

To: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
From: Ben Van Houten, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Re: Type 87 Liquor Licenses & Community Outreach Obligation
Date: November 28, 2017

In the coming weeks, a series of applicants for Type 87 liquor licenses will be requesting that the Board of Supervisors confirm that the applicants have satisfied a pre-application community outreach requirement unique to this new type of license. This memo provides background information regarding the Type 87 license and the community outreach obligation.

In 2016, the California Legislature adopted SB 1285, codified as California Business & Professions Code Section 23826.13. This legislation authorized the creation of a new type of affordable, non-transferable liquor license exclusively for restaurants located in a set of target San Francisco neighborhoods (Bayview, Excelsior, Ocean Avenue, Portola, Noriega Street, Taraval Street and Visitacion Valley).

The bill was developed to help address challenges these commercial corridors face in supporting existing restaurants and attracting new ones to vacant storefronts. Successful restaurants provide a number of benefits to neighborhoods, by reducing storefront vacancies, adding to the variety of neighborhood-serving small businesses, creating good jobs for residents, providing important spaces for neighbors to meet and socialize, and boosting foot traffic.

One barrier that hinders the success of businesses in these neighborhoods is the prohibitively high cost of a full liquor license that allows a restaurant to serve spirits in addition to beer and wine. Because state law has capped the number of full liquor licenses available in San Francisco, licenses can only be purchased from existing business owners. Due to the scarcity of available licenses, full liquor licenses are currently being sold for prices exceeding \$250,000 each.

SB 1285 authorized the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (“ABC”) to issue five non-transferable neighborhood-restricted licenses to new or existing restaurants located in the above-mentioned target neighborhoods. These licenses are available at the state’s existing application fee for a new full liquor license, currently set at \$13,800. This price is far more accessible for small business owners than the high prices on the secondary market.

Businesses interested in applying for these licenses, designated as “Type 87” liquor licenses by the ABC, were invited to submit preliminary “priority applications” from September 11-22, 2017 at the San Francisco ABC office. Because more than five businesses submitted priority applications for Type 87 licenses, the ABC conducted a public drawing on October 12, 2017 to establish the order in which it would begin inviting applicants to submit formal applications for Type 87 licenses.

Beginning on October 12, the first five applicants drawn were invited to complete the required pre-application process and submit a full liquor license application within 90 days. If one of those five businesses chooses to withdraw their application or is otherwise unable to qualify for a license, the ABC

will invite the next business on the drawing list to submit a full application, and will continue this process until five licenses have been issued.

Prior to submitting a full application for a Type 87 license, a prospective applicant must hold at least one pre-application community meeting to discuss the application with neighbors and members of the community in which the premises are located. At least 14 calendar days before the community meeting is set to occur, the applicant must mail written notice of the meeting to every resident within a 500-foot radius of the premises, to neighborhood associations identified by the Planning Department, and to the Chief of Police.

Following the completion of the community meeting, the applicant must secure, on ABC Form 522-2, signed verification from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors that the applicant has completed the required community outreach. Each resolution to confirm that an applicant has satisfied the outreach obligation will be heard in the Board's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee. An applicant will be expected to provide the following items in order to demonstrate satisfaction of the community outreach obligation: a copy of the applicant's pre-application meeting notice, a signed document offering proof of mailing, and meeting minutes or equivalent materials evidencing completion of the meeting.

The signed Form 522-2 must be submitted to ABC at the time the applicant submits their full application for a Type 87 license in order for that application to be deemed complete by the ABC. Following the submission of a complete application, ABC staff will undertake the standard review process that applies to any new liquor license application, including, among other requirements, referring the application to the San Francisco Planning Department and San Francisco Police Department for their review.