

## ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REVIEW SHEET

**Amendment:** C20-2022-02A Site Plan Lite 1

**Description:** Amends City Code Title 25-5 to establish that development of three or four residential units on a site will be permitted in the same manner the City reviews one or two residential units, through the residential permitting process with no site plan submittal required.

**Proposed Language:** Consider an ordinance to amend City Code Title 25-2 to establish that development of three or four residential units on a site will be permitted in the same manner as the City reviews one or two residential units, through the residential permitting process with no site plan submittal required in response to City Council Resolution 20221201-048 .

**Summary of Proposed Code Amendment:**

Amend Subsection (B)(1) of LDC Sec. 25-5-2 (Site Plan Exemptions) to read as follows:

B. A site plan is not required for the following development:

- 1) construction or alteration of no more than four residential units [~~a single-family residential, single-family attached residential, duplex residential, two-family residential, or secondary apartment special use structure, or an accessory structure~~], if:
  - a) the proposed construction is located [~~not more than one principal residential structure is constructed~~] on a legal lot or tract that contains no more than four residential units, including proposed and existing units; and
  - b) a proposed improvement is not located in the 100 year flood plain, or the director determines that the proposed improvement will have an insignificant effect on the waterway;

**Background:** Initiated by City Council Resolution 20221201-048.

On December 1, 2022, City Council approved Resolution No. 20221201-048 directing staff to add triplexes and fourplexes to residential review to establish that the City will review development of three or four residential units in the manner the City reviews development of one or two residential units, where no site plan is required.

The Land Development Code's non-zoning regulations, including drainage and water quality requirements, can limit the feasibility of constructing triplexes, fourplexes, row houses, cottage courts, and similar missing middle housing types. To facilitate construction of these projects, Planning Commission and Council have provided direction for better tailoring the development review process to the scale and intensity of missing middle housing.

Resolution No. 20221201-048 initiated two amendments to help achieve this goal. The first amendment is to make the construction of up to four dwelling units subject to residential building plan review:

1. Add Triplexes and Fourplexes to Residential Review: Establish that the City will review developments of three or four residential units in the manner the City reviews developments of one or two residential units, where no site plan is required which would effectively limit the review process to just zoning regulations.

Council's second directive is to develop a modified site plan process tailored to projects of 5 to 16 units, which will require compliance with a wider range of regulations than residential building plan review, but less than full site plan. The staff recommendation on this proposal remains under development.

**Staff Recommendation:**

[LDC Sec. 25-5-2 \(Site Plan Exemptions\)](#) exempts numerous types of development from the requirement to obtain site plan approval. One of the exemptions, codified in Subsection (B)(1), covers various types of one and two-family residential development. Staff recommends expanding this exemption to include development of up to four units, provided that no more than four units (existing or proposed) are located on the lot.

This proposal would make development of up to four units subject to the same level of review that currently applies to most one and two-family residential projects—i.e., zoning regulations and technical codes. The proposal carries forward the exclusion for development in the 100-year floodplain and includes additional language that precludes using the exemption to develop multi-family projects in excess of four units.

**Board and Commission Actions:**

**June 21, 2023:** To be reviewed by the Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee.

**July 11, 2023:** A public hearing will be held by Planning Commission.

**Council Action:**

**July 11:** A public hearing will be scheduled.

**Ordinance Number:**

**City Staff:** Brent Lloyd, Development Services Department

**Phone:** 512-974-2974

**Email:** [Brent.Lloyd@austintexas.gov](mailto:Brent.Lloyd@austintexas.gov)

**City Staff:** Christopher Johnson, Development Services Department

**Phone:** 512-974-2769

**Email:** [Christopher.Johnson@austintexas.gov](mailto:Christopher.Johnson@austintexas.gov)