

FAR Exception for Gender Neutral Restrooms

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, SUBPART B, ENTITLED "MIAMI BEACH RESILIENCY CODE," CHAPTER 1, ENTITLED "GENERAL PROVISIONS," ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "DEFINITIONS," SECTION 1.2.1, ENTITLED "GENERAL DEFINITIONS," BY AMENDING THE DEFINITION FOR FLOOR AREA TO CREATE AN EXCEPTION FOR UNISEX OR GENDER-NEUTRAL RESTROOMS; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, "floor area," which is defined in the Land Development Regulations, is the term used by the City of Miami Beach ("City") to regulate the intensity or overall size of a building; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Commission desire to amend the definition of floor area to exclude unisex or gender-neutral restrooms; and

WHEREAS, establishments providing unisex or gender-neutral restrooms are highly desired in the City; and

WHEREAS, providing incentives for gender-neutral restrooms will promote the general health, safety and welfare of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the amendments set forth below are necessary to accomplish all of the above objectives.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA.

SECTION 1. Chapter 1 of the Miami Beach Resiliency Code, entitled "General Provisions," Article II, entitled "Definitions," is hereby amended as follows:

**CHAPTER 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS

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SECTION 1.2.1. GENERAL DEFINITIONS.

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Floor area means the sum of the gross horizontal areas of the floors of a building or buildings, measured from the exterior faces of exterior walls or from the exterior face of an architectural projection, from the centerline of walls separating two attached buildings. For the purpose of clarity, floor area includes, but is not limited to, stairwells, stairways, covered steps, elevator shafts at every floor (including mezzanine level elevator shafts), and mechanical chutes and chases at every floor (including mezzanine level).

For the avoidance of doubt, unless otherwise provided for in these land development regulations, floor area excludes only the spaces expressly identified below:

- a. Accessory water tanks or cooling towers.
- b. Uncovered steps.
- c. Attic space, whether or not a floor actually has been laid, providing structural headroom of less than seven feet six inches.
- d. Terraces, breezeways, or open porches.
- e. Floor space used for required accessory off-street parking spaces. However, up to a maximum of two spaces per residential unit may be provided without being included in the calculation of the floor area ratio.
- f. Commercial parking garages and noncommercial parking garages when such structures are the main use on a site.
- g. Mechanical equipment rooms located above main roof deck.
- h. Exterior unenclosed private balconies.
- i. Floor area located below grade when the top of the slab of the ceiling is located at or below grade. However, if any portion of the top of the slab of the ceiling is above grade, the floor area that is below grade shall be included in the floor area ratio calculation. Despite the foregoing, when the top of the slab of an existing ceiling of a partial basement is located above grade, one-half of the floor area of the corresponding floor that is located below grade shall be included in the floor area ratio calculation in the following instances:
 1. Existing contributing structures that are located within a local historic district, national register historic district, or local historic site.
 2. Structures located within Block 1 Properties as more specifically defined in section 7.2.15.3.f.1.D.
- j. Enclosed garbage rooms, enclosed within the building on the ground floor level.
- k. Stairwells and elevators located above the main roof deck.
- l. Electrical transformer vault rooms.
- m. Fire control rooms and related equipment for life-safety purposes.
- n. Secured bicycle parking.
- o. Restrooms permitted and maintained as either unisex or gender neutral, as more specifically defined or regulated under the Florida Building Code.

Volumetric buildings, used for storage, where there are no interior floors, the floor area shall be calculated as if there was a floor for every eight feet of height.

When transfer of development rights are involved, see chapter 2 article XIV for additional regulations that address floor area.

SECTION 2. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances and all section and parts of sections in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. CODIFICATION.

It is the intention of the City Commission, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this ordinance shall become and be made part of the Code of the City of Miami Beach as amended; that the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; and that the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section" or other appropriate word.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.

If any section, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected by such invalidity.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect ten days following adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

Steven Meiner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

First Reading: December 11, 2024
Second Reading: February 3, 2025

Verified By: _____
Thomas R. Mooney, AICP
Planning Director

APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION

City Attorney NK Date 12/1/2024