Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

73-60 - MODIFICATIONS OF BULK REGULATIONS

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73-60 - MODIFICATIONS OF BULK REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
7/22/1971

73-61 - General Provisions

LAST AMENDED
5/13/1982

Subject to the general findings required by Section 73-03 and in accordance with the provisions contained in Sections 73-62 to 73-68 inclusive, the Board of Standards and Appeals shall have the power to permit modification of the #bulk# regulations of this Resolution, and shall have the power to impose appropriate conditions and safeguards thereon.

In the #Special Midtown District#, the powers of the Board to permit modification of the #bulk# regulations are made inapplicable in accordance with the provisions of Section 81-061 (Applicability of Chapter 3 of Article VII).

73-62 - Modification of Bulk Regulations for Buildings Containing Residences

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

73-621 - Enlargement, change of use, or extension within buildings containing residential uses

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For a complying or #non-complying# #building# existing on December 15, 1961, or in R2X, R3, R4 or R5 Districts on June 30, 1989, and containing #residential uses#, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit an #enlargement#, a change of #use# or (in the case of a #mixed building#) an #extension#, provided that such #enlargement#, change of #use# or #extension# shall not create any new #non-compliance# or increase the amount or degree of any existing #non-compliance# except as provided in this Section.

In the districts and for the #buildings# for which an #open space ratio# is required, the #open space ratio# permitted under this Section shall not be less than 90 percent of the #open space ratio# required under the applicable #bulk# regulations set forth in Article II or III of this Resolution. In the districts and for the #buildings# to which a maximum #lot coverage# applies, the maximum #lot coverage# permitted under this Section shall not exceed 110 percent of the maximum #lot coverage# permitted under the applicable #bulk# regulations set forth in Article II or III of this Resolution. In all districts, the #floor area ratio# permitted under this Section shall not exceed the #floor area ratio# permitted under such regulations by more than 10 percent. In R2X, R3 or R4 Districts, the additional #floor area# permitted pursuant to this Section may be computed using a base #floor area ratio# including the #floor area# permitted under a sloping roof with a structural headroom between five and eight feet when such space is provided in the #building#.

73-622 - Bulk modifications for certain residential buildings on irregular sites

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

For #developments# or #enlargements# of #buildings#, except #sky exposure plane buildings#, in which at least 50 percent of the #dwelling units# either comply with the definition of "affordable housing unit" set forth in Section 27-111 (General definitions), or have a legally binding restriction limiting rents to households with incomes at or below 80 percent of the #income index#, as prescribed by a City, State or Federal agency, law regulation, or regulatory agreement, for a period of not less than 30 years, or at least 50 percent of its total #floor area# is a #long-term care facility# or philanthropic or non-profit institution with sleeping accommodation, the Board of Standards and Appeals may modify the underlying #bulk# regulations, other than #floor area ratio# or the maximum height of #buildings# or other #structures#, and provided that the Board finds that:

(a) there are physical conditions, including irregularity, narrowness or shallowness of lot size or shape, or topographical features that create practical difficulties in complying with the #bulk# regulations and would adversely affect the #building# configuration or site plan;

(b) the practical difficulties of developing on the #zoning lot# have not been created by the owner or by a predecessor in title;

(c) the proposed modifications will not unduly obstruct access of light and air to adjoining properties or #streets#;

(d) the proposed scale and placement of the #development# or #enlargement# relates harmoniously with the surrounding area; and

(e) the requested modification is the least amount necessary to relieve such practical difficulties.

The Board may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

73-623 - Reduction or modification of Mandatory Inclusionary Housing requirements

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

For a #development#, #enlargement# or #conversion# subject to the provisions of paragraph (a)(3), inclusive, of Section 27-131 (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing), the Board of Standards and Appeals may, upon determining that a hardship that is specifically created by the requirements of such Section exists, modify the income levels specified for #qualifying households#, reduce the amount of #affordable floor area# required or reduce the amount of a payment into the #affordable housing fund#, provided the Board finds that:

(a) the applicant has applied for any appropriate relief for which such #development#, #enlargement# or #conversion# is eligible for any financial hardship or practical difficulty not specifically created by the requirements of Section 27-131, paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(v) and (a)(5);

(b) such requirements for #affordable housing# or a contribution to an #affordable housing fund# create an unnecessary hardship, with no reasonable possibility that a #development#, #enlargement# or #conversion# on the #zoning lot# in strict compliance with the provisions of Section 27-131, paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(v) and (a)(5), and Section 27-10 (ADMINISTRATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING), inclusive, will bring a reasonable return, and that a modification or reduction of these requirements is therefore necessary to enable the owner to realize a reasonable return from such #zoning lot#; and

(c) the unnecessary hardship claimed as a basis for such modification or reduction has not been created by the owner or by a predecessor in title.

