

**LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

(Amended in Committee, 5/12/14)

[Public Works Code - Plaza Program]

**Ordinance amending the San Francisco Public Works Code by adopting Section 792 to establish a permit program for plazas on the public right-of-way and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

Existing Law

The Municipal Code does not contain any specific program to establish public plazas or facilitate the activation of such spaces by community stewards on public right-of-way under Department of Public Works jurisdiction. To the extent such plazas have been created on public right-of-way, the Department of Public Works permitted such uses in accordance with the Public Works Code Sections 786 et seq. governing Street Encroachment Permits.

Amendments to Current Law

This legislation would create Public Works Code Section 792 to adopt requirements and guidelines governing the use and operation of Street Plazas located on public right-of-way under Department of Public Works jurisdiction and in accordance with the new Administrative Code Chapter 94 concerning the Plaza Program. Section 792 would establish procedures for identifying and selecting permittees/stewards to activate Street Plazas and approving a permit with a community steward for the particular Plaza. The legislation also would adopt certain operational regulations for Street Plazas, including good neighbor policies and policies to address violations of these regulations. The ordinance would provide for public notice at various stages of the City's decisionmaking process regarding a Street Plaza. The legislation also would affirm the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Background Information

This ordinance is part of a legislative package that establishes the San Francisco Plaza Program and facilitates the establishment of plazas on City property under Division of Real Estate jurisdiction and on the public right-of-way under Department of Public Works jurisdiction. The Plaza Program will enable the City to partner with community stewards to help activate and maintain public plazas.

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