

[Planning Code - 900 Kearny Street Special Use District, ~~Use Sizes in Chinatown Community Business District~~]

**Ordinance amending the Planning Code to modify the 900 Kearny Street Special Use District to allow an enclosed rooftop building addition with a restricted arts activities use; ~~amending the Planning Code to clarify the Use Size maximums applicable in the Chinatown Community Business District;~~ and 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.**

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

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

Section 1. Environmental and Land Use Findings.

(a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ~~234006~~240260 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this determination.

(b) On ~~November 30~~May 2, 2023, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. ~~21453~~21553, adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on

1 balance, with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section  
2 101.1. The Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with  
3 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ~~234006~~240260, and is incorporated herein by  
4 reference.

5 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that these Planning Code  
6 amendments will serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set  
7 forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. ~~21453~~21553, and the Board incorporates such  
8 reasons herein by reference. A copy of said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
9 Supervisors in File No. ~~234006~~240260.

10  
11 Section 2. General Findings.

12 (a) The 900 Kearny Street Special Use District (SUD) is intended to facilitate reuse of  
13 the property located at 900 Kearny Street. The property is located within the Chinatown  
14 Community Business District, established in Planning Code Section 810, which prohibits  
15 Non-Retail Professional Services uses on the first story and in the basement of buildings,  
16 while allowing such uses on the second story and higher.

17 (b) The 900 Kearny Street SUD will ~~would~~ facilitate the reuse of the ground and  
18 basement floors of 900 Kearny Street and exempt the site from the non-residential use size  
19 limits and use size maximums under Sections 121.4 and 810 of the Planning Code. All other  
20 applicable Planning Code provisions would continue to apply to the SUD. In the face of the  
21 COVID-19 pandemic, commercial vacancy rates have risen to over 28% throughout the City.  
22 These high vacancy rates have persisted, particularly in the area where 900 Kearny Street is  
23 located, in the blocks generally at the intersection of Chinatown, North Beach, Jackson  
24 Square, and the Financial District. The current restrictions applicable to Non-Retail  
25 Professional Services uses within the Chinatown Community Business District exacerbate the

1 difficulty of building owners to support existing businesses and tenants, and to attract new  
2 business and tenants.

3 (c) The 900 Kearny Street SUD will facilitate increasing the presence of arts in the  
4 area by permitting Arts Activities Uses on all existing six floors of the building. In addition, the  
5 SUD would allow a new rooftop structure to be occupied by an artist studio or other Arts  
6 Activities Uses. The property owner and a well-known artist have agreed to install a large  
7 mural on the building's exterior, further identifying the building as a potential space for artists.

8  
9 Section 3. Article 2 of the Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Section  
10 249.95, to read as follows:

11 **SEC. 249.95. 900 KEARNY STREET SPECIAL USE DISTRICT.**

12 (a) **Purpose.** The 900 Kearny Street Special Use District is intended to facilitate the  
13 reuse of the ground and basement floors of 900 Kearny Street, which were previously  
14 occupied by a Formula Retail Financial Services Use that vacated the space in 2021.

15 (b) **Location.** The 900 Kearny Street Special Use District consists of Assessor's Block  
16 0176, Lot 011. Its boundaries are shown on Special Use District Map SU01 of the Zoning  
17 Map, and consists of the area within a perimeter established by Columbus Street to the east,  
18 Jackson Street to the south, and Kearny Street to the west, and adjacent to the Sentinel  
19 Building/Columbus Tower to the north.

20 (c) **Controls.** Applicable provisions of the Planning Code shall apply to the 900 Kearny  
21 Street Special Use District except as otherwise provided in this Section 249.95. In the event of  
22 a conflict between other provisions of the Planning Code and this Section, this Section shall  
23 control.

24 (1) Non-Retail Professional Services Uses shall be permitted on all floors,  
25 including the First Story and Basement.

1 (2) The non-residential use size limits and use size maximums in Sections  
2 121.4 and 810 shall not apply to Non-Retail Professional Services Uses.

3 (3) Arts Activities Uses shall be permitted on all floors.

4 (4) A rooftop enclosed structure with a maximum floor area of 735 square  
5 feet and a maximum height of 11 feet above the finished roof is permitted, provided it is  
6 occupied exclusively by Arts Activities Uses. An enclosed building addition is permitted at the  
7 roof level provided it is 1) no more than 735 square feet, 2) no more than 11 feet above the  
8 finished roof, and 3) only occupied as an Arts Activities Use, subject to the following  
9 provisions. Such a building addition is permitted notwithstanding the bulk limits of Section 270,  
10 the sun access requirements of Section 132.3, the height limit exemptions for the features  
11 specified in Section 260(b), and the limit on the horizontal area for the features specified in  
12 Section 260(b)(1). However, such a building addition shall be included in the calculations of  
13 the horizontal area for any other proposed building additions or features to determine if other  
14 such additions or features meet applicable Code requirements.

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16 Section 45. Formatting of Ordinance; Explanation of Fonts.

17 (a) On March 18, 2024, the Land Use and Transportation Committee of the Board of  
18 Supervisors duplicated Board File No. 231006 to create Board File No. 240260. The  
19 ordinance in File No. 231006 proceeded through the legislative process, was enacted as  
20 Ordinance No. 60-24, and became effective in April 2024. The ordinance in File No. 240260 –  
21 this ordinance – remained at the Land Use and Transportation Committee. This is the  
22 ~~third~~~~fourth~~fifth version of that ordinance.

23 (b) To clearly understand the proposed amendments to existing law contained in this  
24 ~~third~~~~fourth~~fifth version of this ordinance, the ordinance shows in “existing text” font (plain Arial)  
25 the law currently in effect, as amended by Ordinance No. 60-24. This ordinance shows in

1 “Board amendment” font (double-underlined Arial for additions, and strikethrough Arial for  
2 deletions) amendments to existing law. This ordinance also shows in “Board amendment” font  
3 all amendments to this ordinance made after the file was duplicated, including amendments  
4 approved to earlier versions of this ordinance in the Board File 240260. This ordinance omits  
5 sections of the law currently in effect that are not being amended by this ordinance and were  
6 not proposed for amendments in earlier versions of this ordinance in the Board File 240260.

7 (c) This ~~third~~~~fourth~~fifth version of the ordinance also includes new short and long titles  
8 that describe the ordinance, to reflect changes in existing law. These new titles replace the  
9 short and long titles in the ~~previous~~first two versions of the ordinance, which had included  
10 references to the amendments that became effective with the enactment of Ordinance No.  
11 60-24.

12  
13 Section 5. As this ordinance came to the Board of Supervisors from the Land Use and  
14 Transportation Committee, it contained a Section 4 that would have amended Planning Code  
15 Section 810. At its May 7, 2024 meeting, the Board of Supervisors voted to delete that  
16 Section 4 from this ordinance. Hence, this ordinance no longer contains an amendment of  
17 Planning Code Section 810.

18  
19 Section 6. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
20 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
21 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
22 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

23  
24 Section 7. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
25 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,

1 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
2 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
3 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under  
4 the official title of the ordinance.

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6 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
7 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

8 By: /s/ HEATHER GOODMAN  
9 HEATHER GOODMAN  
Deputy City Attorney

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