

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning, Building Codes - Small Business Month Fee Waivers Including for Awning Installation]

Ordinance amending the Planning and Building Codes to codify the annual waiver of awning replacement fees and awning sign fees applied for during the month of May, to annually waive fees for new awning installations applied for during the month of May, and to indicate that the Planning Code and Building Code waivers pertaining to pedestrian street lighting as well as awning replacement, awning installation, and awning sign fees are keyed to permit application in May rather than permit issuance in May; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

Existing Law

May is Small Business Month in San Francisco. (See Administrative Code Section 2A.240(a)(7).)

Planning Code Section 350 authorizes the Planning Department to charge fees to compensate the Department for the cost of processing applications, developing and revising land use controls, and performing or providing other activities and services. Currently, such fees are contained in Ordinance No. 149-16.

Planning Code Section 350(j) provides for waivers or reductions of certain fees. Certain waivers are contained in Ordinance No. 149-16, which includes a waiver for permit fees for awning replacement and signs on awnings during the month of May for a Small Business Enterprise.

Building Code Section 110A contains the schedule of fees for building permits. Table 1A-A contains a fee waiver for awning replacements for a Small Business Enterprise during the month of May. Table 1A-E contains a fee waiver for pedestrian-level lighting permits for a Small Business Enterprise during the month of May.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Planning Code Section 350(j) to codify the existing planning fee waivers for Small Business Enterprises. It would also add a fee waiver for new installation of awnings during the month of May.

This ordinance would also amend Building Code Section 110A to add the building permit fee waiver for new installation of awnings during the month of May and make additional clarifying edits.

The ordinance also clarifies that the Planning Code and Building Code fee waivers applies to Small Business Enterprises that apply for such permits during the month of May.

The operative provisions of this ordinance shall be retroactive to May 1, 2023 should the effective date of the ordinance occur after May 1, 2023.

This ordinance also contains provisions that overlap with subsection (f) on page 43 of Ordinance No. 149-16. To the extent the provisions of this ordinance differ from those of Ordinance No. 149-16, the provisions of this ordinance govern.

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