

From: [Charles Whitfield](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sierra Club Supports Planning Code change to define a "Family" as a "Household"
Date: Wednesday, September 10, 2025 12:35:37 PM
Attachments: [Sierra Club Support of Leg to define family as a household \(file 250719\).pdf](#)

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From: **Charles Whitfield** <whitfield.cw@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 9, 2025 at 11:32 AM
Subject: Sierra Club Supports Planning Code change to define a "Family" as a "Household"
To: <ChanStaff@sfgov.org>, <ChenStaff@sfgov.org>, <DorseyStaff@sfgov.org>, <EngardioStaff@sfgov.org>, <Jackie.Fielder@sfgov.org>, <MahmoodStaff@sfgov.org>, Mandelman Staff <MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org>, <MelgarStaff@sfgov.org>, <SauterStaff@sfgov.org>, <SherrillStaff@sfgov.org>, Shamann Walton <Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org>
Cc: <daniel.lurie@sfgov.org>

Please find attached a letter from the Sierra Club supporting proposed ordinance ([Leg File # 250719](#)) amending the Planning Code to define a "Family" as a "Household" and eliminate numeric limits, along with other unnecessary requirements, on unrelated individuals within a housing unit.

Charles Whitfield
Executive Committee Chair
Sierra Club SF Group



SIERRA CLUB

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

San Francisco Group of the San Francisco Bay Chapter

September 9, 2025

To: Board of Supervisors

CC: Mayor Daniel Lurie

Re: Support for amending the Planning Code to define a “Family” as a “Household” and eliminate numeric limits, and other unnecessary requirements, on unrelated individuals within a housing unit.

I am writing on behalf of the over 6,000 members of the San Francisco Group of the SF Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club to express support for the proposed ordinance ([Leg File # 250719](#)) amending the Planning Code to define a “Family” as a “Household” and eliminate numeric limits, along with other unnecessary requirements, on unrelated individuals within a housing unit.

San Francisco faces an ongoing housing crisis that demands innovative solutions. This ordinance represents a practical, fair and potentially meaningful step toward increasing our housing supply. By ending the 5-person limit for co-living spaces, bedrooms that are currently vacant could be rented. The change is a technical one that focuses on lease agreements rather than individuals, potentially allowing larger co-living arrangements in existing and new housing stock.

Adding more homes in San Francisco offers numerous advantages. It encourages residents to embrace eco-friendly modes of transportation like walking, biking, and public transit. Increased housing supply can also help alleviate the city's affordability crisis by easing the housing shortage that drives up costs. Furthermore, denser communities foster a more vibrant atmosphere with amenities within close proximity, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents. By embracing urban infill, San Francisco can progress towards a more sustainable, accessible, and livable future for all its citizens.

Sincerely,

Charles Whitfield
Chair, San Francisco Group
Sierra Club