

1 [Administrative Code - Termination of Commercial Tenancies Due to COVID-19]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to clarify the rights of landlords and**  
4 **“Tier 1” commercial tenants (certain commercial tenants that employ fewer than ten**  
5 **full-time equivalent employees as of November 1, 2020) following the tenant’s**  
6 **termination of the lease due to COVID-19.**

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

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

15 Section 1. Chapter 37C of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising  
16 Sections 37C.1 and 37C.3, to read as follows:

17 **SEC. 37C.1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.**

18 (a) The City and County of San Francisco is facing an unprecedented public health  
19 and economic crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Mayor declared a state of  
20 emergency on February 25, 2020, and on March 16, 2020, the Governor issued Executive  
21 Order N-28-20 (E.O. N-28-20), which found that the COVID-19 pandemic is having severe  
22 impacts throughout the State, and which recognized that local jurisdictions must take  
23 measures based on their particular needs to prevent displacements and to protect public  
24 health and mitigate the economic effects of the pandemic. Paragraph 2 of E.O. N-28-20  
25 initially allowed local governments to enact measures to protect commercial tenants impacted  
by COVID-19 from being evicted due to non-payment through May 31, 2020. Through a series

1 of follow-up orders (Executive Orders N-66-20, N-70-20, N-80-20, and most recently Executive  
2 Order ~~N-80-20~~N-03-21), the Governor has ordered that the protections of paragraph 2 of E.O.  
3 N-28-20 will remain in effect through ~~March 31~~June 30, 2021, unless the Governor orders  
4 otherwise.

5 \* \* \* \*

6 (e) The protections of this Chapter 37C shall only apply to rent payments that came  
7 due between March 16, 2020 and ~~March 31~~June 30, 2021, inclusive (or if the Governor extends  
8 the effective period of paragraph 2 of E.O. N-28-20 past ~~March 31~~June 30, 2021, through the  
9 date of extension).

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11 **SEC. 37C.3. TEMPORARY EVICTION PROTECTIONS.**

12 \* \* \* \*

13 (c) If a Tier 1 Covered Commercial Tenant that is unable to pay the rent due to a  
14 Financial Impact Related to COVID-19 and its landlord fail to reach a mutually satisfactory  
15 agreement for repayment, the Tier 1 Covered Commercial Tenant shall also have the option  
16 to terminate its lease and cease paying any further rent upon ~~thirty (30)~~ days' written notice to the  
17 landlord, notwithstanding any lease term to the contrary. Termination shall not affect whether  
18 the tenant is responsible for any unpaid rent that originally came due prior to the effective date  
19 of termination. In addition, if the tenant has terminated during the Moratorium Period, then the  
20 tenant shall not be liable for any penalties arising out of the termination, notwithstanding any  
21 lease term to the contrary. Nothing in this subsection (c) is intended to or shall affect any rights or  
22 remedies a landlord may have under state law with respect to any actual damages that may result  
23 from the termination of a the lease under this subsection, subject to any legal or equitable defenses the  
24 tenant may have with respect to such claims.

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Section 2. 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 3. 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 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under the official title of the ordinance.

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1 Section 4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word  
2 of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held to be  
3 invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision  
4 shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of the ordinance. The  
5 Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each and  
6 every section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, and word not declared invalid or  
7 unconstitutional without regard to whether any other portion of this ordinance or application  
8 thereof would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

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10 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
11 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

12 By: /s/  
13 MANU PRADHAN  
14 Deputy City Attorney  
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