Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

37-70 - PUBLIC PLAZAS

File generated by https://zr.planning.nyc.gov on 11/21/2026

37-70 - PUBLIC PLAZAS

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

#Public plazas# are open areas on a #zoning lot# intended for public use and enjoyment. The standards contained within Sections 37-70 through 37-78, inclusive, are intended to serve the following specific purposes:

(a) to serve a variety of users of the #public plaza# area;

(b) to provide spaces for solitary users while at the same time providing opportunities for social interaction for small groups; and

(c) to provide safe spaces, with maximum visibility from the #street# and adjacent #buildings# and with multiple avenues for ingress and egress.

All #public plazas# shall comply with the provisions of Section 37-70 through 37-78, inclusive. These provisions may be modified pursuant to Section 74-91 (Modification of Public Plazas).

37-71 - Basic Design Criteria

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

37-711 - Definitions

LAST AMENDED

10/17/2007

Corner public plaza

A “corner public plaza” is a #public plaza# that is located on an intersection of two or more #streets#.

Through block public plaza

A “through block public plaza” is a #public plaza# or portion of a #public plaza# that is not a #corner public plaza# and that connects two #streets# that are parallel or within 45 degrees of being parallel to each other.

37-712 - Area dimensions

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

A #public plaza# shall contain an area of not less than 2,000 square feet. In no case shall spaces between existing #buildings# remaining on the #zoning lot# qualify as #public plazas#. In addition, in order to preserve the provisions relating to the boundaries, proportions and obstructions of #public plazas#, on any one #zoning lot#, an open area which does not qualify for bonus #floor area# may not be located between two #public plazas#, or between a #public plaza# and a #building# wall or #arcade#.

Any non-bonused open area located adjacent to a #public plaza#, other than an open area bounding a #street line# used for pedestrian access, must either:

(a) be separated from the #public plaza# by a buffer, such as a wall, decorative fence, or opaque plantings at least six feet in height; or

(b) meet all requirements for minor portions of #public plazas# related to size, configuration, orientation, as specified in Section 37-716.

37-713 - Locational restrictions

LAST AMENDED
7/20/2017

No #public plaza#, or portion thereof, shall be located within 175 feet of an existing #publicly accessible open area# or #public park# as measured along the #street line# on which the existing amenity fronts if the #public plaza# is to be located on the same side of the #street#, or as measured along the directly opposite #street line# if the #public plaza# is to be located on the other side of the #street#. Such distance shall include the width of any #street# that intersects the #street# on which the amenity fronts. However, such location restriction may be waived if the #public plaza# is located directly across the #street# from the existing #publicly accessible open area# or #public park# and if the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission finds that the location of the #public plaza# at such location would create or contribute to a pedestrian circulation network connecting the two or more open areas.

Additional provisions regarding the location of a #public plaza# are set forth in the #Special Midtown District#, the #Special Lower Manhattan District# and the #Special Downtown Brooklyn District#.

37-714 - Restrictions on orientation

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

For purposes of the orientation requirements, a "north-facing," "south-facing," "east-facing" or "west-facing" #street line# means a #street line# facing within 45 degrees of the direction indicated. To front on a #street# means to be contiguous to the #street line# or to a sidewalk widening along the #street line#.

(a) Where the major portion of a #public plaza# fronts on only one #street line#, such major portion is not permitted to front on a north-facing #street line# of a #zoning lot#.

(b) No major portion of a #public plaza# shall only front on a west-facing #street line# or an east-facing #street line# if the #zoning lot# also has frontage that is 40 feet or more in length on a south-facing #street line#.

(c) A #corner public plaza# must have its major portion, as defined in paragraph (b) of Section 37-715, front on the south-facing #street line#. In the case of a #zoning lot# having frontage on a south-facing #street line# of less than 40 feet, or having its frontage at the intersection of a north-facing #street line# with either an east- or west-facing #street line#, the major portion must front on the east- or west-facing #street line#.

However, the orientation restrictions may be modified if the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission finds that the orientation regulations would conflict with mandatory #street wall# regulations or that the modifications would result in better access to light and air for the #public plaza#.

37-715 - Requirements for major portions of public plazas

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

The major portion of a #public plaza# is the largest area of the #public plaza# and the area of primary use. Major portions shall be generally regular in shape, easily and directly accessible from adjoining #buildings# and public spaces, and continuously visible from within all portions of the #public plaza# and from adjoining public spaces. Major portions shall occupy no less than 75 percent of the total #public plaza# area.

(a) All contiguous #public plaza# areas on a #zoning lot# shall be considered as one #public plaza#.

(b) The shape and dimensions of a #public plaza# shall be such that all points within the major portion shall be visible when viewed perpendicular from each adjacent #street#. #Corner public plazas# that front on two #streets# that do not meet at a 90 degree angle must be fully visible when viewed perpendicular from one adjoining #street# and at least 50 percent of the #public plaza# must be visible when viewed perpendicular to the other adjoining #street#. For the purposes of this regulation, points that when viewed in plan may be joined by a straight line shall be considered visible one from the other; visibility between points shall not be affected by permitted obstructions or by changes of grade. Points within #public plazas# that front on three intersecting streets shall be treated as two #corner public plazas#.

The major portion of a #public plaza# shall be at least 75 percent of the #public plaza's# total area, except that in the case of a #through block public plaza#, pursuant to Section 37-717, a line drawn within 25 feet of the midblock line shall divide the #through block public plaza# into two areas that must separately meet all requirements of the #public plaza# regulations. The major portion of the #public plaza# shall be subject to the proportional requirements set forth in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this Section.

(c) The major portion of a #public plaza# shall have a minimum average width and depth of 40 feet. For #public plazas# that front on only one #street#, no more than 20 percent of the #public plaza# area may have a width of less than 40 feet. Dimensions shall be measured parallel and perpendicular to the #street line# on which the #public plaza# fronts.

(d) For major portions of #public plazas#, the maximum width measured parallel to any one #street# shall not be greater than three times the average depth of the #public plaza# measured perpendicular to the #street line# or the average width measured parallel to any one #street# shall not be greater than three times the maximum depth of the #public plaza# measured perpendicular to the #street line#.

37-716 - Requirements for minor portions of public plazas

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

Minor portions of #public plazas# are secondary areas that allow for additional flexibility in the shape and configuration of a #public plaza#. Minor portions shall not occupy more than 25 percent of the total area of the #public plaza#. The width of a minor portion shall be measured parallel to the line separating the major and minor portions. The depth of a minor portion shall be measured perpendicular to the line separating the major and minor portions. The provisions of Section 37-715 (Requirements for major portions of public plazas) shall not apply to such minor portions and the following regulations shall apply:

(a) The minor portion shall have a minimum average width and depth of 15 feet.

(b) The minor portion must be directly adjacent to the major portion.

(c) All points within the minor portion must be visible from within the major portion when viewed perpendicular to the line separating the major and minor portions.

