

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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June 1, 2021

File No. 210600

Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gibson:

On May 25, 2021, Supervisor Peskin submitted the following legislation:

File No. 210600

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) allow neighborhood-serving Social Service and Philanthropic Facility uses in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts with conditional use authorization; 2) change the provision for abandonment of a use that exceeds a use size maximum in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts; 3) change the use size limit and use size maximum in the Chinatown Community Business District; 4) exempt Institutional Community uses and Legacy Business Restaurants in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts from use size limits; 5) allow lot mergers under certain conditions in the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District; and 6) exclude the portion of Powell Street south of Union Street from the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and public necessity, convenience, and general welfare findings pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Erica Major".

By: Erica Major, Assistant Clerk
Land Use and Transportation Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning
Don Lewis, Environmental Planning

1 [Planning Code - Small Business Zoning Controls in Chinatown and North Beach and on Polk
2 Street]

3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) allow neighborhood-serving Social**
4 **Service and Philanthropic Facility uses in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts with**
5 **conditional use authorization; 2) change the provision for abandonment of a use that**
6 **exceeds a use size maximum in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts; 3) change the use size**
7 **limit and use size maximum in the Chinatown Community Business District; 4) exempt**
8 **Institutional Community uses and Legacy Business Restaurants in Chinatown Mixed**
9 **Use Districts from use size limits; 5) allow lot mergers under certain conditions in the**
10 **Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District; and 6) exclude the portion of Powell**
11 **Street south of Union Street from the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial**
12 **Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict; affirming the Planning**
13 **Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and**
14 **making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of**
15 **Planning Code, Section 101.1, and public necessity, convenience, and general welfare**
16 **findings pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.**

17 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
18 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
19 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
20 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
21 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
22 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
23 subsections or parts of tables.

22 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

23 Section 1. Land Use and Environmental Findings.

24 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
25 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources

1 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
2 Supervisors in File No. ____ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this
3 determination.

4 (b) On _____, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. _____,
5 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,
6 with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The
7 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of
8 the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____, and is incorporated herein by reference.

9 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that this
10 ordinance will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare for the reasons set forth in
11 Planning Commission Resolution No. _____, recommending approval of the proposed
12 designation, which is incorporated herein by reference.

13

14 Section 2. General Findings.

15 (a) Legacy Businesses, by virtue of their long-term presence in their communities,
16 contribute to the unique character and vibrancy of San Francisco neighborhoods. Enhancing
17 their long-term viability helps to stabilize commercial corridors.

18 (b) Within existing limits on use size, allowing Legacy Businesses to expand their
19 footprints within the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District to enhance revenue
20 streams supports the long-term viability of these unique, neighborhood-defining small
21 business anchors, with little or no impact to the fine-grained nature of the Polk Street
22 commercial corridor.

23

24 Section 3. The Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 121.4, 723,
25 and 781.6, to read as follows:

SEC. 121.4. NON-RESIDENTIAL USE SIZE LIMITS IN MIXED USE DISTRICTS.

In order to protect and maintain small scale use within an historically significant area and to conserve neighborhood-serving uses in Chinatown, Commercial Uses which exceed the use size limits up to the maximum limits stated in the table below shall be permitted only as Conditional Uses subject to the provisions set forth in Section 303 of this Code. The use area shall be measured as the Gross Floor Area for each individual commercial use. Individual Commercial Uses above the use size maximum below shall not be permitted, *except that a Social Service or Philanthropic Facility that primarily serves the Chinatown neighborhood may be permitted as a Conditional Use.* Further, any ~~space-use~~ that exceeds the use size maximum below shall be deemed abandoned with any change of use or if no business has been operational for a period of ~~three years~~ *eighteen months* or more, ~~except the a use exceeding the maximum~~ use size maximum shall not be deemed abandoned if (1) the change of use is for a Restaurant that is a Legacy Business or for an Institutional Use, ~~or; if~~ (2) a Restaurant that is a Legacy Business or an Institutional Use occupies the non-conforming space after such ~~three year~~ *eighteen-month* period; or (3) upon conditional use authorization, a Social Service or Philanthropic Facility that primarily serves the Chinatown neighborhood occupies the non-conforming space.

District	Use Size Maximum	Use Size Limit
Chinatown Visitor	5,000 sq. ft.	2,500 sq. ft.
Chinatown Residential Neighborhood Commercial	4,000 sq. ft.	2,500 sq. ft.
Chinatown Community Business	No Maximum <u>5,000 sq. ft.</u>	5,000 <u>2,500</u> sq. ft.

1 In the Chinatown Visitor Retail, Chinatown Residential Neighborhood Commercial, and
2 Chinatown Community Districts, the use size limit shall not apply to a Restaurant that is a Legacy
3 Business or to an Institutional Community Use.

