NOTICE OF NEW & RETROACTIVE
HOUSING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL HOTELS
GRAB BARS IN COMMON BATH / TOILET ROOMS & PHONE JACKS

April 16, 2013

Dear Residential Hotel Owner/Operator:

Subject: Adoption of Ordinance No. 029-13 Amending the San Francisco Housing Code Sections 206, 505, and 1002 Requiring Grab Bars in Residential Hotel Common Bathrooms & Phone Jacks in all residential units

ORDINANCE PASSAGE & GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: Ordinance No. 029-13 was passed by the Board of Supervisors February 26, 2013, signed by the Mayor March 5, 2013, and became effective April 4, 2013. This Ordinance amended Sections 206, 505, and 1002 of the San Francisco Housing Code to require grab bars adjacent to water closets (toilets) and bathing fixtures (tubs, showers, or tub/shower combinations) in all common toilet or bathing facility rooms within (SRO's) residential hotels defined by Chapter 41 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. This Ordinance also codified state law which requires at least one usable phone jack in every residential unit as required by Section 1941.4 of the California Civil Code. Building and Electrical permit applications are not required for the installation of the requisite phone jacks and related wiring. The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) is the city agency responsible for implementation of this legislation (See attached Ordinance No. 029-13).

GRAB BAR INSTALLATION: Ordinance No. 029-13 requires that all common toilet rooms and bathrooms within residential hotels be retrofitted with grab bars within 180 days from the date signed by the Mayor (180 days from March 5, 2013) which is September 4, 2013. Please note that an approved and finalized form 8 building permit application is required from the Department of Building Inspection for grab bar installation. Permit submittal and job description should include: (1) the number and location of the bathrooms to have grab bars installed by floor, (2) selection and reference to the pertinent grab bar diagrams delineated in the Instruction Manual prepared by the Mayor’s Office of Disability, and (3) photos of the installation area. The Department permit fees will be waived for only one building permit filed for all or a portion of the requisite grab bars within the first 60 days after the Ordinance becomes effective. This deadline is June 4, 2013. Possible fees from other departments/sources may apply. (See attached Informational Manual prepared by the Mayor’s Office of Disability (MOD) entitled Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Toilet, Bath Tub and Shower Grab Bars).

IMPORTANT DATES:
April 4, 2013
June 4, 2013
September 4, 2013

Ordonance No. 029-13 Effective Date:
Deadline to file building permit without DBI Fees:
Ordonance No. 029-13 Operational Date & Deadline to Install all requisite grab bars

QUESTIONS: For more information regarding requirements associated with grab bar installation please see the attached Instruction Manual prepared by the Mayor’s Office of Disability, or call DBI’s Technical Services Division at (415) 558-6205. If you have any general questions regarding this Ordinance please contact DBI’s Housing Inspection Services Division at (415) 558-6220.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,
Rosemary Bosque
Chief Housing Inspector

Enclosures: Ordinance No.029-13, MOD Informational Manual, and Building Permit Application

Housing Inspection Services
1660 Mission Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco CA 94103
Office (415) 558-6220, FAX (415) 558-6249, www.sfdibi.org
[Housing Code - Telephone Jacks and Grab Bars]

Ordinance amending the Housing Code, Section 206, to add Section 1002 to the list of retroactive provisions; Section 505, to require grab bars in hotel common-use water closets and bathing facilities; Section 1002, to include as a substandard housing condition the failure to provide a usable telephone jack and telephone wiring as required by the California Civil Code; establishing an operative date; and making environmental findings, legislative findings, and findings pursuant to California Health & Safety Code, Section 17958.5.

NOTE: Additions are single-underline italics Times New Roman; deletions are strike-through italics Times New Roman. Board amendment additions are double-underline; Board amendment deletions are strikethrough normal.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings.

(a) General Finding. The Building Inspection Commission considered this ordinance at a duly noticed public hearing.

(b) (a) Environmental Finding. The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 121018 and is incorporated herein by reference.

(c) (b) Findings pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 17958.5. The Board of Supervisors finds that the legislative findings set forth in Subsection (c) below constitute findings of local conditions justifying deviation from the California Housing Code.

Supervisors Mar, Chu, Campos, Kim, Avelos, Yee
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
(d) (e) Legislative Findings.

(1) The high cost of housing in San Francisco makes residential hotel guest rooms with common toilet and bathing facilities ("SROs") the only available housing option for many seniors, persons with disabilities, and others on low or fixed incomes.

