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July 20, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, #244
San Francisco, CA 94012

RE: Support for file 200760 - Emergency Ordinance - Temporary Waiver of Business Registration and License Fees for Certain Small Businesses Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce supports the legislation introduced by Supervisor Gordon Mar, and co-sponsored by Supervisors Stefani and Walton that will waive business registration fees for eligible small businesses for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and those fees due on March 31st, 2020.

This ordinance is a great step to show support and provide hope for small businesses who are doing all they can to persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic amid a truly unprecedented crash in revenue. Recent consumer spending data has indicated that retail spending has fallen by upwards of 90% since March, defining essentially a hard stop of cash flow for many of San Francisco's beloved small businesses.

The businesses that would benefit from this emergency ordinance would include many of the hallmark small businesses that make our neighborhoods the diverse and engaging places they are to work and live like florists, hair salons, small fitness studios, or the local gathering place which has been decommissioned by COVID-19. Many of these businesses are the ones who have not had substantial help from other programs and are vital to our neighborhoods.

The savings from the waived fees, while modest, could be the difference between being able to invest in tools to help the business reopen safely like PPE or new signage. We must do everything we can to try and preserve our small business ecosystem in San Francisco and invest in their resiliency.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce actively supports policies that uplift our small business community which contributes so greatly to San Francisco's vibrance and culture. We believe this ordinance will help small businesses to maintain a foothold in San Francisco's neighborhood commercial districts and hopefully be successful in the long-term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Rodney Fong, President & CEO
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

cc: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors; All Supervisors; Mayor London N. Breed