



# CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

## BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION

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### Policy for Fees on Home Improvements for Disabled Veterans

**Purpose:** The City of Citrus Heights values the sacrifices our military veterans have made, and continue to make, to safeguard our freedom and civil liberties.

**Background:** California Health and Safety Code Section 17951.5 (approved by SB 330 and signed by the Governor on September 25, 2017) allows cities and counties to prescribe fees for permits required or authorized pursuant to the State Housing Law. The approval of SB 330 bill authorizes the local jurisdictions to waive or reduce all building permit fees for improvements to the home of a military veteran with a qualifying disability as long as those improvements are made to accommodate that disability. This does not apply to Development Impact fees, or other fees that may be required.

**Policy:** Building permit and plan review fees will be waived for home improvement projects of a disabled military veteran where a building permit is required. This applies only to R-3 Occupancy Uses covered by the California Residential Code (see code definitions provided below).

This policy will apply to *most* home improvement projects being made to accommodate the veteran's "qualified disability" as defined by Health and Safety Code Section 17951.5(b) (section provided below). This *excludes* new construction and most "change-in-use" type permits.

Examples of projects that may qualify for the waiver may include:

- Bathroom and kitchen remodels
- Interior remodels to allow for passage of mobility equipment
- Installation of emergency devices, such as smoke alarms, emergency medical notification equipment, ramps, lifts, etc.

Final determination of which projects qualify for the waiver will be determined by the Chief Building Official. Contact the Building & Safety Division for more information.

#### **CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE:**

**17951.5.** (a) Notwithstanding Section 17951, each city, county, or city and county may waive or reduce all building permit fees for improvements to the home of a veteran with a qualifying disability that are made to accommodate that disability.

(b) "Qualifying disability" means a disability that is recognized as service connected by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

#### **CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE:**

**Dwelling.** Any building that contains one or two dwelling units used, intended, or designed to be built, used, rented, leased, let or hired out to be occupied, or that are occupied for living purposes.

**Townhouse.** A building that contains three or more attached townhouse units.

  
Joseph Cuffe, CBO CFM COSS  
Chief Building Official  
City of Citrus Heights  
Building & Safety Division