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CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

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AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND CITY CODE CHAPTER 14
RE: JILL C. DUSON HOUSING TRUST FUND

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,
MAINE IN CITY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED AS FOLLOWS:

That Chapter 14, Sec. 18.3.2 is hereby amended to read as follows, on the following pages:



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18 HOUSING

18.1 HOUSING PRESERVATION AND REPLACEMENT

18.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the housing preservation and replacement ordinance is:

- A. To promote and facilitate an adequate supply of housing, particularly affordable housing for all economic groups.
- B. To limit the net loss of housing units in the city.
- C. To preserve housing in zones where housing is permitted in the city for all residents in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

18.1.2 Applicability

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the housing preservation and replacement ordinance shall apply to the loss of three or more dwelling units in a five-year period, provided that such dwelling units were a legally registered residential use as of July 1, 2002. For the purposes of this section, dwelling units shall be as defined in Article 3, but also include rooming units that people rent in or sleep in within lodging houses, dormitories, shelters, and sheltered care group homes.
- B. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the housing preservation and replacement ordinance shall also apply to proposals that result in the loss of fewer than three dwelling units which were legally registered residential use as of July 1, 2002 for the purposes of creating surface parking.
- C. For the purposes of this section, loss of dwelling units shall mean the elimination or conversion to nonresidential use of a dwelling

unit and dwelling units that remain vacant for three years or more or are lost due to demolition unless the vacancy or demolition results from accidents outside of the owner's control, fire, natural disasters, or acts of war.

- D. Determination of number of the dwelling units within a structure or structures and the number of units lost will be based on the records of the Building Authority indicating the legal, registered use of the property since July 1, 2002 through the time of application. The actual use of the property for purposes of applicability of this section may be rebutted by the owner by proof of documentary evidence including but not limited to photographs, letters, and sworn affidavits. The Planning Authority may conduct its own investigation of the actual use and shall determine the applicability of this section based on the totality of the evidence.

18.1.3 Exemptions

This section does not apply to:

- A. Consolidation, elimination, or reconfiguration of one or more dwelling units within an existing structure, as long as all the resulting units remain as dwelling units after such consolidation, elimination, or reconfiguration, except as provided by (E) below. Conversion of a dwelling unit to a hotel or motel room shall not qualify for the exemption provided by the paragraph.
- B. Proposals that result in a number of units equal to or greater than the number of units lost as determined by the Planning Authority.
- C. Legally nonconforming dwelling units existing in zones which no longer permit residential uses.

- D. Property which has been ordered demolished by the City, pursuant to 17 M.R.S. § 2851, et seq., as amended, except where it is determined by the Building Authority that the deterioration was caused by neglect or lack of maintenance.
- E. Paragraph (A) above notwithstanding, the conversion to a nonresidential use of any dwelling units located on the ground floor of a building within a mixed-use zone.

18.1.4 Planning Authority approval required

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a proposal to demolish or to convert three or more dwelling units to a nonresidential use in a zone where such use is otherwise permitted must first obtain approval from the Planning Authority. In addition to any other requirements of the Land Use Code, the applicant must submit a statement certifying the number of dwelling units to be demolished or converted to nonresidential use, as well as a description of the characteristics of each of those units.

18.1.5 Tenant notification requirements

Prior to elimination as a result of demolition or conversion to nonresidential use, the owner shall:

- A. Provide the Planning Authority a list containing the name of each tenant currently residing in the dwelling units to be demolished or converted to nonresidential use, as well as verification of compliance with tenant notice requirements of this subsection.
 - B. Deliver to each tenant who occupies such a dwelling unit a written notice to vacate the unit. The notice shall either be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or served in-hand. The notice will grant the tenant not less than 90 days from the date of receipt of the notice to vacate the unit.
- C. File proof of service of the notice with the Planning Authority.

