

1 [Business and Tax Regulations, Police, Planning Codes - Parking Tax Simplification for  
2 Residential Properties]

3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code by adding**  
4 **Section 609 to establish Parking Tax Simplification for Residential Properties to relieve**  
5 **residential property owners and managers renting five or fewer parking spaces in**  
6 **Parking Stations physically attached to or otherwise associated with the building from**  
7 **the requirement to: 1)(a) obtain a certificate of authority, (b) make monthly tax**  
8 **prepayments, (c) obtain a parking tax bond, and (d) providing amnesty from parking**  
9 **taxes, interest, penalties and fees owed for tax periods ending before April 1, 2011; 2)**  
10 **amending the Business and Tax Regulations Code Section 2219.7 to exempt property**  
11 **owners and managers registered pursuant to Section 609 from the requirement to pay**  
12 **the Revenue Control Equipment compliance fee; 3) amending the Planning Code**  
13 **Section 204.5 to allow as an accessory use up to five dwelling unit parking spaces to**  
14 **be leased to persons living off-site anywhere in the City; 4) making conforming**  
15 **changes to the Planning Code Section 150(d); 5) amending the Police Code Section**  
16 **1215 to eliminate the requirement to hold a commercial parking permit for property**  
17 **owners and managers registered pursuant to Section 609 of the Business and Tax**  
18 **Regulations Code; and 6) making environmental findings and findings of consistency**  
19 **with the general plan.**

20 NOTE: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
21 deletions are *strike-through italics Times New Roman*.  
22 Board amendment additions are double-underlined;  
23 Board amendment deletions are ~~strike-through normal~~.

24 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:  
25

1 Section 1. FINDINGS.

2 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
3 Ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
4 Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
5 Supervisors in File No. 120631 and is incorporated herein by reference.

6 (b) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that the Planning Code  
7 amendments will serve the public necessity, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Planning  
8 Commission Resolution No. 18697 and the Board incorporates such reasons herein by  
9 reference. A copy of Planning Commission Resolution No. 18697 is on file with the Clerk of  
10 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 120631.

11 (c) This Board finds that these amendments are consistent with the General Plan and  
12 with the Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 for the reasons set forth in Planning  
13 Commission Resolution No. 18697, and the Board hereby incorporates such reasons herein  
14 by reference.

15  
16 Section 2. The San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended  
17 by adding Section 609, to read as follows:

18 **SEC. 609. PARKING SPACE OCCUPANCY TAX SIMPLIFICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL**  
19 **PROPERTIES**

20 (a) *Findings.*

21 (1) San Francisco's parking tax generates revenue for the City's general fund, which in  
22 turn funds the provision of many vital services for residents.

23 (2) Any person who rents parking space in a Parking Station, as defined in Article 9 of  
24 the Business and Tax Regulations Code, must collect parking tax from the individual parking the car  
25

1 and remit it to the City. Current City law treats large commercial operators of garages and small  
2 property owners the same for purposes of this tax.

3 (3) It is estimated that hundreds, if not thousands, of small property owners rent at least  
4 one parking space to non-residents, but do not register with the City or collect and remit parking tax.

5 (4) Many small property owners are ignorant of the legal requirements.

6 (5) Some small property owners may wish to comply with the law, but fear substantial  
7 tax liabilities, including penalties and interest, and therefore, do not come forward.

8 (6) The City desires to maximize the collection of required taxes.

9 (7) Therefore, in order to encourage small property owners to come forward, to register  
10 with the City, and to start collecting parking tax, this Ordinance will forgive taxes owed ~~earlier than~~  
11 ~~24 months prior to the effective date of the Ordinance~~ for tax periods ending before April 1,  
12 ~~2011.~~

13 (8) The Board of Supervisors finds that by providing a period of amnesty and by  
14 simplifying the registration process, many small property owners will begin to comply with the law,  
15 resulting in an overall increase in tax revenue remitted to the City.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the owner or manager of a residential  
17 building, that operates a Parking Station that is a part of the residential building and, is located on the  
18 same parcel, or within 50 feet of the property line of the building, shall be relieved of certain  
19 requirements for Parking Stations as enumerated below, provided the owner or manager meets all of  
20 the requirements of and registers under Subsection (c) below.

21 The aforesaid building owner or manager:

22 (1) Shall not be required to obtain a certificate of authority from the Tax Collector  
23 pursuant to Article 6, Section 6.6-1(a) or to execute a bond pursuant to Section 6.6-1(h), or to comply  
24 with any requirement to obtain insurance to operate a Parking Station.

