

1 [Administrative, Planning Codes - Amending Regulation of Short-Term Residential Rentals  
and Establishing Fee]

2

3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to provide an exception for permanent**  
4 **residents to the prohibition on short-term residential rentals under certain conditions;**  
5 **to create procedures, including a registry administered by the Planning Department, for**  
6 **tracking short-term residential rentals and compliance; to establish an application fee**  
7 **for the registry; amending the Planning Code to clarify that short-term residential**  
8 **rentals shall not change a unit’s type as residential; and making environmental**  
9 **findings and findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority**  
10 **policies of Planning Code, 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 ~~strikethrough 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. The Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco hereby  
20 finds and determines that:

21 (a) General Plan and Planning Code Findings.

22 (1) On August 7, 2014, at a duly noticed public hearing, the Planning  
23 Commission in Resolution No. 19213 found that the proposed Planning Code amendments  
24 contained in this ordinance were consistent with the City’s General Plan and with Planning  
25 Code Section 101.1(b) and recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt the proposed  
Planning Code amendments. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board

1 finds that the proposed Planning Code amendments contained in this ordinance are on  
2 balance consistent with the City's General Plan and with Planning Code Section 101.1(b) for  
3 the reasons set forth in said Resolution.

4 (2) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board finds that the  
5 proposed ordinance will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare for the reasons  
6 set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 19213, which reasons are incorporated  
7 herein by reference as though fully set forth.

8 (b) Environmental Findings. The Planning Department has determined that the  
9 actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act  
10 (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with  
11 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. \_\_\_\_\_ and is incorporated herein  
12 by reference.

13 (c) General Findings.

14 (1) The widespread conversion of residential housing to short-term rentals,  
15 commonly referred to as hotelization, was prohibited by this Board because, when taken to  
16 extremes, these conversions could result in the loss of housing for permanent residents. But,  
17 with the advent of new technology, the rise of the sharing economy, and the economic and  
18 social benefits to residents of sharing resources, short-term rental activity continued to  
19 proliferate. This has not only led the City to strengthen enforcement of short-term rental laws,  
20 but also prompted an examination of parameters to regulate short-term rentals and create a  
21 pathway to legalize this activity. The goal of regulation is to ensure compliance with all  
22 requirements of the Municipal Code, including but not limited to the Business and Tax  
23 Regulations Code and the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration Ordinance, and  
24 accountability for neighborhood quality of life.

1           (2)    The exception created here for permanent residents would allow for  
2 reasonable flexibility in renting residential spaces on an occasional basis; however, this  
3 exception is only intended for residents who meet the definition of permanent resident so that  
4 these units remain truly residential in use. Thus, the exception is only for primary residences  
5 in which permanent residents are present for a significant majority of the calendar year.

6           (3)    The hosting platforms, as part of a new but growing industry, would also  
7 benefit from regulation to ensure good business standards and practices. Such regulation  
8 includes required notification to users of local short-term rental laws and transient occupancy  
9 tax obligations to San Francisco.

10          (4)    The Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector retains all of its existing  
11 authority under the Business & Tax Regulations Code with regard to the subject matter of this  
12 ordinance.

13  
14          Section 2. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 37.9(a),  
15 41A.4, 41A.5, and 41A.6, to read as follows:

16  
17          **SEC. 37.9. EVICTIONS.**   Notwithstanding Section 37.3, this Section shall apply as of  
18 August 24, 1980, to all landlords and tenants of rental units as defined in Section 37.2(r).

19          (a)    A landlord shall not endeavor to recover possession of a rental unit unless:

20               (1)    The tenant:

21                       (A)    Has failed to pay the rent to which the landlord is lawfully entitled  
22 under the oral or written agreement between the tenant and landlord:

23                               (i)    Except that a tenant's nonpayment of a charge prohibited  
24 by Section 919.1 of the Police Code shall not constitute a failure to pay rent; and

1 (ii) Except that, commencing August 10, 2001, to and including  
2 February 10, 2003, a landlord shall not endeavor to recover or recover possession of a rental  
3 unit for failure of a tenant to pay that portion of rent attributable to a capital improvement  
4 passthrough certified pursuant to a decision issued after April 10, 2000, where the capital  
5 improvement passthrough petition was filed prior to August 10, 2001, and a landlord shall not  
6 impose any late fee(s) upon the tenant for such non-payment of capital improvements costs;  
7 or

8 (B) Habitually pays the rent late; or

9 (C) Gives checks which are frequently returned because there are  
10 insufficient funds in the checking account; or

11 (2) The tenant has violated a lawful obligation or covenant of tenancy other  
12 than the obligation to surrender possession upon proper notice or other than an obligation to  
13 pay a charge prohibited by Police Code Section 919.1, and failure to cure such violation after  
14 having received written notice thereof from the landlord.

15 (A) Provided that notwithstanding any lease provision to the contrary,  
16 a landlord shall not endeavor to recover possession of a rental unit as a result of subletting of  
17 the rental unit by the tenant if the landlord has unreasonably withheld the right to sublet  
18 following a written request by the tenant, so long as the tenant continues to reside in the rental  
19 unit and the sublet constitutes a one-for-one replacement of the departing tenant(s). If the  
20 landlord fails to respond to the tenant in writing within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the  
21 tenant's written request, the tenant's request shall be deemed approved by the landlord.

