

Santa Rosa, California City Code

Title 6 BUSINESS TAXES, LICENSES AND REGULATIONS

Chapter 6-66 RENT CONTROL—MOBILEHOMES

6-66.010 Findings and purpose.

(A) The State of California has recognized, by the adoption of special legislation regulating tenancies of mobilehome owners in mobilehome parks, that there is a significant distinction between homeowners in mobilehome parks and other dwelling units, and the State likewise has recognized that homeowners in mobilehome parks, unlike apartment tenants or residents of other rental stock, are in the unique position of having made a substantial investment in a residence, the space for which is rented or leased as distinguished from owned.

The physical removal and relocation of a mobilehome from a rented or leased space within a mobilehome park can be accomplished only at substantial cost and inconvenience with a limited concurrent ability to find another location and, in many instances, the removal requires a separation of the mobilehome unit from appurtenances which have been made permanent, thus creating severe damage and depreciation in value to the mobilehome.

As a result of the absence of vacant spaces that are not new, it is virtually impossible for mobilehome owners to move their mobilehomes from one park to another within the City.

(B) There is presently within the City and the surrounding areas a shortage of sites for the placement of mobilehomes.

(C) Mobilehomes presently constitute an important source of housing for persons of low and moderate income, who as a group are unable to afford unreasonably large rent increases.

(D) A large number of persons living in mobilehomes are elderly, some of whom live on small fixed incomes. These persons may expend a substantial portion of their income on rent and may not be able to afford other housing within the City.

(E) There is an extremely low vacancy rate in mobilehome parks within the City, with no sites presently available in some or all of the mobilehome parks. This condition enables owners to impose unreasonably large rent increases.

(F) Rents for sites within mobilehome parks have, prior to the adoption of rent control, increased substantially within the City and other areas of the State. In some mobilehome parks, rent increases in the five years prior to 1993 were substantially in excess of the increases in the Consumer Price Index.

(G) Mobilehome owners residing in mobilehome parks have very limited mobility because it is difficult and costly to move mobilehomes; such mobilehome owners may be forced to accept and pay unreasonably increased rents.

(H) Studies and hearings have shown that there is presently, within the City and surrounding areas, a shortage of spaces for the location of mobilehomes, resulting in an extremely low vacancy rate. Space rent increases at the time of sale or other transfer of a mobilehome within a park have been shown to be substantially over the pre-transfer rent. Such large rent increases at the time of sale of a mobilehome may unfairly depress the sales price of the mobilehome and work an economic hardship on the mobilehome owner. The annual rent increases and vacancy control provisions of this chapter prevent this economic hardship while protecting the property rights of owners.

(I) Rapidly rising and large incremental increases in space rent prior to rent control resulted in an atypical market depression in the resale value of mobilehomes within the City.

(J) Because of the space shortage and potential for rapidly rising rents, regulation is necessary to assure that economic hardship to a substantial number of mobilehome owners in the City, many of whom are senior citizens on low fixed incomes, does not occur.

(K) It is the purpose of this chapter to establish a speedy and efficient method of reviewing certain requested mobilehome space rent increases in mobilehome parks to protect mobilehome owners from arbitrary, capricious or unreasonable site rent adjustments while insuring owners and/or operators and investors a fair and reasonable return. It is not the purpose of this chapter to preserve affordable housing, but rather to allow reasonable annual rent increases which protect mobilehome owners while providing a fair return to owners. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.020 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following words, terms and phrases shall be defined as follows:

(A) "Affected mobilehome owners" means those mobilehome owners whose space is not covered by a valid lease meeting the requirements of section 798.17(b) of the California [Civil Code](#) or otherwise legally exempt from local rent control regulation.

(B) "Arbitrator" means a person who is neither a mobilehome owner nor has an interest in a mobilehome park of a nature that would require disqualification under the provisions of the Political Reform Act if the person were a designated City employee, has experience in analysis of financial records, and meets one of the following criteria:

(1) Licensed attorney or CPA who has completed a formal course of training on arbitration;

(2) Membership in the American Arbitration Association with expertise in rental dispute arbitration;

or

(3) Service as a California judge.

