

1 [Planning, Administrative Codes - Accessory Dwelling Units]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to clarify the requirements for applications to**
4 **construct Accessory Dwelling Units under the City’s local Accessory Dwelling Unit**
5 **approval process; amending the Administrative Code to clarify that landlords may not**
6 **remove certain tenant housing services without just cause and that issuance of a**
7 **building permit does not constitute just cause; making findings as required by the**
8 **Tenant Protection Act of 2019; affirming the Planning Department’s determination**
9 **under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency**
10 **with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

11 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
12 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
13 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
14 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
15 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
16 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
17 subsections or parts of tables.

15

16 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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18 Section 1. Findings.

19 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
20 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
21 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
22 Supervisors in File No. 210699 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms
23 this determination.

24 (b) On September 9, 2021, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 20986,
25 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,

1 with the City’s General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The
2 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of
3 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 210699, and is incorporated herein by reference.

4 (c) This ordinance is intended in part to clarify the existing rules in the Rent Ordinance
5 as to housing services. The term housing services refers to services provided by the landlord
6 connected with the use or occupancy of a rental unit including, but not limited to, access to
7 areas such as garages, driveways, storage spaces, laundry rooms, decks, patios, gardens on
8 the same lot, and kitchen facilities or lobbies in single room occupancy (SRO) hotels. This
9 ordinance clarifies that landlords may not sever, remove, or reduce housing services without
10 just cause, and that this rule applies equally to landlords who intend to construct Accessory
11 Dwelling Units. These landlords must comply with just cause rules, and being in possession
12 of a building permit does not, in and of itself, confer just cause to sever a housing service. By
13 clarifying that the just cause rules in the Rent Ordinance apply, this ordinance is more
14 protective than the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 (Cal. Civ. Code § 1946.2), as the Rent
15 Ordinance further limits the reasons for termination of a residential tenancy, provides for
16 higher relocation assistance amounts, and provides additional tenant protections.

17
18 Section 2. Article 2 of the Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Section 207,
19 to read as follows:

20 **SEC. 207. DWELLING UNIT DENSITY LIMITS.**

21 * * * *

22 (c) **Exceptions to Dwelling Unit Density Limits.** An exception to the calculations
23 under this Section 207 shall be made in the following circumstances:

24 * * * *

1 (4) Local Accessory Dwelling Unit Program: Accessory Dwelling Units
2 in Multifamily Buildings; Accessory Dwelling Units in Single-Family Homes That Do Not
3 Strictly Meet the Requirements in subsection (c)(6).

4 * * * *

5 (C) Controls on Construction. An Accessory Dwelling Unit regulated
6 by this subsection (c)(4) is permitted to be constructed in an existing or proposed building
7 under the following conditions:

8 (i) For lots that have four existing Dwelling Units or fewer or
9 where the zoning would permit the construction of four or fewer Dwelling Units, one ADU is
10 permitted; for lots that have more than four existing Dwelling Units or are undergoing seismic
11 retrofitting under subsection (c)(4)(F) below, or where the zoning would permit the
12 construction of more than four Dwelling Units, there is no limit on the number of ADUs
13 permitted, ~~provided, however, that~~

14 (ii) ~~The~~ Department shall not approve an application for
15 construction of an ADU where a tenant on the lot has been evicted pursuant to Administrative
16 Code Sections 37.9(a)(9) through (a)(12) and 37.9(a)(14) under a notice of eviction served
17 within 10 years prior to filing the application for a building permit to construct the ADU or
18 where a tenant has been evicted pursuant to Administrative Code Section 37.9(a)(8) under a
19 notice of eviction served within five years prior to filing the application for a building permit to
20 construct the ADU. This ~~provision~~ subsection (c)(4)(C)(ii) shall not apply if the tenant was evicted
21 under Section 37.9(a)(11) or 37.9(a)(14) and the applicant(s) either (A) have certified that the
22 original tenant reoccupied the unit after the temporary eviction or (B) have submitted to the
23 Department and to the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Board (Rent Board) a
24 declaration from the property owner or the tenant certifying that the property owner notified
25 the tenant of the tenant's right to reoccupy the unit and the tenant chose not to reoccupy it.

1 37.2(r) that is supplied in the area of the property or building where the ADU would be constructed,
2 unless the property owner demonstrates that the tenant supplied with that housing service has given
3 their express written consent for the severance, substantial reduction, or removal of the housing
4 service.

5 (iv) Except as provided in subsections (iii) and (vii) below, an
6 Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be constructed entirely within the buildable area of an existing
7 lot, provided that the ADU does not exceed the existing height of an existing building, or within
8 the built envelope of an existing and authorized stand-alone garage, storage structure, or
9 other auxiliary structure on the same lot, as the built envelope existed three years prior to the
10 time the application was filed for a building permit to construct the ADU. For purposes of this
11 ~~provision-subsection (c)(4)(C)(v)~~, the “built envelope” shall include the open area under a
12 cantilevered room or room built on columns; decks, except for decks that are supported by
13 columns or walls other than the building wall to which they are attached and are multi-level or
14 more than 10 feet above grade; and lightwell infills provided that the infill will be against a
15 blank neighboring wall at the property line and not visible from any off-site location; as these
16 spaces existed as of July 11, 2016. An ADU constructed entirely within the existing built
17 envelope, as defined in this subsection ~~(ii)~~, along with permitted obstructions allowed in
18 Section 136(c)(32), of an existing building or authorized auxiliary structure on the same lot, or
19 where an existing stand-alone garage or storage structure has been expanded to add
20 dormers, is exempt from the notification requirements of Section 311 of this Code unless the
21 existing building or authorized auxiliary structure on the same lot is in an Article 10 or Article
22 11 District, in which case the notification requirements will apply. If an ADU will be constructed
23 under a cantilevered room or deck that encroaches into the required rear yard, a pre-
24 application meeting between the applicant and adjacent neighbors for all the proposed work is
25 required before the application may be submitted.