1                   (2) Shall not be required to make monthly tax prepayments pursuant to Section 6.9-  
2 3(a)(1), provided that the gross revenues of the Parking Station from Rent collected from individuals  
3 that do not reside at the property do not exceed \$4,000 in a quarterly reporting period or \$15,000  
4 annually. At any time that the gross revenues of the Parking Station from Rent exceed \$4,000 during  
5 any quarterly reporting period, the building owner or manager must report and file monthly tax  
6 prepayments as required by Section 6.9-3(a)(1) beginning with the following month.

7                   (3) Is registered under Subsection (c) below, and if eligible for parking tax  
8 simplification for a specific Parking Station, shall not be required to pay the Revenue Control  
9 Equipment Compliance Fee in Article 22, Section 2219.5 for that Parking Station.

10                   (4) Shall not be required to hold a commercial parking permit under Section 1215(b) of  
11 the Police Code.

12                   (c) In order to be eligible for the relief authorized under this Section, the building owner or  
13 manager must register for relief using a simple form prescribed by the Tax Collector for that purpose,  
14 and provide information required by the Tax Collector. The owner or manager shall demonstrate to  
15 the satisfaction of the Tax Collector that the residential property and Parking Station rentals meet all  
16 of the following requirements:

17                   (1) No more than 5 spaces in the Parking Station are rented to individuals who do not  
18 reside at the residential property.

19                   (2) Spaces are rented to individuals who do not reside at the property on a monthly  
20 basis only.

21                   (3) The building owner or manager complies with the Revenue Control Equipment  
22 requirements in Article 22, Section 2207.

23                   (4) Total gross receipts from the rental of parking space to individuals who do not  
24 reside at the property does not exceed \$4,000 in any quarter or \$15,000 annually.

25                   (d) In addition, the owner or manager must:

1                   (1) Maintain documents and records of all parking transactions in a manner acceptable  
2 to the Tax Collector. Such documents and records must objectively substantiate any relief claimed  
3 under this Section and be provided to the Tax Collector or designee upon request.

4                   (2) Timely file with the Tax Collector annually a parking space occupancy tax return,  
5 regardless of the amount of tax liability shown on the return. All returns shall be filed by the due date  
6 set forth in Article 6 of the San Francisco Business and Tax Regulations Code.

7                   (3) Any owner or manager who makes a material misrepresentation in a registration or  
8 fails to amend a registration within 7 days of a material change or who fails to comply with a rule or  
9 regulation promulgated by the Tax Collector in a timely manner shall, in addition to any other liability  
10 that may be imposed under the provisions of this Article, be ineligible to claim relief under this Section.

11                   (e) The Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector may adopt forms, rules and regulations  
12 regarding the relief provided under this Section. The Tax Collector shall verify whether the applicant  
13 is entitled to the Parking Tax Simplification under this Ordinance.

14                   (f) Amnesty.

15                   (1) The building owner or manager who registers for relief under this Section between  
16 January 1, 2013 and June 30, 2013 and satisfies the eligibility requirements established in Subsections  
17 609(b) and (c) of this Article shall be eligible for amnesty from all fees, penalties and interest for  
18 failure to report and remit parking space occupancy tax due and payable prior to June 30, 2013 and  
19 shall, in addition, be eligible for amnesty from all ~~taxes for failure to report and remit parking space~~  
20 occupancy taxes for the tax periods ending before April 1, 2011, with the following exceptions:

21                   (i) The Tax Collector may not waive any liability owed as a result of any  
22 jeopardy determination served on the taxpayer or other person determined to be liable pursuant to  
23 Article 6, Section 6.12-1 of this Code or any audit deficiency determination that has been reduced to a  
24 written notice of deficiency determination and served on the taxpayer or other person determined to be  
25 liable pursuant to Article 6, Section 6.11-2 of this Code prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.

1                                   (ii) The Tax Collector shall not waive, under the authority of this Article,  
2 liabilities that the City has sought in any civil tax collection litigation commenced by the Tax Collector  
3 prior to the commencement of the amnesty application period.

4                                   (2) The Tax Collector shall waive all taxes, fees, penalties and interest owed for  
5 delinquent remittance of parking space occupancy taxes owed under the provisions of Articles 6 and 9  
6 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code, but forgiven under this Section 690(f), without need to make  
7 the findings required under Section 6.17-4.

