

1 [Planning Code – Nonconforming Uses; Enlargements and Alterations]

2
3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to permit the enlargement, alteration or**
4 **reconstruction of a dwelling or other housing structure that exceeds the permitted**
5 **density of the district if dwelling units are principally permitted in the district and the**
6 **enlargement, alteration or reconstruction does not extend beyond the building**
7 **envelope as it existed on January 1, 2013 and if no tenants were evicted under certain**
8 **provisions of the Rent Ordinance; making environmental findings and findings of**
9 **consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code**
10 **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 ~~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. Findings.

20 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
21 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
22 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
23 Supervisors in File No. 130783 and is incorporated herein by reference.

24 (b) On September 19, 2013, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 18967,
25 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,
with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The

1 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of
2 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 130783, and is incorporated herein by reference.

3 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that this Planning Code
4 Amendment will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth
5 in Planning Commission Resolution No. 18967 and the Board incorporates such reasons
6 herein by reference.

7 (d) This Board intends to allow the enlargement, alteration and reconstruction of non-
8 conforming uses, as long as such permission does not result in additional tenant evictions in
9 order to use these benefits. Accordingly, this Board intends to strike a balance between
10 allowing the non-conforming uses to be altered as described and the need to protect
11 important housing resources.

12 Section 2. The Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Section 181, to read as
13 follows:

14 **SEC. 181. NONCONFORMING USES: ENLARGEMENTS, ALTERATIONS AND**
15 **RECONSTRUCTION.**

16 The following provisions shall apply to ~~non-conforming~~ nonconforming uses with respect
17 to enlargements, alterations and reconstruction:

18 (a) Increases in nonconformity. A nonconforming use, and any structure occupied by
19 such use, shall not be enlarged, intensified, extended, or moved to another location, with the
20 exception of the construction of a mezzanine within a live/work unit and expansion of dwelling
21 units in PDR Districts, unless the result will be elimination of the nonconforming use, except
22 as provided ~~in Paragraph (b)(3) and (i)~~ below and in Section 186.1 of this Code. A
23 nonconforming use shall not be extended to occupy additional space in a structure, or
24 additional land outside a structure, or space in another structure, or to displace any other use,
25 except as provided in Sections 182 and 186.1 of this Code.

1 (b) Permitted alterations. A structure occupied by a nonconforming use shall not be
2 constructed, reconstructed or altered, unless the result will be elimination of the
3 nonconforming use, except as provided in Section 186.1 of this Code and in Subsections (a)
4 above and (d), (e), (f), ~~and (g)~~, (h) and (i) below, and except as follows:

5 (1) Ordinary maintenance and minor repairs shall be permitted where necessary
6 to keep the structure in sound condition, as well as minor alterations, where such work is
7 limited to replacement of existing materials with similar materials placed in a similar manner.

8 (2) Minor alterations shall be permitted where ordered by an appropriate public
9 official to correct immediate hazards to health or safety, or to carry out newly enacted
10 retroactive requirements essential to health or safety.

11 (3) Alterations otherwise allowed by this Code shall be permitted for any portion
12 of the structure that will not thereafter be occupied by the nonconforming use, provided the
13 nonconforming use is not enlarged, intensified, extended, or moved to another location.

14 (4) All other alterations of a structural nature shall be permitted only to the extent
15 that the aggregate total cost of such other structural alterations, as estimated by the
16 Department of Building Inspection ~~Public Works~~, is less than ½ of the assessed valuation of the
17 improvements prior to the first such alteration, except that structural alterations required to
18 reinforce the structure to meet the standards for seismic loads and forces of the Building Code
19 shall be permitted without regard to cost.

20 (c) Dwellings nonconforming as to density. A dwelling or other housing structure
21 exceeding the permitted density of dwelling units or other housing units set forth in Sections
22 207.5, 208, 209.1, 209.2, or 215 of this Code for the district in which it is located shall be
23 classified as a nonconforming use under Section 180 of this Code, but only to the extent that
24 such dwelling or other housing structure exceeds the permitted density. In districts where a
25 dwelling unit is a principally permitted use, this ~~This~~ Section 181 shall not apply with respect to
enlargements, alterations and reconstruction of the nonconforming portion of such dwelling or

