

From: [Sharif Zakout](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: AROC Letter of Support - EMWG
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:18:52 PM
Attachments: [AROCletterofsupport EMWG Recommendations.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached is our letter of support for recommendation 4, the elimination of the DAO, from the EMWG.

Thank you,
Sharif

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Sharif Zakout
Membership Coordinator & Organizer
Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC)
[Facebook page](#)
sharif@araborganizing.org
415.861.7444

December 9, 2020

To:
Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]

On behalf of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC), please accept this letter of support for the proposed recommendation # 4, the elimination of the Deemed Approved Off-Sale Use Ordinance submitted by the Economic Mitigation Working Group.

Our organization's mission is to serve and organize the Arab and Muslim community. We provide direct immigration legal services, build community power, and challenge racism, and other forms of oppression. We support this proposed recommendation because we recognize that our community, like many others, will be directly impacted by these policies. As an organization that centers immigrants and workers, we want policies that better their health, safety and well-being, and that of all impacted communities in our San Francisco neighborhoods.

We are writing today in support of the Arab Grocers Association and the Economic Mitigation Working Group (EMWG) recommendations 4 & 7 submitted by Supervisors Shamann Walton and Sandra Fewer. This is a step in the right direction in preserving our city's valuable convenience stores. The recommendations include immediate material relief for impacted small businesses in the form of fee elimination, access to subsidized awning replacements, increased technical support and funding to healthy retail programming.

In particular, the elimination of the Deemed Approved Off-Sale Use Ordinance, will rid an outdated broken-window era policy from our books, one that continues to bring unnecessary police presence to our neighborhoods and businesses. According to the data presented by the Working Group, there remains a high compliance rate by merchants, yet most compliant retailers are not aware of the waiver and continue to be charged for the fee. Several departments have agreed that this is a duplicative program and many of the violations are already covered with ABC and State code. The demographic of ownership and workforce in the sector addressed in these recommendations is largely an immigrant population, with multi-generational businesses and local hire and promotion practices.

San Francisco corner markets are a staple in our neighborhoods. These recommendations and policy steps will help compensate for great financial losses incurred over the last several years as a result of city policies targeting neighborhood markets. Displacement, gentrification, and rising rents are compounded issues when met with disproportionate fees and restrictions on businesses and working-class communities. We believe economic relief for this vital and struggling sector, especially in these times, will go far in keeping our communities in this city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lara Kiswani, Executive Director

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: File #201160, Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report
Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020 8:21:52 AM
Attachments: [EMWG Letter Final.pdf](#)

From: Maryo Mogannam <maryo@sfcdma.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:07 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Mandelman, Rafael (BOS) <rafael.mandelman@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>
Cc: Laguana, Sharky (ECN) <sharky.laguana@sfgov.org>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>
Subject: RE: File #201160, Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report

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Dear Supervisors Mandelman, Stefani, and Walton,

Thank you for your tireless dedication and commitment to the people of San Francisco.
Please see the attached letter regarding the Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report, File #201160.

"Socially Distant but Staying Close"

Maryo Mogannam, President
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

Advocating for 43,570 tiny* businesses with 217,850 employees
many of them living and **voting** in S.F. *(10 or fewer employees)





San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

SFCDMA

Maryo Mogannam
President

Masood Samereie
Vice-President

Al Williams
Vice-President

Ixchel Acosta
Secretary

Henry Karnilowicz
Secretary

Susie McKinnon
Treasurer

The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Chair, Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
The Honorable Catherine Stefani
The Honorable Shamann Walton
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

December 7, 2020

RE: File #201160, Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report

Dear Supervisors Mandelman, Stefani and Walton,

The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations (SFCDMA) has served to protect, preserve and promote small businesses in San Francisco for 70 years. We represent local merchant associations and an eclectic mix of neighborhood businesses in every commercial district.

Our members and the merchants we represent across the city extend our gratitude for the excellent work of the Economic Mitigation Working Group (EMWG) convened by the Office of Small Business (OSB) regarding economic challenges faced by certain small businesses as a result of the City's mandated tobacco control laws. SFCDMA Vice President Masood Samereie served on the EMWG which identified 15 policy recommendations to help mitigate these challenges.

