

1 [Minor Sidewalk Encroachments – Repeal of public right-of-way occupancy assessment fee.]

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3 **Ordinance amending Public Works Code Section 723.2 to repeal the public right-of-way**  
4 **occupancy assessment fee for minor sidewalk encroachments; requesting the**  
5 **Department of Public Works to prepare and submit to the Board a report describing the**  
6 **number and types of minor sidewalk encroachment permits; and making repeal of the**  
7 **fee retroactive to August 29, 2005.**

8 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
9 deletions are *strikethrough italics Times New Roman*.  
10 Board amendment additions are double underlined.  
11 Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

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

13 Section 1. Findings.

14 (a) Pursuant to Ordinance No. 179-05, the Department of Public Works has initiated  
15 collection of an annual \$3.00 per square foot public right-of-way occupancy assessment fee  
16 for all minor sidewalk encroachment permits issued under Public Works Code Section 723.2.  
17 A copy of said Ordinance is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No.  
18 050986 and is incorporated herein by reference.

19 (b) It has come to the attention of this Board that the Department has assessed this  
20 fee against a wide variety of encroachments. Some encroachments generate direct or  
21 indirect revenue for the permit holders, some provide neighborhood amenities, and other  
22 encroachments were installed to comply with City Codes or regulations or to provide for  
23 disabled access.

24 (c) This Board believes that the occupancy assessment fee program for minor  
25 sidewalk encroachments should be repealed until the Board and other City decisionmakers

1 obtain additional data on the number of sidewalk encroachment permits and types and sizes  
2 of such encroachments.

3 Section 2. The San Francisco Public Works Code is hereby amended by amending  
4 Section 723.2, to read as follows:

5 SEC. 723.2. MINOR SIDEWALK ENCROACHMENTS.

6 (a) The Director of Public Works may grant permission, revocable at his or her will,  
7 to an owner of property abutting any court, alley or street to install and maintain minor  
8 encroachments such as fences, retaining walls, steps or stairways and other minor structures  
9 in the sidewalk fronting such property where such encroachments are desirable or convenient  
10 in conjunction with the owner's use and enjoyment of the property, or required for the safety,  
11 convenience and comfort of the public using the sidewalk.

12 (b) Such encroachments shall not occupy more than 10 percent of the area of the  
13 sidewalk fronting the property nor more than 25 percent of the width of the sidewalk, unless  
14 the Director of Public Works determines that such restrictions are not applicable due to the  
15 nature of the encroachment. The Director may require further restrictions or modifications and  
16 impose such conditions as he or she deems necessary. No advertisement shall be permitted  
17 on the encroachments.

18 (c) In considering the issuance of permits under the provisions of this Section, the  
19 Director of Public Works shall give due regard to the location, neighborhood pattern,  
20 anticipated pedestrian traffic, access requirements of the Fire Department, and to the  
21 convenience and necessities of the owners, occupants or tenants of offices, stores or shops in  
22 the vicinity.

23 (d) The owner of the real property or the owner's authorized agent applying for a  
24 permit under the provisions of this Section shall agree to hold harmless the City and County of  
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1 San Francisco, its officers, agents, and employees, from any damage or injury caused by  
2 reason of the installation or maintenance of the encroachment in the sidewalk, and the owner  
3 or owners or subsequent owner or owners of the respective real property shall be solely liable  
4 for any damage or loss occasioned by any act or neglect in respect to the installation or  
5 maintenance of the encroachments in the sidewalk.

6 (e) Each permit issued under the provisions of this Section shall not become  
7 effective until the permit has been signed by the owner or the owner's authorized agent and a  
8 copy thereof has been recorded in the office of the Recorder of the City and County of San  
9 Francisco; provided, however, that within 15 days following the approval, denial or revocation  
10 of a permit by the Director, any person may file a notice of appeal with the Clerk of the Board  
11 of Supervisors. In the alternative, when the encroachment is related to building construction,  
12 rehabilitation or maintenance, any person may appeal the encroachment permit decision to  
13 the Building Inspection Commission. A person waives his or her right to appeal to the  
14 Building Inspection Commission encroachment permit decisions relating to building  
15 construction, rehabilitation or maintenance by instead filing the appeal with the Clerk of the  
16 Board of Supervisors. No encroachment permit decision may be appealed to both bodies.