(2) The Mayor's Office of Housing 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan (with the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the former San Francisco Redevelopment Agency) identified 8,000 seniors and young adults with disabilities living in SROs.

(3) In 2012, the Senior Action Network and Mission SRO Collaborative, Central City SRO Collaborative, and SRO Families United Collaborative prepared "The 2012 Senior and Adults with Disabilities in SRO's Survey," which found that 48 percent of the 151 respondents surveyed did not have grab bars in their common toilet and bathing facilities. There is no current grab bar requirement.

(4) It is important that seniors and persons with disabilities residing in SROs have access to a working telephone in the room in which they reside. California Civil Code Section 1941.4 requires the lessor of a building intended for residential occupancy to be responsible for installing at least one usable telephone jack and for placing and maintaining in good working order inside telephone wiring that meets the applicable standards of the most recent National Electrical Code adopted by the Electronic Industry Association.

Section 2. The San Francisco Housing Code is hereby amended by amending Section 206, to add the following:

1002: Section 1002(f).
Section 3. The San Francisco Housing Code is hereby amended by amending Section 505 to add subsection (i), to read as follows:

SEC. 505. SANITATION.

(i) **Grab Bars.** The water-closet, lavatory, and bathing facilities provided for guest rooms situated on the same floor and used in common are required to have grab bars that comply with Chapter 11B of the California Building Code; provided, however, except that limitations within existing floor and room configurations will be taken into consideration regarding grab bar location and configuration for existing tank-type toilets, grab bars may be mounted between 33" and 35" above the finish floor. Building permits are required for installation, however all Department of Building Inspection fees required by Section 110A of the San Francisco Building Code will be waived for the facilities identified in the application if the applicant obtains the building permit within 60 days from the date this subsection (i) becomes effective.

Section 4. The San Francisco Housing Code is hereby amended by amending Section 1002, to read as follows:

SEC. 1002. ADDITIONAL SUBSTANDARD CONDITIONS: ELECTRICAL OUTLETS, ELEVATORS, ILLEGAL CONVERSION OF RESIDENTIAL HOTELS, AND RESIDENTIAL HOTEL MAIL RECEPTACLES, TELEPHONE JACKS AND WIRING, AND NOTICE POSTING.

In addition to the provisions set forth in Section 1001 of this chapter prescribed by California Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 1.5, State Housing Law, Sections 17920.3 et seq., the following conditions are considered substandard:

(a) **Electrical Outlets.** Habitable rooms and kitchens with insufficient number of electrical convenience outlets as required by Section 504 of this Code.

(b) **Elevators.** Lack of elevator service as required by Section 713 of this Code.
(c) **Illegal Conversion of Residential Hotels.** Illegal conversion of any residential unit of a residential hotel, or improper recordkeeping as defined and required by Chapter 41 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

(d) **Mold and Mildew.** The existence of mold and mildew which is chronic or severe as defined by Chapter 4 of this code.

(e) **Residential Hotel Mail Receptacles.** Lack of an individual mail receptacle for each residential unit in a residential hotel, as required by Section 41E of the San Francisco Administrative Code. The hotel owner is responsible for making arrangements with the United States Postal Service for the installation of these receptacles and delivery of mail thereto. Installation and maintenance of the mail receptacles shall meet all of the specifications and requirements of the United States Postal Service. Compliance with United States Postal Service specifications and requirements, and delivery of mail by the United States Postal Service, will not be enforced by the Department of Building Inspection.

(f) **Telephone Jack and Wiring.** Lack of at least one usable telephone jack and working inside telephone wiring, as required by Section 1941.4 of the California Civil Code.

(g) **Grab Bars.** Lack of grab bars in common-use bathing and lavatory facilities for guest rooms as required by Section 505(f) of this Code.

(ff) **Residential Hotel notice posting requirement.** The owner or operator of a residential hotel, as defined in Chapter 41 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, shall post a notice approved by the Department of Building Inspection notifying the occupants that they may contact the City and County of San Francisco’s 24×7 Customer Service Center at 311 to report alleged violations of this Code. The notice shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the lobby. If there is no lobby, the notice shall be posted in the public entranceway.
Section 5. Effective and Operative Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days from the date of passage and operative 180 days from the date of passage.

