

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## Notice of Hearing on Application For Zoning Variance

OFFICE OF CITY PLANNING - Room 400  
1650 Mission Street

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Session Begins at 3:00 P.M.

### Public Hearing

Corey A. Teague, Zoning Administrator

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Notice is hereby given to the general public and to owners of the subject property and other property within 300 feet that an application for variance under the Planning Code as described below has been filed with the Zoning Administrator.

Any remaining questions concerning this application review process may be answered by the Planning Information Center at (415) 558-6377.

**Variance Calendars** and **Audio Recording of the Hearing** are available on the Internet at <http://www.sfplanning.org>

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### **Accessible Meeting Policy**

Hearings are held at **City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 408, Fourth Floor**, San Francisco, CA 94103. The closest accessible BART Station is the Civic Center Station located at the intersection of Market, Hyde and Grove Streets. Accessible curb side parking has been designated at points along McAllister Street. Accessible MUNI Lines serving City Hall are the 42 Downtown Loop, 9 San Bruno and 71 Haight/Noriega and the F Line. Accessible MUNI Metro Lines are the J, K, L, M, N and T. For more information regarding MUNI accessible services, call **311 within San Francisco, (415) 701-2311 outside Bay Area, or TTY (415) 701-2323**. American Sign Language interpreters and/or a sound enhancement system will be available upon request by contacting **Lulu Hwang at (415) 558-6318** at least 72 hours prior to a hearing. Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illnesses, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities should call our accessibility **hotline at (415) 554-8925** to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist the City's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

### **Cell Phone and/or Sound-Producing Electronic Devices Usage at Hearings**

Effective January 21, 2001, the Board of Supervisors amended the Sunshine Ordinance by adding the following provision: The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices.

### **Know Your Rights under the Sunshine Ordinance**

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

Personal information that is provided in communications to the Planning Department is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted.

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Planning Department and its commissions. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Department regarding projects or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Department does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Department and its commissions may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.

For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact The Administrator by mail at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, by phone at (415) 554-7724, by fax at (415) 554-7854 or by E-mail at [sotf@sfgov.org](mailto:sotf@sfgov.org).

**Attention:** *Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Administration Code 16.520 - 16.534] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite #220, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 554-9510, fax (415) 703-0121 and web site <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/ethics/>.*

**ENGLISH:**

**For language assistance or to request an assistive device for a hearing, please call 415-558-6309. Please make requests at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing.**

**SPANISH:**

Si desea asistir a la audiencia, y quisiera obtener información en Español o solicitar un aparato para asistencia auditiva, llame al 415-558-6309. Por favor llame por lo menos 48 horas de anticipación a la audiencia.

**CHINESE:**

歷史保護委員會議程。聽證會上如需要語言協助或要求輔助設備，請致電415-558-6309。請在聽證會舉行之前的至少48個小時提出要求。

**TAGALOG:**

Para sa tulong sa lengguwahe o para humiling ng Pantulong na Kagamitan para sa Pagdinig (headset), mangyari lamang na tumawag sa 415-558-6309. Mangyaring tumawag nang maaga (kung maaari ay 48 oras) bago sa araw ng Pagdinig.

**RUSSIAN:**

За помощью переводчика или за вспомогательным слуховым устройством на время слушаний обращайтесь по номеру 415-558-6309. Запросы должны делаться минимум за 48 часов до начала слушания.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
NOTICE OF HEARING ON  
APPLICATION FOR ZONING VARIANCE**

Notice is hereby given to the general public and to owners of the subject property and other property within 300 feet that an application for variance under the Planning Code as described below has been filed with the Zoning Administrator and will be considered at a PUBLIC HEARING to be held on the date, time, and place listed on the first page of this Calendar:

**A. REGULAR CALENDAR**

1. **2016-013312VAR** **(NICHOLAS FOSTER)**  
**542-550 HOWARD STREET**, Lots 016, 134, 135 & 138 in Assessor's Block 3721 in the C-3-O(SD)/P (Downtown-Office Special Development) / 750S2/450-S Downtown & Transit Center District Plan and a 450-S Height and Bulk District.

