

**ORDINANCE NO. 1252**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HOLLISTER APPROVING ZONING  
ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 2023-4 TO ADOPT CHAPTER 17.36 INCLUSIONARY  
HOUSING ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS**, the State of California requires local governments to plan to meet the housing needs of all income groups; specifically, “local and state governments have a responsibility to use the powers vested in them to facilitate the improvements and development of housing to make adequate provision for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community” pursuant to the State Government Code Section 65580; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that there is a demand for affordable housing for very low, low, and moderate income households in the City of Hollister as documented in the City of Hollister Housing Element; and

**WHEREAS**, Housing Element Goal H4 of the General Plan requires the City to develop affordable housing opportunities in the City; furthermore, Policy H4 of the Housing Element requires the City to establish a program for increasing affordable housing in the City by requiring residential developers to provide a percentage of the units within a residential development to very low, low, and moderate income households; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2020 the City Council adopted Resolution 2020-147 accepting awarded grant funding from Housing and Community Development related to the Senate Bill 2: Building Homes and Jobs Act (SB2) planning grant program; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the ongoing 2040 General Plan Update, the City Council at its regular meeting of June 21, 2021 discussed affordable housing within the City and potential inclusionary requirements, and directed staff to include a 20 percent affordability component as a recommended policy within the 2040 General Plan Update; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2021 the City Council, based on the recommended policy direction for the General Plan Update, directed staff to conduct a financial feasibility analysis and prepare an inclusionary ordinance which requires residential developers to include a 20 percent affordability component utilizing the awarded SB 2 Planning Grant funds; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2022 staff discussed the inclusionary ordinance with the City Council and the City Council reaffirmed that the inclusionary ordinance should be prepared which requires a 20 percent affordability component for all residential projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inclusionary Housing Program Financial Feasibility Analysis dated January 2023 was prepared by Placeworks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on March 23, 2023 to review the new Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program, during which all

interested parties were heard and the commission adopted Resolution 2023-10 recommending adoption of the Inclusionary Housing Program to the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council heard a first reading of the draft Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program, during a duly noticed public hearing on May 1, 2023, and directed staff to hold an additional public outreach meeting and study session with the City Council to receive additional feedback on the draft ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, a public outreach meeting was held on August 3, 2023 where interested parties were heard and feedback was received; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a study session to discuss the draft ordinance on September 11, 2023, where they provided additional direction to staff for amendments to the draft ordinance, including a reduction in the percentage of affordable units required from 20% to 15%; and

**WHEREAS**, an inclusionary housing ordinance which requires 15% or less of the residential units in a development to be made affordable does not require the preparation of a financial feasibility analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, following the September 11, 2023 study session, staff and the City Council received a public comment which resulted in the need for additional changes to be considered within the draft ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 17.02.040 of the Hollister Municipal Code requires significant changes made to a proposed amendment to Title 17, Zoning, that are made after the Planning Commission has made a recommendation on an amendment should be brought back before the Planning Commission for reconsideration, prior to City Council consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on November 16, 2023 to consider the amended draft Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program, during which all interested parties were heard, and the Planning Commission adopted Resolution 2023-36 recommending approval of the draft ordinance to the City Council with a modification of the affordability split to 5% moderate income, 5% low income, and 5% very-low income; and

**WHEREAS**, at the December 4, 2023 City Council meeting, after a duly noticed public hearing, the City Council determined to deny the draft ordinance as written; and

**WHEREAS**, at the February 20, 2024 City Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to make an amendment to the draft ordinance to modify the proposed split of affordability from 7% Very-Low Income, 5% Low Income, and 3% Moderate Income to 6% Very low Income, 5% Low Income, and 4% Moderate Income; and

**WHEREAS**, at the March 18, 2024 City Council meeting, the City Council held a study session to review the revised draft ordinance and additional alternative compliance options, and provided direction to staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on June 18, 2024 to consider the amended draft Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program, during which all interested parties were heard; and

**WHEREAS**, after closing the public hearing, the City Council determined to adopt Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because the proposed amendments will not result in any direct physical change to the City, and therefore the proposed amendments are not a project under CEQA and are exempt from further review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378).

**NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOLLISTER DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Title 17 is amended to add Chapter 17.36, Inclusionary Housing Program, to read as follows:

#### **Chapter 17.36 – Inclusionary Housing Program**

##### **17.36.010 – Chapter Title**

The Ordinance codified in this chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Inclusionary Housing Program" of the City of Hollister.

