SAN FRANCISCO
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
DIRECTOR KATY TANG

April 24, 2023

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: BOS File No. 230312 – Public Works, Administrative Codes - Curbside Shared Spaces Permit and License Fees - SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On April 24, 2023 the Small Business Commission (the Commission) heard BOS File 230312 – Public Works, Administrative Codes - Curbside Shared Spaces Permit and License Fees. Supervisor Safai presented the legislation, explaining the importance of curbside Shared Spaces and his hope that eliminating permit fees will help operators keep their parklets. Under this proposal, permit fees for curbside Shared Spaces will be eliminated, and the gross receipts threshold to receive a partial fee waiver for ongoing annual license fees will increase from $2 million in gross receipts to $2.5 million.

The Commission unanimously voted to support this legislation noting that businesses are still in economic recovery and many rely on their parklets to bring in revenue and expand seating. The permit and license fee costs for the Shared Spaces curbside program can be significant, especially when considered alongside the costs of upgrading a parklet to meet design guidelines. Eliminating fees will support and encourage small businesses to keep their parklets post-pandemic. Increasing the gross receipts threshold to qualify for reduced annual license fees will expand eligibility to more small businesses, especially restaurants. The Commission has been a champion of the Shared Spaces Program and supports proposals such as this that make it easier for businesses to operate their parklets.

The Commission commends Supervisor Safai and his staff for their ongoing support of small businesses. Thank you for considering the Commission's recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katy Tang
Director, Office of Small Business