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To: [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Approve the Save Our Small Businesses Initiative
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Rules Committee,

Rules Committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors:

We're in an unprecedented crisis. COVID-19 has devastated small businesses in San Francisco. We could lose to to half of our mom-and-pop shops—and SF's complicated planning process could keep storefronts empty for years. We need decisive action to keep existing businesses alive and allow new ones to open sooner.

We've all seen the stories about the Planning Department's byzantine and extensive process for permit approvals Last November in District 4, news media reported on the case of Palm City Wines, a restaurant operated by two Sunset residents. When the Planning Department made a mistake during the permitting process, the administrative review process nearly bankrupted the owners. Our friends and families should need deep pockets or rich investors just to serve sandwiches and salads to neighbors.

Mayor Breed has submitted the Save Our Small Businesses Initiative, File #200650, to streamline permits and create flexibility for our neighborhood shops, restaurants, and non-profits. Restaurants will be allowed to expand food service to parklets for social distancing, non-profits will be able to use vacant storefronts for neighborhood offices, and cafes will be able to rent workspaces during daytime hours. The ordinance will also change our Planning Department rules, so that most permits in neighborhood commercial corridors are processed in 30 days.

These changes are not radical. It doesn't make sense to punish entrepreneurs for mistakes made by the City. This ballot measure will fix that problem—and so many others. Support this bill so our small businesses can stay open.

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