

**From:** [David Harrison](#)  
**To:** [David Harrison](#)  
**Cc:** [John Bryant](#)  
**Subject:** BOMA SF Letter of Support for Small Business Recovery Act-210285  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 5:04:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021.05.20\\_BOMASF\\_SBRA\\_Support\\_Letter.pdf](#)

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Dear Supervisors and City Staff,

Please find the attached letter from BOMA San Francisco in support of the Small Business Recovery Act. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**David Harrison**

Manager of Government and Public Affairs  
BOMA San Francisco  
(202) 262-5860 (Mobile)  
davidh@boma.com



President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

May 20, 2021

Dear President Walton:

On behalf of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) San Francisco, I write to express my support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA), File Number 210285. BOMA believes that this important legislation, introduced by Mayor Breed, will be a critical step in helping Downtown San Francisco recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For Downtown to thrive, we must reactivate our streets to allow for the success of our small businesses including restaurants, retail and more. We firmly believe that the SBRA will work towards achieving this goal.

From Union Square to the heart of the financial district, to the Embarcadero to SOMA, time and again we hear from our members that the burdensome application and permitting process has undermined the ability for small businesses in our City to thrive. In addition to creating a more predictable and less costly process, the SBRA will also result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less, provide small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources, simplify outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, and enable more businesses to partner with local artists, helping businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors.

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our City's small businesses already faced a difficult landscape. Now, it is more critical than ever to implement these changes to entice San Franciscans to return to our Downtown neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish. BOMA San Francisco is proud to stand with a wide array of San Franciscans in supporting this common-sense legislation. Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully ask for your support too.

Sincerely,

John R. Bryant  
CEO, BOMA San Francisco

**Cc:** Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safaí  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

**From:** [Stan Hayes](#)  
**To:** [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Nickolopoulos, Sheila \(CPC\)](#); [Starr, Aaron \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** THD LETTER - Planning Code Simplification Amendments (2021-002933PCA)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 2:36:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [THD P&Z Ltr to BOS LUTC Simplif Amend FINAL 5-19-21.pdf](#)

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Dear Supervisors Melgar, Preston, and Peskin -

For the upcoming 5/24 meeting of the BOS Land Use & Transportation Committee, please accept this comment letter from the Telegraph Hill Dwellers OPPOSING the above referenced proposed Planning Code simplification amendments.

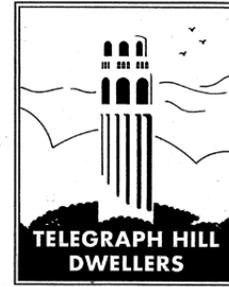
Sincerely,

Stan Hayes

Co-Chair, Planning & Zoning Committee  
Telegraph Hill Dwellers

May 19, 2020

Erica Major  
Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee  
Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689  
(Via email: [Erica.Major@sfgov.org](mailto:Erica.Major@sfgov.org))



RE: OPPOSITION to Measure Simplifying Restrictions on Small Businesses  
Planning Code Amendments (2021-002933PCA)

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Preston, and Peskin,

On behalf of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, we OPPOSE the above referenced proposed Planning Code amendments.

First, let us be clear. We strongly support efforts to help our small businesses survive and recover. This has been a tough time for everyone. They need our help.

We are concerned, however, that the amendments, as proposed, would undo with a single legislative sweep many hard fought, well-conceived Planning Code protections for small businesses and neighbors in our Neighborhood Commercial Districts.

While we support the stated intent of this ordinance to help small businesses, we are concerned that the details, focus, and scope of the proposed Planning Code amendments primarily benefit the entertainment industry, not sufficiently supporting our struggling neighborhood-serving “Mom & Pop” businesses that make our commercial corridors so special and livable.

It is also critical to remember that many of our commercial spaces are not secluded in some shopping mall outside of residential areas. Many people live on and near our commercial corridors. Eliminating existing planning controls as proposed by these amendments could seriously impact the livability of many neighborhood residents.

Among other things, we are especially concerned that the proposed amendments would:

- Open rooftops to Nighttime Entertainment uses, including restaurants and bars.
- Allow an unlimited number of “one-time” entertainment and outdoor amplified sound permits, up from the current limit of 12 per year.
- Waive permit controls on temporary late-night entertainment uses for up to two years.
- Allow Nighttime Entertainment uses, regardless of zoning applicability and closeness to residential neighborhoods.
- Weaken late-night noise restrictions.
- Reduce public notification and comment on CUAs.
- Delete CUA findings required for formula retail and expand their eligibility for expedited processing.
- Delete the concept of “abandonment” that has been in the code for years, while protecting “places of entertainment”.

May 19, 2020

Page 2

- Weaken required CUA findings for restaurants and bars.
- Limit time for public and Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) review of administrative decisions affecting historic resources. The HPC is charged with preserving our historic resources. Limiting the time for HPC decisions affecting such resources does nothing for recovery from the COVID calamity.

While we strongly support efforts to help our small business community, we cannot support the proposed amendments. We ask this Committee to please consider the consequences of this proposal and vote to reject these proposed amendments to the Planning Code.

Sincerely,



Stan Hayes  
Co-Chair, Planning & Zoning Committee  
Telegraph Hill Dwellers

cc: Supervisor Myrna Melgar ([MelgarStaff@sfgov.org](mailto:MelgarStaff@sfgov.org))  
Supervisor Dean Preston ([Dean.Preston@sfgov.org](mailto:Dean.Preston@sfgov.org))  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin ([Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org))  
Sheila Nickolopoulos, Citywide Planning ([Sheila.Nickolopoulos@sfgov.org](mailto:Sheila.Nickolopoulos@sfgov.org))  
Aaron Starr, Manager, Legislative Affairs ([Aaron.Starr@sfgov.org](mailto:Aaron.Starr@sfgov.org))

**From:** [San Francisco Travel - President & CEO](#)  
**To:** [Melgar, Myrna \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** San Francisco Travel Support for Shared Spaces and Small Business Recovery Act  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 12:09:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [SF Travel Support for Shared Spaces.pdf](#)  
[SF Travel Support for Small Business Recovery Act.pdf](#)

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

Hello Land Use and Transportation Committee,

On behalf of over 1,000 San Francisco Travel Association businesses in the tourism industry, I am writing to support the Shared Spaces Legislation and the Small Business Recovery Act. The pandemic has negatively impacted San Francisco and our industry and both pieces of legislation will help give businesses new opportunities to thrive, offer new experiences to visitors, and support our entire city in economic recovery.

Attached, please find letters of support for each legislation.

Thank you.



**San Francisco Travel - President & CEO** |  
E [president@sfrtravel.com](mailto:president@sfrtravel.com) | T 415.227.2606

**San Francisco Travel** | One Front Street, Suite 2900 | San Francisco, CA 94111  
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**Our Gate is Open.**  
San Francisco Named "Sports City of the Decade"

[Take Our Safe Travel Pledge](#)



Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Land Use and Transportation Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Support for Shared Spaces Legislation

May 20, 2021

Dear Supervisors Melgar, Peskin, and Preston,

On behalf of over 1,000 San Francisco Travel Association businesses in the tourism industry, I am writing to support the Small Business Recovery Act. The pandemic has had serious impacts on our industry and the small businesses that support it. It is critical that small businesses are given the flexibility and the support to recover so our entire city can recover together.

The Small Business Recovery Act includes components that will have a direct and positive impact on the tourism industry. This legislation will expand Prop H's streamlined permitting process to Union Square, downtown, and SoMA, which are key visitor areas, as well as expedite the process for bars and nighttime entertainment to receive permits, while still allowing community input. The Act's increased flexibility also allows for small businesses to use rooftop spaces, creating new experiences for residents and visitors. Additionally, this legislation supports arts and culture venues by expanding business hours for live performances. All of these components will help businesses recover and demonstrate that San Francisco is open and ready to welcome visitors.

Prior to the pandemic, San Francisco welcomed over 25 million visitors who spent over \$10 Billion in hotels, restaurants, retail, and the arts. Visitor spend helped generate over \$770 Million in taxes and fees and the industry employed over 80,000 people from the Bay Area. The Small Business Recovery Act will help jumpstart our economy, provide job opportunities, and welcome visitors back to San Francisco.