**GROUND FLOOR FRONTAGE, OFF-STREET FREIGHT LOADING AREA, CURB CUT, AND FAÇADE OPENING VARIANCES SOUGHT:** The Project proposes to construct a new 61-story mixed-use building with a total of approximately 957,000 gross square feet of floor area, including 165 dwelling units, 189 hotel rooms, and approximately 276,000 square feet of office use.

PLANNING CODE SECTION 145.1(b)(2)(C) requires the subject property to limit how much ground floor frontage is devoted to lobby space to a total of 25%, or 40 feet, whichever is greater. The proposed total lobby space frontage exceeds what is permitted by the Code. Therefore, the Project requires a Variance.

PLANNING CODE SECTION 155(d) requires all areas devoted to off-street freight loading to be fully enclosed. The Project includes a freight loading area that, while screened, is not fully enclosed. Therefore, the Project requires a Variance.

PLANNING CODE SECTION 155(r)(2)(V) prohibits new curb cuts along Natoma Street from 300 feet westerly of First Street, between First and Second Streets. The Project includes a curb cut along Natoma Street that is within this curb prohibited area. Therefore, the Project requires a Variance.

PLANNING CODE SECTION 155(s)(4)(A) limits the width of a single façade opening to access off-street parking and loading to no more than 27 feet wide. The Project includes two façade openings accessing off-street parking and loading that exceed the width permitted by Code. Therefore, the Project requires a Variance.

PLANNING CODE SECTION 155.1(b)(1) requires all Class 1 bicycle parking to be located on the ground floor, within the off-street parking area, or within one floor above or below grade. The Project includes Class 1 bicycle parking

**ARCHITECTURAL PLANS:** The site plan and elevations of the proposed project are available on the Planning Department's website at:  
<http://notice.sfplanning.org/2016-013312VAR.pdf>.

## C. PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, members of the public may address the Zoning Administrator on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Zoning Administrator except agenda items. With respect to agenda items, your opportunity to address the Zoning Administrator will be afforded when the item is reached in the meeting. Each member of the public may address the Zoning Administrator for up to three minutes.

The Zoning Administrator will not take action on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, including those items raised at public comment. In response to public comment, the Zoning Administrator may:

- (1) respond to statements made or questions posed by members of the public; or
- (2) request staff to report back on a matter at a subsequent meeting; or
- (3) direct staff to place the item on a future agenda.(Government Code Section 54954.2(a))

# ADJOURNMENT

## Hearing Procedures

The **Zoning Administrator** typically holds Variance Hearings on the **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.**, at the **San Francisco City Hall, Room 408**. City Hall is located at One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102. Hearings are open to the public.

At the hearing, the **Project Sponsor** (Variance Applicant) will be given 5 minutes to present their case, including relevant testimony and evidence. The hearing room is equipped with a projector that can display photographs, architectural plans or other drawings and images. **Members of the public** will be given 3 minutes each to speak on the item. If a member of the public speaks against an item, the Project Sponsor will be given a 3 minute **rebuttal**.

Persons attending a hearing may comment on any scheduled item. When speaking, please note that a **timer** is displayed for each speaker and indicates how much time remains. Speakers will hear a loud sound indicating that the speaker's opportunity to address the Zoning Administrator has ended.

Please note that some items may appear on the **Consent Calendar**. These items are considered routine and may be granted by the Zoning Administrator. There is no separate discussion of consent items unless the Zoning Administrator, member of the public or staff so requests, in which event the matter is removed from the Consent Calendar and will be moved to the Regular Calendar in the Agenda.

In addition, the Zoning Administrator may consider a request for **continuance** to a later date. He may choose to continue the item to the date proposed, to continue the item to another date, or to hear the item on this calendar.