22 (B) Provided further that where a rental agreement or lease provision  
23 limits the number of occupants or limits or prohibits subletting or assignment, a landlord shall  
24 not endeavor to recover possession of a rental unit as a result of the addition to the unit of a  
25 tenant's child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister, or the spouse or domestic

1 partner (as defined in Administrative Code Sections 62.1 through 62.8) of such relatives, or as  
2 a result of the addition of the spouse or domestic partner of a tenant, so long as the maximum  
3 number of occupants stated in Section 37.9(a)(2)(B)(i) and (ii) is not exceeded, if the landlord  
4 has unreasonably refused a written request by the tenant to add such occupant(s) to the unit.  
5 If the landlord fails to respond to the tenant in writing within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the  
6 tenant's written request, the tenant's request shall be deemed approved by the landlord. A  
7 landlord's reasonable refusal of the tenant's written request may not be based on the  
8 proposed additional occupant's lack of creditworthiness, if that person will not be legally  
9 obligated to pay some or all of the rent to the landlord. A landlord's reasonable refusal of the  
10 tenant's written request may be based on, but is not limited to, the ground that the total  
11 number of occupants in a unit exceeds (or with the proposed additional occupant(s) would  
12 exceed) the lesser of (i) or (ii):

13 (i) Two persons in a studio unit, three persons in a one-  
14 bedroom unit, four persons in a two-bedroom unit, six persons in a three-bedroom unit, or  
15 eight persons in a four-bedroom unit; or

16 (ii) The maximum number permitted in the unit under  
17 state law and/or other local codes such as the Building, Fire, Housing and Planning Codes; or

18 (3) The tenant is committing or permitting to exist a nuisance in, or is causing  
19 substantial damage to, the rental unit, or is creating a substantial interference with the  
20 comfort, safety or enjoyment of the landlord or tenants in the building, and the nature of such  
21 nuisance, damage or interference is specifically stated by the landlord in writing as required  
22 by Section 37.9(c); or

23 (4) The tenant is using or permitting a rental unit to be used for any illegal  
24 purpose, provided however that a landlord shall not endeavor to recover possession of a rental unit  
25

1 solely as a result of a first violation of Chapter 41A that has been cured within 30 days written notice to  
2 the tenant; or

3 (5) The tenant, who had an oral or written agreement with the landlord which  
4 has terminated, has refused after written request or demand by the landlord to execute a  
5 written extension or renewal thereof for a further term of like duration and under such terms  
6 which are materially the same as in the previous agreement; provided, that such terms do not  
7 conflict with any of the provisions of this Chapter; or

8 (6) The tenant has, after written notice to cease, refused the landlord access  
9 to the rental unit as required by State or local law; or

10 (7) The tenant holding at the end of the term of the oral or written agreement  
11 is a subtenant not approved by the landlord; or

12 (8) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith, without ulterior  
13 reasons and with honest intent:

14 (i) For the landlord's use or occupancy as his or her principal  
15 residence for a period of at least 36 continuous months;

16 (ii) For the use or occupancy of the landlord's grandparents,  
17 grandchildren, parents, children, brother or sister, or the landlord's spouse, or the spouses of  
18 such relations, as their principal place of residency for a period of at least 36 months, in the  
19 same building in which the landlord resides as his or her principal place of residency, or in a  
20 building in which the landlord is simultaneously seeking possession of a rental unit under  
21 Section 37.9(a)(8)(i). For purposes of this Section 37.9(a)(8)(ii), the term spouse shall include  
22 domestic partners as defined in San Francisco Administrative Code Sections 62.1 through  
23 62.8.

24 (iii) For purposes of this Section 37.9(a)(8) only, as to landlords who  
25 become owners of record of the rental unit on or before February 21, 1991, the term "landlord"

1 shall be defined as an owner of record of at least 10 percent interest in the property or, for  
2 Section 37.9(a)(8)(i) only, two individuals registered as domestic partners as defined in San  
3 Francisco Administrative Code Sections 62.1 through 62.8 whose combined ownership of  
4 record is at least 10 percent. For purposes of this Section 37.9(a)(8) only, as to landlords who  
5 become owners of record of the rental unit after February 21, 1991, the term "landlord" shall  
6 be defined as an owner of record of at least 25 percent interest in the property or, for Section  
7 37.9(a)(8)(i) only, two individuals registered as domestic partners as defined in San Francisco  
8 Administrative Code Sections 62.1 through 62.8 whose combined ownership of record is at  
9 least 25 percent.

10 (iv) A landlord may not recover possession under this Section  
11 37.9(a)(8) if a comparable unit owned by the landlord is already vacant and is available, or if  
12 such a unit becomes vacant and available before the recovery of possession of the unit. If a  
13 comparable unit does become vacant and available before the recovery of possession, the  
14 landlord shall rescind the notice to vacate and dismiss any action filed to recover possession  
15 of the premises. Provided further, if a noncomparable unit becomes available before the  
16 recovery of possession, the landlord shall offer that unit to the tenant at a rent based on the  
17 rent that the tenant is paying, with upward or downward adjustments allowed based upon the  
18 condition, size, and other amenities of the replacement unit. Disputes concerning the initial  
19 rent for the replacement unit shall be determined by the Rent Board. It shall be evidence of a  
20 lack of good faith if a landlord times the service of the notice, or the filing of an action to  
21 recover possession, so as to avoid moving into a comparable unit, or to avoid offering a  
22 tenant a replacement unit.

23 (v) It shall be rebuttably presumed that the landlord has not acted in  
24 good faith if the landlord or relative for whom the tenant was evicted does not move into the  
25

1 rental unit within three months and occupy said unit as that person's principal residence for a  
2 minimum of 36 continuous months.

