



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Resolution No. 835 HEARING DATE NOVEMBER 16, 2016

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*Project Name:* Terrace Infill for Noncomplying Structure Designated as a Significant Building in C-3 Zoning District  
*Case Number:* 2016-013415PCA [Board File No. 161068]  
*Initiated by:* Supervisor Peskin / Introduced October 4, 2016  
*Staff Contact:* Aaron Starr, Manager of Legislative Affairs  
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RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT WOULD AMEND THE PLANNING CODE TO PERMIT TERRACE INFILL ON A NONCOMPLYING STRUCTURE THAT IS DESIGNATED AS A SIGNIFICANT BUILDING UNDER PLANNING CODE, ARTICLE 11, AND LOCATED IN A C-3 ZONING DISTRICT; ADOPTING FINDINGS, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS, PLANNING CODE SECTION 302 FINDINGS, AND FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1.

WHEREAS, on October 4, 2016 Supervisors Peskin introduced a proposed Ordinance under Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") File Number 161068, which would amend the Planning Code to permit Terrace Infill on a noncomplying structure that is designated as a Significant Building under Planning Code, Article 11, and located in a C-3 Zoning District;

WHEREAS, The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the proposed Ordinance on November 16, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed amendments are not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) and 15378 because they do not result in a physical change in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

MOVED, that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors **approve with modifications** the proposed ordinance. The Commission's proposed modifications are as follows:

1. Delete finding two: "Not have an adverse impact on any character-defining features of the building;"
2. Restrict the proposed change only to the block that contains the Clift Hotel: Assessor's Block number 0316.
3. Place a two-year time limit on the proposed Planning Code change. The following language should be inserted into the proposed ordinance: The City Attorney is hereby authorized to direct the Publisher to delete this Section on or after XXXX, XX 20XX.

## FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. The Commission supports allowing historic buildings to adapt to changing needs as long as it doesn't impact the resource; however, the Commission acknowledges that the Planning Department does not know how much utility this narrowly tailored ordinance would have for the rest of the C-3 District.
2. Because the Planning Department does not have any way of knowing how many buildings this ordinance would impact, or if any other buildings would be able to take advantage of it at all, the Commission is proposing to limit the ordinance even further with the proposed recommendations.
3. The Commission proposes to remove the language in finding two because it is not useful for historic preservation review.
4. Having a sunset date will allow the City Attorney to direct the published to remove the language after two years, while still providing the Clift Hotel enough time to take advantage of this change. The two year time period will also give the City an indication as to whether this amendment could be useful to other properties.
5. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Ordinance is consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

## URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

### OBJECTIVE 2

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES WHICH PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

**Policy 2.4**

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

**Policy 2.5**

Use care in remodeling of older buildings, in order to enhance rather than weaken the original character of such buildings

**THE DOWNTOWN PLAN**

**OBJECTIVE 12**

CONSERVE RESOURCES THAT PROVIDE CONTINUITY WITH SAN FRANCISCO'S PAST.

**Policy 12.1**

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural, or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

**Policy 12.2**

Use care in remodeling significant older buildings to enhance rather than weaken their original character.

*Because of its limited scope and strong review requirements, the proposed Ordinance is consistent with the above Objectives and Policies in the Urban Design Element and the Downtown Plan; it will allow for a change to a Significant Building per Article 11 of the Planning Code, while ensuring the preservation of its historic features and not weakening its original character.*

6. **Planning Code Section 101 Findings.** The proposed amendments to the Planning Code are consistent with the eight Priority Policies set forth in Section 101.1(b) of the Planning Code in that:

1. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced;

*The proposed Ordinance would not have a negative effect on neighborhood serving retail uses and will not have a negative effect on opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of neighborhood-serving retail.*

2. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods;

*The proposed Ordinance would not have a negative effect on housing or neighborhood character.*

3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced;

*The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's supply of affordable housing.*

4. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking;

*The proposed Ordinance would not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking.*

5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced;

*The proposed Ordinance would not cause displacement of the industrial or service sectors due to office development, and future opportunities for resident employment or ownership in these sectors would not be impaired.*

6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake;

*The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on City's preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.*

7. That the landmarks and historic buildings be preserved;

*Because of its limited scope and strong review requirements, the proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's Landmarks and historic buildings.*

8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development;

*The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas.*

7. **Planning Code Section 302 Findings.** The Planning Commission finds from the facts presented that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require the proposed amendments to the Planning Code as set forth in Section 302.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board ADOPT the proposed Ordinance with modifications as described in this Resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on November 16, 2016.



Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Hyland, Johnck, Johns, Pearlman, and Wolfram

NOES: None

ABSENT: Hasz, Matsuda

ADOPTED: November 16, 2016