1 other housing structure, consisting of those dwelling units or other housing units which exceed
2 the permitted density, so long as such enlargements, alterations, or reconstruction do not otherwise
3 extend beyond the building envelope as it existed on January 1, 2013. No such enlargements,
4 alterations, or reconstruction shall be permitted for any dwelling unit where a tenant was
5 served with a notice of eviction pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Sections
6 37.9(a)(8) through 37.9(a)(14) after October 24, 2013 and within ten (10) years prior to filing
7 an application to enlarge, alter or reconstruct such dwelling or other housing unit, provided
8 that if an eviction has taken place under Section 37.9(a)(11), 37.9(a)(12) or 37.9(a)(14), then
9 the applicant(s) shall certify that the original tenant reoccupied the unit after the temporary
10 eviction. Any dwelling unit or other housing unit coming within the density limit shall not be
11 affected by this Section 181. Except as provided in Sections 181(h) and 182(e), no dwelling or
12 other housing structure exceeding the permitted density of dwelling units or other housing
13 units shall be altered to increase the number of dwelling units or other housing units therein,
14 or to increase or create any other nonconformity with respect to the dwelling unit or other
15 housing unit density limitations of Section 209.1 or Section 209.2. .

16 (d) Structures damaged or destroyed by calamity. Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions
17 of this Section 181, a structure occupied by a nonconforming use that is damaged or
18 destroyed by fire, or other calamity, or by Act of God, or by the public enemy, may be restored
19 to its former condition and use; provided that such restoration is permitted by the Building
20 Code, and is started within eighteen months and diligently prosecuted to completion. The age
21 of such a structure for the purposes of Sections 184 and 185 shall nevertheless be computed
22 from the date of the original construction of the structure. Except as provided in Subsection (e)
23 below, no structure occupied by a nonconforming use that is voluntarily razed or required by
24 law to be razed by the owner thereof may thereafter be restored except in full conformity with
25 the use limitations of this Code.

1 For purposes of this Subsection (d), "started within eighteen months" shall mean that
2 within eighteen months of the fire or other calamity or Act of God, the structure's owner shall
3 have filed a building permit application to restore the structure to its former condition and use.

4 (e) Unreinforced masonry buildings. In order that major life safety hazards in structures
5 may be eliminated as expeditiously as possible, a structure containing nonconforming uses
6 and constructed of unreinforced masonry that is inconsistent with the requirements of the
7 UMB Seismic Retrofit Ordinance, Ordinance No. 227-92, may be demolished and
8 reconstructed with the same nonconforming use or a use as permitted by Planning Code
9 Section 182; provided that:

10 (1) there is no increase in any nonconformity, or any new nonconformity, with
11 respect to the use limitations of this Code;

12 (2) ~~provided further that~~ the current requirements of the Building Code, the
13 Housing Code and other applicable portions of the Municipal Code are met; and

14 (3) ~~provided further that~~ such restoration or reconstruction is started within one
15 year after razing or other demolition work on the structure and diligently prosecuted to
16 completion.

17 (f) Nighttime Entertainment Uses in certain Mixed-Use Districts. A nighttime entertainment
18 use within the RSD, MUG, MUR, or SLR Districts may be enlarged, intensified, extended or
19 expanded, including the expansion to an adjacent lot or lots, provided that:

20 (1) the enlargement, intensification, extension or expansion is approved as a
21 conditional use pursuant to Sections 303 and 316 of this Code;

22 (2) the use as a whole meets the parking and signage requirements, floor area
23 ratio limit, height and bulk limit, and all other requirements of this Code which would apply if
24 the use were a permitted one; and

25 (3) the provisions of Section 803.5(b) of this Code are satisfied.

1 (g) Automotive Sales and Service Signs in the Automotive Special Use District. Automotive
2 sales and service signs within the Automotive Special Use District which have all required
3 permits but which do not comply with the controls for new signs established in Section 607.3
4 of this Code shall be permitted to remain as nonconforming uses and shall be permitted to
5 modify the signage text to describe new automobile ownerships and dealerships that may
6 occur from time to time.

7 (h) Dwellings in PDR and M-2 Districts. In PDR and M-2 Districts, no building containing
8 a residential use shall be altered to increase the number of dwelling units or other housing
9 units therein. However, individual dwelling units or other housing units may be expanded,
10 subject to height, bulk, and all other provisions of this Code which would otherwise be
11 applicable to dwelling units or other housing units in the Urban Mixed Use District.

12 (i) Nonconforming Non-Residential Uses in the Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use, PDR-1-
13 D, and PDR-1-G Districts. In the Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use, PDR-1-D, and PDR-1-G
14 Districts, a non-residential nonconforming use may expand in gross floor area by no more
15 than 25 percent with conditional use authorization pursuant to Section 303 of this Code. Such
16 conditional use authorization may not be granted for any subsequent or additional expansion
17 beyond the initial 25 percent.

18 Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
19 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
20 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
21 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

1 Section 4. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
2 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
3 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
4 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
5 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under
6 the official title of the ordinance.

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8 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
9 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

10 By: _____
11 KATE H. STACY
12 Deputy City Attorney

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