

From: [Stephen Torres](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Low, Jen \(BOS\)](#); [Prager, Jackie \(BOS\)](#); [Logan, Samantha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2025.04.14.2025 Letter to SF BOS Land Use Re: Conditional Use & Upzoning Notice Changes
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 11:11:55 AM
Attachments: [2025.04.14.2025 Letter to SF BOS Land Use Re Conditional Use & Upzoning Notice Changes.pdf](#)

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Good morning Clerk Carroll,

Please be in receipt of this Letter to the Land Use Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors regarding Item No.s 1 and 2 on today's agenda.

As always, thanks so much for your work and time.

Best,

Stephen Torres

Stephen Torres
3158 Mission Street, Apartment No. 3
San Francisco, California 94110

April 14, 2025

The Land Use Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Good afternoon Chairperson Melgar and Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Land Use Committee,

I am writing in regard to Item Numbers 1 and 2 in today's agenda.

On Item 1, I ask that you not approve the rescinding of the conditional use authorization for formula retail on Van Ness Avenue in between Broadway and Redwood Street.

On Item 2, I ask that you approve the amendment to require notice of rezoning intended to comply with the Housing Element law.

The reasoning behind both of these requests is simple. In the times we are living in, we are currently seeing the power and voice of the people consistently eroded through unilateral orders and legislation acting on behalf of special interest. As a city that purports to uplift the voice of the people, it would be a contradiction to both remove their ability to inform the kind of business that matches and cultivates the ecosystem of any business corridor in this city or to deprive them of the notice of the drastic and sweeping changes as proposed by the rezoning plan.

Specific to Item 1, in light of the unstable and disingenuous nature of formula retail in today's market and its capricious relationship with our city, this change for this kind of retail does not make economic sense. It is also seemingly and singularly supportive to the rezoning of Van Ness Avenue by not taking into account the valuable local businesses already there and only erodes their protections when they need them the most. It more or less secures the right of formula retail over mom and pop, and fast forwards to the inevitable outcome of rezoning on local small business by unfettering the restrictions on the only businesses that will be able to afford retail space in new developments: corporations.

Specific to Item 2, I would like to thank Supervisor Chan for introducing this amendment as it displays her understanding of her role as Supervisor to inform her constituents and all San Franciscans of possible major changes to our City and give them transparency, understanding, and at least some ability to determine what happens in their community.

I know that the Members of this Committee and the entire Board of Supervisors are always cognizant that they not only serve at the discretion of the people of the City and County of San Francisco, but also in compliance with the laws of the State of California, and indeed, our Nation. I also understand that striking a balance between these may, at times, prove difficult, especially with mandates that are onerous and specious in nature or act against the will of the

people by design. I strongly urge, however, that the balance fall in favour of the people. An informed and consenting people are not an impediment to progress.

Sincerely,

Stephen Torres
District 9 Resident and Legacy Business Worker

Cc:
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors