

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works
Rich Hillis, Director, Planning Department

FROM: Stephanie Cabrera, Assistant Clerk

DATE: December 15, 2023

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by Supervisor Dean Preston on December 5, 2023:

File No. 231255

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to waive the banner and inspection fees for nonprofit organizations in certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCDs) and Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts (NCTDs) through December 31, 2026; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you have any additional comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to Alisa Somera at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: Alisa.Somera@sfgov.org.

cc:

- David Steinberg, Public Works
- Ian Schneider, Public Works
- Lena Liu, Public Works
- Dan Sider, Planning Department
- Aaron Starr, Planning Department
- Lisa Gibson, Planning Department
- Devyani Jain, Planning Department
- Joy Navarrete, Planning Department

1 [Public Works Code - Neighborhood Commercial Districts Banner Fee Waiver]

2
3 **Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to waive the banner and inspection fees**
4 **for nonprofit organizations in certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCDs) and**
5 **Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts (NCTDs) through December 31, 2026; and**
6 **affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental**
7 **Quality Act.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
13 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
14 subsections or parts of tables.

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

16 Section 1. Findings. The Planning Department has determined that the actions
17 contemplated in this ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act
18 (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with
19 the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. ____ and is incorporated herein by reference.
20 The Board affirms this determination.

21 Section 2. Article 5.7 of the Public Works Code is hereby amended by revising Section
22 184.78, to read as follows:

23 **(q) Fee Exemptions for Certain Cultural Districts.**

24 (1) The Cultural Districts specified in this subsection (q) (each an “Exempt
25 Cultural District”) shall be exempt from banner permit fees and inspection fees set forth in

1 Section 184.78 with respect to the Exempt Cultural District’s installation of one banner
 2 featuring that Exempt Cultural District on one City-owned utility pole (each an “Exempt Banner
 3 Location”) within the geographic boundaries of that Exempt Cultural District, on up to a
 4 prescribed number of Exempt Banner Locations; provided, however, the Exempt Cultural
 5 District may modify the content or design of the banners installed under this subsection (q)
 6 and remove and replace such banners without incurring banner permit fees and inspection
 7 fees for up to two times per year at each Exempt Banner Location. The Exempt Cultural
 8 District shall be required to pay the banner permit fees and inspection fees for the removal
 9 and replacement of each banner more than two times per year at each Exempt Banner
 10 Location. All other provisions of Public Works Code Section 184.78 shall remain in full effect
 11 and shall apply to these banners.

12 (2) The Exempt Cultural Districts shall consist of the following Cultural Districts,
 13 each as defined in Section 107.3 of the Administrative Code, and shall be exempted for the
 14 number of Banner Locations specified below.

<i>Exempt Cultural District</i>	<i>Number of Exempt Banner Locations</i>
Leather and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Cultural District	200
SoMa Pilipinas – Filipino Cultural Heritage District	300

21
 22 **(r) Fee Exemptions for Certain Nonprofit Organizations in Certain Neighborhood**
 23 **Commercial Districts and Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts.**

24 **(1) Exempt Nonprofit Organization.** For purposes of this subsection 184.78(r),
 25 **“Exempt Nonprofit Organization” shall mean any organization that (A) is exempt from income taxation**

1 under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; (B) has an annual budget of no more than
2 \$250,000; and (C) is located in a Neighborhood Commercial District or Neighborhood Commercial
3 Transit District specified in subsection (r)(3) or primarily serves one or more of the districts specified
4 in subsection (r)(3).

