

TASK FORCE ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO.

1 **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS**
2 **APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN SINGLE-FAMILY, SINGLE-FAMILY**
3 **ATTACHED, TWO-FAMILY, SECONDARY APARTMENT, AND DUPLEX**
4 **STRUCTURES; ESTABLISHING A WAIVER PROCESS; PROVIDING AN**
5 **EXPIRATION DATE; REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 20060216-043; AND**
6 **DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

7
8 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**
9

10 **PART 1. ORDINANCE SUPERSEDES LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE.**

11 This ordinance supersedes Title 25 (*Land Development*) of the City Code to the
12 extent of conflict.

13 **PART 2. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this ordinance:

- 15 (1) DIRECTOR means the Director of the Watershed Protection and
16 Development Review Department.
- 17 (2) DUPLEX STRUCTURE means a structure containing a dwelling unit
18 used for a duplex residential use, as defined in Title 25 (*Land*
19 *Development*) of the City Code.
- 20 (3) FLOOR AREA RATIO has the meaning assigned by Title 25 (*Land*
21 *Development*) of the City Code.
- 22 (4) GROSS FLOOR AREA has the meaning assigned by Title 25 (*Land*
23 *Development*) of the City Code, except the term:
- 24 (a) includes the portion of a second or third story of a structure that is
25 covered by a roof, including a porch, portico, breezeway,
26 passageway, or corridor; and
- 27 (b) excludes a habitable portion of a structure that is below grade if the
28 finished floor of the first story is not more than three feet above the
29 average elevation at the intersections of the minimum front setback
30 line and the side property lines.

- 1 (5) SECONDARY APARTMENT STRUCTURE means a structure
2 containing a dwelling unit on a lot that is used for a secondary apartment
3 special use, as defined in Title 25 (*Land Development*) of the City Code,
4 and includes the principal structure.
- 5 (6) SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED STRUCTURE means a structure
6 containing a dwelling unit used for a single-family attached residential
7 use, as defined in Title 25 (*Land Development*) of the City Code.
- 8 (7) SINGLE-FAMILY STRUCTURE means a structure containing a
9 dwelling unit used for one of the following uses, as defined in Title 25
10 (*Land Development*) of the City Code:
- 11 (a) single-family residential use;
 - 12 (b) small lot single-family residential use;
 - 13 (c) urban home special use; and
 - 14 (d) cottage special use.
- 15 (8) SQUARE FEET means square feet of gross floor area.
- 16 (8) TWO-FAMILY STRUCTURE means a structure containing a dwelling
17 unit used for a two-family residential use, as defined in Title 25 (*Land*
18 *Development*) of the City Code.

19 **PART 3. APPLICABILITY.**

- 20 (A) Except as provided in Subsection (B), this ordinance applies to a single-family,
21 single-family attached, two-family, secondary apartment, or duplex structure
22 located:
- 23 (1) in a subdivision within the City limits for which the original final plat
24 was approved before March 7, 1974; or
 - 25 (2) on a tract that may legally be developed without being platted.
- 26 (B) This ordinance does not apply to:
- 27 (1) an application for a building permit to perform building, electrical,
28 plumbing, mechanical, sidewalk or driveway repairs or to other work
29 that does not increase the size of the structure; or

- 1 (2) an application for a building permit, demolition permit, relocation
2 permit, or remodel permit for a structure that was filed before (effective
3 date of ordinance).

4 **PART 4. SIZE LIMITATIONS; DEMOLITION OR RELOCATION PERMIT**
5 **REQUIRED.**

- 6 (A) An application for a demolition or relocation permit for a structure must be
7 filed concurrently with an application for a permit described in Subsection (C)
8 or (D).
- 9 (B) For a building permit for a new structure on a vacant lot, the new structure's
10 size is limited to the greater of:
- 11 (1) 0.4 to 1 floor-to-area ratio; or
12 (2) 2,500 square feet.
- 13 (C) For a building permit for a new structure on a lot where, before (effective date
14 of ordinance), a structure has been or will be demolished or relocated, the new
15 structure's size is limited to the greater of:
- 16 (1) 0.4 to 1 floor-to-area ratio;
17 (2) 2,500 square feet; or
18 (3) 20 percent more square feet than the existing or pre-existing structure.
- 19 (D) For a remodel permit to increase the size of a structure, the structure's size
20 after the remodel is limited to the greater of:
- 21 (1) 0.4 to 1 floor-to-area ratio;
22 (2) 2,500 square feet; or
23 (3) the existing size plus 1000 square feet, if the applicant has been granted
24 a homestead exemption for the structure.
- 25 (E) For a two-family or secondary apartment structure, the limitations of this
26 section are applied to the combined square footage of the principal structure
27 and the structure containing the second dwelling unit or secondary apartment.
28
29

1 **PART 5. SETBACKS.**

2 (A) A setback prescribed by an ordinance zoning property as a neighborhood
3 conservation (NC) combining district or as a neighborhood plan (NP)
4 combining district supersedes this part to the extent of conflict.

5 (B) Only a lot with a single-family, single-family attached, two-family, secondary
6 apartment, or duplex structure is considered in determining a setback under
7 Subsection (D) or (E).

8 (C) A portion of the principal structure must be located at or within the maximum
9 setback.

10 (D) This subsection prescribes minimum and maximum front yard setbacks.

11 (1) For a lot on a block face that is undeveloped for a use described in
12 Subsection (B):

13 (a) the minimum front yard setback is prescribed by Section 25-2-
14 492(C) (*Site Development Regulations*) of the City Code; and

15 (b) there is no maximum front yard setback.

16 (2) For a lot on a block face on which one lot is developed for a use
17 described in Subsection (B):

18 (a) the minimum front yard setback is the same as the minimum front
19 yard setback of the principal structure on the developed lot; and

20 (b) the maximum front yard setback is equal to the minimum front yard
21 setback of the principal structure on the developed lot plus ten
22 percent of the distance of that setback.

23 (3) Except as provided in Paragraph (6), for a lot on a block face on which
24 two lots are developed for a use described in Subsection (B):

25 (a) the minimum front yard setback is equal to the average of the
26 minimum front yard setbacks of the principal structures on the two
27 lots minus ten percent of the distance of that average; and

28 (b) the maximum front yard setback is equal to the average of the
29 minimum front yard setbacks of the principal structures on the two
30 lots plus ten percent of the distance of that average.

31

- 1 (4) Except as provided in Paragraph (6), for a lot on a block face on which
2 three lots are developed for a use described in Subsection (B):
- 3 (a) the lot with a principal structure closest to the street is disregarded,
4 and the lot with a principal structure farthest from the street is
5 disregarded;
- 6 (b) the minimum front yard setback is equal to the minimum front yard
7 setback of the principal structure on the remaining lot minus ten
8 percent of the distance of that setback; and
- 9 (c) the maximum front yard setback is equal to the minimum front yard
10 setback of the principal structure on the remaining lot plus ten
11 percent of the distance of that setback.

- 12 (5) Except as provided in Paragraph (6), for a lot on a block face on which
13 four or more lots are developed for a use described in Subsection (B):
- 14 (a) the lot with a principal structure closest to the street is disregarded,
15 and the lot with a principal structure farthest from the street is
16 disregarded;
- 17 (b) the minimum front yard setback is equal to the average of the
18 minimum front yard setbacks of the principal structures on the
19 remaining lots minus ten percent of the distance of that average;
20 and
- 21 (c) the maximum front yard setback is equal to the average of the
22 minimum front yard setbacks of the principal structures on the
23 remaining lots plus ten percent of the distance of that average.

- 24 (6) A minimum front yard setback may not be less than that of the lot with
25 the principal structure closest to the street, and a maximum front yard
26 setback may not be greater than that of the lot with the principal
27 structure farthest from the street.

28 (E) For a corner lot, this subsection prescribes minimum and maximum street side
29 yard setbacks.

- 30 (1) Subsection (D) is applied to the block face on which the street side yard
31 is located.
- 32 (2) The minimum street side yard setback is equal to the minimum front
33 yard setback on that block face under Subsection (D).

- 1 (3) The maximum street side yard setback is equal to the maximum front
2 yard setback on that block face under Subsection (D).

3 **PART 6. WAIVER.**

- 4 (A) The Council may waive a regulation in Part 4 (*Size Limitation*) or Part 5
5 (*Setbacks*) if the Council determines that:

- 6 (1) the regulation imposes undue hardship on the applicant, the development
7 proposed by the applicant will not adversely affect the public health,
8 safety and welfare, and waiving the regulation will not have a
9 substantially adverse impact on neighboring properties; or
10 (2) a development agreement permits the activity.

- 11 (B) The applicant for a waiver must:

- 12 (1) file for an appropriate permit under Part 4 (*Size Limitations*) or Part 5
13 (*Setbacks*); and
14 (2) prove all facts necessary to satisfy the criteria in Subsection (A).

- 15 (C) An application for a waiver must be filed with the director on a form provided
16 by the director and must include the following information:

- 17 (1) the name and address of the applicant;
18 (2) the address and legal description of the property;
19 (3) evidence to support the criteria in Subsection (A); and
20 (4) other information that the director may reasonably require to evaluate
21 the waiver application.

- 22 (D) The director shall make a recommendation to the council on each application
23 for a waiver.

- 24 (E) The director shall:

- 25 (1) give notice of an application by posting one or more signs in accordance
26 with Section 25-1-135 (*Posting Of Signs*) of the City Code; and
27 (2) not later than the third business day after a waiver application is filed,
28 mail notice of the waiver application to the:
29 (a) applicable neighborhood organization; and

1 (b) members of the task force created by council on February 16, 2006
2 to consider city code amendments relating to certain residential
3 uses and construction and remodeling within certain residential
4 districts.

5 (F) The council shall consider a waiver application not earlier than the 10th day
6 after the date notice is mailed under Subsection (E).

7 **PART 7. EXPIRATION.**

8 This ordinance expires June 6, 2006 at 11:59 p.m., unless extended by council.

9 **PART 8. REPEAL.**

10 Ordinance No.200060216-043 is repealed, except that Part 4 (*Waiver*) is continued
11 in effect and applies to a waiver application filed before (effective date of this ordinance).

12 **PART 9. SEVERABILITY.**

13 The provisions of this ordinance are severable. If a provision of this ordinance or
14 its applications to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not
15 affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance.

1 **PART 10. EMERGENCY DECLARED; EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The council finds that the continued development of large single-family uses in
3 areas of the City for which subdivisions were approved before March 7, 1974 or on lots
4 that may be legally developed without platting would negatively affect property in the
5 area, negatively affect the public health, safety, and welfare of the public, and impede the
6 council's efforts to examine the effects of certain land uses on established City
7 neighborhoods and the City's drainage infrastructure. The council further finds that this
8 constitutes an emergency. Because of this emergency, this ordinance takes effect
9 immediately on its passage for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health,
10 and safety.

11 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

12 _____, 2006

13 §
14 §
15 §

16 _____
17 Will Wynn
18 Mayor

19 **APPROVED:** _____
20 David Allan Smith
21 City Attorney

22 **ATTEST:** _____
23 Shirley A. Gentry
24 City Clerk
25