



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

February 24, 2016

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: BOS File No. 150969 [Planning Code - Affordable Housing Bonus Programs]

Small Business Commission Recommendation: To continue as is and give the Office of Small Business Staff and Office of Economic and Workforce Development the authority to continue to work on the issue.

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On February 24, 2016, the Small Business Commission (SBC) unanimously voted to continue the discussion of the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP) legislation and give the staffs of the Office of Small Business (OSB) and Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) the authority to continue working on recommendations to address the concerns of small business owners.

The SBC iterated its acknowledgement of the dire need for more affordable housing in the City and its enthusiastic support for the intent of the legislation to encourage construction of more affordable housing, as affordable housing is essential for small business owners and their employees. The SBC chose not to make a yes or no recommendation at this time, and expressed its desire to continue the dialog as the City develops and refines it plans to build more affordable housing.

In the two AHBP hearings held at the SBC, the Commission acknowledged the progress that the Planning Department has made in considering recommendations from the SBC and possible amendments and revisions to the legislation to address concerns of small business owners related to possible business interruption, displacement, relocation and closure.

The SBC's role is to represent the interests of the small business community, and advise the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and City Departments on legislation and policy matters that affect small businesses in the City and County of San Francisco. Presently, the proposed legislation has met strong opposition from small business owners, several neighborhood merchant associations and the San Francisco Council of District Merchants, who are primarily concerned about potential interruption of their businesses that might result from demolition of their current locations to make way for new housing development. While the Planning Department has made progress addressing this issue in the past few weeks, the SBC determined that small business owners have not yet had sufficient opportunity to evaluate the possible legislation modifications. Therefore, the SBC voted to continue the discussion and allow for more public discussion and legislative consideration before making an official recommendation of support. The SBC requested that the staff of the OSB and OEWD continue to work with the staff of the Planning Department to address the concerns of the small business community.

The SBC's goal is to assure that the proposed legislation maximizes the benefits of affordable housing development while minimizing the negative impact on any small businesses displaced at development sites and providing support for adversely impacted small business owners.

The Small Business Commission extends its appreciation to Planning staff Kearstin Dischinger and Shelia Nickolopoulos for their time and thorough presentations to the Small Business Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Dick-Endrizzi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Regina" being the most prominent part.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

cc: Alisa Somera, Clerk of Land Use and Transportation Committee