(d) The minor portion must front directly on a #street# adjoining the major portion, unless the minor portion has:

(1) a width to depth ratio of at least 3:1; and

(2) its longest dimension contiguous with the major portion.

37-717 - Regulations for through block public plazas

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

#Through block public plazas# shall be treated as two #public plazas# separated at a line drawn within 25 feet of the midblock line.

Where any #building# wall or walls adjoin a #through block public plaza# or through #block# portion of a #public plaza# and where such wall or walls exceed 120 feet aggregate length, a minimum 10 foot setback at a height between 60 and 90 feet is required for the full length of the #building# wall.

#Through block public plazas# shall contain a circulation path at least 10 feet in width, connecting the two #streets# on which the #public plaza# fronts, as specified in Section 37-723.

37-718 - Paving

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

The paving of the #public plaza# shall be of non-skid durable materials that are decorative and compatible in color and pattern with other design features of the #public plaza#.

37-72 - Access and Circulation

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

37-721 - Sidewalk frontage

LAST AMENDED
12/6/2023

To facilitate pedestrian access to a #public plaza#, the following rules shall apply to the area of the #public plaza# located within 15 feet of a #street line# or sidewalk widening line:

(a) At least 50 percent of such area shall be free of obstructions and comply with the following provisions:

(1) at least 50 percent of the #public plaza# frontage along each #street line# or sidewalk widening line shall be free of obstructions; and

(2) such unobstructed access area shall extend to a depth of 15 feet measured perpendicular to the #street line#. The width of such access area need not be contiguous provided that no portion of such area shall have a width of less than five feet measured parallel to the #street line#, and at least one portion of such area shall have a width of at least eight feet measured parallel to the #street line#.

(b) In the remaining 50 percent of such area, only those obstructions listed in Section 37-726 (Permitted obstructions) shall be allowed, provided such obstructions are not higher than two feet above the level of the public sidewalk fronting the #public plaza#, except for light

stanchions, public space signage, railings for steps, #qualifying exterior wall thickness# pursuant to Section 33-23 (Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents), trash receptacles, trees and fixed or moveable seating and tables. Furthermore, planting walls or trellises, water features and artwork may exceed a height of two feet when located within three feet of a wall bounding the #public plaza#.

For #corner public plazas#, the requirements of this Section shall apply separately to each #street# frontage, and the area within 15 feet of the intersection of any two or more #streets# on which the #public plaza# fronts shall be at the same elevation as the adjoining public sidewalk and shall be free of obstructions.

37-722 - Level of plaza

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

The level of a #public plaza#, inclusive of major and minor portions, shall not at any point be less than the average elevation of #curb level# of the nearest adjoining #street# nor more than two feet above the average #curb level# of the nearest adjoining #street# in front of the major and minor portions of the #public plaza#. However, a #public plaza# with an area of 10,000 square feet or more may additionally have a maximum of 20 percent of its area at an elevation more than two feet above, but not more than four feet above #curb level# of the nearest adjoining #street# in front of the major and minor portions of the #public plaza#, provided that such higher portion may not be located within 25 feet of any #street line#. #Public plazas# that front on #streets# with slopes greater than 2.5 percent along the frontage of the #public plaza# may not at any point be more than one foot below the #curb level# of the adjoining #street#.

37-723 - Circulation paths

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

Circulation paths within #public plazas# shall provide for unobstructed pedestrian circulation throughout the minor and major portions of the #public plaza# and shall, at a minimum, connect all #streets# on which the #public plaza# fronts and all major elements of the #public plaza#, including seating areas, #building# entrances, approved open air cafes and kiosks, and significant design features of the #public plaza#. A minimum of one such circulation path shall be provided of at least eight feet clear width. Circulation paths shall extend to at least 80 percent of the depth of the major portion of the #public plaza#, measured perpendicular from each #street line#. #Through block public plazas# shall provide at least one circulation path with a minimum width of 10 feet connecting each #street# on which the #public plaza# fronts. Trees planted flush to grade, light stanchions, trash receptacles, and public space signage shall be considered permitted obstructions within circulation paths; however, all trees located within circulation paths must comply with the regulations for flush-to-grade trees in Section 37-742.

37-724 - Subway entrances

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

Where an entry to a subway station exists in the sidewalk area of a #street# on which a #public plaza# fronts and such entry is not replaced within the #public plaza# itself, the #public plaza# shall be at the same elevation as the adjacent sidewalk for a distance of at least 15 feet in all directions from the entry superstructure. Such #public plaza# area around a subway entry shall be free of all obstructions and may count towards the required clear area requirements as specified in Section 37-721 (Sidewalk

frontage).

37-725 - Steps

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

Any steps provided within the #public plaza# must have a minimum height of four inches and a maximum height of six inches. Steps must have a minimum tread of 17 inches; steps with a height of five inches, however, may have a minimum tread of 15 inches.

37-726 - Permitted obstructions

LAST AMENDED
12/6/2023

(a) #Public plazas# shall be open to the sky and unobstructed except for the following features, equipment and appurtenances normally found in #public parks# and playgrounds: water features, including fountains, reflecting pools and waterfalls; sculptures and other works of art; seating, including benches, seats and moveable chairs; trees, planters, planting beds, lawns and other landscape features; arbors or trellises; litter receptacles; bicycle racks; tables and other outdoor furniture; lights and lighting stanchions; public telephones; public restrooms; permitted temporary exhibitions; permitted awnings, canopies or marquees; permitted freestanding #signs#; play equipment; #qualifying exterior wall thickness# added pursuant to Section 33-23 (Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents); permitted kiosks and open-air cafes; stages; subway station entrances, which may include

escalators; and drinking fountains.

However, an area occupied in aggregate by such permitted obstruction shall not exceed the maximum percentage cited in paragraph (b) of this Section. In addition, certain of the obstructions listed in this paragraph, (a), shall not be permitted within the sidewalk frontage of a #public plaza#, as described in Section 37-721 (Sidewalk frontage).

(b) Permitted obstructions may occupy a maximum percentage of the area of a #public plaza#, as follows:

For #public plazas# less than 10,000 square feet in area: 40 percent

For #public plazas# less than 10,000 square feet in area with a permitted open air cafe: 50 percent

For #public plazas# 10,000 square feet or more in area: 50 percent

For #public plazas# 10,000 square feet or more in area with a permitted open air cafe: 60 percent.

The area of permitted obstructions shall be measured by outside dimensions. Obstructions that are non-permanent or moveable, such as moveable chairs, open air cafes, or temporary exhibitions shall be confined within gross areas designated on the site plan, and not measured as individual pieces of furniture.

Trees planted flush-to-grade in accordance with the provisions of Section 37-742 (Planting and trees) and tree canopies do not count as obstructions for the purpose of calculating total area occupied by permitted obstructions. Planting beds and their retaining walls for trees count as obstructions, except that lawn, turf or grass areas intended for public access and

seating shall not count as obstructions, provided such lawns do not differ in elevation from the adjoining #public plaza# elevation by more than six inches. #Qualifying exterior wall thickness# added pursuant to Section 33-23 in any #publicly accessible open area# or #public plaza# shall not count as obstructions for the purpose of calculating total area occupied by permitted obstructions.

