

1 [Health Code - City-Operated Adult Residential Facility]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Health Code to require the Department of Public Health to**
4 **maintain and operate at full capacity a 55-bed adult residential facility.**

5 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
6 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
7 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*italics Times New Roman font*~~.
8 **Board amendment additions** are in Arial font.
9 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~Arial font~~.
10 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
11 subsections or parts of tables.

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

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12 Section 1. The Health Code is hereby amended by adding Article 45, consisting of
13 Sections 4501, 4502, and 4503, to read as follows:

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15 **ARTICLE 45: CITY-OPERATED ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY**

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17 **SEC. 4501. BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS.**

18 (a) Adult residential facilities (“ARFs”) are group care facilities that provide 24-hour
19 nonmedical care to individuals aged 18-59 who need personal services, supervision, or assistance to
20 support their activities of daily living. ARFs provide rooms, meals, housekeeping, supervision, storage
21 and distribution of medications, and personal care assistance with basic activities like hygiene,
22 dressing, eating, and bathing. ARFs are licensed by the Community Care Licensing Division of the
23 State Department of Social Services (“CCL”).

24 (b) ARFs play an important role in a locality’s continuum of care by providing people with
25 mental illness an opportunity to live in community-based housing, rather than in institutional care.

1 (c) A 2018 report by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council observed that due
2 to ARF closures and a lack of new ARFs, many individuals with mental illness are not able to find
3 sustainable community housing options with the appropriate level of care following stays in acute in-
4 patient treatment programs, hospitals, or correctional institutions. The report concludes that the
5 absence of community-based housing options can result in a “revolving door scenario” where people
6 are discharged or released from an institution only to be unable to find appropriate residential care or
7 housing. When another mental health crisis ensues, the absence of community-based housing
8 opportunities can result in a return to high-level crisis programs, facilities, hospitals, jails/prisons, or
9 homelessness.

10 (d) Since 2005, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (“DPH”) has operated an
11 ARF at 887 Potrero Avenue. This ARF has been licensed by CCL to include 55 beds.

12 (e) In recent years, DPH has failed to maintain staffing at a level that was sufficient to
13 operate the ARF at 887 Potrero Avenue at full capacity. In 2018-2019, DPH asked CCL for permission
14 to temporarily suspend from licensure a total of 41 ARF beds at 887 Potrero Avenue so that they could
15 be used instead as emergency shelter beds for people experiencing homelessness. CCL granted DPH’s
16 request, thereby temporarily reducing the total number of beds at this ARF from 55 to 11. CCL’s
17 approval extends through June 30, 2021, although DPH may seek CCL approval to restore the beds for
18 use as ARF beds prior to that date subject to CCL’s finding that DPH can meet the licensing standards
19 required to operate the ARF at full capacity.

20 (f) In October 2018, CCL concluded that on a number of occasions between 2015 and
21 2018, DPH had failed to comply with applicable laws and regulations in its administration of the ARF
22 at 887 Potrero Avenue. To bring the facility into compliance, CCL required that DPH prepare a
23 corrective action plan, which DPH prepared and submitted to CCL on October 15, 2018 (“Corrective
24 Action Plan”). This plan lays out the steps DPH has taken and will continue to take, including training
25 and monitoring, to ensure that the ARF operates in full compliance with all applicable standards.

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2 **SEC. 4502. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY.**

3 (a) As of the effective date of this Article 45, and from that date forward, DPH shall
4 maintain and operate at full capacity a licensed 55-bed adult residential facility, and shall take all
5 steps necessary to ensure that all 55 beds are occupied by persons who meet the eligibility criteria for
6 residence in an adult residential facility set forth in State law and in the facility's license.

7 (b) To ensure compliance with the deadline established in subsection (a), DPH shall take
8 immediate action to:

9 (1) Notify CCL of its intent to operate 55 ARF beds, and take all steps necessary to
10 ensure licensure of all 55 ARF beds;

11 (2) Hire a sufficient number of qualified City staff to operate the 55 ARF beds; and

12 (3) Identify residents who qualify for placement in any available ARF beds.

13 (c) Staff from the Department of Human Resources ("DHR") shall assist DPH to
14 immediately, and with urgency, hire qualified City staff.

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16 **SEC. 4503. REPORTING.**

17 Within three months of the effective date of this Article 45, DPH and DHR shall jointly submit
18 to the Board of Supervisors a report that describes:

19 (a) The number of ARF beds that have been filled and the number that remain vacant;

20 (b) The number of personnel hired to work at the ARF; and

21 (c) The steps that DPH has taken to ensure compliance with the Corrective Action Plan.

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23 Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
24 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
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1 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
2 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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4 Section 3. Undertaking for the General Welfare. In enacting and implementing this
5 ordinance, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not
6 assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it
7 is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused
8 injury.

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10 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
11 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

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12 By: _____
13 ANNE PEARSON
Deputy City Attorney

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