



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Resolution No. 19989

HEARING DATE SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

Project Name: Definition of Gross Floor Area
Case Number: 2017-004678PCA [Board File No. TBD]
Initiated by: Planning Commission
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RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT WOULD AMEND THE PLANNING CODE TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF GROSS FLOOR AREA TO DELETE THE REFERENCE TO ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, EXEMPT REQUIRED CAR-SHARE SPACES, REMOVE REDUNDANT OFF-STREET LOADING PROVISIONS, AND MODIFY PROVISIONS REGARDING ACCESSORY AND NON-ACCESSORY PARKING; ADOPTING FINDINGS, INCLUDING ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS, PLANNING CODE SECTION 302 FINDINGS, AND FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1.

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting to consider the proposed Ordinance on September 7, 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments would amend the Planning Code to make two substantive, but relatively minor amendments to the definition of Gross Floor Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments would make two clarifying, non-substantive amendments to the definition of Gross Floor Area; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Review has determined that the proposed amendments are not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) and 15378 because they do not result in a physical change in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of Department staff and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed Ordinance; and

MOVED, that the Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors **approve** the proposed ordinance.

FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

The Commission recommends adoption of the proposed ordinance because it will increase clarity and improve the organization and consistency of the Planning Code. A substantial portion of the proposed changes can be classified as “good government” measures meant to improve the clarity of the Planning Code. Such changes are meant to improve the ability of decision makers, Department staff, and the public to understand, interpret, and implement the requirements of the Code.

1. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Ordinance are consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

GENERAL PLAN PRIORITIES

The General Plan seeks ensure that the qualities that make San Francisco unique are preserved and enhanced while also serving as the embodiment of the community's vision for the future of San Francisco. As a whole, the General Plan's goals are to: create and maintain the economic, social, cultural, and esthetic values that establish the desirable quality and unique character of the city; improve the city as a place for healthful, safe, and satisfying living by providing adequate open spaces, community facilities and affordable housing of a high standard; ensuring commerce and industry are able to thrive; coordinating the varied patterns of land use with circulation routes and facilities that are required for the efficient movement of people and goods; and reflecting the growth and development of the city with the surrounding region.

The proposed Ordinance will serve the General Plan by amending sections of the Planning Code to be consistent, clear, and concise. These amendments will improve the quality of the Planning Code and thereby make it easier for the objectives and policies of the Code to be carried out.

HOUSING ELEMENT

OBJECTIVE 10

ENSURE A STREAMLINED, YET THOROUGH, AND TRANSPARENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

Policy 10.1

Create certainty in the development entitlement process, by providing clear community parameters for development and consistent application of these regulations.

The proposed Ordinance will bring more consistency to the Planning Code. The update to the definition of Gross Floor Area is intended to bring certainty to the development process by providing clear community parameters for development and consistent application of these regulations.

2. **Planning Code Section 101 Findings.** The proposed amendments to the Planning Code are consistent with the eight Priority Policies set forth in Section 101.1(b) of the Planning Code in that:

1. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced;

The proposed Ordinance would not have a negative effect on neighborhood serving retail uses and will not have a negative effect on opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of neighborhood-serving retail.

2. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods;

The proposed Ordinance would not have a negative effect on housing or neighborhood character.

3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced;

The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's supply of affordable housing.

4. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking;

The proposed Ordinance would not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking.

5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced;

The proposed Ordinance would not cause displacement of the industrial or service sectors due to office development, and future opportunities for resident employment or ownership in these sectors would not be impaired.

6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake;

The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on City's preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

7. That the landmarks and historic buildings be preserved;

The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's Landmarks and historic buildings.

8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from

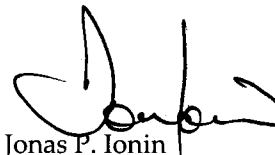
development;

The proposed Ordinance would not have an adverse effect on the City's parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas.

3. **Planning Code Section 302 Findings.** The Planning Commission finds from the facts presented that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require the proposed amendments to the Planning Code as set forth in Section 302.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission hereby recommends that the Board ADOPT the proposed Ordinance as described in this Resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting on September 7, 2017.



Jonas P. Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Hillis, Richards, Fong, Johnson, Koppel, Melgar, Moore

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: September 7, 2017