



SMALL BUSINESS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
EDWIN M. LEE, MAYOR

March 27, 2012

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors
City Hall room 244
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4694

Re: File No. 120084 [Planning Code - Eating and Drinking Establishment Definitions and Controls]

Small Business Commission Recommendation: **Approval**

Dear Ms. Calvillo:

On February 13, 2012, the Small Business Commission (SBC) voted 6-0 to recommend approval of File No. 120084

Restaurant zoning regulations in San Francisco are complex and difficult for businesses to fully comply with. Multiple times per week, pre-start up food businesses meet with Office of Small Business staff and often, they have difficulty applying their proposed model to an existing category and face the prospect of modifying their plans to meet a permitted or conditionally permitted eating use under the planning code. Current businesses often want to try new, innovative things in their establishments and unless a business is well financed and able to hire people to help navigate the process, they risk unknowingly violating the planning code. Simply stated, the current code is overly complex, discourages compliance, and prevents businesses from reaching their potential as many businesses have to adjust their business model to fit into the definitions.

The Small Business Commission is a strong supporter of implementing NC@20 recommendations and agrees with the findings in cornerstone recommendation #3 "Overhaul Regulations for Eating and Drinking Uses" and notes that neighborhood specific controls will remain in tact with appropriate adjustments. The Commission finds that this ordinance is consistent with key points in cornerstone recommendation #3 and that this ordinance accomplishes a key objective in meeting Prop I streamlining requirements. The Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors implement this plan expeditiously and without delay.

Sincerely,

Regina Dick-Endrizzi
Director, Office of Small Business

cc. Jason Elliott, Mayors Office
AnMarie Rogers, Planning Department Staff
Supervisor Wiener