

Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County, TN Legislation

BILL (ORDINANCE) NO. BL2021-832

An ordinance to amend various sections of Title 17 of the Metropolitan Zoning Code to incentivize Inclusionary Housing with any residential development that seeks additional development entitlements beyond that permitted by the current base zoning district (Proposal No. 2021Z-013TX-001).

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County undertook an Inclusionary Housing Feasibility and Market Study (the Study) in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Study found that there has been cost appreciation and housing turnover in central areas of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Study found that 46% of renters in the city are cost-burdened; and

WHEREAS, cost appreciation in central areas can lead to the displacement of cost-burdened households and gentrification; and

WHEREAS, much of the housing affordable to 80% Average Medium Income (AMI) is outside of the central areas, with poor access to jobs, transit, and services; and

WHEREAS, affordable and workforce housing is a primary concern of the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County, as it continues to be a major barrier to economic progress for many in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, increasing the supply of affordable and workforce housing supports economic growth and is a vital tool in reducing poverty in Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, state law does not prohibit a local government from creating or implementing a purely voluntary incentive-based program designed to increase the construction or rehabilitation of workforce or affordable private residential or commercial rental units, which may include providing local tax incentives, subsidization, real property, or infrastructure assistance, or any other incentive that makes the construction of affordable housing more economical, so long as the program is not used to incentivize or leverage a person to develop, build, sell, or rent housing at below market value; and

WHEREAS, the program created by this ordinance will use a developer's voluntary election of affordable housing as one of several options available to them to create additional building entitlements through the Downtown Code's bonus height program, and the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue generated by the bonus height to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within the new structure so that the units shall rent at market value, and

WHEREAS, the program created by this ordinance will alternatively use a developer's voluntary election to enter into a participation agreement with the Metropolitan Government, such that the Metropolitan Government agrees to pay for significant infrastructure improvements within a site plan, and the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue

generated within the site plan to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within new structures built within the site plan so that the units shall rent at market value; and

WHEREAS, the program created by this ordinance will alternatively use a developer's voluntary election to accept a parcel of real property from the Metropolitan Government, and the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue generated by the structure built on the parcel to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within the new structure so that the units shall rent at market value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Section 17.40.780, 17.40.790, 17.40.800, 17.40.810, and 17.40.820 (Inclusionary Housing) of the Metropolitan Code are hereby amended by deleting those sections and substituting the following.

17.40.780 Purpose and Applicability of Inclusionary Housing Provisions

- A. Purpose. The purposes of this Section are to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by increasing the production of Inclusionary Housing units to meet existing and anticipated housing and employment needs; mitigating the impacts of increasing housing cost and provide housing affordable to low and moderate income households; providing for a range of housing choices throughout the city to avoid the concentration of poverty; and to provide a mechanism by which residential development can contribute in a direct way to increasing the supply of affordable and workforce housing.
- B. Applicability.
 1. When a developer voluntarily elects affordable housing as one of several options available to them to create additional building entitlements through the Downtown Code's bonus height program, or when a developer voluntarily enters into a participation agreement with the Metropolitan Government whereby the Metropolitan Government agrees to pay for significant infrastructure improvements within a site plan, or when a developer voluntarily accepts a parcel of real property from the Metropolitan Government for development, the residential rental units shall be subject to the provisions of this Section as long as the subsidies described below from the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County are available. Developers who do not meet the criteria above may request to participate.
 2. If the subsidies from the Metropolitan Government are not available, the residential rental units shall not be subject to the provisions of this Section until the subsidies are again available.
 3. When a developer voluntary elects affordable housing as one of several options available to them to create additional building entitlements through the Downtown Code's bonus height program, the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue generated by the bonus height to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within the new structure, so that the units shall rent at market value.

