

ORDINANCE NO.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 25-2 OF THE CITY CODE
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLAY DISTRICT.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Section 25-2-753 (*Local Uses Described*) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-2-753 DEFINITIONS; LOCAL USES DESCRIBED.

(A) In this division:

(1) OCCUPANT SPACE means space in a building used for a use other than a parking facility or a mechanical facility.

(2) STREET WALL AREA means the portion of an exterior wall of a building adjacent to a public street other than an alley and accessible from a pedestrian path that extends from the base of street level:

(a) to a maximum height of 65 feet; or

(b) for an accessory parking structure, to a maximum height of two stories.

(B) [(A)] In this division, a local use is a use that serves the public by providing goods or services in a manner readily accessible by pedestrians or the occupants of the structure in which the uses are located. Local uses include:

(1) administrative and business offices;

(2) art and craft studio;

(3) art gallery;

(4) art workshop;

(5) business and trade school;

(6) consumer convenience services;

(7) consumer repair services;

(8) counseling services;

- (9) custom manufacturing;
- (10) day care services (commercial, general, or limited);
- (11) financial services;
- (12) food preparation, in conjunction with food sales, general restaurant or limited restaurant accessory use;
- (13) food sales;
- (14) general retail sales (convenience or general);
- (15) guidance services;
- (16) indoor sports and recreation;
- (17) medical offices (under 5,000 square feet);
- (18) personal improvement services;
- (19) personal services;
- (20) pet services;
- (21) printing and publishing services;
- (22) professional office;
- (23) religious assembly;
- (24) restaurant (general or limited);
- (25) theater; and
- (26) a conditional use in the base zoning district that is approved by the land use commission.

(C) ~~(B)~~ A local use may not include a drive-through facility.

PART 2. Section 25-2-754 (*Use Regulations*) of the City Code is amended to amend Subsections (C) and (E) and add Subsections (G), (H), and (I) to read:

(C) This subsection applies to a multifamily residential use.

- (1) Each building must achieve at least a one star rating under the Austin Green Building program.

- (2) All ground floor dwelling units must be:
- (a) adaptable for use by a person with a disability; and
 - (b) accessible by a person with a disability from the on-site parking and common facility, if any.
- (3) At least 10 percent of the dwelling units must be accessible for a person with a mobility impairment.
- (4) At least two percent of the dwelling units must be accessible for a person with a hearing or visual disability.
- (5) Each multistory building must be served by an elevator, unless:
- (a) at least 25 percent of the site's dwelling units are located on the ground floor; or
 - (b) for a site with fewer than 20 dwelling units, at least five percent of the site's dwelling units are located on the ground floor.
- (6) A parking space must be leased separately from a dwelling unit.
- (E) This subsection applies to commercial off-street parking.
- (1) Commercial off-street parking on a surface lot is prohibited.
 - (2) Commercial off-street parking in a structure is:
 - (a) permitted in any base zoning district in the Guadalupe, Dobie, or inner west campus subdistrict; and
 - (b) prohibited in the outer west campus subdistrict.
 - (3) The street level portion of a commercial off-street parking structure that is accessible from a pedestrian path must contain local uses for a depth of at least 18 [18-1/2] feet. This requirement does not apply to a portion of the structure used for an entrance or exit.
- (G) On-site surface parking is prohibited, unless the director determines that:
- (1) the only building on the site has 6,000 or fewer square feet of gross floor area, and the building was constructed before September 13, 2004; and
 - (2) the parking area is screened from the street by an eight foot tall solid wall.

1 (H) This subsection prescribes requirements for the ground floor of a building,
2 including a parking garage.

3 (1) The ground floor must include occupant space along not less than 75
4 percent of the net length of street frontage. Net length of street frontage
5 is calculated by determining the cumulative length of the building at
6 ground level adjacent to each street other than an alley, and then
7 deducting the cumulative length of driveways, exit stairs, elevators, and
8 utility equipment space.

9 (2) For a site with frontage on more than one street, driveways, exit stairs
10 and elevators must be located on a street that runs north and south,
11 unless the director of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning
12 Department determines that those features cannot reasonably be located
13 along that street because of topographical conditions.

14 (3) The ground floor of a building may not be more than five feet higher or
15 lower than an adjacent public street sidewalk. This does not apply to the
16 ground floor adjacent to an alley.

17 (4) The minimum distance between the finished ground floor of the building
18 and the structural portion of the ceiling is 10 feet.

19 (5) The minimum depth of occupant space is 18 feet, measured from the
20 outside face of the front exterior wall to the outside face of the rear
21 interior wall.

22 (I) Off-site temporary construction staging is allowed within 500 feet of the
23 construction site. The director may allow a staging area to be located more
24 than 500 feet from the construction site if the director determines that a closer
25 staging area is not reasonably available and that the location does not
26 adversely affect public health or safety.

27 **PART 3.** Section 25-2-756(B) (*Height*) of the City Code is amended to read:

28 (B) This subsection applies in [~~H~~] the outer west campus subdistrict.[,]

29 (1) In this subsection, HISTORIC PROPERTY means property zoned historic
30 or listed in the City's historic building survey on (effective date of
31 ordinance).

32 (2) Except as provided in Paragraph (3), a structure with a multi-family
33 residential use may exceed by 15 feet the maximum height prescribed by
34 Appendix C (*University Neighborhood Overlay District Boundaries,*
35 *Subdistrict Boundaries, And Height Limits*) if:

1 (a) ~~[(1)]~~ the structure is located in an area for which the maximum height
2 is at least 50 feet; and

3 (b) ~~[(2)]~~ the multi-family residential use, for a period of not less than 15
4 years from the date a certificate of occupancy is issued, sets aside at
5 least:

6 (i) ~~[(a)]~~ 10 percent of the dwelling units on the site to house
7 persons whose household income is less than 80 percent of the
8 median income in the Austin statistical metropolitan area, as
9 determined by the director of the Austin Neighborhood
10 Housing and Community Development Office; and

11 (ii) ~~[(b)]~~ 10 percent of the dwelling units on the site to house
12 persons whose household income is less than 50 percent of the
13 median income in the Austin statistical metropolitan area, as
14 determined by the director of the Austin Neighborhood
15 Housing and Community Development Office.

16 (3) This paragraph applies to a building on a lot that has a common side lot
17 line with a historic property. The building may not exceed by more
18 than 20 feet the maximum building height prescribed for the base district
19 in which the historic property is located.

20 **PART 4.** Section 25-2-757 (*Setbacks*) of the City Code is amended to read:

21 **§ 25-2-757 SETBACKS; COMPATIBILITY.**

22 (A) There are no minimum front yard or street side yard setbacks, except[:

23 ~~(1)]~~ the minimum setbacks are 10 feet along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
24 between Rio Grande Street and San Gabriel Street.~~]; and~~

25 ~~(2) the minimum front yard setback is two feet along Graham Place, West~~
26 ~~24 1/2 Street, San Pedro Street, West 21st Street, and Hume Place.]~~

27 (B) The maximum front yard setback and the maximum street side yard setback
28 are 10 feet, except:

29 (1) the maximum setbacks are 15 feet along 24th Street or along Martin
30 Luther King, Jr. Blvd. between Rio Grande Street and San Gabriel
31 Street;

32 (2) the maximum setbacks are 45 feet for a public plaza or private common
33 open space;

(3) there are no maximum setbacks for a pedestrian entry court or an outdoor café; ~~and~~

(4) the director of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department may modify a maximum setback if the director determines that the modification is required to protect a historic structure or a tree designated as significant by the city arborist; and

(5) as otherwise provided in Subsection (E).

(C) There is no minimum or maximum interior side yard setback.

(D) There is no minimum or maximum rear yard setback.

(E) A building must be at least 12 feet from the front face of the curb of the adjacent street and at least 30 feet from the centerline of the adjacent street.

(F) This subsection applies to the portion of a site that is subject to compatibility standards, as described in Section 25-2-763(A)(1) (*Certain Regulations Inapplicable Or Superseded*) and Article 10 (*Compatibility Standards*). A building or a solid masonry wall that is at least six feet high is required between a public or common open space and the property that triggers the compatibility standards.

PART 5. Section 25-2-758 (*Building Stepbacks And Building Envelope Restriction*) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-2-758 BUILDING WALL HEIGHT, STEPBACKS, AND ~~[BUILDING]~~ ENVELOPE ~~[RESTRICTION]~~.

(A) An exterior building wall that faces a street must be at least 24 feet high.

(B) ~~[(A)]~~ Except as provided in Subsection (C) ~~[(B)]~~:

(1) if an exterior wall of a building is adjacent to a street other than an alley, at a height of 65 ~~[60]~~ feet, the upper portion of the wall must be set back from the property line ~~[lower portion of the wall]~~ by a distance of at least 12 feet; and

(2) if the north side of a building is adjacent to a street other than an alley and is greater than 65 ~~[60]~~ feet in height, the upper portion of the north side of the building must be set back within a building envelope that is formed by a plane that extends from the top of the lower portion of the north side exterior wall toward the building at an angle of 62 degrees above horizontal.

1 ~~(C) [(B) If a building facade abuts street frontage for a distance of at least 280~~
2 ~~feet,] Subsection (B) [(A)] does not apply to[~~

3 ~~(4)] up to 15 percent of the length of a building frontage, if that portion of~~
4 ~~the building frontage is used for an elevator or stairway. [facade that~~
5 ~~faces east, south, or west; or~~

6 ~~(2) 20 percent of the length of a building facade that faces north.]~~

7 (D) A parapet may not extend more than five feet above the 65 foot stepback
8 height described in Subsection (B) or more than five feet above the total
9 building height.

