BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689
Tel. No. (415) 554-5184
Fax No. (415) 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. (415) 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: William Scott, Police Chief, SF Police Department

Greg Wagner, Controller, Office of the Controller

Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, Department of Public Health Patrick O'Riordan, Director, Building Inspection Department

Sandy Tong, Interim Chief, SF Fire Department Rich Hillis, Director, SF Planning Department

Jose Cisneros, Treasurer, Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Public Safety and Neighborhood

Services Committee, Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 8, 2024

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Rafael Mandelman on October 1, 2024.

File No. 240966

Ordinance repealing Article 26 of the Police Code to delete in its entirety the City's regulations governing public bath houses, including but not limited to fee requirements, operating requirements, and permitting requirements.

If you have any additional comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to Monique Crayton at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at monique.crayton@sfgov.org.

CC:

Office of Chair Stefani
Lisa Ortiz, Police Department
Lili Gamero, Police Department
Rima Malouf, Police Department
Diana Oliva-Aroche, Police Department
Sgt Stacy Youngblood, Police Department
Carl Nicita, Police Department
ChiaYu Ma, Office of the Controller
Ayeesha Hossain, Office of the Controller
Mark dela Rosa, Office of the Controller

Dr. Naveena Bobba, Department of Public Health Sneha Patil, Department of Public Health Ana Validzic, Department of Public Health Patty Lee, Building Inspection Department Tate Hanna, Building Inspection Department Sonya Harris, Building Inspection Department Theresa Ludwig, SF Fire Department Dan Sider, SF Planning Department Corey Teague, SF Planning Department Tina Tam, SF Planning Department Lisa Gibson, SF Planning Department Devyani Jain, SF Planning Department Aaron Starr, SF Planning Department Josh Switzky, SF Planning Department Joy Navarrete, SF Planning Department Debra Dwyer, SF Planning Department Elizabeth Watty, SF Planning Department Amanda Kahn Fried, Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector

1	[Police Code - Public Bath Houses]
2	
3	Ordinance repealing Article 26 of the Police Code to delete in its entirety the City's
4	regulations governing public bath houses, including but not limited to fee
5	requirements, operating requirements, and permitting requirements.
6 7	NOTE: Unchanged Code text and uncodified text are in plain Arial font. Additions to Codes are in single-underline italics Times New Roman font. Deletions to Codes are in strikethrough italics Times New Roman font.
8 9	Board amendment additions are in double-underlined Arial font. Board amendment deletions are in strikethrough Arial font. Asterisks (* * * *) indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.
10	
11	Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:
12	
13	Section 1. Article 26 of the Police Code is hereby amended by deleting Sections 2600,
14	2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2615, 2616, 2617,
15	2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2632, 2633,
16	2634, and 2635, to read as follows:
17	SEC. 2600. DEFINITIONS.
18	For the purpose of this Article, the following words and phrases shall mean or include:
19	(a) "Bath House." Any place open to the public including private clubs or organizations
20	except as provided in Section 2600(f) wherein any person, firm, association, corporation or partnership
21	engages in, conducts or carries on, or permits to be engaged in, conducted or carried on Russian,
22	Turkish, Finnish, Swedish, hot air, vapor, electric cabinet, steam, mineral, sweat, salt, Japanese, sauna,
23	fomentation, alcohol or baths of any kind whatsoever are given or furnished, provided that such term
24	shall not include ordinary tub baths where an attendant is not required.

1	— (b) "Person." Any individual, copartnership, firm, association, joint stock company,
2	corporation, or combination of individuals of whatever form or character.
3	(c) "Employee." Shall include all persons paid by the permittee on a monthly, weekly or
4	hourly basis and render a service directly to the client or customer; provided, however, the word
5	"Employee" shall not include janitorial, laundry or engineering personnel.
6	(d) "Director." Director of Public Health or his authorized representative.
7	(e) "Permittee." The operator of a public bath house.
8	(f) "Bona Fide Nonprofit Club or Organization." Any fraternal, charitable, religious,
9	benevolent or any other nonprofit organization having a regular membership association primarily for
10	mutual social, mental, political and civic welfare, to which admission is limited to the members and
11	guests and revenue accruing therefrom is to be used exclusively for the benevolent purposes of said
12	organization and which organization or agency is exempt from taxation, under the Internal Revenue
13	laws of the United States as a bona fide fraternal, charitable, religious, benevolent or nonprofit
14	organization.
15	—This Article shall not include hospitals, nursing homes, sanitaria, or persons holding an
16	unrevoked certificate to practice the healing arts under the laws of the State of California, or persons
17	working under the direction of any such persons. Nor shall this Article apply to any bona fide nonprofit
18	club or organization as defined by this Article.
19	SEC. 2601. PERMIT REQUIRED.
20	- It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in, conduct or carry on, or to permit to be
21	engaged in, conducted or carried on, in or upon any premises in the City and County of San Francisco,
22	the operation of a public bath house as herein defined without first having obtained a permit from the
23	Police Department.
24	SEC. 2602. FILING AND FEE PROVISION.