8                                   (3) The Tax Collector shall waive all fees, penalties and interest owed for failure to  
9 collect and/or remit parking space occupancy taxes under Article 22 and Sections 6.17-1, 6.17-2, and  
10 6.17-3 of this Code.

11                                  (4) No proceeding to suspend or revoke a business registration certificate pursuant to  
12 Section 6.6-1 of this Code shall be initiated based on an owner's or manager's failure to collect or  
13 remit parking space occupancy taxes for which the Tax Collector has granted amnesty.

14                                  (5) No administrative proceeding or civil or criminal action on behalf of the City and  
15 County of San Francisco shall be brought against an owner or manager for any tax period for which  
16 the Tax Collector grants amnesty based upon the nonreporting, under-reporting, failure to remit  
17 parking space occupancy tax or the nonpayment of or failure to remit any taxes owed under the  
18 provisions of Article 22 of this Code.

19                                  (6) If the Tax Collector determines that the person registering for relief under this  
20 Section is delinquent in any taxes, fees or penalties owed to the City and County of San Francisco other  
21 than the parking tax, that person shall be ineligible to claim the relief under this Subsection(f).

22  
23                                  Section 3. The Business and Tax Regulations Code is hereby amended by amending  
24 Section 2219.7 to read as follows:

25 **SEC. 2219.7. EXEMPTIONS.**

1 (a) **Exemption.** The Fee shall not apply to any Parking Station that is exempt from the  
2 requirements of Article 22, pursuant to Section 2202-, or that is registered and eligible for parking  
3 tax simplification, pursuant to Article 9, Section 609 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

4 (b) **Inspection and Audit.** The Tax Collector may inspect or audit any claim for  
5 exemption from the Fee to determine whether or not the Parking Station is exempt from the  
6 Fee.

7 (c) **Notice of Change in Status.** Any Operator who claims an exemption to Fee  
8 payment must notify the Tax Collector in writing within 10 days of when that Parking Station  
9 no longer qualifies for the exemption, if applicable.

10 (d) **Penalties for Establishments That Falsely Claim to Qualify for Exemption.**  
11 Any Operator that claims an exemption and is found by the Tax Collector not to be entitled to  
12 the exemption and to have falsely claimed the exemption without reasonable grounds,  
13 Operator shall be subject to a penalty of \$100. The Tax Collector may impose the penalty by  
14 written citation. Any Operator that disputes the Tax Collector's determination under this  
15 Section may appeal to the Tax Collector in writing according to the provisions of Article 6,  
16 Section 6.19-8.

17  
18 Section 4. The Planning Code is hereby amended by amending Section 150 to read as  
19 follows:

20 **SEC. 150. OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING REQUIREMENTS.**

21 (a) **General.** This Article 1.5 is intended to assure that off-street parking and loading  
22 facilities are provided in amounts and in a manner that will be consistent with the objectives  
23 and policies of the San Francisco General Plan, as part of a balanced transportation system  
24 that makes suitable provision for walking, cycling, public transit, private vehicles, and the  
25 movement of goods. With respect to off-street parking, this Article is intended to require

1 facilities where needed but discourage excessive amounts of automobile parking, to avoid  
2 adverse effects upon surrounding areas and uses, and to encourage effective use of walking,  
3 cycling, and public transit as alternatives to travel by private automobile.

4 (b) **Spaces Required.** Off-street parking and loading spaces, according to the  
5 requirements stated in this Article 1.5, shall be provided for any structure constructed, and any  
6 use established, whether public or private, after the original effective date of any such  
7 requirement applicable to such structure or use.

8 (c) **Additions to Structure and Uses.**

9 (1) For any structure or use lawfully existing on such effective date, off-street  
10 parking and loading spaces need be provided only in the case of a major addition to such  
11 structure or use, and only in the quantity required for the major addition itself. Any lawful  
12 deficiency in off-street parking or loading spaces existing on such effective date may be  
13 carried forward for the structure or use, apart from such major addition.

14 (2) For these purposes, a "major addition" is hereby defined as any  
15 enlargement, alteration, change of occupancy or increase in intensity of use which would  
16 increase the number of off-street parking spaces required for dwelling units by two or more  
17 spaces; which would increase the number of off-street parking spaces required for uses other  
18 than dwelling units by at least 15 percent or by at least five spaces, whichever is greater; or  
19 which would increase the requirement for off-street loading spaces by at least 15 percent.