Best regards,

Joe D'Alessandro  
President and CEO  
San Francisco Travel Association

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Mchugh, Eileen \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Nagasundaram, Sekhar \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: In Opposition to the Small Business Recovery Act. File No. 210285\_Letter from the Miraloma Park Improvement Club  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 1:38:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to SupMelgarNCD 5-10-2021.pdf](#)

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**From:** MPIC - Zoning & Planning Committee <miralomapark.zap@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** In Opposition to the Small Business Recovery Act. File No. 210285\_Letter from the Miraloma Park Improvement Club

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

Dear Supervisor Melgar:

The attached letter for your consideration from the Miraloma Park Improvement Club expresses our opposition to the Small Business Recovery Act.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter. I or an MPIC Board member will contact your office soon to request a meeting with you to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Patti Moran  
Acting President  
Miraloma Park Improvement Club  
[www.miralomapark.org](http://www.miralomapark.org)



# MIRALOMA PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

May 10, 2021

District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

Re: Deletion of Conditional Use Findings Related to Formula Retail in NCDs

Dear Supervisor Melgar,

I am writing on behalf of the Miraloma Park Improvement Club concerning Item 9 2021-002933PCA SIMPLIFY RESTRICTIONS ON SMALL BUSINESSES [BOARD FILE NO. 210285] on the April 22, 2021 Planning Commission Agenda, which includes the clause, "delete conditional use findings related to formula retail concentrations in certain districts..."\*

This measure is of serious concern to us because it has the potential to eliminate protections of Neighborhood Commercial Districts by relaxing or eliminating the Conditional Use Authorization requirement for formula businesses in NCDs. In 2007, San Francisco voters passed Proposition G, which requires Conditional Use Authorization for all formula retail establishments within all Neighborhood Commercial Districts in an effort to "protect San Francisco's vibrant small business sector and create a supportive environment for new small business innovations."

[\[https://sfplanning.org/project/policy-basis-formula-retail-chain-stores\]](https://sfplanning.org/project/policy-basis-formula-retail-chain-stores)

Section 303.1 of the Planning Code is clear: (1) San Francisco is a city of diverse and distinct neighborhoods identified in large part by the character of their commercial areas. (2) One of the eight Priority Policies of the City's General Plan resolves that "existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced." (3) Retail uses are the land uses most critical to the success of the City's commercial districts. (4) Formula Retail businesses are increasing in number in San Francisco, as they are in cities and towns across the country. (5) San Francisco is one of a very few major urban centers in the State in which housing, shops, work places, schools, parks and civic facilities intimately co-exist to create strong identifiable neighborhoods. The neighborhood streets invite walking and bicycling and the City's mix of architecture contributes to a strong sense of neighborhood community within the larger City community. (6) Notwithstanding the marketability of a retailer's goods or services or the visual attractiveness of the storefront, the standardized architecture, color schemes, decor and signage of many Formula Retail businesses can detract from the distinctive character and aesthetics of certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts [etc.

[https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san\\_francisco/latest/sf\\_planning/0-0-0-48475](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/san_francisco/latest/sf_planning/0-0-0-48475)].

Does any city commission have authority to reverse—and thus usurp—the will of the voters?

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HVNA letter to BOS Land Use Committee in support of Ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes  
**Date:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 11:22:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [HVNA letter of support Ord. amending Planning,Bus,Tax Regs Small Business 5.17.21 fin.pdf](#)

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*Alisa Somera*

Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)

**(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:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 20, 2021 8:57 AM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors <bos-supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Somera, Alisa (BOS) <alisa.somera@sfgov.org>; Ng, Wilson (BOS) <wilson.l.ng@sfgov.org>; Laxamana, Junko (BOS) <junko.laxamana@sfgov.org>; Nagasundaram, Sekhar (BOS) <sekhar.nagasundaram@sfgov.org>; Mchugh, Eileen (BOS) <eileen.e.mchugh@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** FW: HVNA letter to BOS Land Use Committee in support of Ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes

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**From:** Barbara Early, HVNA <[hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 19, 2021 8:02 PM

**To:** Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <[aaron.peskin@sfgov.org](mailto:aaron.peskin@sfgov.org)>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <[dean.preston@sfgov.org](mailto:dean.preston@sfgov.org)>; Melgar, Myrna (BOS) <[myrna.melgar@sfgov.org](mailto:myrna.melgar@sfgov.org)>

**Cc:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <[mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org](mailto:mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org)>; Major, Erica (BOS) <[erica.major@sfgov.org](mailto:erica.major@sfgov.org)>; Young, Victor (BOS) <[victor.young@sfgov.org](mailto:victor.young@sfgov.org)>; Smeallie, Kyle (BOS) <[kyle.smeallie@sfgov.org](mailto:kyle.smeallie@sfgov.org)>; Snyder, Jen (BOS) <[jen.snyder@sfgov.org](mailto:jen.snyder@sfgov.org)>; PrestonStaff (BOS) <[prestonstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:prestonstaff@sfgov.org)>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <[melgarstaff@sfgov.org](mailto:melgarstaff@sfgov.org)>; Jones, De'Anthony (HRC) <[deanthony.jones@sfgov.org](mailto:deanthony.jones@sfgov.org)>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <[laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org](mailto:laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org)>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <[board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)>; [board@hvnasf.org](mailto:board@hvnasf.org); Jennifer Laska <[jennlaska@me.com](mailto:jennlaska@me.com)>; Lloyd Silverstein <[Lloyd@opticalunderground.com](mailto:Lloyd@opticalunderground.com)>; Babs Early <[hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** HVNA letter to BOS Land Use Committee in support of Ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes

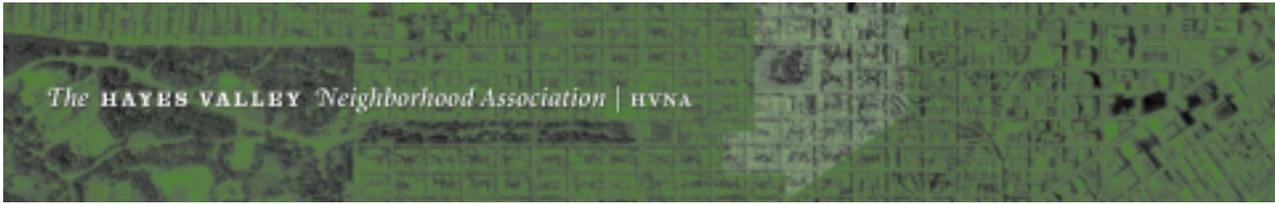
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Dear Supervisors Preston, Peskin and Melgar,

Please see attached letter from Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association, in support of the Ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes.

Thank you.

Barbara Early  
HVNA Corresponding Secretary  
[hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:hvnacorrespondingsecretary@gmail.com)  
415.688.9134



May 17, 2021

Supervisor Preston, Supervisor Pestkin and Supervisor Melgar  
Land Use Committee, San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: HVNA support of ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes

Dear Supervisors Preston, Peskin and Melgar,

The Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association (HVNA) wishes to express our strongest support for the ordinance amending the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes, to simplify procedures and allow flexibility for neighborhood, cultural, and entertainment establishments. We understand this legislation will further streamline permitting as part of the Small Business Recovery Act.

We are now facing an unprecedented level of vacancies in the storefronts and commercial spaces in our neighborhood. The impact of these vacancies on the remaining businesses is heavy, and HVNA, along with many local businesses, have been putting in a huge effort to entice businesses and cultural organizations to our neighborhood.

But it is challenging. In the best of times, it is difficult for businesses, artists and cultural organizations to navigate the labyrinth of rules and regulations, permits, and other requirements for opening a new business or presenting cultural and entertainment events. In addition to budgeting for needed infrastructure, staff, and content, there's great uncertainty with the City's timelines and (often confusing) requirements. This high barrier to entry, in both money and time, means that often only the most well funded businesses make it through the process to finally open their doors.

The amendment doesn't necessarily reduce the needed permissions; however, in guaranteeing timeliness for those permissions, it allows new businesses and organizations to plan for success. This levels the playing field for smaller enterprises, who don't have the deep pockets of venture capital funded business operations and other larger players.

We believe this is the kind of common sense thinking that we need from city agencies to help with small business recovery.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Laska in black ink.

Jennifer Laska  
President  
Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association

Handwritten signature of Lloyd Silverstein in black ink.

Lloyd Silverstein  
Chair, Merchant Group

Handwritten signature of Barbara Early in black ink.

Barbara Early  
Corresponding Secretary

cc: Mayor London Breed, Board of Supervisors  
Erica Major, Victor Young, Kyle Smealie, Jen Snyder, DeAnthony Jones, Laurel Arvanitidis  
HVNA Board



# MIRALOMA PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

***The Board of Directors of the Miraloma Park Improvement Club urges the Board of Supervisors to preserve Planning Code Sec.303.1 without change and thus to continue to require formula businesses to be non-permitted in Neighborhood Commercial Districts without Conditional Use Authorization.***

Sincerely,

Patti Moran  
Acting President  
Miraloma Park Improvement Club

Cc. President Walton; District Supervisors Chan, Stefani, Peskin, Mar, Preston, Haney, Mandelman, Ronen, Safai; Clerk of the Board.