(C) “Capital improvement” means those improvements which directly and primarily benefit and serve the existing mobilehome owners by materially adding to the value of the park or adapting it to new uses, and which are required to be amortized over the useful life of the improvements pursuant to the provision of the Internal Revenue Code. “Capital improvement costs” means all costs reasonably and necessarily related to the planning, engineering and construction of capital improvements and shall include debt service costs, if any, incurred as a direct result of the capital improvement. Capital improvement does not include ordinary maintenance or repairs.

(D) “Capital replacement” means a capital expenditure as defined by the Internal Revenue Code which replaces an existing improvement. For example, an asphalt overlay of an existing roadway or parking lot is a capital replacement, a slurry seal of an existing roadway or parking lot is not.

(E) “City” means the City of Santa Rosa, California.

(F) “Clerk” means Clerk of the Santa Rosa Mobilehome Rent Control Program, who shall be the Director of Housing and Redevelopment or his/her designee.

(G) “Consumer Price Index” or “CPI” means the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers in the San Francisco/Oakland/Hayward, as may be amended from time to time, area published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(H) “Department” means the Department of Housing and Redevelopment of the City of Santa Rosa.

(I) “MRL” means the California Mobilehome Residency Law.

(J) “Mobilehome” means a structure, designed for human habitation and for being moved on a street or highway under permit pursuant to California [Vehicle Code](#) section 35790, including a trailer or recreational vehicle, as defined in California [Civil Code](#) section 798.3 as it may be amended from time to time.

(K) “Mobilehome park” or “park” means any area of land within the City of Santa Rosa where two or more mobilehome spaces are rented, or held out for rent, to accommodate mobilehomes used for human habitation.

(L) “Mobilehome space” means the site within a mobilehome park intended, designed or used for the location or accommodation of a mobilehome and any accessory structures or appurtenances attached thereto or used in conjunction therewith.

(M) “Mobilehome owner” means a person who is the owner of a mobilehome and legally occupies the mobilehome within a mobilehome park.

(N) “Owner” means the owner or operator of a mobilehome park or an agent or representative authorized to act on said owner’s or operator’s behalf in connection with the maintenance or operation of such park.

(O) “Party” as used in this chapter refers to any affected mobilehome owner and/or owner involved in proceedings under this chapter.

(P) “Prospective mobilehome owner” means a person who is in the process of negotiating a tenancy in a mobilehome park.

(Q) “Rent” means the consideration paid for the use or occupancy of a mobilehome space.

(R) “Rent stabilization administration fee” means the fee established from time to time by resolution of the City Council in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance.

(S) “Rent increase” means any increase in base rent charged by an owner to a mobilehome owner or offered to a prospective mobilehome owner. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.030 Base rent.

Except as provided in this chapter, an owner shall not demand, accept or retain rent for a mobilehome space exceeding the base rent which shall be the rent in effect for that space on September 1, 1993. If a previously rented mobilehome space was not rented on September 1, 1993, the base rent shall not exceed the rent in effect during the last month the space was rented prior to September 1, 1993, except as provided in this chapter. For a mobilehome space first rented after September 1, 1993, the owner shall establish the base rent. For parks annexed into the City after September 17, 1993, the base rent shall be the rent charged on the date of a park’s annexation into the City. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.040 Consumer Price Index, utilities and other pass throughs.

(A) Consumer Price Index. ~~An owner, once in any 12-month period, may impose a rent increase for a mobilehome space by 70 percent of the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the most recent 12-month period ending in August; provided, however, the rental increase shall not exceed four percent of the previous rent charged for the space. If an owner has obtained a rent increase under subsection 6-66.050(B), the owner may calculate the rent increase allowed by this subsection based upon the approved comparable rent as allowed in subsection 6-66.050(B) instead of upon the actual rent in effect at the time of the increase.~~