3 (vi) Once a landlord has successfully recovered possession of a rental  
4 unit pursuant to Section 37.9(a)(8)(i), then no other current or future landlords may recover  
5 possession of any other rental unit in the building under Section 37.9(a)(8)(i). It is the intention  
6 of this Section that only one specific unit per building may be used for such occupancy under  
7 Section 37.9(a)(8)(i) and that once a unit is used for such occupancy, all future occupancies  
8 under Section 37.9(a)(8)(i) must be of that same unit, provided that a landlord may file a  
9 petition with the Rent Board, or at the landlord's option, commence eviction proceedings,  
10 claiming that disability or other similar hardship prevents him or her from occupying a unit  
11 which was previously occupied by the landlord.

12 (vii) If any provision or clause of this amendment to Section 37.9(a)(8)  
13 or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional or to be  
14 otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other  
15 chapter provisions, and clauses of this Chapter are held to be severable; or

16 (9) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to sell the  
17 unit in accordance with a condominium conversion approved under the San Francisco  
18 subdivision ordinance and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent; or

19 (10) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to  
20 demolish or to otherwise permanently remove the rental unit from housing use and has  
21 obtained all the necessary permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given,  
22 and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent; provided that a landlord who  
23 seeks to recover possession under this Section 37.9(a)(10) shall pay relocation expenses as  
24 provided in Section 37.9C except that a landlord who seeks to demolish an unreinforced  
25 masonry building pursuant to Building Code Chapters 16B and 16C must provide the tenant



1 with the relocation assistance specified in Section 37.9A(f) below prior to the tenant's vacating  
2 the premises; or

3 (11) The landlord seeks in good faith to remove temporarily the unit from  
4 housing use in order to be able to carry out capital improvements or rehabilitation work and  
5 has obtained all the necessary permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is  
6 given, and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent. Any tenant who vacates  
7 the unit under such circumstances shall have the right to reoccupy the unit at the prior rent  
8 adjusted in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The tenant will vacate the unit only  
9 for the minimum time required to do the work. On or before the date upon which notice to  
10 vacate is given, the landlord shall advise the tenant in writing that the rehabilitation or capital  
11 improvement plans are on file with the Central Permit Bureau of the Department of Building  
12 Inspection and that arrangements for reviewing such plans can be made with the Central  
13 Permit Bureau. In addition to the above, no landlord shall endeavor to recover possession of  
14 any unit subject to a RAP loan as set forth in Section 37.2(m) of this Chapter except as  
15 provided in Section 32.69 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The tenant shall not be  
16 required to vacate pursuant to this Section 37.9(a)(11), for a period in excess of three months;  
17 provided, however, that such time period may be extended by the Board or its Administrative  
18 Law Judges upon application by the landlord. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations to  
19 implement the application procedure. Any landlord who seeks to recover possession under  
20 this Section 37.9(a)(11) shall pay relocation expenses as provided in Section 37.9C or

21 (12) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to carry  
22 out substantial rehabilitation, as defined in Section 37.2(s), and has obtained all the necessary  
23 permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given, and does so without  
24 ulterior reasons and with honest intent. Notwithstanding the above, no landlord shall endeavor  
25 to recover possession of any unit subject to a RAP loan as set forth in Section 37.2(m) of this

1 Chapter except as provided in Section 32.69 of the San Francisco Administrative Code; Any  
2 landlord who seeks to recover possession under this Section 37.9(a)(12) shall pay relocation  
3 expenses as provided in Section 37.9C; or

4 (13) The landlord wishes to withdraw from rent or lease all rental units within  
5 any detached physical structure and, in addition, in the case of any detached physical  
6 structure containing three or fewer rental units, any other rental units on the same lot, and  
7 complies in full with Section 37.9A with respect to each such unit; provided, however, that  
8 guestrooms or efficiency units within a residential hotel, as defined in Section 50519 of the  
9 Health and Safety Code, may not be withdrawn from rent or lease if the residential hotel has a  
10 permit of occupancy issued prior to January 1, 1990, and if the residential hotel did not send a  
11 notice of intent to withdraw the units from rent or lease (Administrative Code Section 37.9A(f),  
12 Government Code Section 7060.4(a)) that was delivered to the Rent Board prior to January 1,  
13 2004; or

14 (14) The landlord seeks in good faith to temporarily recover possession of the  
15 unit solely for the purpose of effecting lead remediation or abatement work, as required by  
16 San Francisco Health Code Articles 11 or 26. The tenant will vacate the unit only for the  
17 minimum time required to do the work. The relocation rights and remedies, established by  
18 San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 72, including but not limited to, the payment of  
19 financial relocation assistance, shall apply to evictions under this Section 37.9(a)(14).

20 (15) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to  
21 demolish or to otherwise permanently remove the rental unit from housing use in accordance  
22 with the terms of a development agreement entered into by the City under Chapter 56 of the  
23 San Francisco Administrative Code.

24 (16) The tenant's Good Samaritan Status (Section 37.2(a)(1)(D)) has expired,  
25 and the landlord exercises the right to recover possession by serving a notice of termination of

1 tenancy under this Section 37.9(a)(16) within 60 days after expiration of the Original and any  
2 Extended Good Samaritan Status Period.

3 \* \* \* \*

4  
5 **SEC. 41A.4. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Whenever used in this Chapter 41A, the following words and phrases shall have the definitions  
7 provided in this Section:

8 **Business Entity.** A corporation, partnership, or other legal entity that is not a natural  
9 person that owns or leases one or more residential units.

10 **Complaint.** A complaint submitted to the Department by an interested party alleging a  
11 violation of this Chapter 41A and that includes the residential unit’s address, including unit number,  
12 date(s) and nature of alleged violation(s), and any available contact information for the owner and/or  
13 resident of the residential unit at issue.

14 **Conversion or Convert.** A change of use from residential use to tourist or transient use,  
15 including, but not limited to, renting a residential unit as a tourist or transient use.

