



City and County of San Francisco
Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

San Francisco Department of Public Health

Barbara A. Garcia, MPA
Director of Health

April 8, 2016

Supervisor Peskin
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102

SUBJECT: Health Code - Exempting The Humidor from Certain Provisions of the Tobacco Sales Permit Ordinance

Dear Supervisor Peskin:

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) is writing in regard to File No. 160253 which would exempt the Humidor from provisions in the Tobacco Sales Permit Ordinance. SFDPH is aware that the Humidor Tobacco Shop was unable to renew its lease after 10 years of business at 275 Battery Street in Supervisorial District 3 and is seeking a new tobacco sales permit at One Embarcadero Center. We understand the predicament that this creates for the owners of this family business. However, the Tobacco Sales Permit Ordinance (File No. 141098) which was passed by the Board of Supervisors in December of 2014, aims to reduce the density of tobacco providers through attrition in order to counteract the disproportionate distribution of tobacco permits among supervisorial districts.

Though the Humidor was a longstanding holder of a tobacco sales permit, the intent of the Tobacco Sales Permit Ordinance is to decrease opportunities for tobacco sales in San Francisco, and reduce disproportionate exposure to tobacco outlets that exist among supervisorial districts. Supervisorial District 3 contains the greatest number of stores selling tobacco compared to other districts (167 stores), contains 18% of all tobacco retailers in San Francisco, and has one of the lowest median household incomes. Research shows that communities in lower socio-economic areas with a higher concentration of stores have significantly higher rates of smoking. Similarly, communities with a higher concentration of stores that sell tobacco also have a higher youth smoking rate.

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Areas with high smoking prevalence also have greater exposure to secondhand smoke for non-smokers which can exacerbate a wide range of health effects. For these reasons, the Department of Public Health opposes an exception to the law that was intended to support the health of San Francisco's youth and residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colleen".

Colleen Chawla

The mission of the San Francisco Department of Public Health is to protect and promote the health of all San Franciscans.

We shall ~ Assess and research the health of the community ~ Develop and enforce health policy ~ Prevent disease and injury ~
~ Educate the public and train health care providers ~ Provide quality, comprehensive, culturally-proficient health services ~ Ensure equal access to all

barbara.garcia@sfdph.org ♦ (415) 554-2526 ♦ 101 Grove Street, Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94102