1	Every applicant for a permit to maintain, operate, or conduct a public bath house shall file a
2	application with the Chief of Police upon a form provided by said Chief of Police and shall pay a filing
3	fee which shall not be refundable. A percentage of said permit application fee, as determined by the
4	Controller pursuant to the provisions of Section 2.21 of this Code, shall be credited to the Department
5	of Public Health.
6	SEC. 2603. APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC BATH HOUSE PERMIT.
7	The application for a permit to operate a public bath house shall set forth the exact nature of
8	the baths to be administered, the proposed place of business and facilities therefor, and the name and
9	address of each applicant.
10	In addition to the foregoing, any applicant for a permit shall furnish the following
11	information:
12	—(a) The two previous addresses immediately prior to the present address of applicant.
13	—(b) Written proof that the applicant is over the age of 18 years.
14	—(c) Applicant's height, weight, color of eyes and hair.
15	—(d) Two portrait photographs at least 2" x 2".
16	(e) Business, occupation, or employment of the applicant for the three years immediately
17	preceding the date of the application.
18	—(f) The bath house or similar business license history of the applicant; whether such person,
19	in previously operating in this or another city or state under license, has had such license revoked or
20	suspended, the reason therefor, and the business activity or occupation subsequent to such action of
21	suspension or revocation.
22	-(g) All criminal convictions except minor traffic violations.
23	—(h) Such other identification and information necessary to discover the truth of the matters
24	hereinbefore specified as required to be set forth in the application.

1	(i) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny to the Chief of Police the right to
2	take the fingerprints and additional photographs of the applicant, nor shall anything contained herein
3	be construed to deny the right of said Chief of Police to confirm the height and weight of the applicant.
4	(j) If the applicant is a corporation, the name of the corporation shall be set forth exactly as
5	shown in its articles of incorporation; the names and residence addresses of each of the officers,
6	directors and each stockholder owning more than 10 percent of the stock of the corporation. If the
7	applicant is a partnership, the application shall set forth the name and residence address of each of the
8	partners, including limited partners. If one or more of the partners is a corporation, the provisions of
9	this Section pertaining to a corporate applicant apply.
10	SEC. 2604. CORPORATE APPLICANTS; EXEMPTION.
11	The provisions of Section 2603(a), (b), (c), and (d), entitled "Application for Permit" relating
12	to requirements for corporate applicants shall not apply to any of the following:
13	— (1) A corporation, the stock of which is listed on a stock exchange in the State of California
14	or in the City of New York, State of New York.
15	(2) A bank, trust company, financial institution or title company by which application is
16	made or to whom a license is issued in a fiduciary capacity.
17	— (3) A corporation which is required by law to file periodic reports with the Securities and
18	Exchange Commission.
19	SEC. 2607. FACILITIES NECESSARY.
20	No permit to conduct a public bath house shall be issued unless an inspection by the Director
21	reveals that the establishment complies with each of the following minimum requirements:
22	(a) Construction of rooms used for toilets, tubs, steam baths, and showers shall be made
23	waterproof with approved waterproofed materials and shall be installed in accordance with the San
24	Francisco Building Code. Plumbing fixtures shall be installed in accordance with the San Francisco
25	Plumbing Code.