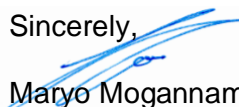
Of the recommendations included in the Economic Mitigation Working Group Summary prepared by the OSB, the SFCDMA is especially supportive of Recommendation #4, Elimination of the DAO (Deemed Approved Ordinance). This recommendation states: *"Where the majority of tobacco retail license holders are also subject to paying the DAO fee, where there have been historically high compliance rates with the DAO's performance standards, and where the performance standards are largely duplicative of State requirements, the Working Group concurred that the DAO fee should be fully eliminated. As such, Chapter 26 of the Administrative Code should be repealed. This would be a legislative change and would require action by the Board of Supervisors."*

The DAO ordinance is outdated and duplicative. It elicits unwarranted police responses in equity neighborhoods where merchants are largely compliant. The San Francisco Police Department and Department of Public Health agree these violations are already covered by ABC and state codes.

Small businesses impacted by this and similar ordinances were already struggling before the COVID-19 pandemic. With renewed shutdown orders we must ensure that San Francisco's small neighborhood merchants are not hurt additionally by unnecessary, punitive fees that compound the difficulties they face as we move through and beyond the pandemic.

The SFCDMA commends the Office of Small Business for convening the Economic Mitigation Working Group and urges the Board of Supervisors to address the recommendations in the EMWG Summary.

Sincerely,


Maryo Mogannam, President
SFCDMA

cc: Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Sharky Laguana, Chair, Small Business Commission; Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director, OSB

From: [Miriam Zouzounis](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support Letter: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 6:38:10 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support - Item 3 - File 201160 - Neighborhood Business Alliance .pdf](#)

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Please see our attached letter of support for agenda item 3 for the 12/10 hearing.

Thank you!



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]

Honorable Supervisors,

The Neighborhood Business Alliance is a membership-based 501c6 trade association founded by retailers in the Arab, Asian and Black communities in the Bay Area. We also serve as a technical support and advocacy organization for disproportionately impacted business communities and bring them to the table around local economic policies and beyond. The majority of our member businesses hold regulatory licenses and require culturally sensitive and frequent communications on legislative changes and compliance requirements facing this industry.

We urge you to support the Economic Mitigation Working Group (EMWG) Recommendations and recommend action on subsequent hearings for the elimination of the Deemed Approved Off-Sale Use Fee (DAO) and the Cigarette Litter Abatement Fee (CLA). These two fees are redundant both in existing enforcement codes and fee schedules covering street cleaning costs and nuisance abatement violations that businesses are currently accruing from multiple sources. We encourage you to devise more reliable funding streams for programming related to litter prevention education (i.e. not based on decreasing consumer patterns) and street cleaning costs that reflect the predominant sources of litter on our streets (i.e. to-go containers, fast food, beverage containers, etc.). A small, independent, and majority immigrant and senior-owned and operated sector should not have to pay the disproportionate cost for issues facing our entire City such as graffiti and street cleaning.

These Recommendations and the necessary policy steps to be taken up, will help compensate for extensive financial losses incurred over the last several years resulting from City policies targeting our neighborhood markets.

Thank you for your consideration!

Neighborhood Business Alliance Executive Board

Neighborhoodbusiness.org

From: [Aminah](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160
Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020 8:01:26 AM

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Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]

Honorable Supervisors,

I am writing today on behalf of Tony Baloney's Cafe in support of the Economic Mitigation Working Group (EMWG) Recommendations. As a small family run business, we are confident that these recommendations are a first step in the right direction in preserving our City's valuable corner markets and convenience stores. The Recommendations include immediate material relief for impacted small businesses, such as our own, in the form of fee elimination, access to subsidized awning replacements, and increased technical support and funding to healthy retail programming. These are all necessary in order to keep longstanding minority-owned small businesses in San Francisco.

What stands out to us, the elimination of the Deemed Approved Off-Sale Use Ordinance, will rid an outdated broken-window era policy from our books, one that continues to bring unnecessary police presence to our equity neighborhoods and businesses. According to the data presented by the Working Group, there remains a high compliance rate by merchants, yet most compliant retailers are not aware of the waiver and continue to be charged for the fee. Both SFPD and the DPH have agreed that this is a duplicative program and many of the violations are already covered with ABC and State code.

