

Gary W. Routt

The Hamilton Condominiums
631 O'Farrell St., Apt 1702
San Francisco, CA 94109-7430
415-786-8716
gwroutt@gmail.com

September 29, 2026

To: San Francisco Fire Code Technical Advisory Council (TAC)

Re: Fire Sprinkler Retrofit

Dear TAC members,

I am a 29-year owner/resident at The Hamilton Condominiums, and I am writing this letter to implore you to think more practically about the enormity of the fire sprinkler mandate. Members of our homeowners association have attended several different meetings regarding this mandate that have taken place in order to make sure our voices are heard. We do not believe our building should be subject to the draconian mandate, given the amount of cost and disruption to our lives that such a project at our 97-year-old building would entail.

I am unable to attend the upcoming TAC meetings, so I am writing this letter to share my concerns. I'm sure you would agree this project would be utterly huge in a building built in 1930 with 186 apartments. We have been unable to truly even fathom how much adding sprinkler heads to every room in every apartment would disrupt our lives, including how long we would have to be displaced, where we would go while the construction takes place, whether there is any asbestos or lead paint abatement to consider, and how much we would individually be liable to pay for such an undertaking. All of these and other considerations are utterly daunting to us. As with many of the buildings affected by the mandate that was initially passed (or perhaps, simply rammed through) by city supervisors with zero input from the people who would be most affected by the work. The demographics of this and other affected buildings include many elderly retired people, including myself. We do not have the luxury to simply move out while work that could take months, if not years, ensues, nor do many of us have the means to pay for such construction work that could likely run into tens of thousands of dollars, if not more.

If the mandate stands, please provide an exemption to The Hamilton. We have sprinklers in all of the hallways, up-to-date fire alarm systems, multiple fire escape stairwells, and no history of any significant fires in this concrete building. Imposing this mandate on to us is absolutely not in our best interest. Despite what the fire department may say, as well as the contractors, who would greatly benefit from work that displaces hundreds and hundreds of people for an indeterminate amount of time, may say, we say no.