18.1.6 Housing replacement requirements

- A. The Planning Authority shall require, as a condition of approval, that an owner shall replace any dwelling units that are demolished or converted to nonresidential use.
- B. This requirement may be satisfied in any one of the following ways, which may be used in combination:
 1. *Construction of units.* The construction of housing units within a new structure or a new addition either on site or off-site.
 2. *Residential conversion.* The conversion of a nonresidential building to residential use.

18.1.7 Replacement unit requirement

In addition to the foregoing, all replacement units built pursuant to Subsection 18.1.6.B above shall:

- A. Be located within the same United States census block group as the parcel from which the dwelling units are being removed or within 1,500 feet of the dwelling units being removed.
- B. Not previously have been on the market as of the date of application.
- C. Be situated within a development which has not been a candidate for site plan approval as of the date of the application.
- D. Be comparable in size to the units replaced. For the purpose of this section, “comparable in size” means that the aggregate size of the replacement units will be no less than 80% of the size of the aggregate of the original units to be replaced.



18.1.8 Contribution to the Housing Trust Fund

- A.** The applicant may meet the requirements of this housing replacement ordinance by depositing \$50,000 for each dwelling unit into the City’s Housing Trust Fund.
- B.** Beginning on January 1, 2004 and annually thereafter, the amount of the contribution shall be adjusted by multiplying this amount originally deposited for each unit by a fraction, the denominator of which shall be the “Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (“CPI-W”),” U.S. City Average, “All Items Index,” as published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (“the index”) for January 1, 2003 year, and the numerator of which shall be the index for the same month in each subsequent year. In the event that the index is not then in existence, the parties shall use such equivalent price index as is published by any successor governmental agency then in existence, or, if none, then by such nongovernmental agency as may then be publishing an equivalent price index, in lieu of and adjusted to the index. If the index shall cease to use 1982-84 equals 100 as the basis of calculation, or if a substantial change is made in the terms or number of items contained in the index, the base index shall be adjusted to conform to such change, using such computation thereof, if available, as shall be employed by the United States Department of Labor in computing same. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, contributions made after January 1, 2004 shall not be less than the amount originally required to be deposited for each rooming or dwelling unit.

18.1.9 Performance guarantee

Owners or affiliates must post a performance guarantee in the form of a letter of credit, or other security acceptable to the City attorney, in the amount equivalent to the amount the applicant would have been required to contribute to the City’s Housing Trust Fund if the applicant had chosen that option pursuant to Subsection 18.1.8. Such a performance guarantee shall be valid for no more than three years, after which the full amount due shall be provided to the City’s Housing Trust Fund if replacement units satisfying the conditions of this housing replacement ordinance do not have certificates of occupancy.

18.1.10 Partial waiver of replacement requirements

- A.** Any owner who has applied for site plan review for elimination or conversion to nonresidential use of dwelling units may apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a partial waiver from the housing replacement requirements of this section. Such waiver may be a downward adjustment of up to 50% of the owner’s housing replacement obligation if the owner establishes to the board’s satisfaction that:
 - 1. The proposed development is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
 - 2. The proposed development provides significant value and benefit to the immediate and surrounding neighborhood, including, but not limited to, community enhancement, social benefits or job creation.
 - 3. The applicant demonstrates with objective evidence that the imposition of the

requirements of this section would impose such an economic burden upon the project relative to its scope that it renders the project impossible to develop.

4. The requested relief does not constitute a grant of a special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon similar properties.
- B.** The Zoning Board of Appeals must make positive findings on each of the four criteria above in order for any such adjustment to be valid. An applicant aggrieved of a decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals may appeal a decision under this subsection pursuant to the provisions of Article 2.

18.1.11 Effect of other City ordinances

- A.** Nothing in this section shall permit the demolition or conversion to nonresidential use of dwelling units in residential property protected by Article 17, except as permitted by that ordinance.
- B.** A conditional zone may not be used to circumvent the application of this section. The terms of this section shall apply to any conditional zone which involves dwelling units affected by this section. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the City and the applicant from agreeing to terms which exceed those imposed by this section by means of a conditional zone.

