

FILE NO. 061211

ORDINANCE NO. 10-07

1 [Post-Disaster Safety Assessment Placards.]

2

3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Building Code by adding Section 102.21 to**

4 **require official placards to be used to warn of unsafe building occupancies following**

5 **disasters; and adopting findings.**

6 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;

7 deletions are ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman*~~.

8 Board amendment additions are double underlined.

9 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough-normal~~.

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

10 Section 1. Findings.

11 (a) Placards developed by Applied Technology Council (ATC) to denote the

12 condition of buildings and structures after a disaster were first used after the Loma Prieta

13 earthquake in 1989. Since then, such placards have been widely used after earthquakes to

14 warn of unsafe building occupancies.

15 (b) In San Francisco, the former San Francisco Bureau of Building Inspection

16 posted the ATC placards on buildings throughout the City to inform owners, tenants, and the

17 general public of the condition of the buildings and alert them as to whether the buildings were

18 safe to enter or occupy.

19 (c) ATC has stated that in past events, there have been a number of reports of

20 placards being removed from buildings by owners or tenants. In other cases, there has been

21 unauthorized change of placards, usually from unsafe to one of the other categories.

22 Adopting the use of these placards by Ordinance would make use of the placards official, and

23 their removal or alteration would be a violation of law.

24 Section 2. The San Francisco Building Code is hereby amended by adding Section

25 102.21, to read as follows:

1 Section 101.21. Safety assessment placards. This section establishes standard placards to be
2 used to indicate the condition of a building or structure after a natural or human-created disaster. A
3 description of the placards to be used is set forth in Section 101.21.2. The Director of Building
4 Inspection and his or her authorized representatives are authorized to post the appropriate placard at
5 each entry point to a building or structure upon completion of a safety assessment. A safety assessment
6 is a visual, nondestructive examination of a building or structure for the purpose of determine the
7 condition for continued occupancy.

8 Section 101.21.1. Application of provisions. The provisions of this section are applicable to
9 all buildings and structures of all occupancies regulated by the City and County of San Francisco.

10 Section 101.21.2. Description of placards. The Department of Building Inspection shall use the
11 form of standard placards that the Applied Technology Council has recommended and revises from
12 time to time. The actual placards shall be in a form that the Director of the Department approves. In
13 addition, the ordinance number, the name of the department, its address, and phone number shall be
14 permanently affixed to each placard. In addition, each placard shall include the following
15 language or its equivalent as determined by the Director of the Department: Any
16 unauthorized removal, alteration, or covering of this placard shall be considered a violation of
17 the San Francisco Building Code and the responsible person(s) shall be subject to applicable
18 penalties set forth in the Code. A general description of the placards is as follows:

19 1. INSPECTED - LAWFUL OCCUPANCY PERMITTED. This placard is to be posted on
20 any building or structure where no apparent structural hazard has been found. This placard is not
21 intended to mean that there is no damage to the building or structure.

22 2. RESTRICTED USE. This placard is to be posted on each building or structure that is
23 damaged to such an extent that restrictions on continued occupancy are required. The person or

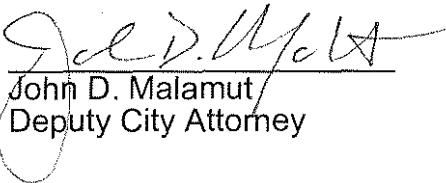
1 persons authorized to post this placard will note in general terms the type of damage encountered and
2 will note with specificity any restrictions on continued occupancy.

3 3. UNSAFE - DO NOT ENTER OR OCCUPY. This placard is to be posted on each
4 building or structure that is damaged to such an extent that continued occupancy poses a threat to life
5 safety. Buildings or structures posted with this placard shall not be entered under any circumstance
6 except as authorized in writing by the Director of Building Inspection or his or her authorized
7 representative. Authorized safety assessment individuals or teams may enter these buildings at any
8 time. This placard is not to be used as or considered to be a demolition order. The person or persons
9 authorized to post this placard will note in general terms the type of damage encountered.

10 Section 101.21.3. Removal or alteration prohibited. Once it has been attached to a building or
11 structure, a placard is not to be removed, altered, or covered except by an authorized representative of
12 the Department or upon written notification from the department. Any unauthorized removal,
13 alteration, or covering of a placard shall be considered a violation of this Code and the responsible
14 person(s) shall subject to the penalties set forth herein.

15
16 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
17 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

18 By:

19 
20 John D. Malamut
21 Deputy City Attorney
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25



City and County of San Francisco

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Tails Ordinance

File Number: 061211

Date Passed:

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Building Code by adding Section 102.21 to require official placards to be used to warn of unsafe building occupancies following disasters; and adopting findings.

January 9, 2007 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Jew, Maxwell,
McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

January 23, 2007 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED


Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Jew, Maxwell,
McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

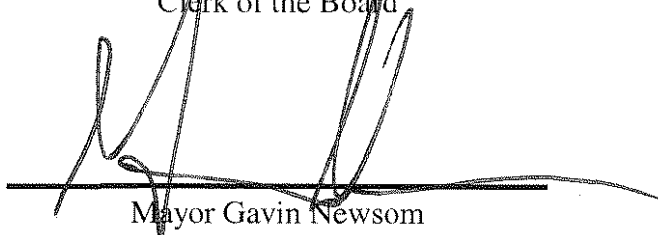
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I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance
was **FINALLY PASSED** on January 23, 2007
by the Board of Supervisors of the City and
County of San Francisco.

FEB 02 2007

Date Approved


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board


Mayor Gavin Newsom