City and County of San Francisco



Board of Supervisors, President

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For Immediate Release

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Board of Supervisors President Aaron Peskin Statement on Successful Board Override of Mayor's Neighborhood Density Veto

"Today the Board of Supervisors proved that the City can be both pro-housing and pro-neighborhood. The Mayor's political and unprofessional veto of legislation that her Planning Director and Planning Commissioners recommended has been overridden by common sense.

Last summer I worked with our Mayor and our Planning Department to upzone the entire northeastern waterfront and Downtown core, offering significant streamlining incentives to spur residential development. It was thoughtful legislation and good policy intended to continue our long tradition of community planning to accommodate new housing.

When state laws created a loophole for developers to use 'density doubledipping' to supersize massive luxury towers in some of our most iconic and historic waterfront districts, we moved quickly to take Planning staff's recommended amendments to protect 2 small historic districts. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the legislation, as did 8 members of the Board of Supervisors. We are moving forward with incentivizing housing development all across the City – including in my district, where I've had the honor of representing the densest neighborhoods in San Francisco for most of the last quarter of a century.

The politically-motivated and completely untrue rhetoric that this legislation is somehow 'anti-housing' is patently false. Developers will still be able to build bigger and higher – but they won't be able to demolish buildings on certain blocks and replace them with towers that are the same height as Telegraph Hill itself. Housing will get built, developers will still make sizable profits, but the reality is that they won't be able to destroy the very things that make San Francisco so special. Today good planning won out over bad politics."