File No. 160100

Ordinance No. 55-16

[Administrative Code - No-Fault Eviction Protections During School Year]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to prevent certain no-fault evictions (owner move-in, condominium conversion, removal of rental unit, capital improvement, and substantial rehabilitation) during the school year if a child under 18 or a person who works at a school in San Francisco resides in the rental unit, is a tenant or has a custodial or family relationship with a tenant, and the tenant has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, provided, however, that this ordinance would not restrict the timing of evictions performed in connection with mandatory seismic retrofits pursuant to Building Code, Chapter 34B, and Administrative Code, Chapter 65A; and to remove existing exceptions for owners that apply to owner move-in evictions during the school year.

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

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

Section 1. Findings.

(a) The frequency of no-fault evictions in San Francisco, combined with the steep rise in market rents, has displaced many lower and middle income households from their homes. Many of these households have experienced considerable dislocation as a result, and have found upon eviction that they can no longer afford to remain in the City.
(b) No-fault evictions occur year-round, but those occurring during the school year are of particular concern due to the adverse effect on children. Studies overwhelmingly demonstrate that moving homes in the middle of the school year can be harmful for children. For example, a 2009 Legislative Analyst Report previously submitted to the Board of Supervisors indicates that residential instability likely has a negative effect on a child's academic performance, social relationships, and mental health (File No. 090835). Likewise, a 2015 study from New York University, titled "Moving Matters: The Causal Effect of Moving Schools on Student Performance," found that mid-year moves are more likely to disrupt children's peer networks and interfere with the learning process.

(c) The impact of no-fault evictions during the school year on school staff, both teachers and others, also raises serious concern. School staff tend to be especially vulnerable to displacement due to salary limitations that can make it difficult to quickly or easily locate replacement housing, and the eviction of school staff during the school year can cause significant harm. Children need strong mentoring relationships to succeed and often turn to school staff, particularly when they cannot find stability in their homes or in their communities. There is a broad consensus that academic performance suffers when teachers leave or are repeatedly absent during the school year. And the loss of school staff other than teachers is also harmful, not only because non-teaching staff support teachers in the classroom, but also because the loss of non-teaching staff results in teachers having to devote more time and energy to non-teaching duties. Thus, mid-year evictions of school staff disrupt relationships that are important to children, interfere with the learning process, and burden our schools.

(d) For the foregoing reasons, the Board of Supervisors finds that there is a strong public interest in reducing the number of evictions during the school year of families with
children, and of teachers and other school staff. Accordingly, this ordinance will serve the public interest by regulating the timing of certain no-fault evictions.

Section 2. The Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Section 37.9 to read as follows:

SEC. 37.9. EVICTIONS.

Notwithstanding Section 37.3, this Section shall apply as of August 24, 1980, to all landlords and tenants of rental units as defined in Section 37.2(r).

(a) A landlord shall not endeavor to recover possession of a rental unit unless:

* * * *

(8) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith, without ulterior reasons and with honest intent:

(i) For the landlord's use or occupancy as his or her principal residence for a period of at least 36 continuous months;

(ii) For the use or occupancy of the landlord's grandparents, grandchildren, parents, children, brother or sister, or the landlord's spouse, or the spouses of such relations, as their principal place of residency for a period of at least 36 months, in the same building in which the landlord resides as his or her principal place of residency, or in a building in which the landlord is simultaneously seeking possession of a rental unit under Section 37.9(a)(8)(i). For purposes of this Section 37.9(a)(8)(ii), the term spouse shall include domestic partners as defined in San Francisco Administrative Code Sections 62.1 through 62.8.

* * * *
(9) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to sell the unit in accordance with a condominium conversion approved under the San Francisco subdivision ordinance and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent; or

(10) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to demolish or to otherwise permanently remove the rental unit from housing use and has obtained all the necessary permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given, and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent; provided that a landlord who seeks to recover possession under this Section 37.9(a)(10) shall pay relocation expenses as provided in Section 37.9C except that a landlord who seeks to demolish an unreinforced masonry building pursuant to Building Code Chapters 16B and 16C must provide the tenant with the relocation assistance specified in Section 37.9A(f) below prior to the tenant's vacating the premises; or

(11) The landlord seeks in good faith to remove temporarily the unit from housing use in order to be able to carry out capital improvements or rehabilitation work and has obtained all the necessary permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given, and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent. Any tenant who vacates the unit under such circumstances shall have the right to reoccupy the unit at the prior rent adjusted in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter. The tenant will vacate the unit only for the minimum time required to do the work. On or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given, the landlord shall advise the tenant in writing that the rehabilitation or capital improvement plans are on file with the Central Permit Bureau of the Department of Building Inspection and that arrangements for reviewing such plans can be made with the Central Permit Bureau. In addition to the above, no landlord shall endeavor to recover possession of any unit subject to a RAP loan as set forth in Section 37.2(m) of this Chapter except as provided in Section 32.69 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The tenant shall not be
required to vacate pursuant to this Section 37.9(a)(11), for a period in excess of three months; provided, however, that such time period may be extended by the Board or its Administrative Law Judges upon application by the landlord. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the application procedure. Any landlord who seeks to recover possession under this Section 37.9(a)(11) shall pay relocation expenses as provided in Section 37.9C or