- (i) Subject to the provisions of subsection (ii), an owner, once in any 12-month period, may impose a rent increase for a mobilehome space by 70 percent of the percentage increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the most recent 12-month period ending in August, provided, however, the rent increase shall not exceed four percent of the previous rent charged for the space. If an owner has obtained a rent increase under subsection 6066.050(B), the owner may calculate the rent increase allowed by this subsection based upon the approved comparable rent as allowed in subsection 6-66-050(B) instead of upon the actual rent in effect at the time of the increase.
- (ii) In no event shall the cumulative rental increase for any mobilehome space in the combined calendar years of 2023 and 2024, exceed the lessor of:
 - a. Four percent (4%) rent increase for 2023, plus the allowed increase in rent for 2024,

as set forth in subsection (A)(i) (equal to 70% of the 12-month CPI as of August 2023, not to exceed 4%), or

b. Eight percent (8% percent), of the rent charged for the space in 2022.

For example, if, in 2023, prior to the effective date of the Ordinance No. 2022-017, an owner imposed a rent increase for a mobilehome space of 5.7%, the rent increase for 2024 cannot exceed 2.3%.

(B) If the change in the CPI exceeds four percent for two consecutive years, the Clerk shall review the maximum rent increase and recommend an ordinance amendment if appropriate.

(C) Government Mandated Expense Pass Through. An owner may pass through to affected mobilehome owners any new or increase in government mandated capital expenditures and operating expenses including taxes (other than the two percent annual increase authorized by California Constitution Article XIII A, section 2(b)) and assessments, fees and mandated expenses due to code changes subject to the following procedure:

(1) Upon a petition signed by one adult mobilehome owner of 50 percent of the spaces subject to rent control in a park or 50 spaces, whichever is less, and filed with the Clerk within 30 days of the date the owner gives notice of a government mandated expense pass through to every affected mobilehome owner, the Arbitrator may disallow or decrease the proposed pass through based upon substantial evidence in the record that the pass through is not legally proper, or excessive, or that during the pass through period the owner is including an unreasonably high financing cost and/or return on the expense being passed through.

(D) Utilities. An owner may separately pass through to a mobilehome owner charges for all utilities, including, but not limited to, sewer, water, garbage, cable T.V., gas and electricity, and any increases in such charges (except water, gas and electric utilities which are not separately metered shall not be passed through, but may be charged as additional rent). Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this section, the owner shall not pass through any charge or expense for gas or electric service to the extent prohibited by section 739.5 of the California [Public Utilities Code](#).

(E) Capital Improvement Pass Through. An owner may charge to the affected mobilehome owner as additional rent the pro rata share of new service and capital improvement costs including reasonable financing costs if, prior to initiating the service or incurring the capital improvement cost, the owner has:

(1) Consulted with the mobilehome owners prior to initiating construction of the improvements or initiating the new service regarding the nature and purpose of the improvements or services and the estimated cost of the improvements or services;

(2) Obtained the prior written consent of at least one adult mobilehome owner in each of a majority of the mobilehome spaces which are occupied by the mobilehome owner to the proposed service or capital improvement. Each space shall have only one vote.

(F) Capital Replacement Pass Through. Notwithstanding the provision of subsection E of this

section, an owner may charge to the mobilehome owner as additional rent the pro rata share of capital replacement costs including reasonable financing costs, if not otherwise prohibited by law, subject to the following procedure:

(1) The owner may seek advance approval for the proposed pass through, before undertaking the capital project, by following the procedures set forth in Sections 6-66.100 to 6-66.120. If the increase is approved by the Arbitrator, it shall not be effective until the next regularly scheduled annual rent increase date, provided that the 90-day notice is issued, the expense is actually incurred and that proper verification is submitted. This verification shall include, at a minimum, proof of actual costs and payment to vendor. In the event that the actual cost of the capital expense is less than the approved amount, the increase shall be adjusted to reflect this decreased amount;

(2) The owner shall give notice of the proposed pass through to each affected mobilehome owner no later than 12 months after completion of the capital replacement work;

