

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

Date: February 7, 2025
To: Planning Department/Planning Commission
From: John Carroll, Assistant Clerk, Land Use and Transportation Committee
Subject: Board of Supervisors Legislation Referral - File No. 241208-2
Planning Code - Entertainment Uses in Certain SALI and MUR Districts South of Market – SUBSTITUTE VERSION 2

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Determination
(*California Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq.*)
 - Ordinance / Resolution
 - Ballot Measure

- Amendment to the Planning Code, including the following Findings:
(*Planning Code, Section 302(b): 90 days for Planning Commission review*)
 - General Plan Planning Code, Section 101.1 Planning Code, Section 302

- Amendment to the Administrative Code, involving Land Use/Planning
(*Board Rule 3.23: 30 days for possible Planning Department review*)

- General Plan Referral for Non-Planning Code Amendments
(*Charter, Section 4.105, and Administrative Code, Section 2A.53*)
(Required for legislation concerning the acquisition, vacation, sale, or change in use of City property; subdivision of land; construction, improvement, extension, widening, narrowing, removal, or relocation of public ways, transportation routes, ground, open space, buildings, or structures; plans for public housing and publicly-assisted private housing; redevelopment plans; development agreements; the annual capital expenditure plan and six-year capital improvement program; and any capital improvement project or long-term financing proposal such as general obligation or revenue bonds.)

- Historic Preservation Commission
 - Landmark (*Planning Code, Section 1004.3*)
 - Cultural Districts (*Charter, Section 4.135 & Board Rule 3.23*)
 - Mills Act Contract (*Government Code, Section 50280*)
 - Designation for Significant/Contributory Buildings (*Planning Code, Article 11*)

Please send the Planning Department/Commission recommendation/determination to John Carroll at john.carroll@sfgov.org.

1 [Planning Code - Entertainment Uses in Certain SALI and MUR Districts South of Market]
2
3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to conditionally permit Nighttime**
4 **Entertainment uses on properties fronting Brannan Street in the SALI**
5 **(Service/Arts/Light Industrial) District that fall within 200 feet of a RED (Residential**
6 **Enclave) or RED-MX (Residential Enclave-Mixed) District; conditionally permitting**
7 **Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR**
8 **(Mixed-Use Residential) District; principally permitting General Entertainment uses on**
9 **properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District; exempting the aforementioned**
10 **Folsom and Brannan Street properties from the 200-foot buffer restrictions for**
11 **Nighttime Entertainment uses; making clarifying revisions to buffer restrictions for**
12 **Nighttime Entertainment uses; affirming the Planning Department's determination**
13 **under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with**
14 **the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and**
15 **making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning**
16 **Code, Section 302.**

17 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
18 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
19 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
20 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
21 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
22 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
23 subsections or parts of tables.

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

25 Section 1. Land Use and Environmental Findings.

1 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this
2 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources
3 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of
4 Supervisors in File No. ___ and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this
5 determination.

6 (b) On _____, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. _____,
7 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,
8 with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The
9 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of
10 the Board of Supervisors in File No. _____, and is incorporated herein by reference.

11 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, this Board finds that this ordinance will
12 serve the public necessity, convenience, and welfare for the reasons set forth in Planning
13 Commission Resolution No. _____, and incorporates such reasons by this reference
14 thereto. A copy of said resolution is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File
15 No. _____.

16
17 Section 2. Background and General Findings.

18 (a) For over 50 years, the South of Market area ("SoMa"), specifically the Folsom
19 Street corridor, has been one of San Francisco's major nightlife and entertainment hubs, in
20 which innumerable bars and nightclubs were established catering to diverse populations.

21 (b) The Western SoMa Special Use District allows but imposes restrictions on the
22 establishment of new Nighttime Entertainment uses, including requiring a 200-foot buffer
23 between such uses and any property within a RED (Residential Enclave) or RED-MX
24 (Residential Enclave-Mixed) District, subject to certain exceptions.

1 (c) In 2023, the City enacted Ordinance No. 22-23 to promote and enhance the vitality
2 of nightlife in SoMa, specifically in portions of the neighborhood located within the Leather and
3 LGBTQ Cultural District (“Cultural District”), the boundaries of which are established in
4 Administrative Code Section 107.3(e). However, Ordinance No. 22-23 did not address
5 properties that front Brannan Street in the SALI (Service/Arts/Light Industrial) District or
6 properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR (Mixed-Use Residential) District, both of which
7 fall outside of the Cultural District’s boundaries. Currently in SALI Districts, Nighttime
8 Entertainment Uses are principally permitted, except on properties within the 200-foot buffer
9 zone. In MUR Districts, Nighttime Entertainment Uses are not permitted.