4. When a developer voluntarily enters into a participation agreement with the Metropolitan Government whereby the Metropolitan Government agrees to pay for significant infrastructure improvements within a site plan, the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue generated within the site plan to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within new structures built within the site plan, so that the units shall rent at market value.
5. When a developer voluntarily accepts a parcel of real property from the Metropolitan Government for development, the Metropolitan Government may use all or a portion of the estimated new tax revenue generated by the structure built on the parcel to subsidize the rental of affordable housing units within the new structure, so that the units shall rent at market value.
6. For residential uses, developments of fewer than five units are exempt.
7. For the purposes of this subsection, the following definitions apply.
 - a. "Development" shall include any residential or mixed use development at one or more adjoining sites with common ownership or under common control, within a period of five years from the first date of the issuance of a building permit for construction.
 - b. "Significant infrastructure improvements within a site plan" shall include the Metropolitan Government's agreement to pay for more than 10% of the new infrastructure that will be required by an approved site plan.
 - c. The "Estimated new tax revenue" to be used to subsidize housing rentals shall be determined by the Metropolitan Government prior to the Planning Commission's review of a proposed development or site plan subject to this Section.
8. Inclusionary Housing shall not be provided, and no financial incentives shall be granted if the average unit sale price or rental rate is less than, or within 5% above 100% Median Household Income (MHI) market prices or rental rates for Nashville and Davidson County and the Inclusionary Housing Plan demonstrates that the census tract average rental rates for comparable units are affordable to a household at 100% MHI.

17.40.790 Requirements for Inclusionary Housing

A. Construction. The set aside for affordable or workforce housing shall be:

	Rental at 60% MHI or less	Rental at Greater than 60% MHI to 80% MHI	Rental at Greater than 80% MHI to 100% MHI (available in the UZO only)
Single-family and Two-family uses	12.5% of total residential units	15% of total residential units	17.5% of total residential units

Multi-family uses less than 3 stories	12.5% of total residential floor area	15% of total residential floor area	17.5% of total residential floor area
Multifamily Uses (3 to 6 stories)	10% of total residential floor area	12.5% of total residential floor area	15% of total residential floor area
Multifamily Uses (> 7 stories)	7.5% of total residential floor area	10% of total residential floor area	12.5% of total residential floor area

17.40.800 Standards for Construction and Occupancy of Affordable and/or Workforce Housing.

- A. With the building permit application, the Owner/Developer shall submit an Inclusionary Housing Plan, which documents the following:
1. Number of total residential units provided under the site plan.
 2. Whether the development uses public resources or public property.
 3. Number of affordable or workforce housing units provided.
 4. Income levels of targeted families for affordable or workforce housing units.
 5. The proposed market rate for each unit.
 6. Location of affordable or workforce housing units.
 7. Sizes of affordable or workforce housing units.
 8. Bedroom counts of affordable or workforce housing units.
 9. Market rate pricing or rental rates for comparable units within the census tract for the project site.
 10. Proposed Master Lease Agreement with MDHA, with approval from the Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment with assistance from the Finance Department.
- B. Master lease agreements with MDHA must:
1. Provide a minimum term of 15 years for Inclusionary Housing rental units.
 2. Reassess the market rate for each unit every 5 years during the term of the lease.

3. Ensure the units are occupied by eligible households.

C. Exteriors and interiors of Inclusionary Housing units shall not differ materially from the other units in a project.

17.40.810 Enforcement.

A. Prior to the issuance of the first building permit, all Standards for Construction and Occupancy listed above shall be documented on the building permit plans.

B. Prior to the issuance of the Use & Occupancy permit, all Standards for Construction and Occupancy listed above shall be satisfied and documentation provided to the Codes Department.

C. During the subsidized rental period, MDHA shall provide a compliance report to the Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment in the form and manner determined by the Office of Economic Opportunity and Empowerment with assistance from the Finance Department.

17.40.820. Severability.

If any provision of this section or any application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end, the provisions of this code are declared to be severable.

Section 2. That any appropriately filed application that complies with all existing filing requirements and that is filed prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall not be affected by the provisions of this ordinance unless the applicant requests participation.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, that this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and such change be published in a newspaper of general circulation, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Mayor _____ **Date** _____

John Cooper