



**DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION**

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**City & County of San Francisco  
1660 Mission Street, San Francisco, California 94103-2414**

**ACCESS APPEALS COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 23, 2007**

**Room 416, City Hall**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

President Lim called the meeting of the Access Appeals Commission to order at 1:05 P.M.

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Alyce G. Brown, President  
Ms. Roslyn Baltimore, Vice-President  
Mr. Arnie Lerner, AIA, Commissioner  
Ms. Enid Lim, Commissioner  
(One seat is vacant)

**COMMISSIONER MEMBER ABSENT:** ???

**CITY REPRESENTATIVES:** Ms. Elaine Warren, Deputy City Attorney  
Mr. Neil Friedman, Secretary  
Ms. Doris M. Levine, Reporter

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**3. REVIEW OF COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS:**

**Access Appeals Commission Hearing: May 23, 2007****4. NEW APPEALS:****a) Appeal No. 07-05 2720 Taylor Street**

This is an appeal of the denial of an Unreasonable Hardship Request for the lack of an 8'2" vertical clearance to a parking garage in an existing, mixed use building. The permit in question, for a seismic upgrade, exceeds the 'threshold' amount for accessibility. The parking garage provides only a 7'4" clearance. The appellant has investigated other options with no results and is awaiting word from the Department of Traffic regarding installation of 'blue zones' near the building. (from agenda dated May 23, 2007)

**b) Appeal No. 07-06 525 Market Street**

This is an appeal of a determination by a building inspector that an approved 36" wide ramp to the kitchen area of a restaurant, needs to be widened to 48". The restaurant is nearing completion of construction and will have a temporary certificate of occupancy until this issue is resolved.

**c) Appeal No. 07-07 1275 Market Street/Levels B2 & B3**

This is an appeal to request an indefinite extension of the AAC decision of Appeal #03-04, originally granted for 3 years from June 25, 2003. That decision allowed drivers with disabilities to pass behind other parked vehicles after unloading from their own vehicles. An equivalency was provided in the form of alarms, mirrors and signage. This appeal was filed well before the 'Consent Calendar' provision was adopted into the rules of the AAC.

**d) Appeal No. 07-08 1275 Market Street/Level B1**

This is an appeal of the denial of an Unreasonable Hardship Request for the lack of an 8'2" vertical clearance into a parking garage in an existing, high rise, mixed use building. A dimension of 8'-0" is provided. The permit in question does not need exceed the threshold amount for full accessibility upgrades. However, the appellant can no longer provide any equivalent facilitation. Previously, on June 25, 2003, in a decision regarding an appeal of the same issue, the AAC had granted a five year period for the decision to stand. However, since that time, the parking lot that previously provided the equivalent facilitation for this issue was demolished. *The appellant has investigated other options with no results.*

**5. OLD APPEAL:****a) Appeal No. OA99-01 2675 Geary Boulevard**

This was an appeal of an Order of Abatement regarding aisle widths at the Mervyn's store at this shopping center. There was no decision in this case. The case was to be heard on March 10, 2000, but due to the fact that fewer than 4 members were present, the case was continued for 60 days, but was not heard again. The complaint case, out of which the appeal had been generated, has been abated by the department. As the final step in the process of closing this case, the Appellant would like to withdraw their appeal.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR:****a) From Appeal No. 02-01, Notice of Decision February 7, 2002**

**Access Appeals Commission Hearing: May 23, 2007****50 California Street**

This was an appeal of the 8'2" high top van provisions of the California Building Code, originally granted for 5 years. The conditions which led to the 2002 Decision have not changed. The Appellant is requesting the maximum amount of time possible for 'renewing' this decision.

**b) From Appeal No. 01-08, Notice of Decision of November 8, 2001****1 California Street**

This was an appeal of the 8'2" high top van provisions of the California Building Code, originally granted for 5 years. Conditions have not changed. The Appellant is requesting the maximum amount of time possible for 'renewing' this decision.

**c) From Appeal Nos. 02-02, 02-03, 02-04, Notice of decision of March 22, 2002****Embarcadero Center (3 of 4 buildings)**

This was an appeal of the 8'2" high top van provisions of the California Building Code, originally granted for 5 years. Embarcadero 4, which has high top van clearance, has been used in lieu of high top van parking at Embarcadero 1, 2 and 3. The Appellant is asking that the decision be extended for the life of the buildings, as long as the complex remains intact.

**d) From Appeal No. 00-03, Notice of decision of August 16, 2000****353 Sacramento Street**

This was an appeal to allow accessible restrooms on every other floor of a combination high rise and low rise building. The decision was granted for 5 years. The Appellant has not specified a time period for renewal of the decision. Since the time of the decision, additional restrooms on additional floors have been converted to full accessibility. However, there is a concern that if any more floors are made accessible using a fixture count reduction, that too few fixtures would exist for the occupant load of the building.

**7. COMMISSIONERS AND STAFFS QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:****8. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

**MINUTES**

**Access Appeals Commission Hearing: May 23, 2007**

**Neil Friedman**

Senior Building Inspector

Department of Building Inspection

Secretary to the Access Appeals Commission