



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
LONDON BREED, MAYOR

OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
DIRECTOR KATY TANG

December 21, 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. 220340 – Planning Code – Neighborhood Commercial and Mixed Use Zoning Districts - SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

On December 12, 2022 the Small Business Commission (the Commission) heard BOS File No. 220340 – Planning Code – Neighborhood Commercial and Mixed Use Zoning Districts. Madison Tam, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Dorsey, and Aaron Starr, Principal Planner, Legislative Affairs, San Francisco Planning Department, presented the legislation.

Ms. Tam explained the context for this proposal, noting that in addition to simplifying zoning tables and code language, it extends major components of Proposition H (which was passed by voters in 2020) to Eastern Neighborhoods Zoning Districts. These components include removing the 311 notification (neighborhood notification) requirement for principally permitted uses in Eastern, Western, and Central SoMa Area Plan, and making changes of use in the Eastern SoMa Area Plan eligible for the 30-day permit process. As a result of Proposition H, these streamlining measures are currently in place in Neighborhood Commercial Districts, but have not yet been extended to the Eastern Neighborhoods Zoning Districts.

Ms. Tam reviewed the community outreach that Supervisor Dorsey conducted to engage community groups including, but not limited to, SOMA Pilipinas, the Leather and LGBTQ Cultural District, SOMA Youth and Families, and members of the nighttime and entertainment industry. The Commission commended Supervisor Dorsey for his thorough outreach efforts. Mr. Starr reviewed the history of the code reorganization project which has been underway since 2014, emphasizing the need for standardized zoning tables and terms to ensure the City's Planning Code is readable and understandable.

The Commission discussed their support, and the importance, of Proposition H as a tool to support small businesses and fill commercial vacancies. In the past, the Commission has advocated for expedited permit processing and greater flexibility for business uses throughout the City. This legislation furthers those goals, and as such, the Commission unanimously voted to support this legislation.

The Commission commends Supervisor Dorsey 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