

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-P004

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF ZONING CODE AMENDMENT P2018-0124-ZCA, AMENDING CULVER CITY MUNICIPAL CODE (CCMC), TITLE 17 – ZONING (ZONING CODE), SECTION 17.300.025 – HEIGHT MEASUREMENT AND HEIGHT LIMIT EXCEPTIONS, AS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT “A” ATTACHED HERETO.

(ZONING CODE AMENDMENT, P2018-0124-ZCA)

WHEREAS on July 11, 2018 the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on a City-initiated Zoning Code Amendment (P2018-0124-ZCA) amending Culver City Municipal Code (CCMC), Title 17 – Zoning (Zoning Code), Section 17.300.025 – Height Measurement and Height Limit Exceptions, fully considering all reports, studies, testimony, and environmental information presented; and

WHEREAS, following conclusion of the public discussion and thorough deliberation of the subject matter, the Planning Commission determined, by a vote of 4 to 0, to continue the item to the meeting of July 25, 2018, with direction to staff to make certain revisions and provide additional information; and

WHEREAS on July 25, 2018 the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on a City-initiated Zoning Code Amendment (P2018-0124-ZCA) amending Culver City Municipal Code (CCMC), Title 17 – Zoning (Zoning Code), Section 17.300.025 – Height Measurement and Height Limit Exceptions, fully considering all reports, studies, testimony, and environmental information presented; and

WHEREAS, following conclusion of the public discussion and thorough deliberation of the subject matter, the Planning Commission determined, by a vote of 3 to 1,

1 to recommend to the City Council approval of Zoning Code Amendment P2018-0124-ZCA,
2 as set forth herein below.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
4 CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

5 **SECTION 1.** Pursuant to the foregoing recitations and the provisions of the
6 CCMC, the following required findings for an amendment to the Zoning Code, as
7 outlined in CCMC Section 17.620.030.A, are hereby made:
8

9 **1. The proposed amendment ensures and maintains internal consistency**
10 **with the goals, policies and strategies of all elements of the General Plan and**
11 **will not create any inconsistencies.**

12 The proposed Zoning Code Amendment is intended to address the inconsistencies
13 between the practical construction industry standards and practices and the Zoning
14 Code standards and requirements, and to address the challenges and constraints
15 of applying the current Zoning Code standards to actual construction situations as
16 they relate to the height and placement of roof-mounted structures for housing
17 mechanical equipment, elevators, stairways, tanks, towers, or similar equipment
18 required to operate and maintain the structure. This in turn is intended in order to
19 improve the implementation and enforcement of the Zoning Code, which
20 implements the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan. The existing
21 Zoning Code language provides allowances for projections of specified
22 architectural features and equipment rooms above specified building heights,
23 including parapets, stairwells, mechanical equipment, elevator shafts, and similar
24 features. The proposed amendment will simply increase the height projection
25 allowance for a specified group of features, which includes elevators, stairways,
26 and mechanical equipment/rooms, and allow greater flexibility in the placement of
27 such structures in relation to the building. The proposed amendment will create
28 Zoning Code provisions and guidelines consistent with General Plan Land Use
29 Element Objective 4, *Neighborhood Conditions*, by maintaining the quality design
and living environment throughout the City through the implementation of

1 development standards that are realistic and practical, and in line with industry
2 standards. Therefore the proposed Zoning Code Amendment does not conflict
3 with the goals, policies and strategies of any elements of the General Plan, nor
4 create any inconsistencies.

5 **2. The proposed amendment would not be detrimental to the public**
6 **interest, health, safety, convenience or welfare of the City.**

7 The proposed Zoning Code Amendment will modify the allowable height
8 projections above the building height and the associated placement standards for
9 specified roof-mounted structures in multi-family residential and non-residential
10 zones, and provide standards that continue to allow such structures but with height
11 and placement standards that are consistent with industry standards. The
12 amendment will serve to improve the implementation of the Zoning Code with
13 regard to these types of structures which are already allowed multi-family
14 residential and non-residential zones in the City. Further, the proposed
15 amendment will continue to apply specific necessary development standards and
16 restrictions (new height limit) to ensure these types of structures on rooftops are
17 allowed and approved in a manner consistent with the orderly and character
18 desired for the City, and in support of the public interest, health, safety,
19 convenience and welfare of the City.

20 **3. The proposed amendment is in compliance with the provisions of the**
21 **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).**