4
5 **SEC. 723. POLK STREET NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.**

6 * * * *

7 **(b) Controls.**

8 * * * *

9 (3) **Merger of Storefronts Prohibited.** To preserve and maintain the district’s
10 small-scale, fine grain storefronts, the consolidation or merger of existing ground floor retail or
11 commercial spaces or storefronts shall be prohibited, except that two adjacent storefronts may be
12 consolidated or merged if the storefronts are for a Legacy Business on a corner lot within the same
13 building and Block and Lot number, and provided that the consolidation or merger of storefronts would
14 not result in a use size in excess of the principally permitted use size within the Polk Street NCD.

15 * * * *

16
17 **SEC. 781.6. NORTH BEACH FINANCIAL SERVICE, LIMITED FINANCIAL**
18 **SERVICE, AND BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE SUBDISTRICT.**

19 (a) **Purpose.** In order to preserve the unique mixture of local, citywide and regional
20 sales and services in the North Beach area, there shall be a North Beach Financial Service,
21 Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict, generally
22 applicable for the portion of the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District south of
23 Greenwich Street, excluding Powell Street south of Union Street, as designated on Sectional Map
24 SU01 of the Zoning Map.

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Section 4. The Planning Code is hereby amended in accordance with Planning Code Section 106 by revising Sectional Map SU01 of the Zoning Map as follows:

Assessor's Block and Lot	Zoning Subdistrict to be Superseded	Zoning District Hereby Approved
Block 117: Lots: 011 012 013 014 015 016 Block 118: Lots: 001 002 003 004 005 006 007 008 009 Block 129: Lots: 001 002 002C 002D 003 004 005 006 007 Block: 130 Lots: 022 023 024 025 026 027 028 029	North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict	North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Planning Code - Small Business Zoning Controls in Chinatown and North Beach and on Polk Street]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) allow neighborhood-serving Social Service and Philanthropic Facility uses in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts with conditional use authorization; 2) change the provision for abandonment of a use that exceeds a use size maximum in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts; 3) change the use size limit and use size maximum in the Chinatown Community Business District; 4) exempt Institutional Community uses and Legacy Business Restaurants in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts from use size limits; 5) allow lot mergers under certain conditions in the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District; and 6) exclude the portion of Powell Street south of Union Street from the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and public necessity, convenience, and general welfare findings pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

Existing Law

Section 121.4 of the Planning Code establishes use size maximums and use size limits (the latter being thresholds triggering conditional use authorization requirements) for the Chinatown Visitor Retail and Chinatown Residential Neighborhood Commercial Districts. Among other things, Section 121.4 (1) prohibits uses above the use size maximum; (2) provides that a use that exceeds the use size maximum shall be deemed abandoned with any change of use or if no business has been operational for a period of three years or more, unless the change of use is for a Legacy Business or Institutional Use, or if a Legacy Business or Institutional Use occupies the non-conforming space after the three-year period, and exempts Restaurants from the use size limit in the Chinatown Visitor Retail District.

Section 723 of the Planning Code prohibits the merger of existing ground floor retail or commercial spaces and storefronts in the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District (Polk Street NCD).

Section 781.6 of the Planning Code and the corresponding Zoning Map establish the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Section 121.4 to (1) establish a 5000 square foot use size maximum and would change the use size limit from 5000 to 2500 square feet in the Chinatown Community Business District; (2) allow Social Service and Philanthropic Facilities to exceed the use size maximums with conditional use authorization; (3) shorten the abandonment period for uses exceeding the use size maximum to eighteen months; (4) limit exceptions to the abandonment provision to Institutional Community uses and Restaurants that are Legacy Businesses that occupy the non-conforming space after eighteen months; (5) allow Social Service and Philanthropic Facility uses in the non-conforming space with conditional use authorization; (6) change the exemption from the use size limit in the Chinatown Visitor Retail District to apply only to a Restaurant that is a Legacy Business and to an Institutional Community Use; and (7) exempt Restaurant that is a Legacy Business and to an Institutional Community Use from the use size limits in the Chinatown Residential Neighborhood Commercial, and Chinatown Community Districts.

This ordinance would also amend Section 723 to allow two adjacent storefronts to be consolidated or merged if the storefronts are for a Legacy Business on a corner lot within the same building and Block and Lot number, and provided that the consolidation or merger of storefronts would not result in a use size in excess of the principally permitted use size within the Polk Street NCD.

This ordinance would also amend Section 781.6 to exclude the portion of Powell Street south of Union Street from the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict, and retain that area as part of the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form.

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to 1) allow neighborhood-serving Social Service and Philanthropic Facility uses in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts with conditional use authorization; 2) change the provision for abandonment of a use that exceeds a use size maximum in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts; 3) change the use size limit and use size maximum in the Chinatown Community Business District; 4) exempt Institutional Community uses and Legacy Business Restaurants in Chinatown Mixed Use Districts from use size limits; 5) allow lot mergers under certain conditions in the Polk Street Neighborhood Commercial District; and 6) exclude the portion of Powell Street south of Union Street from the North Beach Financial Service, Limited Financial Service, and Business or Professional Service Subdistrict; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1, and public necessity, convenience, and general welfare findings pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.