



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Subject to: (Select only if applicable)

- Affordable Housing (Sec. 415)
- Jobs Housing Linkage Program (Sec. 413)
- Downtown Park Fee (Sec. 412)
- First Source Hiring (Admin. Code)
- Child Care Requirement (Sec. 414)
- Other

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## Planning Commission Motion No. 19892

HEARING DATE: APRIL 6, 2017

Case No.: 2017-001263CND  
 Project Address: 1900-1908 Leavenworth Street  
 Zoning: RM-2 (Residential Mixed, Moderate Density) District  
 40-X Height and Bulk District  
 Block/Lot: 0121/011  
 Project Sponsor: Boyd McSparran  
 Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Harris & McSparran  
 388 Sutter Street, Suite 1000  
 San Francisco, CA 94109  
 Staff Contact: Andrew Perry – (415) 575-9017  
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**ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATING TO THE REVIEW FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN TO ALLOW A CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION SUBDIVISION OF A THREE-STORY OVER GARAGE, FIVE-UNIT BUILDING INTO RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUMS WITHIN A RM-2 (RESIDENTIAL MIXED, MODERATE DENSITY) ZONING DISTRICT AND A 40-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.**

### PREAMBLE

On December 15, 2016, Boyd McSparran (hereinafter “Project Sponsor”) filed an application with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Use and Mapping for Planning Department review to allow the Condominium Conversion Subdivision of a three-story over garage, five-unit building into residential condominiums within a RM-2 (Residential Mixed, Moderate Density) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District. The subject building is considered a legal use as the Report of Residential Building Record indicates that the legal authorized occupancy and use is a five-unit dwelling.

On April 6, 2017, the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter “Commission”) conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application No. 2017-001263CND.

Section 1396, Article 9 of the Subdivision Code of the City and County of San Francisco sets forth the following rules and regulations for condominium conversions:

- A. Units may be converted to condominiums so long as they meet the requirements of the Expedited Conversion Program per the Subdivision Code. An exception is provided for two-unit buildings where both units are owner-occupied for one year.
  
- B. The following categories of buildings may be converted to condominiums:
  - i. Buildings consisting of four units or less in which at least one of the units has been occupied continuously by one of the owners of record for five years prior to the date of application for conversion.
  
  - ii. Buildings consisting of six units or less in which at least three of the units have been occupied continuously by three of the owners of record for five years prior to the date of application for conversion.

The Subdivision Code requires that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing to review condominium conversion subdivisions containing five to six units for consistency with the General Plan where at least one unit is residential. The Code calls for a sales program which promotes affirmative action in housing, a non-transferable tenant right of first-refusal to purchase the unit occupied by the tenant and various relocation requirements, including the right to a \$1,000 relocation payment.

The Subdivision Code further provides for a lifetime lease for all tenants aged 62 years or older and/or are permanently disabled, and requires that no less than 40 percent of the tenants either have signed Intent to Purchase forms or be in a position of accepting such a lifetime lease. The Code prohibits any increase in rents while the conversion application is pending before the City.

The project was determined not to be a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c) and 15378 because there is no direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

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 the applicant, Department staff and other interested parties.

**MOVED**, that the Commission hereby approves the Condominium Conversion Subdivision requested in Application No. 2017-001263CND based on the following findings:

## **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 above recitals are accurate and constitute findings of this Commission.

2. The applicant requests Planning Department review of a Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application to allow for the conversion of the multi-unit building.
3. As required by Section 1396 of the San Francisco Subdivision Code, at least three of the units have been owner occupied continuously by one or more of the owners of record for five years prior to the date of application for conversion.
4. Tenants in the subject building were notified of their right of first-refusal to purchase the unit they occupy, as required by the Subdivision Code, and of other rights to which they are entitled under provisions of the same Code.
5. A search of the Rent Board database did not show any tenant petitions or eviction notices filed with the Rent Board in the last 5 years.
6. On balance, the Project is consistent with the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan, as follows:

## **HOUSING ELEMENT**

### **Objectives and Policies**

#### **OBJECTIVE 2:**

RETAIN EXISTING HOUSING UNITS, AND PROMOTE SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE STANDARDS, WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING AFFORDABILITY.

#### **Policy 2.4:**

Promote improvements and continued maintenance to existing units to ensure long term habitation and safety.

*Property owners are required to correct outstanding code violations identified in a Physical Inspection Report issued by the Department of Building Inspection (DBI). All work must be completed and a DBI Certificate of Final Completion must be issued prior to DPW approval.*

#### **OBJECTIVE 3:**

PROTECT THE AFFORDABILITY OF THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK, ESPECIALLY RENTAL UNITS.

#### **Policy 3.3:**

Maintain balance in affordability of existing housing stock by supporting affordable moderate ownership opportunities.

*Conversions of rental stock to condominiums help achieve affordable homeownership, providing a category of housing stock for moderate income housing needs. Through the Expedited Conversion Program, properties are eligible to convert from rental units to ownership status so long as owner-occupancy requirements are met.*

7. **Planning Code Section 101.1(b)** establishes eight priority-planning policies and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the project does comply with said policies in that:

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

*The proposal would have no adverse effect upon existing neighborhood-serving retail uses as it is a change in form of residential tenure.*

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

*The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not alter the existing housing and neighborhood character of the vicinity.*

C. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced,

*No housing would be removed for this project.*

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

*The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect public transit or neighborhood parking.*

E. 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 proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not involve the industrial or service sectors of the City.*

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

*The proposal is subject to inspection by the Department of Building Inspection and will be required to make any code required repairs, including those related to life safety issues, prior to the recordation of the final condominium subdivision map.*

G. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

*The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect landmarks or historic buildings.*

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

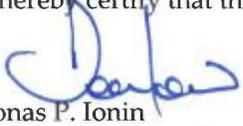
*The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect public parks or open space.*

8. The Project is consistent with and would promote the general and specific purposes of the Code provided under Section 101.1(b) in that, as designed, the Project would contribute to the character and stability of the neighborhood and would constitute a beneficial development.
9. The Commission hereby finds that approval of the Condominium Conversion Subdivision would promote the health, safety and welfare of the City.

**DECISION**

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, Department staff and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **APPROVES Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application No. 2017-001263CND.**

I hereby certify that the Planning Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on April 6, 2017.



Jonas P. Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Hillis, Richards, Fong, Koppel, Melgar, Moore

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Johnson

ADOPTED: April 6, 2017