Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

74-721 - Height and setback and yard regulations

File generated by https://zr.planning.nyc.gov on 11/8/2026

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LAST AMENDED
6/6/2024

(a) In C4-7, C5-2, C5-3, C5-4, C6-1A, C6-4, C6-5, C6-6, C6-7 or M1-6 Districts, the City Planning Commission may permit modification of the height and setback regulations, including tower coverage controls, for #developments# or #enlargements# located on a #zoning lot# having a minimum #lot area# of 40,000 square feet or occupying an entire #block#.

In C5-3, C6-6 and C6-7 Districts on such #zoning lots#, and in C6-4 Districts as set forth in paragraph (e) of this Section, the Commission also may modify #yard# and court regulations, and regulations governing the minimum required distance between #buildings# and/or the minimum required distance between #legally required windows# and walls or #lot lines#, provided that the Commission finds that such modifications:

(1) provide a better distribution of #bulk# on the #zoning lot#;

(2) result in a better relationship of the #building# to open areas, adjacent #streets# and surrounding development; and

(3) provide adequate light and air for #buildings# on the #zoning lot# and neither impair access to light and air to #legally required windows# in adjacent #buildings# nor adversely affect adjacent #zoning lots# by unduly restricting access to light and air to surrounding #streets# and properties.

As a condition of this special permit, if any open area extending along a #side lot line# is

provided at any level, such open area shall be at least eight feet in width.

(b) In C5-3, C6-6 and C6-7 Districts, the Commission may modify height and setback and #yard# regulations, including tower coverage controls for #developments# or #enlargements# located on a #zoning lot# having an area less than 40,000 square feet, that occupies an entire #block# front on a #wide street#, subject to the following conditions:

(1) where #buildings# or portions thereof penetrate the established #sky exposure plane#, the aggregate area occupied by such #buildings# or portions thereof at such elevation shall not exceed:

(i) 55 percent of the area of such #zoning lot#; or

(ii) an equivalent of 55 percent of the aggregate area of such #zoning lot# and any adjoining #zoning lots# with a common #lot line# for at least 90 feet with negative easements limiting height of existing and future #developments# on the adjoining #zoning lots# by recorded deed or other written instruments;

(2) that the #development# or #enlargement# includes on-site amenities, such as #arcades#, #through block arcades# or #covered pedestrian spaces# where the size and dimensions of such spaces are substantially greater than the required minimum standards, and includes skylights or other provisions for additional access of direct natural light so as to provide for an increased penetration of light and air therein at the #street# level of the #development# or #enlargement#, or a transit station improvement that results in a direct major connection to a subway station.

(3) In lieu of condition (c)(2), the #development# or #enlargement# may provide, in the same or an adjoining #block# of such #development# or #enlargement#, compensatory

"off-site public open space." For the purposes of this paragraph, (c)(3), the term "adjoining block" shall mean a #block# that is contiguous to the #block# containing the #development# or #enlargement# but for its separation by a #street# or #street# intersection. The area of such off-site public open space shall be at least 4,000 square feet, or 15 percent of the #lot area# of a #zoning lot# containing the #development# or #enlargement#, whichever is more, and a width of at least 40 feet at any point.

Such public open areas shall have a southern exposure, and adjoin a public sidewalk and be #developed# pursuant to the provisions of Section 37-70 (PUBLIC PLAZAS). A plan for the development and maintenance of such off-site public space shall be approved by the Commission. The off-site public area shall be kept open to the general public in accordance with a time schedule specified by the Commission. In no event shall such off-site public open space be eligible for #floor area# or bonus computation in connection with this or any other #development# or #enlargement#.

For such #developments# or #enlargements#, the Commission may also modify the applicable regulations of Sections 32-43 (Limitations on Business Entrances, Show Windows or Signs) and 36-663 (Restrictions on location of berths near Residence Districts) where adjoining frontage within a distance of 75 feet on the same side of the #street# is occupied by a #community facility# or ground floor #commercial# #use#, provided that such modification is part of an overall design for #show windows#, signage and entrances or off-street loading berths developed in conjunction with a public amenity such as a #public plaza#, #through block arcade# or #covered pedestrian space#, and will not alter the essential character of the immediate neighborhood.