Section 6. This section is uncodified. In enacting this Ordinance, the Board intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent part of the Housing Code that are explicitly shown in this legislation as additions, deletions, Board amendment additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under the official title of the legislation.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: JUDITH A. BOYAJIAN
Deputy City Attorney
Ordinance amending the Housing Code, Section 206, to add Section 1002 to the list of retroactive provisions; Section 505, to require grab bars in hotel common-use water closets and bathing facilities; Section 1002, to include as a substandard housing condition the failure to provide a usable telephone jack and telephone wiring as required by the California Civil Code; establishing an operative date; and making environmental findings, legislative findings, and findings pursuant to California Health & Safety Code, Section 17958.5.

February 04, 2013 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING NEW TITLE

February 04, 2013 Land Use and Economic Development Committee - RECOMMENDED AS AMENDED

February 12, 2013 Board of Supervisors - PASSED, ON FIRST READING

- Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Wiener and Yee

February 26, 2013 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED

- Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Wiener and Yee

File No. 121018

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on 2/26/2013 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clark of the Board
ABOUT THE SRO GRAB BAR ORDINANCE

The City of San Francisco seeks to make the existing affordable housing in Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Hotels safe and accessible for the people who live there, many of whom are either seniors or people with disabilities. In March 2013 the Mayor signed legislation passed by the Board of Supervisors mandating the retroactive installation of grab bars in all common use toilet rooms and bathing areas in existing Single Room Occupancy Hotels. The ordinance requires grab bars to comply with Chapter 11B of the California Building Code; however, the Department of Building Inspection is allowed to take into consideration limitations within existing floor and room configurations when approving the installation. This document has been developed as a guide to be used by property owners and their construction or maintenance staff to help them comply with the ordinance and provide a safe and secure installation.

Grab Bars and Building Codes

The majority of existing SRO’s are older properties that were built before accessibility features were required. The existing bathrooms do not comply with current building and access codes because the water closet or toilet rooms and bathing rooms are typically small and they lack sufficient maneuvering room for a wheelchair user to enter, turn around and exit. Code complying horizontal grab bars would be too long and wouldn’t fit in these small rooms. However, the installation of shorter horizontal grab bars, or diagonal or vertical grab bars, can be instrumental in providing a minimum level of safety in these smaller spaces, and help to prevent accidental falls by seniors or people with disabilities.

Code compliance requires that every grab bar be securely attached to the wall frame with either continuous wooden blocking installed inside the walls between wall studs, or 16 gauge galvanized sheet metal strapping installed inside the walls across the wall studs. Installing grab bar blocking inside the wall would require the removal and replacement of existing wall finishes, and this should be done whenever possible. This may be achievable by working from the other side of the wall outside the bathroom especially if the bathroom is next to a closet. But for waterproofing and other reasons it might not always be practical to remove the wall surface materials within the bathroom to install blocking inside. This manual will provide options for safe and usable installations whether the blocking is installed inside the wall, or in some cases on top of the existing wall surfaces.

Where to Purchase

Grab bars can be purchased at neighborhood hardware stores like Ace or Cole Hardware, larger construction supply houses like Discount Builders Supply, Hundley’s Hardware, Loews, or Home Depot, or through on-line sites like Amazon.com.

Caution: only use grab bars that are designed for this purpose. For example: do not make your own grab bars out of iron or copper pipe or wooden dowels. Do not try to use towel bars. Not using grab bars that have been designed for and are approved for this purpose can lead to an unsafe condition and serious risk of injury.

How to Use This Manual

Step 1 - Read the General Standards for All Grab Bar Installations. Regardless of the size of the room or the orientation of the bar, all grab bars need to meet these minimum standards.

Step 2 - Review the Conventional Installation Methods. Evaluate your wall finishes and decide whether it will be feasible to attach the grab bars to the existing frame or blocking concealed inside the wall.

Step 3 - If Conventional Methods are not feasible; select the correct alternate installation method.

Step 4 - Review the Grab Bar Placement Diagrams and select the floor plan and grab bar plan that matches your conditions.
General Standards for all Grab Bars

Follow manufacturer’s installation instructions. Grab bars need to be securely attached so the bar can withstand a 250 lb load without pulling out of the wall.

