

1 [Planning Code - Exemption from Density Limits for Affordable and Unauthorized Units;  
2 Residential Care Facilities]

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to provide an exception from density limit**  
4 **calculations for all affordable units in projects not seeking and receiving a density**  
5 **bonus, permit the legalization of all unauthorized dwelling units notwithstanding a**  
6 **history of no-fault evictions, and principally permit residential care facilities for seven**  
7 **or more persons in all RH (Residential, House) zoning districts; affirming the Planning**  
8 **Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making**  
9 **findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of**  
10 **Planning Code, Section 101.1; and adopting findings of public necessity, convenience,**  
11 **and general welfare under Planning Code, Section 302.**

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

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

20 Section 1. Findings.

21 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
22 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
23 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
24 Supervisors in File No. 190757 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms  
25 this determination.

1 (b) On December 5, 2019, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 20584,  
2 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,  
3 with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The  
4 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of  
5 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 190757, and is incorporated herein by reference.

6 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that these Planning  
7 Code amendments will serve the public necessity, convenience, and general welfare for the  
8 reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 20584.

9  
10 Section 2. The Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 207, 207.3,  
11 and 209.1, to read as follows:

12 **SEC. 207. DWELLING UNIT DENSITY LIMITS.**

13 \* \* \* \*

14 (c) **Exceptions to Dwelling Unit Density Limits.** An exception to the calculations  
15 under this Section 207 shall be made in the following circumstances:

16 (1) **Affordable Units ~~in Projects with 20 Percent or More Affordable Units~~.** For  
17 projects that are not ~~located in any RH-1 or RH-2 zoning district, or are not~~ seeking and receiving  
18 a density bonus under the provisions of Planning Code Section 206.5 or 206.6, California  
19 Government Code Section 65915, where 20 percent or more of the Dwelling Units on-site are  
20 "Affordable Units," the on-site Affordable Units shall not count towards the calculation of  
21 dwelling unit density. This Planning Code Section 207(c)(1) does not provide exceptions to any  
22 other Planning Code requirements such as height or bulk. For purposes of this Section  
23 207(c)(1), "Affordable Units" shall be defined as meeting (A) the criteria of Section 406(b); (B)  
24 the requirements of Section 415 et seq. for on-site units; or (C) restricted units in a project  
25 using California Debt Limit Allocation Committee (CDLAC) tax-exempt bond financing and 4%

1 ~~percent~~ tax credits under the Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC). If a project sponsor  
2 proposes to provide "Affordable Units" that are not restricted by any other program, in order to  
3 receive the benefit of the additional density permitted under this ~~§~~ subsection (c)(1) or  
4 ~~§~~ subsection (c)(2), the project sponsor shall elect and the Planning Department and MOHCD  
5 shall be authorized to enforce, restricting the units as affordable under Planning Code Section  
6 415.6 ~~up to a maximum of 25 percent of the units in the principal project~~. The project sponsor shall  
7 make such election through the procedures described in Section 415.5(g) including submitting  
8 an Affidavit of Compliance indicating the project sponsor's election to pursue the benefits of  
9 ~~§~~ subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2) and committing to ~~up to 25 percent~~ on-site units restricted under  
10 Section 415.6 prior to approval by the Planning Commission or Planning Department staff. If a  
11 project sponsor obtains the exemption from the density calculation for Affordable Units  
12 provided in this subsection ~~(c)(1)~~, the exemption shall be recorded against the property. Any  
13 later request to decrease the number of Affordable Units shall require the project to go back to  
14 the Planning Commission or Planning Department, whichever entity approved the project as a  
15 whole.

16 (2) **Designated Child Care Units.** A Designated Child Care Unit that meets all the  
17 applicable standards of Planning Code Section 414A.6 shall not count towards the calculation of  
18 maximum density permitted on the site.

19 ~~(2) — **Affordable Units in RTO Districts.** In the RTO District, on-site Dwelling Units~~  
20 ~~that are "Affordable Units," as defined in Subsection (a), shall not count toward density calculations or~~  
21 ~~be limited by lot area.~~

22 \* \* \* \*

23 (4) **Local Accessory Dwelling Unit Program: Accessory Dwelling Units**  
24 **in Multifamily Buildings; Accessory Dwelling Units in Single-Family Homes That Do Not**  
25 **Strictly Meet the Requirements in Subsection (c)(6).**

1 \* \* \* \*

2 (B) **Applicability.** This subsection (c)(4) shall apply to the construction  
3 of Accessory Dwelling Units on all lots located within the City and County of San Francisco in  
4 areas that allow ~~R~~Residential ~~U~~Use, except that construction of an Accessory Dwelling Unit is  
5 regulated by subsection (c)(6), and not this subsection (c)(4), if all of the following  
6 circumstances exist:

7 \* \* \* \*

8 (iii) the ADU is either attached to or will be constructed entirely  
9 within the “living area” (as defined in subsection (c)(6)(B)(iii)) or the buildable area of the  
10 proposed or existing primary dwelling, or constructed within the built envelope of an existing  
11 and authorized auxiliary structure on the same lot; provided, however, that (A) when a stand-  
12 alone garage, storage structure, or other auxiliary structure is being converted to an ADU, an  
13 expansion to the envelope is allowed to add dormers even if the stand-alone garage, storage  
14 structure, or other auxiliary structure is in the required rear yard and (B) on a ~~e~~Corner ~~l~~Lot or  
15 *through lot*, a legal stand-alone nonconforming garage, storage structure, or other auxiliary  
16 structure may be expanded within its existing footprint by up to one additional story in order to  
17 create a consistent street wall and improve the continuity of buildings on the block.

