

Economic Development, Lake, Downtown and Advanced Transportation Infrastructure Committee Meeting of February 19, 2013

Executive Summary: Building Permit Review Process

Issue:

Evaluate Tempe's building permit review process and determine if changes are needed to improve efficiencies without negatively affecting professional standards and building safety.

Background:

Community Development staff have evaluated other valley city building permitting processes and compared them against Tempe's review processes. New commercial, tenant improvement and residential developments were examined for customer turn-around times and self-certification permitting.

Additionally, staff reviewed their processes for new building permits and building safety review.

Potential Solutions:

A development process/permitting stakeholders' focus group could be assembled to determine the specific issues and potential resolution. This focus group could address the broad spectrum of the development process from submittal to public meetings, permitting and inspections. This could result in new processes or modifications to existing processes and procedures. Additionally, the outcome of the focus group could be distributed as a new paradigm for development in Tempe.

Short-term Guidance Needed:

Committee feedback for possible procedural changes at the department level.