- Grab bars shall be vertical, diagonal, or horizontal, depending on space constraints and location.
- The minimum grab bar length shall be 18” for a vertical bar, or 24” for a horizontal bar. When space allows, use longer grab bars that are 36”, 42”, or 48” in length.
- Grab bar diameter shall be a minimum of 1 ¼” and a maximum of 1 ½”.
- The clearance behind a grab bar shall be 1 ½” exactly for a safe grip.
- The clearance below a grab bar to a fixture, such as a toilet paper dispenser etc., shall be 1 1/2” minimum.
- There shall be no sharp edges on the grab bar surface or on the mounting plates. This includes screws, bolts, or fasteners which must be counter sunk (flush below the surface) or have smooth and rounded screw heads.
- Stainless steel fasteners (screws) are recommended. They are strong and won’t rust.
- Fasteners (screws) need to be long enough so they penetrate 1 ¼” into the frame. A 2” screw is usually long enough after going through 5/8” of plaster or sheet rock. Use longer screws when going through tile over mortar and plaster or sheet rock.

Conventional Installation Methods

If it is Possible to Remove and Replace Wall Finishes

Conventional installation shall be used whenever feasible possible. This may require the removal and replacement of existing wall surfaces in order to ensure adequate framing support. See next section below for alternate methods if it is not feasible to remove wall finishes.

Vertical and diagonal grab bars can usually be installed directly to existing stud frame, which is typically 16” on center, without requiring the removal of wall finishes. At least two screws per grab bar mounting plate must attach firmly to 2” x 4” stud frame. The third screw can be a heavy duty hollow wall anchor such as a toggle bolt.

Horizontal grab bars must be installed to solid 2” x 6” blocking or six inch wide 16 gauge galvanized sheet metal installed horizontally inside the wall cavity. The horizontal grab bar itself is installed between 33” and 36” above the floor. See diagram 2.

For concrete (typically exterior) walls the bar has to be attached with approved fasteners such as tapcons, which is a trademarked name for a special concrete screw.

Use caulk to seal any holes made in tub or shower areas to prevent water from damaging the building.

Alternate Installation Method

If it is Not Possible to Remove and Replace Wall Finishes

When it is not feasible to remove existing wall surfaces, the grab bar may be attached to surface mounted materials so long as they meet the minimum standards below.

In water closet or toilet rooms, the grab bar may be attached to a surface mounted 2” x 6” piece of lumber that has been securely fastened to the wall frame. Securely fastened means using a minimum of two screws per stud, a minimum of six screws per board, using a board that is at least six inches longer than the grab bar on each end, and a board that is long enough to extend past the end of the grab bar to catch an attachment to the next stud. See diagram 2.

When using wood for surface mounting in water closet or toilet rooms, the wood needs to have rounded or chamfered edges, be pre-primed on both sides and all edges, and be painted with a durable, easily cleaned finish coat, typically gloss paint finish.

Use screws that are at least 3” long to attach the lumber to the stud frame, and counter sink the heads below the surface as needed to reduce sharp edges and to get at least 1 ¼” penetration into the underlying stud frame.

In water closet, toilet rooms, or tub and shower areas, the grab bar may alternatively be attached to 16 gauge stainless steel sheet metal straps that are at least 6” wide. Use a minimum of two screws per stud, a minimum of six screws per strap, a strap that is at least six inches longer than the grab bar on each end, and that is long enough to extend past the end of the grab bar to catch an attachment to the next stud. See diagram 2.

Since stainless steel sheet metal can have sharp edges, the surface mounted strap must be fully covered with corian, or other durable sanitary synthetic materials that will not be affected by water. Wood cannot be used in tub or shower areas. It is important to note that while the mounting screw goes through the cover material, the grab bar attachment is to the sheet metal. Both the cover material and the wall surface or tile behind the grab bar and sheet metal will need to be pre-drilled.

Use caulk to seal any holes made in tub or shower areas and to seal around any surface mounted materials to prevent water from damaging the building.
A narrow or small toilet room should have two grab bars, one on each side.
The side grab bar is a minimum of 24" in length but should be as long as possible, not to exceed 42".
The horizontal side grab bar is installed between 33" and 36" above the floor. See 1.0
A diagonal grab bar also works well. Position so the top of bar is no higher than 42" above the floor. The diagonal bar should be angled so it can be securely attached to the existing stud frame that is 16" on center. See 2.0

An alternate bath tub has a minimum of two grab bars. One is placed vertically on the control wall at the outer edge where the framing is located. One bar is placed diagonally on the back wall.
The diagonal bar should be angled so it can be securely attached to the existing stud frame that is 16" on center. Each grab bar is a minimum 24" long.
**GRAB BAR PLACEMENT IN WATER CLOSET OR TOILET ROOMS**

**DIAGRAM 8**  
**CODE COMPLYING ROLL IN SHOWER WITH SEAT**

**DIAGRAM 9**  
**CODE COMPLYING 48”x42” TRANSFER SHOWER**

**DIAGRAM 10**  
**ALTERNATE SMALL 36”x36” SHOWER**

An alternate shower stall has a minimum of two grab bars. One is placed vertically on the control wall at the outer edge where the framing is located. One bar is placed diagonally on the back wall.