18.1.12 Appeals

Any applicant aggrieved by a decision of the Planning Authority under this section may appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals within 30 days of that decision.

18.2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

18.2.1 Purpose

It is in the public interest to promote an adequate supply of housing that is affordable to a range of households at different income levels. The purpose of this section therefore is to offer incentives to developers to include units of affordable and workforce housing within development projects, thereby mitigating the impact of market rate housing construction, or the demonstrated increase in affordable housing needs resulting from the creation of new lower-income jobs, on the limited supply of available land for suitable housing, and helping to meet the housing needs of all economic groups within the city. The City believes that this section will assist in meeting the City’s comprehensive goals for affordable housing, in the prevention of overcrowding and deterioration of the limited supply of affordable housing, and by doing so promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

TABLE 18-A: AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEE REDUCTIONS

% of New Units That are Low-Income or Workforce	Development Fee Discount	Cost of Work (Building Permit) Fees
5% up to but not including 10%	5% reduction	\$10.50 per \$1,000
10% up to but not including 15%	10% reduction	\$9.90 per \$1,000
15% up to but not including 20%	15% reduction	\$9.35 per \$1,000
20% up to but not including 25%	20% reduction	\$8.80 per \$1,000
25% or more	25% reduction	\$8.25 per \$1,000



18.2.2 Reduction of fees

- A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Land Use Code or Chapter 6 to the contrary, development fees shall be reduced by the City for an eligible project in the manner described in Table 18-A.
- B. Development fees shall include:
 - 1. Site plan review and inspection fees.
 - 2. Subdivision review and inspection fees.
 - 3. Impact fees.
 - 4. Administrative fees.
 - 5. Construction and permit fees as described in Chapter 6 of the City of Portland Code of Ordinances.Development fees do not include any fees charged for review conducted by any party other than the City.
- C. Eligible project shall mean a development project:
 - 1. That is permissible under the provisions of this Land Use Code in the zone in which it is proposed.
 - 2. That will be a single-family or multi-family dwelling, or subdivision consisting of a group of dwellings, and will not be located in an R-1 or R-2 zone.
 - 3. That creates new dwelling units, among which is at least one low-income or workforce housing unit for rent or sale, through new construction, substantial rehabilitation of existing structures, adaptive reuse or conversion of a nonresidential use to residential use, or any combination of these elements.
Affordable housing units for sale or rent

- may not differ in exterior design from other units within an eligible project.
- 4. Projects shall not be considered “eligible projects” solely because they are subject to Subsection 18.2.3.
- D. The Planning Authority shall perform its review of an eligible project in as expedited a manner as is practical, without impairing the scope or thoroughness of the review. The Planning Authority may adopt administrative procedures to prioritize review of eligible projects and facilitate this expedited review.
- E. The Planning Board shall make its best efforts to give priority in scheduling workshops and public hearings related to any plans or applications required for an eligible project that are within the Planning Board’s jurisdiction, without impairing the scope or thoroughness of its review. At the conclusion of these public meetings, the Planning Board shall promptly issue a decision on all such plans and applications before it for consideration.

18.2.3 Ensuring workforce housing

- A. **Purpose.** Based on the City’s Comprehensive Plan and the City’s 2015 housing study, it is in the public interest to promote an adequate supply of housing that is affordable to a range of households at different income levels. The purpose of this subsection is to ensure that housing developments over a certain size provide a portion of workforce housing units and, by doing so, promote the health, safety, and welfare of Portland citizens.
- B. **Applicability.** This subsection shall apply to development projects that create ten or more net new dwelling units for rent or for sale through new construction, substantial

rehabilitation of existing structures, adaptive reuse or conversion of a nonresidential use to residential use, or any combination of these elements, with the exception that projects using public financing requiring affordability restrictions, as defined by tax increment financing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds such as HOME or CDBG, other federal, state, or local housing program, or the Low-income Housing Tax Credit program, shall be considered exempt.

