

City Clerk File No. Ord. 10-103

Agenda No. 3.A 1st Reading

Agenda No. 4.A. 2nd Reading & Final Passage



## ORDINANCE OF JERSEY CITY, N.J.

COUNCIL AS A WHOLE  
offered and moved adoption of the following ordinance:

CITY ORDINANCE 10-103

**TITLE: ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY  
ADOPTING THE JOURNAL SQUARE 2060 REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, NJSA 40A:12A-1 et seq. permits municipalities to adopt and amend regulations dealing with areas declared to be “in need of redevelopment” and “in need of rehabilitation”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City directed the Planning Board to review a Resolution designating the Greater Journal Square Study Area as an “area in need of rehabilitation”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board, at its meeting of November 13, 2008, recommended that the Municipal Council designate the Greater Journal Square Study Area as “an area in need of rehabilitation;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City designated the Greater Journal Square as “an area in need of rehabilitation” by Resolution 08-879 on November 25, 2008; and

**WHEREAS**, The Planning Board, at its meeting of July 13, 2010 and continued at its meeting of July 27, 2010, heard testimony from staff of the Division of City Planning as well as members of the public on the proposed Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan boundary is within the Greater Journal Square Study Area which was previously declared an area in need of rehabilitation, excluding certain portions of the Study Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan is the product of extensive outreach and neighborhood charettes and discussions which were conducted to develop the vision and plan for the future of the City’s Central Business District and surrounding neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board, at its meeting of July 27, 2010, recommended that the Municipal Council adopt the Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan to guide and regulate future redevelopment within the redevelopment plan area; and

**WHEREAS**, said Redevelopment Plan is attached and made a part hereof and is available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk in City Hall, 280 Grove Street, Jersey City, NJ;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City that the attached Greater Journal Square Redevelopment Plan be, and hereby is, adopted.


**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED THAT:**

- A. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.
- B. This ordinance shall be a part of the Jersey City Code as though codified and set forth fully herein. The City Clerk shall have this ordinance codified and incorporated in the

**TITLE: ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY  
CITY ADOPTING THE JOURNAL SQUARE 2060 REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

official copies of the Jersey City Code.


- C. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner as provided by law.
- D. The City Clerk and the Corporation Council be and they are hereby authorized and directed to change any chapter numbers, article numbers and section numbers in the event that the codification of this ordinance reveals that there is a conflict between those numbers and the existing code, in order to avoid confusion and possible repealers of existing provisions.
- E. The City Clerk is hereby directed to give notice at least ten days prior to hearing on the adoption of this Ordinance to the County Planning board and to all other persons entitled thereto pursuant to N.J.S. 40:55D-15 and N.J.S. 40:55D-63 (if required). Upon the adoption of this Ordinance after public hearing thereon, the City Clerk is further directed to publish notice of the passage thereof and to file a copy of the Ordinance as finally adopted with the Hudson County Planning Board as required by N.J.S. 40:55D-16. The clerk shall also forthwith transmit a copy of this Ordinance after final passage to the Municipal Tax Assessor as required by N.J.S. 40:49-2.

  
 Robert D. Cotter, PP, AICP  
 Director of Planning

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

  
 Corporation Counsel

APPROVED:

  
 Business Administrator

Certification Required   
 Not Required



## **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

### **ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JERSEY CITY ADOPTING THE JOURNAL SQUARE 2060 REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

This ordinance adopts the Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan covering Journal Square and the surrounding neighborhoods. The Plan provides guidelines and regulations for a mixed use transit oriented development pattern around the Journal Square Transportation Center, allowing for the highest densities to be built adjacent to mass transit facilities and along major thoroughfares. Lower densities are permitted on side streets and in residential neighborhoods. Buildings with significant historic architecture are preserved to lend character as the Journal Square Area develops. As a transit oriented plan, automobile parking is restricted while bicycle parking and other environmental amenities are required of new development.

# Journal Square 2060 Redevelopment Plan

As Recommended to the Jersey City Municipal City Council by  
the Jersey City Planning Board

On July 27, 2010



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## I) INTRODUCTION

On November 25, 2008 the Jersey City Municipal Council determined, by Resolution # 08-879, the *Greater Journal Square Study Area* to be an "area in need of rehabilitation," pursuant to the New Jersey Local Housing and Redevelopment Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.). Previously, portions of the Journal Square area were also declared to be an "area in need of redevelopment," called the *Journal Square Redevelopment Plan* originally adopted in 1974 and amended several times since.

