

R5 A UNDERSTORY REQUIREMENTS IN SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICTS

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE RESILIENCY CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ENTITLED "ZONING DISTRICTS AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "DISTRICT REGULATIONS," SECTION 7.2.2, ENTITLED "RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS," AT SUBSECTION 7.2.2.3, ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (RS)", TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERSTORY HOMES; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Applicable Area:

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: February 3, 2025 9:15 a.m. Second Reading Public Hearing

TITLE: UNDERSTORY REQUIREMENTS IN SINGLE FAMILY DISTRICTS  
AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE RESILIENCY CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ENTITLED "ZONING DISTRICTS AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE II, ENTITLED "DISTRICT REGULATIONS," SECTION 7.2.2, ENTITLED "RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS," AT SUBSECTION 7.2.2.3, ENTITLED "DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (RS)", TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERSTORY HOMES; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) adopt the ordinance.

### **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

On July 24, 2024, at the request of Commissioner David Suarez, the City Commission referred a proposed ordinance amendment pertaining to understory single family homes (C4 W) to the Land Use and Sustainability Committee (LUSC) and the Planning Board. On September 5, 2024, the LUSC discussed the proposal and recommended that the Planning Board transmit the proposed ordinance to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation. Additionally, the LUSC recommended including a provision in the ordinance for the posting of a property for which an understory home is proposed; this provision has been included in the draft ordinance.

### **ANALYSIS**

In 2023, the City Commission adopted comprehensive updates to the Land Development Regulations of the City Code (LDRs) and the City's first Resiliency Code. As part of the review process for the updated LDRs in 2022 and 2023, Planning staff recommended that mandatory review by the Design Review Board (DRB) or Historic Preservation Board (HPB) for single family homes designed with an understory no longer be required and that such homes be reviewed for permit administratively.

The administrative review of understory homes was not included in the final adoption of the updated LDRs, but the City Commission did approve an increase in the allowable height of up to 31 feet, for single-family homes utilizing an understory. Previously, the maximum height was 28 feet for RS-1 and RS-2 properties, and 24 feet for RS-3 and RS-4 properties. The additional height is intended to ensure livable and climate responsive ceiling heights for the understory area, while allowing the same floor to ceiling heights for the habitable floors that can be achieved in non-understory homes.

Although this increased height limit for understory homes applied uniformly to all RS districts, the DRB has consistently limited the additional height on smaller RS-3 and RS-4 zoned properties to not more than 3 feet above the maximum permitted height of 24 feet for flat roofs. Since RS-1 and RS-2 districts already had a higher maximum height allowance of 28 feet, the DRB has typically allowed understory homes on these properties to add up to an additional 3 feet, not to exceed 31 feet.

The attached ordinance is an amendment to Section 7.2.2.3 of the LDRs, pertaining to the development regulations for the RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, and RS-4 single-family residential districts. Specifically, the following is proposed:

1. Understory homes would no longer require mandatory approval from the DRB or HPB. Approval from the DRB or HPB would be required if waivers or variances are sought.
2. The maximum height for understory homes has been clarified, pursuant to the specific zoning district, and in a manner consistent with previous approvals by the DRB.
3. For RS-3 properties that have a minimum lot size of 18,000 square feet, the height may be increased by up to three (3) feet, which is commensurate with the maximum height limit of similar sized parcels in the RS-1 and RS-2 districts.
4. A provision for the posting of a property containing a future understory home has been included, to allow adjacent neighbors to be notified of a permit application.

The minimum requirements set forth under the development regulations for all single-family homes provide an established framework for new construction and are considered an expectation. The primary responsibility of the DRB and HPB would be to review applications involving waivers and variances, and the review process for both boards provides an opportunity for affected property owners to provide comment and feedback regarding such exceptions.

The development regulations specific to understory homes are very detailed and any proposal to vary from these requirements, either in the form of a waiver or variance, would still require DRB or HPB review. The proposal to allow administrative review of understory homes that comply with all the requirements set forth in the Code would result in more homes utilizing this type of design and would significantly further the City's resiliency goals and objectives.

### **PLANNING BOARD REVIEW**

On October 29, 2024, the Planning Board held a public hearing and transmitted the proposed ordinance to the City Commission with a favorable recommendation (4-3). The Planning Board also recommended that an applicability provision be included, that would allow for single family homes currently in process to continue under the current regulations in the LDRs. This applicability provision is included in the draft ordinance.