1	— (1) For toilet rooms, toilet room vestibules and rooms containing bathtubs, there shall be a
2	waterproof floor covering, which will be carried up all walls to a height of at least six inches. Floor
3	shall be covered up on base with at least ¾ inch cover. The walls of all toilet rooms and rooms
4	containing bathtubs shall be finished to a height of six feet from a smooth, nonabsorbent finish surface
5	of Keene cement, tile, or similar material.
6	— (2) Steam rooms and shower compartments shall have approved waterproof floors, walls
7	and ceilings.
8	— (3) Floors of wet and dry heat rooms shall be adequately pitched to one or more floor
9	drains properly connected to the sewer.
10	(Exception: Dry heat rooms with wooden floors need not be provided with pitched floors and
11	floor drains.)
12	— (4)—A source of hot water shall be available within the immediate vicinity of dry and wet
13	heat rooms to facilitate cleaning.
14	(b) Toilet facilities shall be provided in convenient locations. When five or more employees
15	and patrons of different sexes are on the premises at the same time, separate facilities shall be
16	provided. A single water closet per sex shall be provided for each 20 or more employees or patrons of
17	that sex on the premises at any one time. Urinals may be substituted for water closets after one water
18	closet has been provided when five or more employees and patrons of different sexes are on the
19	premises. All toilet rooms shall be equipped with selfclosing doors opening in the direction of ingress t
20	the toilet rooms. Toilets shall be designated as to the sex accommodated therein.
21	(c) Lavatories or wash basins provided with both hot and cold running water shall be
22	installed in either the toilet room or the vestibule. Lavatories or wash basins shall be provided with
23	soap in a dispenser and with sanitary towels.
24	(d) All portions of public bath house establishments and baths shall be provided with
25	adequate light and ventilation by means of windows or skylights with an area of not less than of the

1	total floor area, or shall be provided with approved artificial light and a mechanical operating
2	ventilating system. When windows or skylights are used for ventilation, at least ½ of the total required
3	total window area shall be operable.
4	To allow for adequate ventilation, cubicles, rooms, and areas provided for patrons' use not
5	served directly by a required window, skylight, or mechanical system of ventilation shall be constructed
6	so that the height of partitions does not exceed 75 percent of the floor-to-ceiling height of the area in
7	which they are located.
8	(e) All electrical equipment shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the San
9	Francisco Electrical Code.
10	-(f) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to impose new requirements to existing
11	public bath house establishments under the City's Building, Health and Fire Codes.
12	SEC. 2608. OPERATING REQUIREMENTS.
13	- The following operating requirements are to be enforced:
14	— (a) Every portion of a public bath house, including appliances, apparatus, and personnel,
15	shall be kept clean and operated in a sanitary condition.
16	-(b) All employees shall be clean and wear clean outer garments, whose use is restricted to
17	the public bath house. Provision for separate dressing rooms for each sex must be available on the
18	premises, with individual lockers for each employee. Doors to such dressing rooms shall open inward
19	and shall be self-closing.
20	-(c) All public bath houses shall be provided with clean laundered sheets and towels in
21	sufficient quantities and shall be laundered between consecutive uses thereof and stored in an approved
22	sanitary manner. No towels or sheets shall be laundered or dried in any public bath house unless such
23	establishment is provided with approved laundry facilities for such laundering and drying. Approved
24	receptacles shall be provided for the storage of soiled linens and paper towels.

1	—(d)—Wet and dry heat rooms, shower compartments, and toilet rooms shall be thoroughly
2	cleaned each day the business is in operation. Bathtubs shall be thoroughly cleaned after each use.
3	SEC. 2609. VERIFICATION OF APPLICATION.
4	Every application for a permit under this Article shall be verified as provided in the
5	California Code of Civil Procedure for the verification of pleadings.
6	SEC. 2610. NOTICE OF HEARING.
7	When an application is filed for a new permit under this Article, the Chief of Police shall fix a
8	time and place for a public hearing thereon. Not less than 10 days before the date of such hearing, the
9	Chief of Police shall cause to be posted a notice of such hearing in a conspicuous place on the property
10	in which or on which the proposed public bath house is to be operated. Such posting of notice shall be
11	carried out by the Police Department, and the applicant shall maintain said notice as posted the
12	required number of days.
13	SEC. 2611. REFERRAL OF APPLICATION TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS.
14	The Chief of Police upon receiving an application for a public bath house permit shall refer
15	the applications to the Bureau of Building Inspection, the Fire Department, the Health Department and
16	the City Planning Department, which departments shall inspect the premises proposed to be devoted to
17	a public bath house and shall make separate written recommendations to the Chief of Police
18	concerning compliance with the codes that they administer.
19	SEC. 2612. ISSUANCE OF PERMIT FOR PUBLIC BATH HOUSE.
20	- The Chief of Police shall issue a Public Bath House Permit within 14 days following a
21	hearing if all the requirements for a public bath house described in this Article are met and shall issue
22	a permit to any person who has applied for a permit to operate a public bath house unless he finds:
23	(1) That the operation as proposed by the applicant if permitted would not comply with all
24	applicable laws including, but not limited to, the City's Building, Health, City Planning and Fire
25	Codes, or regulations adopted by the Chief of Police.

1	(2) That the applicant or any other person who will be directly engaged in the management
2	and operation of a public bath house has been convicted of:
3	— (a) An offense involving conduct which requires registration pursuant to Section 290 of the
4	Penal Code.
5	— (b)—An offense involving the use of force and violence upon the person of another that
6	amounts to a felony.
7	— (c) An offense involving sexual misconduct with children.
8	— (d) An offense as defined under Sections 311, 647(a), 647a, 315, 316, or 318 of the Penal
9	Code of the State of California.
10	— (e) The Chief of Police shall disregard any conviction mentioned in Subsections (a), (b),
11	(c) or (d) of this Section if he finds that the applicant has fully completed any sentence imposed because
12	of such conviction and has fully complied with any conditions imposed because of such conviction,
13	which conviction has occurred at least three years prior to the date of application and the applicant
14	has not subsequently been convicted of any of the crimes herein mentioned nor has suffered any
15	subsequent felony convictions involving the use of force or violence on the person of another.
16	SEC. 2615. REGISTER TO BE MAINTAINED.
17	The operator of a public bath house must maintain a register of all persons employed as an
18	employee of a public bath house as herein defined which register shall be available for inspection at all
19	times during regular business hours. The register shall contain the following information for each
20	employee:
21	— (a) Name and residence address.
22	(b) Social Security number and driver's license number, if any.
23	(c) Employee's height, weight, color of eyes and hair.
24	(d) Written evidence that the employee is over the age of 18 years.

1	— (e)—Business, occupation or employment of the employee for the three years immediately
2	preceding the date of beginning employment with the public bath house.
3	(f) The Chief of Police shall have the right to take fingerprints and photographs of an
4	employee and the right to confirm the information contained in the register.
5	SEC. 2616. REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMIT TO OPERATE A PUBLIC BATH
6	HOUSE.
7	Any permit issued for a public bath house may be revoked or suspended by the Chief of
8	Police, after a hearing, for good cause, in any case where any of the provisions of this Article are
9	knowingly violated, or where any employee of the permittee is engaging in any conduct which violates
10	any state or local laws or ordinances at permittee's place of business where permittee has actual or
11	constructive knowledge or by due diligence should have actual or constructive knowledge of such
12	violations, or in any case where the permittee refuses to permit any duly authorized officer of the City
13	to inspect the premises or the operations therein. Such permit may also be revoked or suspended by the
14	Chief of Police, after hearing, upon the representation of the Director of Public Health that such
15	business is being managed, conducted, or maintained without regard for the public health or health of
16	patrons or customers, or without due regard to proper sanitation or hygiene.
17	SEC. 2618. EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS
18	PROHIBITED.
19	It shall be unlawful for the owner, proprietor, manager or any other person in charge of any
20	public bath house to employ any person under the age of 18 years.
21	SEC. 2619. ADVERTISING.
22	No public bath house granted a permit under the provisions of this Article shall place, publish
23	or distribute or cause to be placed, published or distributed any advertising matter that depicts any
24	portion of the human body that would reasonably suggest to prospective patrons that any service is
25	available other than those services as described in Section 2600 of this Article, nor shall any public

1	bath house indicate in the text of such advertising that any service is available other than those service
2	as described in Section 2600 of this Article.
3	SEC. 2620. SALE OR TRANSFER.
4	Upon sale, transfer or relocation of a public bath house, the permit and license therefor shall
5	be null and void unless approved as provided in Section 2627 herein.
6	SEC. 2621. NAME AND PLACE OF BUSINESS-CHANGE OF LOCATION.
7	No person granted a permit pursuant to this Article shall operate under any name or conduct
8	his business under any designation or in any location not specified in his permit.
9	SEC. 2622. DAILY REGISTER.
10	Every person who engages in or conducts a public bath house as herein defined shall keep a
11	daily register, approved in form by the Police Department, of all patrons by name, address, and hour of
12	arrival, and the room or cubicle assigned, if any. Said daily register shall at all times during business
13	hours be subject to inspection by the Health Department and by the Police Department and shall be
14	kept on file for one year.
15	SEC. 2623. LOCKED CUBICLE, ROOM, BOOTH, ETC.
16	-No service enumerated in Section 2600 of this Article may be carried on within any cubicle,
17	room, or booth, or in any area within a public bath house by whatever designation whatsoever which is
18	fixed with a door capable of being locked.
19	SEC. 2624. DISPLAY OF PERMIT.
20	- Every person to whom or for whom a permit shall have been granted pursuant to the
21	provisions of this Article shall display said permit in a conspicuous place in a public bath house so tha
22	the same may be readily seen by persons entering the premises.
23	SEC. 2625. INSPECTIONS.
24	