18 \* \* \* \*

19 (H) **Regulatory Agreements.** A Regulatory Agreement required by  
20 subsection (c)(4)(G) as a condition of approval of an Accessory Dwelling Unit shall contain the  
21 following:

22 (i) a statement that the ADU(s) are not subject to the Costa-  
23 Hawkins Rental Housing Act (California Civil Code Section 1954.50 *et seq.*) because, under  
24 Section 1954.52(b), the owner has entered into this agreement with the City in consideration  
25 for a complete or partial waiver of the density limits, and/or bicycle parking, rear yard,

1 exposure, or open space standards of this Code or other direct financial contribution or other  
2 form of assistance specified in California Government Code Sections 65915 et seq.  
3 (“Agreement”); and

4 \* \* \* \*

5 (6) **State Mandated Accessory Dwelling Unit Program: Accessory**  
6 **Dwelling Units in Existing or Proposed Single-Family Homes or in a Detached Auxiliary**  
7 **Structure on the Same Lot.**

8 \* \* \* \*

9 (B) **Lots Zoned for Single-Family or Multifamily Use and**  
10 **Containing an Existing Single-Family Home; Controls on Construction.** An Accessory  
11 Dwelling Unit located on a lot that is zoned for single-family or multifamily use and contains an  
12 existing or proposed single-family dwelling and constructed pursuant to this subsection (c)(6)  
13 shall meet all of the following:

14 \* \* \* \*

15 (ix) ~~No parking is required for the ADU. If existing parking is~~  
16 ~~demolished in order to construct the ADU, only the parking space required by this Code for the existing~~  
17 ~~single family home must be replaced. If replacement parking is required, it may be located in any~~  
18 ~~configuration on the lot including but not limited to covered, uncovered, or tandem space or by the use~~  
19 ~~of mechanical automobile parking lifts.~~

20 (x) When a stand-alone garage, storage structure, or other  
21 auxiliary structure is being converted to an ADU, an expansion to the envelope is allowed to  
22 add dormers even if the stand-alone garage, storage structure, or other auxiliary structure is in  
23 the required rear yard.

24 (xi) On a Corner Lot or through lot, a legal stand-alone  
25 nonconforming garage, storage structure, or other auxiliary structure may be expanded within

1 its existing footprint by up to one additional story in order to create a consistent street wall and  
2 improve the continuity of buildings on the block.

3 \* \* \* \*

4 ~~(7) A Designated Child Care Unit that meets all the applicable standards of Planning~~  
5 ~~Code Section 414A.6 shall not count towards the calculation of maximum density permitted on the site.~~

6 **SEC. 207.3. AUTHORIZATION OF DWELLING UNITS CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT A**  
7 **PERMIT IN AN EXISTING BUILDING ZONED FOR RESIDENTIAL USE.**

8 Notwithstanding Section 207.2 or any other provision of this Code, certain dwelling  
9 units that were constructed without benefit of permit in an existing residential building or in an  
10 ancillary structure located on the same lot, defined for purposes of this Section 207.3 and in Section  
11 317(b) as “unauthorized units,” may be granted legal status subject to the conditions and  
12 procedures set forth below. ~~For purposes of this Section 207.3, a dwelling unit shall not include~~  
13 ~~single room occupancy units.~~

14 (a) **Purpose and Findings.**

15 \* \* \* \*

16 (4) Providing a mechanism to grant legal status to ~~an~~ illegally constructed  
17 dwelling units in an existing building zoned for ~~R~~Residential ~~U~~se furthers several public policy  
18 objectives. By encouraging the legalization of these unauthorized units, the City can add  
19 legitimate units to the City's supply of affordable housing, ensure that these units are safe and  
20 habitable, and properly include these units when calculating the City's existing housing  
21 supply.

22 (b) **Scope.** ~~(1) Except as provided in subsection (2) below, t~~This Section 207.3 shall  
23 apply to an existing building or an ancillary structure on the same lot, that is located in a  
24 district where residential use is principally permitted, and that has one or more unauthorized  
25 dwelling units that were constructed prior to January 1, 2013 without benefit of permit and

1 used as residential space. ~~One of t~~The unauthorized *dwelling* units on the lot that meet this  
2 threshold requirement and the requirements of this Section 207.3 may be granted legal status  
3 under this Section 207.3, regardless of the density limits of the zoning district.

