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Mr. Brent Jalipa
VIA EMAIL

Cc: Ahsha Safai; Matt Haney; Gordon Mar

March 1, 2022

Dear Mr. Jalipa

I'm the Managing Director of the Ambassador Theatre Group San Francisco. We are the owners of the Orpheum, Golden Gate and Curran Theatres and collectively, we welcome more than 1,000,000 guests into our theatres each year.

While many of our guests live or work in San Francisco, more than XX% do not and travel to the City specifically for our performances. Our economic benefit expands to include the many restaurants and hotels that surround us as well as to the employment of hundreds of local craftspeople and theatre workers.

With all 3 theatres reaching their Centennial mark within the next few years, we have been the steady anchor through all phases of these neighborhood's development, demise and rebirth. The mid-Market rebirth is happening now and we are extremely active in working with the City and dozens of nonprofits in our area to help the neighborhood become stronger and safer.

While the recent Emergency Declaration for the Tenderloin area is a necessary step, it does not address all of the ills our neighborhood face. We know first-hand that many of our patrons have stopped coming because of their safety concerns and while the Linkage Center and increased support from the City and police are important, they do not address what some might consider a low-level problem but one that we feel helps to contribute to the impression of the neighborhood by our patrons.

Each day, out of my office window or while I head to a local business, I witness stolen goods being openly sold on the streets. In fact, on some days it is near impossible for me to travel between our theatres (8th/Market and 6th/Market) without encountering numerous set-ups on the street of goods, usually canned goods and other items usually distributed at food pantries being resold. Sometimes, I have to walk into the street as there are so many that the sidewalk is impassable.

Being adjacent to U.N. Plaza, we also witness other stolen goods being fenced. In fact, it's hard not to see people selling items that are evidently new and still in their boxes.

We understand the State Laws that have allowed for more leniency for street vendors have made it more difficult to combat this type of situation, but we feel that this is another contributing factor as why the Tenderloin and Civic Center area are seen as an "anything goes" environment. We urge the City to find a way to end these practices so that everyone who comes to San Francisco sees its beauty and is not distracted by this unethical practice. Our business will be happier for it and so will more than 1,000,000 people each year.

Sincerely,

Rainier Koeners
Managing Director



UC Hastings Law

SAN FRANCISCO

Sent via email to bos.legislation@sfgov.org

February 28, 2022

Budget and Finance Committee
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr Carlton B Goodlet Place, #244
San Francisco, California 94102

Re: Street Vendor Regulation in UN Plaza

Honorable Supervisors:

I write this letter on behalf of UC Hastings Law in support of the proposed regulation of street vendors in UN Plaza. Many UC Hastings Law employees, students, visitors, and residents use UN Plaza as their main path of travel to and from campus. Additionally, many of our student residents utilize the weekly Farmers Market to ensure that they have fresh produce available to them. Unfortunately, the sale of goods by unlicensed vendors, oftentimes stolen where the proceeds are used to fuel the drug trade, has made travel through or use of UN Plaza unsafe for our community. This situation is most problematic for our students living on campus who also need to navigate the sidewalks in the nighttime hours when safety conditions are the most perilous.

While the proposed legislation will not address all of the community concerns in the Tenderloin including violence, drug dealing, and cleanliness, we believe that providing a safe path of travel to and from campus as well as supporting the continuation of the Farmers Market is an important step. We expect that the City & County of San Francisco will work to ensure that legitimate vendors will receive a streamlined path to permits for authorized vending.

Additionally, while unrelated to the legislation before the Budget & Finance Committee today, we are grateful to have Urban Alchemy practitioners in UN Plaza and throughout the Tenderloin, and we appreciate the continuation of this important program by the City & County of San Francisco.

Approval of this legislation is a step towards limiting the sale of stolen goods and returning UN plaza to an inviting space for all of the public.

Sincerely,

Rhiannon Bailard

Rhiannon L. Bailard
Chief Operating Officer

From: [Steve Pulliam](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Street Vending Legislation
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 2:05:49 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am reaching out from **Heart of the City Farmers Market** regarding the street vending legislation being proposed. Heart of the City Farmers Market is very much in support of this legislation being approved.

Since 1981, Heart of the City has provided critical food access to our community. We now distribute nearly \$2million yearly in food assistance to help over 12,000 low-income households afford nutritious produce, including thousands of local seniors.

However, in the past two years, conditions in the UN Plaza have greatly deteriorated. The plaza has been swarmed by drug dealers and users lining the pathways and transit access to and from the market. Parking has been virtually eliminated for the much-needed Safe Sleeping Village, and Illegal sales of stolen goods has increased to unprecedented levels. During this time period the Farmers' Market has lost over 25 vendors (over 40%) due to these unsafe conditions and lack of customers. Daily, we field complaints from customers, employees and vendors complaining of harassment, aggression, and downright fear. Now, for the first time in our history we fear the survival of this neighborhood institution.

There have been two shootings recently on the plaza during our Farmers Market, and many fights with clubs, tasers, and knives. You may recall the elderly Asian woman who was attacked at the corner of Market and 7th Street which now harbors the illegal goods market. Her assailant was attacked just prior in this same illegal market. Our security guard, Samba Guisse, who caught the assailant was himself recently stabbed in the market. The threat of this illegal goods market is constant and evermore aggressive. We must station one of our 2 security guards on that side of the market just to keep the illegal market from spilling into our own. Of course, when they cannot sell their stolen goods at the corner, they enter our Farmers Market to try their luck. When asked to leave they become aggressive and threatening.