16 **Department.** The Planning Department.

17 **Director.** The Director of the Planning Department.

18 **Hosting Platform.** A person or entity that provides a means through which an owner  
19 may offer a residential unit for tourist or transient use. This service is usually, though not necessarily,  
20 provided through an online platform and generally allows an owner to advertise the residential unit  
21 through a website provided by the hosting platform and provides a means for potential tourist or  
22 transient users to arrange tourist or transient use and payment, whether the tourist or transient pays  
23 rent directly to the owner or to the hosting platform.

24 **Interested Party.** A permanent resident of the building in which the tourist or transient  
25 use is alleged to occur, the City and County of San Francisco, or any non-profit organization exempt

1 from taxation pursuant to Title 26, Section 501 of the United States Code, which has the preservation  
2 or improvement of housing as a stated purpose in its articles of incorporation or bylaws.

3 **Owner.** Owner includes any person who is the owner of record of the real property. As  
4 used in this Chapter 41A, the term “Owner” includes a lessee where the lessee is offering a residential  
5 unit for tourist or transient use.

6 **Permanent Resident.** A person who occupies a residential unit for at least 60  
7 consecutive days with intent to establish that unit as his or her primary residence. A permanent resident  
8 may be an owner or a lessee.

9 **Primary Residence.** The permanent resident’s usual place of return for housing as  
10 documented by motor vehicle registration, driver’s license, voter registration, home owner’s tax  
11 exemption, or other such evidence.

12 (a) — **Residential Unit.** Room or rooms, including a condominium or a room or  
13 dwelling unit that forms part of a tenancy-in-common arrangement, in any building, or portion  
14 thereof, which is designed, built, rented, leased, let or hired out to be occupied for residential  
15 use, or which is occupied as the home or residence of four or more households living independently of  
16 each other in dwelling units as defined in the San Francisco Housing Code, ~~provided that the~~  
17 ~~residential unit was occupied by a permanent resident on or after February 8, 1981. It is presumed that~~  
18 ~~a residential unit was occupied by a permanent resident on or after February 8, 1981, and the owner~~  
19 ~~has the burden of proof to show that a residential unit is not subject to this Chapter.~~

20 (b) — **Residential Use.** Any use for occupancy of a ~~dwelling~~ residential unit by a  
21 permanent resident.

22 **Short-Term Residential Rental.** A tourist or transient use where all of the following  
23 conditions are met:

24 (a) the residential unit is offered for tourist or transient use by the permanent  
25 resident of the residential unit;

1                   **(b)** the permanent resident is a natural person;

2                   **(c)** the permanent resident has registered the unit and maintains good standing on  
3 the Department's Short-Term Residential Rental Registry; and

4                   **(d)** the residential unit is not subject to the Inclusionary Affordable Housing  
5 Program set forth in Planning Code Section 415 et seq., is not a residential hotel unit as defined in  
6 Chapter 41 and no other requirement of federal or state law, this Municipal Code, or any other  
7 application law or regulation prohibits the permanent resident from subleasing, renting, or otherwise  
8 allowing Short-Term Residential Rental of the residential unit.

9                   **Short-Term Residential Rental Registry.** A database of information maintained by the  
10 Department that includes information regarding permanent residents who are permitted to offer  
11 residential units for Short-Term Residential Rental. The registry shall be available for public review to  
12 the extent required by law, except that, to the extent permitted by law, the Department shall redact any  
13 permanent resident names from the records available for public review.

14                   **(e) — Tourist or Transient Use.** Any Use of a residential unit for occupancy for less  
15 than a 30-day term of tenancy, or occupancy for less than 30 days of a residential unit leased  
16 or owned by a business entity, whether on a short-term or long-term basis, including any  
17 occupancy by employees or guests of a business entity for less than 30 days where payment for  
18 the residential unit is contracted for or paid by the business entity.

19                   **(d) — Permanent Resident.** ~~A person who occupies a residential unit for at least 60~~  
20 ~~consecutive days with intent to establish that unit as his or her principal place of residence.~~

21                   **(e) — Conversion or Convert.** ~~The change of the use or to rent a residential unit from~~  
22 ~~residential use to tourist or transient use.~~

23                   **(f) — Owner.** ~~Owner includes any person who is the owner of record of the real property.~~  
24 ~~Owner includes a lessee where an interested party alleges that a lessee is offering a residential unit for~~  
25 ~~tourist or transient use.~~

1           (g) ~~Interested Party. A permanent resident of the building in which the tourist or transient~~  
2 ~~use is alleged to occur, the City and County of San Francisco, or any non-profit organization exempt~~  
3 ~~from taxation pursuant to Title 26, Section 501 of the United States Code, which has the preservation~~  
4 ~~or improvement of housing as a stated purpose in its articles of incorporation or bylaws.~~

5           (h) ~~Director. The Director of the Department of Building Inspection.~~

## 6           **SEC. 41A.5. UNLAWFUL CONVERSION; REMEDIES.**

7           (a)   **Unlawful Actions.** Except as set forth in subsection 41A.5(g), it shall be unlawful  
8           for

9                   (1)   any Owner to offer ~~an apartment~~ Residential Unit for rent for Tourist or  
10           Transient Use;

11                   (2)   any Owner to offer a Residential Unit for rent to a Business Entity  
12           that will allow the use of a Residential Unit for Tourist or Transient Use;

13                   (3)   any Business Entity to allow the use of a Residential Unit for Tourist  
14           or Transient Use.

