



July 12, 2023

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

TO: The Honorable Myrna Melgar
Member, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall Room 244 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Ordinance to Amend Administrative Code to add Priority for Veterans in the City's
Affordable Housing Programs

Dear Supervisor Melgar,

On behalf of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, I am writing regarding an ordinance passed in 2022 to provide priority for veterans in the City's affordable housing program. The Commission is grateful for your co-sponsorship of this ordinance, and we were happy to see it unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors on July 19, 2022 and approved by Mayor London Breed on August 4, 2022. At that time the technology upgrade required to add veteran preferences to the City's affordable housing system was projected to be completed by summer/fall 2023. However, when the Commission recently requested a project status update from the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) we were informed the completion date has been pushed out to an unspecified time in 2024. The Commission is eager to see improved access to affordable housing become available to veterans as soon as possible. For this reason, I am reaching out to ask your advice about any steps that can be taken to expedite the project's implementation or at the very least prevent further delays.

To briefly review, this ordinance amended the Administrative Code by adding a priority for veterans within four (4) categories of preference in the City's affordable housing programs funded or administered by MOHCD. The Department of Technology estimated approximately 2600 work hours to create veteran preferences into the four existing categories and staff support was estimated as 1 to 1.5 fulltime employees (FTE). The project's total one-time cost was assessed between \$300,000 - \$400,000. As mentioned, on June 12 the Commission received an update from MOHCD advising us the completion deadline was extended from summer/fall 2023 to sometime in 2024. It was noted the project is in the Department of Technology's queue and securing required staff is subject to the City's hiring procedures and timeline.

As we are aware, access to safe, affordable housing continues to be a major challenge faced by far too many of our San Francisco veterans. This ordinance is a step in the right direction, and the Commission hopes that by addressing obstacles slowing down its implementation, the prioritization of veterans in the City's affordable housing lottery will be put into practice sooner rather than later.

On behalf of my fellow commissioners, we appreciate any assistance you can offer on this matter, and we are thankful for your on-going support of veterans living throughout San Francisco. If there is any further information I can provide, I am happy to connect by phone at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Ikram Mansori
President, Veterans Affairs Commission
City and County of San Francisco Commissioner