(c) Canopies, awnings, marquees and sun control devices

(1) Entrances to #buildings# located within a #public plaza# may have a maximum of one canopy, awning or marquee, provided that such canopy, awning or marquee:

(i) has a maximum area of 250 square feet;

(ii) does not project into the #public plaza# more than 15 feet when measured perpendicular to the #building# facade;

(iii) is located a minimum of 15 feet above the level of the #public plaza# adjacent to the #building# entrance; and

(iv) does not contain vertical supports.

Such canopies, awnings, and marquees shall be designed to provide maximum visibility into the #public plaza# from adjoining #streets# and the adjacent #building#. However, canopies, awnings and marquees associated with entrances to #buildings# containing #residences# located within a #public plaza# may project more than 15 feet into the #public plaza# and contain vertical supports if they are located entirely within 10 feet of the edge of the #public plaza#.

(2) Sun control devices may be located within a #public plaza#, provided that all such devices:

(i) shall be located above the level of the first #story# ceiling;

(ii) shall be limited to a maximum projection of 2 feet, 6 inches;

(iii) shall have solid surfaces that, in aggregate, cover an area no more than 20 percent of the area of the #building# wall (as viewed in elevation) from which they project; and

(iv) may rise above the permitted #building# height, up to the height of a parapet wall or guardrail, pursuant to Section 33-42 (Permitted Obstructions);

(d) Prohibition of garage entrances, driveways, parking spaces, loading berths, exhaust vents, mechanical equipment and #building# trash storage facilities

No garage entrances, driveways, parking spaces, passenger drop offs or loading berths shall be permitted within a #public plaza#. No #building# trash storage facilities are permitted within a #public plaza#, nor shall any #building# trash storage facility be accessed or serviced through the #public plaza#. If garage entrances, parking spaces, passenger drop offs, driveways, loading berths or #building# trash storage facilities are located near or adjoin a #public plaza#, they shall be separated from it by a barrier sufficient to substantially conceal these facilities and any vehicles therein when viewed from any point in the #public plaza#.

No exhaust vents or mechanical equipment are permitted on any #public plaza# or on any #building# wall fronting upon the #public plaza#, unless such exhaust vents are more than 15 feet above the level of the adjacent #public plaza#. All exhaust vents and mechanical equipment located adjacent to a #public plaza# shall be separated from it by a barrier sufficient to substantially, visually and audibly, conceal their presence and operation. Air intake vents or shafts shall be permitted within a #public plaza#, provided that such vents are concealed from public view by planting or other design features and that such vents do not impair visibility within the #public plaza# area.

37-727 - Hours of access

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

All #public plazas# shall be accessible to the public at all times, except where the City Planning Commission has authorized a nighttime closing, pursuant to the provisions of this Section.

In all districts, the City Planning Commission may authorize the closing during certain nighttime hours of an existing or new #publicly accessible open area#, if the Commission finds that:

(a) such existing #publicly accessible open area# has been open to the public a minimum of one year or there are significant operational or safety issues documented, or for new #public plazas# significant safety issues have been documented and provided as part of the application for authorization of nighttime closing;

(b) such closing is necessary for public safety within the #publicly accessible open area# and maintenance of the public open areas as documented by the applicant;

(c) the layout and design of the #publicly accessible open area# will promote public use and free and easy pedestrian circulation throughout the space;

(d) any approved design element that limits public access, as specified in paragraph (e) of this Section, shall not impede public circulation, visual or physical access within the #publicly accessible open area# or between the #publicly accessible open area# and other public areas during hours of public operation;

(e) a design element that limits public access shall:

(1) be of a design that is integrated with the design of the #publicly accessible open area# in a manner that would promote the attractiveness of the space for public use and enjoyment;

(2) not exceed five feet in height;

(3) be fully removed from the #publicly accessible open area# during the hours of public access; however, barriers not to exceed 3 feet, 6 inches in height may have posts or supports that remain during the hours of public access provided that such posts or supports do not exceed six inches in width;

(4) not involve stanchions or cabinets for barrier storage located with the #publicly accessible open area#, except for stanchions or cabinets located at the edges of the #publicly accessible open area#;

(5) not inhibit or diminish access to the #publicly accessible open area# nor impede pedestrian circulation into, through, or along the frontage of the #publicly accessible open area#, and not obstruct access during the hours of public access; and

(6) be substantially transparent;

(f) public access to the #publicly accessible open area# between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. from April 15 to October 31 and from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. from November 1 to April 14, or a schedule specified by the Commission, is assured by appropriate legal documents and that an hours of access plaque shall be affixed to the enclosure or barrier which shall indicate the hours of public access to the #publicly accessible open area#, as specified in Section 37-751 , paragraph (c). However, if an open air cafe or kiosk is located within the #publicly accessible open area#, such #publicly accessible open area# shall remain open to the public during the hours of operation of the open air cafe or kiosk;

(g) plans have been submitted that demonstrate that, where appropriate, the #publicly accessible open area# will be improved, to the maximum extent feasible, in accordance with the

standards set forth for #public plazas#;

(h) a program for continuing maintenance of the #publicly accessible open area# has been established in accordance with Section 37-77.

In order to promote increased public use of the public open areas, the Commission may require, or the applicant may request, additional improvements to the existing #publicly accessible open area#, including, where appropriate, amenities such as kiosks or open air cafes as described in Section 37-73. In no event shall any #publicly accessible open area# be reduced in size.

All applications for nighttime closings of #publicly accessible open areas# filed with the Commission shall include a detailed site plan or plans indicating compliance with the provisions of this Section, including but not limited to materials, dimensions, and configuration or any design element that limits public access, the storage location for the design element that limits public access during the hours of public operation of the #public plaza#, and the hours of the #publicly accessible open area's# accessibility to the public. All such plans for #publicly accessible open areas#, once authorized, shall be filed and duly recorded in the Borough Office of the City Register of the City of New York, indexed against the property in the form of a legal instrument providing notice of the authorization pursuant to this Section. The form and contents of the legal instrument shall be satisfactory to the Commission, and the filing and recording of such instrument shall be a precondition for the nighttime closing of any #publicly accessible open area#. The recording information shall be included on the certificate of occupancy for any #building#, or portion thereof, on the #zoning lot#, issued after the recording date.

The land use application for an authorization under this Section shall be sent to the applicable Community Board, local Council Member and Borough President. If the Community Board, local Council Member or Borough President elects to comment on such application, it must be done within 45 days of receipt of such application.

The Commission shall file any such authorization with the City Council. The Council, within 20 days of such filing, may resolve by majority vote to review such authorization. If the Council so resolves, within 50 days of the filing of the Commission's authorization, the Council shall hold a public hearing and may approve or disapprove such authorization. If, within the time periods provided for in this

Section, the Council fails to act on the Commission's authorization, the Council shall be deemed to have approved such authorization.

