**Zoning Resolution**

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
**Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor**

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
**Sideya Sherman, Chair**

# 78-31 - Location of Buildings, Distribution of Bulk and Open Space and Modification of Height and Setbacks

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## 78-31 - Location of Buildings, Distribution of Bulk and Open Space and Modification of Height and Setbacks

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

(a) General provisions

For the purposes of this Section, the term "periphery" shall mean any #street line# bounding a #large-scale residential development# or any #lot line# abutting a #zoning lot# that is not part of the #large-scale residential development#. The term "wholly within" shall therefore mean any area of the #large-scale residential development# which is not within the area designated as "periphery." However, in R3-2 Districts, R4 Districts except R4-1, R4A and R4B Districts, or R5 Districts except R5B Districts, the "periphery" shall also include all portions of a #large-scale residential development# within 100 feet of a peripheral #street line# or within 30 feet of any other peripheral #lot line#, except for portions directly opposite:

(1) an area of at least 1.5 acres in a #Residence District# that is either vacant or #land with minor improvements#; or

(2) a #large-scale residential development# #developed# pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Section; or

(3) a #Commercial# or a #Manufacturing District#.

All #buildings or other structures# in the periphery of a #large-scale residential development# shall comply with the height and setback regulations of Article II, Chapter 3, except as otherwise provided in this Section.

Special provisions applying to #large-scale residential developments# in R3, R4 or R5 Districts are set forth in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this Section. The provisions of paragraph (b) shall apply to any #large-scale residential development# in R3-2 Districts, R4 Districts except R4-1, R4A and R4B Districts, or R5 Districts except R5B Districts. The provisions of paragraph (c) shall apply only to #large-scale residential developments# in all R3, R4 or R5 Districts that utilize the bonus provisions of Section 78-32 through 78-35, inclusive.

(b) Alternate height and setback regulations for certain districts

In R3-2 Districts, R4 Districts except R4-1, R4A and R4B Districts, or R5 Districts except R5B Districts, #buildings or other structures#, or portions thereof, "wholly within" a #large-scale residential development# may use the alternate height and setback regulations set forth in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(3) of this Section.

(1) In R3-2 Districts, the height and setback regulations applicable to R4 Districts, except R4A and R4B Districts, may be used.

(2) In R4 Districts, no portion of any #building or other structure#, including the apex of a roof, shall penetrate a plane 35 feet in height above the #base plane#.

(3) In R5 Districts, no portion of any #building or other structure#, including the apex of a pitched roof, shall penetrate a plane 40 feet in height above the #base plane#.

(c) Alternate #floor area# and #open space# regulations in R3, R4 or R5 Districts

In #large-scale residential developments# that utilize the bonus provisions of this Chapter, the #floor area ratio# and the #open space ratio# controls set forth in the following table shall apply in lieu of the #floor area ratio# and #lot coverage# controls of Article II, Chapter 3.

| District | #Open Space Ratio# | #Floor Area Ratio# |
|---|---|---|
| R3 | 150 | .50* |
| R4 | 80 | .75* |
| R5 | 40 | 1.25 |

* The #floor area ratio# in the table may be increased by up to 20 percent provided that any such increase in #floor area# is located under a sloping roof which rises at least three and one-half inches in vertical distance per each foot of horizontal distance and the structural headroom of such #floor area# is between five and eight feet. Any such additional #floor area# under a sloped roof shall not be used to compute the #open space ratio#

(d) Authorizations may be granted for #buildings# to be located, #bulk# and #open space# distributed, and height and setback modified, in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

(e) In R9 through R12 Districts, and in C1 or C2 Districts mapped within, or with a #residential equivalent# of, such districts, #floor area# bonuses for #public plazas# or #arcades# permitted in accordance with the applicable district regulations shall apply only to a #development# or #enlargement# with 25 percent or less of the total #floor area# of the #building# in #residential use#.

(f) Alternate window to #lot line# regulations for a #zoning lot# directly adjoining a #public park#

In R7-1 and R8 Districts within a #large-scale residential development# in Community

District 6 in the Borough of the Bronx, the required minimum distance between a #legally required window# and a #lot line#, as set forth in Section 23-86 (Minimum Distance Between Legally Required Windows and Walls or Lot Lines), inclusive, shall not apply where a #legally required window# is fronting upon a #public park# with an area of at least one-half acre.