5 (2) An Exempt Nonprofit Organization shall be exempt from banner permit fees and
6 inspection fees set forth in Section 184.78 with respect to the Exempt Nonprofit Organization's
7 installation of banners sharing the same content and design on City-owned utility poles within the
8 geographic boundaries of the Neighborhood Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial Transit
9 District(s) that the Exempt Nonprofit Organization primarily serves, or in which the Exempt Nonprofit
10 Organization is located. The Exempt Nonprofit Organization may modify the content or design of the
11 banners installed in conformance with this subsection (r) and remove and replace such banners without
12 incurring banner permit fees and inspection fees for up to two times per year per banner permit. The
13 Exempt Nonprofit Organization shall be required to pay the banner permit fees and inspection fees for
14 the removal and replacement of each banner more than two times per year. All other provisions of
15 Public Works Code Section 184.78, including the investigation fees set forth in subsection (n), shall
16 remain in full effect and shall apply to these banners.

17 (3) The Neighborhood Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts to
18 which this subsection (r) applies are: Divisadero Street NCTD; Haight Street NCD; Lower Haight
19 Street NCD; Fillmore Street NCTD; Upper Fillmore NCD; Hayes NCT; Japantown NCD; and Lower
20 Polk Street NCD.

21 (4) This subsection (r) shall remain in effect through December 31, 2026. This
22 subsection (r) shall expire by operation of law on January 1, 2027, after which the City Attorney is
23 authorized to cause the subsection to be removed from the Public Works Code.

1 Section 3. Effective Date; Retroactivity.

2 (a) This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs
3 when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not
4 sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the
5 Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

6 (b) If the effective date of this ordinance is after January 1, 2024, this ordinance shall
7 upon its effective date be retroactive to January 1, 2024. Exempt Nonprofit Organizations that
8 obtained a banner permit under Public Works Code Section 184.78 between January 1, 2024
9 and the effective date of this ordinance shall receive a refund of any banner permit fees and
10 inspection fees paid to the Department of Public Works that meet the requirements for the fee
11 waivers set forth in Public Works Code subsection 184.78(r).

12
13 Section 4. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors
14 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,
15 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal
16 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment
17 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under
18 the official title of the ordinance.

19
20 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
21 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

22 By: /s/ Peter R. Miljanich
23 PETER R. MILJANICH
24 Deputy City Attorney

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Public Works Code - Neighborhood Commercial Districts Banner Fee Waiver]

Ordinance amending the Public Works Code to waive the banner and inspection fees for nonprofit organizations in certain Neighborhood Commercial Districts (NCDs) and Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts (NCTDs) through December 31, 2026; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Public Works Code Section 184.78 specifies a process and conditions under which banners may be placed on City-owned utility poles. Applicants for banner permits must pay permit and inspection fees. The Board of Supervisors has approved various waivers of the banner permit and inspection fees under the Public Works Code.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Public Works Code Section 184.78 to waive permit and inspection fees for certain Exempt Nonprofit Organizations for the installation of banners sharing the same content and design within the geographic boundaries of certain Neighborhood Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial Transit District(s) that the Exempt Nonprofit Organization primarily serves, or in which the Exempt Nonprofit Organization is located. For purposes of this fee waiver, Exempt Nonprofit Organization means any organization that (A) is exempt from income taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; (B) has an annual budget of no more than \$250,000; and (C) is located in or primarily serves certain Neighborhood Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial Transit Districts.

In addition, this ordinance would authorize Exempt Nonprofit Organizations to modify the content or design of the banners, and to remove and replace such banners, without incurring banner permit fees and inspection fees up to two times per year per banner permit.

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Introduction Form

(by a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor)



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

- 1. For reference to Committee (Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment)
- 2. Request for next printed agenda (For Adoption Without Committee Reference)
(Routine, non-controversial and/or commendatory matters only)
- 3. Request for Hearing on a subject matter at Committee
- 4. Request for Letter beginning with "Supervisor inquires..."
- 5. City Attorney Request
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget and Legislative Analyst Request (attached written Motion)
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the Board on

The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following (please check all appropriate boxes):

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission Human Resources Department

General Plan Referral sent to the Planning Department (proposed legislation subject to Charter 4.105 & Admin 2A.53):

- Yes No

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

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

Long Title or text listed:

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: