



COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: February 26, 2025
TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE PLANNING BOARD – SETBACK REGULATIONS FOR AIR CONDITIONING UNITS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) refer the attached draft ordinance to the Planning Board.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On December 11, 2024, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, the City Commission referred a proposal pertaining to setback regulations for air conditioning units (C4 I) to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC). On January 16, 2025, the LUSC recommended that the City Commission refer the attached draft ordinance to the Planning Board.

ANALYSIS

Packaged terminal air conditioners (PTAC) units are ductless, self-contained systems designed to heat and cool individual spaces efficiently. Commonly utilized in hotels, hospitals, senior living facilities, and residential buildings, PTAC units offer a cost-effective and energy-efficient solution for climate control in smaller areas. Mini-split systems provide similar benefits, offering flexible and efficient temperature management for various residential and commercial applications.

As recommended by the LUSC, the attached draft ordinance amends the Land Development Regulations of the City Code (LDRs) to modify and expand allowable setback encroachments for existing apartment buildings to facilitate the installation of air-conditioning systems. Such systems include, but are not limited to, PTAC and mini-split air conditioning units. Amending setback requirements for existing buildings to meet minimum life safety requirements and to accommodate these units would enhance flexibility and minimize costs for property owners and support broader adoption of energy-efficient air conditioning solutions.

APPLICATION FEE WAIVER

The subject amendment is proposed on a comprehensive basis, and not on behalf of a private applicant or third party. Pursuant to section 2.4.1.c of the Land Development Regulations of the City Code, amendments to the City Code require the payment of the applicable fees in section 2.2.3.5, 2.2.3.6, and appendix A to the City Code. These fees may be waived by a five-sevenths (5/7ths) vote of the City Commission, based upon one or more of the following circumstances:

1. The City Commission determines that the proposed amendment is necessary due to a change in federal or state law, or to implement best practices in urban planning, or based on circumstances unique to the proposed amendment.
2. Upon the written recommendation of the City Manager acknowledging a documented financial hardship of a property owner(s) or developer(s).

3. If requested, in writing, by a non-profit organization, neighborhood association, or homeowner's association for property owned by any such organization or association, so long as the request demonstrates that a public purpose is achieved by enacting the applicable amendment.

Should this proposal be referred to the Planning Board, the Administration recommends that the City Commission determine that the proposed amendment is necessary based on circumstances unique to the proposed amendment and waive the applicable fees.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

No Fiscal Impact

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notice/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Not Applicable

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends the following:

1. The City Commission refer the attached draft ordinance to the Planning Board.
2. In accordance with section 2.4.1.c.1 of the Land Development Regulations of the City Code, the City Commission waive the applicable fees based on circumstances unique to the proposed amendment.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

Yes

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Planning

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PB - Setback Regulations for Air Conditioning Units. (Rosen Gonzalez) PL

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)