In determining whether a hardship exists, the Board shall consider whether alternative permitted #uses#, or alternative forms of housing tenure would bring a reasonable return from the #zoning lot#.

The Board may modify #affordable housing# requirements set forth in Section 27-131, paragraphs (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(iv) and (a)(5), to permit appropriate relief as follows.

First, the Board shall determine whether compliance with the requirements of Option 1, Option 2 or Option 3, as set forth in Section 27-131, paragraphs (a)(3)(i), (a)(3)(ii) and (a)(3)(iii), respectively, where not otherwise permitted, provides sufficient relief.

If the Board does not so find, the Board shall next determine whether compliance with the requirements of Option 4, as set forth in Section 27-131, paragraph (a)(3)(iv), where not otherwise permitted, provides sufficient relief.

If the Board does not so find, the Board, in consultation with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, shall determine a modification or reduction of the requirements of Section 27-131, paragraph (a)(3)(i) through (a)(3)(iv) and (a)(5), that represents the minimum necessary modification or reduction to afford relief.

In addition, the Board, in consultation with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, may permit a modification or reduction of the requirements of Section 27-131, paragraph (a)(3)(v) that represents the minimum necessary modification or reduction to afford relief.

A copy of each application to the Board for a special permit under the provisions of this Section shall be provided by the applicant to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development concurrently with its submission to the Board. Before the Board issues a final determination on any application made pursuant to this Section, #HPD# shall submit comment or appear before the Board regarding such application.

A special permit pursuant to this Section shall lapse after a term of four years, pursuant to Section 73-70 (LAPSE OF PERMIT). When considering an application for renewal of a special permit pursuant to paragraph (f) of Section 73-03 (General Findings Required for All Special Permit Uses and Modifications), the Board shall consult with #HPD# in determining whether the circumstances warranting the original grant of such permit still obtain, and may renew, modify, or deny the application for renewal, as appropriate.

The Board may prescribe such conditions and safeguards as it deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the surrounding area and the community at large.

73-624 - Modification of Affordable Housing Fund payment options in the SoHo NoHo Mixed Use District and the Special Midtown South Mixed Use District

LAST AMENDED
8/14/2025

Within the #Special SoHo-NoHo Mixed Use District# and the #Special Midtown South Mixed Use District#, for #conversions# from non-#residential# to #residential use# in #buildings# existing prior to December 15, 2021, that are not otherwise subject to paragraph (a)(3)(v) of Section 27-131 (Mandatory Inclusionary Housing), the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit a contribution to the #affordable housing fund# pursuant to such paragraph to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (a)(3), inclusive, of such Section, provided that the Board finds that:

(a) the configuration of the #building# imposes constraints, including, but not limited to, deep, narrow or otherwise irregular #building# floorplates, limited opportunities to locate #legally required windows#, or pre-existing locations of vertical circulation or structural column systems, that would create practical difficulties in reasonably configuring the required #affordable floor area# into a range of apartment sizes and bedroom mixes serving a number of lower-income residents comparable to what such quantity of #affordable floor area# would serve in a more typical configuration, pursuant to the #guidelines# of the Inclusionary Housing Program. Before the Board issues a final determination on any application made pursuant to this Section, the Department of Housing Preservation and Development shall submit comment or appear before the Board regarding this finding;

(b) the practical difficulties existed on December 15, 2021.

For the purposes of this Section, defined terms include those set forth in Sections 12-10 and 27-11.

A copy of each application to the Board for a special permit under the provisions of this Section shall be provided by the applicant to the Department of Housing Preservation and Development

concurrently with its submission to the Board.

The Board may prescribe such conditions and safeguards as it deems necessary to minimize adverse effects upon the surrounding area and the community at large.

73-63 - Enlargement of Non-residential Buildings

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For a complying or #non-complying# #non-residential building# existing on December 15, 1961, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit an #enlargement#, provided that such #enlargement# shall not create any new #non-compliance# or increase the amount or degree of any existing #non-compliance# except as provided in this Section.

In all districts, the #floor area ratio# permitted under this Section shall not exceed the #floor area ratio# permitted under the applicable #bulk# regulations set forth in Article II, III or IV of this Resolution by more than 10 percent, or 10,000 square feet, whichever is less.