17 (f) For purposes of this Section, an encroachment permit is related to building  
18 construction, rehabilitation or maintenance when the object of the encroachment permit  
19 affects the applicant's ability to construct, repair or maintain the building.

20 (g) Upon filing the appeal to the Board of Super-visors, the appeal shall be referred  
21 to the full Board for hearing.

22 (h) The Clerk of the Board shall set a time and place for hearing such appeal, which  
23 shall be not less than 10 nor more than 30 days after such filing.

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1 (i) Pending decision by the Board of Supervisors or the Building Inspection  
2 Commission, the permit decision by the Director shall be suspended. The Board of  
3 Supervisors may disapprove the Director's permit decision only by a vote of not less than 2/3  
4 of all members of the Board. In the event that one or more of the full membership of the  
5 Board is disqualified or excused from voting because of an interest prohibited by general law  
6 or the San Francisco Charter, any such disapproval shall be by a vote of all members of the  
7 Board that are not disqualified or excused. The Board of Supervisors must decide such  
8 appeal within 30 days of the time set for the hearing thereon, provided that, if the full  
9 membership of the Board is not present on the last day on which said appeal is set or  
10 continued for hearing within said period, the Board may postpone said hearing and decision  
11 thereon until, but not later than, the full membership of the Board is present; provided, further,  
12 that the latest date to which said hearing and decision may be so postponed shall be not more  
13 than 90 days from the date of filing of the appeal. Failure of the Board of Supervisors to act  
14 within such time limit shall be deemed to constitute approval by the Board of the action of the  
15 Director of Public Works.

16 (j) Before issuance of the permit, the applicant shall be required to pay to the  
17 Department of Public Works a fee as set forth in Section 2.1.1 et seq. and a public right-of-  
18 way occupancy assessment fee as set forth in subsection (m).

19 (k) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as authorizing the Director of Public  
20 Works to grant permit for any encroachment which he or she determines to be inimical to the  
21 health, welfare, safety and best interest of the general public, or in violation of the Charter or  
22 laws of the City and County of San Francisco or laws of the State of California.

23 (l) The Board of Supervisors or the Building Inspection Commission may affirm,  
24 reverse or modify any permit decision made by the Director of Public Works under the  
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1 provisions of this Section. The decision by the Board of Supervisors or the Building Inspection  
2 Commission is final.

3 (m) The Board of Supervisors reserves the right to exact a public right-of-way  
4 occupancy assessment fee for the use of the sidewalk or other public right-of-way space  
5 permitted under the provisions of this Section.

6 (1) ~~In accordance with Subsection (m) the public right of way occupancy assessment  
7 fee for minor sidewalk encroachments, whether permitted or unpermitted, shall be an annual fee of  
8 \$3.00 per square foot of occupancy of the sidewalk or other public right of way space. For purposes of  
9 calculating the assessment fee, the Department shall charge no less than \$100.00 per year even though  
10 the calculated square footage charge for the encroachment may result in a smaller assessment fee.~~

11 ~~———— (2) ——— The public right of way occupancy assessment fee shall be subject to the review  
12 and adjustment procedures as forth in Sections 2.1.1 et seq.~~

13 ~~———— (3) ——— The public right of way occupancy assessment fee shall not be charged to any  
14 federal, state, or local governmental agencies, commission, or departments.~~

15 ~~———— (4) ——— Notwithstanding this Subsection (m), the public right-of-way assessment  
16 fee for underground vaults shall be as specified in Section 2.1.1 et seq.~~

17 Section 3. This Section is uncodified. Within four months of the effective date of this  
18 legislation, the Department of Public Works shall prepare and submit a report to the Board  
19 concerning the number of minor sidewalk encroachment permits and the types  
20 encroachments. Encroachment types should be categorized according to use, which may  
21 include, profit-generating encroachments, encroachments providing neighborhood amenities,  
22 encroachment necessary to comply with City Codes or regulations, encroachment necessary  
23 to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or any other categories that the  
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1 Department deems appropriate. The report also should include data on the size of  
2 encroachments within each category.

3 Section 4. This Section is uncodified. The suspension of the public right-of-way  
4 occupancy assessment fee in Public Works Code Section 723.2 shall be retroactive to August  
5 29, 2005, the effective date of the legislation that enacted the fee.

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7 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
8 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

9 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 John D. Malamut  
11 Deputy City Attorney

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