10 (d) This ordinance seeks to balance the buffer restrictions in the Western SoMa
11 Special Use District with the need to promote the establishment and enhancement of nightlife
12 and entertainment in SoMa. To achieve this balance, the ordinance removes the buffer
13 restrictions for properties that front Brannan Street in the SALI District and subjects new
14 Nighttime Entertainment Uses on such properties within the buffer to the conditional use
15 process. This ordinance does not affect properties in the SALI District that are outside the
16 200-foot buffer restriction, where Nighttime Entertainment Uses are currently principally
17 permitted. For properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District, the ordinance
18 conditionally permits new Nighttime Entertainment Uses and exempts such properties from
19 the buffer restrictions. The ordinance also principally permits new General Entertainment
20 Uses for properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District; General Entertainment Uses
21 are already principally permitted in the SALI District.

22
23 Section 3. Articles 2 and 8 of the Planning Code are hereby amended by revising
24 Sections 249.39, 833, 836, and 840, to read as follows:
25

1 **SEC. 249.39. WESTERN SOMA SPECIAL USE DISTRICT.**

2 * * * *

3 (c) **Controls.** All provisions of the Planning Code shall apply except as otherwise
4 provided in this subsection (c).

5 * * * *

6 **(7) Buffers from Nighttime Entertainment.** Additional requirements
7 applicable to Nighttime Entertainment uses, as defined in Section 102, are as follows:

8 **(A) Nighttime Entertainment.** No portion of a non-accessory Nighttime
9 Entertainment use, as defined in Section 102 of this Code, shall be permitted within 200 linear
10 feet of any property within a RED or RED-MX District. This buffer shall not apply to: (i) any
11 Nighttime Entertainment use within the WMUO District where a Nighttime Entertainment use
12 that was established with a building permit application or a permit from the Entertainment
13 Commission or Police Department was in operation within five years prior to submission of a
14 building permit application to re-establish a Nighttime Entertainment use, ~~or~~ (ii) a Nighttime
15 Entertainment Use established within the Regional Commercial District ~~P~~ pursuant to Section
16 703.9(b) of this Code, ~~or~~ (iii) properties fronting Folsom Street between 7th Street and Division
17 Street and properties fronting 11th Street between Howard Street and Division Street, (iv)
18 conditionally permitted Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties fronting Folsom Street in the MUR
19 District, or (v) conditionally permitted Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties fronting Brannan
20 Street in the SALI District.

21 * * * *

22
23 **SEC. 833. MUR – MIXED USE-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT.**

24 * * * *

Table 833		
MUR – MIXED USE-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT ZONING CONTROL TABLE		
Zoning Category	§ References	Mixed Use-Residential District Controls
* * * *		
NON-RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND USES		
* * * *		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Uses*	§§ 102, 181(f), 249.78, 803.9(b)	NP (1)(3)
* * * *		
Entertainment, General	§ 102	NP(7) (8)
Movie Theater	§ 102	P up to three screens.
<i>Nighttime Entertainment</i>	<i>§§ 102, 181(f), 823</i>	<i>NP(9)</i>
* * * *		

* Not listed below

* * * *

(7) C for Pool Hall.

(8) P on properties fronting Folsom Street.

(9) C on properties fronting Folsom Street. Conditionally permitted Nighttime Entertainment uses on such properties are not subject to the buffer in Section 249.39(c)(7).

SEC. 836. SALI – SERVICE/ARTS/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

* * * *

Table 836		
SALI – SERVICE/ARTS/LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT ZONING CONTROL TABLE		
Zoning Category	§ References	Service/Arts/Light Industrial District Controls
* * * *		
NON-RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND USES		
* * * *		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Uses*	§ 102, 803.9(b)	P (10)
Movie Theater	§ 102	P up to three screens.
<i>Nighttime Entertainment</i>	<u>§§ 102, 823</u>	<u>P (10)</u>
* * * *		

* Not listed below

* * * *

(10) Nighttime Entertainment subject to buffer in Section ~~249.6(e)(9)~~249.39(c)(7), *except that within such buffer Nighttime Entertainment uses shall be conditionally permitted on properties fronting Brannan Street.*

SEC. 840. WMUO – WSOMA MIXED USE-OFFICE DISTRICT.

* * * *

Table 840		
WMUO – WSOMA MIXED USE-OFFICE DISTRICT ZONING CONTROL TABLE		
Zoning Category	§ References	Western SoMa Mixed Use-Office District Controls
* * * *		
NON-RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS AND USES		
* * * *		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use Category		
Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Uses*	§ 102, 803.9(b)	P (9)
* * * *		

* Not listed below

* * * *

(9) Nighttime Entertainment is subject to restrictions in Section ~~249.39(c)(7)~~249.6(e)(9).

Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor’s veto of the ordinance.

Section 5. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles, numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment

1 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the “Note” that appears under
2 the official title of the ordinance.

3

4 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
5 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

6 By: /s/ Giulia Gualco-Nelson
7 GIULIA GUALCO-NELSON
8 Deputy City Attorney

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Substituted - 2/4/25)

[Planning Code - Entertainment Uses in Certain SALI and MUR Districts South of Market]

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to conditionally permit Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties fronting Brannan Street in the SALI (Service/Arts/Light Industrial) District that fall within 200 feet of a RED (Residential Enclave) or RED-MX (Residential Enclave-Mixed) District; conditionally permitting Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR (Mixed-Use Residential) District; principally permitting General Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District; exempting the aforementioned Folsom and Brannan Street properties from the 200-foot buffer restrictions for Nighttime Entertainment uses; making clarifying revisions to buffer restrictions for Nighttime Entertainment uses; affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

Existing Law

Articles 2 and 8 of the Planning Code regulate allowable uses for the SALI (Service/Arts/Light-Industrial) and MUR (Mixed Use-Residential) Districts. Nighttime Entertainment is “a Retail Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use that includes dance halls, discotheques, nightclubs, private clubs, and other similar evening-oriented entertainment activities. . . .” (Planning Code Section 102.) General Entertainment is “a Retail Entertainment, Arts and Recreation Use that provides entertainment or leisure pursuits to the general public including dramatic and musical performances where alcohol is not served during performances, arcades that provide eleven or more amusement game devices . . . billiard halls, bowling alleys, skating rinks, and mini-golf. . . .” (*Id.*)

In the SALI District, Nighttime Entertainment and General Entertainment are principally permitted. (Planning Code Section 836.) In the MUR District, Nighttime Entertainment and General Entertainment are not permitted. (Planning Code Section 833.)

Properties that front Folsom and Brannan Streets in the SALI and MUR districts are also located in the Western SoMa Special Use District (“SUD”). The SUD imposes additional restrictions on Nighttime Entertainment. Within the SUD, Nighttime Entertainment is not permitted within 200 feet of any property located in a RED (Residential Enclave) or RED-MX (Residential Enclave-Mixed) District, subject to certain exceptions. (Planning Code Section 249.39(c)(7).)

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend Planning Code Sections 833 and 836 to:

- Conditionally permit new Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District,
- Principally permit new General Entertainment Uses for properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District, and
- Conditionally permit new Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties fronting Brannan Street in the SALI District that fall within 200 feet of any property within a RED or RED-MX District.

This ordinance would also amend the SUD (Planning Code Section 249.39) to exempt the aforementioned Folsom and Brannan Street properties from the 200-foot buffer restrictions.

This ordinance does not affect properties in the SALI District that are outside the 200-foot buffer restriction, where Nighttime Entertainment uses are currently principally permitted.

This ordinance also makes several clerical amendments to update incorrect cross-references within the Planning Code, including Planning Code Section 840.

Background Information

In 2023, the City enacted Ordinance No. 22-23 to promote and enhance the vitality of nightlife in SoMa, specifically in portions of the neighborhood located within the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District (“Cultural District”), the boundaries of which are established in Administrative Code Section 107.3(e). However, Ordinance No. 22-23 did not address properties that front Brannan Street in the SALI (Service/Arts/Light Industrial) District or properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR (Mixed-Use Residential) District, both of which fall outside of the Cultural District’s boundaries. Like Ordinance No. 22-23, this ordinance seeks to balance the buffer restrictions in the Western SoMa Special Use District with the need to promote the establishment and enhancement of nightlife and entertainment in SoMa.

This ordinance (version 2) is a substitute for an ordinance (version 1) originally introduced on December 17, 2024.

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Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

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

- 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).
- 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning : "Supervisor inquiries"
- 5. City Attorney Request.
- 6. Call File No. from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No.
- 9. Reactivate File No.
- 10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission
- Youth Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission

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

Sponsor(s):

Subject:

The text is listed:

Ordinance amending the Planning Code to conditionally permit Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties fronting Brannan Street in the SALI (Service/Arts/Light Industrial) District that fall within 200 feet of a RED (Residential Enclave) or RED-MX (Residential Enclave-Mixed) District; conditionally permitting Nighttime Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR (Mixed-Use Residential) District; principally permitting General Entertainment uses on properties that front Folsom Street in the MUR District; exempting the aforementioned Folsom and Brannan Street properties from the 200-foot buffer restrictions for Nighttime Entertainment uses; making clarifying revisions to buffer restrictions for Nighttime Entertainment uses; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act; making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and making findings of public necessity, convenience, and welfare pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: