

1 [Planning, Building Codes - Interim Housing in Hotels and Motels]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to allow tourist hotels and motels to be used**  
4 **for Interim Housing without thereby abandoning or discontinuing the hotel use**  
5 **classification under that Code; amending the Building Code to allow Interim Housing**  
6 **without thereby changing the underlying occupancy classification of the property, and**  
7 **amending Appendix P to remove restriction that emergency housing be located on land**  
8 **owned or leased by the City; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under**  
9 **the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the**  
10 **General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and**  
11 **findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code,**  
12 **Section 302.**

13

14 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
15 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
16 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*~~.  
17 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
18 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
19 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
20 subsections or parts of tables.

18

19 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

20 Section 1. Environmental, Land Use, and Related Findings.

21 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
22 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
23 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
24 Supervisors in File No. 241067 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms  
25 this determination.

1 (b) On December 12, 2024, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 21661,  
2 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,  
3 with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The  
4 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of  
5 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 241067, and is incorporated herein by reference.

6 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that these Planning Code  
7 amendments will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set  
8 forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 21661 and the Board incorporates such reasons  
9 herein by reference. A copy of Planning Commission Resolution No. 21661 is on file with the  
10 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 241067.

11 (d) On November 20, 2024, the Building Inspection Commission considered this  
12 ordinance at a duly noticed public hearing pursuant to Charter Section 4.121 and Building  
13 Code Section 104A.2.11.1.1. A copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Building Inspection  
14 Commission regarding the Commission's recommendation is on file with the Clerk of the  
15 Board of Supervisors in File No. 241067.

16 (e) No local findings are required under California Health and Safety Code Section  
17 17958.7 because the amendments to the Building Code contained in this ordinance do not  
18 regulate materials or manner of construction or repair, and instead relate in their entirety to  
19 administrative procedures for implementing the code, which are expressly excluded from the  
20 definition of a "building standard" by California Health and Safety Code Section 18909(c).

21 (f) To the extent the amendments contained in this ordinance reference existing  
22 provisions of San Francisco Building Code Appendix P and could be considered "building  
23 standards," California Government Code Sections 8698 through 8698.4 authorize the Board  
24 of Supervisors to declare the existence of a shelter crisis upon a finding that a significant  
25 number of persons within the jurisdiction are without the ability to obtain shelter, and that the

1 situation has resulted in a threat to the health and safety of those persons. These  
2 Government Code provisions authorize the City to suspend strict compliance with state and  
3 local statutes, ordinances, and regulations setting housing, health, or safety standards for new  
4 public facilities opened to homeless persons in response to the shelter crisis, to the extent that  
5 strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the shelter crisis, and allow  
6 the City to enact its own standards for the shelters that ensure basic public health and safety.

7 (g) In Ordinance No. 57-16, enacted on April 22, 2016, the Board of Supervisors found  
8 that a significant number of persons within the City lack the ability to obtain shelter, which has  
9 resulted in a threat to their health and safety. For that reason, and based on factual findings  
10 set forth in that ordinance, the Board of Supervisors declared the existence of a shelter crisis  
11 in the City pursuant to California Government Code Section 8698 through 8698.2.

12 (h) In Ordinance No. 60-19, enacted on April 4, 2019, the Board of Supervisors  
13 affirmed that the shelter crisis was still ongoing, and that requiring homeless shelters located  
14 on property owned or leased by the City to go through the standard building permitting  
15 process for construction, repair and siting prevents, hinders and delays efforts to mitigate the  
16 shelter crisis. Therefore, the Board adopted the optional, streamlined approval process  
17 codified in Ordinance No. 60-19 in accordance with California Government Code Section  
18 8698.4.

19  
20 Section 2. General Findings.

21 (a) The tourism and hospitality sector of the San Francisco economy plays a vital role  
22 in drawing visitors to the City in record numbers. But hotel occupancy declined precipitously  
23 during the COVID -19 crisis. Although hotel occupancy rates have continued to climb upward  
24 since they hit bottom in 2020, current occupancy rates are still below peak occupancy levels  
25 in 2018 and 2019.

1 (b) At the same time, the City lacks sufficient sites to provide shelter for persons who  
2 are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. The City continues to look for  
3 ways to increase opportunities for emergency housing locations, through both shelter options  
4 and permanent supportive housing.

5 (c) In Ordinance 92-22, enacted on June 24, 2022, the City created the Places for All  
6 Program, which states that it is the policy of the City to offer to every person experiencing  
7 homelessness in San Francisco a safe place to sleep. While the first priority is expanding  
8 opportunities for safe, affordable, and permanent housing for all residents, the Places for All  
9 Program commits the City to exploring opportunities for people experiencing homelessness to  
10 have temporary shelter through the following: Navigation Centers, adult emergency shelters,  
11 crisis stabilization units, family shelters, hotel placements, Safe Overnight Parking Lots, non-  
12 congregate cabins, Safe Sleep Sites, other non-congregate shelter, and shelters for  
13 transitional aged youth (“TAY”).

14 (d) Interim Housing is a form of shelter where program participants have individual  
15 rooms, with shared amenities such as kitchens, pantries, and laundry facilities. Residents  
16 have access to on-site case managers, other supportive services, and additional resources  
17 needed to build self-sufficiency.

18 (e) California Civil Code Sections 1954.08 through 1954.093 provide that individuals  
19 occupying a shelter located in a hotel or motel are not tenants, and do not have a tenancy or  
20 hotel-customer relationship with the hotel operator. It also provides that a hotel or motel may  
21 not be designated a nontransient hotel or motel solely as a result of a shelter participant’s  
22 stay.

23 (f) The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) has expertise  
24 working closely with building owners, non-profit providers, and clients to responsibly wind-  
25 down shelter programs in a client-centered manner. In advance of any Interim Housing

1 ceasing its operations, HSH has stated that it intends to offer program participants a housing  
2 assessment through the City's Coordinated Entry system. HSH intends to offer housing to any  
3 such participants who are designated as housing referral status through that assessment and  
4 a comparable shelter placement while the participant awaits housing placement. Participants  
5 who are not eligible for City-funded housing will be offered a comparable shelter bed, if  
6 available. All program participants will at minimum be offered a congregate shelter placement  
7 prior to the closure of the Interim Housing. Prior to the closure of the Interim Housing, HSH  
8 intends to notify community stakeholders.

9 (g) While the hotel industry continues to recover and evolve, the public interest would  
10 be served if underutilized hotels and motels could provide much needed Interim Housing. It is  
11 reasonable for the City to partner with underutilized and vacant hotels and motels to provide  
12 safe housing and services for individuals in need of housing.

13 (h) (g) It would be unreasonable and counter to the public interest to require that  
14 tourist hotels and motels used as Interim Housing lose their underlying tourist use designation  
15 and occupancy classification under the Planning and Building Codes. Accordingly, this  
16 ordinance provides just the opposite, that hotels and motels used as Interim Housing will  
17 retain their tourist use designation and occupancy classification under the respective codes.

18 (i) Many hotels and motels are currently staffed by union-represented workers.  
19 Nothing in this ordinance is intended to interfere with successorship principles under federal  
20 law.

21 (j) Historically and programmatically, HSH works with their contracted service  
22 providers to try and retain any existing staff. This practice encourages continuity and offers  
23 existing workers the opportunity to continue employment in their existing capacities.

1 Section 3. The Planning Code is hereby amended by adding Section 202.15 and  
2 revising Section 317, to read as follows:

3 **SEC. 202.15. INTERIM HOUSING IN HOTELS AND MOTELS.**

4 *(a) Purpose. This Section 202.15 is intended to create additional opportunities to locate*  
5 *shelters for persons experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness where those persons can*  
6 *receive on-site supportive services. Interim Housing can help reduce the likelihood of negative*  
7 *outcomes for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Tourist*  
8 *Hotels and Motels are authorized under the Planning Code as separate uses, both of which are*  
9 *considered part of the Retail Sales and Service use category. Hotels and Motels are generally designed*  
10 *to offer privacy for individuals or small groups of individuals in a non-congregate setting while also*  
11 *providing a common space for gathering and various services. This layout and structure is a natural fit*  
12 *for Interim Housing, where individuals or small groups of individuals may desire or need private*  
13 *accommodations while still needing certain supportive services. At the same time, Tourist Hotels and*  
14 *Motels may not desire to locate Interim Housing on their premises, if it would result in the loss of the*  
15 *underlying Hotel or Motel use. This Section allows Tourist Hotel and Motel operators to locate Interim*  
16 *Housing, as defined, on their properties without losing the underlying Hotel or Motel use.*

17 *(b) Definitions. For purposes of this Section 202.15, the following definitions shall apply.*

18 *“Client” means any person residing in or seeking to reside in Interim Housing, and includes*  
19 *any dependent children under the age of 18.*

20 *“Interim Housing” means a Residential use located on land owned or leased by the City, or*  
21 *provided through a contractual arrangement between the City and a third party, that provides shelter*  
22 *to Clients experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and provides on-site supportive*  
23 *services, including, without limitation, intake and assessment of Clients’ needs, outreach to the Clients*  
24 *to assist them with health or social needs, management of the health or social needs of Clients, and*  
25 *referrals for services to the Clients.*

1           (c) **Interim Housing Use Authorized.** Any Hotel or Motel identified in this subsection  
2 202.15(c) use may operate all or any portion of its premises as Interim Housing without abandoning  
3 or discontinuing its land use authorization as a Hotel or Motel under the Planning Code, irrespective  
4 of whether such existing Hotel or Motel use is a principally permitted, conditionally permitted, or  
5 nonconforming use. This authorization shall not be interpreted to exempt the Hotel or Motel use from  
6 any provision of the Planning Code. Any Interim Housing use authorized pursuant to this Section  
7 202.15 shall be permitted for no more than 90 days after the shelter emergency pursuant to  
8 Government Code Section 8698.4 is terminated.

9           Interim Housing is authorized at only the following locations: Block 3519, Lot 006.

10          (d) **Application.** The property owner or the property owner’s authorized agent (in either case,  
11 “Applicant”) shall submit an application for Interim Housing use to the Planning Department, on a  
12 form prepared by the Planning Department. The application shall include an affidavit signed by the  
13 Applicant, and the property owner, if the Applicant is not the property owner, detailing the proposed  
14 Interim Housing use of the property. A Hotel or Motel identified in subsection (c) and existing  
15 after April 1, 2025 may apply to establish Interim Housing pursuant to this Section 202.15  
16 without losing its Hotel or Motel use.

17          (e) **No Conversion, Change, Discontinuance, or Abandonment of Use.** The approval or  
18 commencement of the Interim Housing authorized under this Section 202.15 shall not be considered a  
19 conversion, discontinuance, abandonment, or change of use for purposes of this Code, notwithstanding  
20 Sections 178 and 183 of this Code, or any other related provisions. Any Hotel or Motel use established  
21 as of the time the Interim Housing use shall continue to be authorized under the Planning Code for as  
22 long as such property is used for Interim Housing pursuant to this Section 202.15.

23          (f) **Application of Other Development Controls and Requirements.** The Interim Housing use  
24 that is authorized pursuant to this Section 202.15 shall not be required to comply with development  
25 standards applicable to new residential uses, including but not limited to density, rear yard, open

1 space, exposure, and other requirements set forth in Articles 1.2, 1.5, or 2 of the Planning Code. The  
2 Interim Housing use shall not be subject to any development impact fees or development requirements  
3 set forth in Article 4 of the Planning Code as a prerequisite to obtaining authorization pursuant to this  
4 Section 202.15.

5 (g) **Termination of Interim Housing Use.** Prior to the termination of the Interim  
6 Housing use authorized under this Section 202.15, the Department of Homelessness and  
7 Supportive Housing (“HSH”) shall work with the Interim Housing service provider, if any, to  
8 relocate existing program participants prior to the time the Interim Housing use terminates.  
9 No less than one year prior to expiration of any agreement to provide Interim Housing, the  
10 property owner or landlord shall provide notice to HSH of its intent to not renew any  
11 agreement with the City or Interim Housing provider, in order to allow HSH and the service  
12 provider time to assist in relocating existing program participant of the Interim Housing.

13 **SEC. 317. LOSS OF RESIDENTIAL AND UNAUTHORIZED UNITS THROUGH**  
14 **DEMOLITION, MERGER, AND CONVERSION.**

15 \* \* \* \*

16 **(c) Applicability; Exemptions.**

17 \* \* \* \*

18 (11) If a Hotel or Motel is lawfully authorized for Interim Housing use in accordance  
19 with ~~Planning Code~~ Section 202.15, and such use ceases, the abandonment, cessation, or termination  
20 of Interim Housing use shall not be considered a Residential Conversion.

21 \* \* \* \*

22  
23 Section 4. Chapter 1A and Appendix P of the Building Code are hereby amended by  
24 revising Section 106A (specifically Section 106A.2) and Section P101.1, to read as follows:  
25



1           **106A.2 Work exempt from permit.** [Section 105.2 of the California Building Code.]

2 Exemptions from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant  
3 authorization for any work to be done in any manner in violation of the provisions of this code  
4 or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction. A building permit shall not be required for  
5 the following:

6           \* \* \* \*

7           ~~{25.}~~ Use of a hotel or motel for Interim Housing use, as defined and authorized in Planning  
8 Code Section 202.15, as may be amended from time to time, where the Department confirms the hotel  
9 or motel meets the minimum fire and safety requirements set forth in Section P111 of Appendix P to this  
10 Code. The use of a hotel or motel or any units within a hotel or motel for Interim Housing shall not  
11 change the underlying occupancy classification of the property.

12  
13           **SECTION P101 – GENERAL**

14           **P101.1 Scope.** This appendix shall be applicable to emergency housing and  
15 emergency housing facilities, as defined in Section P102. The provisions and standards set  
16 forth in this appendix shall be applicable to emergency housing established pursuant to the  
17 declaration of a shelter crisis under Government Code section 8698 et seq. and located in  
18 new or existing buildings, structures, or facilities owned, operated, erected, or constructed by,  
19 for, or on behalf of the City and County of San Francisco ~~on land owned or leased by the City and~~  
20 ~~County of San Francisco.~~

21  
22           Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
23 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
24 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
25 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

