



**PLANNING COMMISSION
TEXT AMENDMENT CASE SUMMARY**

**AMEND §17-55 TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC DORMITORY TO
PERMIT COOKING/EATING WITHIN EACH UNIT**

November 2, 2015

City Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 5:15PM
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Proposal:	Amend §17-55 – to change the definition of Public Dormitory to permit cooking/eating within each unit.
Applicant:	K. Brian Cook, Zoning Administrator
Pertinent Sections:	Chapter 17, Article III, Division 1, Amend §17-55 – Definitions (Public Dormitory)
Staff Recommendation:	Approve

Detail: The text amendment would allow academic institutions the option to have kitchens within individual units of a public dormitory, thus providing the residents a higher level of self-sufficiency. All building and fire codes would be considered and applicable.

Current

Dormitory, public means a building or part of a building operated by an academic institution containing rooms forming one or more habitable units which are used or intended to be used by residents of the institution for living and sleeping, but not for cooking or eating purposes.

Proposed

Dormitory, public means a building or part of a building operated by an academic institution containing rooms forming one or more habitable units which are used or intended to be used by residents of the institution for living, sleeping, *cooking, and/or eating purposes.*

Pending Issues: None.

Staff Contact: K. Brian Cook, Zoning Administrator

Sec. 17-55. - Definitions.

Dormitory, public means a building or part of a building operated by an academic institution containing rooms forming one or more habitable units which are used or intended to be used by residents of the institution for living, and sleeping, ~~cooking, and/or eating purposes.~~ ~~but not for cooking or eating purposes.~~

(Code 1979, § 6-3012; Ord. No. 96-25, 11-6-96; Ord. No. 2002-050, § 1, 6-5-02; Ord. No. 2006-004, 1-18-06; Ord. No. 2007-015, 6-6-07; Ord. No. 2008-004, 1-23-08; 2008-049, 11-5-08; Ord. No. 2009-023, 4-1-09; Ord. No. 2010-119, 8-2-11; Ord. No. 2011-083, 12-13-11; Ord. No. 2011-082, 1-17-12; Ord. No. 2012-020, 4-10-12)

Cross reference— Definitions generally, § 1-2.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

October 6, 2015

Krista Hampton
Director of Planning and Development Services
City of Columbia, SC
1136 Washington Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Text Amendment to the Code of Ordinances

Dear Krista,

On behalf of the University of South Carolina I write to respectfully request a text amendment in the Code of Ordinances for Section 17-55.-Definitions. Specifically we wish to amend the definition of "Dormitory, public".

The current definition states: "Dormitory, public means a building or part of a building operated by an academic institution containing rooms forming one or more habitable units which are used or intended to be used by residents of the institution for living and sleeping, but not for cooking or eating purposes."

Many of the existing public dormitories residing on the institution's campus are configured as apartments in which occupants are provided with kitchens and dining space for cooking and eating. This text amendment would align the definition with the manner these dormitories have been used for decades and would continue to support an option for a higher level of self-sufficiency for students in a typical apartment environment.

We propose that the definition be amended to read as follows: "Dormitory, public means a building or part of a building operated by an academic institution containing rooms forming one or more habitable units which are used or intended to be used by residents of the institution for living, sleeping, cooking, and/or eating purposes."

Since we are currently contemplating development which would benefit from this amendment, we ask for this revision to be submitted to the Planning Commission by October 7th to place the revision on the November 2nd agenda.

If we can offer any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We greatly appreciate your efforts to assist the University of South Carolina.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Derek S. Gruner".

Derek S. Gruner, NCARB, LEED BD+C

University Architect, Director of Planning and Programming

Cc: Brian Cook
Helen Zeigler
Shirley Mills