

From: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Whole Foods at Masonic & Geary - San Francisco has a RESPONSIBILITY to its residents to ALLOW RETAIL TO EXIST!!!!
Date: Thursday, November 19, 2020 9:22:08 AM
Importance: High

For file

Alisa Somera

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(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS) To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

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**From:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 7:50 PM  
**To:** Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Mchugh, Eileen (BOS) <eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Whole Foods at Masonic & Geary - San Francisco has a RESPONSIBILITY to its residents to ALLOW RETAIL TO EXIST!!!!  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <[board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors <[bos-supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** BOS Legislation, (BOS) <[bos.legislation@sfgov.org](mailto:bos.legislation@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Whole Foods at Masonic & Geary - San Francisco has a RESPONSIBILITY to its residents to ALLOW RETAIL TO EXIST!!!!  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Lukas, Jennifer <[Jennifer.Lukas@colliers.com](mailto:Jennifer.Lukas@colliers.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** CPC-Commissions Secretary <[commissions.secretary@sfgov.org](mailto:commissions.secretary@sfgov.org)>; Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <[mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org](mailto:mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org)>; BOS-Supervisors <[bos-supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:bos-supervisors@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Whole Foods at Masonic & Geary - San Francisco has a RESPONSIBILITY to its residents to ALLOW RETAIL TO EXIST!!!!  
**Importance:** High

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Dear Board of Supervisors, Commission Secretary, and Mayor London Breed,

When the residents of San Francisco cast their ballots to elect you fine people to run our city, we put our trust in you to make decisions that would better our community. What transpired last night was the opposite of that.

I am in support of the project at City Center SF at Masonic and Geary where Whole Foods has signed a lease and FOUGHT for the right to occupy and operate.

If we are going to block Whole Foods because of the possible cancer risk from trucks and cars, we might as well legislate that ALL trucks shall be prohibited in San Francisco, and people must grow their own vegetables.

San Francisco has one of the hardest hit economies in the nation.

Retail vacancy has skyrocketed in the city, and retail vacancy creates blight which dramatically increases crime.

YELP reports that 3000 businesses in the city have closed permanently due to COVID. The vast majority of these were retail stores and restaurants, leaving 10s of 1000s of retail clerks and food service workers unemployed in San Francisco.

We have 1000s of vacant retail spaces in the city, and it takes 6 – 12 months for even a small shop to

get open in the city due to the COVID permit delay. This space has been vacant for over three years. WE need to fill these retail vacancies and we have a moral obligation to do everything possible to bring these retail jobs back.

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Whole Foods will create over 1400 LOCAL retail and food service jobs. Working in retail offers a tremendous career path with the ability to start in the stockroom or check out stand, and grow into management and even the executive level.

Unemployed retail workers desperately need these jobs and the city's retail vacancies need to be filled.

To even consider blocking this store and its 1400 local jobs is unfathomable....especially over a miniscule cancer risk....which can be mitigated by eating the broccoli and cauliflower Whole Foods sells

We should be rolling out the red carpet for Whole Foods for the job growth alone.....and the city should be welcoming and fast tracking any retail business that is brave enough to try to open and operate in San Francisco.

- Whole Foods is proposing a new store location at the City Center, a large space made for formula retail.
  - o The last tenant that occupied the space was Best Buy
  - o The site has a dedicated parking lot
  - o The project has three components:
    - § Grocery Store
    - § Restaurant
    - § Coffee Bar
- This project was passed by the Planning Commission back in June through a 6-1 vote, and has gained widespread support from the community.
- Supporters included:
  - o Food Runners
  - o City Team
  - o Collective Impact
  - o Anza Vista Neighborhood Association
  - o Great Geary Merchant Association
  - o Fillmore Merchant Association
  - o SF Chamber of Commerce
  - o Booker T. Washington Community Center
- This will be a meaningful project in District 2 creating nearly 200 jobs for local residents during a time when unemployment in San Francisco is high and opportunities for economic recovery are needed.
  - o 76% of Whole Foods' 1,420 SF employees live in the city
  - o 72% of employees are full-time
  - o 57% identify as people of color
  - o Average wage is \$19.49 an hour
- Additionally, the City recently approved a new 101-unit housing project on Geary and Masonic, right across the street from the proposed project site. Having this store will be a

benefit to the community as new residents are welcomed into the area.

- Whole Foods is very committed to hiring locally, and providing San Franciscans with employment opportunities. In partnership with Booker T. Washington, Whole Foods has submitted an MOU to the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development committing to the City's First Source Hiring initiative. Through this commitment, Whole Foods will be recruiting at least 30% of new hires from the local San Francisco area by prioritizing individuals affiliated with Booker T. Washington, and working with OEWD to ensure we are creating workforce opportunities for residents.
- This project will also generate \$9.6 million in union construction trade labor
- Through their general contractor (not yet selected), Whole Foods has committed to hiring all union construction trade labor to the extent possible.
  - o For recent past projects, Whole Foods has hired between 84-94% union trades, and expects to spend \$31 million on three pipeline projects including the Geary project.
  - o Additionally, Whole Foods has recently awarded their new Stonestown Mall store to a Union G.C.

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