## 78-311 - Authorizations by the City Planning Commission

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

When a #large-scale residential development# includes, or will include after subdivision, two or more #zoning lots#, the City Planning Commission may authorize:

(a) the total #floor area#, #lot coverage#, #dwelling units# or #rooming units# permitted by the applicable district regulations for all #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development# to be distributed without regard for #zoning# #lot lines#;

(b) the total #open space# required by the applicable district regulations for all #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development# to be distributed without regard for #zoning # #lot lines#, except that where subdivision is authorized in accordance with the provisions of Section 78-51 (General Provisions), the Commission, in authorizing such distribution may allow reductions in the minimum required #open space# on individual #zoning lots# only where adequate provision is made for common #open space# to serve such lots.

If the required #open space# on the roof of a #community facility building# has an equivalent access arrangement acceptable to the Commission, it may authorize modification of requirements set forth in paragraph (b) of the #open space# definition in Section 12-10;

(c) for #zoning lots# adequately served by common #open space#, the minimum required #lot area# as set forth in Section 23-10 (LOT AREA AND LOT WIDTH REGULATIONS) to be reduced, provided that any #residence# for which the minimum required #lot area# is so reduced shall be separated from all other #buildings# on the same or adjacent #zoning lots# by a distance consistent with the provisions of Section 23-371 (Standard minimum distance between buildings), or in cases where at least one of the #buildings# is a one-family or two-family #detached# or #semi-detached# house, rowhouse, or series of rowhouses, by a lesser distance to be determined by the Commission;

(d) the location of #buildings# without regard for #yard# regulations which would otherwise apply along portions of #streets# or #lot lines# "wholly within" the #large-scale residential development# provided that any #building# for which required #rear# or #side yards# are reduced shall be separated from all other #buildings# with which it does not share a party wall, on the same or adjacent #zoning lots#, by a distance consistent with the provisions of Section 23-371 or, in cases where at least one of the #buildings# is a single-family or two-family #detached# or #semi-detached# house, rowhouse or series of rowhouses, by a lesser distance to be determined by the Commission, where the location of the #buildings# will not be detrimental to the privacy of the occupants of the #buildings# on the #block#;

(e) the location of #buildings# without regard for the height and setback regulations which would otherwise apply along portions of #streets# "wholly within" the #large-scale residential development# or along #side# or #rear lot lines# #abutting# other #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development#, provided that any #building# for which required rear or side setbacks are reduced shall be separated from all other #buildings# with which it does not share a party wall, on the same or adjacent #zoning lots#, by a distance consistent with the provisions of Section 23-371;

(f) the location of primary business entrances, #show windows# or #signs# along frontages which are adjacent only to other #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development#, without regard to restrictions applicable near #Residence District# boundaries, for the

purpose of achieving better site planning and community planning;

(g) special directional #signs# and their location and design within a #large-scale residential development# comprising an area of at least five acres provided that their construction would result in better pedestrian and vehicular circulation. The Commission shall in each case give due consideration to the effect of such #signs# on the surrounding residential area and may impose appropriate conditions and safeguards;

(h) the location of #buildings# on a single #zoning lot# without regard for spacing between #buildings#, provided that the resultant spacing will not be reduced beyond an amount considered appropriate by the Commission and in no case by more than 15 percent of that required by Section 23-371.

For that portion of a #large-scale residential development# located in an R6 District, the Commission may authorize the permitted #floor area ratio# and required #open space ratio# to be determined on the basis of a #height factor# which is different than the actual #height factor# of such portion of the #large-scale residential development#, for the purpose of achieving better site planning and community planning.

When subdivision is authorized in accordance with the provisions of Section 78-51 and satisfactory provision is made for common #open space#, the Commission may consider such common #open space# in determining to what extent, if any, modifications of the #yard# regulations are justified.

For any #large-scale residential development#, the City Planning Commission may, upon application, authorize in R3, R4 and R5 Districts, modifications of the height and setback regulations set forth in Section 23-42 (Height and Setback Requirements in R1 Through R5 Districts) and paragraph (b) of Section 78-31 for #buildings# "wholly within" the #large-scale residential development# for the purposes of introducing variety or preserving natural features or view corridors.