37-728 - Standards of accessibility for persons with disabilities

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

All #public plazas# shall conform with applicable laws pertaining to access for persons with disabilities regardless of whether the #building# associated with the #public plaza# is existing or new.

37-73 - Kiosks and Open Air Cafes

LAST AMENDED
6/21/2016

Kiosks and open air cafes may be placed within a #publicly accessible open area# upon certification, pursuant to this Section. Such features shall be treated as permitted obstructions. Only #uses# permitted by the applicable district regulations may occupy #publicly accessible open areas# or front on #publicly accessible open areas#.

(a) Kiosks

Where a kiosk is provided, it shall be a one-story temporary or permanent structure that is substantially open and transparent as approved by the Department of Buildings in conformance with the Building Code. Kiosks, including roofed areas, shall not occupy an area in excess of 100 square feet per kiosk. One kiosk is permitted for every 5,000 square feet of

#publicly accessible open area#, exclusive of areas occupied by other approved kiosks or open air cafes. Kiosk placement shall not impede or be located within any pedestrian circulation path. Any area occupied by a kiosk shall be excluded from the calculation of #floor area#. Kiosks may be occupied only by #uses# permitted by the applicable district regulations such as news, book or magazine stands, food or drink service, flower stands, information booths, or other activities that promote the public use and enjoyment of the #publicly accessible open area#. Any kitchen equipment shall be stored entirely within the kiosk.

Kiosks must be in operation and provide service a minimum of 225 days per year. However, kiosks may operate for fewer days in accordance with conditions set forth in paragraph (c) of this Section.

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 32-41 (Enclosure Within Buildings), outdoor eating services or #uses# occupying kiosks may serve customers in a #publicly accessible open area# through open windows.

(b) Open air cafes

Where an open air cafe is provided, it shall be a permanently unenclosed restaurant or eating or drinking place, permitted by applicable district regulations, which may have waiter or table service, and shall be open to the sky except that it may have umbrellas, temporary fabric roofs with no vertical supports in conformance with the Building Code, and removable heating lamps. Open air cafes shall occupy an aggregate area not more than 20 percent of the total area of the #publicly accessible open area#. #Publicly accessible open areas# less than 10 feet in width that are located between separate sections of the same open air cafe or between sections of an open air cafe and a kiosk that provides service for such cafe must be included in the calculation of the maximum aggregate area of the open air cafe. Open air cafes shall be located along the edge of the #publicly accessible open area#, except for open air cafes located within #publicly accessible open areas# greater than 30,000 square feet in area. Open air cafes may

not occupy more than one third of any #street# frontage of the #publicly accessible open area# and may not contain any required circulation paths. An open air cafe must be accessible from all sides where there is a boundary with the remainder of the #publicly accessible open area#, except where there are planters or walls approved pursuant to a prior certification for an open air cafe. Subject to the foregoing exception, fences, planters, walls, fabric dividers or other barriers that separate open air cafe areas from the #publicly accessible open area# or sidewalk are prohibited. All furnishings of an open air cafe, including tables, chairs, bussing stations, and heating lamps, shall be completely removed from the #publicly accessible open area# when the open air cafe is not in active use, except that tables and chairs may remain in the #publicly accessible open area# if they are unsecured and may be used by the public without restriction. No kitchen equipment shall be installed within an open air cafe; kitchen equipment, however, may be contained in a kiosk adjoining an open air cafe. An open air cafe qualifying as a permitted obstruction shall be excluded from the definition of #floor area#.

The exterior corners of the border of the space to be occupied by an open air cafe shall be marked on the ground by a line painted with white latex traffic or zone marking paint. The line shall be one inch wide and three inches in length on each side of the cafe border from the point where the borders intersect at an angled corner. In addition, a line one inch wide and three inches long shall be marked on the ground at intervals of no more than five feet starting from the end point of the line marking the cafe corners.

Open air cafes must be in operation and provide service a minimum of 225 days per year.

Open air cafes shall be located at the same elevation as an adjoining #public plaza# and sidewalk area, except for platforms that shall not exceed six inches in height.

(c) Certification

Kiosks and open air cafes may be placed within the area of a #publicly accessible open area#

upon certification by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission to the Commissioner of Buildings, that:

(1) such #use# promotes public use and enjoyment of the #publicly accessible open area#;

(2) such #use# complements desirable #uses# in the surrounding area;

(3) the owner of such #use# or the #building# owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of such kiosk or open air cafe, which shall be located within areas designated on building plans as available for occupancy by such #uses# and no encroachment by a kiosk or open air cafe outside an area so designated shall be permitted;

(4) such #use# does not adversely impact visual and physical access to and throughout the #publicly accessible open area#;

(5) such #use#, when located within a #public plaza#, is provided in accordance with all the requirements set forth in this Section;

(6) for kiosks and open air cafes located within an existing #publicly accessible open area#, such #use# is proposed as part of a general improvement of the #publicly accessible open area# where necessary, including as much landscaping and public seating as is feasible, in accordance with the standards for #public plazas#;

(7) a #sign# shall be provided in public view within the cafe area indicating the days and hours of operation of such cafe; and

(8) for kiosks that are in operation less than 225 days per year, an off-season plan has been submitted to the Chairperson showing that such kiosks will be completely removed from the #publicly accessible open area# when not in operation, that the area previously occupied by the kiosk is returned to public use and such area is in compliance with the applicable #publicly accessible open area# design standards.

(d) Process

An application for certification shall be filed with the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission, and the Chairperson shall furnish a copy of the application for such certification to the affected Community Board at the earliest possible stage. The Chairperson will give due consideration to the Community Board's opinion as to the appropriateness of such a facility in the area and shall respond to such application for certification within 60 days of the application's receipt.

The Chairperson shall file any such certification with the City Council. The Council, within 20 days of such filing, may resolve by majority vote to review such certification. If the Council so resolves, within 50 days of the filing of the Chairperson's certification, the Council shall hold a public hearing and may approve or disapprove such certification. If, within the time periods provided for in this Section, the Council fails to act on the Chairperson's certification, the Council shall be deemed to have approved such certification.

Such certification shall be effective for a period of three years.

All applications for the placement of kiosks or open air cafes shall include a detailed site plan or plans indicating compliance with the provisions of this Section, including the layout and number of tables, chairs, restaurant equipment and heating lamps, as well as the storage location for periods when the kiosk or open air cafe is closed. Where a kiosk or open air cafe is to be located within an existing #publicly accessible open area#, each kiosk or open air cafe application must be accompanied by a compliance report in accordance with the requirements

of Section 37-78, paragraph (c).

Where design changes to #publicly accessible open areas# are necessary in order to accommodate such kiosk or open air cafe, or to comply with paragraph (c)(6) of this Section, a certification pursuant to Section 37-625 (Design changes) shall be required, except that within the #Special Lower Manhattan District#, design changes to a #publicly accessible open area# pursuant to the provisions of Section 91-832 (Plaza improvements) as part of a certification pursuant to Section 91-83 (Retail Uses Within Existing Arcades), an authorization pursuant to Section 91-841 (Authorization for retail uses within existing arcades) or a certification pursuant to Section 91-837 (Subsequent design changes) may satisfy the requirements in paragraph (c)(6) of this Section.