The diagonal bar should be angled so it can be securely attached to the existing stud frame that is 16” on center. Each grab bar is a minimum 24” long.

**TOOLS**

Drill, special drill bit for tile and glass, counter sink drill bit, stainless steel screw, approved (Toggle) hollow wall anchor (should only be used for one of the three fasteners per mounting bracket), caulk.

**DISCLAIMER**

The intent of this pamphlet is to assist property owners and their staff in complying with the SRO ordinance. The owner is advised to always follow the manufacturer’s instructions for installation. The examples used may not reflect the actual conditions found in your building.

The City and County of San Francisco assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, nor usefulness of any information, product, or process disclosed in these examples.

Reference herein to any specific product, process, service by trade, name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, is provided only as an example or illustration and does not constitute the City and County of San Francisco’s endorsement or recommendation. Owners should conduct an independent review and evaluation of products and services prior to use.
APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMIT
ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS OR REPAIRS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

APPLICATION IS HEREBY MADE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION OF SAN FRANCISCO FOR PERMISSION TO BUILD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS SUBMITTED HEREWITH AND ACCORDING TO THE DESCRIPTION AND FOR THE PURPOSE HEREINAFTER SET FORTH.

NUMBER OF PLAN SETS

DATE FIL ED
(1) STREET ADDRESS OF JOB
(2) ESTIMATED COST OF JOB
(2B) REVISED COST:

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE

INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED BY ALL APPLICANTS

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING BUILDING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(4A) TYPE OF CONSTR.</th>
<th>(5A) NO. OF STORIES OF OCCUPATION:</th>
<th>(6A) OCCUP. CLASS</th>
<th>(7A) PRESENT USE:</th>
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DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING AFTER PROPOSED ALTERATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>(4A) TYPE OF CONSTR.</th>
<th>(5A) NO. OF STORIES OF OCCUPATION:</th>
<th>(6A) OCCUP. CLASS</th>
<th>(7A) PROPOSED USE (LEGAL USE):</th>
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(8) WATER, GAS, ELEC., WASTE, SMOKE DETECTORS, ETC.

ADDIT IONAL INFORMATION

| (17) DOES THIS ALTERATION CREATE ADDITIONAL HEIGHT OR STORY TO BUILDING? | YES | NO |
| (18) IF (17) IS YES, STATE NEW HEIGHT AT CENTER LINE OF FRONT FT. | YES | NO |
| (19) DOES THIS ALTERATION CREATE DECK ON MORE THAN ONE STORY OR ELEVATION TO BUILDING? | YES | NO |
| (20) IF (19) IS YES, STATE NEW GROUND FLOOR AREA SF. | YES | NO |
| (21) WILL SIDEWALK OVER SUB-SIDEWALK SPACE BE REPAIRED OR ALTERED? | YES | NO |
| (22) WILL BUILDING EXTEND BEYOND PROPERTY LINE? | YES | NO |
| (23) ANY OTHER EXISTING BLDG. ON LOT? IF YES, SHOW ON PLOT PLAN: | YES | NO |
| (24) DOES THIS ALTERATION CONSTITUTE A CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY? | YES | NO |

ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER (DESIGN EN) CONSTRUCTION (EN)

ARCHITECT'S ADDRESS

CONTRACTOR'S ADDRESS

CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NO.

CONTRACTOR'S CAL. LIC. NO.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE: The permittee(s) by acceptance of the permit, agree(s) to indemnify and hold harmless the City and County of San Francisco from and against any and all claim, deman d, and actions for damages resulting from operations under this permit, regardless of negligence of the City and County of San Francisco, and to assume the defense of the City and County of San Francisco against all such claims, demands or actions.

In conformity with the provisions of Section 3800 of the Labor Code of the State of California, the undersigned have prepared this plan and declaration of this building or structure.