(3) Upon a petition signed by one adult mobilehome owner of 50 percent of the spaces subject to rent control in a park or 50 spaces subject to rent control, whichever is less, and filed with the Clerk within 30 days of the date the owner gives notice of the pass through to every affected mobilehome owner, the Arbitrator may disallow or decrease the pass through for capital replacements based upon substantial evidence in the record that the capital replacement was not necessary, or that the cost of the capital replacement was excessive, or that during the pass through period, the owner is including an unreasonably high financing cost and/or return on the expense being passed through. The owner shall have the burden of proving the necessity for and reasonable cost of the capital replacements. In determining whether the owner has met its burden of proving the necessity for and reasonable cost of the capital replacement, the Arbitrator may consider, among other factors, the reasonableness of the owner's history of maintenance of the property or improvement to be replaced. The Arbitrator's review will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the records reflecting past maintenance work and the cost.

(G) All charges passed through by the owner to the mobilehome owners pursuant to subsection C and D of this section and additional rent charged pursuant to subsections E and F of this section must be separate from the base rent and listed separately. All billings used to calculate a pass through or additional rent to mobilehome owners must be disclosed within a reasonable time upon request by a mobilehome owner.

(H) Notice. A written notice of each rent increase or new or increased capital improvement or capital replacement pass through charge made under the provisions of this section shall be filed by the owner with the Clerk, and provided to each affected mobilehome owner, at least 90 days before the rent increase goes into effect or as required by the MRL. The notice shall identify the park and shall specify the dollar amount of the increase, the percentage of the increase, an itemization of all new or increased pass throughs and additional rent charges, the specific space affected, the date the increase will go into effect, how each increase was calculated, and the date the rent on each affected space was last increased. The notice shall also advise each affected mobilehome owner of any right to petition for review of a proposed rent increase and that a petition form may be requested from the Clerk. (Ord. 3648

§ 1, 2004)

6-66.050 In-place transfer rent increases—Establishment of new base rent.

(A) Whenever either of the following events occurs, an owner shall be permitted to charge a new base rent for the mobilehome space as provided in this section:

(1) The termination of the tenancy of the affected mobilehome owner in accordance with the MRL (California [Civil Code](#) sections 798.55 through 798.62, as amended, excepting section 798.59); or

(2) The voluntary permanent removal of a mobilehome by a mobilehome owner. A removal of the mobilehome from the space for the purpose of performing rehabilitation or capital improvements to the space or for the purpose of upgrading the mobilehome shall not constitute a voluntary removal of the mobilehome.

(B) Upon an in-place transfer of a mobilehome, the park owner may increase the rent by an amount that does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the then current base rent.

6-66.060 Fair return rent increases.

If an owner presents evidence to the Arbitrator, including any financial records requested by the Arbitrator, which proves that the owner is denied a fair return by the rent control provisions of this chapter, the Arbitrator may authorize an increase in rents as deemed appropriate by the Arbitrator to provide a fair return to the owner. The Arbitrator shall use the method set forth in subsection [6-66.120\(C\)](#) to determine the fair return. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.070 Rent freeze or rent rollback.

(A) Upon the petition signed by one adult mobilehome owner of 50 percent of the spaces subject to rent control in a park or 50 spaces subject to rent control, whichever is less, the Arbitrator may prohibit future rent increases for spaces governed by this chapter, upon its determination that maintenance by the owner has been substantially reduced. The determination shall be based upon substantial evidence in the record. The prohibition may be continued until the Arbitrator determines that maintenance by the owner has been restored to a reasonable level.

(B) Upon petition by one or more affected mobilehome owners, an Arbitrator may prohibit future rent increases, or order a rollback of the existing rent as to those petitioners, upon its determination that after September 1, 1993, an owner instituted a rent increase inconsistent with the criteria established by this chapter. The determination shall be based upon substantial evidence in the record. The prohibition may be continued until the Arbitrator determines that the rent has become consistent with this chapter. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.080 Time of allowed rent increase/adjustment.

(A) Once within a 12-month period, the owner may implement a CPI rent adjustment (subsection [6-66.040\(A\)](#)), if any, or a fair return increase (Section [6-66.060](#)), but not both.

