

[Police Code - Notice of Supermarket Closure]

**Ordinance amending the Police Code to require large supermarkets to provide six months notice to their customers and the City before permanently closing, and to explore ways to allow for the continued sale of groceries at the location.**

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

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

Section 1. The Police Code is hereby amended by adding Article 57, consisting of Sections 5700 through 5705, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 57: SUPERMARKET CLOSURE ORDINANCE**

**SEC. 5700. FINDINGS.**

(a) Supermarkets are the main points of distribution for food and daily necessities for the residents of San Francisco and are essential to the vitality of a community. The closure of a supermarket can have widespread effects on a community's wellbeing by reducing access to food and creating food insecurity.

(b) Food insecurity contributes to poor health and health disparities through multiple pathways: stress, trauma, poor diet quality, and malnutrition. Food insecurity increases the risk of

1 multiple chronic conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension; exacerbates existing  
2 physical and mental health conditions; and can impair child development.

3 (c) Supermarket closures can have an especially dire impact on senior citizens, people with  
4 disabilities, and people who lack the means to travel by car or public transportation to supermarkets  
5 located outside their neighborhood.

6 (d) To safeguard the interests of workers, including the employees of some supermarkets,  
7 federal and state laws require large businesses to notify their employees of their intent to close or  
8 transfer ownership of the business.

9 (e) The Board of Supervisors recognizes that a supermarket owner may conclude that it is  
10 to its economic advantage to close when it is no longer profitable to continue the supermarket in  
11 operation. This Article 57 does not preclude the owner from making such a decision.

12 (f) Nevertheless, given the life-sustaining services a supermarket provides to residents in  
13 the neighborhood, and the important role it plays in strengthening and stabilizing the community it  
14 serves, an owner has a responsibility as an integral part of that community to undertake a reasonable  
15 effort to work with neighborhood residents and the City to explore opportunities to remain open for  
16 business, or to identify a replacement supermarket. Through this Article 57, the City seeks to leverage  
17 community and City resources to ensure that neighborhoods are not left devoid of supermarkets and  
18 residents are not left without access to supermarkets; that supermarkets continue to serve the  
19 community even when there is the possibility of a supermarket closure.

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21 **SEC. 5701. DEFINITIONS.**

22 For purposes of this Article 57, the following definitions apply:

23 “Close for Business” or “Close” or “Closure” means to permanently discontinue operation as  
24 a Supermarket at a given location.

1           "Supermarket" has the meaning set forth in Health Code Section 440, as may be amended from  
2 time to time.

3           "Supermarket Owner" means the individual or entity that owns the Supermarket, or their agent.

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5           **SEC. 5702. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLOSE.**

6           (a) A Supermarket shall not Close for Business unless the Supermarket Owner has:

7                 (1) Provided six months' written notice of the Supermarket's intention to Close to  
8 the Director of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Board of  
9 Supervisors; and

10                (2) Provided six months' notice of the Supermarket's intention to Close to its  
11 customers and the public by posting prominent notices at all entries and exits to the Supermarket.

12           (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a Supermarket may Close after having provided less  
13 than six months' notice to the Director of OEWD, the Board of Supervisors, and the Supermarket's  
14 customers and the public if:

15                 (1) The Closure is caused by business circumstances that were not reasonably  
16 foreseeable as of the time that notice would have been required; or

17                 (2) The Closure is due to a natural disaster or emergency; or

18                 (3) As of the time that notice would have been required, the Supermarket was  
19 actively seeking capital or business which, if obtained, would have enabled the Supermarket to avoid or  
20 postpone the Closure, and the Supermarket reasonably and in good faith believed that giving the notice  
21 required would have precluded the Supermarket from obtaining the needed capital or business.

22           (c) A Supermarket relying on subsection (b) to provide less than six months' notice shall  
23 give as much notice as is practicable, and at that time shall articulate in writing the basis for having  
24 reduced the notification period.

1                   **SEC. 5703. GOOD FAITH EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF SERVICES.**

2                   During the period between the issuance of the notices required under Section 5702 and  
3 Supermarket's Closure, the Supermarket shall meet and work in good faith with neighborhood  
4 residents and OEWD to find a workable solution to allow for the continued availability of groceries at  
5 the Supermarket location. Solutions may include, but are not limited to, identifying strategies and  
6 resources to allow the Supermarket to remain open, helping the residents organize and open a  
7 cooperative, and identifying another Supermarket operator capable of continuing grocery sales.

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9                   **SEC. 5704. ENFORCEMENT.**

10                  (a) The Director of OEWD may issue regulations necessary or appropriate to implement  
11 this Article 57.

12                  (b) Any person affected by a Supermarket's failure to comply with the requirements of this  
13 Article 57 may institute proceedings for damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or writ of  
14 mandate to remedy the violation, in any court of competent jurisdiction. It shall be a defense to an  
15 action brought under this Section 5704 that compliance with this Article 57 would have required the  
16 disclosure of information that is proprietary, a trade secret, or is otherwise protected from disclosure  
17 under Government Code Section 7930.205, Civil Code Section 3426 et seq., or Evidence Code Section  
18 1060, as such provisions may be amended from time to time.

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20                  **SEC. 5705. UNDERTAKING FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE.**

21                  In enacting and implementing this Article 57, the City is assuming an undertaking only to  
22 promote the general welfare. It is not assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers and employees, an  
23 obligation for breach of which it is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach  
24 proximately caused injury.

Section 2. 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.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

By:                     /s/                      
ANNE PEARSON  
Deputy City Attorney

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