15           (b)   **Records Required.** The Owner and Business Entity, if any, shall retain and  
16           make available to the Department ~~or Building Inspection occupancy~~ records to demonstrate  
17           compliance with this Chapter 41A upon written request as provided herein. Any Permanent Resident  
18           offering his or her Primary Residence as a Short-Term Residential Rental shall retain and make  
19           available to the Department records to demonstrate compliance with this Chapter 41A, including but  
20           not limited to records demonstrating Primary Residency and the number of days per calendar year he  
21           or she has occupied the Residential Unit.

22           (c)   **Determination of Violation.** Upon the filing of a written Complaint that an  
23           alleged unlawful eConversion has occurred, the Director shall take reasonable steps necessary  
24           to determine the validity of the Complaint. The Director may independently determine  
25

1 whether an Owner or Business Entity may be renting a Residential Unit for Tourist or  
2 Transient Use ~~as defined in violation of~~ this Chapter 41A. To determine if there is a violation of  
3 this Chapter 41A, the Director may initiate an investigation of the subject property. This  
4 investigation may include, but is not limited to, an inspection of the subject property and a  
5 request for any pertinent information from the Owner or Business Entity, such as leases or  
6 other documents. The Director shall have discretion to determine whether there is a potential  
7 violation of this Chapter 41A and whether to conduct an administrative review hearing as set  
8 forth below.

9 (d) **Civil Action.** Following the filing of a Complaint and the determination of a  
10 violation by the Director through an administrative review hearing as set forth in this Chapter  
11 41A, the City and County of San Francisco or any interested party may institute civil proceedings  
12 for injunctive and monetary relief against an Owner or Business Entity. In addition, the Owner or  
13 Business Entity may be liable for civil penalties of not more than \$1,000 per day for the  
14 period of the unlawful ~~rental~~ activity. If the City or the interested party is the prevailing party, the  
15 City or the interested party shall be entitled to the costs of enforcing this Chapter 41A,  
16 including reasonable attorneys' fees, ~~up to the amount of the monetary award,~~ pursuant to an  
17 order of the Court. Any monetary award obtained by the City and County of San Francisco in  
18 such a civil action shall be deposited in the Mayor's Office of Housing, Housing Affordability  
19 Fund less the reasonable costs incurred by the City and County of San Francisco in pursuing  
20 the civil action.

21 (e) **Criminal Penalties.** Any Owner or Business Entity who rents a Residential  
22 Unit for Tourist or Transient Use ~~as defined in violation of~~ this Chapter 41A without correcting  
23 or remedying the violation as provided for in subsection 41A.6(b)(7) shall be guilty of a  
24 misdemeanor. Any person convicted of a misdemeanor hereunder shall be punishable by a  
25 fine of not more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period of not more

1 than six months, or by both. Each Residential Unit rented for Tourist or Transient Use  
2 shall constitute a separate offense.

3 (f) **Method of Enforcement, Director.** The Director shall have the authority to  
4 enforce this Chapter against violations thereof by any or all of the means provided for in this  
5 Chapter 41A.

6 (g) Exception for Short-Term Residential Rental.

7 (1) Notwithstanding the restrictions set forth in this Section 41A.5, a Permanent  
8 Resident may offer his or her Primary Residence as a Short-Term Residential Rental if he or she:

9 (A) occupies the Residential Unit for no less than 275 days out of the  
10 preceding calendar year or proportional share thereof if he or she has not rented or owned the  
11 Residential Unit for the full preceding calendar year;

12 (B) maintains records for two years demonstrating compliance with this  
13 Chapter, including but not limited to information demonstrating Primary Residency, the number of  
14 days per calendar year he or she has occupied the Residential Unit, and compliance with the insurance  
15 requirement in Subsection (D). These records shall be made available to the Department upon request;

16 (C) complies with any and all applicable provisions of state and federal law  
17 and the San Francisco Municipal Code, including but not limited to the requirements of the Business  
18 and Tax Regulations Code by, among any other applicable requirements, collecting and remitting all  
19 required transient occupancy taxes, and the occupancy requirements of the Housing Code;

20 (D) maintains homeowner's or renter's property or casualty insurance in the  
21 aggregate of not less than \$150,000 or conducts each Short-Term Residential Rental transaction  
22 through a Hosting Platform that provides a guarantee program relating to property damage in an  
23 amount not less than \$150,000 to owners per incident;

24 (E) registers, and maintains registry of, the Residential Unit on the Short-  
25 Term Residential Rental Registry prior to offering the Residential Unit for use as a Short-Term



1 Residential Rental. Offering a Residential Unit for Short-Term Residential Rental while not  
2 maintaining good standing on the registry shall constitute a violation of this Chapter 41A; and

3 (F) includes the Department-issued registration number on any hosting  
4 platform or other listing offering the Residential Unit for use as a Short-Term Residential Rental;

5 (G) for units subject to the rent control provisions of Section 37.3, complies  
6 with the initial rent limitation for subtenants and charges no more rent than the rent the primary  
7 resident is paying to any landlord per month; and

8 (H) can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that the Residential  
9 Unit and the property on which it is located is not subject to any outstanding Building, Electrical,  
10 Plumbing, Mechanical, Fire, Health, Housing, or Planning Code enforcement, including any notices of  
11 violation, notices to cure, orders of abatement, cease and desist orders, or correction notices. The  
12 Department shall not include a property that is subject to any such outstanding violations in the  
13 Registry.

14 (2) Short-Term Residential Rental Registry Applications and Fee.

