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November 14, 2024

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee,

I am writing today to offer my support for the repeal of Article 26 of the Police Code per ordinance 240966. As a queer resident of San Francisco for the last 18 years it's encouraging to see this action by the board to remove portions of the code that are no longer serving the community and are a burden on our city departments.

Article 26 has strict requirements that are not found in other business permits and place an undue burden on the business owners, staff, patrons, and the Police Department. These include extensive background checks, fingerprinting, and photographing of operators. Article 26 also favors larger corporations over small businesses by excluding large corporations from these requirements. The current code also duplicates existing code requirements that typically already fall under Department of Public Health (DPH) or Department of Building Inspections (DBI) authority.

The existing code requires unjustified extensive background checks and personal data collection on all employees and customers. This is beyond the typical requirements for other businesses, and carries a misdemeanor penalty for failure to comply. Given the history of police harassment of gay bathhouses during the time of these amendments (1973-1983), it invokes memories of discrimination that no longer have a place in San Francisco.

As we look towards the future of San Francisco and promoting business opportunities, it is good policy to remove and update legacy code that no longer serves the community. Removing Article 26 will save money, reduce work load, and streamline new business creation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Shire', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Shire

From: [Raymond Buscemi, Psy.D.](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: jdumlao@sfaf.org
Subject: Support for Ordinance #240966
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 10:48:39 AM

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Dear Public Safety & Neighborhood Committee,

My name is Dr. Raymond Buscemi and as a resident of Hayes Valley, San Francisco, I am submitting this public comment in strong support of Ordinance **#240966**. I believe that modernizing this code to make it easier for queer bathhouses in SF to open is important because It is important to base public health decisions on science and evidence, rather than stigma and stereotype or preconceived notions about human behavior. It is time for us to catch up with the current realities of HIV prevention and LGBTQ sexual health. PrEP, Doxy PEP, and U=U have changed the context for sexual health and we no longer need the outdated restrictions of the 80s. The bathhouse restrictions are outdated and it's time to create new approaches that fit the science & meet community needs.

Thank you to Supervisor Mandelman, Supervisor Dorsey and their staff for continuing to work to right the wrongs of outdated public health policy and stigma. We appreciate his persistence on this issue. This ordinance builds on Mandelman's important work in 2020.

Thank you,

Raymond Buscemi, Psy.D.
Analytical Psychologist
C. G. Jung Institute of San Francisco
California Licensed Psychologist (PSY 22036)

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From: [David C](#)
To: [Crayton, Monique \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Dorsey, Matt \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Justice Dumlao](#)
Subject: Support for Ordinance #240966
Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 12:00:00 PM

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monique.crayton@sfgov.org
Rafael.Mandelman@sfgov.org
matt.dorsey@sfgov.org
CC: jdumlao@sfa.org

Dear Public Safety & Neighborhood Committee,

My name is David Counts,

I've lived here in San Francisco at Eddy and Van Ness going on for over 30 years now. I am submitting this public comment in strong support of Ordinance **#240966**. I believe that modernizing this code, making it easier for queer bathhouses to open in our great city, is a crucial, necessary and substantial step that San Francisco must take to reaffirm its identity as a beacon of light and city of hope for the LGBTQ+ community. It's crucial because of the escalating, targeted attacks by right wing forces captained by president elect Donald Trump and theologically justified by Christian Nationalism. This poses, I say without exaggeration an existential threat to our community that's heroic in its mere existence.

It's necessary because queer bathhouses should have never been shut down or policed in the first place. Clearly the motivation to do so was not science based but rather it was rooted in irrational fear, shame, stigma, and homophobia. The fact that Swinger clubs were left alone and to their own devices at the same time queer bath houses were shut down, speaks volumes. That wrong needs to be righted.

Finally, modernizing the code would be a substantial affirmation of LGBTQ+ dignity as sexual sensual beings and a decisive rejection of the shame that right wing religious affiliations would like to characterize those that would dare be themselves by loving and desiring outside manufactured heterosexual religious "norms". In early 2000, I was senior editor at Hot House Entertainment, a well-known and historically significant gay adult production company owned by Steven Scarborough. A gay adult sexual icon if there ever was one. There I came to understand that queer pornography's importance went far beyond a means of titillation of which I dare not trivialize.

Queer pornography/eroticism is an overt, subversive rejection of the culture of shame and oppression the LGBTQ+ community has historically had to contend with and continues to have to do so today. It expresses the mantra: 'We're here, we're queer and we're proud of it and we're not going anywhere.' That's exactly the affirmation a queer bathhouse makes. A queer bathhouse is a shameless celebration of queerness. It's also an affront to right-wing, bigoted religious zealots. That alone should be enough reason to establish Ordinance **#240966**.

Thank you to Supervisor Mandelman, Supervisor Dorsey and their staff for continuing to work to right the wrongs of outdated public health policy and stigma. We appreciate his persistence on this issue. This ordinance builds on Mandelman's important work in 2020.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

David Hartley Counts
810 Eddy Street, # 602, San Francisco California
cdavid1760@yahoo.com