### **UPDATE**

The ordinance was approved at First Reading on November 20, 2024, with the following amendments:

1. Include property owner information in the posting requirement.
2. Include a revision to Section 2.7.2.2.3.b to allow RS-4 and RS-3 Zone properties with a lot size of more than 18,000 square feet to obtain approval from the Design Review Board or Historic Preservation Board, as applicable, for an increase in the height limit by up to three additional feet.

These modifications have been incorporated into the revised ordinance for Second Reading.

Additionally, the City Commission requested that a survey be conducted, of property owners experience with understory applications at the DRB. To this end, the attached survey was sent

(by regular mail and electronic mail) to homeowners and design professionals who have made an application to the DRB over the last five years. Also attached is a summary of the survey results, received as of January 14, 2025.

Finally, the City Commission referred the ordinance to the LUSC for additional discussion, prior to Second Reading. The City Commission requested that all homeowner associations (HOA) be notified of the LUSC meeting. On December 17, 2024, the LUSC discussed the proposed ordinance and reached a tie vote (2-2), resulting in an unfavorable recommendation. The LUSC also requested that the three (3) feet of additional height be applicable only to the understory portion of the home.

In response to the discussion at the LUSC, at the direction of the sponsor, the following additional adjustments are included in the ordinance for second reading:

1. A nine (9') foot minimum height requirement for understory areas. This is in response to the recommendation of the LUSC for three (3') feet of additional height being specific to the understory area.
2. Understory homes with a sloped roof are required to go before the DRB or HPB, as applicable, regardless of height.
3. A height exception of up to 12 inches for roof-top insulation needed for drainage on flat roofs.
4. DRB or HPB review of additional building height above the limits set forth in the regulations would be required, in accordance with the applicable review criteria for each board. This would replace variance requests for additional height.

Lastly, the following illustrations are attached:

1. A comparison of the current height regulations for conventional homes, which do not require mandatory DRB review.
2. A comparison of the current (24 feet) and proposed (28 feet) height regulations for understory homes located in the RS-3 and RS-4 districts.
3. A comparison of the current (28 feet) and proposed (31 feet) height regulations for understory homes located in the RS-1 and RS-2 districts.  
NOTE: A reference to lots over 18,000 square feet in the RS-3 district is included, to reflect the ordinance text.

As it pertains to these illustrations, it is important to note that the floor heights of the habitable levels do not include applicable interior elements such as ventilation, air conditioning ducts, plumbing and electrical. These elements will reduce the actual height of the interior floor levels.

### **FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

No Fiscal Impact

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

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on: 11/5/2024.  
See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

N/A



## **CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends that the City Commission adopt the ordinance.

### **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 David Suarez

### **Co-sponsor(s)**

### **Condensed Title**

9:15 a.m. 2nd Rdg, Understory Requirements in Single Family Districts. (Suarez) PL 5/7

**Understory Requirements in Single Family Districts**  
**(Amended for Second Reading)**

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE RESILIENCY CODE OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, BY AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ENTITLED “ZONING DISTRICTS AND REGULATIONS,” ARTICLE II, ENTITLED “DISTRICT REGULATIONS,” SECTION 7.2.2, ENTITLED “RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS,” AT SUBSECTION 7.2.2.3, ENTITLED “DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS (RS),” TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERSTORY HOMES; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, the City Commission adopted comprehensive updates to the Land Development Regulations of the City Code (LDRs) and established the City’s first Resiliency Code to enhance community sustainability and resilience; and

**WHEREAS**, although the proposal for administrative review of understory homes was not included in the final adoption of the updated LDRs, the City Commission approved an increase in the allowable height for these homes up to 31 feet, ensuring climate-responsive ceiling heights; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment to Section 7.2.2.3 of the LDRs eliminates mandatory DRB or HPB approval for understory homes, while still requiring DRB review for applications seeking waivers or variances; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment clarifies maximum height allowances for understory homes based on specific zoning districts and maintains consistency with previous DRB approvals; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing development regulations provide a foundational framework for new construction, ensuring that the DRB process allows for community input on waivers and variances, thus protecting neighborhood integrity; and

**WHEREAS**, detailed regulations governing understory homes ensure that any deviations from the established requirements necessitate DRB review, thereby upholding standards while promoting flexibility in design; and

**WHEREAS**, enabling administrative review for compliant understory homes is expected to increase the adoption of this design type and significantly advance the City’s resiliency goals and objectives; and

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 7 of the Resiliency Code, entitled “Zoning Districts and Regulations,” Article II, entitled “District Regulations,” Section 7.2.2, entitled “RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 Single Family Residential Districts,” at Sub-Section 7.2.2.3, entitled “Development Regulations (RS),” is hereby amended as follows:

## CHAPTER 7 ZONING DISTRICTS AND REGULATIONS

\* \* \*

### ARTICLE II. DISTRICT REGULATIONS

\* \* \*

#### SECTION 2. RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

\* \* \*

##### 7.2.2.3 Development Regulations (RS)

\* \* \*

- b. The development regulations for the RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 single-family residential districts are as follows:

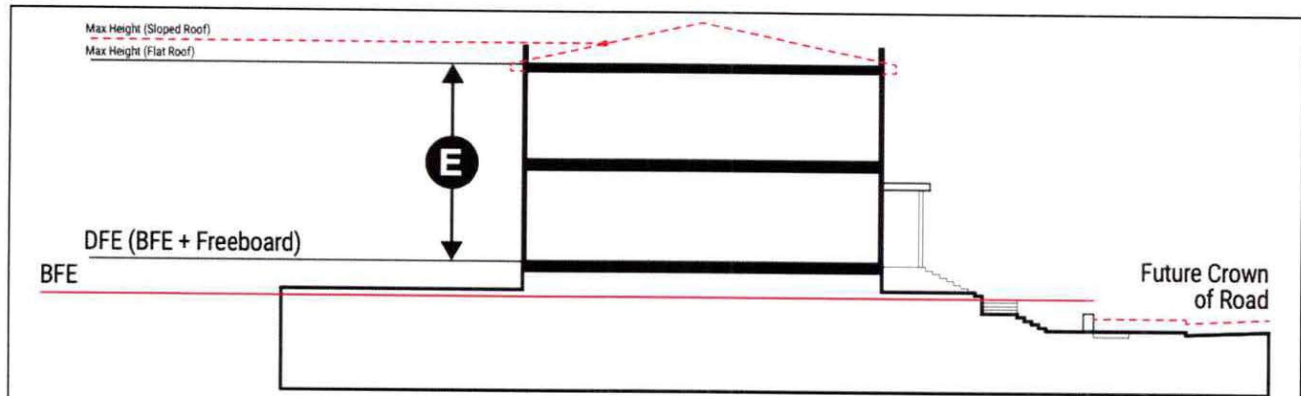
1. *The FAR, density, lot area, lot width, lot coverage, unit size, setbacks, and building height requirements for the RS-1, RS-2, RS-3, RS-4 single-family residential districts are as follows:*

#### DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS TABLE (RS)

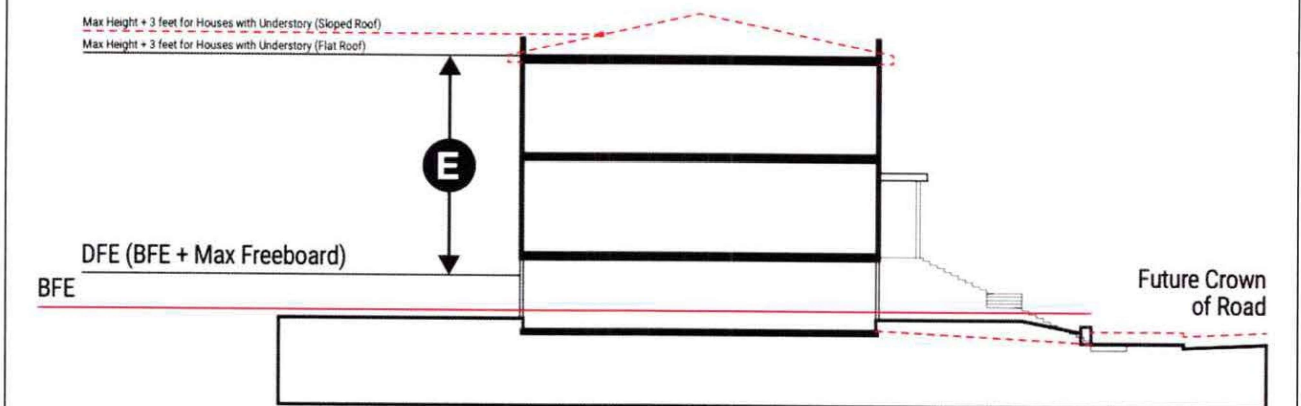
\* \* \*

BUILDING HEIGHT	RS-1	RS-2	RS-3	RS-4
Maximum Height (stories)	2 stories			
Maximum Height (feet) (3) (8) <u>(4)</u> No Understory	28 feet - flat roofs <del>(3)</del> (8) 31 feet – sloped roofs (3) (8)		24 feet – flat roofs <del>(3)</del> (4) (8) 27 feet – sloped roofs (3) (4) (8)	24 feet – flat roofs <del>(3)</del> (8) 27 feet – sloped roofs (3) (8)
Maximum Height (feet) (3) <u>(4)</u> Understory Home	31 feet - flat roofs 34 feet – sloped roofs (8)		28 feet – flat roofs (7) 31 feet – sloped roofs (7)(8)	28 feet – flat roofs 31 feet – sloped roofs





## NO UNDERSTORY



## WITH UNDERSTORY

- (1). Except those lots fronting on a cul-de-sac or circular street as defined in lot width.
- (2). Single story homes shall follow the requirements of section 7.2.2.3.b.7.B.
- (3). Height shall be measured from the required base flood elevation for the lot, plus freeboard. (See Height of Building definition). Single story homes shall follow the requirements of section 7.2.2.3.b.7.B.
- (4). **Height variances shall be prohibited. However, an additional three (3) feet in overall height, above the maximum permitted height above, may be May be increased up to 28 feet for flat roofs and 31 feet sloped roofs when** approved by the Design Review Board (DRB) or Historic Preservation Board (HPB), in accordance with the applicable design review or appropriateness criteria.
- (5). If an Understory is not provided, at least 50 percent (50%) of the required front yard and side facing a street yard areas (including portions of the rear and front yards) shall be sodded or landscaped pervious open space. With the exception of driveways and paths leading to the building, paving may not extend any closer than 5 feet to the front of the building. When a pool is located in the side yard, facing a street the area of the water may count as part of the open space. Understory homes shall comply with the Understory Level Standards as outlined in subsection 7.2.2.3(b)(6)

In the event that an existing single-family home has an abutting street raised pursuant to an approved city project, and such home was previously permitted with less than 50 percent (50%) of the required front yard area consisting of sodded or landscaped pervious open space, such property may retain the most recent, previously permitted pervious open space configuration, provided the front yard is raised to meet the new street elevation. However, in no instance shall less than 30 percent (30%) of the required front yard be sodded or landscaped pervious open space.

~~(6) If an Understory is provided, at least 70 percent of the required front yard and street side yard areas shall consist of sodded or landscaped pervious open space. For purposes of this section, the required front yard shall be the same as the required front setback of the principal structure. All allowable exterior walkways and driveways within the front and street side yards shall consist of pavers set in sand or other semi-pervious material. The use of concrete, asphalt or similar material within the required front or street side yards shall be prohibited.~~

~~(7). (6) At least 70 percent (70%) of the required rear yard shall be sodded or landscaped pervious open space; the water portion of a swimming pool may count toward this requirement, when located above adjusted grade, the water portion of a swimming pool may count towards 50 percent of this requirement, provided adequate infrastructure is incorporated into the design of the pool to fully accommodate on-site stormwater retention.~~

~~(8). (7) The Design Review Board (DRB) or Historic Preservation Board (HPB), as applicable, may approve Understory areas. For RS-3 zoned properties, with a minimum lot size of 18,000 square feet, the maximum height is increased to 31 feet for flat roofs and 34 feet for sloped roofs. If an Understory is provided, then the maximum height is increased to 31 feet for flat roofs and 34 feet for sloped roofs.~~

**(8) For single family homes utilizing an understory, if any portion of the home or any accessory structure utilizes a sloped roof, approval of the home by the DRB or HPB, as applicable, shall be required, regardless of building height.**

\* \* \*

## **6. Understory Level Standards**

The following regulations shall apply to on-air conditioned Understory space located below minimum flood elevation, plus freeboard; ~~shall require Design Review Board (DRB) or Historic Preservation Board (HPB) approval, as applicable.~~ The following regulations shall also apply to the understory area(s) Except as otherwise provided in this Code, homes with understories may be approved administratively, as provided herein:

- A. Understory area(s) shall be used only for open air activities, parking, building access, mechanical equipment, non-enclosed restrooms and storage. Such areas shall be designed and maintained to be free of obstructions and shall not be enclosed and/or air-conditioned at any time, with the exception of limited access areas to the first habitable floor. However, understory area(s) below the lowest habitable floor can utilize non-supporting breakaway walls, open-wood lattice work, louvers or similar architectural treatments, provided they are open a minimum of 50 percent (50%) on each side.
- B. All unenclosed, non-air-conditioned areas located directly below the first habitable floor shall not count in the unit size calculations.
- C. Understory building access. Enclosed, air-conditioned elevator and stair vestibules, for access to the first habitable level of the home, shall be permitted under the first habitable floor and shall be located as close to the center of the floor plan as possible and be visually recessive such that they do not become vertical extensions of exterior



building elevations. The total area of enclosed and airconditioned building access shall be limited to no greater than 5 percent (5%) of the lot area. All airconditioned floor space located directly below the first habitable floor shall count in the total unit size calculations.