1	- The Police Department and the Department of Public Health shall from time to time, and at
2	least twice a year, make an inspection of each public bath house in the City and County of San
3	Francisco for the purpose of determining that the provisions of this Article are complied with.
4	SEC. 2626. LICENSE FEES.
5	Every permittee who conducts, permits or assists in conducting or permitting any public bath
6	house as defined herein shall pay to the Tax Collector an annual license fee, payable in advance. The
7	license fee shall be paid annually on or before March 31, in accordance with the provisions of Section
8	76.1 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code. In calculating the fees earned herein, a percentage of
9	the license fee as set by the Controller pursuant to Section 2.21 of this Code shall be credited to the
10	Department of Public Health pursuant to the provisions of Section 6.402 of the Charter of the City and
11	County of San Francisco.
12	SEC. 2627. TRANSFER OF PERMIT.
13	-No permit shall be transferred to new owners except with the written consent of the Chief of
14	Police and the approval of the Director of Public Health.
15	- An application for such a transfer shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by the same
16	filing fee as for an initial application. The written application for such transfer shall contain the same
17	information as requested herein for an initial application for such a permit. The same percentage of
18	said filing fee for a transfer of license shall be credited to the Department of Public Health pursuant to
19	the provisions of Section 6.402 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco as for an initial
20	application.
21	SEC. 2628. UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES.
22	- It shall be unlawful for any person to give or administer any bath or baths as defined herein,
23	or to give or administer any of the other things mentioned in this Article which violate the provisions of
24	this Article or which violate any state or local laws or ordinances. Any violation of this provision shall
25	be deemed grounds for revocation of the permit granted hereunder.

1	SEC. 2630. TIME LIMIT FOR FILING APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC BATH HOUSE PERMIT.
2	- All persons who possess an outstanding permit heretofore issued by the Police Department as
3	an operator of a public bath house must file for a new permit within 90 days of the effective date of this
4	Article; failure to do so shall constitute continued operation of said place of business a violation of
5	Section 2634 thereof.
6	SEC. 2632. APPLICABILITY TO EXISTING PUBLIC BATH HOUSES.
7	Any place or premises where a permit to operate is sought must conform to all existing
8	Building, Health, City Planning and Fire Codes of the City and County of San Francisco. Nothing
9	contained herein shall be construed to impose new requirements on existing public bath houses under
10	the City's Building, Health, City Planning and Fire Codes. The Chief of Police shall grant a permit to
11	operate a bath house to those bath houses holding valid permits to operate under the provisions of
12	former Section 1301 of Chapter VIII, Part II, of the San Francisco Municipal Code.
13	SEC. 2633. RULES AND REGULATIONS.
14	The Chief of Police may, after a public hearing, make and enforce reasonable rules and
15	regulations not in conflict with, but to carry out, the intent of this Article.
16	SEC. 2634. VIOLATION AND PENALTY.
17	(a) Every person who violates any provision of this Article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
18	SEC. 2635. SEVERABILITY.
19	- If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Article or
20	any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of
21	competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining
22	portions of this Article or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would
23	have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof
24	irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences,
25	clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective.

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4	Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after
5	enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the
6	ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board
7	of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.
8	
9	APPROVED AS TO FORM: DAVID CHIU, City Attorney
10	
11	By: <u>/s/ Alicia Cabrera</u> ALICIA CABRERA Deputy City Attorney
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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Police Code - Public Bath Houses]

Ordinance repealing Article 26 of the Police Code to delete in its entirety the City's regulations governing public bath houses, including but not limited to fee requirements, operating requirements, and permitting requirements.

Existing Law

Current law requires public bath houses as defined by Article 26 of the Police Code to obtain a permit from the Police Department. Article 26 sets forth the application requirements, fees, minimum requirements for operations, inspection rights, an appeal process for denials and penalties.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would repeal Article 26 of the Police Code.

Background Information

This ordinance was passed in 1973 and is no longer applicable in 2024. In 2000, the Board of Supervisors updated the permitting scheme and rules surrounding Adult Sex Venues rendering the provisions in the Police Code moot.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Page 1