

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



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EDWIN M. LEE BOS ops,
MAYOR LEG Dep
140880, 141024 B+F

December 8, 2014

President Katy Tang &
Members of the Board of Supervisors
1 Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.
San Francisco, CA 94102

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SAN FRANCISCO
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Dear President Tang:

I am very supportive of efforts to provide more rights and benefits to part time workers at some formula retail businesses. As you know, I've worked with many members of the Board of Supervisors on sound policies that support our continued economic expansion and create jobs. And my Affordability Agenda seeks to ensure San Francisco's economic recovery touches businesses and working families in every corner of our City.

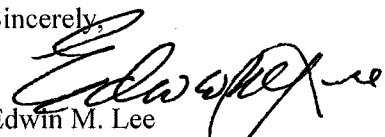
However, when we craft policies that affect businesses, we first consult businesses to discuss how the policy affects them. For example, when I led an effort earlier this year to raise San Francisco's minimum wage to the highest in the nation, I worked alongside several members of the Board of Supervisors, and among the first steps we took was consulting businesses – large, small, non-profit, local, formula – to talk about how this policy would affect them. This inclusive dialogue allowed us to address, not avoid, potential concerns, and we were able to draft a measure that could be supported by many. We knew for certain that when we proposed to voters America's most progressive minimum wage, it did not come as a surprise to anyone. The same cannot be said about the so-called Retail Workers' Bill of Rights.

I am concerned about large numbers of impacted merchants who said there was little meaningful discussion during the drafting of these ordinances and that's why on December 5, 2014, I returned File Numbers 140880 and 141024 unsigned.

Again, I am a strong supporter of legislation that would provide more employment rights to San Franciscans struggling to get by with one, two, or even three part time jobs. However, during the affordability crisis our City faces, a one-size-fits-all approach crafted without meaningful dialogue with those impacted by legislation does not honor the complexity of San Francisco's diverse business practices and may not result in supporting our part time workers. This is a process I cannot support.

It is my hope that, moving forward, the conversation can be more inclusive. I look forward to your support as we work with impacted retailers and workers' rights groups to improve upon these pieces of legislation, so that our part time workers can truly benefit from these mandates.

Sincerely,


Edwin M. Lee
Mayor, City & County of San Francisco

Cc: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

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