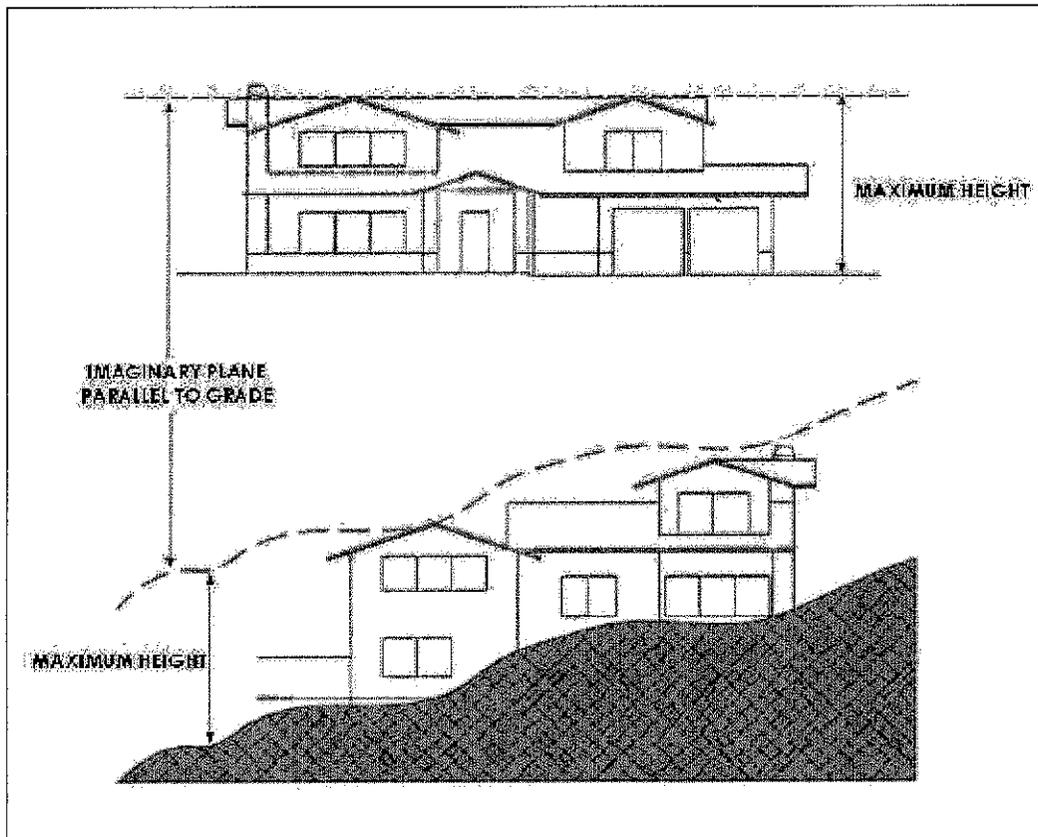
22 Pursuant to Sections 15162 and 15168 of the California Environmental Quality Act
23 (CEQA), Zoning Code Text Amendment (P2018-0124-ZCA) is within the scope of the
24 Culver City General Plan Update Program EIR approved on September 24, 1996
25 (PEIR 1) and the Culver City Redevelopment Plan Amendment and Merger Program
26 Subsequent EIR approved on November 16, 1998 (PEIR 2). The circumstances
27 under which PEIR 1 and PEIR 2 were prepared have not significantly changed and no
28 new significant information has been found that would impact either PEIR 1 or PEIR 2;
29 therefore, no new environmental analysis is required.

17.300.025 - Height Measurement and Height Limit Exceptions

All structures shall meet the following standards relating to height, except for fences and walls, which shall comply with Section 17.300.030 (Fences, Hedges, and Walls), and the allowable exceptions identified in Subsection 17.300.025.C. (Exceptions to Height Limits), below.

- A. **Maximum Height.** The height of structures shall not exceed the standard established by the applicable zoning district in Article 2 (Zoning Districts, Allowable Land Uses and Zone-Specific Standards).
- B. **Height Measurement.** The maximum allowable height shall be measured as the vertical distance from the existing grade of the site to an imaginary plane located the allowed number of feet above and parallel to the grade. See Figure 3-3 (Height Measurement), below. "Existing Grade" shall be established by the Director, consistent with parcels in the immediate vicinity, and shall not be, nor have been artificially raised to gain additional building height.

**Figure 3-3
Height Measurement**



C. Exceptions to Height Limits. Exceptions to the height limits identified in this Title shall apply in the following manner, except where otherwise required by the Building Code:

1. Notwithstanding any other regulation of this Title, the Council, after consideration of recommendation by the Commission, may by resolution establish a maximum building height for new construction in the Redevelopment Project Area Component Areas 1 through 3, consistent with the Design for Development established by the Redevelopment Agency.
2. ~~In multiple-family residential zones and non-residential zones,~~ Roof-mounted structures for the housing of mechanical equipment, antennas, elevators, stairways, tanks, towers, ventilating fans, or similar equipment required to operate and maintain the structure, shall be allowed, as follows, except that where the requirements for screening pursuant to Section 17.300.035.C.1 conflict with the requirements of this Section 17.320.025, such conflict shall be resolved at the discretion of the Director.
 - a. In multiple-family residential zones, up to a maximum of 13 feet 6 inches above the height of a building. Any roof mounted structure or equipment exceeding the parapet height shall be set back 5 feet from the edge of the structure ~~a minimum of 1 foot for every foot in height above the roof of which they are situated, except stairs shall not be required to be set back from the edge of the structure.~~
 - b. In non-residential zones, up to a maximum of 13 feet 6 inches above the height of a building; except that elevators shall be allowed up to a maximum of 19 feet 6 inches above the height of a building.
3. Fire or parapet walls may extend up to 5 feet above the building height limit of the structure, and as may otherwise be required by the California Building Code.
4. In non-residential zones, architectural features that are non-habitable design elements such as spires, turrets, bell towers, clock towers, cupolas and similar design elements as determined by the Director, shall be allowed, up to a maximum of 13 feet 6 inches above the height of a building and are limited to 15% of the total roof area.
5. Chimneys may project up to 4 feet above the height of the building.
6. In non-residential zones, trellis and carport-style structures installed on a parking structure roof deck for the purpose of supporting solar panels and solar equipment shall be allowed up to a maximum of 13 feet 6 inches above the height of a building.