15 (A) Application. Registration shall be for a two-year term, which may be  
16 renewed by the Permanent Resident by filing a completed renewal application. Initial and renewal  
17 applications shall be in a form prescribed by the Department. The Department shall determine, in its  
18 sole discretion, the completeness of an application. Both the initial application and any renewal  
19 application shall contain information sufficient to show that the Residential Unit is the Primary  
20 Residence of the applicant and that the applicant is the unit's Permanent Resident. In addition to the  
21 information set forth here, the Department may require any other additional information necessary to  
22 show the Permanent Resident's compliance with this Chapter 41A. Primary Residency may be  
23 established by showing the Residential Unit is listed as the applicant's residence on any motor vehicle  
24 registration, driver's license, or voter registration, or as the Primary Residence for home owner's tax  
25 exemption purposes, and/or any other information as required by the Department. A renewal

1 application shall contain sufficient information to show that the applicant is the Permanent Resident  
2 and has occupied the unit for at least 275 days of each of the two preceding calendar years. Upon the  
3 Department's determination that an application is complete, the unit shall be entered into the Short-  
4 Term Residential Rental Registry and assigned an individual registration number.

5 (B) Fee. The fee for the initial application and for each renewal shall be  
6 \$50, payable to the Director. The application fee shall be due at the time of application. Beginning with  
7 fiscal year 2014-2015, fees set forth in this Section may be adjusted each year, without further action  
8 by the Board of Supervisors, as set forth in this Section. Not later than April 1, the Director shall report  
9 to the Controller the revenues generated by the fees for the prior fiscal year and the prior fiscal year's  
10 costs of establishing and maintaining the registry, as well as any other information that the Controller  
11 determines appropriate to the performance of the duties set forth in this Chapter. Not later than May  
12 15, the Controller shall determine whether the current fees have produced or are projected to produce  
13 revenues sufficient to support the costs of establishing and maintaining the registry and any other  
14 services set forth in this Chapter and that the fees will not produce revenue that is significantly more  
15 than the costs of providing such services. The Controller shall, if necessary, adjust the fees upward or  
16 downward for the upcoming fiscal year as appropriate to ensure that the program recovers the costs of  
17 operation without producing revenue that is significantly more than such costs. The adjusted rates shall  
18 become operative on July 1.

19 (4) Requirements for Hosting Platforms.

20 (A) Notice to Users of Hosting Platform. All Hosting Platforms shall provide  
21 the following information in a notice to any user listing a Residential Unit located within the City and  
22 County of San Francisco through the Hosting Platform's service. The notice shall be provided prior to  
23 the user listing the Residential Unit and shall include the following information: that Administrative  
24 Code Chapters 37 and 41A regulate Short-Term Rental of Residential Units; the requirements for  
25

1 Permanent Residency and registration of the unit with the Department; and the transient occupancy tax  
2 obligations to the City.

3 (B) A Hosting Platform shall comply with the requirements of the Business  
4 and Tax Regulations Code by, among any other applicable requirements, collecting and remitting all  
5 required Transient Occupancy Taxes, and this provision shall not relieve a Hosting Platform of liability  
6 related to an occupant's, resident's, Business Entity's, or Owner's failure to comply with the  
7 requirements of the Business and Tax Regulations Code. Additionally, a Hosting Platform's failure to  
8 provide the required notice to users under subsection 41A.5(g)(2)(A) shall be a violation of this  
9 Chapter. Any such violation shall subject the Hosting Platform to a fine payable to the Department of  
10 up to \$1000 per day for the period of the failure to provide notice or the failure to provide the required  
11 information to the Department.

12 (5) The exception set forth in this subsection (g) provides an exception only to the  
13 requirements of this Chapter 41A. It does not confer a right to lease, sublease, or otherwise offer a  
14 residential unit for Short-Term Residential Use where such use is not otherwise allowed by law, a  
15 homeowners association agreement or requirements, a rental agreement, or any other restriction,  
16 requirement, or enforceable agreement. All Owners and residents are required to comply with the  
17 requirements of Administrative Code Chapter 37, the Residential Rent Stabilization and Arbitration  
18 Ordinance, including but not limited to the requirements of Section 37.3(c).

19 (6) Department Contact Person. The Department shall designate a contact person  
20 for members of the public who wish to file Complaints under this Chapter or who otherwise seek  
21 information regarding this Chapter or Short-Term Residential Rentals. This contact person shall also  
22 provide information to the public upon request regarding quality of life issues, including for example  
23 noise violations, vandalism, or illegal dumping, and shall direct the member of the public and/or  
24 forward any such Complaints to the appropriate City department.

1                   (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter, nothing in this Chapter  
2 shall relieve an individual, Business Entity, or Hosting Platform of the obligations imposed by any and  
3 all applicable provisions of state law and the San Francisco Municipal Code including but not limited  
4 to those obligations imposed by the Business and Tax Regulations Code. Further, nothing in this  
5 Chapter shall be construed to limit any remedies available under any and all applicable provisions of  
6 state law and the San Francisco Municipal Code including but not limited to the Business and Tax  
7 Regulations Code.

8  
9                   **SEC. 41A.6. PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.**

10                   (a)    **Notice of Complaint.** Within 15 days of the filing of a Ceomplaint and upon the  
11 Director's independent finding that there may be a violation of this Chapter, the Director shall  
12 notify the Oowner by certified mail that the Oowner's Residential Unit is the subject of an  
13 investigation for an unlawful use and provide the date, time, and place of an administrative  
14 review hearing in which the owner can respond to the Ceomplaint.

15                   (b)    **Administrative Review Hearings.** In the event the Director determines that an  
16 administrative review hearing shall be conducted, the Director's appointed hearing officer will  
17 hold an administrative review hearing within 60 days of the filing of the Ceomplaint to review  
18 all information provided by the Interested Party, members of the public, City staff and the  
19 Owner for the investigation and the hearing officer shall thereafter make a determination  
20 whether the Oowner has violated this Chapter.

