2015 SBC Code Solution

The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.

Code Issue:
DR9-2017 requires small efficiency dwelling units (SEDU's) be provided with natural light per SBC 1205.2.   SBC 1205.2.2 requires exterior openings for natural light to open directly onto a public way, yard or court per SBC 1206. The width and length code requirements for yards and courts per SBC 1206 are written relative to stories above grade. What about stories below grade? How is story count calculated for the purpose of providing natural light for a SEDU?

Interpretation:

Calculate the story count for each building elevation containing a SEDU window used to provide natural light per SBC 1205.2. Count the number of stories from the lowest story with a SEDU window at that elevation to the top story of the building including below grade stories.

> **Exception:** Do not include a basement story in the story count if the distance from the basement SEDU window sill to grade is less than 4 feet.   Where this exception applies, the basement court width shall match the required yard width at the first floor.

For questions about whether this code solution applies to your project:
- *If you have submitted a permit application, contact the Building Code plan reviewer assigned to your application*
- *If you have not submitted an application, send us a question through the SDCI website*
  http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/toolsresources/sendusaquestion/default.htm or in person at the Applicant Services Center. Visit the Applicant Services Center website for more information about hours and location
  http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/aboutus/whoweare/applicantservicescenter/default.htm