

## **LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

[Planning Code - Supportive Housing for Homeless Veterans]

**Ordinance amending the Planning Code to allow an existing Tourist Hotel to rent rooms to homeless veterans for a period of time without abandoning the Tourist Hotel use classification; and making environmental findings, and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1.**

### **Existing Law**

Among other things, Article 2 of the Planning Code sets forth the uses permitted by the Code for the various classes of use districts in the City and County of San Francisco. Section 205 et seq. authorizes the Zoning Administrator to authorize certain uses for a specified temporary period of time without a public hearing.

### **Amendments to Current Law**

Section 205.5 is proposed to be added to the Planning Code, which will allow the owner of an existing Tourist Hotel, as defined in Section 790.46 of the Code, to rent some of all of the rooms in the hotel to homeless veterans participating in the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. The Zoning Administrator may authorize this temporary use for up to ten years and extend the initial period for subsequent terms.

### **Background Information**

The Federal Government has a supportive housing program for homeless veterans known as the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. The HUD-VASH program combines rental assistance in the form of a voucher together with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). After determining which areas of the country have the highest number of homeless veterans, the VA Central Office identifies VA facilities in the corresponding communities and allocates the available rental vouchers throughout the country. Since 2008, a total of 48,385 rental vouchers under the HUD-VASH program have been awarded nationwide. San Francisco has been awarded a number of HUD-VASH rental vouchers in the past.

While it is a federal priority to find housing for veterans and San Francisco would like to be awarded more HUD-VASH rental vouchers in the future, it is difficult to find supportive housing for veterans because of San Francisco's tight rental market. This legislation will encourage and facilitate the use of rooms in existing Tourist Hotels for the HUD-VASH program by allowing the hotel owner to rent rooms to homeless vets who are participating in the program without the potential loss of the Tourist Hotel use designation or authorization.

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