21                   (1)    Notice of the hearing shall be conspicuously posted on the building that is  
22 the subject of the hearing. The Oowner shall state under oath at the hearing that the notice  
23 remained posted for at least seven calendar days prior the hearing. The Director shall appoint  
24 a hearing officer to conduct the hearing.

1           (2) Pre-hearing Submission. No less than ten working days prior to the  
2 administrative review hearing, parties to the hearing shall submit written information to the  
3 Director including, but not limited to, the issues to be determined by the hearing officer and  
4 the evidence to be offered at the hearing. Such information shall be forwarded to the hearing  
5 officer prior to the hearing along with any information compiled by the Director.

6           (3) Hearing Procedure. If more than one hearing is requested for Residential  
7 Units located in the same building at or about the same time, the Director shall consolidate  
8 all of the hearings into one hearing. The hearing shall be tape recorded. Any party to the  
9 hearing may at his or her own expense cause the hearing to be recorded by a certified court  
10 reporter. Parties may be represented by counsel and shall have the right to cross-examine  
11 witnesses. All testimony shall be given under oath. Written decisions and findings shall be  
12 rendered by the hearing officer within 20 working days of the hearing. Copies of the findings  
13 and decision shall be served upon the parties by certified mail. A notice that a copy of the  
14 findings and decision is available for inspection between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
15 Monday through Friday shall be posted by the Owner or the Director in the building in the  
16 same location in which the notice of the administrative review hearing was posted.

17           (4) Failure to Appear. In the event the Owner or an interested party fails to  
18 appear at the hearing, the hearing officer may nevertheless make a determination based on  
19 the evidence in the record and files at the time of the hearing, and issue a written decision and  
20 findings.

21           (5) Finality of the Hearing Officer's Decision and Judicial Review. The  
22 decision of the hearing officer shall be final. Within 20 days after service of the hearing  
23 officer's decision, any party may seek judicial review of the hearing officer's decision.

24           (6) Hearing Officer Decision and Collection of Penalties. If any imposed  
25 administrative penalties and costs have not been deposited at the time of the Hearing

1 Officer's decision, the Director may proceed to collect the penalties and costs pursuant to the  
2 lien procedures set forth in Subsection 41A.6(e), consistent with the Hearing Officer's  
3 decision.

4 (7) Remedy of Violation. If the Hearing Officer determines that a violation has  
5 occurred, the Hearing Officer's Decision should:

6 (A) Specify a reasonable period of time during which the Owner must  
7 correct or otherwise remedy the violation; ~~and~~

8 (B) State that if the violation is not corrected or otherwise remedied  
9 within this period, the Owner may be required to pay the administrative penalties set forth in  
10 Subsection 41A.6(c); and.

11 (C) State that if the violation is not corrected or otherwise remedied within  
12 this period, the Department may prohibit the offending Owner from including such Residential Unit on  
13 any Hosting Platform for a period of one year.

14 (8) If the Hearing Officer determines that no violation has occurred, the  
15 determination is final.

16 (c) **Imposition of ~~Administrative~~ Penalties for Unabated Violations and**  
17 **Enforcement Costs.**

18 (1) Administrative Penalties. If the violation has continued unabated beyond  
19 the time specified in the notice required by the Hearing Officer, an administrative penalty ~~of~~  
20 shall be assessed as follows:

21 (A) for the initial violation, not more than four times the standard hourly  
22 administrative rate of ~~\$104.00~~ \$121.00 ~~shall be charged~~ for each unlawfully converted unit from the  
23 day the unlawful use commenced until such time as the unlawful use terminates;

24 (B) for the second violation within six months of any hearing held pursuant to  
25 this Chapter, not more than eight times the standard hourly administrative rate of \$121.00 for each

1 unlawfully converted unit from the day the unlawful use commenced until such time as the unlawful use  
2 terminates; and

3 (C) for the third and any subsequent violation within 12 months of any  
4 hearing held pursuant to this Chapter, not more than twelve times the standard hourly administrative  
5 rate of \$121.00 for each unlawfully converted unit from the day the unlawful use commenced until such  
6 time as the unlawful use terminates.

7 (2) Enforcement Costs. The Owner shall reimburse the City for the costs of  
8 enforcement of this Chapter, which shall include, but not be limited to, reasonable attorneys'  
9 fees.

10 (3) Prohibition on Listing Unit(s) on Any Hosting Platform. If the violation has  
11 continued unabated beyond the time specified in the notice required by the Hearing Officer, the  
12 Department shall include the Residential Unit(s) on a list maintained by the Department of Residential  
13 Units that may not be listed by any Permanent Resident on any Hosting Platform until compliance. Any  
14 Owner who continues to list a Residential Unit in violation of this section shall be liable for additional  
15 civil penalties of up to \$1000 per day of unlawful inclusion.

16 (d) **Notice of Continuing Violation and Imposition of Penalties.** The Director  
17 shall notify the Owner by certified mail that the violation has continued unabated and that  
18 administrative penalties shall be imposed pursuant to this Chapter 41A. The notice shall state  
19 the time of the continued existence of the violation and the resulting imposition of penalties.  
20 Payment of the administrative penalties and enforcement costs shall be made within 30 days  
21 of the certified mailed notice to the Owner. If the administrative penalties and enforcement  
22 costs are not paid, the Director shall initiate lien procedures to secure the amount of the  
23 penalties and costs against the real property that is subject to this Chapter, under Article XX  
24 of Chapter 10 of the ~~San Francisco~~ Administrative Code to make the penalty, plus accrued  
25 interest, a lien against the real property regulated under this Chapter. Except for the release of

1 the lien recording fee authorized by Administrative Code Section 10.237, all sums collected by  
2 the Tax Collector pursuant to this ordinance shall be held in trust by the Treasurer and  
3 distributed as provided in Section 41A.5(d) of this Chapter.

