



## OFFICE OF ZONING ADMINISTRATION

City Hall • 200 N. Spring Street, Room 763 • Los Angeles, CA 90012



## OFFICE OF ZONING ADMINISTRATION

### MEMORANDUM

ZA MEMORANDUM NO. 120

May 6, 2010

TO: Office of Zoning Administration  
Public Counters  
Interested Parties  
Department of Building and Safety

FROM: Michael LoGrande *ML*  
Chief Zoning Administrator

SUBJECT: **SECOND DWELLING UNITS PURSUANT TO AB 1866**

State Assembly Bill 1866 became effective on July 1, 2003 amending Government Code Sections 65583.1, 65852.2 and 65915 that allows the creation of second dwelling units on residentially zoned lots, be considered ministerially without discretionary review or hearing. The intention of this memorandum is to assist with implementing AB 1866. It supersedes a previous memorandum issued by Robert Janovici, former Chief Zoning Administrator, and Peter Kim, former Zoning Engineer, dated June 23, 2003.

A second dwelling unit is permitted by right on a lot if it meets ALL of the following AB 1866 standards:

1. The second unit is not intended for sale and may be rented;
2. The lot is zoned for single-family or multi-family use;
3. The lot contains an existing single-family dwelling;
4. The second unit is either located within the living area of the existing dwelling (attached) or on the same lot as the existing dwelling (detached);
5. The total area of the increased floor area of an attached second unit does not exceed 30 percent of the existing floor area;
6. The total area of the floor area for a detached second unit does not exceed 1,200 square feet;
7. The requirements relating to height, setback, lot coverage, architectural review, site plan review, fees, charges, and other zoning requirements generally applicable to residential construction in the zone in which the property are met;

8. The local building code requirements which apply to dwellings, as appropriate, are also met; and
9. A minimum of one additional covered or uncovered off-street parking space is provided. If not otherwise prohibited by the zoning ordinance or any other land use regulation, tandem parking is allowed and the parking space may be located in a required yard.

#### APPROVAL

If the proposed second dwelling unit meets all nine AB 1866 standards, the Department of Building and Safety shall approve the plans and issue a building permit. If the proposed unit meets all nine standards but is governed by an historic preservation overlay zone, specific plan, or other zoning regulation that requires architectural review or a similar type of review, then the Department of Building and Safety shall refer the applicant to the Department of City Planning. The Planning Department may impose conditions on the project as a result of this architectural or similar review, but may not deny the second unit if it otherwise meets all nine AB 1866 standards.

#### ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL

If a proposed second dwelling unit does not comply with the nine standards listed above, then AB 1866 does not apply and all applicable regulations in the zoning code govern. If an applicant still wishes to build a second unit, then two options may be available:

First Option. Obtain all necessary approvals as provided by the zoning code. For example, if a proposed second dwelling unit complies with all nine standards set forth above except the required rear yard, then the applicant would have to file for two discretionary land use approvals: (1) an adjustment, pursuant to LAMC Section 12.28, for a reduced rear yard; and (2) a variance, pursuant to LAMC Section 12.27, for an increase in density to permit an additional unit on a lot where the zoning only allows one dwelling unit.

Second Option. Obtain an approved conditional use permit from the Zoning Administrator pursuant to either LAMC Section 12.24-W,43 or LAMC Section 12.24-W,44, subject to all applicable requirements and limitations set forth in those sections.

#### MULTIPLE DWELLING ZONES

AB 1866 shall not be construed to allow an increase in the density of a zone that may permit two or more dwelling units on a single lot. For example, a third dwelling unit on a lot zoned R2 is not allowed by right pursuant to AB 1866.