- D. Enclosed, non-air-conditioned areas, for parking and storage, may be permitted and shall not count in the unit size calculations, provided such areas do not exceed 600 square feet. Any portion of such enclosed parking and storage area exceeding 600 square feet shall count in the unit size calculations.
- E. All parking, including required parking, shall be provided within the understory area, and shall be clearly delineated by a different surface finish or bollards. No parking or vehicle storage shall be permitted within a required yard, unless approved by the DRB or HPB, in accordance with the applicable design review or certificate of appropriateness criteria.
- F. A continuous soffit shall be lowered a minimum of 2 feet from the lowest slab of the first level above the understory area in order to screen from view all lighting, sprinkler, piping, plumbing, electrical conduits, and all other building services, unless concealed by other architectural method(s).
- G. Understory ground elevation **and minimum height**. The minimum elevation of the understory ground shall be constructed no lower than future crown of road as defined in chapter 54, of the city Code. **Additionally, a minimum height of nine (9) feet to the bottom of the first habitable floor of the home shall be required.** All portions of the understory area that are not air-conditioned shall consist of pervious or semi-pervious material, such as wood deck, gravel or pavers set in sand. Concrete, asphalt and similar material shall be prohibited within the non-air-conditioned portions of the understory area.
- H. Understory edge. All allowable decking, gravel, pavers, non-supporting breakaway walls, open-wood lattice work, louvers or similar architectural treatments located in the understory area shall be set back a minimum of 5 feet from each side of the underneath of the walls of the first habitable floor above, with the exception of driveways and walkways leading to the property, and access walkways and/or steps or ramps for the front and side area. The front and side understory edge shall be designed to accommodate on-site water capture from adjacent surfaces and expanded landscaping opportunities from the side yards.
- I. **Roof insulation. For flat roofs, up to twelve (12") inches of insulation shall be an allowable height exception and may be located above the roof slab. Portions of insulation exceeding twelve (12") inches above the roof slab shall be included in the overall height of the home.**
- J. **At least 70 percent of the required front yard and street side yard areas shall consist of sodded or landscaped pervious open space. For purposes of this section, the required front yard shall be the same as the required front setback of the principal structure. All allowable exterior walkways and driveways within the front and street side yards shall consist of pavers set in sand or other semi-pervious material. The use of concrete, asphalt or similar material within the required front or street side yards shall be prohibited.**
- K. **For single family homes utilizing an understory, the applicant shall mount a laminated posting, in a form prescribed by the planning director, at the front of the property in a manner and location clearly visible from the public right-of-way, indicating that an application for a home utilizing an understory has been filed. At a minimum, such posting shall include a description of the application, as well as contact information for the property owner.** The applicant shall provide evidence to the planning director that the posting has been installed on site prior to the issuance of a

building permit. The posting shall be for informational purposes only and the validity of any building permit shall not be affected by any failure to mount or continuously maintain the posting.

**SECTION 2. REPEALER.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances and all section and parts of sections in conflict herewith be and the same 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. APPLICABILITY.**

This Ordinance shall not apply to land use board applications that paid an initial application fee, obtained a land use board file number, and presented a proposed design at a pre-application conference with Planning Department staff before October 29, 2024.

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect ten days following adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of 2025.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Meiner, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LANGUAGE AND FOR EXECUTION

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

NK

1/22/2025  
Date

First Reading: November 20, 2024  
Second Reading: February 3, 2025

Verified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director



## Responses Overview Active

Responses

16



Average Time

44:20



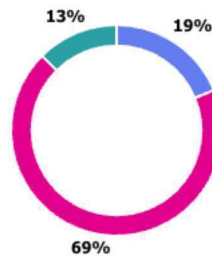
Duration

27 Days

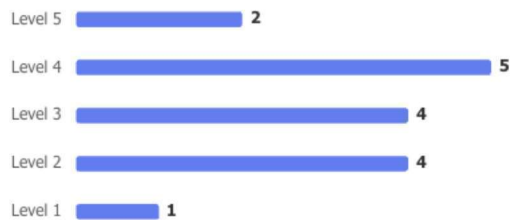
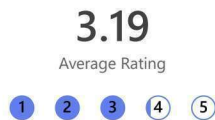


### 1. What was your role in the DRB process?

Property Owner	3
Architect	11
Legal Counsel	2
Other	0

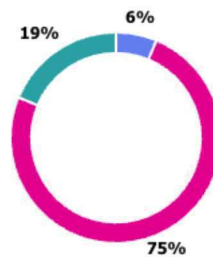


### 2. How would you rate your overall experience with the DRB process?



### 3. How long did the DRB process take from initial submission to final approval?

Less than 3 months	1
3-6 months	12
6-12 months	3
Over 12 months	0
Still in the process	0



### 4. Were there any delays or challenges in the process? If so, please describe briefly.

15  
Responses

Latest Responses

"General Length of time to go through the process"

"Yes. At times the DRB meetings with long agendas may end early items are contin..."

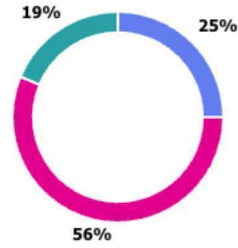
"Delays relating to quorum. The board does not have a landscape architect and on..."

...



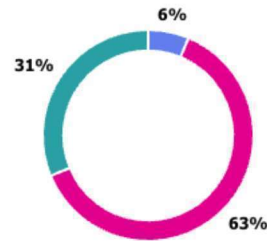
5. Did the DRB process improve the design of your home in terms of quality, resilience, or climate adaptation?

Yes	4
No	9
Not sure	3



6. Was the time, effort, and cost required for the DRB process justified?

Yes	1
No	10
Not sure	5



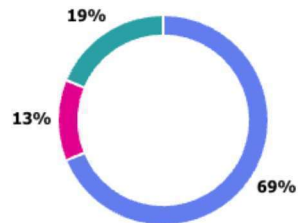
7. How much additional cost did the DRB process add to your project?

15  
Responses

Latest Responses  
 "N/A"  
 "Not applicable."  
 "Legal counsel is not privy to all costs associated with the DRB process."  
 ...

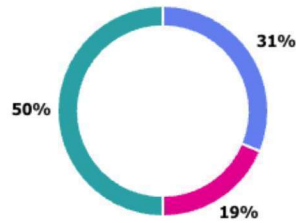
8. Do you feel that if you don't agree with the DRB's suggestions, you could be denied approval?

Yes	11
No	2
Not sure	3



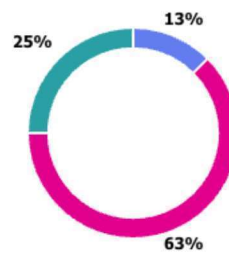
9. Do you feel that your rights as a property owner are threatened by the DRB process?

Yes	5
No	3
Not sure	8

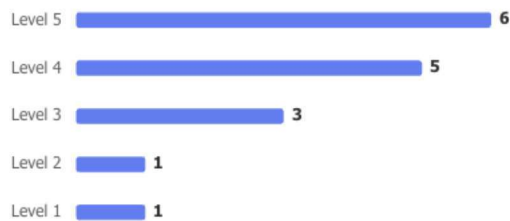
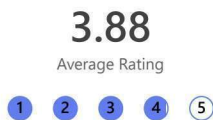


10. Do you believe non-professionals or a board should have input on design decisions if a professional architect and design team have been hired?

Yes	2
No	10
Not sure	4



11. How effective was communication with staff during the process?



12. What aspects of the DRB process do you think could be improved?

16  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Length of Time to proceed thorough the process"  
 "There should be 1 additional week between receipt of comments and the deadline..."  
 "The Sunday deadlines are extremely difficult to coordinate. It would be helpful to ..."  
 ...

13. Any additional comments or feedback?

13  
Responses

Latest Responses

"Legislation altering the regulations for single-family homes should automatically i..."  
 ...

14. Full name

7  
Responses

Latest Responses  
...

15. Email

6  
Responses

Latest Responses  
...

16. Phone

5  
Responses

Latest Responses  
...

# Design Review Board Understory Survey

We are seeking feedback on your experience with the Design Review Board (DRB) process for understory homes. Your input will help us evaluate whether the DRB process is worthwhile, as well as identify areas for improvement.

