

Amendment 131 to Council Bill No. 28 -2023

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Amendment No. 131

(This Amendment makes the following changes to HoCo By Design Chapters 6 and 11:

*Chapter 6: Dynamic
Neighborhoods*

- *Amends the DN-11 Policy Statement by adding Implementing Action 7 to consider local amendments that establish certain minimum building standards during the review of the building code update and by adding Policy and Implementing Action 8 to ensure Universal Design Guidelines are utilized for at least 10% of all affordable units built; and*

*Chapter 11:
Implementation*

- *Amends the DN-11 Policy Statement by adding Implementing Action 7 to consider local amendments that establish certain minimum building standards during the review of the building code update and by adding Policy and Implementing Action 8 to ensure Universal Design Guidelines are utilized for at least 10% of all affordable units built.)*

1 In the *HoCo By Design* General Plan, attached to this Act as Exhibit A, amend the following
2 pages as indicated in this Amendment:

- 3 • Chapter 6: Dynamic Neighborhoods: 62; and
- 4 • Chapter 11: Implementation: 43.

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6 Correct all page numbers, numbering, and formatting within this Act to accommodate this
7 amendment.

Universal Design

As defined in the Age-Friendly Action Plan, “Universal design, also called barrier-free design, focuses on making the house safe and accessible for everyone, regardless of age, physical ability, or stature. Universal design elements in homes and apartments contribute to age-friendly communities and multi-generational households, and they increase the independence of persons with disabilities.”

As noted previously, only 4% of the County’s residential land is used for 55 years or more age-restricted development. According to the County’s land use database, there are a total of 5,160 age-restricted units consisting of the following housing types: 419 single-family detached, 367 apartments, 1,244 single-family attached condominiums, 1,364 apartments and 1,766 apartment condominiums. However, many of those homes are not financially attainable. The County has limited affordable housing options for older adults, many of whom will have mobility and accessibility needs as they age, and persons with disabilities. Without an adequate supply of these types of homes, some older adults may be unable to find appropriate housing, forcing them to look outside the County if/when they decide to move. While many older adults prefer to age in their homes, that option is not always feasible due to health reasons, mobility issues, changes in finances, or a home not being suitable for modifications. Therefore, housing options for early retirees, empty nesters, or older adults who want to downsize—perhaps because they can no longer maintain a single-family detached dwelling on a large lot (or choose not to)—should be readily available as part of a larger suite of housing typologies catering to changing demands and interests.

Multi-Generational Neighborhoods


Multi-generational neighborhoods offer a variety of housing types and include units that are designed with older adults in mind but appeal to people of all ages and abilities. While the features of the units for older adults are important—size, number of floors, and universal design—the elements of the neighborhood are also important. The housing mix should contribute to the creation of a community that is conducive to social interaction among neighbors and a level of activity that can minimize feelings of isolation that older adults could experience with changing health and social conditions. When surrounded by a network of support, older adults living in a multi-generational neighborhood have a lower likelihood of depression, as such arrangements can foster an environment of neighbors helping neighbors. In addition, older adults provide a resource to younger neighbors in the form of teaching, mentoring, and sharing personal histories, thus improving interactions among generations and enhancing respect across age, race, ethnicity, and other differences. Neighborhoods that offer a safe system of sidewalk connections to nearby convenience retail and services can help older adults with mobility issues maintain their independence longer while allowing all families to maintain healthy lifestyles. The County in Motion chapter provides more details about plans for multi-modal transportation options.

DN-11 Policy Statement

Implementing Actions

1. Use zoning tools and incentives that increase the supply of missing middle housing and accessory dwelling units, as identified in Policy Statements DN-1 and DN-2.
2. Provide flexibility in the Zoning Regulations and the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations for adult group homes/communal living and for accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities who wish to live independently or older adults who wish to age in place or downsize and age in their community at affordable price points.
3. Encourage Age-Restricted Adult Housing (ARAH) developments to build small- to medium-scale housing units to include apartments, condominiums, townhomes, and missing middle housing types that allow seniors to downsize and are affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Evaluate if current ARAH Zoning Regulations allow sufficient density increases to incentivize missing middle housing types, such as cottage clusters, duplexes, and multiplexes.
4. Explore options for additional Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the County.
5. Update the County’s Universal Design Guidelines to enhance the capacity for individuals to remain safe and independent in the community through universal design in construction.
6. Require builders and homeowners to follow, when practical, the updated Universal Design Guidelines for new and rehabilitated, remodeled, or redesigned age-restricted housing.
7. [During review of the building code update, consider local amendments that establish minimum building standards for the majority of new housing units as discussed in the Age Friendly Action Plan.](#)
8. [Ensure Universal Design Guidelines are utilized for at least 10% of all affordable units built.](#)

DN-12 Policy Statement

 Create greater opportunities for multi-generational neighborhoods, especially in character areas identified as activity centers.

Implementing Actions

1. Design new activity centers to accommodate the needs of various ages, abilities, and life stages. Ensure design of neighborhoods and their amenities provide accessibility using universal design guidelines with sidewalks, wayfinding, and safe connections.
2. Bring multi-modal transportation options to locations planned for new multi-generational neighborhoods.

Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix		
Policy and Implementing Actions	Lead Agency	Timeframe (Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing)
DN-11 - Provide a range of affordable, accessible, and adaptable housing options for older adults and persons with special needs.		
1. Use zoning tools and incentives that increase the supply of missing middle housing and accessory dwelling units, as identified in Policy Statements DN-1 and DN-2.	DPZ DHCD	Mid-Term
2. Provide flexibility in the Zoning Regulations and the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations for adult group homes/ communal living and for accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities who wish to live independently or older adults who wish to age in place or downsize and age in their community at affordable price points.	DPZ DILP	Mid-Term
3. Encourage Age-Restricted Adult Housing (ARAH) developments to build small- to medium-scale housing units to include apartments, condominiums, townhomes, and missing middle housing types that allow seniors to downsize and are affordable to low- and moderate-income households. Evaluate if current ARAH Zoning Regulations allow sufficient density increases to incentivize missing middle housing types, such as cottage clusters, duplexes, and multiplexes.	DPZ DHCD	Ongoing
4. Explore options for additional Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the County.	DPZ	Mid-Term
5. Update the County's Universal Design Guidelines to enhance the capacity for individuals to remain safe and independent in the community through universal design in construction.	DPZ	Mid-Term
6. Require builders and homeowners to follow, when practicable, the updated Universal Design Guidelines for new and rehabilitated, remodeled, or redesigned age-restricted housing.	DPZ	Mid-Term
<u>7. During review of the building code update, consider local amendments that establish minimum building standards for the majority of new housing units as discussed in the Age Friendly Action Plan.</u>	DPZ	<u>Mid-Term</u>
<u>8. Ensure Universal Design Guidelines are utilized for at least 10% of all affordable units built.</u>	DPZ DILP DCRS	<u>Mid-Term</u>
DN-12 - Create greater opportunities for multi-generational neighborhoods, especially in character areas identified as activity centers.		
1. Design new activity centers to accommodate the needs of various ages, abilities, and life stages. Ensure design of neighborhoods and their amenities provide accessibility using universal design guidelines with sidewalks, wayfinding, and safe connections.	DPZ	Ongoing
2. Bring multi-modal transportation options to locations planned for new multi-generational neighborhoods.	OOT DPZ	Ongoing

Table 10-1: Implementation Matrix		
Policy and Implementing Actions	Lead Agency	Timeframe (Mid-Term five-year, Long-Term six+ years, Ongoing)
DN-13 - Preserve affordability of existing housing stock and create opportunities for context-sensitive infill development, especially in Preservation-Revitalization Neighborhoods.		
1. Identify neighborhoods and properties for preservation.	DPZ DHCD	Mid-Term
2. Continue to support the County's housing preservation programs, which are designed to preserve existing affordable housing and assist low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters to remain in their homes.	DHCD DPZ	Ongoing
3. Explore options and partnerships for an acquisition/rehabilitation program for older single-family homes that would support homeownership opportunities for moderate-income households.	DHCD	Ongoing
4. Encourage the development of missing middle housing types that conform to existing neighborhood character and contribute to the creation of mixed-income communities.	DPZ	Ongoing
5. Develop strategies for employing the right of first refusal policy to ensure no loss of affordable units when there are opportunities for redevelopment of multi-family properties.	DHCD	Mid-Term
DN-14 - Support existing neighborhoods and improve community infrastructure and amenities as needed, especially in older or under-served neighborhoods and multi-family communities.		
1. Assess existing community facilities and the neighborhoods that they serve, and upgrade or retrofit as needed to support changing neighborhood needs. Engage communities in the identification of neighborhood needs.	DPW	Ongoing
2. Identify older communities in need of a comprehensive revitalization strategy and work with those communities to develop revitalization plans to assist those communities.	DPZ	Long-term
3. Work with the multi-family rental community to understand the barriers to reporting and resolving issues related to multi-family property maintenance.	DHCD DILP HCHC	Mid-Term