

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - San Francisco Music and Entertainment Venue Recovery Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the San Francisco Music and Entertainment Venue Recovery Fund to provide grants to certain music and entertainment venues whose operations have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.

Existing Law

There is currently no City fund focused on providing relief to San Francisco entertainment venues that are facing the possibility of permanent closure due to economic pressures related to the COVID-19 emergency.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create a fund into which the City can receive or appropriate money to distribute as grants to music or entertainment venues whose operations have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. OSB would be authorized to administer the fund, in consultation with the Controller, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the Entertainment Commission.

Businesses eligible to receive grants would be live entertainment venues that held a Place of Entertainment permit from the Entertainment Commission as of February 25, 2020, that have demonstrated a commitment to maintaining the venue to provide live entertainment, that are not owned (in whole or in part), managed, or exclusively booked by a publicly traded company, and that have documented in an application, signed under penalty of perjury: (1) a need to cover business costs that have become due since February 25, 2020, and which costs the business is struggling to pay due to COVID-19-related income loss or expenses; and (2) a present lease for the venue space and a commitment to maintain the lease into the future for live entertainment purposes.

Among eligible venues, priority would be given to eligible venues that meet two or more of the following additional criteria, with higher priority given to eligible venues that meet a higher number of additional criteria: (1) the venue is in imminent danger of closure; (2) the venue has been in operation for at least 15 years; (3) the venue is a "Legacy Business" under Section 2A.242 of the Administrative Code; (4) the venue has a maximum occupancy of less than 1000 patrons, as established by the most recent Place of Assembly permit issued for the venue under Chapter 1 of the Fire Code; and (5) the venue has historical importance to, or in recent years has been an important economic force in, one or more Cultural Districts, as defined in Chapter 107 of the Administrative Code.

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