



Legislation Text

File #: CB 120554, **Version:** 1

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to historic preservation; imposing controls upon The Fairfax, a landmark designated by the Landmarks Preservation Board under Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code, and adding it to the Table of Historical Landmarks contained in Chapter 25.32 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 25.12 of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC),

establishes a procedure for the designation and preservation of sites, improvements, and objects having historical, cultural, architectural, engineering, or geographic significance; and

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”), after a public meeting on May 5, 2021, voted to approve the nomination of the improvement located at 1508 10th Avenue E and the site on which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as “The Fairfax”) for designation as a landmark under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, after a public meeting on June 16, 2021, the Board voted to approve the designation of The Fairfax under SMC Chapter 25.12; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2022, the Board and The Fairfax’s owner agreed to controls and incentives to be applied to specific features or characteristics of the designated landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Board recommends that the City Council enact a designating ordinance approving the controls and incentives; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Designation. Under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 25.12.660, the designation by the Landmarks Preservation Board (“Board”) of the improvement located at 1508 10th Avenue E and the site on

which the improvement is located (which are collectively referred to as “The Fairfax”) is acknowledged.

A. Legal Description. The Fairfax is located on the property legally described as:

All of Lot 5 and the west 17 feet of Lot 2 in Block 3 of the 1904 Hollywood Addition to the city of Seattle according to the plat thereof, recorded in Volume 11 of plats, page 43, in King County, State of Washington.

B. Specific Features or Characteristics Designated. Under SMC 25.12.660.A.2, the Board designated the following specific features or characteristics of The Fairfax:

1. The site.
2. The exterior of the building.
3. The main interior stairway.

C. Basis of Designation. The designation was made because The Fairfax is more than 25 years old; has significant character, interest, or value as a part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the City, state, or nation; has integrity or the ability to convey its significance; and satisfies the following SMC 25.12.350 provisions:

1. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction (SMC 25.12.350.D).
2. It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder (SMC 25.12.350.E).

Section 2. Controls. The following controls are imposed on the features or characteristics of The Fairfax that were designated by the Board for preservation:

A. Certificate of Approval Process.

1. Except as provided in subsection 2.A.2 or subsection 2.B of this ordinance, the owner must obtain a Certificate of Approval issued by the Board according to SMC Chapter 25.12, or the time for denying a Certificate of Approval must have expired, before the owner may make alterations or significant changes to the features or characteristics of The Fairfax that were designated by the Board for preservation.

2. No Certificate of Approval is required for the following:

a. Any in-kind maintenance or repairs of the features or characteristics of The Fairfax that were designated by the Board for preservation.

b. Removal of trees that are not included in any of the following categories:

1) Significant to the property's history or design, as outlined in the nomination application.

2) A designated Heritage Tree on the City of Seattle/Plant Amnesty list.

3) An Exceptional Tree per City of Seattle regulations.

c. Planting of new trees in locations that will never obscure the view of designated features of the landmark, or physically undermine a built feature of the landmark.

d. Planting or removal of shrubs, perennials, or annuals, in locations that will never obscure the view of designated features of the landmark, or physically undermine a built feature of the landmark.

e. Installation, removal, or alteration (including repair) of underground irrigation and underground utilities, provided that the site is restored in kind.

f. Installation, removal, or alteration of the following site furnishings: benches, chairs, tables, swings, movable planters, and trash/recycling receptacles.

g. Installation or removal of interior, temporary window shading devices that are operable and do not obscure the glazing when in the open position.

B. City Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO) Approval Process.

1. The CHPO may review and approve alterations or significant changes to the features or characteristics listed in subsection 2.B.3 of this ordinance according to the following procedure:

a. The owner shall submit to the CHPO a written request for the alterations or significant changes, including applicable drawings or specifications.

b. If the CHPO, upon examination of submitted plans and specifications, determines that

the alterations or significant changes are consistent with the purposes of SMC Chapter 25.12, the CHPO shall approve the alterations or significant changes without further action by the Board.

