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**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: City Development Department

AGENDA DATE: January 22, 2013

CONTACT PERSON NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Victor Morrison-Vega/ (915) 541-4556

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

Discussion and action on a resolution amending Schedule C for the City of El Paso revising the established electrical permit fee for solar panels as authorized pursuant to Title 18, to provide for a maximum established fee.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The maximum established fee provides incentives for the private sector to expand the installation and use of solar panels.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

N/A

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager



City Development Department
Two Civic Center Plaza – 5th Floor · El Paso, Texas 79901
Phone (915) 541-4622 · Fax (915) 541-4799

Mayor
John F. Cook

City Council

District 1
Ann Morgan Lilly

District 2
Susie Byrd

District 3
Emma Acosta

District 4
Carl L. Robinson

District 5
Dr. Michiel R. Noe

District 6
Eddie Holguin Jr.

District 7
Steve Ortega

District 8
Cortney Carlisle Niland

City Manager
Joyce A. Wilson

**RESOLUTION AMENDING SCHEDULE C FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO
FY 2013 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted the Budget Resolution for FY 2013 on August 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, paragraph 45 of the Budget Resolution provides that revisions or additions to the fees set forth in Schedule C, attached to the Budget Resolution, may be approved by simple resolution of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to revise the established electrical permit fee for solar panels as authorized pursuant to Title 18, to provide for a maximum established fee; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That Schedule C, attached to the FY 2013 Budget Resolution and effective September 1, 2012, shall be amended as set forth in Attachment A to the Resolution Amending Schedule C for the City of El Paso FY 2013 Budget, to establish a maximum electrical permit fee for solar panels.

Passed and approved this ____ day of _____ 2013.

CITY OF EL PASO

ATTEST:

John F. Cook
Mayor

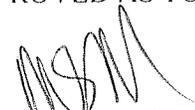
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Cynthia Osborn
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Mathew S. McElroy, Director
City Development Department

**Attachment A
City Development Department**

Amend the following line in Schedule C, attached to the FY 2013 Budget Resolution

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Fee Description</u> | <u>Detail</u> | <u>City Code Section</u> | <u>Fee</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|
| City Development Department | 404104 | Electrical Permits | Solar Panels- Each | 18.02.106.2 | \$13.00 Based on Quantity Plus base Fee |

To read as follows:

| <u>Department</u> | <u>Account</u> | <u>Fee Description</u> | <u>Detail</u> | <u>City Code Section</u> | <u>Fee</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| City Development Department | 404104 | Electrical Permits | Solar Panels- Each | 18.02.106.2 | \$13.00 Based on quantity, Plus base fee. Capped at \$130.00 |

Attachment B

City Development Department

Research on solar permitting across southwestern states varies widely. Nationwide, the average solar installation permit added about \$2,516 to a residential installation, while larger-scale installations can require permits in excess of \$100,000. The great variance is due in part to fee calculations based on the valuation of the projects. As incentives several state legislatures have placed caps on solar permit costs at \$500 for residential or \$1,000 for commercial permits up to 2 Megawatts (MW). In many cases, permits for commercial solar systems generating greater than 2 MW worth of power pay for the actual cost of required government-issued permits.

In El Paso solar permitting was placed at \$13 per panel (generally 2' x 5' panel) in efforts to provide for the appropriate cost for smaller installations. The number of panels (2x5) needed to provide for the complete electrical requirements of a small residence (depend on daily electrical usage) however generally would require approximately 45 to 55 panels. These larger installations (beyond 10 panels) generally exceed costs expended by staff for the plan review and inspections of such installations. The current cap placed through this revision simply allows for the city's cost recovery.