C. Standards. Development projects subject to this subsection shall be subject to the following requirements:

1. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary in this Land Use Code, all developments of ten units or more are conditional uses subject to Planning Board review on the condition that they comply with the requirements of this subsection, unless they are within the India Street Form-Based Code Zone, in which case the review will be conducted administratively or by the Planning Board in accordance with the thresholds of site plan review for the district.
2. At least 25% of the units in the project shall meet the definition of workforce housing unit for sale or for rent as defined in Article 3. The project shall have the option of paying a partial fee-in-lieu as per (6) below or providing an additional unit on-site for any fractional value.
3. Projects shall not be segmented or phased to avoid compliance with these provisions. In cases where projects are completed in phases, affordable units shall be provided in proportion to the development of market rate units unless otherwise permitted through regulations.
4. Workforce units must be integrated with the rest of the development, must use a common entrance, and must provide no indications from common areas that these units are workforce housing units.
5. Workforce units need not be the same size as other units in the development but the number of bedrooms in such units, either on- or off-site, shall be no less than 10 percent of the total number of bedrooms in the development. For the purposes of calculating the number of bedrooms in a development, every 400 square feet in each market rate unit will count as a bedroom if the Planning Authority determines this method is appropriate in lieu of counting actual bedrooms.
6. As an alternative to providing workforce housing units, projects may pay a fee-in-lieu of some or all of the units. In-lieu fees shall be paid into the Housing Trust Fund. The fee for affordable units not provided shall be \$150,000 per unit, adjusted annually in the same way as the fee under Subsection 18.1.8.
7. Workforce housing units for sale, if converted to workforce housing units for rent, shall become subject to the income limits and other requirements of such units.
8. If at least 33% of the units in a development are workforce units, the development is eligible for subsidy through an Affordable Housing TIF, subject to City Council approval.



HOUSING

TABLE 18-C: BONUSES FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Low-income Units	Workforce Units	Density Permitted ¹	Additional Height Permitted ²	Setback Reductions ³
10%	20%	1.1 x base	N/A	N/A
20%	40%	1.2 x base	10 ft.	N/A
30%	60%	1.3 x base	10 ft.	5 ft.
50%	100%	2.0 x base	15 ft.	5 ft.
75%	N/A	2.5 x base	25 ft.	10 ft.

¹ “Base” is the number of units allowed under the zoning without this bonus but with any other bonuses applied. In R-P zones, multifamily is permitted with a “base” no less than 1 unit per 1,500 SF. of land area. If an eligible project is providing both workforce and affordable housing units, the applicant shall have the option of utilizing applicable incentives, but not cumulatively.

² The maximum additional height permitted in the B-1/B-1b zones and the R-P zone shall be 15 feet. In addition, the maximum structure height is 50 feet within 750 feet of the Portland Observatory.

³ Setback reductions are absolute reductions in front, side, and/or rear setback requirements. The maximum setback reductions in the B-1/B-1b and R-P zones shall be 5 ft.

9. The term of affordability for the required 25% workforce units provided shall be defined as shown in Table 18-B.

D. Implementing regulations. Regulations to further specify the details of this subsection shall be developed, including, but not limited to:

1. Specific methodology for income verification.
2. Situations where less than permanent affordability might be considered.
3. Guidelines for meeting the requirement that off-site units be “in the same neighborhood.”

TABLE 18-B: MINIMUM TERM OF AFFORDABILITY FOR REQUIRED WORKFORCE UNITS

% of Workforce Units Provided	Minimum Term of Affordability
25%	30 years
50%	20 years
100%	10 years

E. Reporting to City Council. In conjunction with the annual report on the Housing Trust Fund, the Planning Authority shall annually report on developments subject to this subsection, the number of units produced, the amount of fee-in-lieu collected, and the overall effectiveness of this subsection in achieving its stated purpose.

