

# City of Gainesville



Joseph Dixon, Fire Chief  
City of Gainesville

Appendix A  
Fire Safety Inspection Fees  
Legislative #210035A  
July 12, 2021



# Recommendations

- **Authorize the City Attorney to draft and the Clerk of the Commission to advertise an amendment to the Code of Ordinances increasing fire inspection fees in Appendix A.**
- **Continue proposed 5% biennial increase of all other fire related fees in Appendix A.**
  - **Open burning**
  - **Fireworks permits**
  - **Crowd Manager training**
  - **Special event inspections (tents, temporary outdoor assembly)**
  - **False fire alarms fees and fines**



# Summary of Proposed Changes

- **Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR) is proposing fire inspection fee modifications**
  - **Restore fire inspection fees for inspections resulting in no violations**
  - **Increase fire inspection fees for properties over 10,000SF**



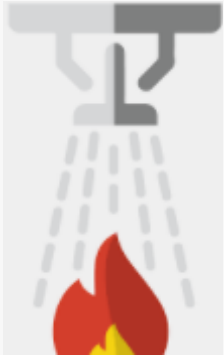
# Summary of Proposed Changes

- **No increases for properties under 10,000SF**
- **Minimal increases for properties between 10,000SF and 100,000SF**
  - Between 10,000SF and 60,000SF, incremental increases would occur every 5,000SF
  - Between 60,000SF and 100,000SF, incremental increases would occur every 10,000SF
- **Modest increases for properties over 100,000SF**
  - Over 100,000SF, incremental increases would occur every 20,000SF



# Factors Affecting Fire Inspections

- Fire inspections of larger properties require greater staff time, more follow-up and more research to complete.
- Factors affecting time required to complete a fire inspection
  - Number and complexity of fire protection features such as fire alarms and fire sprinkler systems
  - Length of time since the last fire inspection
  - Number of violations found
  - Extent of customer service, support and interaction needed with business representatives
  - Code research



# Small Building Comparison

Property	Length of Inspection	Current Inspection Fee	Proposed Inspection Fee
3,400SF Restaurant	1.5 hours	\$88.75	\$93.25
2,700SF Daycare	1 hour	\$76.75	\$80.50
5,700SF Restaurant	1-2 hours	\$100.75	\$105.75
10,000SF Warehouse	1.5-2 hours	\$113	\$120
40,000SF Healthcare	2-2.5 hours	\$125	\$170

# Large Building Comparison

Property	Length of Inspection	Current Inspection Fee	Proposed Inspection Fee
739,000 SF Hospital	40 hours	\$456	\$560
698,000 SF Apartments (45 buildings)	7 hours	\$437	\$539
280,000 SF Warehouse	4 hours	\$236	\$330
188,000 SF Industrial	4-5 hours	\$198	\$280
185,000 SF Retail Store	8-9 hours	\$198	\$282
159,000 SF Hotel	3-4 hours	\$185	\$269
117,000 SF Apartments (6 buildings)	4 hours	\$161.50	\$250

# Comparison with Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection
Alachua County	\$70.00	1 <sup>st</sup> \$70.00, 2 <sup>nd</sup> \$105.00
City of Clearwater	\$50 per floor	1 <sup>st</sup> <80K= \$50, >80K= \$100 2 <sup>nd</sup> < 80 K= \$100, > 80K=\$200
City of Coral Springs	<2,500 SF= 199.48 > 2,500 SF= \$199.49 + .06 per sf	\$191.12
City of Lakeland	0-4,999= \$50 5,000-11,999= \$75 12,000-24,999= \$125 25,000-49,999= \$150 50,000-74,999= \$175 75,000-99,999= \$200 100,000-249,999= \$250 250,000-499,999= \$300 500,000-749,999= \$350 750,000-999,999= \$400 1,000,000 or more = \$450	Equal to Initial Inspection Fee



# Comparison with Other Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Initial Inspection	Re-Inspection
St. Petersburg	<p>Under 5,000 .....50.00                      5,000 to 10,000 .....60.00                      10,001 to 20,000 .....70.00                      20,001 to 30,000 .....80.00                      30,001 to 40,000 .....90.00                      40,001 to 50,000 .....100.00                      50,001 to 60,000 .....110.00                      60,001 to 70,000 .....120.00                      70,001 to 80,000 .....130.00                      80,001 to 90,000 .....140.00                      90,001 to 100,000 .....150.00                      Plus \$35.00 for each 10,000 square feet, or                      portion thereof, above 100,000 square feet.</p>	Twice the Initial Inspection fee
Osceola County	<p>0-2,000= \$50                      2,001-10,000= \$75                      10,001-100,000= \$125                      100,001-500,000= \$500                      500,001 or more= \$750</p>	

# Projected Results

- **Estimated increase in invoices for fire safety inspections of 31% or approximately \$20,500 annually**
- **Incremental step toward balancing the time required to complete fire inspections for small and large businesses**
- **No increase for businesses occupying 10,000SF or less**



Questions?