

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

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

12           Section 101.21.2. Description of placards. The Department of Building Inspection  
13 shall use the form of standard placards that the Applied Technology Council has  
14 recommended and revises from time to time. The actual placards shall be in a form that the  
15 Director of the Department approves. In addition, the ordinance number, the name of the  
16 department, its address, and phone number shall be permanently affixed to each placard. A  
17 general description of the placards is as follows:

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

21           2.       RESTRICTED USE. This placard is to be posted on each building or structure  
22 that is damaged to such an extent that restrictions on continued occupancy are required. The  
23 person or persons authorized to post this placard will note in general terms the type of  
24 damage encountered and will note with specificity any restrictions on continued occupancy.

25

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

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

14

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

17 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
18       John D. Malamut  
19       Deputy City Attorney

20

21

22

23

24

25