
Mayor's Disability Council



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RESOLUTION # 2013-01

San Francisco Mayor's Disability Council Resolution Recommending Guiding Principles for the Construction, Maintenance and Financing of Permanently Affordable and Accessible Housing for People with Disabilities & Seniors

WHEREAS available, affordable and accessible housing has been a prominent issue that affects the disability community in the City of San Francisco; and,

WHEREAS the statewide funding for affordable and accessible housing has severely diminished due to the recent dissolution of redevelopment agencies; and,

WHEREAS providing housing in the community for people with disabilities is an urgent need and is a mandated civil right as affirmed by the United States Supreme Court Olmstead Decision of 1999; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor's Disability Council has received public testimony from community members with disabilities and from their advocates, who shared their frustrations and disappointment with the state of existing housing and the many challenges they face acquiring affordable and accessible housing; now, therefore be it,

RESOLVED that additional funding sources for affordable and accessible housing be explored. In particular, the Mayor's Disability Council urges the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to collaborate with the California Department of Housing and Community Development, other federal funding sources and affordable housing sponsors to access additional resources for the construction of new and renovation of existing accessible and affordable housing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor's Disability Council urges the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to require, wherever possible, affordable housing sponsors to set "minimum income requirements" as low as feasible for continued financial health of the building and to evaluate the possibility of layering multiple subsidies to allow extremely low-income individuals to qualify; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that permanently affordable and accessible housing be dispersed throughout the City to the maximum extent possible while ensuring that affordable and accessible housing is created cost-efficiently so that residents remain in their geographic communities with satellite services in their neighborhoods; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the construction of new permanently affordable housing as well as the acquisition and rehabilitation of existing buildings that maximizes accessibility, including reliably working elevators should be a City priority; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that opportunities to construct new permanently affordable efficiency studios be explored as well as renovating existing Single Room Occupancy (SRO) buildings; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that stricter enforcement procedures be developed for the maintenance of existing accessible features, including elevators in SROs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City pursue incentives or other creative financial mechanisms to help property owners obtain funding to maintain existing accessible features in SROs, especially those that have contracts with the City and County of San Francisco; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that new low-income housing be constructed with design features that promote and enhance the mental health of tenants, such as the use of natural light, full spectrum lighting fixtures, cheerful color schemes and community spaces; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a percentage, or proportion, of newly constructed accessible housing be allocated for people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities (MCS) and are designated as "smoke free" and constructed with environmentally safe materials, such as low VOC paints and carpet adhesives; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City pursue the development and maintenance of a single accessible and affordable housing portal where affordable housing providers

must report their vacancies and where people with diverse needs, abilities, and backgrounds can access information in order to find appropriate housing opportunities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the MDC urges the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development to create a community input mechanism wherein all stakeholders, including disability and senior advocates, are involved in policy discussions pertaining to the permanent affordability of accessible housing in the City.

November 15, 2013 Mayor's Disability Council – ADOPTED

Ayes: 8 - Chip Supanich, Idell Wilson, Tatiana Kostanian, Star Lara, Denise Senhaux, Harriet C. Wong, Roland Wong, and Derek Zarda.

Endorsed by: Long-Term Care Coordinating Council

HIV Health Services Planning Council