In the case of existing #buildings# containing #residences# to remain temporarily on such #zoning lot#, the provisions of Sections 23-311 (Permitted obstructions in all

yards, courts and open areas), 23-35 (Court Regulations) and 23-37 (Other Open Area Regulations) may be modified provided that each and every one of the following conditions are met:

(i) that such existing #buildings# with unexpired leasehold interests are located upon such #zoning lot#;

(ii) that the portions of the #zoning lot# where such existing #buildings# are located and are to be demolished shall be redeveloped according to the approved site plan;

(iii) that no temporary or final certificate of occupancy shall be issued for that portion of #floor area# in the #development# or #enlargement# equal to twice the #floor area# in the temporary existing #buildings# until such #buildings# are vacated, demolished and their sites are redeveloped in accordance with the approved project plan, except that where the Commission shall have determined that the applicant for a special permit has made an offer to purchase the leasehold interests from the lessees at a fair market value of the remainder of the lease term, the Commission may decrease the amount of #floor area# for which no certificate of occupancy may be issued; and

(iv) that the #development# or #enlargement# conform with all the applicable laws relating to construction, operation and maintenance.

The owner of the #zoning lot# shall have prominently displayed thereon a sign stating the date by which the #buildings# are to be demolished.

(4) As a further condition for the issuance of a permit under this paragraph (c), the owner of the #zoning lot# upon which #developments# or #enlargements# are to take place,

must post a bond or other security payable to the City of New York and approved by the Corporation Counsel as to form, sufficient in amount as determined by the Commission to cover the cost of demolishing the existing #buildings# should the owner fail to so demolish within the prescribed time set forth in the approved project plan, and ensure that all #floor area# which is to be vacant in the #development# shall remain unfinished and vacant.

The bonds or other securities shall be payable to the City of New York if any of the above conditions are violated.

The Commission must find, with each grant for a special permit under this paragraph, (c), that the #development# or #enlargement#:

(i) shall result in improved circulation; and

(ii) would eliminate the undesirable pre-emption of ground level space by private #buildings or other structures#.

In making these findings, the Commission may consider the provision of improved connections to rapid transit facilities, where applicable.

The site plan accompanying each application for a grant of special permit under this paragraph (c), shall include a schedule indicating the timetable of demolition of all existing #buildings# and the schedule of #development# or #enlargement# and other improvements on the #zoning lot#.

In addition to the conditions in paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), (c)(3) and (c)(4) of this Section, the Commission shall find that the modification of height and setback will provide a better distribution of #bulk# on the #zoning lot# and will not adversely affect other adjacent #zoning

lots# by unduly restricting access to light and air to surrounding public spaces, #streets# and properties.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Zoning Resolution, where a #development# shares a #lot line# with a landmark #building# site for an aggregate distance of at least 90 feet, or contains a historically significant #street# that has been demapped and an archeologically significant site, both of which have been identified by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, the Commission may permit modification of the height and setback and #yard# regulations regardless of the lot size, provided that the following findings are made:

(1) there is a harmonious architectural relationship between the landmark and the new structure, and such relationship is approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission or, in the case of a #development# which contains a historically significant #street# that has been demapped and an archeologically significant site, there is a visual recognition of the location of the demapped #street# and of the archeologically significant site created by a design treatment that has been approved by both the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the City Planning Commission and, if such #development# is located within 200 feet of a historic district, there is a harmonious relationship between the proposed #development# and the historic district; and

(2) pedestrian amenities are contained in the new structure including, where appropriate, retail stores and substantial pedestrian space at the principal levels of circulation, such as wider sidewalks, #arcades#, #covered pedestrian space#, subsurface concourses and convenient subway connections.

(d) The City Planning Commission may also permit modification of all #bulk# regulations as set forth in paragraph (a) of this Section on #zoning lots# with a minimum #lot area# of 30,000 square feet, where such #zoning lot# is located in a C6-4 District in Manhattan Community District 3, has frontage on a #wide street# and existed on August 8, 2018.