



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
DIRECTOR KATY TANG

November 28, 2022

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. 220971 – Planning Code - Gates, Railings, and Grillwork Exceptions for Cannabis Retail Uses and Existing Non-Residential Uses - SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On November 14, 2022 the Small Business Commission (the Commission) heard BOS File No. 220971 – Planning Code - Gates, Railings, and Grillwork Exceptions for Cannabis Retail Uses and Existing Non-Residential Uses. Jeff Buckley, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Safai, presented the legislation.

Mr. Buckley explained that this proposal would exempt Cannabis retail and existing non-residential uses from transparency requirements for gates, railings, and grillwork in front of ground floor windows when the business is closed. He clarified that currently, businesses must have 75% transparency in all storefront gates, railings, and grillwork to provide for emergency access and to deter neighborhood blight.

The Commission unanimously voted to support this legislation noting that small businesses frequently experience vandalism and burglary, and non-transparent gates protect storefront windows and deter break-ins. The Commission noted that Cannabis retail in particular is a target for burglary because some federal laws prevent the business from using banking services, and they typically utilize cash. The Commission emphasized the need to make any requirements for gates, railings, and grillwork to be easily comprehensible. The Commission urged Mr. Buckley, and Supervisor Safai, to allow for future modifications to these rules and to consider new businesses in this proposal.

The Commission commends Supervisor Safai and his staff for their willingness to support small businesses as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for considering the Commission's recommendations. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katy Tang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katy Tang
Director, Office of Small Business