, ~~2012~~ 2018 edition, and this section shall [be] controlling within the corporate limits of the city.

One (1) copy of which is on file at the Fire Department Administrative Building of the City of Laredo, being marked and designated as the International Fire Code, ~~2012~~ 2018 edition, including Appendix Chapters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I.

Sec. 12-3. Same—Amendments.

The following sections of the 2018 International Fire Code are hereby modified to be specifically tailored to the City of Laredo:

Section 507.5.1. Where required. . Fire hydrants shall be provided along new public and new

private streets at every 300 feet for commercial development and every 500 feet for residential development, and where a portion of the facility or building hereafter constructed or moved into or within the jurisdiction is more than 400 feet ( 122 m) from a hydrant on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains shall be provided where required by the fire code official.

Exceptions:

1. Fire Group R-3 and Group U occupancies, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183M).
2. For buildings equipped throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the distance requirement shall be 600 feet (183m).

Section 507.5.7. Marking of fire hydrant locations. Raised blue pavement markers shall be provided on public and private streets to indicate the locations of fire hydrants. These markers shall be placed just off center to the side the fire hydrant is located.

Section 903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in any building regardless of occupancy type in which the total fire areas within the exterior walls exceed 12,000 square feet, and shall also be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12.

Exceptions: Spaces or areas in telecommunications buildings used exclusively for telecommunications equipment, associated electrical power distribution equipment, batteries and standby engines, provided that those spaces or areas are equipped throughout with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 and are separated from the remainder of the building by not less than 1-hour fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the International Building Code or not less than 2-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the International Building Code, or both.

903.2.8.5 Group R-2. An automatic sprinkler system shall be required in all Group R-2 occupancies (apartment houses) that have three units or more per building.

5610 Possession, sale, use of fireworks restricted

5610.1 Prohibited. No person shall possess, cast, throw or fire any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind in the city.

5610.2 Possession. No person shall possess or have in his possession with the intent to give away or sell or offer for sale or sell within the city any squib, rocket, cracker, torpedo, grenade, or other combustible fireworks of any kind in the city; provided, however, that, this paragraph of this section shall not apply to the sale of any such article or articles by wholesalers to each other, or to the sale of any such article or articles at wholesale to merchants conducting business outside the city or to the sale by wholesalers for public demonstrations as hereinafter provided.

5610.3 Public Demonstration. A public demonstration or display of fireworks of any kind may be conducted under proper police supervision after application is made and a permit is issued by the Fire Chief for such demonstration. Such permit shall not be granted unless such demonstration or display shall be of such a character, and so located, discharged or fired, as in the opinion of the Fire Chief shall not be hazardous to property or endanger any person. When a permit is issued by the Fire Chief, it shall not be valid for a period exceeding three (3) month, and each permit shall be valid for only one public display or demonstration.

5610.4 Review. Prior to the issuance of a permit by the Fire Chief, the Fire Chief may request the Fire Marshal of the department to inspect the premises and report to the Fire Chief whether or not, in the opinion of the Fire Marshal of the Fire Department, a display upon such premises would be dangerous to life or property, and such report shall not be binding upon the Fire Chief

but shall be advisory only.

5610.5 Exempt. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to sale, storage, or used of railroad track torpedoes or other signaling devices used by railroads, nor to the sale, storage or use of flashlight compositions by photographers or dealers in photographic supplies, nor to signal flares or rockets for military or police use.

3211.1 Scope. This chapter shall apply all new and existing used clothing stores

3211.2 Approval Required. A person must have a valid certificate of occupancy and an approved fire inspection from the Fire Department to operate a used clothing store.

3211.3 Display and Storage. A used clothing store shall use no more than (50) percent of its floor space for the storage of combustible materials. Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed and stored on ground floors (no upper floors or basements). Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed for sale, handling or distribution, to the public from tables at least (3) feet from the floor, on hangers, racks or shelves. At no time may the sale or display of used clothing or combustible materials be from piles on the floor. Storage of loose or baled used clothing and other combustible materials or high-pile combustible storage shall be conducted as required by 32 of this

2311.4 Smoking. Smoking shall be prohibited in all areas except in specified, safe locations designated by the fire official. No-smoking signs shall be posted throughout all the building except in the specified, designated safe locations.