(B) A capital replacement pass through subsection 6-66.040(F) may only be implemented on the effective date of the CPI or fair return rent adjustment.

(C) The following increases or adjustments may be implemented at any time during the year:

- (1) Government mandated expense pass through (subsection 6-66.040(C));
- (2) Utility pass throughs (subsection 6-66.040(D));
- (3) Capital improvements (subsection 6-66.040(E));
- (4) In-place transfer rent increases (Section 6-66.050).

Any increases subject to arbitration shall be implemented after the final ruling of the arbitration.

(D) Rent freeze and rent rollbacks shall be implemented at the time they are ordered (Section 6-66.070). (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.090 Arbitration.

(A) Matters Subject to Arbitration.

(1) An owner shall file with the Clerk:

(a) An application seeking to increase space rents beyond 100 percent of the CPI to provide a fair return to the owner as allowed by Section 6-66.060.

(2) Affected mobilehome owners may file with the Clerk:

(a) A petition objecting to a government mandated expense pass through as allowed by subsection 6-66.040(C);

(b) A petition objecting to a capital replacement pass through as allowed by subsection 6-66.040(F);

(c) A petition for rent freeze as allowed by subsection 6-66.070(A);

(d) A petition for rent rollback as allowed by subsection 6-66.070(B).

(B) These petitions and applications shall be decided by the Arbitrator.

(C) Cost of Arbitration. The cost of arbitration shall be paid by the Clerk out of revenue from the rent stabilization administration fee. The Arbitrator may reimburse the City by assessing the cost of the arbitration to either party if the Arbitrator determines that the position taken by the party is frivolous. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.100 Procedures for fair return notice and application and petition forms.

(A) Notice. At least 10 days prior to submission of a fair return application or a petition to the Clerk, the applicant or petitioner shall mail a notice and a copy of the application or petition to the owner and each affected mobilehome owner in the park. The notice shall be on a form specified by

the Clerk. The supporting documents for the application or petition shall be available for review at the park's office. One copy of the supporting documents shall be provided by the applicant or petitioner at no cost to the other party. All fair return notices shall include the following information:

(1) The amount of the rent increase both in dollars and as a percentage of the existing rent, how it was calculated, an itemization of all pass throughs and additional rent charges, information that explains and supports the level of increase proposed including, at a minimum, a summary of the owner's net operating income for the base year and the preceding 24 months and other relevant information that supports the level of rent increase desired, the effective date of the increase and that copies of the supporting documents shall be provided by the owner at no cost to the mobilehome owners' representative and be available to the mobilehome owners at the park's office for inspection;

(2) The name, address and telephone number of the Clerk or designee, a statement to inform the mobilehome owners to contact the Clerk or designee for an explanation of the provisions of this chapter, and that a roster of affected mobilehome owners can be requested from the Clerk; and

(3) A copy of the official petition form which is to be used for the process established by this chapter.

(B) Application/Petition Forms. The application or petition shall be filed with the Clerk on the form prescribed by the Clerk and must be accompanied by all supporting material necessary to support the request. The application and petition shall contain the following declaration: "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct." The application shall be dated and subscribed by the applicant(s) and shall state the place of execution.

(1) Within five working days of receipt, the Clerk shall complete a preliminary review of the application or petition. Applications or petitions which are incomplete will not be considered properly filed.

(2) No further action shall take place on applications or petitions which are not properly filed, and the Clerk may decline to accept such application and/or return them to the petitioner immediately after the preliminary review with a notice of the defects.

(3) When the Clerk determines that the application or petition is complete, the Clerk shall send a written notice of confirmation of receipt of a completed application or petition to the parties.

(4) In capital replacement proceedings and in government mandated capital expenditure and operating expense proceedings, affected mobilehome owners shall have 30 calendar days after receipt of the confirmation of the completed application to file with the Clerk a petition objecting to the rent increase signed by one adult in at least 50 percent of the mobilehome spaces subject to rent control.