This redevelopment plan focuses on Journal Square, the PATH rail station and bus depot, as well as the surrounding neighborhoods within walking distance, comprising an area of approximately 211 acres, 57 city blocks, and approximately 1600 individual parcels.

The purpose of the Journal Square 2060 Plan is to foster the redevelopment of Journal Square, Jersey City's central business district, by providing for transit oriented development of new housing, offices, commercial, and public open spaces within walking distance to the Square and transit facilities, returning Journal Square to a flourishing central business and shopping destination.

Since the mid 1950's, various plans in and around Journal Square were adopted by the Jersey City Municipal Council to address the adjacent air-rights development over the PATH rail cut and various development parcels in the vicinity of the Journal Square Transportation Center. Then in 2007, *Vision Journal Square* was prepared by A. Nelessen Associates, Inc. (ANA) and Dean Marchetto Architects, PC (DMA) in coordination the Jersey City Redevelopment Agency (JCRA) and the City of Jersey City. The process included multiple charrettes and public meetings, producing a comprehensive vision for the greater Journal Square area.

The Jersey City Master Plan lists several specific objectives and recommended actions which guide the standards and requirements for this plan. More specifically, the award winning Jersey City Master Plan Circulation Element, *Jersey City Mobility 2050*, recommends that the City:

*Develop and implement smart growth strategies that locate new residential development within walking distance of bus stops and passenger rail stations, with the highest density zones located within walking distance of passenger rail stations; that mixes residential land use with commercial land use;*

*Create meaningful public spaces that facilitate integration of the built environment with arterials and major transit routes;*

*Requirements to provide bicycle amenities for building users, such as interior bicycle storage facilities for residential buildings that are accessible without*

*stairs or tight corners, and bicycle racks and employee showers for commercial buildings;*

*Parking space requirement maximums that reduce the number of permitted parking spaces in development near fixed rail transit stations in proportion to distance and inversely proportional to the intensity of development.*

In addition, the NJ Department of Transportation and NJ Transit created the "Transit Village Initiative" to recognize municipalities that have demonstrated a commitment to revitalizing and redeveloping areas within walking distance of rail or bus facilities into compact, mixed-use neighborhoods that are consistent with Smart Growth principles. In 2005, the Journal Square area received designation as a Transit Village by an inter-agency Transit Village Task Force.

It now appears appropriate for the City to take a more pro-active approach to redevelopment in this Area, so as to bring the Area into greater compliance with the recommendations of the Master Plan. The Master Plan calls for "station areas" around Jersey City's mass transit facilities to be up-zoned to include higher density residential, neighborhood retail, restaurants and other uses compatible with a mixed use transit oriented station area. In addition, parking requirements are to be reduced "to capitalize on the availability of high quality mass transit" and to increase building coverage, floor-area-ratios, and residential density, which can be supported near transit facilities.

As Jersey City enters the 21st century, we wish to continue developing in a sustainable direction. This means focusing future development to areas where mass transit is available, reducing parking to limit traffic congestion and effects on air quality, requiring bicycle parking and wider sidewalks to limit automobile use and promote alternative modes, requiring retail uses along pedestrian corridors to create an enjoyable and safe neighborhood environment, concentrating high density high-rise development along the major thoroughfares and immediately adjacent to mass transit facilities, preserving the most distinguished historic structures, and provide for design guidelines so that new development sits comfortably next to the historic fabric of this area.

Journal Square and its surrounding neighborhoods are not a blank slate. The existing physical structure of the Area is extremely varied. Building types range from detached two-family homes with generous front yards, to 4 to 6 story apartment buildings, office buildings, and commercial uses. This variety of uses and building types are all interwoven at a fine scale. Some streets are quiet and narrow, while others have intensive retail uses. This diversity need not inhibit the City from drafting new development guidelines. This redevelopment plan balances the need for new development at higher densities with the existing context of diverse and varied neighborhoods. To do this, this plan employs an approach to development that requires higher density projects to

assemble sufficient development sites to accommodate building designs and forms that can reasonably fit into its surroundings while providing improved infrastructure. The Plan employs the use of building stepbacks, sidewalk widening, open space and plaza provisions, contextual yard requirements, required retail uses, parking limitations and bicycle parking requirements, green building requirements, and design guidelines to assure that future development contributes to the sustainable future of Journal Square.