4 (2) — ~~**No-fault Eviction.** The Department shall not approve an application for~~  
5 ~~legalization if any tenant has been evicted from the unit pursuant to Administrative Code Sections~~  
6 ~~37.9(a)(9) through (a)(14) where the tenant was served with the notice of eviction after March 13, 2014~~  
7 ~~if the notice was served within ten (10) years prior to filing the application for legalization.~~  
8 ~~Additionally, the Department shall not approve an application for legalization of the unit if any tenant~~  
9 ~~has been evicted pursuant to Administrative Code Section 37.9(a)(8) where the tenant was served with~~  
10 ~~a notice of eviction after March 13, 2014 if the notice was served within five (5) years prior to filing the~~  
11 ~~application for legalization. The Department shall verify with the Rent Board that no no-fault eviction~~  
12 ~~had been filed. This subsection (b)(2) shall not apply if the tenant was evicted under Administrative~~  
13 ~~Code Section 37.9(a)(11) and the applicant(s) have either: (A) certified that the original tenant~~  
14 ~~reoccupied the unit after the temporary eviction or (B) submitted to the Department a declaration from~~  
15 ~~the property owner or the tenant certifying that the property owner or the Rent Board has notified the~~  
16 ~~tenant of the tenant's right to reoccupy the unit after the temporary eviction and the tenant chose not to~~  
17 ~~reoccupy it.~~

18 (c) **Notices of Violation.** If the Director or Zoning Administrator has issued a notice  
19 of violation for ~~the an~~ unauthorized unit for which legalization is being sought and all violations  
20 would be corrected by legalization of the unit, the Director or Zoning Administrator shall:

21 \* \* \* \*

22 (d) **Legalization Application.** The Department shall approve an application to  
23 legalize an existing unauthorized dwelling unit if the unit complies with Planning Code  
24 requirements as specified in subsection (e) below and with other City codes as specified in  
25 subsection (f) below; ~~if the Rent Board verifies that no no-fault eviction was filed pursuant to~~

1 ~~subsection (b)(2) above~~, and if the permit application is completed at and plans approved by the  
2 Department of Building Inspection. In compliance with the State's ~~Second~~ Accessory Dwelling  
3 Unit Law (California Government Code 65852.2), the Department shall ~~exercise ministerial~~  
4 ~~approval of~~ approve the application ministerially if the ~~dwelling unauthorized~~ unit is ~~in a single-~~  
5 ~~family home and thus within the scope of the State's Second Unit Law~~ approved as an Accessory  
6 Dwelling Unit pursuant to Section 206(c)(6) of this Code.

7 (e) **Compliance with Planning Code Requirements; Exceptions.**

8 (1) A ~~d~~Dwelling ~~#~~Unit~~s~~ authorized under this Section 207.3 must satisfy all  
9 applicable requirements of this Code except for the rear yard requirements set forth in Section  
10 134, the usable open space requirements set forth in Section 135, and the light and air  
11 requirements set forth in Section 140, and except as otherwise provided in this Section 207.3.

12 (2) ~~One such d~~Dwelling ~~#~~Unit~~s~~ on the lot ~~is~~ are allowed to exceed the permitted  
13 density authorized for that zoning district provided that a ~~r~~Residential ~~#~~Use is a ~~p~~Principally  
14 ~~p~~Permitted Use in that zoning district. Authorization of ~~an~~ the additional unit~~s~~ over the density  
15 limits will not change the official zoning classification of the lot; provided, however, that the  
16 additional ~~d~~Dwelling ~~#~~Unit~~s~~ shall count towards the density limits if the parcel is under its  
17 density limit capacity.

18 (3) ~~Off-street parking requirements may be reduced to the extent necessary to retain~~  
19 ~~dwelling units authorized under this Section 207.3, without requiring compliance with Sections 305,~~  
20 ~~161(j) or 307(g) or (i) of this Code.~~

21 (f) **Compliance With Other City Codes.** A ~~d~~Dwelling ~~#~~Unit authorized under this  
22 Section 207.3 must meet all applicable provisions of other City codes other than the  
23 provisions of the Planning Code cited in subsection (e). Any Code equivalencies authorized  
24 under the Building Code, Electrical Code, Plumbing Code, Mechanical Code, Fire Code, or  
25 other applicable Code shall be considered by the relevant agency.



1	* * * *						
2	<b>NON-RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND USES</b>						
3	* * * *						
4	<b>Institutional Use Category</b>						
5	Institutional Uses*	§ 102	NP	NP	NP	NP	NP
6	****	****	****	****	****	****	****
7	Residential Care Facility	§ 102	P <del>(3)</del>	P <del>(3)</del>	P <del>(3)</del>	P <del>(3)</del>	P
8	****	****	****	****	****	****	****

\* Not listed below.

(3) ~~[Note deleted] C required for seven or more persons.~~

\* \* \* \*

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

Section 4. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment

1 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under  
2 the official title of the ordinance.

3

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

6 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
7 JUDITH A. BOYAJIAN  
8 Deputy City Attorney

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