\* Required

## 1. What was your role in the DRB process? \*

- ☐ Property Owner
- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Legal Counsel
- ☐ Other

## 2. How would you rate your overall experience with the DRB process? \*

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is the lowest, 5 is the highest):

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

## 3. How long did the DRB process take from initial submission to final approval? \*

- ☐ Less than 3 months
- ☐ 3-6 months
- ☐ 6-12 months

☐ Over 12 months

4. **Were there any delays or challenges in the process? If so, please describe briefly.**

Enter your answer

5. **Did the DRB process improve the design of your home in terms of quality, resilience, or climate adaptation? \***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

6. **Was the time, effort, and cost required for the DRB process justified? \***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Not sure

7. **How much additional cost did the DRB process add to your project?**

Enter your answer

8. **Do you feel that if you don't agree with the DRB's suggestions, you could be denied approval? \***

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

9. **Do you feel that your rights as a property owner are threatened by the DRB process? \***

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

10. **Do you believe non-professionals or a board should have input on design decisions if a professional architect and design team have been hired? \***

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

11. **How effective was communication with staff during the process?**

Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is the lowest, 5 is the highest):

1                      2                      3                      4                      5

12. **What aspects of the DRB process do you think could be improved?**

Enter your answer

13. **Any additional comments or feedback?**

Enter your answer



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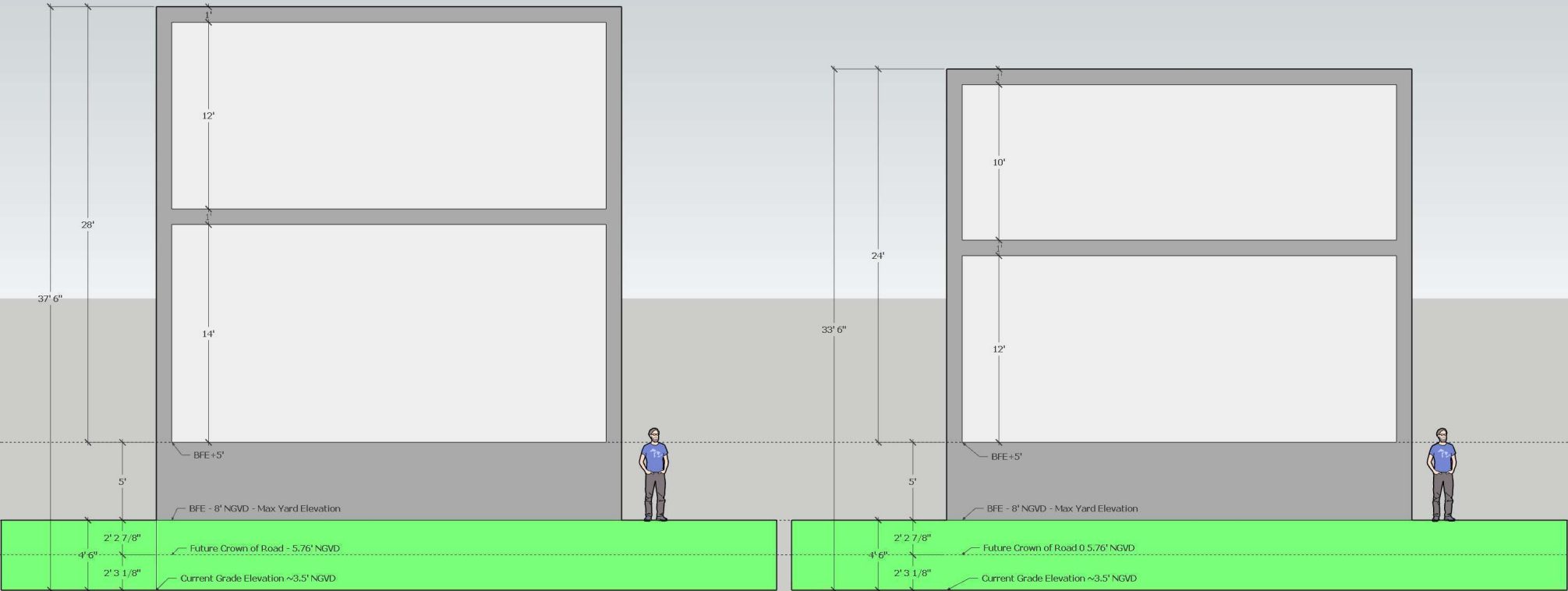
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# Conventional Home (Existing Regulations)