2. If the CHPO does not approve the alterations or significant changes, the owner may submit revised materials to the CHPO, or apply to the Board for a Certificate of Approval under SMC Chapter 25.12. The CHPO shall transmit a written decision on the owner's request to the owner within 14 days of receipt of the request. Failure of the CHPO to timely transmit a written decision constitutes approval of the request.

3. CHPO approval of alterations or significant changes to the features or characteristics of The Fairfax that were designated by the Board for preservation is available for the following:

a. The installation, removal, or alteration of ducts, conduits, HVAC vents, grills, pipes, panels, weatherheads, wiring, meters, utility connections, downspouts and gutters, or other similar mechanical, electrical, and telecommunication elements necessary for the normal operation of the building or site.

b. Removal of trees more than 6 inches in diameter measured 4-1/2 feet above ground, when identified as a hazard by an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, and not already excluded from review in subsection 2.A.2.b of this ordinance.

c. Installation, removal, or alteration of exterior non-historic light fixtures, exterior security lighting, and security system equipment. If proposed equipment is similar in size and location to existing, staff may determine it to be in-kind maintenance, provided the fixture or equipment does not obscure designated features and is attached to a material that is easily repairable.

d. Installation, removal, or alteration of exterior building and site signage.

e. Installation of improvements for safety or accessibility compliance.

f. Installation, removal, or alteration of fire and life safety equipment.

g. Changes to exterior paint colors when painting a previously painted material. If the proposed color is similar to the existing, staff may determine it to be in-kind maintenance.

h. Replacement of non-original windows and doors when located in original openings.

i. Replacement of original basement windows for improved security, provided the appearance of the replacement windows is compatible with the designated features of the building exterior.

j. Alterations to the designated interior features.

k. New fences in rear or side yards that are installed east of the front facade of the building; and no review required if fence is determined to be located on adjacent property.

l. Removal or alteration of the roof stair penthouse and non-historic rooftop recreational deck, guardrails, skylights, and sauna. If changes are not substantial the staff may determine them to be in-kind maintenance.

m. Installation of photovoltaic panels on the main roof.

n. Installation of new skylights on the main roof.

o. Installation, removal, or alteration of minor landscape features.

p. Emergency repairs or measures (including immediate action to secure the area, install temporary equipment, and employ stabilization methods as necessary to protect the public's safety, health, and welfare) to address hazardous conditions with adverse impacts to the building or site as related to a seismic or other unforeseen event. Following such an emergency, the owner shall adhere to the following:

1) The owner shall immediately notify the City Historic Preservation Officer and document the conditions and actions the owner took.

2) If temporary structural supports are necessary, the owner shall make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage to historic resources.

3) The owner shall not remove historic building materials from the site as part of the emergency response.

4) In consultation with the City Historic Preservation Officer and staff, the owner shall adopt and implement a long-term plan to address any damage through appropriate solutions.

Section 3. Incentives. The following incentives are granted on the features or characteristics of The

Fairfax that were designated by the Board for preservation:

A. Uses not otherwise permitted in a zone may be authorized in a designated landmark by means of an administrative conditional use permit issued under SMC Title 23.

B. Exceptions to certain of the requirements of the Seattle Building Code and the Seattle Energy Code, adopted by SMC Chapter 22.101, may be authorized according to the applicable provisions.

C. Special tax valuation for historic preservation may be available under chapter 84.26 RCW upon application and compliance with the requirements of that statute.

D. Reduction or waiver, under certain conditions, of minimum accessory off-street parking requirements for uses permitted in a designated landmark structure may be permitted under SMC Title 23.

Section 4. Enforcement of this ordinance and penalties for its violation are as provided in SMC 25.12.910.

Section 5. The Fairfax is added alphabetically to Section II, Buildings, of the Table of Historical Landmarks contained in SMC Chapter 25.32.

Section 6. The City Clerk is directed to record a certified copy of this ordinance with the King County Recorder's Office, deliver two certified copies to the CHPO, and deliver one copy to the Director of the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. The CHPO is directed to provide a certified copy of this ordinance to The Fairfax's owner.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2023, and signed by
me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2023.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2023.

_____, City Clerk

(Seal)