18.2.4 Density and dimensional bonuses and reductions

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Land Use Code to the contrary, in order to encourage low-income and workforce units in designated growth areas, eligible projects as defined under Subsection 18.2.2 may avail themselves of the following options:

A. Density bonuses. The maximum number of units that would otherwise be allowed under this Land Use Code shall be increased for an eligible project in the manner described in Table 18-C, applicable in the B-1/B-1b, B-2/B-2b/B-2c, B-3/B-3b/B-3c, B-5, R-7, and R-P zones.

B. Planned Residential Unit Developments (PRUDs). In order to promote orderly development of low- and moderate-income development as PRUDs, any project in which more than 50% of the units are low-income or workforce units for rent or for sale may utilize the following dimensional bonuses and changes:

1. Minimum lot area per dwelling unit is reduced by 50%.
2. Maximum number of units and maximum length of buildings do not apply but may be set through site plan review.
3. Minimum building setbacks may be reduced to 10 feet.

4. The PRUD may cross public rights of way provided that the right of way does not count towards minimum lot size nor towards any open space requirements.
 5. Minimum recreation open space area is reduced to 200 square feet per dwelling unit of common area designated for recreational purposes by the residents. Minimum contiguous size and setbacks do not apply and shall be set through site plan review.
 6. The Planning Board's *Design Manual*, design standards, and guidelines with respect to PRUDs shall apply in full to PRUDs utilizing this subsection.
- C. Unit size and term of affordability.** In order to be eligible for this subsection, the low-income and workforce housing units must meet Subsections 18.2.3(C)(3), (4), and (5) and be affordable for the longest term permitted under federal, state, and local laws.
- D. Required public process.** The developer of the project must also commit to a good faith effort to communicate openly with affected properties as their process moves forward. At a minimum, no less than 30 days prior to application for site plan review, any project that wishes to take advantage of this subsection must hold a public meeting noticed to all properties within 500 feet of their site and post a sign on the property in question describing the proposed project, intent to submit an application to the City in 30 days (cite anticipated submission date), and contact information for the developer and the Planning Authority. The Planning Board may adopt regulations regarding the content and processes for noticing as part of the *Technical Manual*.
- E. Projects under 18.2.3.** Projects that are subject to Subsection 18.2.3 that choose to provide the required workforce housing units on site are eligible for a 25% increase in total permitted units. If an eligible project as defined under Subsection 18.2.2 is also subject to Subsection 18.2.3, the applicant shall have the option of utilizing either this bonus or any bonuses they are eligible for under Subsections 18.2.4(A) and (B) but not both.
- 18.2.5 Inclusionary zoning for hotel projects**
- A. Purpose.** This subsection is based on City analysis, most specifically the analysis documented in the Greater Portland Council of Government study *Proposed Hotel Linkage Fee: Supportable Range* dated August 29, 2018, that finds that new hospitality developments create a need for new affordable housing. This need is the result of the fact that hospitality developments necessarily create a number of jobs that do not pay employees at a rate sufficient to allow those employees to afford market-rate housing in the City of Portland.
- B. Hotel projects.** For the purposes of this subsection, hotel projects shall include any hotel as defined in Article 3 consisting of 10 or more guest rooms for rent. Any expansion of an existing hotel by 10 or more rooms within any five-year period will also be considered a hotel project.
- C. Hotel projects conditional uses.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Land Use Code, all hotel projects are conditional uses subject to Planning Board



review on the condition that they comply with the requirements of this Subsection 18.2.5.