10 **PART 6.** Section 25-2-759 (*Street Wall Areas Adjacent To Occupant Space*) of the City
11 Code is amended to read:

12 **§ 25-2-759 STREET WALL AREA [~~AREAS ADJACENT TO~~] OCCUPANT**
13 **SPACE.**

14 ~~[(A) In this section:~~

15 ~~(1) OCCUPANT SPACE means space in a building used for a use other~~
16 ~~than a parking facility or a mechanical facility.~~

17 ~~(2) STREET WALL AREA means the portion of an exterior wall of a~~
18 ~~building adjacent to a public street other than an alley and accessible~~
19 ~~from a pedestrian path that extends from the base of street level:~~

20 ~~(a) to a maximum height of 60 feet; or~~

21 ~~(b) for an accessory parking structure, to a maximum height of two~~
22 ~~stories.]~~

23 (A) [(B)] At least 42 percent of the street wall area of a building must contain [be
24 adjacent to] occupant space.

25 (B) [(C)] If a building has street wall areas on more than one street, at least 70 [29]
26 percent of the [total street wall area must be adjacent to] required occupant
27 space must be on a street that runs east and west.

28 (C) [(D)] This section does not apply to a commercial off-street parking structure.

29 **PART 7.** Section 25-2-760 (*Streetscape Improvements*) of the City Code is amended to
30 read:

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(1) A transformer room or utility vault must be adjacent to and accessible from the alley.

(2) A pump room, sprinkler room, or other utility or mechanical room must be adjacent to and accessible from the alley unless the Fire Chief determines that placing the room in another location is required because of a fire safety issue.

PART 9. Section 25-2-762 (*Site Access*) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-2-762 SITE ACCESS.

(A) Vehicular access to [from] a site from [to] a public street that runs east and west is limited to one [two] curb cut for each 140 feet of street frontage [cuts].

(B) Vehicular access to a site from a public street that runs north and south is limited to two curb cuts [20th Street, 21st Street, 22nd Street, 23rd Street, 25th Street, 26th Street, 27th Street, or 28th Street between Guadalupe Street and Pearl Street is prohibited if the site has frontage on another street or alley].

(C) Vehicular access to a corner lot must be from a public street or alley that runs north and south.

(D) ~~[(C)]~~ A site with access to an alley must use the alley or a parking structure for service and delivery access.

(E) ~~[(D)]~~ A site that does not have access to an alley must provide a service and delivery area that is at least 30 feet deep, measured from the front setback line or side setback line, as applicable.

(F) A driveway turn radius may not exceed 15 feet unless the Fire Chief determines that a larger radius is required because of a fire safety issue.

(G) ~~[(E)]~~ The director of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department may waive or modify a requirement of this section if the director determines that the waiver or modification is necessary for adequate traffic circulation or public safety.

PART 10. Section 25-2-764 (*Design Guidelines*) of the City Code is amended to read:

§ 25-2-764 DESIGN GUIDELINES.

(A) A site plan must ~~[substantially]~~ comply with the design guidelines prescribed by administrative rule. An applicant shall file with the site plan drawings of

1 all building elevations and streetscapes [~~a building elevation drawing~~] that
2 demonstrates substantial compliance with the design guidelines.

3 (B) The director of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning [~~Watershed Protection~~
4 ~~and Development Review~~] Department shall determine whether a site plan
5 [~~substantially~~] complies with the design guidelines.

6 (C) The director of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning [~~Watershed Protection~~
7 ~~and Development Review~~] Department may waive a provision of the design
8 guidelines if the director determines that the provision is unreasonable or
9 impractical as applied to the site plan and that, with the waiver, the site plan
10 will still substantially comply with the design guidelines. A waiver under this
11 subsection must be the minimum departure from the provision necessary to
12 avoid an unreasonable or impractical result.

13 (D) An interested party may appeal to the land use commission:

14 (1) a determination by the director of the Neighborhood Planning and
15 Zoning [~~Watershed Protection and Development Review~~] Department
16 that a site plan substantially complies with the design guidelines; or

17 (2) a decision by the director of the Neighborhood Planning and Zoning
18 [~~Watershed Protection and Development Review~~] Department granting
19 or denying a waiver under Subsection (C).

20 **PART 11.** Chapter 25-2, Appendix C (*University Neighborhood Overlay District*
21 *Boundaries, Subdistrict Boundaries, and Height Limits*) of the City Code is amended to
22 delete the “University Neighborhood Overlay Height Limits” map and replace it with the
23 following map:

University Neighborhood Overlay Height Districts