##### **17.36.020 – Purpose**

The purpose of this Inclusionary Housing Program is to:

- A. Enhance the public welfare by facilitating the development of housing affordable to households of Very Low, Low, and Moderate Income.
- B. Ensure that future residential development is consistent with housing policies of the State of California and the City of Hollister.
- C. Ensure that each Residential Development Project complies with the requirements of this Chapter and is consistent with the city's housing goals of developing affordable housing opportunities, creating diverse housing opportunities for existing and future residents, and maintaining economic diversity and geographically dispersed affordable housing.

##### **17.36.030 – Definitions**

- A. *Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)* shall have the same meaning as defined under Section 65852.2(j) of the Government Code and shall mean an attached or detached residential dwelling unit that provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and is located on a lot with a proposed or existing

primary residence. It shall include permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation on the same parcel as the single-family dwelling. An ADU also includes an efficiency unit and a manufactured home, provided it is built on a permanent foundation. An ADU may be located within an existing attached or detached garage, shed, barn or other accessory structure.

- B. *Administrator* shall mean the Inclusionary Housing Program Administrator, which shall either be the city itself or a third-party administrator acting as an agent for the city in connection with all aspects of the operation of the Inclusionary Housing Program pursuant to an Agreement entered into between the city and the Administrator, as such agreement may be amended or replaced from time to time.
- C. *Affordable Dwelling Unit* shall mean, for the purposes of this Chapter, a dwelling unit affordable to households earning at or below 120 percent of the county median income, including units that are affordable to Very Low, Low, and Moderate Income Households.
- D. *Attached Single-Family Dwelling Unit* for the purposes of this Chapter shall mean a single-family dwelling unit having one or more walls attached to and in common with one or more single-family dwellings, with each dwelling unit on a separate parcel.
- E. *Density Bonus* shall mean a density increase over the otherwise maximum allowable density on a site pursuant to California Government Code Section 65915 and Article 15.04.602 (referred to as the “State Bonus” in this Chapter), or for any other reason.
- F. *Detached Single-Family Dwelling Unit* shall mean a dwelling unit intended for use by a single household and not attached to any other building.
- G. *For-Sale Residential Development Project* shall mean a Residential Development Project that includes the creation of one or more new dwelling units that may be sold individually. A For-Sale Residential Development Project also includes the conversion of a residential rental development to a residential ownership development.
- H. *Inclusionary Unit* shall mean a dwelling unit intended for sale or rent that is required by Article 17.36.050 to be affordable to Very Low, Low, or Moderate Income Households.
- I. *Low Income Household* shall mean a household whose income does not exceed the low income limits applicable to San Benito County as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5 and published annually pursuant to Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 6932 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

- J. *Market Rate Unit* shall mean a new dwelling unit in a Residential Development Project that is not an Affordable Dwelling Unit.
- K. *Moderate Income Household* shall mean a household whose income does not exceed the moderate income limits applicable to San Benito County as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5 and published annually pursuant to Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 6932 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.
- L. *Multi-Family Unit* shall mean a residential unit intended for the use of a single household that is part of a larger building having one or more walls attached to and in common with other residential units.
- M. *Physical Needs Assessment* shall mean a report by a qualified housing professional identifying necessary repairs, replacements and maintenance at the time of the assessment or that will likely require repair or replacement within three years of the assessment, and the estimated cost of all such items, which repair replacement and maintenance must be completed prior to the approval of the unit as an Inclusionary Unit. For the purposes of this Chapter, a "qualified housing professional" is a firm approved for that purpose by the California Housing Finance Agency.
- N. *Rental Residential Development Project* shall mean a Residential Development Project that creates one or more dwelling units that cannot be lawfully sold individually in conformance with the Subdivision Map Act.
- O. *Residential Development Project* shall mean a development for which a discretionary approval or building permit is required for a residential development that includes the creation of one or more new dwelling units, conversion of nonresidential uses to dwelling units, or the conversion of a use from a Rental Residential Development Project to a For-Sale Residential Development Project.
- P. *Unit Type* shall mean the type of dwelling unit, either Attached Single-Family Dwelling Unit, Detached Single-Family Dwelling Unit, or Multi-Family Unit.
- Q. *Very Low Income Household* shall mean a household whose income does not exceed the very low income limits applicable to San Benito County as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 50079.5 and published annually pursuant to Title 25 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 6932 by the California Department of Housing and Community Development.
- R. *Vesting Tentative Map* shall mean a map which confers certain vested rights to proceed with development for a specified period of time after recordation.

