



## Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

# **37-30 - SPECIAL GROUND FLOOR LEVEL STREETSCAPE PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN AREAS**

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## 37-30 - SPECIAL GROUND FLOOR LEVEL STREETSCAPE PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN AREAS

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LAST AMENDED  
10/17/2007

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### 37-31 - Applicability

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LAST AMENDED  
5/12/2021

Section [37-30](#), inclusive, specifies #ground floor level# requirements that establish consistent standards for a minimum depth for certain #uses#, a maximum width for certain #uses#, minimum transparency requirements, and parking wrap and screening requirements, and minimum requirements for blank walls that apply in conjunction with requirements set forth for certain #Commercial Districts# in the supplemental #use# provisions of Section [32-40](#), inclusive, for #Quality Housing buildings# in certain #Commercial Districts# subject to supplemental provisions for #qualifying ground floors#; for certain #Manufacturing Districts# in Section [42-485](#) (Streetscape provisions); for #zoning lots# subject to the off-street parking regulations in the #Manhattan Core# in Article I, Chapter 3; for #zoning lots# subject to the special provisions for waterfront areas and, FRESH food stores, and #flood zones# in Article VI, Chapters 2 and, 3, and 4 respectively; and for #zoning lots# subject to the provisions of certain Special Purpose Districts.

However, the ground floor depth requirements for certain #uses# and minimum transparency requirements of Sections [37-32](#) and [37-34](#), respectively, shall not apply to:

- (a) #zoning lots# in #Commercial Districts# with a #lot width# of less than 20 feet, as measured along the #street line#, provided such #zoning lots# existed on March 22, 2016, and on the date of application for a building permit; or
- (b) any #community facility building# used exclusively for either a #school#, as listed in Use Group 3, or a house of worship, as listed in Use Group 4.

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### 37-311 - Definitions

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LAST AMENDED 3/22/2016

The following definitions shall apply throughout Section [37-30](#) (SPECIAL GROUND FLOOR LEVEL STREETSCAPE PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN AREAS), inclusive.

Ground floor level

For the purposes of Section [37-30](#), inclusive, the “ground floor level” shall refer to a #building’s# lowest #story#.

Primary street frontage

For the purposes of Section [37-30](#), inclusive, a “primary street frontage” shall be the portion of the #ground floor level# #street# frontage along any of the following:

- (a) a #wide street#;
- (b) a narrow #street# where a #Commercial District# is mapped along an entire #block# frontage; or
- (c) a #narrow street# within 50 feet of a #wide street#.

Secondary street frontage

For the purposes of Section [37-30](#), inclusive, a “secondary street frontage” shall be a #ground floor level# #street# frontage, or portion thereof, subject to the provisions of Section [37-30](#), inclusive, that is not a #primary street frontage#.

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## 37-32 - Ground Floor Depth Requirements for Certain Uses

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

The minimum depth for required ground floor non-#residential uses#, as applicable, shall be as set forth in this Section, except as set forth in Section [37-31](#) (Applicability).

Required #ground floor level# non-#residential uses# along a #primary street frontage# or a designated retail street specified in a Special Purpose District, as applicable, shall have a minimum depth of 30 feet, as measured perpendicular to the #ground floor level# #street wall#. However, such minimum depth requirement may be reduced, to the minimum extent necessary, to accommodate vertical circulation cores or structural columns associated with upper #stories# of the #building#.

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## 37-33 - Maximum Width of Certain Uses

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

The maximum width of lobbies, entrances and exits to #accessory# off-street parking facilities, and entryways to subway stations is set forth in this Section.

(a) Ground floor lobbies

(1) Type 1

Where Type 1 lobby provisions apply, lobbies accessing #uses# not permitted on the #ground floor level# shall be permitted, provided that the width of such lobbies, in total, does not exceed 25 percent of the #street wall# width of the #building# or more than 20 linear feet of #street wall# frontage on a #wide street# or 30 linear feet on a #narrow street#, whichever is less. However, the width of such lobbies need not be less than 10 feet.

(2) Type 2

Where Type 2 lobby provisions apply, lobbies accessing #uses# not permitted on the #ground floor level# shall be permitted, provided that the width of such lobbies, in total, does not exceed 25 percent of the #street wall# width of the #building# or more than 40 linear feet of #street wall#, whichever is less. However, the width of such lobbies need not be less than 20 feet.

(b) Entrances and exits to #accessory# parking facilities

Entrances and exits to #accessory# off-street parking facilities, where permitted on the #ground floor level#, or portion thereof, shall not exceed a #street wall# width equal to the sum of five feet plus the maximum curb cut width for the applicable district. Where no specified maximum curb cut width is set forth for the district, the curb cut regulations for #buildings# containing #residences# in R6 through R8 Districts with a letter suffix in paragraph (e) of Section [25-631](#) (Location and width of curb cuts in certain districts) shall be applied.

(c) Entryways to subway stations

Entryways to subway stations may be provided on the #ground floor level# of a #building# without restriction in #street

wall# width.

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## 37-34 - Minimum Transparency Requirements

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

The #ground floor level# #street wall# along a #primary street frontage# or a designated retail street set forth in a Special Purpose District, as applicable, shall be glazed with transparent materials which may include #show windows#, transom windows or glazed portions of doors, except as set forth in Section [37-31](#) (Applicability).

Such transparent materials shall occupy at least 50 percent of the surface area of such #ground floor level# #street wall# between a height of two feet and 12 feet, or the height of the ground floor ceiling, whichever is higher, as measured from the adjoining sidewalk. Transparent materials provided to satisfy such 50 percent requirement shall not begin higher than 2 feet, 6 inches, above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, with the exception of transom windows, or portions of windows separated by mullions or other structural dividers, and shall have a minimum width of two feet. The maximum width of a portion of the #ground floor level# #street wall# without transparency shall not exceed 10 feet.

However, such transparency requirements shall not apply to portions of the #ground floor level# occupied by entrances or exits to #accessory# off-street parking facilities and #public parking garages#, where permitted, entryways to required loading berths, where permitted, entryways to subway stations, as applicable, or doors accessing emergency egress stairwells and passageways.

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## 37-35 - Parking Wrap and Screening Requirements

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LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

All #accessory# off-street parking spaces on the #ground floor level# of a #building# shall be wrapped by #floor area# in accordance with paragraph (a) or, where applicable, screened in accordance with applicable provisions of paragraph (b) of this Section.

(a) Along #primary street frontages#

For #ground floor levels#, or portions thereof, fronting along a #primary street frontage# or a designated retail #street# set forth in a Special Purpose District, as applicable, any portion of an #accessory# off-street parking facility that is located above #curb level#, except for permitted entrances and exits, shall be located behind permitted #commercial#, #community facility# or #residential# #floor area# so that no portion of such facility is visible from adjacent public sidewalks or publicly accessible areas. Such #floor area# shall have a minimum depth of 30 feet, as measured perpendicular to the #street wall# of the #building#.

(b) Along #secondary street frontages#

For #ground floor levels#, or portions thereof, fronting along a #secondary street frontage# or 50 feet beyond a designated retail #street# set forth in a Special Purpose District, as applicable, off-street parking facilities, or portions thereof, may either be wrapped by #floor area# in accordance with paragraph (a) of this Section, or shall be subject to the following design requirements:

- (1) any non-horizontal parking deck structures shall not be visible from the exterior of the #building# in elevation view;
- (2) opaque materials shall be located on the exterior #building# wall between the bottom of the floor of each parking deck and no less than three feet above such deck; and

- (3) a total of at least 50 percent of such exterior #building# wall, or portion thereof, with adjacent parking spaces shall consist of opaque materials which may include permitted #signs#, graphic or sculptural art, decorative screening or latticework, or living plant material.

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## 37-36 - Special Requirements for Blank Walls

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LAST AMENDED

5/12/2021

Where visual mitigation elements are required on a blank wall along the #ground floor level# #street wall# in accordance with other streetscape provisions in this Resolution, such blank wall shall be covered by one or more of the following mitigation elements set forth in this Section.

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### 37-361 - Blank wall thresholds

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LAST AMENDED

5/12/2021

The height and width of blank walls and the applicable percent coverage of mitigation elements are set forth in this Section. Blank wall surfaces shall be calculated on the #ground floor level# #street wall# except in the #flood zone#, blank wall surfaces shall be calculated between the level of the adjoining sidewalk and the level of the #first story above the flood elevation# as defined in Section [64-11](#) (Definitions).

The different types of blank walls are established below and the type of blank wall that applies is determined by the provisions of each applicable Section.

(a) Type 1

Where Type 1 blank wall provisions apply, a “blank wall” shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous width of at least 50 feet.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section [37-362](#) (Mitigation elements).

The maximum width of a portion of such blank wall without visual mitigation elements shall not exceed 10 feet. In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 50 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 50-foot interval.

(b) Type 2

Where Type 2 blank wall provisions apply, a “blank wall” shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous width of at least 25 feet.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section [37-362](#). In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 50 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 50-foot interval.

(c) Type 3 or Type 4

Where Type 3 or Type 4 blank wall provisions apply, a “blank wall” shall be a #street wall#, or portions thereof, where no transparent materials or entrances or exits are provided below a height of four feet above the level of the adjoining sidewalk, or grade, as applicable, for a continuous width of at least 15 feet for Type 3 or for a continuous width of at least five feet for Type 4.

For such blank walls, at least 70 percent of the surface or linear footage of the blank wall, as applicable, shall be covered by one or more of the options described in Section [37-362](#). In addition, where such blank wall exceeds a #street wall# width of 25 feet, such rules shall be applied separately for each 25-foot interval.

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## 37-362 - Mitigation elements

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LAST AMENDED

5/12/2021

The following mitigation elements shall be provided on the #zoning lot#, except where such elements are permitted within the #street# under other applicable laws or regulations.

(a) Surface treatment

Where utilized as a visual mitigation element the following shall apply:

(1) Wall treatment

Wall treatment, in the form of permitted #signs#, graphic or sculptural art, decorative screening or latticework, or living plant material shall be provided along the #street wall#. Each linear foot of wall treatment shall constitute one linear foot of the mitigation requirement.

(2) Surface texture

Surface texture that recesses or projects a minimum of one inch from the remaining surface of the #street wall# shall be provided. The height or width of any individual area that recesses or projects shall not be greater than 18 inches. Each linear foot of wall treatment shall constitute one linear foot of the mitigation requirement.

(b) Linear treatment

Where utilized as a visual mitigation element the following shall apply:

(1) Planting

Planting, in the form of any combination of perennials, annual flowers, decorative grasses or shrubs, shall be provided in planting beds, raised planting beds or planter boxes in front of the #street wall#. Each foot in width of a planting bed, raised planting bed or planter box, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, shall satisfy one linear foot of the mitigation requirement. Such planting bed, or planter boxes shall extend to a depth of at least three feet, inclusive of any structure containing the planted material. Any individual planted area, including planters spaced not more than one foot apart, shall have a width of at least five feet.

(2) Benches

Fixed benches, with or without backs, shall be provided in front of the #street wall#. Unobstructed access shall be provided between such benches and an adjoining sidewalk or required circulation paths. Each linear foot of bench, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, shall satisfy one linear foot of the mitigation requirement. Any individual bench shall have a width of at least five feet and no more than 20 feet of benches may be used to fulfill

such requirement per 50 feet of frontage.

(3) Bicycle racks

Bicycle racks, sufficient to accommodate at least two bicycles, shall be provided in front of the #street wall# as follows. No more than three bicycle racks may be used to fulfill such requirement per 50 feet of frontage.

- (i) Where bicycle racks are oriented so that the bicycles are placed parallel to the #street wall#, each bicycle rack so provided shall satisfy five linear feet of the mitigation requirement.
- (ii) Where bicycle racks are oriented so that bicycles are placed perpendicular or diagonal to the #street wall#, each bicycle rack so provided shall satisfy the width of such rack, as measured parallel to the #street wall#, of the mitigation requirement.

(4) Tables and chairs

In #Commercial Districts# and M1 Districts, fixed tables and chairs shall be provided in front of the #street wall#. Each table shall have a minimum diameter of two feet and have a minimum of two chairs associated with it. Each table and chair set so provided shall satisfy five linear feet of the mitigation requirement.