## **\*9. 2021-002933PCA**

**SIMPLIFY RESTRICTIONS ON SMALL BUSINESSES [BOARD FILE NO. 210285]** – Adoption of Planning Code Amendments to 1) delete separate definitions of “Cat Boarding,” “Gym,” “Trade Shop,” and “Services, Instructional”; 2) allow permitted conditional uses to continue after three years of abandonment; 3) allow the continuation of longstanding places of entertainment without requiring a permit; 4) allow outdoor activity areas on rooftops; 5) temporarily require a conditional use authorization for uses replacing Nighttime Entertainment uses; 6) allow accessory Catering uses in Restaurants; 7) allow accessory dwelling units on the ground floor in Neighborhood Commercial, Chinatown Business, and Chinatown Visitor districts; 8) allow temporary outdoor entertainment, arts and recreation activities; 9) delete certain conditional use finding requirements for nighttime entertainment use; 10) delete conditional use findings related to formula retail concentrations in certain districts; 11) require expedited permit processing for commercial uses on the ground floor; 12) shorten the time for the Historic Preservation Commission to request review of Minor Alteration Permits and Certificates Of Appropriateness, 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 findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 302. Preliminary Recommendation: Approve with Modifications

[https://sfplanning.org/sites/default/files/agendas/2021-04/20210422\\_cal.pdf](https://sfplanning.org/sites/default/files/agendas/2021-04/20210422_cal.pdf)



COMMUNITY BENEFIT DISTRICT

April 21, 2021

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton:

This letter is written to express the Castro Community Benefit District's (Castro CBD) strong support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed. The Board of Directors of the Castro CBD believes strongly in the city using its powers to limit the bureaucracy which all too often has crippled our small businesses. The Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) is a strong step in this direction.

To successfully bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, our small businesses desperately need the city to cut the bureaucracy which has made operating a small business in San Francisco so difficult. Small businesses in San Francisco have long had a difficult time paying for and working their way through San Francisco's myriad of permits, fees, rules and regulations. This is not a new issue for San Francisco, and in fact the issues being tackled in SBRA are long overdue. These were important before the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. They need the city's help to recover. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the

hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

The Castro Community Benefit District's core focus is about improving the economic vitality of the Castro, Upper Church and Upper Market neighborhoods. Our property owners contribute \$816,000 annually to keep the Castro clean, welcoming and economically vital. This common sense legislation will help us retain our small businesses and fill our commercial vacancies. It will also help our struggling arts and entertainment venues to open and to thrive. The Castro CBD is proud to support this legislation which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

*Andrea Aiello*

Andrea Aiello  
Executive Director

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed

Supervisor Connie Chan

Supervisor Catherine Stefani

Supervisor Aaron Peskin

Supervisor Gordon Mar

Supervisor Dean Preston

Supervisor Matt Haney

Supervisor Myrna Melgar

Supervisor Raphael Mandelman

Supervisor Hillary Ronen

Supervisor Ahsha Safai

Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business

Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission

Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission

Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

Castro Community Benefit District  
693 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415.500.1181

Masood Samereie, President, Castro Merchants

Castro Community Benefit District  
693 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415.500.1181



# Discover Polk

May 1, 2021

Honorable Mayor London N. Breed

Members of the Board of Supervisors

RE: Letter of Support to Continue Strengthening the Economic Recovery of the Small Business Community in San Francisco

Dear Honorable Mayor Breed and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On April 28, 2021, the Discover Polk Community Benefit District Board of Directors discussed the proposed Small Business Recovery Act (BOS File No. 210285). The Board outlined how this piece of legislation impacts the economic recovery of the small business community in San Francisco and made recommendations in support of its passage.

The pandemic has had a devastating economic impact on San Francisco's small business sector. Discover Polk has seen numerous new vacancies in storefront retail locations in the district in addition to a lack of new businesses filling the vacancies that existed prepandemic. When speaking with residents, merchants, and visitors to the district, the preponderance of commercial vacancies and the related urban blight they cause is a top issue. The Discover Polk organization is committed to working with the City of San Francisco to find creative solutions for filling commercial vacancies with quality tenants.

The Discover Polk Board of Directors concluded that – by speeding up permitting times, streamlining certain zoning codes, and offering the activation of new potential revenue sources – the Small Business Recovery Act would help new businesses to open faster and existing businesses to adapt their models faster, which would have a positive impact on the overall district.

The Discover Polk Board of Directors asked the Executive Director Team to draft this letter of support to submit for your records.

Sincerely,

Duncan Ley

Executive Director  
Discover Polk CBD

cc: Andres Power, Policy Director, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Edward McCaffrey, Manager, State and Federal Affairs, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Sophia Kittler, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Martha Cohen, Director, Special Events, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Robin Abad, Director, Shared Spaces Program



# Entertainment Commission

## *City and County of San Francisco*



April 21, 2021

Honorable Mayor London N. Breed

Members of the Board of Supervisors

RE: Letter of Support to Continue Strengthening the Economic Recovery of the Entertainment and Nightlife Industry in San Francisco

Dear Honorable Mayor Breed and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On April 20, 2021, the San Francisco Entertainment Commission (the Commission) held a meeting to discuss the proposed Small Business Recovery Act (BOS File No. 210285) and the Shared Spaces Ordinance (BOS File No. 210284). The Commission discussed how these two pieces of legislation impact the economic recovery of the entertainment and nightlife industry, and made recommendations in support of their passage.

The pandemic has had a devastating economic impact on San Francisco's nightlife sector. According to the California Employment Development Department, employment in the San Francisco metro area's arts, entertainment and recreation businesses has declined 52.3% since February 2020. Along with restaurants and hotels, the entertainment sector is experiencing one of the highest job loss rates in the City.

Based on the reopening frameworks announced to-date, we anticipate that entertainment venues, nightclubs and indoor bars without bona fide meals will be among the last businesses to fully reopen when there is widespread immunity. Given the key role that entertainment and nightlife serve as local economic drivers – generating an estimated \$7 billion dollars in economic impact annually – this industry will be a critical part of our economic recovery, but only if it avoids complete collapse. Strategic policy interventions are still needed to stabilize and strengthen these vulnerable businesses in order to save them from permanent closure. To continue strengthening the economic recovery of the industry, the City has an opportunity to lower regulatory and financial barriers while remaining consistent with health and safety rules through this legislation. The successes of the JAM Permit Program and the Shared Spaces Program – free, accessible pathways for holding safer, outdoor arts and culture activity – can continue to support the momentum of recovery efforts.



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(628) 652-6030 Main

During the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission agreed to review and prioritize the interventions from both pieces of legislation that directly address the economic recovery of the entertainment and nightlife industry.

Please find attached recommendations that the Commission voted (4-0), to send to you for your consideration relative to the urgent and long-term needs of the industry. The Commission came to consensus that these recommendations will stabilize and strengthen San Francisco's entertainment and nightlife businesses and workers. Finally, when industries are once again able to reopen for safer outdoor activities, the Commission will continue to support the safe and equitable reopening of entertainment and nightlife businesses for outdoor activities to benefit the economic and cultural well-being of all residents across all neighborhoods.

The Commission directed myself and Commission President Ben Bleiman to share these recommendations with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. We are happy to help support further conversations and implementation efforts moving forward to promote long-term prosperity of the industry.

Thank you for your consideration and for your steadfast leadership during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Maggie Weiland  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Entertainment Commission

cc: Andres Power, Policy Director, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Edward McCaffrey, Manager, State and Federal Affairs, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Sophia Kittler, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Martha Cohen, Director, Special Events, Office of Mayor London N. Breed

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Robin Abad, Director, Shared Spaces Program



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49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1482, San Francisco, CA 94103

(628) 652-6030 Main



# Entertainment Commission

## *City and County of San Francisco*



TO: San Francisco Entertainment Commission

FROM: Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, San Francisco Entertainment Commission

DATE: April 16, 2021

RE: Recommendations to Continue Strengthening the Economic Recovery of the Entertainment and Nightlife Industry in San Francisco

Dear Commissioners:

While the State and City continue to reopen businesses and activities based on improving public health indicators, our entertainment venues, nightclubs, and indoor bars without meal service must remain closed or must operate at a greatly reduced capacity; these businesses will be among the last to fully return to normal operations based on reopening frameworks announced to date. Strategic policy interventions are still needed to stabilize and strengthen these vulnerable businesses in order to prevent them from closing permanently. With the recent introduction of two pieces of legislation – the Small Business Recovery Act and the Shared Spaces Ordinance - the City has an opportunity to lower regulatory and financial barriers for the industry while remaining consistent with health and safety rules. The successes of the JAM Permit Program and the Shared Spaces Program – free, accessible pathways for holding safer, outdoor arts and culture activity – can continue to support the momentum of recovery efforts.

