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Item #6

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**CITY COUNCIL REPORT**

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TO: George W. Britton  
Deputy City Manager

FROM: Kenny W. Harris, P.E.  
Development Services Director

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE 1999 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (NEC)

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**THE ISSUE**

On November 2, 2000, the Development Advisory Board (DAB) held a public hearing to discuss the adoption of the 1999 National Electrical Code (NEC) with five amendments developed by an Electrical Council. After the hearing, the DAB unanimously voted that the 1999 NEC with the five amendments be presented to the City Council for their approval.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

On January 25, 2000, Arizona Building Officials met to discuss the development of a consistent electrical code. Working together, they explored the feasibility of Arizona jurisdictions adopting the same electrical code and code amendments. This is a major step in the Valley's effort to adopt Smart Permitting principles. Smart Permitting is the promotion of consistent interpretation of codes and improvements in processing development-related permits.

To reach this goal, an Electrical Council was created. The Council was comprised of a balanced representation of city code authorities, building owners, designers, manufacturers, contractors, and utility representatives.

The Electrical Council held their first meeting on May 16, 2000. To receive full participation from the industry, the council sent "Request for Amendments to the 1999 NEC" forms to industry representatives for their input on any proposed code amendments. From May through August, 2000, the Electrical Council met to review and discuss the 1999 NEC and the proposed code amendments. Their efforts resulted in the formulation of five amendments agreed upon by all participants. The five amendments address more restrictive requirements for personnel protection, equipment protection, equipment grounding, service and feeder conductor sizing, and the uses of nonmetallic sheathed cables.

The Electrical Council and the City of Phoenix Development Advisory Board have asked that jurisdictions play an active role in this effort by supporting and encouraging the adoption of the '99 NEC with the five amendments by January 1, 2001. This will help promote code consistency throughout the Valley and take us one step closer to implementing the Smart Permitting concepts.

RECOMMENDATION

The Development Advisory Board and the Development Services Department request that the Ethics and Public Safety Subcommittee recommend that the City Council adopt the 1999 NEC with the five amendments.

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