



FIONA MA, CPA
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
MEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Rodney Fong, President
San Francisco Planning Commission
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm 400
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Support File #: 141303 Planning Code – Massage Establishments

Dear President Fong:

I am writing in support of amending the Planning Code back to require that massage establishments obtain a Conditional Use permit. This amendment will help ensure that the City can prevent illegal activity without penalizing legally operating establishments.

During my time as Supervisor in 2006, I shaped legislation that required all massage establishments in San Francisco to obtain a permit through the Department of Public Health and conditional use approval through the Planning Department. The Conditional Use Permit process is the highest standard the Planning Department uses in order to grant building and operating permits.

In addition to submitting detailed building plans, businesses are required to hold public meetings and present their plans to the SF Planning Commission for approval. This process also gives the public an opportunity to appeal their concerns to the SF Board of Supervisors.

Conditional Use process is one of the only tools neighborhoods have to keep illicit and unwanted businesses out. According to the Polaris Project, commercial sex networks using massage establishment fronts represents one of the most widespread criminal sex trafficking networks in the United States.

The legislation introduced by Supervisor Tang is a straightforward; direct process, which will help limit the proliferation of businesses dedicated to vice and trafficking of women and children. I support this amendment and urge the Planning Commission to support it as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma".

Fiona Ma, CPA
Member – District 2
California State Board of Equalization

cc: Clerk of the Board (to be distributed to all members of Planning Commission)

