

## Information Item

**Date:** April 10, 2023

**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

**From:** Angela I. Carmon, City Attorney

**Subject:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 Entitled “Civil Defense” Regarding Curfews and State of Emergency Proclamations

**Strategic Focus Area:** Service Excellence

**Strategic Objective:** N/A

**Strategic Plan Action Item:** N/A

**Key Work Item:** N/A



Following the Weaver Plant fire, staff in the legal department was asked to evaluate the city’s ordinance detailing the requirements for declaring a state of emergency. Based upon concerns expressed regarding the process, the attached ordinance proposes two amendments:

(1) the first proposed ordinance amendment would require city staff to consult with the council member of the ward, if the circumstances threatening lives or property damage are isolated to a ward, and the mayor regarding the emergency circumstances to determine the necessity for a state of emergency proclamation. The amendment, if adopted, would require staff, irrespective of the opinion of staff, to consult with the council member of the ward under the circumstances described, and the mayor about emergency situations that may warrant an emergency declaration.

(2) the second proposed amendment would require the mayor, where possible, to update city council within 24 hours of a state of emergency proclamation.

The draft ordinance is being presented, initially, as an information item.