20 (3) Successive additions made after the effective date of an off-street parking or  
21 loading requirement shall be considered cumulative, and at the time such additions become  
22 major in their total, off-street parking and loading spaces shall be provided as required for  
23 such major addition.

24 (d) **Spaces to be Retained.** Once any off-street parking or loading space has been  
25 provided which wholly or partially meets the requirements of this Code, such off-street parking



1 or loading space shall not thereafter be reduced, eliminated or made unusable in any manner;  
2 provided, however, that in the Outer Clement Neighborhood Commercial District a maximum  
3 of one off-street parking space may be used for the storage of materials for a commercial use  
4 if the commercial use is on a lot contiguous to the lot on which the parking space is located  
5 and if access between the commercial use and the storage is available without the use of a  
6 public sidewalk or other public right-of-way and if the storage occurred prior to 1985. Any  
7 required residential parking space may be leased or rented on a monthly basis ~~to serve the~~  
8 ~~resident of any dwelling unit within 1,250 feet of said parking space,~~ as provided under Section  
9 204.5(b)(1) of this Code, and such lease or rental shall not be considered a reduction or  
10 elimination of required spaces.

11 (e) **Parking in Excess of the Maximum Permitted.** Any off-street parking space or  
12 spaces which existed lawfully at the effective date of this Section and which have a total  
13 number in excess of the maximum permitted off-street parking spaces permitted under  
14 Section 151.1 shall be considered noncomplying features pursuant to Section 180(a)(2) and  
15 shall be regulated as set forth in Section 188.

16

17 Section 5. The Planning Code is hereby amended by amending Section 204.5 to read  
18 as follows:

19 **SEC. 204.5. PARKING AND LOADING AS ACCESSORY USES.**

20 In order to be classified as an accessory use, off-street parking and loading shall meet  
21 all of the following conditions:

22 (a) Such parking or loading facilities shall be located on the same lot as the structure  
23 or use served by them. (For provisions concerning required parking on a separate lot as a  
24 principal or conditional use, see Sections 156, 159, 160 and 161 of this Code.)

25

1 (b) Unless rented on a monthly basis to serve a dwelling unit ~~within 1,250 feet~~ pursuant  
2 to Section 204.5(b)(1), below, accessory parking facilities for any dwelling in any R District  
3 shall be limited, further, to storage of private passenger automobiles, private automobile  
4 trailers and boats, and trucks of a rated capacity not exceeding ¾ ton. Notwithstanding any  
5 provision of this Code to the contrary, the following shall be permitted as an accessory use:

6 (1) ~~Lease, of lawfully existing off-street residential parking spaces by the property~~  
7 ~~owner or manager, for a term of no less than one month, of a lawfully existing off-street parking~~  
8 ~~space that is required or permitted to serve a dwelling unit on the same lot, is permitted as follows:~~  
9 (A) for use by any resident of a dwelling unit located on a different lot within 1,250 feet of such  
10 parking space; or (B) for use by any resident of a dwelling unit located on a different lot within the  
11 City and County of San Francisco so long as no more than five (5) spaces are rented to those who live  
12 beyond 1,250 feet of such parking space.

13 (c) Accessory parking facilities shall include only those facilities which do not exceed  
14 the following amounts for a structure, lot or development: three spaces where one space is  
15 required by this Code; four spaces where two spaces are required by this Code; 150 percent  
16 of the required number of spaces where three or more spaces are required by this Code; and,  
17 in all districts other than NC, 15 spaces or seven percent of the total gross floor area of the  
18 structure or development, whichever is greater, or in NC Districts, three spaces, where no off-  
19 street parking spaces are required by this Code. For purposes of calculation under the last  
20 provision just stated, gross floor area shall be as defined by this Code, and the area  
21 considered to be devoted to parking shall be only the parking spaces and aisles, excluding  
22 entrance and exit driveways and ramps. Off-street parking facilities which exceed the  
23 amounts stated in this Subsection (c) shall be classified as either a principal or a conditional  
24 use, depending upon the use provisions applicable to the district in which such facilities are  
25

1 located. This subsection (c) does not apply to districts subject to Section 151.1, which  
2 establishes maximum amounts of accessory parking for all uses in those districts.