### BACKGROUND:

In May 2020, the Commission conducted an Entertainment and Nightlife Industry COVID-19 Impact Survey to better understand the financial and social impacts of the virus and help guide recovery strategies. Among the findings:

- Half of respondents were highly concerned that their business will need to close permanently, including many bars, live music venues, and nightclubs.
- About half of respondents reported losing 75-100% of their expected business and individual incomes in 2020.
- 4,306 total events have been cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 with a total expected attendance of 3.4 million



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In response to the devastating economic impacts of the pandemic, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors convened the Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF) from April to October to guide the City's efforts to sustain and revive businesses and employment. The Task Force was comprised of community and industry leaders and City officials across a wide range of sectors and fields. President Bleiman and I both served on the Task Force as representatives of the entertainment and nightlife sector. We worked with other task force members to identify needs and solutions for the Arts, Culture, Hospitality and Entertainment (ACHE) sectors and make recommendations to the Task Force on how to support the recovery of these sectors and the City as a whole. Released in October, the ERTF Final Report made policy recommendations that lay the groundwork for an equitable and sustainable recovery, and that address those sectors most significantly impacted by the pandemic, such as entertainment, hospitality, and food services.

At our December 15, 2020 meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to support the recommendations of the ERTF Final Report as well as a joint policy proposal from the SF Venue Coalition (SFVC) and the Independent Venue Alliance (IVA) that address recovering the local entertainment and nightlife industry, and sent a [Letter of Support](#) outlining its prioritized recommendations to the Mayor Breed and the Board of Supervisors immediately thereafter.

#### PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Two recent pieces of legislation present an opportunity for the City to continue strengthening the industry's economic recovery. Below are summaries of the legislation for your review and consideration.

#### **Small Business Recovery Act (BOS File No. 210285)**

Introduced by Mayor Breed on April 14, 2021, the Small Business Recovery Act proposes amendments to the Planning, Business and Tax Regulations, and Police Codes to simplify procedures and allow flexibility for neighborhood, cultural, and entertainment establishments through various interventions. Most of the interventions from this ordinance listed below impact entertainment and nightlife businesses:

- 1) expanding streamlined review and inspection procedures to principally permitted storefront uses citywide;
- 2) deleting separate definitions of "Cat Boarding," "Gym," "Trade Shop," and "Services, Instructional" from the Planning Code;
- 3) allowing permitted conditional uses to continue after three years of abandonment;
- 4) allowing the continuation of longstanding places of entertainment;
- 5) allowing Outdoor Activity Areas on rooftops;
- 6) temporarily requiring a conditional use authorization for uses replacing Nighttime Entertainment uses;
- 7) allowing accessory catering uses in Restaurants;



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- 8) allowing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor in Neighborhood Commercial, Chinatown Business, and Chinatown Visitor Districts;
- 9) allowing temporary outdoor entertainment, arts and recreation activities;
- 10) deleting certain conditional use finding requirements for Nighttime Entertainment use;
- 11) deleting conditional use findings related to formula retail concentrations in certain districts;
- 12) requiring expedited permit processing for certain conditional uses on the ground floor, including Nighttime Entertainment uses;
- 13) shortening the time for the Historic Preservation Commission to request review of minor alteration permits and certificates of appropriateness;
- 14) extending default ending time for limited live performances from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.;
- 15) allowing additional One-Time Entertainment Permits and One-Time Outdoor Amplified Sound Permits;
- 16) exempting single individual performances without amplification from permit requirements;
- 17) 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 findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 302.

### **Shared Spaces Ordinance (BOS File No. 210284)**

Introduced by Mayor Breed on April 6, 2021, the Shared Spaces Ordinance proposes amendments to the Administrative Code as follows:

- 1) rename and modify the Places for People Program as the Shared Spaces Program, and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of various departments regarding activation and use of City property and the public right-of-way, streamline the application process, specify minimum programmatic requirements such as public access, temporarily waive permit application fees, and provide for the conversion of existing Parklet and Shared Spaces permittees to the new program requirements;
- 2) amending the Public Works Code to create a Curbside Shared Spaces permit fee, provide for public notice and comment on permit applications, provide for hearings for occupancy of longer-term street closures, and supplement enforcement actions by Public Works;
- 3) amending the Transportation Code to authorize the Interdepartmental Staff Committee on Traffic and Transportation (ISCOTT) to issue permits for the temporary occupancy of the Traffic Lane for purposes of issuing permits for Roadway Shared Spaces as part of the Shared Spaces Program, subject to delegation of authority by the Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors to temporarily close the Traffic Lane, and adding the Planning Department as a member of ISCOTT;



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- 4) amending the Transportation Code to prohibit parking in a zone on any street, alley, or portion of a street or alley, that is subject to a posted parking prohibition except for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or freight;
- 5) making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1;
- 6) and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The pieces of legislation mentioned above align with the Entertainment Commission's and the Economic Recovery Task Force's recommendations to stabilize and strengthen the industry and the City at large by lowering regulatory and financial barriers for A.C.H.E. businesses and workers:

- Extend, improve and support the Shared Spaces program. [ERTF Recommendation 4.1]
- Continue to seek ways to help businesses defray costs, and support artists and musicians to allow for more adaptive arts and entertainment uses. [ERTF Recommendation 4.1]
- Rethink rules that restrict flexible/temporary arts, culture, hospitality and entertainment uses. [ERTF Recommendation 4.4]

In addition, both pieces of legislation align with the Entertainment Commission's goals to:

- Create, sustain, and support affordable arts infrastructure.
- Promote equity and equality in the industry, and ensure access to entertainment and nightlife participation across all neighborhoods.
- Improve regulatory coordination and customer experience.

Therefore, the Entertainment Commission recommends the passage of the Small Business Recovery Act and the Shared Spaces Ordinance as key strategies to support the short-term and long-term recovery of San Francisco's entertainment and nightlife sector. Furthermore, the Entertainment Commission recommends that relevant City agencies:

- 1) Consult with the Entertainment Commission on the implementation of the policies and initiatives borne out of this legislation as they relate to entertainment and nightlife.
- 2) Ensure equity and accessibility in implementation so BIPOC and historically underserved communities receive opportunities to participate and benefit from these policies and initiatives.
- 3) Collaborate with the Entertainment Commission on promotion, education and outreach of these new policies and initiatives to encourage broad participation across all neighborhoods.



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(628) 652-6030 Main

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 8:38:20 AM

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**From:** Henry Karnilowicz <occxp@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:45 PM

**To:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; kate.sofis@sfgov.org

**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org>; sharky laguana <sharky@bandago.com>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>; Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor (MYR) <victor.ruiz-cornejo@sfgov.org>; deedee@sfcdma.org; gwen.kaplan@acemailingsf.com; david@beautynetwork.com; ixchel@sfcdma.org; Fregosi, Ian (BOS) <ian.fregosi@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; stephenpcornell@gmail.com

**Subject:** Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act

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Dear Mayor Breed, President Walton and Director Sofis,

Over the years there have been planning controls put in place that have stifled small businesses by the requiring of Conditional Use hearings which have imposed a huge financial burden and taken sometimes a year and longer to go through the process. During this period a storefront is sitting there vacant as without applicable permits no build out can be done and there is never any certainty that a CU will be granted. This also has an impact on adjacent businesses as there is less foot traffic on top of that there are less eyes on the street and thus less security.

Local businesses such as Philz Coffee become popular and may decide to open shops outside of San Francisco however once they establish 11 locations or more anywhere in the WORLD they become Formula Retail and have to appear for a CU at the planning commission and possible face a DR!

So a change of use permit is always required when moving from one use category to another, except for example Retail Sales and Service Use which is replaced with an Arts Activities Use. Retail Sales and Service Uses are a subset of the Sales and Service Use Category while Arts Activities is a part of the Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category. The fact that neighborhood notification is not required to legalize this use change however, because of Planning Code Section 716, it must have a retail component. A space used exclusively for the creation of ceramics and other artwork, and/or for services such as art classes offered to paying club members, does not count as a retail use and therefore does not meet the definition for Arts Activities in Planning Code Section 102 and thus is not permitted!

I applaud the maximum of 30 (thirty) days for granting a CU however currently it takes two months to even get an appointment at DBI!

While I am at it then there are the ADA issues which most landlords place in the laps of the tenants who in many case are unaware of the pitfalls until they are served with a law suit. OEWD used to fund CASp inspections but I believe that no longer does OEWD offer such a service.

Yes, we still have a long way to go but at least we are moving in the right direction, which I strongly

support.

Thank you, Mayor Breed, for initiating the Small Business Recovery Act (File #210285).