- D. **Low-income housing minimum.** All hotel projects shall provide one unit of low-income housing for rent in the City of Portland for every 28 rooms in the hotel project, which shall meet the standards outlined in Subsections 18.2.3(C)(3), (4), and (5) and in the implementing regulations governing low-income units. This amount shall be rounded up to the nearest increment of 28 rooms. These units shall be deed restricted for the longest period permitted by law, shall not be used for short-term rentals of less than 30 days, and must be provided with distinct entrances from the street to delineate them from the hotel itself.
- E. **Fee-in-lieu alternative.** As an alternative to providing low-income housing units under Subsection 18.2.5(D) above, a hotel project may pay a fee-in-lieu of \$3,806 per hotel guest room. This amount shall be paid into the City’s Housing Trust Fund and used for the purposes set forth in the ordinance and regulations applicable to that trust.
- F. **Annual adjustments.** The amounts in Subsection 18.2.5(E) above shall be adjusted annually in the same way as the fee under Section 18.1.8.
- G. **Regulations.** The Planning Board may promulgate implementing regulations based on this subsection.

18.3 HOUSING TRUST FUND

18.3.1 Purpose

The purpose of enacting this section is:

- A. To establish a City of Portland Housing Trust Fund for the promotion, retention, and

creation of an adequate supply of housing, particularly affordable housing, for all economic groups and to limit the net loss of housing units in the city.

- B. To serve as a vehicle for addressing very low, low, and median income housing needs through a combination of funds as set out in this article.

18.3.2 Establishment of the Jill C. Duson Housing Trust Fund

The City Council shall establish a special revenue account under the name “City of Portland Jill C. Duson Housing Trust Fund.” (Housing Trust Fund).

Deposits into the fund shall include:

- A. Contributions from the City’s housing replacement ordinance under Subsection 18.1.8.
- B. In-lieu fees under Subsections 18.2.3 and 18.2.5.
- C. Funds appropriated to be deposited into the fund by vote of the City Council.
- D. Voluntary contributions of money or other liquid assets to the fund.
- E. Any federal, state, or private grant or loan funds provided to the fund.
- F. Interest from fund deposits and investments.
- G. Repayments of loans made from the fund.

18.3.3 Management of the trust fund

The City Manager, or his or her designee, shall serve as the manager of the Housing Trust Fund. The responsibilities of the manager, subject to the orders of the City Council, shall include:

- A. Maintaining the financial and other records of the Housing Trust Fund.
- B. Disbursing and collecting Housing Trust Fund monies in accordance with the Housing Trust Fund annual plan.

- C. Monitoring the use of monies distributed to successful applicants for Housing Trust Fund support to assure on-going compliance with the purposes of the fund and the conditions under which these monies were granted or loaned.

18.3.4 Housing Trust Fund annual plan

- A. Each fiscal year, the City Council shall adopt a Housing Trust Fund annual plan. The City Manager shall submit to the City Council a recommended Housing Trust Fund annual plan, utilizing the revenues of the Housing Trust Fund as well as any other funds the manager may propose as appropriate. The housing committee of the City Council or such other committee as the council shall designate shall conduct public hearings on the recommended plan and refer the matter to the council for action.
- B. The Housing Trust Fund annual plan shall include:
 - 1. A description of all programs to be funded in part or in full by the Housing Trust Fund.
 - 2. A description of how funds from the Housing Trust Fund will be distributed among very low-income, low-income and moderate-income households.
 - 3. The amount of funds budgeted for programs funded in part or in full from the Housing Trust Fund.
- C. Priority for the expenditure of funds collected pursuant to Section 18.1 shall be given to the creation of new housing stock, through either new construction or conversion of nonresidential buildings to residential use.

18.3.5 Distribution and use of the Housing Trust Fund's assets

- A. All distribution of principal, interest, or other assets of the Housing Trust Fund shall be made in furtherance of the public purposes set out in Section 18.1.
- B. During each year, the Housing Trust Fund shall disburse as grants or loans so much of the Housing Trust Fund's assets as the City Council in its discretion has approved in the Housing Trust Fund annual plan.
- C. Funds shall not be used for City administrative expenses.
- D. Funds shall not be used for property operating expenses or supporting services.
- E. No grants or loans shall be awarded by the Housing Trust Fund to corporations, partnerships, or individuals who are delinquent at the time of application in the payment of property taxes or other fees to the City of Portland, who have been convicted of arson, who have been convicted of discrimination in the sale or lease of housing under the fair housing laws of the State of Maine, or who have pending violations of current City electrical, plumbing, building, or housing codes or zoning ordinances.

