

Ordinance Fact Sheet

TO:

CITY COUNCIL

DATE:

November 19, 2007

FROM:

CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT:

AN EXTENSION OF THE URGENCY ORDINANCE TEMPORARILY

PROHIBITING THE CONVERSION OF APARTMENT UNITS TO

CONDOMINIUMS AND REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

TITLE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

AN EXTENSION OF THE INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE CONVERSION OF RENTAL APARTMENT UNITS TO FOR-SALE CONDOMINIUM UNITS

PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

This ordinance extends and narrows the moratorium approved by Council at its Regular Meeting on October 22, 2006. The original urgency ordinance imposed a moratorium on the conversion of all rental apartment units to for-sale condominium units. This extension narrows the urgency ordinance to apply only to conversion of rental units affordable to very low, low, and/or moderate income households (as defined in the Health and Safety Code) to for-sale condominium units.

REASON WHY LEGISLATION IS NEEDED

Council is concerned that conversion of rental apartment units to for-sale condominium units may be taking place at such a rate in the City as to undermine the City's rental housing stock and resident socio-economic population mix, and therefore have negative social and economic effects throughout the City that impact the public health, safety and welfare.

Under Government Code Section 65858, the City can extend the moratorium on conversion of very low, low and moderate income units to for-sale condominium units based on the finding of a current and immediate threat to the health, safety, and welfare. The ordinance requires that any applicant proposing to convert rental apartment units to for-sale condominium units must provide.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.A.2.

evidence of the rental rates, as of October 25, 2007 (the effective date of the initial moratorium), of the rental units proposed for conversion.

REPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, the Council must issue a report identifying steps taken to address the issue. The Report is as follows: Staff and the Condominium Conversion Task Force have been studying this issue during the initial 45 day period in which the ordinance was in effect. The focus of the Task Force has been on the adverse effects of the conversion of rental units that are considered affordable to very low, low and moderate income households. The Task Force is researching steps taken in other jurisdictions to address the potential adverse affects of the conversion of affordable rental units to for sale condominium units. The Task Force has not had a full opportunity to study the alternatives and to develop proposals and additional time is needed.

The Council should approve a motion issuing this Report at this time.

PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENTS OR GROUPS AFFECTED

The Planning and Development Department will implement the proposed moratorium.

FISCAL IMPACT

There will not be an immediate fiscal impact as a result of this temporary moratorium.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

This ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2) because it will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262, because the ordinance involves only feasibility or planning studies for possible future actions which the City has not approved, adopted or funded, and does not involve adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on later activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Beal Bagneris

City Attorney

Prepared by:

Brad L. Fuller

Assistant City Attorney

Concurred by:

Cynthia J. Kur City Manager

Urgency ordinance extension fact sheet

ntroduced by:		
	ORDINANCE NO.	

AN EXTENSION OF THE INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE CONVERSION OF RENTAL APARTMENT UNITS TO FOR-SALE CONDOMINIUM UNITS

WHEREAS, the City of Pasadena ("City") has adopted the Land Use Element, and a Housing Element, of its General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Element sets forth policies and goals toward the protection of land use planning that is protective of the social impacts of land uses, and the Housing Element sets forth the City's policies and goals toward providing a supply and range of housing opportunities throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Element's overarching "housing vision" is as follows:

All Pasadena residents have an equal right to live in decent, safe and affordable housing in a suitable living environment for the long-term well-being and stability of themselves, their families, their neighborhoods, and their community. The housing vision for Pasadena is to maintain a socially and economically diverse community of homeowners and renters who are afforded this right.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Pasadena has expressed concern regarding the potentially adverse impacts that the conversion of rental apartment units to for-sale condominium units may have on the City's rental housing stock and resident socio-economic population mix; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2007, the City received from the State Department of Housing its Regional Housing Needs Assessment ("RHNA") allocation, and is in the process of revising its Housing Element in compliance with the Government Code, to account for the RHNA allocation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare because, without a moratorium, condominium conversions could occur at such a rate as to drive out of Pasadena those residents that cannot afford to purchase a condominium, thus eroding not only the City's resident socio-economic population mix, but also impact City businesses who rely on residents in that mix as a valuable employee pool; and

WHEREAS, further regulation of condominium conversions through amendments to the Zoning Code may reduce the potential for adverse impacts on the City's rental housing stock and resident socioeconomic population mix; however, to better understand the impacts of conversion, City staff would need adequate time to study the matter; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2007, the City Council adopted an INTERIM URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PASADENA TEMPORARILY PROHIBITING THE CONVEYANCE OF RENTAL APARTMENT UNITS TO FOR-SALE CONDOMINIUM UNITS ("Interim Urgency Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, during the initial effective period of the Interim Urgency Ordinance, the City

Manager formed a Condominium Conversion Task Force ("Task Force") composed of City staff and a

broad spectrum of stake holders interested in housing issues in Pasadena whose purpose it is to study the

potential impacts on the City's rental housing stock and resident socio-economic population mix, to

better understand the impacts of conversion, and to attempt to development proposals for the City

Council to consider in addressing this issue; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has been meeting and studying the impacts of conversions but has not had adequate time to fully study these impacts nor to develop proposals for the City Council's consideration; and

WHEREAS, based on the proceedings of the Task Force thus far, the most urgent and compelling threat of adverse impacts on the City's rental housing stock and resident socio-economic population mix arises out of the conversion of rental apartment units that are affordable to very low, low, and moderate income households ("affordable rental units") to for-sale condominium units; and

WHEREAS, on those bases, the City Council continues to find that there is a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare because, without the extension of a narrowed version of the moratorium, condominium conversions could occur at such a rate as to drive out of Pasadena those residents that cannot afford to purchase a condominium, thus eroding not only the City's resident socio-economic population mix, but also impact City businesses who rely on residents in that mix as a valuable employee pool; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, and in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the City Council may extend the Interim Urgency Ordinance for a period of up to 10 months and 15 days

NOW THEREFORE, the People of the City of Pasadena ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. The provisions of this ordinance extend the temporary prohibition on the conversion of rental apartment units that are determined to be affordable to very low-income households, low-income households, and/or moderate-income households, as those terms are defined in Section 50079.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, to for-sale condominium units. This ordinance shall not apply to the "development of multifamily housing projects" as that term is defined in California Government Code Section 65858. For purposes of establishing the rental rates of any rental

apartment units proposed for conversion, the applicant must supply evidence of the rental rates of any and all units proposed for conversion as of October 25, 2007. Such evidence shall be submitted at the time of application and shall be in a form and clarity satisfactory to the City.

SECTION 2. During the effectiveness of this ordinance, the City will continue a review of its land use regulations and study whether any amendments to the Zoning Code, particularly whether the addition of an inclusionary housing requirement for condominium conversions, may avoid or reduce the potentially adverse impacts of a loss of rental apartment units, in consideration of the goals and policies established in the City's Land Use Element, Housing Element, and Zoning Code.

SECTION 3. Unless extended pursuant to California Government Code Section 65858, the provisions of this ordinance shall expire at the end of the 10 month and 45 day period following its date of publication. The City may cause this ordinance to expire at an earlier time if possible.

SECTION 4. This ordinance is additional to and supplemental to, and shall not affect, except as specifically provided herein, any provision of the Pasadena Municipal Code, which shall be operative and remain in full force and effect without limitation with respect to all such land use applications.

SECTION 5. The City Council hereby declares that, should any section, paragraph, sentence, phrase, term or word of this ordinance, hereby adopted, be declared for any reason to be invalid, it is the intent of the City Council that it would have adopted all other portions of this ordinance irrespective of any such portion declared invalid.

SECTION 6. The City Clerk shall certify the adoption of this ordinance and shall cause this ordinance to be published in full text.

SECTION 7. This ordinance shall take effect upon publication, and shall remain in effect for a period of 10 months and 15 days from the date of publication, in accordance with California Government Code Section 65858.

Signed and approved this day of	of, 2007.
	Bill Bogaard
	Mayor of the City of Pasadena
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing ordinar Pasadena at its meeting held thisday or	nce was adopted by the City Council of the City of2007, by the following vote:
AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	
Date Published:	
	Jane L. Rodriguez, CMC City Clerk
Approved as to form:	City Clork
Fry C,2	
Brad L. Fuller	

Assistant City Attorney