## II) BOUNDARIES

- A) A map of the boundary, entitled, *Map 1: Boundary Map*, dated July 8, 2010 is attached and shall govern the boundaries of this redevelopment plan.
- B) The boundary of the Journal Square 2060 plan omits land on Blocks 593.1 and 628.1 which was authorized as part of the Greater Journal Square Study Area (Resolution 08-879). As this site has already been redeveloped under the St John's Redevelopment Plan and no substantive change to this site is currently contemplated, this area will not be included as part of the Journal Square 2060 Plan.
- C) The boundary of the Journal Square 2060 plan also omits land on Block 631.1 and portions of Block 571 and 530 which are part of the Bergen Arches right-of-way and which were authorized as part of the Greater Journal Square Study Area (Resolution 08-879).

## III) REDEVELOPMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

Renewal activities for the Journal Square 2060 plan area will be undertaken in conformity with, and will be designed to meet, the following objectives of the Redevelopment Plan:

- 1) Re-establish Journal Square as a Jersey City's primary central business district and activity center.
- 2) Make sustainability a theme of future development and redevelopment that guides land use and transportation decisions.
- 3) Integrate open space into the Area by incorporating a system of parks, plazas, and natural amenities.
- 4) Promote a pattern of mixed and multiple-use development. New buildings within the Area should appropriately combine residential, commercial, and entertainment uses and encourage a balance of jobs-to-housing.
- 5) Make walking and biking an easy, safe, desirable, and convenient mode of transport.
- 6) Encourage local quality retail within the greater Journal Square area.
- 7) Reduce automobile dependency by encouraging high density development in close proximity to mass transit with low automobile parking ratios and with bicycle parking requirements.
- 8) Provide for urban amenities such as transit, housing variety, open space, and entertainment that will attract new employers and a range of new residents to the area while sustaining existing neighborhoods.
- 9) Encourage the adaptive reuse of existing structures.
- 10) Encourage buildings to meet or exceed the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification or equivalent.
- 11) The removal of vacated, deteriorated and obsolete structures.

- 12) The overall improvement of traffic circulation through the development of new and improved vehicular and pedestrian circulation systems which provide for separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and the maximum use of public transportation.
- 13) Coordination of redevelopment activities, reinforcing already existing adjacent renewal programs and in accordance with the Master Plan for the City overall.
- 14) Provide for the conservation and preservation of select structures with historic or architectural significance, and provide opportunity for adaptive reuse for future generations.
- 15) Encourage the private sector to consolidate development parcels to allow for sufficient building setbacks providing, light and air to the street and adjacent properties.
- 16) Provide for redevelopment without public acquisition or relocation of residents and business concerns.
- 17) Provide for an active "front door" plaza entry way where Magnolia Avenue accesses the Journal Square PATH station, at the existing kiss-and-ride area.
- 18) To promote balanced development in accordance with applicable State laws and City requirements regarding affordable housing.
- 19) Creation of major new employment, housing, educational, recreational, commercial and retail opportunities for the residents of Jersey City.
- 20) Coordinate redevelopment activities to provide a uniform and consistent attack on blighted, dilapidated, and obsolete structures within the Area.
- 21) To promote the principles of "Smart Growth" and "Transit Village" development, including a variety of housing choices, providing wider sidewalks, minimize automobile use by maximizing the appeal of mass transit, encourage reduced parking and shared use parking solutions, and creating a livable community with convenient access to commercial facilities.
- 22) Maintain and improve pedestrian access to the Journal Square PATH Station from the surrounding communities.
- 23) To maximize the use of rooftop open space for recreation and/or green roofs.
- 24) Utilize setbacks, architectural design elements, and building massing regulation to maintained light and air to the street and adjacent properties.
- 25) All structures within the project area shall be designed and maintained so as to improve the visual impact of the Jersey City skyline as viewed from within and beyond the City's borders.
- 26) Provide for new transport systems such as a streetcar along Kennedy Blvd. and Bergen Avenues and a Bus Rapid Transit system connecting to Route 440.

#### **IV) GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

- A) No building shall be constructed over public rights-of-way in the project area with the exception of freestanding structures ancillary to public plazas and/or pedestrian walkways, which shall be subject to review by the Planning Board.
- B) Prior to commencement of construction, site plans for the construction and/or rehabilitation of improvements to the Area shall be submitted by the developer to the Planning Board of the City of Jersey City for review and approval so that compliance of such plans with the redevelopment objectives can be determined. Site plan review shall be conducted by the Planning Board pursuant to NJSA 40:55D-1 et. seq. Applications may be submitted for the entire project or in any number of phases.

