

FILE NO. 081010

ORDINANCE NO. 255-08

1 [Building – Ban on Wooden Fixed Utility Ladders.]

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3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Housing Code to add Section 605 prohibiting**  
4 **wooden fixed utility ladders in R-1, R-2, and R-3 Occupancies, and making findings**  
5 **under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

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

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

12 Section 1. Findings.

13 (a) General Findings.

14 (1) Certain structures and buildings within the City and County of San Francisco  
15 ("City") have exterior wooden fixed "utility ladders" not required under state, local, or  
16 federal safety regulations.

17 (2) If not properly maintained and secured, wooden utility ladders present health  
18 and safety risks to the public due to susceptibility of wood to rotting and deterioration over  
19 time.

20 (3) The condition of wooden fixed utility ladders may be difficult to discern except  
21 upon close inspection and, in certain instances, wooden utility ladders may outwardly  
22 appear safe for use despite their deteriorated and dangerous condition.

23 (4) Many property owners are unaware of the safety issues created by failing to  
24 remove wooden fixed utility ladders or replace them with metal utility ladders. A weak or  
25 failing ladder puts property owners, building residents, tenants, and guests at risk.

1 (5) Absent legislative action, property owners may lack regulatory incentives to  
2 inspect, maintain, or remove otherwise code-compliant wooden utility ladders.

3 (6) In order to promote general welfare and safety, it is therefore in the public  
4 interest to require removal of wooden fixed utility ladders or the replacement of such  
5 ladders with safer metal utility ladders.

6 (7) Enforcement of this legislation will occur through the existing routine inspection  
7 program and through other enforcement procedures as developed by the Department of  
8 Building Inspection for R-1 and R-2 Occupancies (hotels and apartment houses) and R-3  
9 Occupancies (one- and two-family dwelling units) delineated in Chapter 3 of the Housing  
10 Code.

11 (b) Environmental Findings. The Planning Department has determined that the  
12 actions contemplated in this Ordinance are in compliance with the California Environmental  
13 Quality Act (California Public Resources Code sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is  
14 on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 081010 and is  
15 incorporated herein by reference.

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17 Section 2. The San Francisco Housing Code is hereby amended by adding Section  
18 605, to read as follows:

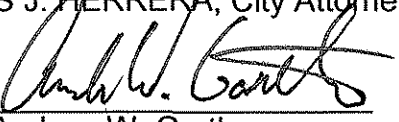
19 SEC. 605. PROHIBITION ON WOODEN FIXED UTILITY LADDERS

20 Wooden Fixed Utility Ladders shall be prohibited on buildings which contain R-1, and R-2,  
21 and R-3 Occupancies (hotels and apartment houses), as defined by Chapter 4 of this Code. "Fixed  
22 Utility Ladder" shall mean any ladder permanently attached to the exterior of a structure or building,  
23 but shall not include ladders required by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health for  
24 workplace safety that have been installed with a proper permit, or ladders expressly authorized by the  
25 Department of Building Inspection for Building Code or Fire Code compliance purposes.

1                    Wooden Fixed Utility Ladders shall be removed or replaced with metal ladders that comply  
2 with applicable Building, Fire, and Housing Code requirements.

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4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
5 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

6 By:

  
7 Andrew W. Garth  
8 Deputy City Attorney

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# City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

## Tails Ordinance

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**File Number:** 081010

**Date Passed:**

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Housing Code to add Section 605 prohibiting wooden fixed utility ladders in R-1, R-2, and R-3 Occupancies, and making findings under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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October 28, 2008 Board of Supervisors — PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell, McGoldrick,  
Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

Absent: 1 - Ammiano

November 4, 2008 Board of Supervisors — FINALLY PASSED

Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Ammiano, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Maxwell,  
McGoldrick, Mirkarimi, Peskin, Sandoval

File No. 081010

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance  
was **FINALLY PASSED** on November 4,  
2008 by the Board of Supervisors of the City  
and County of San Francisco.

11/07/2008

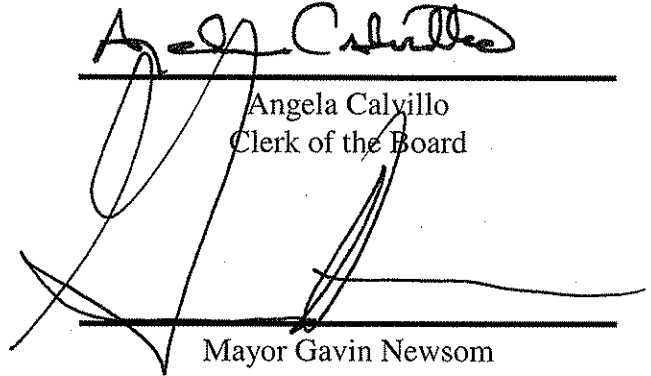
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Date Approved



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Angela Calyillo  
Clerk of the Board



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Mayor Gavin Newsom