

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT AMENDING SECTION 25.34.030 OF THE CITY OF PALM DESERT MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS AND FINDING THE ACTION TO BE STATUTORILY EXEMPT FROM CEQA CEQA UNDER PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE § 21080.17

WHEREAS, the City of Palm Desert, California (“City”) is a municipal corporation, duly organized under the constitution and laws of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, state law authorizes cities to act by ordinance to provide for the creation and regulation of accessory dwelling units (“ADUs”) and junior accessory dwelling units (“JADUs”); and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the California Legislature has approved, and the Governor has signed into law, numerous bills that, among other things, amend various sections of the Government Code to impose new limits on local authority to regulate ADUs and JADUs; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the California Legislature approved, and the Governor signed into law, Assembly Bill 2533 (“AB 2533”) and Senate Bill 1211 (“SB 1211”), which further amend state ADU law; and

WHEREAS, AB 2533 and SB 1211 take effect on January 1, 2025, and for the City’s ADU ordinance to remain valid, it must be amended to reflect the requirements of AB 2533 and SB 1211; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to amend its local regulatory scheme for the construction of ADUs and JADUs to reflect AB 2533’s and SB 1211’s changes to state law; and

WHEREAS, on October 29, 2024, the Planning Commission held a duly-noticed public hearing and considered the staff report, recommendations by staff, and public testimony concerning this proposed Ordinance. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission adopted Planning Commission Resolution No. 2885 to forward the Ordinance to the City Council with a recommendation in favor of its adoption; and

WHEREAS, on November 14, 2024, the City Council held a duly-noticed public hearing to consider the Ordinance, including: (1) the public testimony and agenda reports prepared in connection with the Ordinance, (2) the policy considerations discussed therein, and (3) the consideration and recommendation by the City’s Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, all legal prerequisites to the adoption of the Ordinance have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Palm Desert does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Incorporation. The recitals above are each incorporated by reference and adopted as findings by the City Council.

SECTION 2. CEQA. Under California Public Resources Code section 21080.17, the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) does not apply to the adoption of an ordinance by a city or county implementing the provisions of Article 2 of Chapter 13 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code, which is California’s ADU law and which also regulates JADUs, as defined by section 66313. Therefore, adoption of the Ordinance is statutorily exempt from CEQA in that it implements state ADU law.

SECTION 3. General Plan. The City Council hereby finds that the adoption of the Ordinance is consistent with the General Plan as a matter of law under Government Code section 66314(c).

SECTION 4. Code Amendment. Section 25.34.030 of the Palm Desert Municipal Code is hereby amended and restated to read in its entirety as provided in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance takes effect 30 days after its adoption.

SECTION 6. HCD Submittal. In accordance with Government Code section 66326, the City Clerk is directed to submit a copy of this Ordinance to the California Department of Housing and Community Development within 60 days after adoption.

SECTION 7. Publication. The City Clerk is directed to certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and post or publish this Ordinance as required by law.

SECTION 8. Custodian of Records. The custodian of records for this Ordinance is the City Clerk and the records comprising the administrative record are located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA.

SECTION 9. Severability. If any provision of this Ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity has no effect on the other provisions or applications of the Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this extent, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The City Council declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any portion thereof.

ADOPTED ON _____, 2024.

KARINA QUINTANILLA
MAYOR

ATTEST:

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK

I, Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk of the City of Palm Desert, California, do hereby certify that Ordinance No. ____ is a full, true, and correct copy, and was introduced at a regular meeting of the Palm Desert City Council on _____, 2024, and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council held on _____, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSED:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of Palm Desert, California, on _____.

ANTHONY J. MEJIA
CITY CLERK