Kind regards,

[Henry Karnilowicz](#)

President Emeritus  
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

Co-chair  
SFPD x Small Business Advisory Forum

[1019 Howard Street](#)  
[San Francisco, CA 94103-2806](#)  
[415.420.8113 cell](#)



April 20, 2021

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton:

The Golden Gate Restaurant Association (GGRA) writes to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed, which will help ensure our small business community is able to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been

**GOLDEN GATE  
RESTAURANT  
ASSOCIATION**  
— est: 1936 —

particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

The GGRA serves as the voice for the San Francisco restaurant community. We have advocated for policies to ensure our industry had a chance at making it through the incredible financial hardships and challenges that the pandemic caused. Pre Covid, San Francisco had over 60,000 food sector workers, and had 3900 restaurants and cafes. Now, about 15% of those businesses have permanently closed and many others are still shuttered while they await more financial aid and more loosening of operating restrictions. This is an industry with very tight margins: pre-covid an average restaurant was lucky to keep five cents for every dollar in the door. Over the past year many have suffered significant financial losses. For these reasons and others, the GGRA is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Laurie Thomas  
Executive Director, Golden Gate Restaurant Association

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safai  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

**From:** [Autumn Adamme](#)  
**To:** [Waltonstaff \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Taupier, Anne \(ECN\)](#); [Arvanitidis, Laurel \(ECN\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Merchants Group](#); [Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor \(MYR\)](#); [Matsuda, Diane \(CPC\)](#); [Koppel, Joel \(CPC\)](#); [Weiland, Maggie \(ADM\)](#); [Breed, Mayor London \(MYR\)](#); [Dick-Endrizzi, Regina \(ECN\)](#)  
**Subject:** In support of SBRA  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:31:41 AM

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April 21, 2021

Hayes Valley Merchants Association  
333 Linden Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton:

The Hayes Valley Merchants Association (HVMA) is writing to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285. It is widely acknowledged that small businesses are the lifeblood of any vibrant city.

The Hayes Valley Merchants Association is composed entirely of small businesses, many of whom have been a part of the neighborhood for more than 20 years. HVMA is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco and may inspire other California cities.

We are grateful that this Act has been introduced by Mayor Breed. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. The businesses that have managed to be open have been impacted, often violently, by the effects of empty streets and empty storefronts.

Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

We believe that cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships will help our small business community to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business.

The burdensome and costly application and permitting process is one of the most common and challenging issues faced by San Francisco's small business community. The SBRA creates an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, and by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses, this will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time. San Francisco's small businesses feel a need for immediacy and will benefit from less bureaucracy.

We believe the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient by allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions,

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors.

Sincerely,

Autumn Adamme  
Vice President, HVMA

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safaí  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

--

Autumn Adamme  
Founder, Executive Creative Director  
Dark Garden Corsetry  
Supporting uncommon beauty...  
(415)431-7684  
321 Linden Street, San Francisco 94102

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April 21, 2021

Anne Taupier, Acting Director  
Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 448  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear Acting Director Taupier:

The Japantown Community Benefit District (JCBD) writes to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed, which will help ensure our small business community is able to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

Streamlining the application and permitting process, reducing city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Providing more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources by allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors.

Home to 12 Legacy Businesses, Japantown has survived through internment and redevelopment. Resiliency is in our blood. Yet the survival of Japantown weighs heavily on the health and well-being of our small businesses. Without them San Francisco will lose one of its cultural destinations and the future of Japantown will be threatened for our future generations.

The JCBD is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Horikiri', is written over a horizontal line.

Grace Horikiri, Executive Director  
Japantown Community Benefit District

cc:

Mayor London Breed  
Supervisor Shamann Walton  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "London Breed", written in a cursive style.



# LETTER OF SUPPORT

**APRIL 23, 2021**

**PRESIDENT SHAMANN WALTON**

**CITY HALL**

**1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, ROOM 244**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94102-4689**

**DEAR PRESIDENT WALTON:**

Kultivate Labs writes to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed, which will help ensure our small business community is able to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

**Letter of Support**

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

Kultivate Labs deep economic development and arts acceleration in SOMA Pilipinas is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

  
Desi Danganan  
Executive Director

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:49:51 AM

---

**From:** Henry Karnilowicz <occexp@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:51 PM

**To:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; kate@sfmade.org

**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org>; sharky laguana <sharky@bandago.com>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>; Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor (MYR) <victor.ruiz-cornejo@sfgov.org>; deedee@sfcdma.org; gwen.kaplan@acemailingsf.com; david@beautynetwork.com; ixchel@sfcdma.org; Fregosi, Ian (BOS) <ian.fregosi@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; stephenpcornell@gmail.com

**Subject:** Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act

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

Dear Mayor Breed, President Walton and Director Sofis,

Over the years there have been planning controls put in place that have stifled small businesses by the requiring of Conditional Use hearings which have imposed a huge financial burden and taken sometimes a year and longer to go through the process. During this period a storefront is sitting there vacant as without applicable permits no build out can be done and there is never any certainty that a CU will be granted. This also has an impact on adjacent businesses as there is less foot traffic on top of that there are less eyes on the street and thus less security.

Local businesses such as Philz Coffee become popular and may decide to open shops outside of San Francisco however once they establish 11 locations or more anywhere in the WORLD they become Formula Retail and have to appear for a CU at the planning commission and possible face a DR!

So a change of use permit is always required when moving from one use category to another, except for example Retail Sales and Service Use which is replaced with an Arts Activities Use. Retail Sales and Service Uses are a subset of the Sales and Service Use Category while Arts Activities is a part of the Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category. The fact that neighborhood notification is not required to legalize this use change however, because of Planning Code Section 716, it must have a retail component. A space used exclusively for the creation of ceramics and other artwork, and/or for services such as art classes offered to paying club members, does not count as a retail use and therefore does not meet the definition for Arts Activities in Planning Code Section 102 and thus is not permitted!

I applaud the maximum of 30 (thirty) days for granting a CU however currently it takes two months to even get an appointment at DBI!

While I am at it then there are the ADA issues which most landlords place in the laps of the tenants who in many case are unaware of the pitfalls until they are served with a law suit. OEWD used to fund CASp inspections but I believe that no longer does OEWD offer such a service.

Yes, we still have a long way to go but at least we are moving in the right direction, which I strongly

support.

Thank you, Mayor Breed, for initiating the Small Business Recovery Act (File #210285).

Kind regards,

[Henry Karnilowicz](#)

President Emeritus  
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

Co-chair  
SFPD x Small Business Advisory Forum

[1019 Howard Street](#)  
[San Francisco, CA 94103-2806](#)  
[415.420.8113 cell](#)

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SFCDMA Letter re File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act Attached  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2021 1:26:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [SFCDMA Letter Small Business Recovery Act #210285 FINAL.docx](#)

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**From:** Dee Dee Workman <deedee@sfcdma.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Kate Sofis <kate.sofis@sfgov.org>; Kate Sofis <kate@sfmade.org>  
**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org>; sharky laguana <sharky@bandago.com>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>; Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor (MYR) <victor.ruiz-cornejo@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** SFCDMA Letter re File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act Attached

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

Greeting Mayor Breed, President Walton and Director Sofis,

On behalf of Stephen Cornell, Chair of the Legislation Committee of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, please find the attached letter providing input on the Small Business Recovery Act, File #210285.

Please distribute to all Supervisors and Commissioners.

Thank you.

*Dee Dee Workman*  
*Public Policy Advisor*  
*San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations*  
[deedee@sfcdma.org](mailto:deedee@sfcdma.org)  
415-533-8130



April 21, 2021

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton:

The San Francisco Venue Coalition writes to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed, which will help ensure our small business community is able to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

Protecting entertainment zoning and vulnerable venue spaces should be a priority for San Francisco to maintain the vibrant culture and economic impact that these venues provide to our City. A conditional use permit required in order to move away from a nighttime entertainment use for three

years will provide much needed protection for these venues. The San Francisco Venue Coalition is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Casey Lowdermilk  
Co-Founder, San Francisco Venue Coalition

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safai  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission



# THE EAST CUT

April 21, 2020

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton,

The East Cut Community Benefit District supports the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed to ensure our small business community recovers from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduced operations, or in some cases close for good. In a city known for neighborhoods the entire City benefits when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA aims to accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

160 Spear Street  
Suite 415  
San Francisco  
CA 94105

415 536 5880  
info@theeastcut.org  
theeastcut.org

The East Cut Community Benefit District is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses in our neighborhood and throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Andrew Robinson,  
Executive Director, The East Cut Community Benefit District

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safaí  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission





**April 20, 2021**

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton:

The Downtown Community Benefit District writes to express our **support** for the **Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285** introduced by Mayor Breed, which will help ensure our small business community is able to recover from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the burdensome and costly application and permitting process, by creating an easier, more predictable, and less costly process, that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. It further reduces city bureaucracy by expediting the hearing process for some of San Francisco's hardest hit businesses. This will save small businesses thousands of dollars and months of time.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying outdated and unnecessary planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses adapt to changing times and markets, and will make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts, which we know is so much of what makes our City a cultural capital. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly hard hit over the last year and the SBRA

**Board Officers**

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Vice President: Noah Unger  
Treasurer: Bill Whitfield  
Secretary: Glenn Good

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Kristie Arevalo  
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John Dunlap  
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Caroline Grafft  
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Megha Rajput  
Brian Reed  
John M. Sanger  
Peter Scott

**Interim Executive Director**

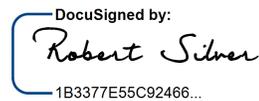
Robert Silver

provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to maintain these cultural institutions and economic drivers.