(C) Insufficient Objection—Capital Replacement or Government-Mandated Pass Through Proceeding—Clerk Action. If less than the required number of affected mobilehome owners object to a proposed capital replacement or government-mandated pass through, or if objection is

withdrawn, including any amendments, before or after the meet and confer process, the Clerk shall approve the requested pass through. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.110 Procedure for meet and confer.

Within 10 working days of the date of the Clerk's notice of a completed application or petition and prior to assignment of an Arbitrator, affected mobilehome owners and owners shall meet and confer with each other's representatives. The time, place and date of the meeting shall be agreed to by the parties or, if the parties cannot agree, determined by the Clerk. Written notice of the scheduled meeting shall be given by the applicant or petitioner. At the meeting, representatives of the parties shall exchange documentary evidence that the parties, in good faith then know, will be used to support their respective positions in an arbitration and discuss the issues in dispute. In the case of an owner, all financial data upon which any proposed increase is claimed shall be supplied to affected mobilehome owner representatives at the time of the meet and confer meeting. The parties may request that the Clerk provide a mediator, at no cost to the parties, to assist with the meet and confer process. The Arbitrator may deny an application based on the applicant's failure to participate in good faith in the meet and confer process. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.120 Procedures for arbitration.

(A) The Clerk shall give written notice to the applicant or petitioners and mobilehome owner representative that the application/petition has been referred to arbitration.

(1) An Arbitrator shall be appointed in the following manner:

(a) The Clerk shall maintain a list of qualified arbitrators.

(b) **Assignment of Arbitrator and Hearing Date.** The Clerk shall choose three possible Arbitrators and present them to the residents' representative and the owner. Within five days each party may challenge one candidate. The one remaining shall be the selected Arbitrator. If both parties challenge the same candidate, the Clerk shall choose between the two remaining candidates. The Clerk shall set a date for the arbitration hearing no sooner than 21 or no later than 30 working days after the Arbitrator is assigned. The owner and affected mobilehome owners shall be notified immediately in writing by the Clerk of the date, time and place of the hearing and this notice shall be served either in person or by ordinary mail. The parties may agree, in writing, to extend these times. The Arbitrator may extend the date for the arbitration hearing upon a showing of good cause.

(2) The Arbitrator shall conduct a hearing with the parties and/or their representatives. During this hearing process, the concerns of each party shall be discussed and the Arbitrator shall indicate the amount and nature of information needed from any party in order to reach a determination. In fair return proceedings in Section 6-66.060, this shall include four years of the income and expense portion of the general ledgers for the park. All information submitted shall be in writing and shall be certified in the same manner as set forth in subsection 6-66.100(B). The applicant shall have the burden of proof unless other sections of this chapter specify otherwise. Each party shall comply with the Arbitrator's request for information within five working days of the request. Additional information

provided to the Arbitrator shall be immediately available to the owner or affected mobilehome owner representative which will have five working days to give written comment to the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator may proceed under this part regardless of whether any party defaults in providing any of the requested information.

(B) Arbitration Determination.

(1) Within 21 days of the hearing, but no later than 90 days from the date of the owner's rent increase notice, the Arbitrator shall deliver his or her decision on the application or petition and a bill for services to the Clerk.

(2) The rent increase in a fair return proceeding shall not exceed the increase requested in the application.

(3) The Clerk shall provide the result of the Arbitrator's decision to the affected parties.

(4) The Arbitrator's decisions are final and not appealable to the City Council.

(C) Method to Determine a Fair Return.

(1) The base year for the purpose of this section shall be the last full fiscal year prior to the park becoming subject to this chapter. The Arbitrator may establish an alternative base year if the owner is unable to produce records of the last full fiscal year prior to the park becoming subject to rent control.

(2) It shall be presumed that the net operating income produced by the property during the base year provided a fair return. An owner shall be entitled to rents to earn a just and reasonable return and to maintain and increase their base year net operating income in accordance with subsection (C)(4) of this section. This method is called maintenance of net operating income (MNOI) and shall be included in all applications.

(3) The applicant or the affected mobilehome owners may present evidence to rebut the presumption of fair and reasonable return based upon the base year net operating income. To make such a determination and in order to adjust to the base year net operating income, the Arbitrator must make the following finding:

(a) The owner's operating and maintenance expenses in the base year were unusually high or low in comparison to other years. In such instances, adjustments may be made in calculating such expenses so that the base year operating expenses reflect average expenses for the property over a reasonable period of time. In considering whether the base year net operating income yielded more or less than a fair net operating income, the Arbitrator shall consider the following factors:

(i) Substantial repairs were made due to damage caused by uninsured disaster or vandalism;

(ii) Maintenance and repairs were below accepted standards so as to cause significant deterioration of housing services;

(iii) Other expenses were unreasonably high or low notwithstanding prudent business practice; and

(iv) The rent in the base year was disproportionately low due to the fact that it was not established

in an arms-length transaction or other peculiar circumstances.

(4) Fair Net Operating Income. The Arbitrator shall submit a determination based on rental income which will provide the owner a net operating income which shall be increased by 100 percent of the percentage increase in the CPI over the base year's CPI index. The base year CPI shall be the CPI for the first day of June. For purposes of this section, the current CPI shall be the CPI last reported as of the date of the completed application.

(5) Net operating income of a mobilehome park means the gross income of the park less the operating expenses of the park.

(6) Gross income means the sum of the following:

(a) Gross space rents computed as gross space rental income at 100 percent occupancy (but excluding rent attributed to a space occupied by a park employee who receives the space rent free as part of the employee's compensation); plus

(b) Other income generated as a result of the operation of the park, including, but not limited to, fees for services actually rendered; plus

(c) All other pass through revenue received from mobilehome owners except capital pass throughs and gas and electric; minus

(d) Uncollected space rents due to vacancy and bad debts to the extent that the same are beyond the owner's control. There is a rebuttable presumption that uncollected space rents in excess of the average of the current and past three years uncollected rents (each year's rent shall be adjusted by the change in the CPI between that year and the final year of the four-year period) are excessive and shall

not be deducted from gross income.

(7) Operating expenses means:

(a) Real property taxes and assessment;

(b) Advertising costs;

(c) Management and administrative expenses including the compensation of administrative personnel;

(d) Repair and maintenance expenses for the grounds and common facilities including, but not limited to, landscaping, cleaning and repair of equipment and facilities;

(e) In addition to the management expenses listed above, where the owner performs onsite managerial or maintenance services which are uncompensated, the owner may include the reasonable value of such services. Owner-performed labor shall be limited to five percent of gross income unless the Arbitrator finds that such a limitation would be substantially unfair in a given case. No credit for such services shall be authorized unless an owner documents the hours utilized in performing such services and the nature of the services provided;

- (f) Operating supplies such as janitorial supplies, gardening supplies, stationery and so forth;
- (g) Insurance premiums related to operation of the park prorated over the life of the policy;
- (h) Payroll taxes, business, utility, license and permit fees;
- (i) Dues;
- (j) Consultant services for park operation and maintenance;

(k) All operating expenses must be reasonable and necessary. Whenever a particular expense exceeds the normal industry or other comparable standard, the owner shall bear the burden of proving the reasonableness of the expense. To the extent that an Arbitrator finds any expense to be unreasonable, the Arbitrator shall adjust the expense to reflect the normal industry or other comparable standard;

(l) There is a rebuttable presumption that expenditures in the current year are unreasonable to the extent that they substantially exceed the average of the current and past three years (each year's expenses shall be adjusted by the change in the CPI between that year and the final year of the four- year period);

(m) Operating expenses shall not include the following:

- (i) Mortgage debt service expenses;
- (ii) Land-lease expenses;
- (iii) Depreciation;
- (iv) Income taxes;
- (v) Electric and gas expenses included in Section 739.5 of the California Public Utility Codes;

(vi) The cost of government mandated expenses (subsection 6-66.040(C)), capital improvements (subsection 6-66.040(D)), or capital replacements (subsection 6-66.040(F)).

(8) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the ordinance codified in this chapter, the Arbitrator is authorized to approve any rent increase that is constitutionally required by law to yield a fair return.

(E) Subpoenas. The parties may obtain the issuance and service of a subpoena for the attendance of witnesses or the production of other evidence at the arbitration hearing. Subpoenas shall be issued and attested by the Clerk. Issuance of the subpoena must be obtained upon the filing with the Clerk of the City of an affidavit or declaration, under oath, setting forth the name and address of the proposed witness; specifying the exact things to be produced and the relevancy to the issues involved; and stating that the witness has the desired things in his/her possession or under his/her control.

Service of the subpoena on a witness to attend arbitration must be at least five working days before the hearing. Service of a subpoena duces tecum must be at least 21 days before the hearing.

Any party served with a subpoena duces tecum must produce copies of the requested items to the subpoenaing party no later than 10 days before the hearing.

A subpoena need not be issued when the affidavit or declaration is defective in any particular. No arbitration hearing may be continued due to the failure to file a timely request, or to timely serve a subpoena. Any person who refuses, without lawful excuse, to attend the arbitration or to produce relevant evidence as required by a subpoena served upon that person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

No subpoena shall issue until after the parties have met and conferred as required in Section 6-66.110.

(F) **Increases for Capital Expense.** Increases attributed to a capital expense, as approved by the Arbitrator to provide a park with a fair return, shall not be included in base rent. These increases must be separately itemized on the monthly rent invoice and terminate at the end of the approved amortized period. Advance approval and effective date of the increase shall be as allowed in subsection 6- 66.040(F)(1).

(G) **Rent Increase Effective Date.** Rent increases approved by the Arbitrator, as determined necessary to provide an owner with a fair return, shall be allowed upon the effective date given by the applicant in the notice to the affected mobilehome owners, required in section 798.30 of the California [Civil Code](#). (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.130 Refusal of mobilehome owner to pay illegal rent.

An affected mobilehome owner may refuse to pay any rent in excess of the maximum rent permitted by this chapter. The fact that such unpaid rent is in excess of the maximum rent shall be a defense in any action brought to recover possession of a mobilehome space for nonpayment of rent or to collect the illegal rent. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.140 Disclosures.

An owner shall disclose to each prospective mobilehome owner the current and proposed base rent for the mobilehome space and the rental agreement options required by this section and Section 6- 66.150, provide each prospective mobilehome owner with a copy of this chapter, and disclose to the prospective mobilehome owner under what circumstances that a lease will be exempt from rent control. The owner shall give the required disclosure and provide a copy of this chapter to the prospective mobilehome owner at the time that the owner, or owner's representative, receives the prospective mobilehome owner's application for tenancy. The required disclosures shall be made in a form approved by the Clerk, and the owner shall obtain a signature of the prospective mobilehome owner on the disclosure form acknowledging receipt of the disclosures. An owner must retain the signed disclosure form throughout the entire tenancy of the mobilehome owner. This signed form shall be made available to the Clerk upon reasonable written notice. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.160 Rent stabilization administration fees.

The costs of administration of this chapter shall be paid by the imposition of an annual rent stabilization administration fee established by resolution of the City Council. The fee is chargeable against the total number of mobilehome spaces in the City subject to rent control determined on a date certain each year to be established by the City Council. The owner who pays these fees may pass through to the mobilehome owners, subject to rent control on the date established by the City Council, 50 percent of the fees assessed against a mobilehome space. The fee shall be due on a date established by the City Council but may be paid in quarterly installments by the owners. Owners of parks annexed to the City after September 17, 1993, shall be charged the fee established by resolution beginning on the effective date of the annexation. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.170 Amendment.

Any amendment to this chapter shall require a prior public hearing before the City Council with notice thereof published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City at least 10 days prior to the hearing. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)

6-66.180 Violation.

Every person who violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to the provisions of Section [1-28.010](#) of this code. This section shall not apply to the Arbitrator or officers or employees of the City. (Ord. 3648 § 1, 2004)