2311.5 Open Flames. The used of open flame or flame producing devices within the occupancy shall be prohibited.

The International Fire Code is hereby amended to include a chapter 23A, entitled "Used Clothing Stores," as follows:-

~~"Chapter 23A-~~

~~"Uses [Used] Clothing Stores-~~

~~"2301A- Scope-~~

~~"This chapter shall apply to those occupancies within the scope of used clothing stores as defined in this code.-~~

~~"2302A- Permit Required-~~

~~"A person must have a permit under chapter 1 of this code to conduct business for this occupancy within the scope of this chapter.-~~

~~"2303A- Display and Storage-~~

~~A used clothing store shall use no more that [than] fifty (50) percent of its floor space for storage of combustion materials. Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed and stored only on ground floors (no upper floors or basements). Used clothing and other combustible materials shall be displayed for sale, handling or distribution, to the public from tables at least three (3) feet from the floor, on hangers, racks or shelves. At no time may the sale or display of used clothing or combustible materials be from piles on the floor. Storage of loose or baled used clothing and other combustible materials or high-pile combustible storage shall be conducted as required under chapter 23 of this code as applicable. Aisles, exits, egress, and ingress shall be maintained as required by this code.-~~

~~"2304A- Fire Protection-~~

~~"2304.1A. Smoking shall be prohibited in all areas except in specified, safe locations designated by the fire official. No-smoking signs shall be posted throughout all building except in the specified, designated safe locations.-~~

~~"2304.2A. The use of open flame or flame-producing devices within the occupancy shall be prohibited.-~~

**Section 2.** That if any section, subsection sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional; such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council of the City of Laredo hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

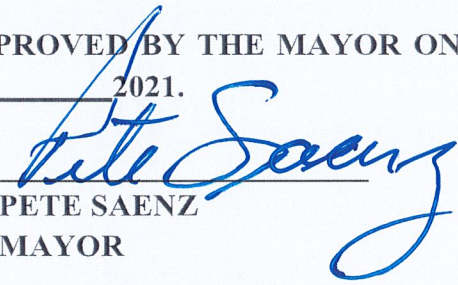
**Section 3.** This ordinance shall be cumulative of all provisions of ordinances of the City of Laredo, Texas, except where the provisions of this ordinance are in direct conflict with the provisions of such ordinances, in which event the conflicting provisions of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

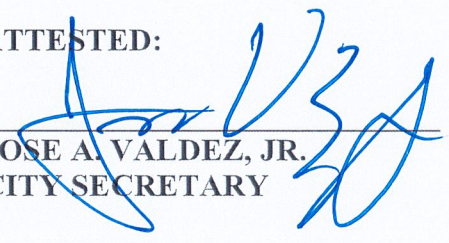
**Section 4.** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation in this ordinance of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

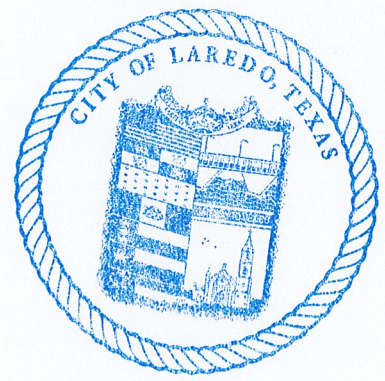
**Section 5.** The publishers of the City Code of Laredo, Texas are authorized to amend said code to reflect the changes adopted herein and to correct typographical errors and to index, format, and number paragraphs to conform to the existing code.

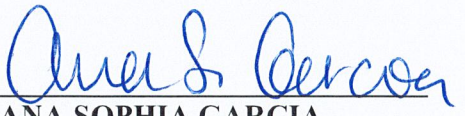
**Section 6.** This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS  
4 DAY OF October 2021.

  
PETE SAENZ  
MAYOR

ATTESTED:  
  
JOSE A. VALDEZ, JR.  
CITY SECRETARY



APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
  
ANA SOPHIA GARCIA  
INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY

**Final Reading of Ordinances 26.**

**City Council**

**Meeting Date:** 10/04/2021

**Initiated By:** Rosario Cabello, Deputy City Manager

**Staff Source:** Guillermo Heard, Fire Chief

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**SUBJECT**

**2021-O-200** An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas, amending Chapter 12 of the Code of Ordinances in order to adopt the 2018 edition of the International Code Council International Fire Code; providing for local amendments to the adopted code; repealing all ordinances and/or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith; providing for a savings clause; providing for a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION**

On November 5, 2012, the City Council adopted the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code.

**BACKGROUND**

The Fire Chief with concurrence from the Building Development Services Department Director recommends amendments to the Fire Code as stated above which are applicable to the City.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

N/A.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

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**Fiscal Impact**

**Fiscal Year:**

**Budgeted Y/N?:**

**Source of Funds:**

**Account #:**

**Change Order: Exceeds 25% Y/N:**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

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**Attachments**