All such plans for kiosks or open air cafes, once certified, shall be filed and duly recorded in the Borough Office of the City Register of the City of New York, indexed against the property in the form of a legal instrument providing notice of the certification for the kiosk or open air cafe, pursuant to this Section. The form and contents of the legal instrument shall be satisfactory to the Chairperson, and the filing and recording of such instrument shall be a precondition for the placement of the kiosk or open air cafe within the #publicly accessible open area#.

37-74 - Amenities

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

All #public plazas# shall provide amenities, as listed in Sections 37-741 through 37-748, inclusive. All required amenities shall be considered permitted obstructions within the #public plaza#.

37-741 - Seating

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

Standards for seating within #public plazas# are intended to facilitate the provision of abundant, comfortable and accessible seating throughout the #public plaza#, including, more specifically, as follows:

(a) to provide a broad variety of seating types and configurations;

(b) to accommodate individual users engaged in solitary activities as well as groups engaged in social activities;

(c) to provide a comfortable and safe seating surface by providing smooth, even and level surfaces with rounded edges;

(d) to incorporate, to the maximum extent possible, a combination of fixed benches, moveable chairs, seating with backs, seat walls and ledges, and seating steps;

(e) to provide ample opportunity for social seating as a basic seating type that consists of seats that are placed in close proximity and at angles to one another or in facing configurations that facilitate social interaction.

There shall be a minimum of one linear foot of seating for each 30 square feet of #public plaza# area.

A minimum of one linear foot of the required seating for every two linear feet of #street# frontage must be located within 15 feet of the #street line#. At least 50 percent of this seating shall have backs and at least 50 percent of the seats with backs shall face the #street#.

Seating requirements may be satisfied by the following seating types: moveable seating, fixed individual seats, fixed benches with and without backs, and design-feature seating such as seat walls, planter ledges, or seating steps. All #public plazas# shall provide at least two different types of seating. #Public plazas# greater than 5,000 square feet in area shall provide at least three different types of seating. #Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area must provide moveable seating as one of the required seating types.

Not more than 50 percent of the linear seating capacity may be in moveable seats that may be stored between the hours of sunset and sunrise, where the City Planning Commission has authorized a limitation on the hours of access pursuant to Section 37-727.

Devices or forms affixed or incorporated into planter ledges, steps, sills or other horizontal surfaces that would otherwise be suitable for seating that are intended to prevent or inhibit seating (such as spikes, metal bars, or pointed, excessively rough, or deliberately uncomfortable materials or forms) shall be prohibited.

Deterrents to skateboards, rollerblades and other wheeled devices are permitted on seating surfaces if they do not inhibit seating, maintain a minimum distance of five feet between deterrents, and are integrated into the seating surface at the time of manufacture or construction or should be constructed of materials that are consistent with the materials and finish quality of the seating surface.

The following standards shall be met for all required seating:

(1) Seating shall have a minimum depth of 18 inches. Seating with 36 inches or more in depth may count towards two seats, provided there is access to both sides. When required seating is provided on a planter ledge, such ledge must have a minimum depth of 22 inches.

(2) Seating shall have a height not less than 16 inches nor greater than 20 inches above the level of the adjacent walking surface. However, as described in paragraph (5) of this Section, seating steps may have a height not to exceed 30 inches and seating walls may have a height not to exceed 24 inches.

(3) At least 50 percent of the linear feet of fixed seating shall have backs at least 14 inches high and a maximum seat depth of 20 inches. Walls located adjacent to a seating surface shall not count as seat backs. All seat backs must either be contoured in form for comfort or shall be reclined from vertical between 10 to 15 degrees.

(4) Moveable seating or chairs, excluding seating for open air cafes, may be credited as 24 inches of linear seating per chair. Moveable seating provided as a required amenity shall be provided in the amount of one chair per 200 square feet of #public plaza# area. One table shall be provided for every four such moveable chairs.

All moveable seats must have backs and a maximum seat depth of 20 inches. Moveable chairs shall not be chained, fixed or otherwise secured while the #public plaza# is open to the public; moveable chairs, however, may be removed during the nighttime hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

(5) Seating steps and seating walls may be used for required seating if such seating does not, in aggregate, represent more than 15 percent of the linear feet of required seating in the #public plaza#. Seating steps shall not include any steps intended for circulation and must have a height not less than six inches nor greater than 30 inches and a depth not less than 18 inches. Seating walls shall have a height not greater than 18 inches; such seating walls, however, may have a height not to exceed 24 inches if they are located within 10 feet of an edge of the #public plaza#.

(6) Seating in open air cafes shall not count towards meeting the seating requirement of this Section.

(7) Seats that face walls must be a minimum of six feet from such wall.

37-742 - Planting and trees

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

The provisions of this Section are intended to facilitate a combination of landscaping elements in order to provide comfort, shade and textural variety.

At least 20 percent of the area of a #public plaza# shall be comprised of planting beds with a minimum dimension of two feet, exclusive of any bounding walls.

All #public plazas# shall provide a minimum of four trees. For a #public plaza# greater than 6,000 square feet in area, an additional four caliper inches in additional trees or multi-stemmed equivalents must be provided for each additional 1,000 square feet of #public plaza# area, rounded to the nearest 1,000 square feet.

For all #public plazas#, at least 50 percent of required trees shall be planted flush-to-grade or planted at grade within planting beds with no raised curbs or railings. Trees planted flush-to-grade shall be surrounded by a porous surface (such as grating or open-joint paving) that allows water to penetrate into the soil for a minimum radius of 2 feet, 6 inches. Such porous surface shall be of sufficient strength and density to accommodate pedestrian circulation, including all requirements related to accessibility for the disabled, and shall be of a design that allows for tree growth. Installed fixtures such as lighting stanchions, electrical outlets or conduits shall not be located within the required porous area of any tree planted flush-to-grade.

Where trees are planted within a #public plaza#, they shall measure at least four inches in caliper at the time of planting, unless alternative, multi-stemmed equivalents are specified in the approved planting plans. Each tree shall be planted in at least 200 cubic feet of soil with a depth of soil of at least 3 feet, 6 inches.

Planting beds shall have a soil depth of at least 18 inches for grass or other ground cover, three feet for shrubs and 3 feet, 6 inches for trees. No planters or planting beds shall have bounding walls that exceed 18 inches in height above an adjacent walking surface or the highest adjacent surface where the

bounding wall adjoins two or more walking surfaces with different elevations. Any planting bed containing required trees shall have a continuous area of at least 75 square feet for each tree exclusive of bounding walls. Furthermore, each tree located within a planting bed shall be surrounded by a continuous permeable surface measuring at least five feet square. Any lawns or turf grass planting beds shall not exceed six inches above any adjacent walking surfaces.

