

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO PLANNING BOARD**

PUBLIC HEARINGS NOTICE

September 22 and 24, 2020

CONCERNING

ADOPTION OF THE JOINT PERMITS REGULATION FOR THE EVALUATION AND ISSUANCE OF PERMITS RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT, LAND USE AND BUSINESS OPERATION (JOINT REGULATION 2020), AS ESTABLISHED BY ACT 161 OF DECEMBER 1, 2009, AS AMENDED

For the knowledge of the public in general and pursuant to the provisions of Article 15.1 of Act No. 161 of December 1, 2009, known as the "Puerto Rico Permit Process Reform Act"; Act No. 38 of June 30, 2017, known as the "*Uniform Administrative Procedures Act*," and Act No. 75 of June 24, 1975, known as "*The Puerto Rico Planning Board Organic Act*", as amended, the Puerto Rico Planning Board notify the celebration of public hearings to present the draft for the **Joint Permits Regulation for the Evaluation and Issuance of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation (Joint Regulation 2020)**.

In compliance with all the security measures required by the state of emergency decreed by the Government of Puerto Rico due to the COVID-19 pandemic, public hearings will be held in person and by remote technological means ensuring always the access and effective participation of citizens.

Following social distancing protocols, the number of spaces available is limited in the places where the public hearings will be held, subject to the recommendations established by the executive orders and the security measures to be implemented, an electronic registry will be kept to reserve a space, through the Board's portal at www.jp.pr.gov or by sending an email to comentariosjp@jp.pr.gov indicating your name, email, contact phone number, and public hearing location you wish to attend. If there are available spaces, according to the allowed capacity, access will be allowed to citizens who present themselves without prior reservation. Each citizen, prior to accessing the place of the public hearing in person, will be examined according to the security protocols for mass activities established in the executive orders. The use of facemasks will be a requirement of access at all times while the public hearings end and maintaining the social distancing, both for citizens and government officials. The access conditions may vary according to the provisions promulgated on the state of emergency, in force at the time of public hearings.

Public hearings in person will be as provided below:

DATE	TIME	PLACE
September 22, 2020	10:00 AM	San Juan Puerto Rico Convention Center Room 201AB 100 Boulevard Saint John
	10:00 AM	Moca Moca Municipal Technology Center PR-110, Monseñor J. Torres Street, Corner Calle Mario Medin
	10:00 AM	Humacao Humacao Fine Arts Center Boulevard Nicanor Vázquez Avenue
	10:00 AM	Barranquitas Barranquitas Fine Arts Center Ramal PR- 152, José Zayas Green Avenue
	10:00 AM	Guayama Multiple Use Center Comunidad Olimpo Alturas de Olimpo, Carr. 179 km.0.5 (Interior)

Five (5) public hearings will be held remote virtual mode through the application TEAMS, one for each PMO's regions for the benefit of citizens. The interested person must register in the electronic addresses provided for their participation and be able to receive by email the invitation with the corresponding link, which they can share. In addition, the links to each remote public hearings will be available on the Board's website for access by all citizens interested in participating.

DATE	TIME	PLACES
September 24, 2020	10:00 AM	San Juan
		Arecibo
		Aguadilla
		Ponce
		Humacao

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

The Planning Board, with the collaboration of the Permits Management Office and the other Concerned Government Entities, namely: General Service Administration; Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority; Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority; Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority; Ports Authority; Gaming Commission of the Government of Puerto Rico; Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corporation; Puerto Rico Tourism Company; Department of Agriculture; Department of Consumer Affairs; Department of Economic Development and Commerce; Department of Education; Department of the Treasury; Department of Family; Department of Housing; Department of Recreation and Sports; Department of Environmental and Natural Resources; Department of Health; Department of Public Safety, particularly the Police Bureau and the Fire Department Bureau; Department of Transportation and Public Works; Institute for Puerto Rican Culture; Public Service Regulatory Board, particularly the Telecommunications Bureau and Transportation and others Public Services Bureau; State Historic Preservation Office, propose:

1. The adoption of the Joint Permits Regulations for the Evaluation and Issuance of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation (Joint Regulation 2020), to establish and apply: (a) a uniform system of adjudication; (b) the evaluation and issuance of final determinations, permits and recommendations related to construction works and land use; (c) the green design guides for the training of Authorized Professionals and any other person interested in being certified under the Puerto Rico green design guidelines; (d) procedure of audits and complaints before the Planning Board, the Concerned Government Entities and the Autonomous Municipalities with Hierarchies from I to III, as applicable; and (e) any other matter that Act No. 161-2017, has referred addressed through regulation and those specifically concerning the Permit Management Office. Establish that in harmony with the powers in Book VI of the Puerto Rico Municipal Code, Act No. 107-2020, which grants the Autonomous Municipalities by virtue of the provisions, they have acquired the powers to evaluate, grant or deny permits, so that these powers are in accordance with the provisions of this Joint Regulation 2020, aimed in this way to standardize, modernize and expedite the granting or denial of permits.
2. Repeal the Joint Permits Regulation for the Evaluation and Issuance of Permits Related to Development, Land Use and Business Operation, in effect since June 7, 2019.
3. Repeal the Resolutions of the Planning Board whose provisions have been incorporated into the draft of the proposed Joint Regulation 2020 and are contained in Section 1.6.10.2 - Resolutions, Volume I.
4. The provisions of this Joint Regulation 2020 will prevail over any other regulation that conflicts with the provisions of this Regulation.

DOCUMENT EXPOSITION:

The draft of the Joint Regulation 2020 will be available from **September 4, 2020**, through the Planning Board's website as, www.jp.pr.gov; at the Secretary Office of the Planning Board (Floor 16), and at the Permits Management Office (PMO), both located in the Government Center Roberto Sánchez Vilella (formerly Minillas), North building, De Diego Avenue, corner with Baldorioty de Castro Avenue, stop 22 in Santurce, by appointment from 8:00 a.m. at 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. at 4:30 p.m. To coordinate an appointment, you can contact the phone 787-723-6200 or 787-200-7574 or email comentariosjp@jp.pr.gov. Also at the PMO's Regional Offices located at: municipalities of Aguadilla, Arecibo, Humacao, and Ponce. It will also be available at the Permits Offices of the Autonomous Municipalities that have an Agreement for the Delegation of Competencies and Hierarchy Transfer, which are Aguadilla, Aibonito, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Cabo Rojo, Caguas, Carolina, Cayey, Cidra, Coamo, Comerio, Fajardo, Guaynabo, Humacao, Ponce, Salinas, San Juan and Villalba.

PUBLIC INVITATION:

We invite all government agencies, private entities, municipalities and the public to participate in these hearings and to submit their written comments.

In accordance with Act No. 38 of June 30, 2017, a period of thirty (30) days, from the date of the publication of this notice, is granted to submit written comments. Comments must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the Planning Board, located on the 16th floor of the Roberto Sánchez Vilella Government Center (formerly Minillas), North building, De Diego Avenue, corner with Baldorioty de Castro Avenue, stop 22, Santurce, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In addition, by mail to the address: PO Box 41119, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00940-1119. Likewise, comments may be submitted via email to the Planning Board at the following address: comentariosjp@jp.pr.gov. The Planning Board will acknowledge receipt of these comments received by electronic means over the next two (2) working days counted from the date of receipt, as provided in Section 2.1 of Act No. 38-2017.


LOIDA SOTO NOGUERAS
Secretary


MARIA DEL C. GORDILLO PEREZ
President