Our mission is to improve the vitality of Downtown through best-in-class clean and safe programming, infrastructure enhancements, dynamic partnerships, and productive marketing. The Downtown Community Benefit District is the newest CBD in San Francisco and was formed in January 2020. Developed by a coalition of property and business owners, the Downtown Community Benefit District includes two of the oldest continuous business districts in the City (Financial and Jackson Square) and funds special benefit services over and above what the City already provides.

The Downtown Community Benefit District is proud to support this piece of common-sense legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
1B3377E55C92466...

Robert Silver  
Interim Executive Director

cc:

Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safaí  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission

235 Montgomery Street  
Suite 948  
San Francisco  
CA 94104

415-686-9652  
[rsilver@sfdcibd.org](mailto:rsilver@sfdcibd.org)  
sfdcibd.org



# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

SFCDMA

Maryo Mogannam  
President

Masood Samereie  
Vice-President

Al Williams  
Vice-President

Tracey Sylvester  
Secretary

Keith Goldstein  
Treasurer

April 12, 2021

The Honorable London N. Breed, Mayor  
The Honorable Shamann Walton, President, SF Board of Supervisors  
Kate Sofis, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
San Francisco City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Input on Small Business Recovery Act, File #210285

Dear Mayor Breed, Supervisor Walton and Director Sofis,

The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations (SFCDMA) has served to protect, preserve and promote small business merchant corridors in San Francisco for 70 years. We represent 34 local merchant associations and advocate for all small business merchants in every one of our neighborhood commercial districts.

Thank you, Mayor Breed, for initiating the Small Business Recovery Act (File #210285) at this critical time, when San Francisco's local merchants are struggling to recover from the public health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic devastation we have endured this past year.

The SFCDMA's Legislation Committee recently received a presentation from Laurel Arvanitidis of OEWD on the Small Business Recovery Act. We appreciate her outreach to us early in the process, and we look forward to continuing to provide input on this important piece of legislation that will help small businesses of all types in all commercial areas get back on our feet. Your support during the pandemic and after is changing the culture of how the city engages with and values small businesses here, and we are grateful to you for that change, and for giving us a seat at the table.

We are excited by this legislation overall and the way it expands provisions in Prop H to other commercial areas across the city, as well as making certain uses and permitting more flexible in NCDs. Below is input from the SFCDMA on some specific provisions in the draft legislation to date that we would like you to consider:

- We support expanding streamlined review and inspections to principally permitted storefront uses citywide. Requiring a turn-around time of no more than 30 days for permit applications for principally permitted uses in storefront commercial spaces in all commercial areas of the city will help fill vacant storefronts more quickly and benefit both merchants and residents who are our customers in nearby NCDs.
- We support removing individual definitions for Cat Boarding, Trade Shops, Gyms and Instructional Services in the Planning Code. Moving Gyms and Instructional Services under the Personal Service definition will help these businesses open more quickly and less expensively, ensuring that neighborhood residents who have depended on them for their physical and mental well-being during the pandemic will have access to these types of services where-ever they live and work.



SFCDMA

# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

---

Maryo Mogannam  
President

Masood Samereie  
Vice-President

Al Williams  
Vice-President

Tracey Sylvester  
Secretary

Keith Goldstein  
Treasurer

- Deleting the Abandonment Clause may be a disincentive for some landlords to fill their vacancies if a requirement that encourages them to rent their commercial spaces within a given timeframe no longer exists. At the same time we support the ability of a like-use to go into a long-vacant space without having to go through a new CU process (a movie theater in an NCD for example). We suggest that this provision have a sunset date to review if it is working as intended, or should perhaps be applied only to certain uses and/or in specific commercial areas where it is needed.
- We generally support allowing Outdoor Activity Areas to extend to rooftops within limited operational time limits. We believe commercial rooftops, though limited in availability, are underutilized but appealing spaces that contribute to a more vibrant civic life and lively neighborhood character. Rooftops can be used as outdoor areas that are healthier and more safely occupied than indoor spaces as we move to the end of the pandemic. However, we do have concerns that residential neighbors of rooftop commercial spaces may be impacted by sound coming from those outdoor areas. We encourage limiting the hours the rooftops can be in use and controlling for and mitigating sound levels (including amplified sound) generated from rooftop activities.
- On this matter above and other provisions of this legislation that include amplified sound (including those related to Temporary Outdoor Entertainment activities, Nighttime Entertainment Uses, allowing additional One-Time Entertainment and Amplified Sound permits, and Extending Limited Live Performance times in certain districts, we strongly urge you to meet with neighborhood associations located near commercial areas to inform local residents of these proposed changes and ask for input on how to best integrate these uses in and near residential areas. Neighborhood residents are also our customers and we need to be respectful of their needs both in their shopping areas and inside their homes. We recognize that allowing live music and other performance or entertainment uses in outdoor areas will bring more people into our neighborhood commercial areas, and that will be good for all of our local merchants. But amplified sound, depending on the hours and locations, may be problematic for some local residents and cause conflict between and among neighbors. To proactively avoid and mitigate that conflict we again strongly encourage you to reach out to neighborhood groups to find a balance that will work for everyone.
- We support allowing accessory Catering Use in Full-Service Restaurants in addition to Limited Restaurants. This will support both the catering industry as well as restaurants that can utilize their spaces in off-hours to help them return to solvency.
- We support deleting the CU findings for concentration of uses in NCDs. We agree that removing the requirement for new store owners to measure the linear frontage of their storefront in the context of concentration of use is an unnecessary step that just adds time and cost to the permit process.
- We support requiring expedited permit processing for commercial uses on ground floors. An application for a CU that seeks to establish, alter, enlarge or intensify a commercial use on the first floor or below, or on the second story where the use would operate on both first and second stories, should be processed to fill these vacant spaces with neighborhood-serving uses as quickly as possible.



SFCDMA

# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

---

Maryo Mogannam  
President

Masood Samereie  
Vice-President

Al Williams  
Vice-President

Tracey Sylvester  
Secretary

Keith Goldstein  
Treasurer

- We support exempting single individual, non-amplified performers from permit requirements that end at a reasonable time appropriate to the neighborhoods. We also suggest that a slightly larger group (of 2 or 3 performers) that is not amplified and performs at a sound level acceptable to neighborhood residents could also qualify for this provision.
- We support reducing the period the Historic Preservation Commission has to review minor alteration permits from 20 days to 10 days. We would go further to say that the HPC should have no role in the permit process for minor alterations when determined as such by Planning Department staff because it is an unnecessary review step that just adds time and cost to the process.

Again, thank you for initiating this legislation and for coming to the SFCDMA for our input on it early in the process. We wish to have a continuing dialogue with you as the legislation moves through the pipeline to discuss changes or amendments, how they would impact local merchants, and ways to improve the legislation so that it works best for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Cornell".

Stephen Cornell, Chair  
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations Legislation Committee

cc: Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Laurel Arvanitidis and Victor Ruiz-Carnejo, OEWD; Sharky Laguana, SBC President; Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director, OSB



235 Montgomery St., Ste. 760, San Francisco, CA 94104  
tel: 415.352.4520 • fax: 415.392.0485  
sfchamber.com • twitter: @sf\_chamber

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Mayor London Breed and San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
San Francisco City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94012

RE: Support of File# 210285 Small Business Recovery Act

Dear Honorable Mayor and Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the hundreds of businesses we represent, I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support of the Mayor's Small Business Recovery Act.

The Small Business Recovery Act builds on the momentum of Proposition H to further streamline business permitting processes, allow more flexibility for business activities, and support arts and cultural activities. Additionally, it makes several Planning Code changes that will simplify processes for businesses throughout San Francisco, saving time and capital.

