FAQ
685 Ellis | 685 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

What is the proposed project at 685 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, who will it serve?
The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing is proposing to acquire the 74 unit building at 685 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 for use as Permanent Supportive Housing for adults exiting homelessness. The goal of the onsite services is to help tenants gain and maintain housing and stability.

After the purchase is complete, the property will continue to be operated as a Shelter-In-Place (SIP) hotel to assist with the SIP winddown and housing process. HSH anticipates that a Solicitation of Information will be released in Summer 2022 to select the permanent non-profit operator of the property. The timeline for the transition of the property from a SIP hotel to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) will be determined following provider selection and in coordination with HSH’s SIP winddown and housing process team. The provider selection process will be similar to that which HSH has followed for other acquisitions approved by the Board in FY21-22.

What is Permanent Supportive Housing?
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is affordable housing with supportive services, where tenants have their own units and leases.

What amenities will be included at this property?
685 Ellis Street has an elevator, generous lobby, community lounge, commercial kitchen, vacant bar/restaurant area, office space, and laundry room and space for support services.

How was the provider selected?
The non-profit provider will be selected through a competitive process.

What was the process for selecting this location?
In January 2021, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) issued a Request for Information (RFI) to identify potential properties for possible acquisition as permanent supportive housing sites. This RFI closed on December 31, 2021. A total of 100 eligible submissions were received to RFI 100-A, including the property located at 685 Ellis Street.

The property at 685 Ellis was selected for purchase because of the size of the building, amenities, proximity to public transportation and services, and its current use as a Shelter-in-Place Hotel.

What is the process for approval and moving forward? Also, what is the timeline?
HSH is required by Chapter 79 in the Administrative Code (Prop I) to provide 30-day notice for change of use of an existing site. This requirement was fulfilled on March 17, 2022, through public notices, Prop I letter, and the forthcoming community meeting. Additional information about Prop I notifications and public meetings for proposed projects can be found on HSH’s website at: hsh.sfgov.org/get-involved/notices/.

The community meeting for this project will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. This meeting will be held virtually and can be accessed via zoom.
The proposed acquisition must be authorized by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will hear this item no sooner than May 3, 2022.

**What is the site currently being used for? If there are existing tenants, what will happen to them?**
The property is currently being used as a Shelter-in-Place (SIP) Hotel. Guests at the site will be engaged in HSH’s SIP Housing Process and be matched with appropriate stable exits before the program is closed. As of February 28, 2022, HSH has housed 959 guests from the SIP hotel program and is working to place the remaining 1,071 guests (as of March 1, 2022) by September 30, 2022.