The demographic of ownership and workforce in the sector addressed in these Recommendations, is

largely an immigrant population, with multi-generational businesses and local hire and promotion practices.

Another fee addressed in the Recommendations is the Point of Sale Fee under the Weights and Measures Program. This Fee has not been updated to reflect the current and widespread use of POS

terminals, and does not differentiate between Formula Retailers (Safeway, etc.) and Small Businesses

who only have one terminal.

Less than 700 small San Francisco corner stores, independent liquor stores, and grocers have taken on the burden of paying 5% of the entire City's street cleaning budget with the Cans and Bottles CRV redemption and collection fees and Cigarette Litter Abatement Fees. Now more than ever, we need relief including that in the form of fee alleviation and expanded resources. San Francisco small businesses such as our own are essential to our neighborhoods, we personally have been in business for over 30 years and we all know how to serve our

communities best and are trying to remain in business despite ongoing circumstances that make it incredibly difficult. Actions such as the ones mentioned will make a significant difference in making up for the financial losses we have taken on due to City policies that disproportionately target neighborhood markets.

We believe economic relief for this vital and struggling sector, will go far in keeping our communities in this City. Displacement, gentrification, and rising rents are compounded issues when met with disproportionate fees and restrictions on trying to grow and operate a business. We are asking for increased resources to meet these increased regulations, and particularly, culturally-sensitive support that is encouraging compliance as opposed to assuming guilt via standing fees and redundant enforcement.

On behalf of not only my own small business but all of those in San Francisco, I genuinely hope to see these recommendations considered and taken up as action items in future hearings.

Thank you for your time & consideration!

Aminah Joudeh, Assistant Manager
Tony Baloney's Cafe & Deli

From: [Arab American Grocers Association \(AAGA\)](#)
To: [Carroll, John \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]
Date: Monday, December 7, 2020 4:49:21 PM
Attachments: [AAGA Letter - File 201160 .pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

Please see attached written comment in support of item #3.

Thank you!



Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Agenda Item 3. File # 201160 [Hearing - Economic Mitigation Working Group Findings and Recommendations Report]

Honorable Supervisors,

We are writing today in support of the Economic Mitigation Working Group (EMWG) Recommendations. Our member businesses are on the front lines serving their neighborhoods as essential workers, and we believe that in order for them to continue to keep their doors open and comply with new guidance and regulations, immediate relief on fee schedules and increased access to resources will go far.

In particular, the elimination of the Deemed Approved Off-Sale Use Ordinance, will rid an outdated broken-window era policy from our books, one that continues to bring unnecessary police presence to our equity neighborhoods and businesses. According to the data presented by the Working Group, there remains a high compliance rate by merchants, yet most compliant retailers are not aware of the waiver and continue to be charged for the fee. Both SFPD and the DPH have agreed that this is a duplicative program and many of the violations are already covered with ABC and State code.

The demographic of ownership and workforce in the sector addressed in these Recommendations, is largely an immigrant population, with multi-generational businesses and local hire and promotion practices. Our City needs to show they stand by our small grocers and will no longer criminalize them with low-hanging fees, outdated violations, and redundant enforcement.

Another fee addressed in the Recommendations is the Point of Sale Fee under the Weights and Measures Program. This Fee has not been updated to reflect the current and widespread use of POS terminals, and does not differentiate between Formula Retailers (Safeway, etc.) and Small Businesses who only have one terminal.

This sector also takes the brunt of the cost in paying for our City's street cleaning as a whole through mandatory Cans and Bottles CRV redemption and collection fees and Cigarette Litter Abatement Fees which account for 5% of the entire budget being paid for by less than 700 small retailers. We believe there is room to reassess this funding source to make it more reflective on the sources of litter at this time and the large companies that are responsible as opposed to create a disparate impact on a narrow sector of immigrant small businesses.

Thank you for your consideration!

Thank You.

Best,

Arab American Grocer Association (AAGA) Executive Board