



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
GAVIN NEWSOM, MAYOR

May 20, 2010

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
City Hall room 244
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

RE: File No. 100529 Creation of Neighborhood Community Justice Task Force

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative code by adding Sections 5.70 through 5.75, to create a Neighborhood Community Justice Task Force to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding the creation of restorative and community justice programs; provide for the Task Force's membership, organization, and duties; and set a sunset date for the Task Force.

Small Business Commission Recommendation: **Approval in conjunction with SBC recommendations for File No. 100233 [Prohibition on sitting or lying on public sidewalks]**

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

On May 10, 2010, the Small Business Commission heard and recommended approval to the Board of Supervisors for File No. 100529. The Commission continues to recommend approval of File No. 100233 with modification as specified in our response dated May 6, 2010. Furthermore, the Commission feels that both items will compliment each other and that File 100529 is an appropriate companion piece of legislation to File No. 100233.

The Small Business Commission supports restorative justice programs and commends President Chiu and the Public Safety Committee for adding a representative of the Commission to the list of non voting members of the proposed Neighborhood Community Justice Task Force. On April 27, 2010 Commission staff and several commissioners met with representatives from Larkin Street Youth, Coalition for Homelessness and the Homeless Youth Alliance. The discussion was positive, cordial and the dialogue helped all parties better understand each others concerns related to the proposed Sit/Lie ordinance. The creation of the task force will provide an opportunity for this spirit of cooperation to continue and expand, along with providing restorative justice opportunities in target neighborhoods.

The Small Business Commission thinks this ordinance, in conjunction with the proposed Sit/Lie law will address a number of concerns that small business merchants have expressed to the Commission relating to disruptive and intimidating conduct on sidewalks. Should the proposed Sit/Lie ordinance not be passed however, the Commission has concerns that the Neighborhood Community Task Force may not adequately address the underlying issues which led to the Sit/Lie proposal. Many behaviors, including



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
GAVIN NEWSOM, MAYOR



verbally harassing employees and customers will remain a problem, along with other concerns outlined in our response to File No. 100233. We are also concerned that many components necessary to effective restorative justice programs, including increased social services, will not be an option during this difficult economic climate. Lastly, while the Haight Street merchant corridor is generally considered to be the most impacted by problem sidewalk behaviors, there are a number of other merchant corridors and districts which are in need of solutions. The timeline of implementing restorative justice programs beyond the Haight may not provide relief within an acceptable timeline.

The Small Business Commission looks forward to continuing a dialogue with the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor and neighborhood stakeholders to help make our vibrant commercial corridors more welcoming to business owners, employees, residents and shoppers alike.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Regina Dick-Endrizzi". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

cc. Supervisors Chiu, Mirkarimi, Dufty and Alioto-Pier
Nicolas King
Starr Terrell
Victor Young, Clerk of the Public Safety Committee