

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** Dissolve the Unreinforced Masonry Building Workgroup (Resolution)

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**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

In October 2019 the Council created an Unreinforced Masonry (URM) Building Work Group to develop recommendations for voluntary retrofit programs for URM buildings. URM buildings are vulnerable to collapse in earthquakes. The URM Work Group met twice before the Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) put the work on hold to attend to pandemic response and community relief efforts, response to demonstrations and protests, and now to address sheltering related to air quality and fires. At this time, PBEM is seeking to dissolve the group.

The URM Work Group anticipated that public resources would be available to support URM retrofitting; this now seems unlikely given local, state, and national budget forecasts. PBEM also anticipates focusing bureau resources on emergency response and community recovery efforts for another year. Community leaders are also called to focus on response to immediate community needs at this time. Given this situation, it makes more sense to discontinue this effort.

PBEM continues to advocate for seismic safety in the built environment, and will seek to make seismic safety a part of future recovery efforts and infrastructure investments.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

This action will provide some general fund savings in the current fiscal year, as avoided costs for facilitation, meeting venue rentals, and food. These funds will be reprogrammed for other COVID-related community relief efforts.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

PBEM has not formally solicited public input on this issue as staff time has been focused on emergency response efforts. We have received some correspondence from committee members urging us to dissolve the committee in light of current events, particularly financial hardships for small businesses.

Some building owners would also like to the City to commit to never requiring URM retrofits in the future.

This resolution does not preclude re-opening this issue in the future if there was community support to do so. However, PBEM currently has no plans to reopen this issue.

**100% Renewable Goal:**  
Not applicable.

**Budgetary Impact Worksheet**

**Does this action change appropriations?**

- YES:** Please complete the information below.
- NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount