

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(Amended in Committee, 5/12/14)

[Administrative Code – Plaza Program]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code, by adding Chapter 94, Sections 94.1 through 94.7, to establish a Plaza Program that coordinates City activities in some City-owned plazas on public property and public right-of-way; to create a process to identify stewards to activate plazas under the jurisdiction of the City's Real Estate Division and regulate such plazas; establishing administrative fees for the Plaza Program; 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 or on property under the jurisdiction of the Division of Real Estate. To the extent such plazas have been created, they exist on public right-of-way under Department of Public Works jurisdiction and the City generally 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 Chapter 94 in the Administrative Code to establish the Plaza Program and adopt requirements and guidelines governing the use and operation of such Plazas. The ordinance would recognize two types of plazas, one referred to as City Plazas that would be located on public property under Division of Real Estate jurisdiction and the other referred to as Street Plazas that would be located on public right-of-way under Department of Public Works jurisdiction. The new Chapter 94 would establish procedures for identifying and selecting community stewards to activate the City Plazas and approving a license with the steward for the Plaza. The legislation also would adopt certain operational regulations for City 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 City 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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