

## CHAPTER 24 CHINATOWN DESIGN REVIEW PROCEDURES

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### 2400 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF REVIEW

2400.1 The purpose of this chapter is to establish a review process relating to applications for permits in Chinatown that the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs is required to refer to the Director of the Office of Planning pursuant to Mayor's Order No. 89-132, dated June 9, 1989.

2400.2 The Director shall review referred applications on the basis of the following:

- (a) Consistency of the proposed project with the District elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and the Chinatown Design Guidelines Study Report;
- (b) Contribution of building design, including signs and awnings, to the Chinese identity of Chinatown; and
- (c) Chinese character of public space improvements and the contribution of those improvements to increased pedestrian activity.

2400.3 Nothing in this chapter is intended to abrogate the existing authority or responsibility of either the Public Space Committee or the Downtown Streetscape Committee.

**AUTHORITY:** Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is Mayor's Order 89-132 issued June 9, 1989, 36 DCR 4525 (June 23, 1989).

**SOURCE:** Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890 (February 1, 1991).

### 2401 APPLICATIONS, DOCUMENTS, AND INFORMATION

2401.1 When a permit application has been referred to the Director, the applicant shall submit to the Director up to eight (8) copies, as required by the Director, of the following documents:

- (a) A completed Chinatown Design Review application (to be provided by the Office of Planning);
- (b) The names and addresses of all owners or their authorized agents;
- (c) A statement setting forth the relationship of the proposed development to the objectives of the Chinatown Design Guidelines Study report;
- (d) Plans and elevations indicating appearance and proposed uses and including dimensions, colors, and a general description of materials; and
- (e) Any other information the Director deems necessary to perform design review.

2401.2 In addition to the documents required by §2401.1, the applicant for any major new or renovation project (including exterior renovations) shall submit to the Director up to eight (8) copies, as required by the Director, of the following documents:

- (a) If the project is within the historic district, a statement setting forth the historic preservation constraints on Chinese design character and how Chinese design character has been accommodated within those constraints to achieve an appropriate balance between potentially competing objectives;
- (b) A general circulation plan, indicating the location of vehicular and pedestrian access ways, the location, number, and dimensions of all off-street parking spaces and loading service bays, and the locations and dimensions of other public space improvements; and
- (c) A general statement of the approximate schedule of building construction.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890 (February 1, 1991).

## 2402 REVIEW TIMETABLE

- 2402.1 If, upon examination of a referred permit application of information submitted pursuant to §2401, the Director concludes that a design review is unnecessary, the Director shall promptly and in writing notify the permit applicant and the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.
- 2402.2 If a design review is performed, the Director shall complete the review process and make appropriate written recommendations within sixty (60) days from the date the Director receives all of the information necessary to perform the review.
- 2402.3 If necessary, the Director may give written notice to the permit applicant of up to four (4) additional thirty (30) day extensions, for a total review period of not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days. Additional review time shall be permitted only when agreed to by the permit applicant.

2402.4 The Director shall provide written notice of all extensions to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and to the Chinatown Steering Committee.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 891 (February 1, 1991).

### 2403 NOTICE OF DESIGN REVIEW AND RESPONSE

2403.1 If the Director decides to perform a design review, the Director shall promptly give written notice to all affected departments and agencies of the District government. The Director shall also give written notice to the Chinatown Steering Committee and to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C.

2403.2 The Director shall, along with the notice, provide each department, agency, or other entity notified information sufficient to enable it to make appropriate recommendations to the Director.

2403.3 Each department, agency, or other entity given notice pursuant to §2403.1 shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of that notice to submit its written recommendations to the Director, unless that time is extended by the Director for good cause.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 892 (February 1, 1991).

### 2404 TECHNICAL CONFERENCES AND BRIEFINGS

2404.1 The Director may conduct technical conferences between a permit applicant and affected departments, agencies, and other entities.

2404.2 On request, the Director shall provide technical briefings to the Chinatown Steering Committee.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 892 (February 1, 1991).

### 2405 FINAL REPORT

2405.1 At the conclusion of the review process, the Director shall prepare a final report. Where appropriate, the final report shall contain recommendations for modifications to the construction or renovation proposal, or other project reviewed.

2404.2 The Director shall send a copy of the final report to the following:

- (a) The affected departments and agencies;
- (b) The permit applicant;
- (c) The Chinatown Steering Committee; and
- (d) The Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 893 (February 1, 1991).

**2406 EXEMPTIONS**

2406.1 Federally owned properties shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 892 (February 1, 1991).

**2499 DEFINITIONS**

2499.1 When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed:

**Chinatown** - the area bounded by Mount Vernon Square, Massachusetts Avenue, 5th Street, G Street, and 8th Street, N.W.

**Chinatown Steering Committee** - the Chinatown community organization, formed at the request of the District government, to advise the District government on physical, economic, and social impacts in Chinatown. *Community Group, Advised Mayor 1984 D.C. Law*

**Director** - the Director of the Office of Planning, or the Director's designee.

**Downtown Streetscape Committee** - the committee established by the Department of Public Works on November 13, 1981, for coordinated review of proposed streetscape improvements of development plans for compliance with the Downtown Streetscape Regulations and policies.

**Public Space Committee** - the committee established by Mayor's Order No. 83-54, dated February 17, 1983, to make final determinations on the approval or denial of applications for the temporary use of public space.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 890, 892 (February 1, 1991).