



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
REGINA DICK-ENDRIZZI, DIRECTOR

October 22, 2021

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: BOS File No. 210808: Planning Code - Requirements for Laundromats and On-site Laundry Services

The Small Business Commission Recommendation to the Board of Supervisors: **Support with the Recommendation to Additionally Conduct an Economic Analysis to Accompany the Legislation.**

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On October 4, 2021 the Small Business Commission (SBC) heard BOS File No. 210808: Planning Code - Requirements for Laundromats and On-site Laundry Services. Lee Hepner, Aide to Supervisor Peskin, presented the proposal. The SBC voted (4-0 with 3 commissioners absent) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors support the legislation with an additional recommendation.

The SBC discussed the importance of laundromats as businesses that provide essential services to low-income communities and residents in high density corridors of San Francisco. Business license data from DataSF show ongoing laundromat closures throughout the City. Additionally, the sponsor noted that based on data from the SF Public Utilities Commission, nearly one third of laundromats in San Francisco have closed in the past decade or so. Commissioner Adams noted a laundromat in his neighborhood closed due to the landlord not renewing the lease and that the business was profitable.

Because the reasons for these closures are not fully known, the SBC thought more exploration into the viability, revenue streams, and business models of laundromats would be useful. If laundromats are typically stable, profitable businesses, land use tools such as conditional use can be particularly effective. An economic evaluation could also help determine the feasibility of relocating current laundromats, or opening new laundromats, which would also address the ongoing closures. Coupled with land use regulations, technical assistance such as business planning or economic incentives, such as utility fee waivers, may be effective in preserving current businesses or supporting new business creation. The SBC recommends that an economic analysis accompany this legislation to address some of these questions and look at preserving and supporting this business model with a wholistic approach.

The SBC hopes this legislation will serve as a deterrent to property owners. The SBC thanks Supervisor Peskin and his staff for raising this important issue which greatly impacts tenants and communities of color. Thank you for considering the Commission's recommendation. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS • SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
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