After all of the testimonies are submitted, the Zoning Administrator will consider the evidence, deliberate, and either make a decision, take the matter under advisement, or continue the matter in order for additional information to be presented.

Each hearing ends with **general public comment**, at which time members of the public may address the Zoning Administrator for up to 3 minutes on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Zoning Administrator, except agenda items. With respect to Agenda items, your opportunity to address the Zoning Administrator will be afforded when the item is reached during the meeting.

All Agenda of Variance Hearings and its Audio Recording (from June 2010 to present) are available on our website for access.

### **Sound-Producing Devices Prohibited**

The ringing of and use of mobile phones and other sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Zoning Administrator may order the removal of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a mobile phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices (*67A.1 Sunshine Ordinance: Prohibiting the use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices at and during public meetings*).

### **Decision Letter and Appeal Process**

No decision is final until a **Variance Decision Letter** is issued. Due to current backlogs, decision letters may take **up to 2 months** to complete from the date of the hearing. The Zoning Administrator's action to grant or deny a variance application may be appealed to the Board of Appeals within **10 days** of the date of the Decision Letter. For more information on how to file an appeal, please contact the **Board of Appeals** in person at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 304, call **(415) 575-6880**, or visit the [San Francisco Board of Appeals](#) website.

### **Protest of Fee or Exaction**

You may protest any fee or exaction subject to Government Code Section 66000 imposed as a condition of approval in accordance with Government Code Section 66020. The protest must satisfy the requirements of Government Code Section 66020(a) and must be filed within 90 days of the date of the first approval or conditional approval of the development referencing the challenged fee or exaction. For purposes of Government Code Section 66020, the date of imposition of the fee shall be the date of the earliest discretionary approval by the City of the subject development.

The Zoning Administrator's approval or conditional approval of the development subject to the challenged fee or exaction as expressed in its Motion, Resolution, or Discretionary Review Action or the Zoning Administrator's Variance Decision Letter will serve as Notice that the 90-day protest period under Government Code Section 66020 has begun.

### **Challenges**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge, in court, (1) the adoption or amendment of a general plan, (2) the adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance, (3) the adoption or amendment of any regulation attached to a specific plan, (4) the adoption, amendment or modification of a development agreement, or (5) the approval of a variance, conditional-use authorization, or any permit, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing

described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Zoning Administrator or Planning Commission, at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**CEQA Appeal Rights under Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code**

If the Zoning Administrator's or Commission's action on a project constitutes the Approval Action for that project (as defined in S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31, as amended, Board of Supervisors Ordinance Number 161-13), then the CEQA determination prepared in support of that Approval Action is thereafter subject to appeal within the time frame specified in S.F. Administrative Code Section 31.16. This appeal is separate from and in addition to an appeal of an action on a project. Typically, an appeal must be filed within 30 calendar days of the Approval Action for a project that has received an exemption or negative declaration pursuant to CEQA. For information on filing an appeal under Chapter 31, contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102, or call (415) 554-5184. If the Department's Environmental Review Officer has deemed a project to be exempt from further environmental review, an exemption determination has been prepared and can be obtained on-line at <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=3447>. Under CEQA, in a later court challenge, a litigant may be limited to raising only those issues previously raised at a hearing on the project or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Planning Department or other City board, commission or department at, or prior to, such hearing, or as part of the appeal hearing process on the CEQA decision.

**Privacy Policy**

SF Planning is committed to protecting the privacy rights of individuals and security measures are in place to protect personally identifiable information (PII), i.e. social security numbers, driver's license numbers, bank accounts. Members of the public are not required to provide PII to the Commission or Department, as all written submittals and oral communications become part of the public record, which can be made available to the public for review and/or viewable on Department websites. Members of the public submitting materials containing PII are responsible for redacting said sensitive information prior to submittal of documents to Planning.