18.3.6 Term of affordability

- A. Whenever funds from the Housing Trust Fund are used for the acquisition, construction, or substantial rehabilitation of an affordable rental or cooperative unit, the City of Portland shall impose enforceable requirements on the owner of the housing unit that the unit remain affordable for the remaining life of the housing unit, assuming good faith efforts by the owner to maintain the housing unit and rehabilitate it



as necessary. The remaining life of the housing unit shall be presumed to be a minimum of 30 years.

- B. Whenever funds from the Housing Trust Fund are used for the acquisition, construction, or substantial rehabilitation of ownership housing, the City of Portland shall impose enforceable resale restrictions on the owner to keep the housing unit affordable for the longest feasible time, while maintaining an equitable balance between the interests of the owner and the interests of the City of Portland.
- C. The affordability restriction requirements described in this subsection shall run with the land and the City of Portland shall develop appropriate procedures and documentation to enforce these requirements and shall record such documentation in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds.

18.4 CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION

18.4.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to regulate the conversion of rental housing to condominiums, to minimize the potential adverse impacts of such conversion on tenants, to ensure that such converted housing is safe and decent, and to maintain a reasonable balance of housing alternatives within the city for persons of all incomes.

18.4.2 Applicability

This section shall apply to the conversion of any rental unit to a condominium unit. For the purposes of this section, developer shall mean any person or other legal entity, but not including an established lending institution unless it is an active participant in a common promotional scheme, who,

whether acting as principal or agent, records a declaration of condominium that includes real estate, any portion of which was previously a rental unit.

18.4.3 Protection of tenants

- A. **Notice of intent to convert.** A developer shall give to each tenant, meaning any occupant in lawful possession of a rental unit, whether by lease, sublease, or otherwise, written notice of intent to convert at least one 120 days before the tenant is required by the developer to vacate. If a tenant has been in possession of any unit within the same building for more than four consecutive years, the notice period shall be increased by 30 additional days for each additional year, or fraction thereof, to a maximum of 240 additional days. The notice shall set forth specifically the rights of tenants under (A), (B), and (C) of this subsection and Subsection 18.4.4, and shall contain the following statement:

If you do not buy your apartment, the developer of this project is required by law to assist you in finding another place to live and in determining your eligibility for relocation payments. If you have questions about your rights under the law, or complaints about the way you have been treated by the developer, you may contact the Department of Permitting & Inspections, City of Portland, 389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101.

- B. If the notice specifies a date by which the tenant is required to vacate, the notice may also serve as a notice of termination under the applicable law of forcible entry and detainer, if it meets the requirements thereof. The notice shall be hand delivered to the tenant or mailed,

by certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the tenant at the address of the unit or such other address as the tenant may provide. The notice shall be effective when actually received. No tenant may be required by a developer to vacate without having been given notice as required herein, except for the reasons specified in the applicable law of forcible entry and detainer, and in accordance with the procedures thereof. The terms of a tenancy, including rent, may not be altered during the notice period, except as expressly provided in a preexisting written lease. If, within 120 days after a tenant is required by a developer to vacate, the developer records a declaration of condominium without having given notice as required herein, the developer shall be presumed to have converted in violation of this article.