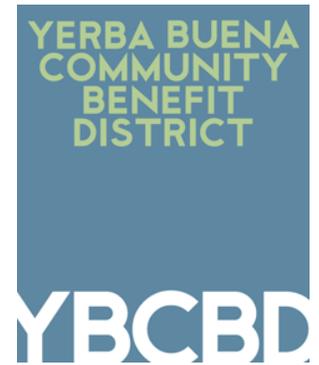
Now, more than ever, our city's existing small business community and upcoming entrepreneurs need the support, flexibility, and opportunities to sustain, grow, and reimagine their businesses. Compared to a pre-Covid baseline, 50 percent of our small businesses are closed. While it remains to be seen if these businesses are permanently or temporarily shut, this legislation will surely make reopening a feasible option for many.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce actively supports policies that uplift our small business community which contributes so greatly to San Francisco's vibrance and culture. We believe this ordinance will help small businesses to maintain a foothold in San Francisco's neighborhood commercial districts and hopefully be successful in the long-term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Fong", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Rodney Fong  
President & CEO  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



April 20, 2021

President Shamann Walton  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, Ca. 94102-4689

Dear President Walton,

On behalf of the Yerba Buena Community Benefit District Board of Directors, I'm writing to express our support for the Small Business Recovery Act (SBRA) File Number 210285 introduced by Mayor Breed. We believe this legislation will help ensure our small business community is able to bounce back from the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by making it easier to open and operate a small business, cutting bureaucracy, increasing flexibility, and encouraging more arts and culture partnerships. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened what was already a difficult landscape for San Francisco small businesses. Across the City, small businesses from restaurants to retail to entertainment venues have had to remain closed, reduce operation, or in some cases close for good. Our neighborhoods, corridors, and the entire City benefit when our small businesses thrive, and that is exactly what the SBRA will help accomplish. Yerba Buena small businesses have been hit especially hard with the closure of the Moscone Center, museums, hotels, and offices.

The SBRA tackles one of the most common issues raised by San Francisco's small business community, the costly application and permitting process, by creating a streamlined, and less costly process that will result in more businesses receiving their permits to operate in 30 days or less. Expediting the hearing process will hasten the recovery for San Francisco's hardest hit businesses and save small businesses significant time and money.

Further, the SBRA provides small businesses with more options to diversify or expand their revenue sources. By allowing for restaurants to host accessory catering uses, legalizing accessory dwelling units on the ground floor of commercial spaces, and simplifying planning code definitions, the SBRA will help businesses quickly adapt to changing times and markets, and will help make our small businesses more resilient.

Finally, the SBRA supports San Francisco's arts and culture communities, which we know is what makes our City a cultural destination. Enabling more businesses to partner with local artists will both help artists by creating more job opportunities and will help businesses include more art and performances in their spaces and corridors. We also know that our entertainment venues have been particularly impacted over the last year and the SBRA provides crucial protections for these spaces, making it easier to restore this essential component of San Francisco's social and economic health. .

The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District is proud to support this legislation, which will benefit small businesses throughout all of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cathy Maupin", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Cathy Maupin  
Executive Director

cc: Mayor London N. Breed  
Supervisor Connie Chan  
Supervisor Catherine Stefani  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Supervisor Matt Haney  
Supervisor Myrna Melgar  
Supervisor Raphael Mandelman  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Supervisor Ahsha Safaí  
Anne Taupier, Acting Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business  
Maggie Weiland, Executive Director, Entertainment Commission  
Joel Koppel, President, Planning Commission  
Diane Matsuda, President, Historic Preservation Commission



May 5, 2021

Mayor London Breed  
City Hall, Room 200  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: **STATE OF THE CITY  
BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Dear Mayor Breed:

We write in support of your continued leadership as the entire City of San Francisco looks to recover and rebuild after the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you and your departments work to prepare and prioritize your FY 21/22 budgets, we would like to share our priorities and requests for public investment and support— especially the strong leadership and support required to bring our City back to a world-class destination level.

While we are optimistic about the long-term future of San Franciscans we reopen our businesses and welcome our visitors back, we remain very concerned about the current deteriorated conditions found throughout the City. We hear day in and day out from our employees, members, small businesses, and the many comments from Destination Management Organizations that they are extremely concerned about their ability to fully recover from the ravages of the pandemic when the city's streets are not safe; when the city's streets are riddled with crime with no end in sight, when the city's streets and neighborhoods are deemed unsafe by residents and visitors alike. As a result, potential clients have no interest in booking any business in San Francisco until conditions improve—and this trend began pre-Covid. Our employees say that they don't feel comfortable or safe coming to work for fear that they will be assaulted. Our business clients and meeting planners tell us that they are unsure if they can commit to holding their meetings in San Francisco when their attendees do not feel safe and are disgusted by the filth they are exposed to on our streets. Our small businesses struggle to open their doors to welcome customers due to challenges associated with increased theft, unsheltered homelessness, mental illness, street cleanliness and open-air drug sales and use. Finally, the level of lawlessness and disorder that haunts our city is demoralizing and is of significant concern to the many businesses who all rely upon tourism to survive. The word on the street is out—San Francisco will not prosecute criminal behavior. Our neighborhoods have NO SFPD support, and the alarming deterioration is evident.

Tourism is San Francisco's most important industry. Pre-Covid, it generated \$8.4 Billion ANNUALLY for the economy and supported over 71,000 jobs —our City's NUMBER ONE Industry is at risk for survival. Many ask---"will San Francisco be destroyed by the aftereffects of the pandemic, or will it be destroyed by the lack of attention to the very essence of what made San Francisco a world-class destination?". This is a true concern and must be recognized and effectively addressed. Our beautiful City-- once an



unparalleled destination for the entire world to enjoy, now the many businesses and supporting industries are gravely concerned that the world will turn its back.

To combat these concerns, we respectfully submit our budget priorities which are focused on ensuring clean and safe streets, homeless support and an environment of enforcement and proactivity by SFPD and other City enforcement officials throughout the City.

### **San Francisco Police Department Budget**

While we are encouraged by all of the great work and leadership that the SFPD has implemented for police reform, we are also supportive of efforts to further expand on non-emergency responses to programs such as the Street Crisis Response Team. We would like to ensure that the current proposed budget for the SFPD remains intact and that resources (especially in high traffic or tourist destination areas) that ensure programs such as foot beat patrols in high traffic areas, community policing, and ambassador programs are protected and receive the full support and funding from your office that they need and require to return law and order to the streets of San Francisco.

### **Street Crisis Response Team**

We are excited about the new Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT). This partnership between the Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Fire Department and the Department of Emergency management is certainly a welcome approach to provide 24 hour/7 day a week response to 911 calls requiring a behavioral health and/or medical response rather than law enforcement response. We believe that this approach not only best provides those in need of service with the right care and response but also provides connections to follow up care for people in crisis, including mental health care, substance use treatment, and social services referrals, while freeing up law enforcement to respond to emergency needs. We believe this program should be expanded to ensure a rapid response time and adequate citywide coverage.

### **Department of Public Works**

As we reopen our city to employees, businesses and visitors, clean and safe streets must be a top priority. The connection between clean street and economic recovery is clear--- without clean streets, people do not feel safe in our city and will not feel comfortable coming back to work, opening their business or traveling to San Francisco. We are encouraged by the CleanCorridorsSF program managed by the Department of Public Works. We urge an expansion of this program to include additional service days and staff to be able to concentrate on maintaining the cleanliness and safety of even many of our high pedestrian corridors.

### **Department of Homelessness**

The devastation of unsheltered homelessness on our streets continues to be an issue for the most vulnerable of our neighbors and for our employees, businesses and visitors. We understand that permanent supportive housing is one of the long-term answers—as much as access to mental health care and support. However, we also need to invest further in creative solutions such as flexible housing subsidy pools and more acquisition of properties that can be repurposed. We also need a significant investment



in prevention so that the cycle of those coming into homelessness can be permanently broken. This will require flexibility of funding to address the varied needs in our community. Lastly, there is an immediate need for shelter, hygiene, and behavioral services for those who are currently homeless or on the brink of falling into homelessness.

### **Shared Spaces**

We are pleased to see the positive transformation in our city due to the Shared Spaces program. Many of our streets have come alive and offer a vibrance that we hope will continue. We need to ensure that there is funding available in the form of grants for small businesses to construct and maintain their seating environment. With an increasing number of residents and visitors utilizing outdoor spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever for the City to address street safety and cleanliness concerns particularly on commercial corridors with Shared Spaces.

Thank you again for your leadership! Collectively we are joined as partners as we continue to reopen, rebuild, and recover and endeavor to return San Francisco to the vibrant world-class destination it once was.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randall Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randall Scott  
Executive Director

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: SFCDMA Letter re File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act Attached  
**Date:** Monday, April 12, 2021 1:26:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [SFCDMA Letter Small Business Recovery Act #210285 FINAL.docx](#)

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**From:** Dee Dee Workman <deedee@sfcdma.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Kate Sofis <kate.sofis@sfgov.org>; Kate Sofis <kate@sfmade.org>  
**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org>; sharky laguana <sharky@bandago.com>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>; Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor (MYR) <victor.ruiz-cornejo@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** SFCDMA Letter re File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act Attached

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

Greeting Mayor Breed, President Walton and Director Sofis,

On behalf of Stephen Cornell, Chair of the Legislation Committee of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, please find the attached letter providing input on the Small Business Recovery Act, File #210285.

Please distribute to all Supervisors and Commissioners.

Thank you.