All planted areas shall either be automatically irrigated or shall consist of species that do not require regular watering.

All planted areas located above subsurface structures such as #cellars# or garages shall have drainage systems to prevent collection and pooling of water within planted areas.

#Street# trees are required to be planted in the public sidewalk area adjacent to a #zoning lot# that contains bonus #floor area# for #public plazas# in accordance with Section 26-41 (Street Tree Planting). The length of frontage of the #zoning lot# for the purpose of computing required #street# trees may be reduced by 50 feet for each #street# intersection fronted by the #zoning lot#. If the Department of Parks and Recreation determines that the tree planting requirements of this paragraph are infeasible, the number of required #street# trees that cannot be planted shall be planted in accordance with the off-site tree provisions set forth in Section 26-41 or within the #public plaza#.

37-743 - Lighting and electrical power

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

#Public plazas# shall be illuminated to provide for safe use and enjoyment of all areas of the #public plaza#. Special attention should be provided in lighting steps and other changes in elevation and areas under tree canopies and permitted canopies within the #public plaza#.

#Public plazas# shall be illuminated with a minimum level of illumination of not less than two horizontal foot candles (lumens per foot) throughout all walkable and sitting areas, including sidewalks directly adjacent to the #public plaza#, and a minimum level of illumination of not less than 0.5 horizontal foot candles (lumens per foot) throughout all other areas. All lighting sources used to satisfy this illumination requirement shall be located outdoors on the subject #zoning lot#. Such level of illumination shall be maintained from one hour before sunset to one hour after sunrise, including #public plazas# that are authorized to close at night. A lighting schedule, including fixtures, wattage and their locations and designs together with a diagram of light level distribution, with light levels indicated at intervals of no more than every 20 square feet, shall be part of the required detailed design plans. Electrical power shall be supplied by one or more outlets furnishing a total of at least 1,200 watts of power for every 4,000 square feet, or fraction thereof, of the area of a #public plaza#.

All lighting sources that illuminate the #public plaza# and are mounted on or located within #buildings# adjacent to the #public plaza# shall be shielded from direct view. In addition, all lighting within the #public plaza# area shall be shielded to minimize any adverse effect on surrounding #residences#.

37-744 - Litter receptacles

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

One litter receptacle shall be provided for every 1,500 square feet of #public plaza# area, up to a maximum of 6,000 square feet. Plazas greater than 6,000 square feet in area must provide an additional litter receptacle for every additional 2,000 square feet of #public plaza# area. #Public plazas# that contain open air cafes or kiosks providing food service shall provide one additional litter receptacle for each 1,500 square feet of #public plaza# area occupied by such outdoor eating area. All litter receptacles must have a volume capacity of at least 25 gallons and shall be located in visible and convenient locations. All top or side openings must have a minimum dimension of 12 inches. Litter

receptacles shall be provided within 50 feet of required seating areas in the #public plaza#.

37-745 - Bicycle parking

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

All #public plazas# shall provide parking for at least two bicycles. #Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in size must provide parking for at least four bicycles. Bike racks must be provided on the sidewalk directly adjacent to the #public plaza# in accordance with Department of Transportation standards, unless the Department of Transportation has determined that the sidewalk area adjacent to the #public plaza# cannot accommodate the required bicycle parking.

37-746 - Drinking fountains

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

A minimum of one drinking fountain shall be provided in all #public plazas#.

37-747 - Public space signage

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

Entry and information plaques shall be provided, as described in Section 37-751 (Public space signage systems).

37-748 - Additional amenities

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

#Public plazas# between 5,000 and 10,000 square feet in area must provide one of the following additional amenities and #public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area must provide at least three of the following additional amenities. All additional amenities shall be considered permitted obstructions within the #public plaza#.

(a) Artwork

Artwork that is provided as an additional amenity must integrate with the design of the #public plaza#. Artwork shall not interfere with public access, circulation or visual openness within the #public plaza# or between the #public plaza# and adjoining public areas. Artwork may not incorporate addresses, text or logos related to the adjacent #building# or tenants of such #building#;

(b) Moveable tables and chairs, as described in paragraph (4) of Section 37-741;

(c) Water features (such as fountains, reflecting pools, waterfalls);

(d) Children's play area;

(e) Equipment provided as part of children's play areas must be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable United States Consumer Products Safety Commission standards

and best practices, including installation of protective surfaces and barriers. All barriers surrounding play areas shall be designed to allow for the adequate supervision of children at play and shall in all cases be substantially transparent and no more than 3 feet, 6 inches in height;

(f) Game tables and associated seating; or

(g) Food service, including:

(1) food service in a retail space directly accessible from the major portion of the #public plaza#; or

(2) an open air cafe or kiosk, as described in Section 37-73.

#Public plazas# greater than 10,000 square feet in area and associated with a #commercial building# must include a food service as one of the three additional required amenities.

37-75 - Signs

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

37-751 - Public space signage systems

LAST AMENDED
12/19/2019

The following public space signage systems shall be required for all #public plazas#:

(a) Entry plaque

The entry plaque shall be located at each #street# frontage or point of pedestrian entry to the #public plaza#. On each #street# frontage occupied by the #public plaza#, a minimum of one entry plaque shall be provided for every 40 feet of linear #street# frontage occupied by the #public plaza#. The entry plaque shall contain:

(1) a public space symbol and required text that matches the dimensions and graphic standards provided in the Privately Owned Public Space Signage file from the Required Signage Symbols page on the Department of City Planning website. Such symbol and required text shall include the phrase "Open To Public" and shall be provided with a highly contrasting background, in a format that ensures legibility. Additional requirements and review procedures for privately owned public space signage systems are specified in Title 62, Chapter 11, of the Rules of the City of New York;

(2) lettering at least one inch in height stating the words "Open 24 hours" or, if a nighttime closing has been authorized, pursuant to Section 37-727, shall contain the words "Open" followed by the approved hours of operation; and

(3) an International Symbol of Access for persons with disabilities that is at least three inches square.

The entry plaque shall be mounted on a wall or a permanent free-standing post within five feet of the sidewalk with its center five feet above the elevation of the nearest walkable pavement. The maximum height of such free-standing post shall be six feet, with a maximum width and depth of 16 inches. It shall be in a position that clearly identifies the entry into the #public plaza#, and placed so that the entire entry plaque is obvious and directly visible,

without any obstruction, along every line of sight from all paths of pedestrian access to the #public plaza#.