**17.36.040 – Effective Date and Inclusionary Housing Requirement Applicability**

- A. *Applicability.* All For-Sale and Rental Residential Development Projects that consist of 10 or more units built anywhere in the City of Hollister shall comply with the requirements of this chapter.
- B. *Exemptions.* The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the following projects:
1. Accessory Dwelling Units.
  2. Residential Development Projects with less than 10 dwelling units.
  3. Residential Development Projects on property with vested rights in effect on the effective date of this chapter, including:
    - a. Property that is part of a Vesting Tentative Map.
    - b. Development that is part of an existing development agreement with the city.
  4. Residential Development Projects that have submitted a complete planning or building permit application along with the full payment of required application fees to the city prior to the effective date of this ordinance, provided that such Residential Development Projects shall comply with any approved affordable housing plan and any predecessor ordinance applicable to the development.
  5. Residential Development Projects exempted by California Government Code Section 66474.2 or 66498.1, provided that such Residential Development Projects shall comply with any predecessor ordinance, resolution, or policy in effect on the date the application for the development was determined to be complete.
  6. Residential Development Projects exempted by another state law or by final judgement of a court of competent jurisdiction.

#### **17.36.050 – Inclusionary Housing Requirements**

All new applicable Residential Development Projects shall include Inclusionary Units. Calculations of the number of Inclusionary Units shall be based on the number of dwelling units in the Residential Development Project, without regard to any density bonus units provided pursuant to State Bonus. All required Inclusionary Units shall be built on the same site as the Residential Development Project.

- A. *Inclusionary Requirement.* Fifteen percent of all new Residential Development Projects shall be Inclusionary Units. The fifteen percent total shall be achieved using the following allowable ranges of affordability:

1. At least six percent of the dwelling units shall be affordable to Very Low Income Households.
  2. At least five percent of the dwelling units shall be affordable to either Very Low Income or Low Income Households.
  3. At least four percent of the dwelling units shall be affordable to either Very Low Income, Low Income or Moderate Income Households.
- B. *Fractional Units.* When the application of the percentages specified in Section 17.36.050.A results in a number that includes a fraction equal to one-quarter (0.25) or more, the fraction shall be rounded to the next higher whole number. In that event an additional Inclusionary Unit shall be provided. If the result includes a fraction less than one-quarter (0.25), the fraction shall be rounded down. In that event no additional Inclusionary Unit shall be required.
- C. *State Density Program.* Any Inclusionary Units provided on site in compliance with this chapter may be used to qualify for a density bonus under California Government Code Section 65915, or any ordinance implementing Government Code Section 65915.
- D. *Base for Inclusionary Requirement.* The number of Inclusionary Units required for a project shall be based on the total number of dwelling units in the Residential Development Project prior to the addition of units under the State Bonus.
- E. *Affordable Housing Agreement.* The applicant shall execute a written agreement with the city indicating the number, type, location, approximate size, and construction schedule of all dwelling units as required to determine project compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
- F. *Construction Timing.* All Inclusionary Units shall be built prior to the full build-out of Market Rate Units in the same Residential Development Project. In phased developments, inclusionary units shall be constructed and occupied in proportion to the number of Market Rate Units constructed and occupied in each phase.
1. A building permit may not be issued for any Market Rate Unit unless a proportional number of building permits has been issued for Inclusionary Units.
  2. A certificate of occupancy or final inspection may not be issued for Market Rate Units unless a proportional number of certificates of occupancy or final inspections have been issued for Inclusionary Units.

