

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Expanding Recovery Oriented Permanent Supportive Housing]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to state that it is City policy to expand the availability of Permanent Supportive Housing (“PSH”) for people experiencing homelessness that emphasizes abstinence from illegal substance use (“Recovery Housing”); to prohibit the City from funding PSH for people experiencing homelessness that bars evictions on the basis of drug use alone (“Drug Tolerant Housing”) until at least 25% of the City’s PSH portfolio is operated as Recovery Housing, except where operation of the funded housing as Recovery Housing would conflict with standards imposed by law or as a condition of other funding; and to authorize the Board of Supervisors to suspend the funding restriction by Resolution for a specific expenditure, upon finding that the expenditure is in the public interest.

Existing Law

Currently, the City funds and operates a large portfolio of permanent supportive housing (PSH) for people existing homelessness. Some of the City’s PSH is funded by state and federal funds that require the funded PSH to be operated using a Housing First approach. In particular, some funding sources provide as a condition of funding that PSH residents may not be evicted on the basis of substance use alone, without other lease violations.

There is no law dictating how much of the City’s PSH portfolio may or must be operated using a Housing First approach, versus any other approach.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would state that it is the policy of the City to expand the availability of PSH for people existing homelessness that emphasizes abstinence from illegal substance use (“Recovery Housing”).

It would prohibit the City from spending funds to expand the City’s portfolio of PSH until 25% of that portfolio is operated as Recovery Housing, except where operation of the PSH as Recovery Housing would be inconsistent with law or conditions of funding.

It would authorize the Board to suspend that limitation for a specific expenditure where the Board finds that it would be in the public interest to do so.