1 (iii) When a stand-alone garage, storage, or other auxiliary
2 structure is being converted to an ADU, an expansion to the envelope is allowed to add
3 dormers even if the stand-alone garage, storage structure, or other auxiliary structure is in the
4 required rear yard.

5 (iv) On a corner lot, a legal stand-alone nonconforming garage,
6 storage structure, or other auxiliary structure may be expanded within its existing footprint by
7 up to one additional story in order to create a consistent street wall and improve the continuity
8 of buildings on the block.

9 (v) An Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be constructed using
10 space from an existing Dwelling Unit except that an ADU may expand into habitable space on
11 the ground or basement floors provided that it does not exceed 25% of the gross square
12 footage of such space. The Zoning Administrator may waive this 25% limitation if (a) the
13 resulting space would not be usable or would be impractical to use for other reasonable uses
14 included but not limited to storage or bicycle parking or (b) waiving the limitation would help
15 relieve any negative layout issues for the proposed ADU.

16 (vi) An existing building undergoing seismic retrofitting may be
17 eligible for a height increase pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(F) below.

18 (vii) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, an
19 Accessory Dwelling Unit authorized under this ~~Section 207~~ subsection (c)(4) may not be merged
20 with an original unit(s).

21 (viii) An Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be permitted in any
22 building in a Neighborhood Commercial District or in the Chinatown Community Business or
23 Visitor Retail Districts if it would eliminate or reduce a ground-story retail or commercial space,
24 unless the Accessory Dwelling Unit is a Designated Child Care Unit, as defined in Section
25 102, and meets all applicable standards of Planning Code Section 414A.6(e).

1 (r) Rental Units. All residential dwelling units in the City and County of San Francisco
2 together with the land and appurtenant buildings thereto, and all housing services, privileges,
3 furnishings, and facilities supplied in connection with the use or occupancy thereof, including
4 garage and parking facilities.

5 Garage facilities, parking facilities, driveways, storage spaces, laundry rooms, decks,
6 patios, or gardens on the same lot, or kitchen facilities or lobbies in single room occupancy
7 (SRO) hotels, supplied in connection with the use or occupancy of a unit, may not be severed
8 from the tenancy by the landlord without just cause as required by Section 37.9(a). Any
9 severance, substantial reduction or removal of a housing service, even if permitted under ~~this~~
10 ~~Section 37.2(r)~~ Section 37.9(a), shall be offset by a corresponding reduction in rent. Either a
11 landlord or a tenant may file a petition with the Rent Board to determine the amount of the rent
12 reduction. In addition, a tenant may petition the Rent Board for a determination on whether an
13 Accessory Dwelling Unit proposed to be constructed under Planning Code Section 207(c)(4) would
14 sever, substantially reduce, or remove a housing service, pursuant to the procedures set forth in
15 subsection 207(c)(4)(C)(iii). The issuance of a permit for construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit
16 does not, in and of itself, constitute a just cause for the purpose of severing a housing service.

17 * * * *

18 **SEC. 37.9. EVICTIONS.**

19 Notwithstanding Section 37.3, this Section 37.9 shall apply as of August 24, 1980, to
20 all landlords and tenants of rental units as defined in Section 37.2(r).

21 * * * *

22 (f) Whenever a landlord wrongfully endeavors to recover possession or recovers
23 possession of a rental unit in violation of Sections 37.9 and/or 37.10A as enacted herein, or
24 wrongfully endeavors to sever, substantially reduce, or remove, or actually severs, substantially
25 reduces, or removes a housing service supplied in connection with the use or occupancy of a rental unit

1 as set forth in Section 37.2(r), the tenant or Rent Board may institute a civil proceeding for
2 injunctive relief, money damages of not less than three times actual damages (including
3 damages for mental or emotional distress as specified below), and whatever other relief the
4 court deems appropriate. If the landlord has recovered possession pursuant to Section
5 37.9(a)(8), such action shall be brought no later than five years after (1) the date the landlord
6 files the first statement of occupancy with the Rent Board under Section 37.9(a)(8)(vii) or (2)
7 three months after the landlord recovers possession, whichever is earlier. In the case of an
8 award of damages for mental or emotional distress, said award shall only be trebled if the trier
9 of fact finds that the landlord acted in knowing violation of or in reckless disregard of Section
10 37.9 or 37.10A herein. The prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and
11 costs pursuant to order of the court. The remedy available under this Section 37.9(f) shall be
12 in addition to any other existing remedies which may be available to the tenant or the Rent
13 Board.

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16 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
17 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
18 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
19 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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21 Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
22 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
23 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
24 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
25

1 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
2 the official title of the ordinance.

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4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

6 By: /s/ Peter R. Miljanich
7 PETER R. MILJANICH
8 Deputy City Attorney

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