- C. **Option to purchase.** For a 60-day period following the giving of notice as required in Subsection 18.4.3(A), the developer shall grant to the tenant an exclusive and irrevocable option to purchase the unit of which the tenant is then possessed, which option may not be assigned. If the tenant does not purchase or contract to purchase the unit during the 60-day period, the developer may not convey or offer to convey the unit to any other person during the following 180 days at a price or on terms more favorable than the price or terms previously offered to the tenant, unless the more favorable price or terms are first offered exclusively and irrevocably to the tenant for an additional 60-day period. This subsection shall not apply to any rental unit that, when converted, will be restricted exclusively to nonresidential use. If, within two years after a

developer records a declaration of condominium, the use of any such unit is changed such that but for the preceding sentence, this subsection would have applied, the developer shall be presumed to have converted in violation of this article.

18.4.4 Relocation payments

If the tenant does not purchase the unit, the developer shall, before the tenant is required by the developer to vacate, make a cash payment to the tenant in an amount equal to the amount of rent paid by the tenant for the immediately preceding two months, provided that this requirement shall not apply to any tenant whose gross income exceeds 80% of the median income of the Portland SMSA, adjusted for family size, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at the time notice is given as required in Subsection 18.4.3. Additionally, the developer shall, upon demand, provide assistance to the tenant in the form of referrals to other reasonable accommodations and in determining the tenant's eligibility for relocation payments as provided herein.

18.4.5 Conversion permit

Before conveying or offering to convey a converted unit, the developer shall obtain a conversion permit from the Building Authority. The permit shall issue only upon receipt of a completed application therefore in a form to be devised for that purpose, payment of a fee as established by the City Council, and a finding, upon inspection, that each unit, together with any common areas and facilities appurtenant thereto, is in full compliance with all applicable provisions of Chapter 6, Articles II, III, and V and Chapter 10, Article II of the City of Portland



Code of Ordinances, and the Life Safety Code as adopted by the state. The developer shall post a copy of the permit in a conspicuous place in each unit and shall make copies available to prospective purchasers upon request.

18.4.6 Variation by agreement

No provision of or right conferred by this Section 18.4 may be waived by a tenant, by agreement or otherwise, and any such waiver shall be void. Any attempt to require, encourage, or induce a tenant to waive any provision hereof, or right conferred hereby, shall be a violation of this article. Nothing herein shall be construed to void any term of a lease which offers greater rights than those conferred hereby.

18.5 RELOCATION OF DISPLACED TENANTS

18.5.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to encourage the retention of a diverse housing supply throughout the downtown and in areas readily accessible to the downtown, to ensure that persons displaced as the result of redevelopment of residential units to nonresidential uses within the B-3 Downtown Business zone are treated fairly and consistently, and to ensure that persons so displaced will be relocated at the reasonable expense of the developer to comparable housing at a location providing comparable access to services and amenities.

18.5.2 Notice and eligibility for relocation assistance

When a proposed development will result in the displacement of residents of an existing structure, the developer of the property shall give all tenants written notice as set forth below and shall provide

relocation assistance as set forth below for any tenant whose gross income is 80% or less of the median income of the Portland SMSA, adjusted for family size, as determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at the time the developer gives the tenant written notice of intent to cause removal of the residential unit. Such written notice shall be given to the tenant at least 120 days before the tenant shall be required to vacate the premises and shall contain the following statement:

The developer of this project is required by law to assist you in finding another place to live and in determining your eligibility for relocation payments. If you have questions about your rights under the law, or complaints about the way you have been treated by the developer, you may contact the Department of Planning and Urban Development, City of Portland, 389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101.

18.5.3 Relocation assistance for all tenants

The developer shall provide, upon demand, assistance to all tenants who will be displaced by the development in the form of referrals to other reasonable accommodations and in determining the tenants' eligibility for relocation payments as provided herein. The developer shall make relocation payments to eligible tenants in accordance with the schedule adopted by the City Council in Subsection 18.5.4.

18.5.4 Schedule of relocation payments for eligible tenants

The developer shall, before the tenant is required by the developer to vacate, make a cash payment to the tenant in an amount equal to the amount of



rent paid by the tenant for the immediately preceding two months.