

SUBMITTED BY: Casandra Gomez, City Planner

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: Ana Urquijo, City Manager

FOCUS AREA: Other / NA

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS: Amending Chapter 15.08 relating to building permit and inspection fees.

SUBJECT: **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1206**, an Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Cochise County, Arizona, **AMENDING CHAPTER 15.08** of the **DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL CODE**, by adding section 15.08.010(g) regarding the **WAIVER** and **REIMBURSEMENT** of certain fees; establishing severability of components of ordinance; and establishing an effective date thereof.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The proposed amendment to Chapter 15.08 of the Douglas Municipal Code seeks to introduce provisions for waiving or reimbursing building permit and inspection fees for nonprofit organizations impacted by criminal activities, specifically hate crimes or arson. The amendment aims to alleviate the financial burden faced by these organizations during the recovery process, particularly when insurance proceeds fall short of covering the full reconstruction costs. This action supports the city's goal of fostering recovery and redevelopment in areas affected by criminal acts, especially those with a critical role in serving the community. The amendment will also align with the city's ongoing efforts to strengthen support for nonprofit organizations and stimulate revitalization in impacted areas.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Douglas currently operates under Title 15, Chapter 15.08 of the Douglas Municipal Code, which establishes the procedures for obtaining building permits and inspections. The fee structure for these services is outlined in Section 15.08.010, with charges based on project valuation and a variety of fixed fees for services such as inspections, certificates of occupancy, and right-of-way inspections.

However, there is no provision in the existing code to address the financial impact on nonprofit organizations that suffer significant damage due to criminal acts, such as hate crimes or arson. The proposed amendment aims to bridge this gap by introducing a mechanism that provides fee waivers or reimbursements for qualifying nonprofit organizations that have experienced damage due to criminal acts.

DISCUSSION:

The ability to waive or reimburse fees for nonprofit organizations will strengthen the city's resilience to future incidents of arson, vandalism, or hate-based crimes, underscoring the city's proactive commitment to supporting organizations that are integral to the community's social fabric.

The proposed policy will serve as an essential tool to assist these organizations in recovering more efficiently, enabling them to resume their missions without delay. Furthermore, it contributes to the broader goal of revitalizing areas affected by criminal activities, fostering long-term community recovery.

Additionally, the inclusion of this amendment aligns with best practices in community support and disaster recovery, providing a clear and structured approach to assisting nonprofits during times of crisis. It is important to note that qualifying applicants will still be required to obtain permits and undergo inspections as per the building and municipal codes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal Year: 2025/2026

Amount Requested: \$

Budgeted: Y / N

Account (s):

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1206 ON ITS FIRST READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”

“...I MOVE THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 25-1206 AND TO PLACE IT ON ITS SECOND READING BY NUMBER AND TITLE ONLY.”