3  
4 Section 6. The San Francisco Police Code is hereby amended by amending Section  
5 1215 to read as follows:

6 **SEC. 1215 COMMERCIAL PARKING PERMITS.**

7 (a) **Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply in Police Code Sections 2.9, 2.26  
8 and 1215 through 1215.7 and Business and Tax Regulations Code Section 22.

9 (1) **Chief of Police.** The Chief of the San Francisco Police Department, or  
10 designee.

11 (2) **Commercial parking permit.** A permit the Chief of Police issues under this  
12 Section to operate a parking garage or parking lot.

13 (3) **Covered crimes.** The crimes of assault, battery, burglary, robbery, theft  
14 including identity theft, receipt of stolen property, breaking or removing parts from a vehicle,  
15 malicious mischief to a vehicle, unlawful use or tampering by bailee of a vehicle, altering a  
16 vehicle identification, tax fraud or evasion, and any offense related to the use of alcohol,  
17 narcotics or controlled substances while operating or in connection with a vehicle, committed  
18 anywhere in the United States of America.

19 (4) **Entertainment Establishment.** Any building, space, or structure operating  
20 under a "Place of Entertainment" permit issued pursuant to San Francisco Police Code  
21 section 1060 *et seq.* or operating under an "Extended Hours Premises" permit issued  
22 pursuant to San Francisco Police Code section 1070 *et seq.*

23 (5) **Parking garage.** Any building or structure, or any portion of a building or  
24 structure, where members of the public may park or store motor vehicles for a charge. This  
25 definition does not include any parking garage in a residential building or development that

1 provides parking for a charge as a convenience or amenity for residents or their guests only;  
2 or any parking garage in a residential building that rents not more than five spaces to non-residents of  
3 the building on a monthly basis and is registered with the Tax Collector pursuant to Article 9,  
4 Section 609 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

5 (6) **Parking lot.** Any outdoor or uncovered space, including any plot, place, lot,  
6 parcel, yard or enclosure, or any portion of such a space, where members of the public may  
7 park or store motor vehicles for a charge. This definition does not include any outdoor or  
8 uncovered space that is part of a residential building or development that provides parking for  
9 a charge as a convenience or amenity for residents or their guests only; or any outdoor or  
10 uncovered space that is part of a residential building that rents not more than five spaces to non-  
11 residents of the building on a monthly basis and is registered with the Tax Collector pursuant to  
12 Article 9, Section 609 of the Business and Tax Regulations Code.

13 (7) **Person.** Any individual, firm, company, corporation, partnership, joint  
14 venture, association, organization or other legal entity. When Sections 1215 through 1215.6  
15 require a person to provide or list a name, the person must provide or list any prior names and  
16 aliases.

17 (8) **Prevailing Party.** Prevailing Party has the same meaning as set forth in  
18 California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1032, or any successor provision. "Prevailing  
19 Party" includes the City in actions where the City obtains an injunction and/or civil penalties or  
20 other monies under Sections 1215 through 1215.6 or under State law.

21 (b) **Permit Requirement.** A person may not operate a parking garage or parking lot,  
22 directly or indirectly, unless the person holds a commercial parking permit issued by the Chief  
23 of Police. This Section requires a separate commercial parking permit for each parking  
24 garage and parking lot. The Chief of Police shall close immediately any parking garage or  
25 parking lot operating without the required commercial parking permit. A parking garage or

1 parking lot that is registered with the Tax Collector pursuant to Article 9, Section 609, of the Business  
2 and Tax Regulations Code is not required to hold a commercial parking permit under this Section.

3 (c) **Annual Permit.** Each commercial parking permit shall authorize the permittee to  
4 operate the permitted parking garage or parking lot for one year from the date the Chief of  
5 Police issues the permit, unless the Chief of Police suspends or revokes the permit. Each  
6 commercial parking permit shall expire by operation of law at the end of the one year period.  
7 Notwithstanding Section 2.10 of the Police Code, a permittee wishing to operate beyond the  
8 one year permit term must obtain a new commercial parking permit before the existing permit  
9 expires.

10  
11 Section 7. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the  
12 date of passage.

13  
14 Section 8. This section is uncodified. In enacting this Ordinance, the Board intends to  
15 amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers,  
16 punctuation, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent part of the Business and Tax  
17 Regulations Code, Planning Code and Police Code that are explicitly shown in this legislation  
18 as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in  
19 accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the legislation.

20  
21 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
22 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

23 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Jean H. Alexander  
25 Deputy City Attorney