

1 [Administrative Code - Priority Housing Status for Persons Discharged from Residential  
2 Behavioral Health Programs]

3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of**  
4 **Homelessness and Supportive Housing to give a priority to adults who have been**  
5 **discharged from residential behavioral health programs when making assignments to**  
6 **housing programs, and to coordinate with the Department of Public Health to ensure**  
7 **access to uninterrupted supportive services for such persons.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
14 subsections or parts of tables.

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

16 Section 1. Findings.

17 (a) The Department of Public Health (“DPH”) operates a wide variety of residential  
18 behavioral health programs, including but not limited to: board and care facilities, inpatient  
19 psychiatric programs, an acute diversion program, psychiatric emergency services, mental  
20 health residential treatment programs, and substance abuse residential treatment programs.  
21 Individuals who participate in these programs receive treatment and care until they are  
22 stabilized.

23 (b) Each year, more than 5,000 individuals are discharged from DPH’s residential  
24 behavioral health programs after having received treatment to address their mental health or  
25 substance abuse issues. Upon discharge, many individuals do not have a home or address  
to go to, and are discharged to the streets.

1 (c) Discharging people to the streets following their participation in a residential  
2 behavioral health program is associated with a high incidence of substance abuse disorder  
3 relapse, deterioration of mental health, and medical compromise.

4 (d) Behavioral health treatment would be associated with improved outcomes if  
5 participants knew that they would be housed after treatment, and had access to ongoing  
6 supportive programs upon placement in housing.

7 (e) The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is developing a  
8 Coordinated Entry system that will implement a consistent, community-wide intake process to  
9 match people experiencing homelessness to available community resources that meet their  
10 needs. The Coordinated Entry system includes a standardized method to assess and  
11 prioritize people needing assistance, and a streamlined process for rapidly connecting people  
12 to a housing solution. Adults with the greatest barriers to housing, the longest histories of  
13 homelessness, and the highest level of vulnerability are prioritized for services.

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15 Section 2. Chapter 20 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding Article  
16 XVI, consisting of Sections 20.16-1 through 20.16-3, to read as follows:

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18 **ARTICLE XVI: PRIORITIZATION AND COORDINATION OF CARE FOR PERSONS**  
19 **DISCHARGED FROM RESIDENTIAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

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21 **SEC. 20.16-1. DEFINITIONS.**

22 As used in this Article XVI, the following words or phrases shall have the following meanings:

23 “Department” means the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

24 “Permanent Supportive Housing” means subsidized rental housing without time limits and with  
25 on-site supportive services to help tenants maintain housing.

1           “Rapid-Rehousing” means a housing program model that assists individuals who are homeless  
2 to move quickly into permanent housing, usually to housing in the private market.

3           “Residential Behavioral Health Program” means a residential program in which the patient  
4 receives treatment for a substance use disorder and/or mental health disability.

5           “Transitional Housing” means a temporary shelter program model that provides an individual  
6 with a shared or private housing unit for a time-limited period during which the individual receives  
7 supportive services.

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9           **SEC. 20.16-2. PRIORITY STATUS.**

10           When assessing and assigning single homeless adults to Rapid-Rehousing, Transitional  
11 Housing, or Permanent Supportive Housing (collectively, “Housing”), the Department shall recognize  
12 discharge from a Residential Behavioral Health Program as a vulnerability that will confer upon the  
13 program participant a priority, as determined by the Department, for such Housing.

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15           **SEC. 20.16-3. CARE COORDINATION.**

16           The Department shall coordinate with the Department of Public Health to ensure that  
17 individuals who are prioritized for and assigned to housing pursuant to Section 20.16-2 have  
18 uninterrupted access to supportive services.

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20           Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
21 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
22 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
23 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

1           Section 4.    Undertaking for the General Welfare. In enacting and implementing this  
2 Article XVI, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not  
3 assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an obligation for breach of which it  
4 is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused  
5 injury.

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

9 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
10 VIRGINIA DARIO ELIZONDO  
11 Deputy City Attorney

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