*Dee Dee Workman*  
*Public Policy Advisor*  
*San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations*  
[deedee@sfcdma.org](mailto:deedee@sfcdma.org)  
415-533-8130

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Major, Erica \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 14, 2021 11:49:51 AM

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**From:** Henry Karnilowicz <occxp@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021 9:51 PM

**To:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; kate@sfmade.org

**Cc:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Arvanitidis, Laurel (ECN) <laurel.arvanitidis@sfgov.org>; sharky laguana <sharky@bandago.com>; Dick-Endrizzi, Regina (ECN) <regina.dick-endrizzi@sfgov.org>; Ruiz-Cornejo, Victor (MYR) <victor.ruiz-cornejo@sfgov.org>; deedee@sfcdma.org; gwen.kaplan@acemailingsf.com; david@beautynetwork.com; ixchel@sfcdma.org; Fregosi, Ian (BOS) <ian.fregosi@sfgov.org>; Chan, Connie (BOS) <connie.chan@sfgov.org>; stephenpcornell@gmail.com

**Subject:** Support of File #210285 Small Business Recovery Act

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

Dear Mayor Breed, President Walton and Director Sofis,

Over the years there have been planning controls put in place that have stifled small businesses by the requiring of Conditional Use hearings which have imposed a huge financial burden and taken sometimes a year and longer to go through the process. During this period a storefront is sitting there vacant as without applicable permits no build out can be done and there is never any certainty that a CU will be granted. This also has an impact on adjacent businesses as there is less foot traffic on top of that there are less eyes on the street and thus less security.

Local businesses such as Philz Coffee become popular and may decide to open shops outside of San Francisco however once they establish 11 locations or more anywhere in the WORLD they become Formula Retail and have to appear for a CU at the planning commission and possible face a DR!

So a change of use permit is always required when moving from one use category to another, except for example Retail Sales and Service Use which is replaced with an Arts Activities Use. Retail Sales and Service Uses are a subset of the Sales and Service Use Category while Arts Activities is a part of the Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category. The fact that neighborhood notification is not required to legalize this use change however, because of Planning Code Section 716, it must have a retail component. A space used exclusively for the creation of ceramics and other artwork, and/or for services such as art classes offered to paying club members, does not count as a retail use and therefore does not meet the definition for Arts Activities in Planning Code Section 102 and thus is not permitted!

I applaud the maximum of 30 (thirty) days for granting a CU however currently it takes two months to even get an appointment at DBI!

While I am at it then there are the ADA issues which most landlords place in the laps of the tenants who in many case are unaware of the pitfalls until they are served with a law suit. OEWD used to fund CASp inspections but I believe that no longer does OEWD offer such a service.

Yes, we still have a long way to go but at least we are moving in the right direction, which I strongly

support.

Thank you, Mayor Breed, for initiating the Small Business Recovery Act (File #210285).

Kind regards,

[Henry Karnilowicz](#)

President Emeritus  
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

Co-chair  
SFPD x Small Business Advisory Forum

[1019 Howard Street](#)  
[San Francisco, CA 94103-2806](#)  
[415.420.8113 cell](#)



# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

SFCDMA

Maryo Mogannam  
President

Masood Samereie  
Vice-President

Al Williams  
Vice-President

Tracey Sylvester  
Secretary

Keith Goldstein  
Treasurer

April 12, 2021

The Honorable London N. Breed, Mayor  
The Honorable Shamann Walton, President, SF Board of Supervisors  
Kate Sofis, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development  
San Francisco City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Input on Small Business Recovery Act, File #210285

Dear Mayor Breed, Supervisor Walton and Director Sofis,

The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations (SFCDMA) has served to protect, preserve and promote small business merchant corridors in San Francisco for 70 years. We represent 34 local merchant associations and advocate for all small business merchants in every one of our neighborhood commercial districts.

Thank you, Mayor Breed, for initiating the Small Business Recovery Act (File #210285) at this critical time, when San Francisco's local merchants are struggling to recover from the public health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic devastation we have endured this past year.

The SFCDMA's Legislation Committee recently received a presentation from Laurel Arvanitidis of OEWD on the Small Business Recovery Act. We appreciate her outreach to us early in the process, and we look forward to continuing to provide input on this important piece of legislation that will help small businesses of all types in all commercial areas get back on our feet. Your support during the pandemic and after is changing the culture of how the city engages with and values small businesses here, and we are grateful to you for that change, and for giving us a seat at the table.

We are excited by this legislation overall and the way it expands provisions in Prop H to other commercial areas across the city, as well as making certain uses and permitting more flexible in NCDs. Below is input from the SFCDMA on some specific provisions in the draft legislation to date that we would like you to consider:

- We support expanding streamlined review and inspections to principally permitted storefront uses citywide. Requiring a turn-around time of no more than 30 days for permit applications for principally permitted uses in storefront commercial spaces in all commercial areas of the city will help fill vacant storefronts more quickly and benefit both merchants and residents who are our customers in nearby NCDs.
- We support removing individual definitions for Cat Boarding, Trade Shops, Gyms and Instructional Services in the Planning Code. Moving Gyms and Instructional Services under the Personal Service definition will help these businesses open more quickly and less expensively, ensuring that neighborhood residents who have depended on them for their physical and mental well-being during the pandemic will have access to these types of services where-ever they live and work.



SFCDMA

# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

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- Deleting the Abandonment Clause may be a disincentive for some landlords to fill their vacancies if a requirement that encourages them to rent their commercial spaces within a given timeframe no longer exists. At the same time we support the ability of a like-use to go into a long-vacant space without having to go through a new CU process (a movie theater in an NCD for example). We suggest that this provision have a sunset date to review if it is working as intended, or should perhaps be applied only to certain uses and/or in specific commercial areas where it is needed.
- We generally support allowing Outdoor Activity Areas to extend to rooftops within limited operational time limits. We believe commercial rooftops, though limited in availability, are underutilized but appealing spaces that contribute to a more vibrant civic life and lively neighborhood character. Rooftops can be used as outdoor areas that are healthier and more safely occupied than indoor spaces as we move to the end of the pandemic. However, we do have concerns that residential neighbors of rooftop commercial spaces may be impacted by sound coming from those outdoor areas. We encourage limiting the hours the rooftops can be in use and controlling for and mitigating sound levels (including amplified sound) generated from rooftop activities.
- On this matter above and other provisions of this legislation that include amplified sound (including those related to Temporary Outdoor Entertainment activities, Nighttime Entertainment Uses, allowing additional One-Time Entertainment and Amplified Sound permits, and Extending Limited Live Performance times in certain districts, we strongly urge you to meet with neighborhood associations located near commercial areas to inform local residents of these proposed changes and ask for input on how to best integrate these uses in and near residential areas. Neighborhood residents are also our customers and we need to be respectful of their needs both in their shopping areas and inside their homes. We recognize that allowing live music and other performance or entertainment uses in outdoor areas will bring more people into our neighborhood commercial areas, and that will be good for all of our local merchants. But amplified sound, depending on the hours and locations, may be problematic for some local residents and cause conflict between and among neighbors. To proactively avoid and mitigate that conflict we again strongly encourage you to reach out to neighborhood groups to find a balance that will work for everyone.
- We support allowing accessory Catering Use in Full-Service Restaurants in addition to Limited Restaurants. This will support both the catering industry as well as restaurants that can utilize their spaces in off-hours to help them return to solvency.
- We support deleting the CU findings for concentration of uses in NCDs. We agree that removing the requirement for new store owners to measure the linear frontage of their storefront in the context of concentration of use is an unnecessary step that just adds time and cost to the permit process.
- We support requiring expedited permit processing for commercial uses on ground floors. An application for a CU that seeks to establish, alter, enlarge or intensify a commercial use on the first floor or below, or on the second story where the use would operate on both first and second stories, should be processed to fill these vacant spaces with neighborhood-serving uses as quickly as possible.



SFCDMA

# San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations

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- We support exempting single individual, non-amplified performers from permit requirements that end at a reasonable time appropriate to the neighborhoods. We also suggest that a slightly larger group (of 2 or 3 performers) that is not amplified and performs at a sound level acceptable to neighborhood residents could also qualify for this provision.
- We support reducing the period the Historic Preservation Commission has to review minor alteration permits from 20 days to 10 days. We would go further to say that the HPC should have no role in the permit process for minor alterations when determined as such by Planning Department staff because it is an unnecessary review step that just adds time and cost to the process.

Again, thank you for initiating this legislation and for coming to the SFCDMA for our input on it early in the process. We wish to have a continuing dialogue with you as the legislation moves through the pipeline to discuss changes or amendments, how they would impact local merchants, and ways to improve the legislation so that it works best for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Cornell".

Stephen Cornell, Chair  
San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations Legislation Committee

cc: Clerk of the Board, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Laurel Arvanitidis and Victor Ruiz-Carnejo, OEWD; Sharky Laguana, SBC President; Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director, OSB