## 5' Freeboard

RS-1 and RS-2

RS-3 and RS-4

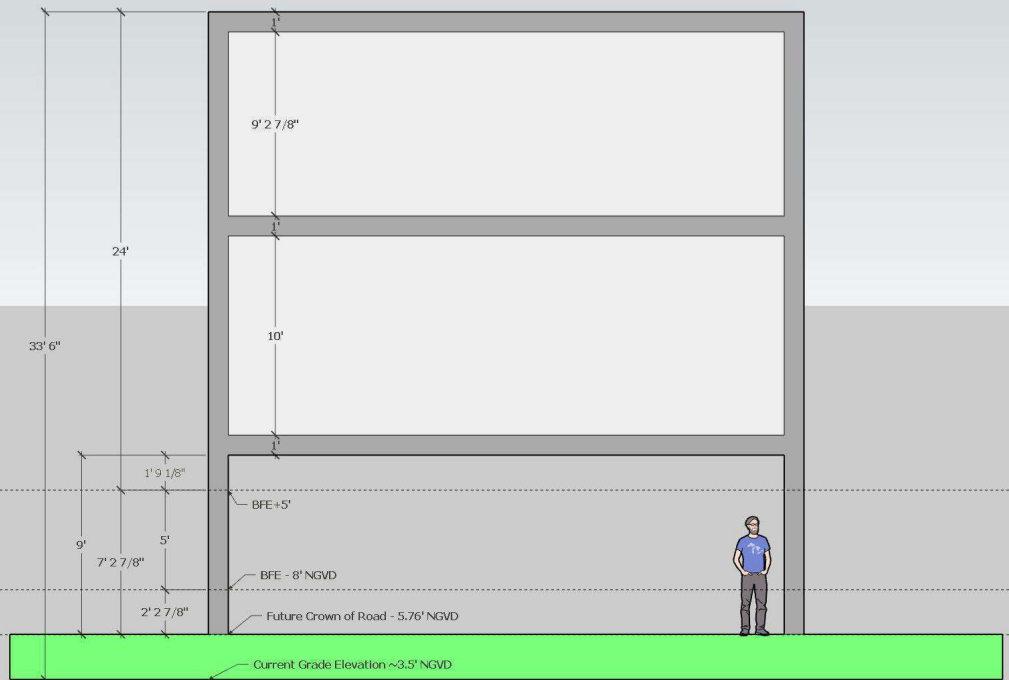
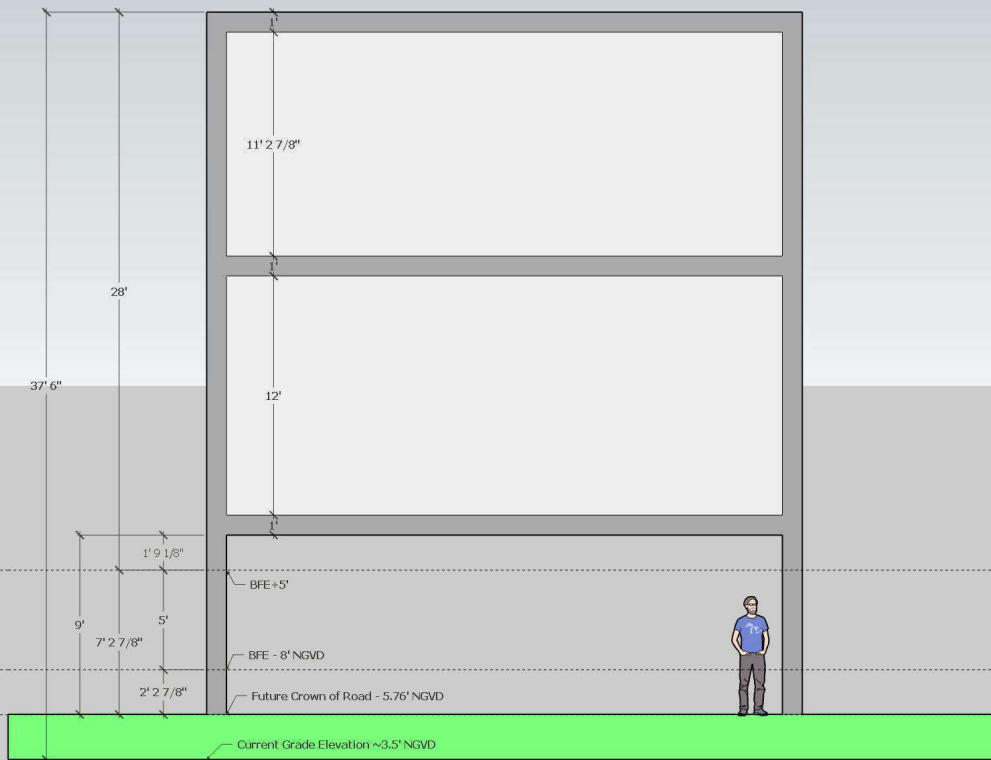




## 9' Understory (RS-3 and RS-4)

28'

24'



# 9' Understory

(RS-1, RS-2, and RS-3 with lots over 18,000 SF)

31'

28'