## 78-312 - Special permits by the City Planning Commission

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

For any #large-scale residential development#, the City Planning Commission may permit:

(a) the total #floor area#, #lot coverage#, #dwelling units# or #rooming units# permitted by the applicable district regulations or by Sections 78-32 (Bonus for Good Site Plan) or 78-33 (Bonus for Common Open Space) for all #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development# to be distributed without regard for #zoning# #lot lines#;

(b) the total #open space# required by the applicable district regulations or by Sections 78-32 or 78-33 for all #zoning lots# within the #large-scale residential development# to be distributed without regard for #zoning# #lot lines# except that where subdivision is authorized in accordance with the provisions of Section 78-51 (General Provisions), the Commission, in authorizing such distribution may allow reductions in the minimum required #open space# on individual #zoning lots# only where adequate provision is made for common #open space# to serve such lots;

(c) minor variations in required #front# or #rear yards# on the periphery of such #large-scale residential development# for the purpose of introducing variety or preserving natural features;

(d) in R1 and R2 Districts, and in R6 through R12 Districts, minor variations in the front height and setback regulations on the periphery of such #large-scale residential development# for the purpose of introducing variety, preserving natural features, or providing for improved access of light and air, but within the general purpose and intent of the height and setback regulations. In R3, R4 or R5 Districts, the Commission may modify the height and setback regulations set forth in Section 23-42 (Height and Setback Requirements in R1 Through R5 Districts) and paragraph (b) of Section 78-31, on the periphery of such #large-scale residential development#, for the purposes of introducing variety, providing a transition in neighborhood scale between the #large-scale residential development# and surrounding #buildings#, preserving natural features or view corridors, or improving the access of light and

air;

(e) variations in the location of primary business entrances, #show windows#, and #signs# along frontages adjacent to #zoning lots# outside the #large-scale residential development#, without regard to restrictions applicable near #Residence District# boundaries, for the purpose of achieving better site planning and community planning. However, in no event shall the Commission allow such primary business entrances, #show windows# or #signs# to be located within 10 feet of the #Residence District# boundary; and

(f) modifications of the minimum spacing requirements consistent with the intent of the provisions of Section 23-371 (Standard minimum distance between buildings) and may authorize modifications of the spacing required by paragraphs (c), (d), (e) and (h) of Section 78-311 (Authorizations by the City Planning Commission).

## 78-313 - Findings

LAST AMENDED
10/25/1993

As a condition precedent to the granting of authorizations under the provisions of Section 78-311 (Authorizations by the City Planning Commission) or a special permit under the provisions of Section 78-312 (Special permits by the City Planning Commission), the Commission shall make the following findings:

(a) that such modifications will aid in achieving the general purposes and intent of this Chapter as set forth in Section 78-01 (General Purposes);

(b) that such distribution of #floor area#, #dwelling units#, #rooming units#, #open spaces#, locations of #buildings#, or location of primary business entrances, #show windows# or

#signs# will permit better site planning and will thus benefit both the residents of the #large-scale residential development# and the City as a whole;

(c) that such distribution or location will not unduly increase the #bulk# of #buildings#, density of population, or intensity of #use# in any #block#, to the detriment of the occupants of #buildings# in the #block# or nearby #blocks#;

(d) that such distribution or location will not affect adversely any other #zoning lots# outside the #large-scale residential development# by restricting access to light and air or by creating traffic congestion;

(e) where portions of the total required #open space# are pooled in common #open space# areas or common parking areas, that such common areas will, by location, size, shape and other physical characteristics, and by their relationship to surrounding development and the circulation system, permit realization of the full community service of advantages for which such pooled areas are designed;

(f) where one or more #zoning lots# in the #large-scale residential development# do not #abut# mapped #streets#, that suitable private access to mapped #streets# will be provided conforming to standards which will ensure adequate circulation and make adequate provision for public services; and

(g) the modification of height and setback will not impair the essential character of the surrounding area and will not have adverse effects upon the access to light, air and privacy of adjacent properties.