

1 [Planning Code - 524 and 530 Howard Street - Transit Center District Open Space Impact Fee
2 Waiver for 524 Howard Street, LLC]

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to waive the Transit Center District Open**
4 **Space Impact Fee for 524 Howard Street, LLC’s development project at 524 and 530**
5 **Howard Street in recognition of the project’s proposed construction of a pedestrian**
6 **bridge connecting to the Transbay Transit Center’s rooftop park; affirming the Planning**
7 **Commission’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making**
8 **findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of**
9 **Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making findings of public necessity, convenience,**
10 **and general welfare findings under Planning Code, Section 302.**

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.

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

19 Section 1. Background.

20 (a) The Transbay Transit Center is located between Beale, Mission, Second, and
21 Howard Streets in San Francisco’s South of Market neighborhood. In addition to providing
22 access to multiple modes of transportation, retail, entertainment, and cultural spaces, the
23 Transbay Transit Center features a public 5.4-acre rooftop park (the “Rooftop Park”).

24 (b) 524 Howard Street, LLC (“Developer”) owns that certain real property at 524
25 and 530 Howard Street (together, the “Property”) located across Natoma Street from the
Transbay Transit Center.

1 (c) Existing structures on the Property consist of a surface parking lot and a four-
2 story, 29,955 square foot commercial building.

3 (d) Developer intends to construct on the Property (1) a new 72-story,
4 approximately 795-foot tall (approximately 844 feet inclusive of permitted rooftop
5 appurtenances) residential building containing approximately 818,922 gross square feet of
6 residential use (the "Tower"), and (2) a 30-foot wide pedestrian bridge spanning Natoma
7 Street and connecting the Tower to the Rooftop Park (the "Pedestrian Bridge," and together
8 with the Tower, the "Project"). The Project includes 672 dwelling units, with 68 dwelling units
9 dedicated to households earning no more than 50% AMI (area median income).

10 (e) On June 18, 2024, the Planning Department issued a Planning Approval Letter for
11 Record No. 2023-010883PRJ, approving the Project in accordance with the provisions of
12 California Government Code Section 65912.120 (Assembly Bill No. 2011 (2023)).

13 (f) As a condition of Developer's right to connect the Pedestrian Bridge to the Rooftop
14 Park, and as consideration for the enhanced value of the Project resulting from the connection
15 of the Project to the Rooftop Park, Developer has agreed to pay the Transbay Joint Powers
16 Authority ("TJPA") a sum of \$2,300,000.00 (the "Enhanced Value") or the amount of the
17 Transit Center District Open Space Impact Fee (the "Open Space Fee") that, absent any fee
18 credits for in-kind improvements or other waivers, Developer would be required to pay to San
19 Francisco ("City") under Planning Code Section 424.6 at the time the Enhanced Value is due
20 to the TJPA.

21 (g) The Enhanced Value is approximately equal to the amount the Project would be
22 required to pay to the City for the Open Space Fee at the time the Enhanced Value is due to
23 the TJPA.

24 (h) The Open Space Fee was established to fund open space improvements in the
25 Transit Center District Plan Area and adjacent downtown areas to provide benefits to the

1 tenants and owners of new developments whose project sponsors pay the Open Space Fee.
2 The City uses the open space fees to provide open space improvements that serve these new
3 developments as well as benefitting the general public. The City's General Plan and Planning
4 Code also encourages property owners adjacent to the Transbay Transit Center to construct
5 pedestrian bridges connecting their developments to the Rooftop Park as an alternate method
6 of satisfying their various open space requirements.

7 (i) The abovementioned General Plan provisions are contained in the Transit Center
8 District Plan Subarea Plan Objective 3.11: "Enhance access and maximize the visibility of the
9 Transit Center's future rooftop park from the surrounding neighborhoods, especially
10 neighborhoods to the south," and its Policy 3.19: "Permit buildings to satisfy open space
11 requirements through direct connections to the Transit Center Park." In addition, Planning
12 Code Section 138(j) specifically addresses how the City should approach public connections
13 to the rooftop park on the Transbay Transit Center from adjacent buildings and count such
14 connections as contributing to a project's open space requirements.

15 (j) In light of the Project's provision of open space improvements in the Transit Center
16 District Plan Area through the creation of the Pedestrian Bridge connecting new residential
17 development to the Rooftop Park, Developer and the TJPA have requested that the City
18 waive the Open Space Fee for the Project. In lieu of paying the Open Space Fee, the
19 Developer has agreed to pay the equivalent fee amount directly to the TJPA in recognition of
20 the Enhanced Value of the Project that results from the connection of the Project to the
21 Rooftop Park.

22 (k) Companion Legislation. This ordinance is related to a companion ordinance
23 concerning an airspace street vacation for City property above Natoma Street that the City will
24 convey to the TJPA to allow for the Pedestrian Bridge connecting the Project to the Rooftop
25

1 Park (the “Street Vacation Ordinance”). The Street Vacation Ordinance is on file with the
2 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 240928.

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4 Section 2. General Plan, Planning Code Section 302, and Environmental Findings.

5 (a) At a duly noticed public hearing on October 24, 2024, in Resolution No. 21635, the
6 Planning Commission found that this ordinance is, on balance, in conformity with the General
7 Plan and the priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.

8 (b) In Resolution No. 21635, the Planning Commission also adopted findings under
9 Planning Code Section 302 determining that this ordinance serves the public necessity,
10 convenience, and general welfare.

11 (c) As part of Resolution No. 21635, the Planning Commission adopted findings that
12 the actions in this ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act
13 (“CEQA”) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). A copy of this
14 Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 240879 and
15 incorporated herein by reference.

16 (d) In regard to the actions addressed in this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
17 hereby adopts as its own the findings in the above-referenced Planning Commission
18 Resolution for purposes of the General Plan and Planning Code Section 101.1, Planning
19 Code Section 302, and CEQA.

20
21 Section 3. Approval of Transit Center District Plan Open Space Fee Waiver. As
22 applied to this Project, Planning Code Sections 424.6 et seq. governing the Transit Center
23 District Plan Open Space Fee are hereby waived. The waived fee amount is anticipated to be
24 approximately \$2,300,000.00 based on the various factors including the size of the Project
25 and reductions for housing affordability. In granting this waiver, the Board of Supervisors

1 recognizes the provision of open space improvements in the Transit Center District Plan Area
2 through Developer’s construction of the Pedestrian Bridge and Developer’s payment of the
3 Enhanced Value to the TJPA. The fee waiver is conditioned upon the following: (a) final
4 approval of the Street Vacation Ordinance as set forth in Section 4(b) below; (b) Planning
5 Department Director approval of a Notice of Special Restriction to be recorded against the
6 Property that establishes the public’s right of access to and use of the Pedestrian Bridge
7 between the street level of the Property and the Rooftop Park that is generally consistent with
8 Planning Code Section 138(j); and (c) written acknowledgement from the TJPA that evidences
9 the Developer’s payment to the TJPA of the Enhanced Value of the Project.

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11 Section 4. Effective and Operative Dates. (a) Effective Date. This ordinance shall
12 become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the
13 ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within
14 ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the
15 ordinance.

16 (b) Operative Date. This ordinance shall become operative on its effective date or on
17 the effective date of the Street Vacation Ordinance, referenced in Section 1(k) of this
18 ordinance, whichever date occurs later; provided, that this ordinance shall not become
19 operative if the ordinance regarding the Street Vacation Ordinance is not enacted.

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21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
22 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

23 By: /s/ JOHN D. MALAMUT
24 JOHN D. MALAMUT
Deputy City Attorney

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