4 (e) **Deposit of Penalties.** Administrative penalties paid pursuant to this Chapter  
5 shall be deposited in the Mayor's Office of Housing, Housing Affordability Fund less the  
6 reasonable costs incurred by the City and County of San Francisco in pursuing enforcement  
7 under this Chapter 41A. If enforcement costs were imposed, such funds shall be distributed  
8 according to the purpose for which they were collected.

9  
10 Section 3. The Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 102.7, 102.13,  
11 790.88 and 890.88, to read as follows:

12  
13 **SEC. 102.7. DWELLING UNIT.**

14 A room or suite of two or more rooms that is designed for, or is occupied by, one family  
15 doing its own cooking therein and having only one kitchen. A housekeeping room as defined  
16 in the Housing Code shall be a dwelling unit for purposes of this Code. For the purposes of  
17 this Code, a live/work unit, as defined in Section 102.13 of this Code, shall not be considered  
18 a dwelling unit. Notwithstanding the foregoing, use of a dwelling unit as a Short-Term Residential  
19 Rental in compliance with Administrative Code Section 41A.5 shall not alter the use type as a  
20 residential use.

21 \* \* \* \*

22  
23 **SEC. 102.13. LIVE/WORK UNIT.**

24 A live/work unit is a structure or portion of a structure combining a residential living  
25 space for a group of persons including not more than four adults in the same unit with an



1 integrated work space principally used by one or more of the residents of that unit; provided,  
2 however, that no otherwise qualifying portion of a structure which contains a Group A  
3 occupancy under the San Francisco Building Code shall be considered a live/work unit.

4 Notwithstanding the foregoing, use of a live/work unit as a Short-Term Residential Rental in  
5 compliance with Administrative Code Section 41A.5 shall not alter the use type as a live/work unit.

6 \* \* \* \*

7  
8 **SEC. 790.88. RESIDENTIAL USE.**

9 A use which provides housing for San Francisco residents, rather than visitors,  
10 including a dwelling unit or group housing, as defined in Subsections (a) and (b) below, or a  
11 residential hotel, as defined in Section 790.47 of this Code and in Chapter 41 of the San  
12 Francisco Administrative Code. Notwithstanding the foregoing, use of a dwelling unit as a Short-  
13 Term Residential Rental in compliance with Administrative Code Section 41A.5 shall not alter the use  
14 type as a residential use.

15 (a) Dwelling Unit. A residential use which consists of a suite of two or more rooms  
16 and includes sleeping, bathing, cooking, and eating facilities, but has only one kitchen.

17 (b) Group Housing. A residential use which provides lodging or both meals and  
18 lodging without individual cooking facilities for a week or more at a time in a space not defined  
19 as a dwelling unit. Group housing includes, but is not limited to, a rooming house, boarding  
20 house, guest house, lodging house, residence club, commune, fraternity and sorority house,  
21 monastery, nunnery, convent, and ashram. It also includes group housing operated by a  
22 medical or educational institution when not located on the same lot as such institution.

23 \* \* \* \*

24  
25 **SEC. 890.88. RESIDENTIAL USE.**

1 A use which provides housing for San Francisco residents, rather than visitors,  
2 including a dwelling unit or group housing, as defined in Subsections (a) and (b) below, or a  
3 residential hotel, as defined in Section 890.47 of this Code and in Chapter 41 of the San  
4 Francisco Administrative Code. Notwithstanding the foregoing, use of a dwelling unit as a Short-  
5 Term Residential Rental in compliance with Administrative Code Section 41A.5 shall not alter the use  
6 type as a residential use.

7 (a) Dwelling Unit. A residential use which consists of a suite of two or more rooms  
8 and includes sleeping, bathing, cooking, and eating facilities, and has only one kitchen.

9 (b) Group Housing. A residential use which provides lodging or both meals and  
10 lodging without individual cooking facilities for a week or more at a time in a space not defined  
11 as a dwelling unit. Group housing includes, but is not limited to, a roominghouse, boarding  
12 house, guest house, lodging house, residence club, commune, fraternity and sorority house,  
13 monastery, nunnery, convent, and ashram. It also includes group housing operated by a  
14 medical or educational institution when not located on the same lot as such institution.

15 (c) Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Unit. A dwelling unit or group housing room  
16 consisting of no more than one occupied room with a maximum gross floor area of 350 square  
17 feet and meeting the Housing Code's minimum floor area standards. The unit may have a  
18 bathroom in addition to the occupied room. As a dwelling unit, it would have a cooking facility  
19 and bathroom. As a group housing room, it would share a kitchen with one or more other  
20 single room occupancy unit/s in the same building and may also share a bathroom. A single  
21 room occupancy building (or "SRO" building) is one that contains only SRO units and non  
22 nonaccessory living space.

23  
24 Section 4. Other Uncodified Provisions.  
25

1 (a) Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment.  
2 Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance  
3 unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of  
4 Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

5 (b) Undertaking for the General Welfare. In enacting and implementing this  
6 ordinance, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not  
7 assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it  
8 would be liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately  
9 caused injury.

10 (c) No Conflict with State or Federal Law. Nothing in this ordinance shall be  
11 interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in conflict with any  
12 State or federal law.

13 (d) Severability. If any of section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of  
14 this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any  
15 court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining  
16 portions of the ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have  
17 passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and  
18 word not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of  
19 this ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

20 (d) Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
21 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,  
22 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
23 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
24 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under  
25 the official title of the ordinance.

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
MARLENA G. BYRNE  
Deputy City Attorney

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