(b) Information plaque

An information plaque constructed from the same permanent materials as the entry plaque or combined with one or more of the required entry plaques shall be provided. Information plaques shall be mounted on a wall or a permanent free-standing post within five feet of the sidewalk and shall have all required lettering located three feet above the elevation of the nearest walkable pavement. The maximum height of such free-standing post shall be six feet, with a maximum width and depth of 16 inches. The information plaque shall consist of:

(1) a public space symbol and required text that matches the dimensions and graphic standards provided in the Privately Owned Public Space Signage file from the Required Signage Symbols page on the Department of City Planning website. Such symbol and required text shall include the phrase "Open To Public" and shall be provided with a highly contrasting background, in a format that ensures legibility. Additional requirements and review procedures for privately owned public space signage systems are specified in Title 62, Chapter 11, of the Rules of the City of New York; and

(2) the words, in lettering one-half inch in height, "Open 24 hours" or, if a nighttime closing has been authorized pursuant to Section 37-727, the words, in lettering one-half inch in height, "Open" followed by the approved hours of operation;

(3) in lettering three-eighths of an inch in height, the words "This public plaza contains:" followed by the total linear feet of seating, the type and quantity of trees, the number of bike racks, the number of drinking fountains and the number of any additional required amenities, such as moveable seating;

(4) in lettering three-eighths of an inch in height, the name of the current owner of the #building# and the name, address, phone number and email address of the person designated to maintain the #public plaza#;

(5) in lettering three-eighths of an inch in height, the statement, "Complaints or Questions: Call 311 and reference the #public plaza# at [insert building address]"; and

(6) the statement, "This public plaza is accessible to persons with disabilities."

(c) Hours of access plaque

On each #street# frontage occupied by the #public plaza# and where the City Planning Commission has authorized a limitation on the hours of access for a #public plaza#, pursuant to the provisions of Section 37-727, a minimum of one hours of access plaque shall be provided for every 40 linear feet of approved barrier that limits public access. The hours of access plaque shall be located on the barrier that limits public access to the #public plaza# and shall consist of:

(1) a public space symbol and required text that matches the dimensions and graphic standards provided in the Privately Owned Public Space Signage file from the Required Signage Symbols page on the Department of City Planning website. Such symbol and required text shall include the phrase "Open To Public" and shall be provided with a highly contrasting background, in a format that ensures legibility. Additional requirements and review procedures for privately owned public space signage systems are specified in Title 62, Chapter 11, of the Rules of the City of New York; and

(2) the statement: "Open" followed by the approved hours of operation.

All required public space signage shall be fully opaque, non-reflective and constructed of permanent, highly durable materials such as steel or stone.

All lettering provided on required public space signage shall be in a clear, bold, sans-serif, non-narrow font such as Arial, Helvetica or Verdana, solid in color with a minimum height of three-quarters of an inch, unless otherwise specified above, and shall highly contrast with the background color of the #sign#.

37-752 - Prohibition signs

LAST AMENDED
10/17/2007

To ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all #public plaza# users, a maximum of one prohibition or "Rule of Conduct" #sign# may be located within the #public plaza#. Such #sign# shall not exceed one foot square in dimension, may not be freestanding, and shall contain no lettering greater than three-quarters of an inch in height.

Such #sign# shall not prohibit behaviors that are consistent with the normal public use of the #public plaza# such as lingering, eating, drinking of non-alcoholic beverages or gathering in small groups. No behaviors, actions, or items may be listed on such #sign# that are otherwise illegal or prohibited by municipal, State or Federal laws.

37-753 - Accessory signs

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

A #public plaza# shall be treated as a #street# for the purposes of the applicable #sign# regulations. #Signs#, except for the plaque required by Section 37-751, are permitted only as #accessory# to #uses# permitted within the #public plaza# and #uses# adjoining the #public plaza#, and are otherwise regulated by the applicable district regulations set forth in Section 32-60 (SIGN REGULATIONS), except as provided below:

(a) each establishment fronting on the #public plaza# shall be permitted to have not more than one #sign# affixed to the #building# wall fronting on the #public plaza#.

(b) all #signs# shall be non-#illuminated#;

(c) all #signs# shall contain only the #building# or establishment name and address;

(d) all #signs# #accessory# to retail #uses# affixed to #building# walls may not exceed four square feet in size;

(e) not more than three #accessory# #signs# may be located within the #public plaza#, of which one may be freestanding. All such #signs#, including structures to which they are affixed, shall not be higher than three feet above the level of the adjoining public access area. Such #signs# shall not exceed an area of two square feet. In addition, no portion of such #sign#, including structures to which they are affixed, shall exceed a width of 16 inches facing a #street#, and 24 inches when not facing a #street#. For #corner public plazas#, such limitations shall apply to only one #street# frontage. If such #sign# is associated with a #building# used for office #use#, such #sign# shall contain only the names of principal building tenants and shall also contain the public space symbol as described in Section 37-751 and the words “Open to Public” in lettering at least two inches in height; and

(f) all #signs# located on permitted canopies or awnings within the #public plaza# shall contain only the #building# or establishment name and shall not exceed a height of one foot.

37-76 - Mandatory Allocation of Frontages for Permitted Uses

LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

(a) Ground floor level uses

The frontage of all new #building# walls fronting on a #public plaza#, or fronting on an #arcade# adjoining a #public plaza#, exclusive of such frontage occupied by #building# lobbies and frontage used for subway access, shall be subject to the following #use# provisions:

(1) The underlying #use# regulations shall be modified as follows:

(i) #dwelling units# shall not be permitted;

(ii) #uses# listed under Use Group III(A) shall not be permitted;

(iii) #uses# listed under Use Group IV shall be limited to those listed under Public Service Buildings, and Renewable Energy and Green Infrastructure;

(iv) guest rooms or suites associated with Transient Accommodations listed under Use Group V shall not be permitted; and

(v) #uses# listed under Use Group VII shall be limited in size to 5,000 square feet per establishment;

(2) All #uses# occupying such frontage shall:

(i) be directly accessible from the major portion of the #public plaza#, an adjoining #arcade#, or a #street# frontage shared by the establishment and the #public plaza#;

(ii) have a minimum depth of 15 feet, measured perpendicular to the wall adjoining the #public plaza#; and

(iii) occupy such frontage for the life of the increased #floor area# of the bonused #development#.

The remaining frontage may be occupied by other #uses#, lobby entrances or vertical circulation elements, in accordance with the district regulations.

As an alternative, where retail or service establishments located in an existing #building# front upon a #public plaza# or an #arcade# adjoining a #public plaza#, at least 50 percent of the total frontage of all #building# walls fronting on the #public plaza#, or fronting on an #arcade# adjoining a #public plaza#, exclusive of such frontage occupied by #building# lobbies and frontage used for subway access, shall be allocated for occupancy at the ground floor level by #uses# permitted in accordance with paragraph (a)(1) subject to the provisions of paragraph (a)(2) of this Section, as permitted by the applicable district regulations.

(b) Public entrances

A public entrance to the principal use of the #building# associated with the #public plaza# shall

be located within 10 feet of the major portion of the #public plaza#. Frontage on the #public plaza# that is occupied by a #building# entrance or lobby shall not exceed 60 feet or 40 percent of the total aggregate frontage of the new #building# walls on the major and minor portions of the #public plaza#, whichever is less, but in no case shall #building# entrances or lobbies occupy less than 20 feet of frontage on the #public plaza#.