(12) The landlord seeks to recover possession in good faith in order to carry out substantial rehabilitation, as defined in Section 37.2(s), and has obtained all the necessary permits on or before the date upon which notice to vacate is given, and does so without ulterior reasons and with honest intent. Notwithstanding the above, no landlord shall endeavor to recover possession of any unit subject to a RAP loan as set forth in Section 37.2(m) of this Chapter except as provided in Section 32.69 of the San Francisco Administrative Code; Any landlord who seeks to recover possession under this Section 37.9(a)(12) shall pay relocation expenses as provided in Section 37.9C; or

* * * *

(j) The following additional provision shall apply to a landlord who seeks to recover a rental unit by utilizing the grounds enumerated in Sections 37.9(a)(8), (a)(9), (a)(10), (a)(11), or (a)(12).

(1) It shall be a defense to an eviction under Sections 37.9(a)(8), (a)(9), (a)(10), (a)(11), or (a)(12) if any tenant in the rental unit has a custodial or family relationship with a child under the age of 18 or any educator resides who is residing in the unit, the child or educator is a tenant in the unit or has a custodial or family relationship with a tenant in the unit, the tenant with the custodial or family relationship has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, and the effective date of the notice of termination of tenancy falls during the school year. The term "school year" as used in this Section 37.9(j) means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the last
day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the San Francisco Unified School District website for each year.

(2) The foregoing provision Section 37.9(j)(1) shall not apply where the landlord is seeking to temporarily evict or temporarily sever housing services in order to perform seismic work required by Building Code Chapter 34B and has provided notice and compensation as required by Administrative Code Chapter 65A. where the landlord in the building or where the owner who will move into the unit pursuant to a Section 37.9(a)(8) eviction has a custodial or family relationship with a child under the age of 18 who will reside in the unit with the owner.

(3) Within 30 days of personal service by the landlord of a written request, or, at the landlord's option, a notice of termination of tenancy under Sections 37.9(a)(8), (a)(9), (a)(10), (a)(11), or (a)(12), the tenant must submit a statement with supporting evidence to the landlord, if the tenant claims to be a member of the class protected from eviction by Section 37.9(j). The landlord's written request or notice shall contain a warning that a tenant's failure to submit a statement within the 30 day period shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected from eviction by Section 37.9(j). The landlord shall file a copy of the landlord's request or notice with the Rent Board within 10 days of service on the tenant. A tenant's failure to submit a statement within the 30 day period shall be deemed an admission that the tenant is not protected from eviction by Section 37.9(j). A landlord may challenge a tenant's claim of protected status either by requesting a hearing with the Rent Board or, at the landlord's option, through commencement of eviction proceedings, including service of a notice of termination of tenancy. In the Rent Board hearing or the eviction action, the tenant shall have the burden of proof to show protected status. No civil or criminal liability under Section 37.9(e) or (f) shall be imposed upon a landlord for either requesting or challenging a tenant's claim of protected status.
(4) For purposes of this Section 37.9(j), the following terms have the following meanings:

"Custodial relationship" means, with respect to a child and a tenant, that the tenant person is a legal guardian of the child, or has a court-recognized caregiver authorization affidavit for the child, or that the person has provided full-time custodial care of the child pursuant to an agreement with the child's legal guardian or court-recognized caregiver and has been providing that care for at least one year or half of the child's lifetime, whichever is less.

"Educator" means any person who works at a school in San Francisco as an employee or independent contractor of the school or of the governing body that has jurisdiction over the school, including, without limitation, all teachers, classroom aides, administrators, administrative staff, counselors, social workers, psychologists, school nurses, speech pathologists, custodians, security guards, cafeteria workers, community relations specialists, child welfare and attendance liaisons, and learning support consultants.

The term "family relationship" means that the person is the parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, or uncle of the child or educator, or the spouse or domestic partner of such relations.

"School" means any state-licensed child care center, state-licensed family day care, and/or any public, private, or parochial institution that provides educational instruction for students in any or all of the grades from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

"School year" means the first day of instruction for the Fall Semester through the last day of instruction for the Spring Semester, as posted on the San Francisco Unified School District website for each year.

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

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

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

By:
MANU PRADHAN
Deputy City Attorney

Supervisors Campos, Kim, Avalos, Mar
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to prevent certain no-fault evictions (owner move-in, condominium conversion, removal of rental unit, capital improvement, and substantial rehabilitation) during the school year if a child under 18 or a person who works at a school in San Francisco resides in the rental unit, is a tenant or has a custodial or family relationship with a tenant, and the tenant has resided in the unit for 12 months or more, provided, however, that this ordinance would not restrict the timing of evictions performed in connection with mandatory seismic retrofits pursuant to Building Code, Chapter 34B, and Administrative Code, Chapter 65A; and to remove existing exceptions for owners that apply to owner move-in evictions during the school year.

March 21, 2016 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

April 05, 2016 Board of Supervisors - PASSED, ON FIRST READING
   Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

April 12, 2016 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED
   Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin, Tang, Wiener and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on 4/12/2016 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

4/22/16