



City of Missoula, Montana
Item to be Referred to City Council Committee

Committee: Public Safety and Health and City Operations

Item: Ordinance amending Residency Requirements of Emergency Public Safety Employees

Date: March 28, 2022

Sponsor(s): Gordy Hughes, Fire Chief

Prepared by: Gordy Hughes, Fire Chief

Ward(s) Affected:

☐ Ward 1	☐ Ward 4
☐ Ward 2	☐ Ward 5
☐ Ward 3	☐ Ward 6
☒ All Wards	☐ N/A

Action Required:

Consider a proposed ordinance amendment

Timeline and Recommended Motions:

Referral to committee: April 4, 2022

Committee discussion: April 6, 2022

Council sets public hearing: April 11, 2022

Recommended motion: [First reading and preliminary adoption] Set a public hearing on May 2, 2022, and preliminarily adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 2.80 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Residency Requirements for Emergency Public Safety Employees to change the distance from the city that peace officers and firefighters may live from 30 minute to 45-minute average and reasonable response time, include minor amendments to reflect current law and repeal an exception that no longer applies to current employees.

Public Hearing: May 2 2022

Final Consideration: May 9, 2022

Recommended motion: [Second and final reading] Adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 2.80 Missoula Municipal Code entitled "Residency Requirements for Emergency Public Safety Employees to change the distance from the city that peace officers and firefighters may live from 30 minute to 45-minute average and reasonable response time, include minor amendments to reflect current law and repeal an exception that no longer applies to current employees.

Deadline: May 9, 2022

Background and Alternatives Explored:

Recognizing the median house value in the city of Missoula and immediate vicinity, the Chiefs of Missoula Police Department and Missoula Fire Department wish to amend City Ordinance chapter 2.80 (Residency Requirements for Emergency Public Safety Employees). Currently the ordinance requires employees of the police and fire departments to reside within a 30-minute response envelope to the incorporated City limits. This proposal is to amend the ordinance and

increase the residency requirement to 45-minute response envelope. This change is consistent with the current City Ordinance chapter 2.82's (Establishment of Continuous Residency Requirements for City Senior Leadership Team) 45-minute drive to the Missoula city limits. This change is necessary for the hiring and retention of new firefighters and police officers who might otherwise not currently reside within the current ordinance requirements.

Financial Implications: None

Links to external websites: None