Furthermore, we have had vendors setup stands directly next to and within our market as if they are a part of us. Our vendors pay exorbitant fees and undergo frequent inspection to ensure that their product is safe and their own. Our Temporary Food Facilities, which are located next to the area where the illegal goods are sold, have fees in excess of \$1,000 monthly to sell in our market. Recently an illegal hotdog vendor set up an operation with a

canopy adjacent to our market. When asked to move, he responded “what are you going to do, the cops won’t move me”. He was correct, because repeated calls to SFPD resulted in no action. The best we could do was to get him to agree to move further from the Farmers’ Market.

In the last month, conditions have improved with the addition of the Linkage Center fencing and the return of Urban Alchemy to the plaza. It may take years for many of our customers and farmers to feel safe here again. Our reputation has been severely damaged. The approval of this street vending legislation could be the next step to further improve conditions at Heart of the City Farmers’ Market and facilitate a return to pre-pandemic operations. We wholeheartedly support this legislation.

Steve Pulliam (Market Manager)

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Steve Pulliam
Market Manager
Heart of the City Farmers' Market
1182 Market Street, Suite 412
San Francisco, CA 94102
Ph - 415-690-9016

From: [MICHAEL S. ROSSOFF](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Jim](#); [Cheryl Maloney](#); [DANIEL HELLER](#)
Subject: Street Vendor Reg. 211292
Date: Monday, February 28, 2022 8:18:07 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Sir,

Please convey my ENDORSEMENT of proposed Street Vendor Regulation.

The Regulation prevents the conversion of public land at United Nations Plaza. The plaza is the City's gateway and parade ground. for the exclusive private use without the consent of the City. The current conversion is unjust and undemocratic because it grants valuable City land to a very small elite group of vendors. The vendors often use violence and threats of violence to maintain their unlicensed franchise.

For 25 years, I have seen this situation worsen from my offices at 1 UN Plaza. I have since retired and have tried to rent my vacant offices. My first rental agent was frightened away and never came back after a nearby vendor threaten to shoot her in the face just because she was trying to take a picture of the building for her advertisement. My second agent, from Vanguard, was able to rent the offices. The new tenants moved out before they completely moved in after they saw the scary and tragic situation the unregulated vending causes, especially at night.

The City currently has one of the highest vacancy rates for office space in the world. The proposed legislation will help activate the commercial, civic and cultural life of the Plaza and return it to the people.

Michael Rossoff
1 UN Plaza
San Francisco

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ned Desmond](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Helene Sautou](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Concerning proposed new street vendor regulations
Date: Sunday, February 27, 2022 3:06:18 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To whom it may concern -

My name is Ned Desmond. I am a senior operating partner at SOSV, which operates the IndieBio startup development program located at 479 Jessie Street (sixth and Jessie) in San Francisco. I am writing on behalf of myself, my colleagues and the startup founders who work at this location.

As everyone is likely aware, the vicinity of our office has become a major area of criminal activity and our team finds the environment frightening and intimidating. In the past month, our office has been broken into twice, with considerable loss of commercial and personal property. These were reported to the police. We have been forced to bring in security experts to assess and harden our building security.

Just last week, one of our colleagues was punched in the face by a random passerby at Blue Bottle Cafe, a few yards from our office on Jessie Street. Other employees have been harrassed and chased. Everyone tries to avoid walking up to the corner of Jessie and Sixth when possible. These incidents led us to hire a security company to provide personal security training for our team.

Based on our own observations as well as briefings from local police, our area is a center of activity for stolen goods trafficking and drug dealing. We believe that the new proposed legislation, which requires permits for street vendors and proof of goods ownership would have a beneficial impact on our neighborhood. The activity related to stolen goods could no longer be carried out so openly, and we hope that would reduce the sense of threat as well as level of crime in our neighborhood.

The startup founders we work with at our IndieBio location come from all over the world to work with our experts, and they leave after six months to create world-changing companies that address the twin challenges of human and planetary (climate) health. They are always excited to come to San Francisco, and we hope their enthusiasm continues. We would be grateful if the city could take these steps and others to make the streets safe and welcoming for everyone. Thank you. - Ned Desmond

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Ned Desmond
Senior Operating Partner, [SOSV](#)
Twitter: NedDesmond



Note: This email has been sent in line with SOSV's [Communication Policy](#)

From: [Jane Weil](#)
To: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: In favor: proposed Legislation to regulate sale of stolen goods
Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022 12:01:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello Committee Members,

My name is Jane Weil, and I urge you to support legislation which will prohibit the re-sale of stolen merchandise, help end the theft rampant in San Francisco and make public space safer.

UN Plaza and Market Street should be clean, safe and accessible public space but have instead become a place to avoid, and the center of our precious city has become a nightmare and embarrassment.

As a resident of Mid Market I have witnessed firsthand the sales of clearly stolen goods. I am aware that theft and black market vending are out of control in San Francisco, and that seemingly very little is being done to discourage either. Stolen merchandise vendors are also often part of larger organized crime rings currently operating without any fear of consequences.

When my phone was stolen from Obama Headquarters I was immediately able to trace it to 7th & Market, a block from my home, and the feeling of helplessness and violation was terrible.

Recently I watched a man use a tool to break theft prevention devices off a pile of stolen sneakers while a crowd grew around him ready to try them on....nobody was the slightest bit concerned that his clearly stolen goods would be taken...This is not acceptable!

It is encouraging to see the City taking action, to: 1) stop stolen goods markets, 2) reduce property crime and 3) adopt and enforce legitimate vending opportunities.

Please approve this legislation.

Jane Weil
1160 Mission Street #2108
San Francisco 94103