73-64 - Modifications for Community Facility Uses

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

On a #zoning lot# occupied by any of the #community facility# #uses# specified in this Section, and in all districts where such #uses# are permitted as-of-right or by special permit, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit #developments# or #enlargements# for such #uses#, which do not comply

with certain applicable district #bulk# regulations, in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

Such specified #community facility# #uses# include the following #uses# listed under Use Group III:

College or school student dormitories or fraternity and sorority student houses

Colleges or universities, including professional schools, but excluding business colleges or trade schools

Community centers

Houses of worship, rectories, parish houses or seminaries

Libraries, museums or non-commercial art galleries

Monasteries, convents or novitiates

#Non-profit hospital staff dwellings#

Non-profit or voluntary hospitals and related facilities

Philanthropic or non-profit institutions with or without sleeping accommodations, excluding ambulatory diagnostic or treatment health care facilities listed in Use Group III(B)

#Schools#.

73-641 - Integration of new buildings or enlargements with existing buildings

LAST AMENDED
11/30/2017

For any such new #building# or #enlargement#, subject to the required findings set forth in this Section, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit modifications of the applicable regulations in Sections 24-38, 33-28 or 43-28 (Special Provisions for Through Lots), or in Sections 24-50 through 24-55, inclusive, paragraphs (b) through (d) of Section 24-56, Sections 33-40 through 33-45, inclusive, or Sections 43-41 through 43-45, inclusive, relating to Height and Setback Regulations, or in Sections 24-61 through 24-65, inclusive, Section 33-51, or Section 43-51, relating to Court Regulations and Minimum Distance between Windows and Walls or Lot Lines, provided that on December 15, 1961, the applicant owned the #zoning lot# or any portion thereof, and continuously occupied and used one or more #buildings# located thereon for a specified #community facility# #use#, from December 15, 1961, until the time of application. However, for #Quality Housing buildings# utilizing the height and setback regulations of Article II, Chapter 3, as required by Sections 24-50 and 33-40, the Board shall not permit modification to the provisions of Sections 23-67 through 23-69, inclusive.

As a condition of granting such modification, the Board shall find:

(a) that such modification is required in order to enable such #use# to provide an essential service to the community;

(b) that without such modification there is no way to design and construct the new #buildings# or #enlargements# in satisfactory physical relationships to the existing #buildings# which are to remain upon the site, so as to produce an integrated development; and

(c) that such modification is the minimum modification necessary to permit the development of such integrated community facility, and thereby creates the least detriment to the character of the neighborhood and the use of nearby #zoning lots#.

73-642 - Temporary failure to comply

LAST AMENDED

2/2/2011

In any district where such a specified #community facility# #use# is permitted, and on any #zoning lot# where one or more #buildings# occupied by such #use# exist on the date of application for the special permit, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit #development# or #enlargements# which, only because of the continued existence of such #buildings# on a temporary basis, fail to comply with one or more of the applicable district #bulk# regulations, provided that the Board finds that continued use of the existing #buildings# is essential as a service to the community until the new construction makes it possible to replace the facilities contained therein.

The Board shall prescribe as a condition of such permit that such existing #buildings# will be removed within a stated period of time not to exceed two years after completion of the #development# or #enlargement#.

73-643 - Community centers

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

In any such #development# or #enlargement# consisting of a community center serving primarily the residents of the #zoning lot#, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit the density regulations set forth in Sections 24-20 (APPLICABILITY OF DENSITY REGULATIONS TO ZONING LOTS CONTAINING BOTH RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY FACUILITY USES) or 35-40 (APPLICABILITY OF DENSITY REGULATIONS) to be modified, provided that the total number of #dwelling units# permitted by these Sections and all other applicable #bulk# regulations set forth in Articles II and III of this Resolution shall not be increased by more than 10 percent.

73-65 - Public Utilities and Special Infrastructure

LAST AMENDED
12/6/2023

73-651 - Enlargement of public utility facilities

LAST AMENDED
12/6/2023

The Board of Standards and Appeals may permit modifications to the #bulk# regulations for certain #enlargements# of public utility facilities set forth in paragraph (a) of this Section, provided that the findings set forth in paragraph (b) are met.

(a) The Board may permit #enlargements# which do not comply with the applicable district #bulk# regulations for #buildings or other structures# existing on December 15, 1961, within which any one of the following public utilities is located:

Electric or gas utility substations;

Telephone exchanges or other communications equipment structures;

Water or sewage pumping stations; or

#Energy infrastructure equipment#.

(b) In order to grant such permit, the Board shall find:

(1) that the growth of the utility service demand in the area served by the #building or other structure# requires such #enlargement# to house the additional facilities needed to fulfill the demand;

(2) that the network of lines, pipes or other distribution facilities located below the surface of the #streets# is so integrated with the operations carried on within such #building# that the provision of such additional facilities at another location would cause substantial duplication of plant and facilities and inconvenience to the public; and

(3) that #non-compliance#, if any, with the applicable #yard# or height and setback regulations is the minimum made necessary by essential engineering requirements.

The Board may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area and shall require that the certificate of occupancy shall be limited to such #use#.

73-652 - Energy infrastructure equipment and mechanical equipment

LAST AMENDED
12/6/2023

The Board of Standards and Appeals may permit the #bulk# modifications set forth in paragraph (a) of this Section, provided that the findings set forth in paragraph (b) are met.

(a) The Board may permit modifications to all #bulk# regulations, other than #floor area ratio#, in order to accommodate #energy infrastructure equipment# or #accessory# mechanical equipment.

(b) In order to grant such permit, the Board shall find that:

(1) such modifications would facilitate one or more of the following sustainability goals:

(i) reduction of the electrical demand of the #building# on the energy grid;

(ii) increased energy generation or storage at an essential location for the purposes of operating the energy grid;

(iii) support compliance with the standards of the New York City Energy Conservation Code (NYCECC); or

(iv) support compliance with the carbon emission reduction requirements of Local Law 97 of 2019;

(2) such modifications are the minimum necessary to allow for an appropriate installation, with consideration for collocation of other #uses#, whether upon a rooftop, within a #building or other structure#, or in an open area on the #zoning lot#; and

(3) the proposed modifications will not impair the character or the future use or development of the surrounding area.

The Board may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

73-66 - Height Regulations Around Airports

LAST AMENDED
7/23/1964

The Board of Standards and Appeals may permit the construction, #enlargement#, or reconstruction of a #building or other structure# in excess of the height limits established under Sections 61-21 (Restriction on Highest Projection of Building or Structure) or 61-22 (Permitted Projection Within any Flight Obstruction Area), provided that the applicant submits a site plan, with elevations, showing the proposed #building or other structure# in relation to such maximum height limits, and that the Board finds that such proposed #building or other structure#, #enlargement#, or reconstruction would not constitute a hazard (either under the existing layout of the airport or under any planned reorientation or lengthening of the airport runways) to the safety of the occupants of such proposed #building#, to other #buildings# in the vicinity or to the safety of air passengers, and would not disrupt established airways.

The Board shall refer the application to the Federal Aviation Administration for a report as to whether such construction will constitute a danger to the safety of air passengers or disrupt established airways.

73-67 - Additional Floor Space of Public Parking Garages

LAST AMENDED
10/29/2007

In C2-1, C2-2, C2-3, C2-4, C4-1, C4-2, C4-3, C4-4, C4-5D, C7, C8-1, C8-2, C8-3, M1-1, M1-2, M1-3, M2-1, M2-2 or M3-1 Districts, for #public parking garages# with a total of 150 spaces or less, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit floor space on one or more #stories# to be exempted from the definition of #floor area# as set forth in Section 12-10 (DEFINITIONS), provided that all floor space so exempted is located not more than 23 feet above #curb level# and provided that the following findings are made:

(a) that the additional floor space permitted is needed in order to prevent excessive on-street parking demand and relieve traffic congestion; and

(b) that the hazards or disadvantages to the community at large resulting from the additional floor space permitted are outweighed by the advantages to be derived by the community therefrom under the conditions and safeguards imposed.

The Board may impose appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.

73-68 - Height and Setback and Yard Modifications

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

In C5-5, C6-8 and C6-9 Districts, the Board of Standards and Appeals may permit modifications of the applicable regulations in Sections 33-26 to 33-30, inclusive, relating to Rear Yard Regulations, or in Sections 33-41 to 33-45, inclusive, relating to Height and Setback Regulations.

The Board may grant such modifications upon consideration that the applicable height and setback or #rear yard# regulations cannot be complied with by some method feasible for the applicant to pursue because of size or irregular shape of the lot, size or irregular shape of the #block#, and width of #streets#. The Board shall also consider the characteristics of surrounding development.

The Board shall require, where appropriate, sufficient safeguards to ensure the free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the general area. The Board may prescribe additional appropriate conditions and safeguards to enhance the character of the surrounding area.

73-69 - Rear Yard Modifications

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2008

The Board of Standards and Appeals may permit modifications to the #rear yards# required pursuant to Sections 23-344, 24-393, 33-303 or 43-313 (For zoning lots with multiple rear lot lines) for #zoning lots# existing on April 30, 2008, provided the following findings are made:

(a) that due to the irregular shape of the #zoning lot#, compliance with the #rear yard# regulations would create site planning constraints and adversely affect the layout and development of the site; and

(b) that the requested reduction in #rear yard# depth is the least amount necessary to grant relief.

The Board may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards to minimize adverse effects on the character of the surrounding area.