**17.36.060 – Alternative Compliance**

Instead of providing on-site Affordable Dwelling Units as required by Section 17.36.050, developers of Residential Development Projects may fulfill the requirements of this Chapter using the following alternatives means:

- A. Affordable Rental Units within For-Sale Residential Development Projects. All or a portion of the inclusionary housing requirement for a For-Sale Residential Development Project may be fulfilled by constructing as part of a For-Sale Residential Development Project the same or a greater number of rental units affordable to Very Low Income, Low Income and Moderate Income households in the proportions prescribed in Section 17.36.050. Provision of affordable rental units shall be allowed only if:
  - 1. The rental units fulfill all standards in Section 17.36.070 of this Chapter; and
  - 2. The rental units have at least the same number of bedrooms as the for-sale units which would have been required; or any deficiency in bedroom counts is offset by additional affordable rental units.
- B. Acquisition and Rehabilitation of Existing Units. An applicant may fulfill the inclusionary housing requirement by acquiring and rehabilitating existing Market Rate Units to become Inclusionary Units. Acquisition and rehabilitation of existing units in-lieu of construction of inclusionary housing requirements shall be allowed only if:
  - 1. The city approves a Physical Needs Assessment performed by a qualified third-party housing professional approved by the city of each dwelling unit to be rehabilitated, the property upon which it is located, and any associated common areas; and all items identified in the Physical Needs Assessment as needing repair, replacement or maintenance are completed prior to the acceptance of the dwelling unit as an Inclusionary Unit.
  - 2. The value of the rehabilitation work is 25 percent or more than the value of the dwelling unit prior to rehabilitation, inclusive of land value, which shall be demonstrated through the Physical Needs Assessment described in Subsection 1 of this section.
  - 3. The applicant ensures that any residents residing in units to be rehabilitated find suitable replacement housing, and the applicant funds all noticing to and relocation of existing residents in the residential units to be rehabilitated.
  - 4. The site of the units to be rehabilitated is designated for a general plan land use and is zoned for residential development at a density to accommodate the rehabilitated affordable units.



5. The use of the site with units to be rehabilitated does not constitute a nonconforming use.
6. The city approves an analysis funded by the applicant and completed by a third-party consultant approved by the city and submitted at the time of development application submittal; which demonstrates the site with units to be rehabilitated is suitable for the required affordable housing development in terms of size, location, availability of sewer and water services, absence of toxins and other environmental constraints, site characteristics and surroundings.
7. The rehabilitated units have at least the same number of bedrooms as the Inclusionary Units which would have been required; or any comparative deficiency in bedroom counts is offset by additional units beyond the number of Inclusionary Units required.
8. The rehabilitation of the existing units and issuance of certificates of occupancy for such units are completed prior to or concurrently with the construction of and issuance of certificates of occupancy for the Market Rate Residential Development Project.

#### **17.36.070 - Inclusionary Unit Standards**

The following standards shall apply to all Inclusionary Units built to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

- A. Recipient Requirements. All inclusionary units shall be sold or rented to:
  1. Moderate Income, Low Income or Very Low Income Households.
  2. The City of Hollister or its designee.
- B. *Unit Type and Physical Quality.* The Unit Types of the Inclusionary Units within a Residential Development Project shall:
  1. Be built in the same proportion as the Market Rate Unit Types.
  2. Have an average square footage of at least 85 percent of Market Rate Units with the same bedroom count.
  3. Be developed with the same bedroom count ratio as the Market Rate Units.
  4. Have the same interior finishes and features as the Market Rate Units.
  5. Have the same exterior design and overall quality of construction as the Market Rate Units.

- C. For-Sale Single-Family Residential Development Projects may include affordable Attached Single-Family Dwelling Units in a proportion that constitutes more than the proportion of Attached Single-Family Dwelling Units in the overall project.
- D. Affordable Detached Single-Family Dwelling Units counted toward the inclusionary requirement may have smaller lots than Market Rate Detached Single-Family Dwelling Units in the same Residential Development Project, provided that all lot sizes are consistent with the lot size requirements of this Title 17 (Zoning).
- E. *Location.* All Inclusionary Units shall:
  - 1. Be built on the same site as the remainder of the Residential Development Project and be reasonably dispersed throughout the Residential Development Project to prevent a concentration of affordable units.
  - 2. Have the same access to common open space and shared facilities in the Residential Development Project as do the Market Rate Units.
  - 3. Be dispersed throughout the Residential Development Project.
- F. *Eligibility Screening.* The Administrator shall screen prospective buyers or renters of Inclusionary Units. Buyers of Inclusionary Units shall enter into an agreement with the city. Occupants must be selected by means of an open, public process that ensures that individuals of a group of interested participants are selected in accordance with the city's adopted policies. Private selection of individuals by project owners is not permitted for any Inclusionary Units.
- G. *Ongoing Affordability of For-Sale Units.* In order to maintain the availability of For-Sale Inclusionary Units constructed pursuant to this chapter, the following requirements shall apply to Inclusionary Units, as documented through an affordable housing agreement, as prescribed in Section 17.36.070.I, recorded against the property:
  - 1. The affordable sales prices of for-sale Inclusionary Units shall be restricted to a period of thirty years pursuant to an affordable housing agreement recorded against the property and resets upon resale of the unit(s).
  - 2. The owner shall occupy the Inclusionary Unit as the owner's principal place of residence within 60 days of the owner's receipt of a certificate of occupancy for the unit.
  - 3. The owner shall reside in the Inclusionary Unit for at least 10 months out of each calendar year to be considered as occupying the Inclusionary Unit.

4. The owner shall not lease or rent the Inclusionary Unit or any portion of the Inclusionary Unit to another party. Any lease of the Inclusionary Unit or a portion of the Inclusionary Unit will constitute a default under the requirements of this chapter and the affordable housing agreement.
- H. *Ongoing Affordability of Rental Units.* In order to maintain the availability of Inclusionary Units constructed pursuant to this chapter, rental Inclusionary Units shall remain affordable for fifty-five years, as documented through an affordable housing agreement, as prescribed in Section 17.36.070.I, recorded against the property.
- I. *Affordability Agreement Documentation.* The developer shall be required to execute standard documents, in a form approved by the city attorney, to ensure the continued affordability of the Inclusionary Units approved for each Residential Development Project. The documents may include, but are not limited to, Inclusionary Housing agreements, regulatory agreements, promissory notes, deeds of trust, resale restrictions, rights of first refusal, options to purchase, and/or other documents. The affordability documents shall be recorded against the Residential Development Project, all Inclusionary Units, and any site subject to the provisions of this chapter.

#### **17.36.080 – Implementation and Enforcement**

- A. *Establishment of Guidelines by Resolution.* If it so desires, the city council may adopt inclusionary housing guidelines, by resolution, to assist in the implementation of this chapter.
- B. *Establishment of Administration Fees by Resolution.* The city council, by resolution, may establish fees for the ongoing administration and monitoring of the affordable units, which fees may be updated periodically, as required.
- C. *Enforcement.* The city attorney is authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter and all affordable housing agreements, regulatory agreements, covenants, resale restrictions, promissory notes, deeds of trust and other requirements placed on Inclusionary Units by civil action and any other method permitted by law. The city may take such enforcement action as is authorized under this code and/or any other action authorized by law or by any regulatory document, restriction, or agreement executed under this chapter.
- D. *Project Approval Restrictions.* No permit, license, map, or other approval or entitlement for a Residential Development Project shall be issued, including without limitation a final inspection or certificate of occupancy, until all applicable requirements of this chapter have been satisfied.
- E. *Annual Monitoring.* Homeowners will receive an annual monitoring notice from the city to confirm the owner occupancy requirement and prohibitions against rental of

the dwelling. The review will provide owners with an opportunity to become familiar with the guidelines of the Inclusionary Housing Program and any changes in adopted policies and procedures. For rental units, an annual monitoring notice from the city will be sent to all management agencies to confirm residents are eligible to affordable units.

**SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY.** If any part of this Ordinance is held invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance, and the City Council hereby declares that it would have passed the remainder of the Ordinance if such invalid portion thereof had been deleted.

**SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after its final passage.

**SECTION 4. PUBLICATION.** Within fifteen (15) days after passage, the City Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

**INTRODUCED** at a regular City Council meeting on June 18, 2024 and adopted as an ordinance of the City of Hollister at a regular City Council meeting on August 6, 2024 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmembers Perez, Morales, Burns, and Mayor Casey
NOES:	Councilmember Resendiz
ABSTAINED:	None
ABSENT:	None

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Mia Casey, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Lozano Smith Attorneys at Law

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC, City Clerk

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Mary Lerner, City Attorney

I, JENNIFER WOODWORTH, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Hollister, do hereby certify that the attached Ordinance No. 1252 is an original ordinance, or true and correct copy of a City ordinance, duly adopted by the Council of the City of Hollister at a regular meeting of said Council held on August 6, 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Hollister on August 6, 2024.

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Jennifer Woodworth, MMC  
City Clerk of the City of Hollister