(c) Transparency

All new #building# walls fronting on the major and minor portions of the #public plaza# shall be treated with clear, untinted transparent material for 50 percent of the surface area below 14 feet above the #public plaza# level, or the ceiling level of the ground floor of the #building#, whichever is lower. Any non-transparent area of a new or existing #building# wall fronting on the major or minor portion of a #public plaza# shall be treated with a decorative element or material or shall be screened with planting to a minimum height of 15 feet above the #public plaza#.

37-77 - Maintenance

LAST AMENDED
6/10/2009

The #building# owner shall be responsible for the maintenance of the #public plaza# including, but not limited to, the location of permitted obstructions pursuant to Section 37-726, litter control, management of pigeons and rodents, maintenance of required lighting levels, and the care and replacement of furnishings and vegetation within the #zoning lot#.

37-78 - Compliance

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

(a) Building permits

No foundation permit shall be issued by the Department of Buildings for any #development# or #enlargement# that includes a #public plaza#, nor shall any permit be issued by the Department of Buildings for any change to a #plaza#, #residential plaza# or #urban plaza# without certification by the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission of compliance with the provisions of Sections 37-625 or 37-70, as applicable.

An application for such certification shall be filed with the Chairperson showing the plan of the #zoning lot#; a site plan indicating the area and dimensions of the proposed #public plaza# and the location of the proposed #development# or #enlargement# and all existing #buildings# temporarily or permanently occupying the #zoning lot#; computations of proposed #floor area#, including bonus #floor area#; and a detailed plan or plans prepared by a registered landscape architect, including but not limited to a furnishing plan, a planting plan, a signage plan, a lighting/photometric plan and sections and elevations, as necessary to demonstrate compliance with the provisions of Sections 37-625 or 37-70, as applicable.

All plans for #public plazas# or other #publicly accessible open areas# that are the subject of a certification pursuant to Section 37-625 shall be filed and duly recorded in the Borough Office of the City Register of the City of New York, indexed against the property in the form of a legal instrument, in a form satisfactory to the Chairperson, providing notice of the certification of the #public plaza#, pursuant to this Section. Such filing and recording of such instrument shall be a precondition to certification. The recording information shall be included on the certificate of occupancy for any #building#, or portion thereof, on the

#zoning lot# issued after the recording date. No temporary or final certificate of occupancy shall be issued for any bonus #floor area# generated by a #public plaza# unless and until the #public plaza# has been substantially completed in accordance with the approved plans, as verified by the Department of City Planning and certified to the Department of Buildings.

Notwithstanding any of the provisions of Section 11-33 (Building Permits for Minor or Major Development or Other Construction Issued Before Effective Date of Amendment), any #residential plaza# or #urban plaza# for which a certification was granted pursuant to Article II, Chapter 3, or Article III, Chapter 7, between June 4, 2005 and June 4, 2007, and any #public plaza# for which a certification was granted prior to June 10, 2009, may be provided in accordance with the regulations in effect on the date of such certification.

(b) Periodic compliance reporting

No later than June 30 of the year, beginning in the third calendar year following the calendar year in which certification was made and at three-year intervals thereafter, the Director of the Department of City Planning and the affected Community Board shall be provided with a report regarding compliance of the #publicly accessible open area# with the regulations of Sections 37-625 or 37-70, as applicable, as of a date of inspection which shall be no earlier than May 15 of the year in which the report is filed. Such report shall be provided by a registered architect, landscape architect or professional engineer, in a format acceptable to the Director and shall include, without limitation:

(1) a copy of the original #public plaza# or design change certification letter and, if applicable, any approval letter pertaining to any other authorization or certification pursuant to this Chapter;

(2) a statement that the #publicly accessible open area# has been inspected by such registered architect, landscape architect or professional engineer and that such open area is in full compliance with the regulations under which it was approved as well as

the approved plans pertaining to such open area and, if applicable, the requirements of any other authorization or certification pursuant to this Chapter, or non-compliance with such regulations and plans;

(3) an inventory list of amenities required under the regulations under which the #publicly accessible open area# was approved and the approved plans pertaining to such open area and, if applicable, the requirements of any other authorization or certification pursuant to Section 37-70, together with an identification of any amenity on such inventory list for which inspection did not show compliance, including whether such amenities are in working order, and a description of the non-compliance;

(4) photographs documenting the condition of the #publicly accessible open area# at the time of inspection, sufficient to indicate the presence or absence, either full or partial, of the amenities on the inventory list of amenities.

The report submitted to the Director of the Department of City Planning shall be accompanied by documentation demonstrating that such report has also been provided to the affected Community Board.

Compliance reporting pursuant to this paragraph, (b), shall be a condition of all certifications granted pursuant to Section 37-70.

(c) Compliance reports at time of application

Any application for a certification or authorization involving an existing #publicly accessible open area# shall include a compliance report in the format required under paragraph (b) of this Section, based upon an inspection of the #publicly accessible open area# by a registered architect, landscape architect or professional engineer conducted no more than 45 days prior to the filing of such application.

The following conditions may constitute grounds to disapprove the application for certification or authorization:

(1) such report shows non-compliance with the regulations under which the #publicly accessible open area# was approved, conditions or restrictions of a previously granted certification or authorization, or with the approved plans pertaining to such #publicly accessible open area#; or

(2) the #publicly accessible open area# has been the subject of one or more enforcement proceedings for which there have been final adjudications of a violation with respect to any of the foregoing.

In the case of a certification, the Chairperson, or in the case of an authorization, the Commission, may, in lieu of disapproval, accept a compliance plan for the #publicly accessible open area#, which plan shall set forth the means by which future compliance will be ensured.

(d) Failure to comply

Failure to comply with a condition or restriction in an authorization or certification granted pursuant to Section 37-70 or with approved plans related thereto, or failure to submit a required compliance report, shall constitute a violation of this Resolution and may constitute the basis for denial or revocation of a building permit or certificate of occupancy, or for a revocation or such authorization or certification, and for all other applicable remedies.

(e) Special regulations for an #urban plaza# in the #Special Lower Manhattan District#

In addition, the Chairperson of the City Planning Commission may certify any #urban plaza# that is the subject of application N070416ZCM, filed in conjunction with application C070415ZSM, and such #urban plaza# may be provided in accordance with the regulations of

Section 37–04, inclusive, in effect on April 23, 2007, as modified by the special regulations for such #urban plaza# as set forth in Article IX, Chapter 1 (Special Lower Manhattan District) and in the following provisions:

(1) #Floor area# bonus for an #urban plaza# in the #Special Lower Manhattan District#

A #floor area# bonus for such #urban plaza#, pursuant to Section 91-22, may be permitted for a #development# or #enlargement# located within 50 feet of the #street line# of a #street# subject to the regulations for #street wall# continuity Type 2B.

(2) #Street wall# regulations for an #urban plaza# in the #Special Lower Manhattan District#

The #street wall# regulations for #street wall# continuity "Type 2" in the #Special Lower Manhattan District# shall be superseded by #street wall# continuity Types 2A and 2B as indicated on Map 2 in Appendix A of Article IX, Chapter 1.